

ALL IN *on* SOLIDARITY

DAY ONE | 2025 United Steelworkers Constitutional Convention Coverage



PRESIDENT McCALL:
**NOTHING CAN
 STOP US WHEN
 WE ARE ALL IN**



International President David McCall opened the USW’s convention on Monday by calling on union members to fight back against wealthy elites who want to silence workers across North America.

“To turn back the tide of economic injustice and corporate greed, we need to truly be all in,” McCall said. “We can hold nothing back, and we need every member to join in the fight – for as long as it takes.”

In his keynote address to the 2025 USW International Constitutional Convention, McCall outlined the meaning behind the event’s theme, “All In,” explaining: “Being all in isn’t a one-time action – and it isn’t a bet. It’s our way of operating, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.”

Sometimes, he noted, that work takes time, as in the case of Asarco, the mining giant that has picked fights with USW members in the Southwest for more than a decade.

Still, he said, through collective strength, solidarity and commitment to the cause, those workers prevailed. “Through our unity and our determination, we’re balancing the scales

against powerful foes,” he said.

In his address, McCall celebrated the USW’s numerous bargaining, organizing and policy victories in the three years since the union’s last convention. Workers have successfully organized thousands of new members in mining, forestry, higher education, steel, health care, manufacturing and more, he said.

McCall also pointed to anti-scab legislation USW members helped get passed in Canada as well as the repeal of so-called right-to-work legislation in Michigan as evidence of what workers can accomplish by being all in.

Now, the unnecessary trade war that the Trump administration is waging on Canada has the potential to cost workers good jobs in both countries, McCall said.

“Our union won’t stand for it,” he said.

The wealthy few pulling the political strings will do everything they can to silence workers. They do so, McCall said, by trying to divide the working class so they fight with each other instead of fighting back.

“It’s not just about helping the ultra-wealthy get wealthier,” he said. “It’s about making sure we don’t share in the wealth we create.”

Solidarity is the only way working families win, McCall said, calling on USW members throughout North America to stand together against union-busting corporations and CEOs like Elon Musk.

“They know how powerful we are when we’re united,” McCall said.

The way to rebalance the scales of power, he said, is to use the collective voice of labor through organizing, bargaining, education and lobbying.

“We are going to organize like hell,” McCall promised, urging USW members to mobilize their fellow workers through the union’s Women of Steel, Civil and Human Rights, Next Generation, Veterans of Steel and SOAR programs to make their voices heard.

“We must flex our collective strength,” he said. “To make so much noise that they have no choice but to listen to us.”

TIM BURGA

OHIO AFL-CIO PRESIDENT TIM BURGA: WE WILL NOT BE SILENCED

In an address to the 2025 USW Constitutional Convention, Ohio AFL-CIO President Tim Burga called on union delegates to look for the true meaning of solidarity – not just as an idea but a way of life.

“What does solidarity mean in practice, and why do we need to be all in right now?” Burga asked. “The United Steelworkers showed me firsthand what solidarity looks like.”

A third-generation Steelworker and grandson of a union coal miner, Burga has long been a steadfast advocate for Ohio’s working people.

True solidarity, he said, empowers workers to fight back against the pitfalls of globalization and privatization and balances the scales when it comes to greedy employers and anti-worker policies.

“Our collective strength holds power that money can’t buy,” he said. “The struggle requires all labor to come together.”

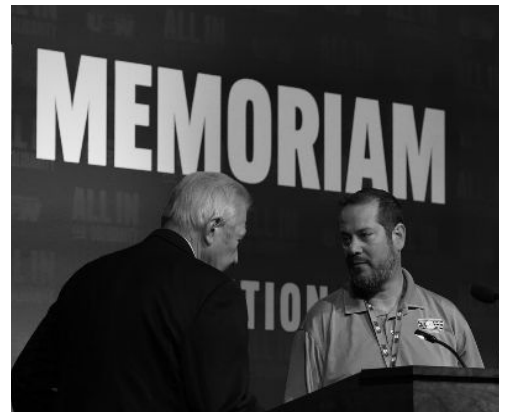
Burga praised USW members for their leadership in successful campaigns to raise the Ohio mini-

mum wage and defend the rights of public-sector workers to organize.

He pointed to the labor movement’s unified response to President Donald Trump’s attempt to strip collective bargaining rights from hundreds of thousands of federal employees as a recent example of solidarity in action.

“The backlash from the entire labor movement was swift and strong,” Burga said. “We will not be silenced.”

Before leading the Ohio AFL-CIO, Burga worked for the city of Marion, Ohio, where he helped organize unrepresented city workers under the banner of the United Steelworkers. He later served as president of USW Local 7856.



DELEGATES HONOR PAST LEADERS

As they convened to chart the USW’s future, delegates made a point Monday to honor former leaders who forged the union into the force it is today.

The delegates’ first resolution acknowledged former USW international presidents as well as the presidents of predecessor unions that merged into the USW.

Many delegates have powerful memories of two leaders in particular: Leo W. Gerard, who served as international president from 2001 to 2019, and Tom Conway, who led the USW from 2019 until his death in 2023.

Pete Trinidad Sr. was a young union activist about 20 years ago when Bethlehem Steel began to struggle. One day, he recalled, Conway looked over at him working and told a group of other union leaders: “We can’t let guys like Petey get laid off.”

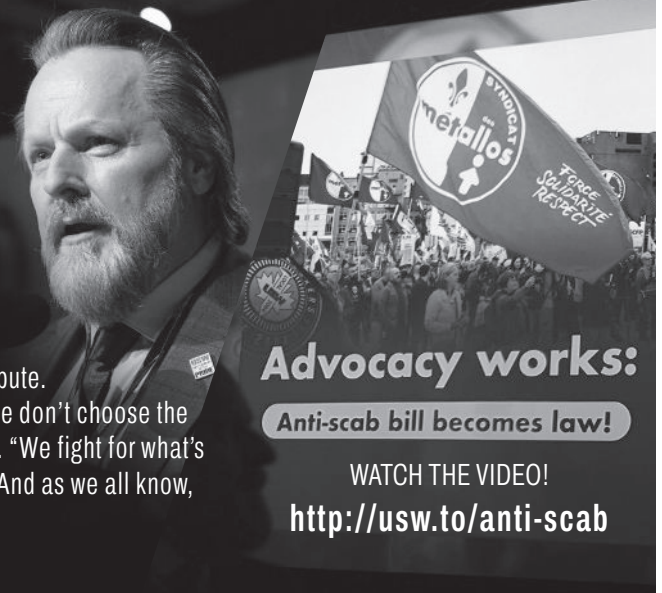
“As tough as he was on the outside, Tom was always aware of his surroundings and the people he represented,” recalled Trinidad, president of Local 6787, Conway’s home local, after delegates passed the resolution. “He had that balance.”

Delegates also passed a resolution memorializing union members who died since the 2022 convention, including Conway, former United Rubber Workers President Kenneth Coss, former PACE Vice President Robert Smith and dozens of union staff members and retirees.

USW WINS ANTI-SCAB LEGISLATION IN CANADA

Canadian National Director Marty Warren introduced a video highlighting the union's victory in securing anti-scab legislation that prevents federally regulated employers in Canada from hiring replacement workers during a labor dispute.

"Being all in means we don't choose the easy fights," Warren said. "We fight for what's right no matter the odds. And as we all know, hiring scabs is wrong."



Advocacy works:

Anti-scab bill becomes law!

WATCH THE VIDEO!

<http://usw.to/anti-scab>

MEMBERS GO 'ALL IN' ON SOLIDARITY

USW members dedicated themselves to being all in on solidarity and the fight for workers' rights on Monday, passing a resolution – echoing the convention theme – that committed them to organizing, educating and bargaining strong contracts for members while continuing the fight for fair trade and social and economic justice.

"We are all in on organizing, and we are excited for our future," declared Ross Brown of Local 1944 in District 3. "Over the years, we saw greedy corporations and their cuts."

Brown said his local, a Canadian information and communications tech union, once had about 15,000 members but now has only about 4,000.

Local 1944 has begun to turn the tide through organizing,

said Brown Monday as he called for delegates to vote in favor of the resolution, which they did unanimously.

Delegates resolved, in part, to "foster a movement in which we all have a place, providing opportunities for workers to learn and grow, advancing our shared priorities and taking our union boldly into the future."

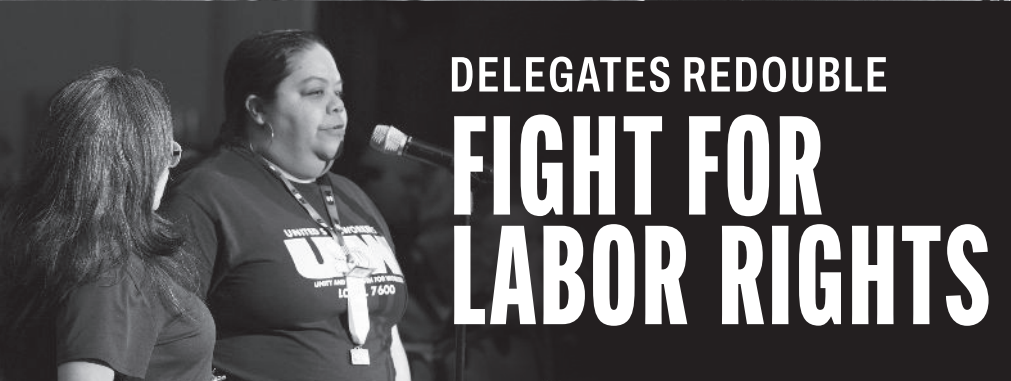


Ross Brown,
Local 1944

DELEGATES REDOUBLE FIGHT FOR LABOR RIGHTS

Convention delegates on Monday recommitted the USW to the fight for stronger labor rights and vowed to beat back the recent surge in union-busting aimed at exploiting working people.

The delegates passed a resolution calling for the USW to leverage "every policy tool" to level the playing field for workers seeking a



union contract and to work to defeat any elected official who stands in the way.

In Canada, the USW will pursue “single-step certification laws in every federal and provincial jurisdiction,” the resolution asserted.

And in the United States, delegates resolved, the union “will not rest” until Congress passes and the president signs a comprehensive update to labor law making it easier for workers to unionize and win fair contracts.

Since the last convention, USW activists achieved key victories advancing workers’ rights, including the rollback in 2023 of a falsely named “right-to work” (RTW) law in Michigan.

Delegates watched a video recounting how union members painstakingly elected pro-worker majorities in the legislature as well as a pro-labor governor, Gretchen Whitmer, and then turned out for rallies to ensure they quickly killed RTW.

“I think the Steelworkers were the biggest part in getting ‘right-to-work’ repealed,” Kent Holsing, a delegate and Local 12075 president in Midland, Mich., said in the video.

Sadly, corporations continue attempting to pad profits on workers’ backs. Delegates gave a round of applause to members recently locked out of their jobs or forced into unfair labor practice strikes by greedy employers.

“We are under attack,” observed Corey O’Daniel, a delegate representing Local 9-01197, who rose in support of the resolution to fight for greater labor rights.

Delegates also passed separate resolutions redoubling the union’s commitment to bargaining ever-stronger contracts, to run strategic campaigns leveraging the union’s Building Power program, and to make affordable, quality health care a basic right in every country where the union represents workers.



REDMOND: WE KNOW THE WAY FORWARD

Longtime USW leader Fred Redmond urged union members on Monday to meet the growing challenges they now face with a new commitment to organizing and mobilizing workers.

The current environment can make workers feel discouraged about the future, but labor leaders understand how to create the future they want, because they’ve done it before, said Redmond, the secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO who served as USW international vice president from 2006 to 2022.

“Attacks on everything that we stand for have been relentless,” Redmond said as he ticked off a long list of ways in which the Trump administration has made life more

difficult for working people in recent weeks, from firing vast swaths of workers to gutting essential federal agencies. “We are the voice of those who, today, feel hopeless.”

The answer to that feeling, he said, is to organize and energize a new generation of workers across North America to grow the labor movement and build a future that prioritizes the rights of workers and allows them to exercise their collective strength.

“If we are leading with our values, there isn’t a more core value than the right to collectively bargain,” he said, noting that workers across the United States, Canada and Mexico must stand together against growing anti-union attacks that are meant to divide them. “It all starts with solidarity. Real solidarity that crosses borders.”

Unions like the USW have always faced threats to their very existence from greedy corporate leaders and anti-union politicians, Redmond said, but they have persevered, through the decades, because of their unwavering unity and solidarity, and they can do it again.

“Every time they try to knock us down, we get back up, stronger,” Redmond said. “The future is ours to shape. We know the way forward.”

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