

ALL IN *on* SOLIDARITY

DAY FOUR | 2025 United Steelworkers Constitutional Convention Coverage



UNITED STEELWORKERS
USW
UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS

USW ALL IN ON HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS

Convention delegates passed a resolution Thursday demanding stronger workplace health, safety and environmental protections, citing rising fatalities, injuries and occupational illnesses.

Across the U.S. and Canada, more than 6,000 workers die each year on the job, with an estimated 120,000 more dying from work-related illnesses.

Delegates criticized corporate safety programs that blame workers instead of addressing root causes like understaffing, excessive overtime and unsafe conditions, vowing to defend injured workers from management retaliation.

They further pledged to keep organizing, educating and fighting for safer workplaces on a variety of fronts, from bargaining strong contracts to advocating for more stringent health and safety legislation and regulations.

“We need to make sure that our members have PPE no matter what their sizes, genders or disabilities might be,” said Paul McCrea from USW Local 8782, affirming his support for the resolution’s call for gender-inclusive safety equipment and facilities. “We need proper controls in place to protect workers and hold companies accountable.”

The resolution also demands full enforcement of Canada’s Westray amendments, which allow for criminal prosecution of negligent employers. Speakers said the law is often ignored by police, prosecutors and politicians.

“We are the health and safety union, and we will always fight to ensure that our employers are held criminally accountable,” said Will Foresi, vice president of USW Local 7135. “When it comes to health and safety, we have no choice but to always be all in.”

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DELEGATES:

SUPPORT WOMEN OF STEEL, HEALTH CARE WORKERS, VETS

Delegates passed resolutions on the final day of the USW convention on Thursday committing the union to fighting for its core values and building on the success of its activism and advocacy programs.

More than two dozen delegates spoke from the convention floor in support of a resolution – “Women of Steel: Know Your Power” – that doubled down on the union’s commitment to the program that provides educational and empowerment opportunities for female-identifying members.

“These women are badassess,” declared Paula Uhing of Local 2-369 as she provided delegates with a list of reasons why the union’s Women of Steel (WOS) committees are so important to the USW as a whole.

One of those reasons, Uhing said, is that WOS members, through service and activism, give the union a face in USW communities across North America.

Likewise, she said, “when the union needs community support, the community is there.”

Several women attending their first USW convention spoke from the floor about how the

WOS program inspired them and other members to get more involved in often male-dominated local unions.

One of those members, Jacqueline Smith of Local 8888 at Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia, said the WOS program is essential for her local, one of the union’s largest, with 10,000 members. Women make up about 30 percent of the workforce at the shipyard, Smith said.

Gloria Patterson, also of Local 8888, said the WOS program inspired her to take on a leadership role.

“They gave me the opportunity to learn and grow,” Patterson said. “They gave me the confidence to get things done.”

Delegates also passed a resolution – entitled “Healthcare, Service Sector, Education, Security, Telecommunications, Office, Techni-

cal, Professional and Public Employees” – that recommitted the union to organizing workers in health care, telecommunications, education and public sector jobs, while addressing issues

such as artificial intelligence, health and safety, staffing standards, mental health and workplace violence.

Speaking in support of the resolution, Zac Tuominen of Local 9460 noted that health care workers are more than 300 percent more likely to experience violence on the job than workers in other fields.

Delegates also passed resolutions Thursday pledging their continued support for the union’s Rapid Response grassroots activism and education program and legislative and policy advocacy

efforts on behalf of workers in the United States and Canada.

In addition, International President David McCall referred a number of proposed resolutions and motions to the International Executive Board for future consideration.





BILL
PIENT
SOAR Preside

SOAR MEMBERS EMBRACE ESSENTIAL ROLE

The Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR) serves “integral” and “crucial” roles within the USW, convention delegates declared Thursday in passing a resolution seeking to grow the organization’s membership and mission.

The resolution praised SOAR’s work helping retirees navigate pension and health insurance issues, encouraging locals to advocate for retirees at the bargaining table, and advocating alongside USW members for pro-worker laws and policies.

Delegates also cited the potential to wield more worker power through SOAR, which was forged during the 1980s downturn of the steel

industry and marks its 40th anniversary this year. The resolution directs the union both to facilitate SOAR’s expansion and to seek “more ways to involve SOAR members in organizing, corporate campaigns, legislative battles and other issues.”

SOAR members said they’re up for the challenge.

“We’re retired from the work, but not the fight,” Denise Edwards, SOAR’s secretary-treasurer, told fellow convention delegates.

Delegates encouraged locals to promote SOAR membership – eligibility begins at age 45 – and to provide meeting space or other resources to retirees. In addition, delegates

called on more locals to form SOAR groups, saying retirees faithfully show up at picket lines, rallies and other actions.

“You are missing out on a tremendous resource,” SOAR Vice President Doug MacPherson said of locals lacking SOAR units now.

Fred Silva, a delegate from Local 9309 in Columbus, Ohio, planned to embark on a quiet retirement in a few years.

But after learning more about SOAR, he changed his mind. His local recently formed a SOAR chapter – and he plans to be an active part of it.

“Once a Steelworker, always a Steelworker,” he said on the convention floor.

USW PAC LEADERS ADVANCE WORKERS' AGENDA

The USW convention's work to advance a worker-centered legislative and policy agenda culminated Thursday in recognition of districts and locals with the top USW PAC contributions.

Members voluntarily contribute to the PAC to support pro-worker candidates in U.S. elections, realizing that laws and policies enacted by elected officials directly affect organizing,

bargaining, safety and numerous other workplace issues.

"I know which side really fights for us," Jake Baskey, a delegate and member of Local 1915 in Pemberville, Ohio, said from the convention floor earlier this week. He noted that former Sen. Sherrod Brown long worked alongside USW members while another Ohioan, JD Vance, refused even to meet with workers.

UNITED STEELWORKERS
PAC

LOCALS HONORED FOR RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVISM

The USW's Rapid Response Department marks its 30th anniversary this year, providing convention delegates with a special opportunity to celebrate a long list of advocacy wins and recognize locals that lead the way in activism.

Rapid Response, a non-partisan, grassroots initiative, engages members across the union in the fight for laws and policies essential to working people.

In the past three years alone, Rapid Response mobilized members to restore benefits to public-sector workers through the Social Security Fairness Act, establish the first-ever minimum staffing levels in nursing homes, and extend services to veterans through a combination of federal and state laws.

As has been the case at every convention since 2011, delegates on Thursday presented the "Spirit of the Fight" award to locals with exemplary Rapid Response programs.

PLEASE SEE THE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR A LIST OF PAC AND RAPID RESPONSE AWARDEES.



Awards

TOP OVERALL RAISED

LOCAL 01014 | DISTRICT 7
LOCAL 00307L | DISTRICT 11
LOCAL 00979 | DISTRICT 1

HIGHEST PER MEMBER AVERAGE

LOCAL 09423 | DISTRICT 8
LOCAL 00307L | DISTRICT 11
LOCAL 01014 | DISTRICT 7

TOP DISTRICT

DISTRICT 7 Mike Millsap, Director
DISTRICT 11 Cathy Drummond, Director
DISTRICT 1 Donnie Blatt, Director



RAPID RESPONSE SPIRIT OF THE FIGHT

TOP DISTRICT: D1
Director: Donnie Blatt
Rapid Response Coordinator:
Sue Browne

D7 LOCAL: 1010
President: James Thomas
Rapid Response Committee:
Terra Samuel, Alejandro Ochoa,
Ena Rambo, and Jorge Torres

D10 LOCAL: 1688
President: Larue Hess
Rapid Response Coordinator:
Don Teets

D12 LOCAL: 915
President: Stephen Naranjo
Rapid Response Coordinator:
Richard Perez

D1 LOCAL: 169
President: Steve Ackerman
Rapid Response Coordinator:
Curt Yarger

D8 LOCAL: 1693
President: Gary Clemons
Rapid Response Coordinator:
Tommy Forrest

D11 LOCAL: 662
President: Vince Gunaca
Rapid Response Coordinator:
Vince Gunaca

D12 LOCAL: 5252
President: Lyle Murphy
Rapid Response Coordinator:
Rick Soza

D4 LOCAL: 12012
President: James Marioles
Rapid Response Coordinators:
Steph Gonsalves, John Savage

D9 LOCAL: 362
President: Kevin Flynn
Rapid Response Coordinator:
Brendan Rogers

D12 LOCAL: 886
President: Greg Romero
Rapid Response Coordinator:
Raul Romero

D13 LOCAL: 13-447
President: John Gros
Rapid Response Coordinator:
Ted Campiso

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