

# STEEL VOICE



UNITED STEELWORKERS LOCAL 1999

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April 21, 2017

## Unity at Sumco

Kelly Ray Hugunin

It was five o'clock the evening of March 8, 2017 when the Steelworkers at Sumco, LLC set up a picket line at the plant's lone gate. Just hours before, the membership had voted 63 to 2 to take a strike action against the Company. Shortly after five o'clock every member working on the second shift that evening stopped work and left the plant. Workers on the picket line were quickly joined by their second shift brothers and sisters.

The Company had proposed 3.26% wage increase in the first year of the contract and a 1.74% wage increase in the second and third years of the contract. The proposal included a cost sharing increase for health insurance of \$10 per week for a single plan, and a \$15 per week increase for employee plus one and Family plans. The health insurance plan requires the first \$3000 in health care costs to be paid out of pocket by employees.

The members at Sumco had been



working without a contract since their collective bargaining agreement expired at the end of January. At that time the members had rejected the Company's offer by a vote of 64-0.

In 2007, the Company was bankrupt. In order for the Company to be purchased and remain in operation the members agreed to many concessions in the contract. The membership agreed to this with the belief that when the Company once again was profitable that they would get back some of those concessions. It was now time for the Company to give back to their employees.

District Director Mike Millsap drove down from Gary, IN after learning of the strike on Wednesday. Millsap immediately gave assistance from the District to the strikers in fortifying the picket line. By Thursday evening a shelter had been erected, burn barrels and firewood delivered and a generator and outdoor lighting were in place. A grill was on hand and food had been provided for the strikers. Sub-District Director Wayne "Crash" Dale was on hand providing assistance as well.

Members of Local 1999 from Carrier,

**KEEP IT  
MADE IN  
AMERICA**

⇒ See SUMCO Page 2

# My View

Kelly Ray Hugunin,  
Local Union Representative



## Brothers and Sisters:

First off I want to say thank you to the membership for the opportunity to attend the 2017 International Constitutional Convention. The theme for the convention was "The Power of Unity." It was great to hear from the many speakers about what has been accomplished through unity.

USW President Leo Gerard mentioned various strikes and lockouts throughout the U.S. and Canada in his keynote address. He spoke of the Oil Industry strike and the lock out at steel company Allegheny Ludlum (ATI). President Gerard also spoke about a strike at a small company called Sumco. How they remained unified and achieved their goals. How they were able to get a discharged member reinstated. All because of their unity.

I have received some feedback from some of the other units in Local 1999. I have heard that members are saying we need to do that. We need to strike this company next time. I want to point out one thing that is very important about the members at Sumco. In 2012 Indiana became

a "Right to Work" state. Since that time the bargaining unit at Sumco has remained 100% Union. There are no scabs at Sumco. In the past 5 years there has not been one person at Sumco who has made the decision to opt out of the Union or to not join the Union after their probationary period. That folks is unity.

What does that mean? It means that from day one of their strike there was no concern that anyone would cross the picket line. If you have scabs in your bargaining unit and you go on strike you can guarantee those scabs will be crossing your picket line and going to work. Scabs crossing the picket line will quickly undermine a strike. Unity is power.

I want to thank our District Director Mike Millsap and Sub-District Director Wayne "Crash" Dale for their support of the members at Sumco during their contract negotiations and their strike. Director Millsap joined us on the picket line Wednesday evening. He remained with us and joined us when we returned to the bargaining table. Director Millsap was with us when we reached a tentative agreement with the Company. We had his full support. Thank you. Crash worked with myself and the bargaining committee during Jim Adcock's sick leave. We had his full support as well. Again, Thank you.

We can achieve great things when we stand together as one. President Gerard speaking of the struggles of our Union's founders who risked everything; "Their power was – and ours still is – the greatest power ever known - the power of unity, the power of our activism, the power of standing strong, shoulder to shoulder – militant if necessary." □

## ➡SUMCO From Page 1

Rexnord and Quemetco were joining their brothers and sisters on the picket line. Many of them brought donations of food and drinks for the strikers.

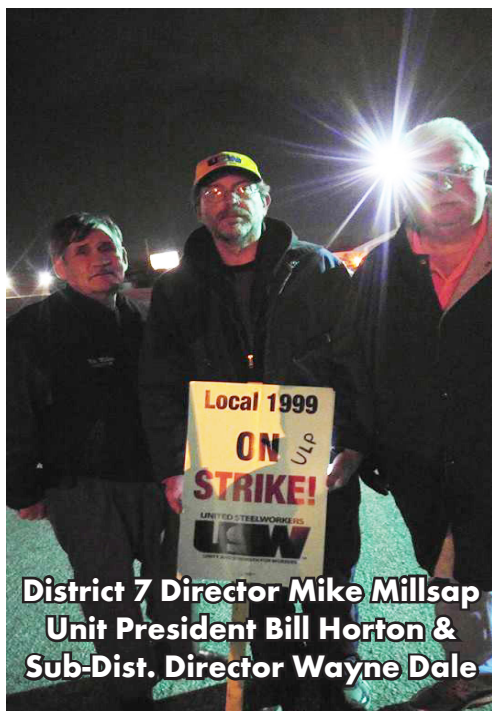
The Union and Company went back to the bargaining table with federal mediators on Friday morning. The bargaining committee brought four member issues to the table that morning. Wage increases, insurance, vacation and the Union had proposed that an employee would be able to bridge over from the tier 2 wage scale to the higher Tier 1 wage scale. The proposal would have given a new hire the opportunity to reach the higher pay scale in 4 years from their time of hire.

Ultimately the Company offered a 3% wage increase in each year of the agreement and more vacation days. They offered a bridge to the tier one wage scale on an employees 5th anniversary of employment. As well as a freeze on employee contributions to health insurance for the first year. In July the health insurance will be quoted by the Steelworker Health and Welfare Fund to try to lower costs further.

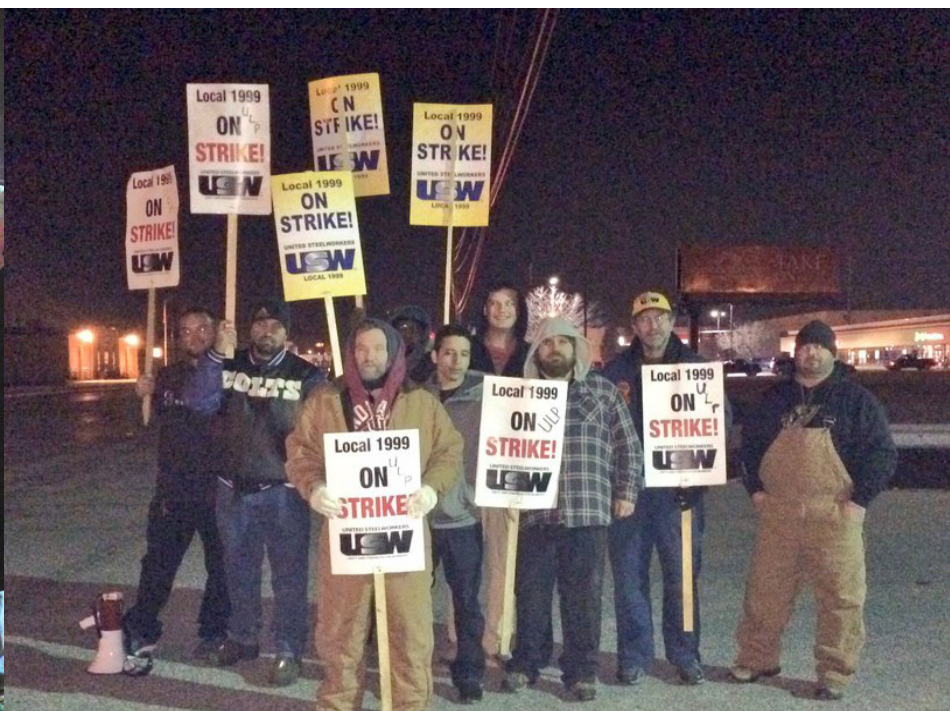
On Saturday the strikers met at the local union hall to discuss and vote on the newest contract proposal. The new contract was overwhelmingly ratified by the members. The strikers returned to work on the following Monday.

As a condition of a full committee recommendation of the proposed agreement. The Company agreed to reinstate a member who had been discharged prior to the strike. □





District 7 Director Mike Millsap  
Unit President Bill Horton &  
Sub-Dist. Director Wayne Dale



## Sumco Strike



Sumco Unit President Bill Horton

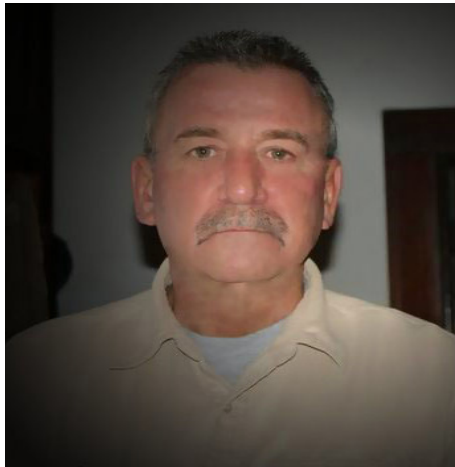




# Retirement / Bitter Sweet

Chuck Jones, President

I have written quite a few articles for this newsletter about numerous subjects, however this one is a little different. May 31, 2017 will be my last day as President of Local 1999. I am retiring. Some of you may celebrate, some of you may be sad, and some of you may not care one way or the other. But I want you all to know that during the time I spent as President of Local 1150 and then as President of Local 1999 I always did what I felt like was right for the majority of the people. You can never please everyone and these



are thankless jobs for the most part. I don't have any regrets concerning

my performance as President of this Local. Vice President Robert James will assume the position of President of Local 1999 as of June 1, 2017.

I started at Rexnord in February 1969. I have had a lifetime of memories with a lot of good people. The plant moving to Mexico is a very sad ending to a lot of great years. Some of the best friends I've ever had were made either at Rexnord or through the United Steelworkers. I wish nothing less than the best for all of you. □

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## Derrick Morris Appointed Local Civil Rights Chair

Hello to all my Sisters & Brothers throughout local 1999.

one of you I see a STRONG STEEL WORKER & nothing else.

Glad to serve you.  
IN SOLIDARITY ALWAYS  
DERRICK MORRIS

I would like to take this opportunity to speak to you on what I think Civil Rights mean to us all. We all stand together as members of USW. All of us as one: "Our right to collective bargain." "Our right to be treated fair & equal at all times." "Civil Rights & Workers Rights are the same." We as one people, no matter what else. We as one people have the power to create real change if we stand strong together at all times.

The theme of our USW convention was THE POWER OF UNITY think about that for a moment. Our unity as a group is our greatest weapon. "Sumco stayed 100% united as a result they prevailed." We can do the same as a group if we remain united as one force. We cannot allow ourselves to be divided as workers. We all want the AMERICAN DREAM. I am thankful for each & every member of local 1999, because when I see



In March 2017, Derrick Morris (above) replaced Dwayne Graham as Local 1999 Civil Rights Chairperson. Congratulations to Dwayne on his retirement.

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# Trumping the WTO

Leo W. Gerard

This month is the one-year anniversary of Alcoa closing the largest aluminum smelter in the United States – the Warrick in Indiana.

More than 325 workers lost their family-supporting jobs, including Brandon Marshall, who, like most aluminum workers, was a member of my union, the United Steelworkers (USW). Brandon told the New York Times last week that he found another job, but it pays only about half what he earned before, so his wife had to

go back to work.

Alcoa also shut down its Wenatchee smelter last year, laying off 420 workers in Washington State, including Josh Busjahn, who told a reporter from public radio's Marketplace that he had to cut his family's budget in half.

In 1970, there were 24,000 aluminum smelter workers nationwide. Now, there are 2,200. Just 17 years ago, the United States had 23 smelters.

Now, there are five. And only one is operating at full capacity.

A major cause of this suffering and job loss is China's violation of trade rules. Beijing overbuilt its aluminum capacity to keep its citizens employed, then dumped the subsidized excess on the world market, artificially suppressing prices. In January, the Obama administration filed a complaint against China with the World Trade

⇒ See WTO Page 9



Alcoa Warrick smelter employees Trent Wattam, Chris Pillsbury and John Wathen siphon the last bit of metal from Warrick's potlines into a crucible on the final day of production at Alcoa Warrick Operations.



# 2017 Constitutional Convention

## The Power of Unity Defines Us

International President Leo W. Gerard opened the 2017 Constitutional Convention on Monday with a tribute to the USW's 75 years of fighting for workers and a call for renewed activism and unity among members.

"Our founders risked everything to win the rights that all of us enjoy today. They did it against unbelievable odds. They battled hired scabs and thugs. They stood down national guardsmen hell bent on breaking their strikes. They even stood their ground against cops that shot them dead on picket lines," Gerard said.

"And yet, in spite of all that, they prevailed. Their power was – and ours still is – the greatest power every known – the power of unity, the power of our activism, the power of standing strong, shoulder to shoulder – militant if necessary."

Delegates rose to their feet and applauded in tribute to those who founded the USW and those who helped it grow beyond its industrial roots into the diverse union it is today in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean

Together going forward, Gerard said, the union faces great challenges in fighting to maintain jobs, middle class wages and benefits against corporate greed.

"And we've still got CEOs who sneer at our demand to put an end to hazards in the workplace," he said. "Instead they focus on their next yearly bonus and stock options."

Gerard praised USW oil workers who took on an unfair labor practice strike in the United States to improve safety on the job in a rich industry that has for decades been tone deaf to our demands for safer working condition.

He acknowledged locked-out USW members in steel who resisted deep concessions sought by Allegheny Ludlum, and those members who stood strong in long hard bargaining for contracts at U.S. Steel and ArcelorMittal.

In Canada, the USW resisted concessions sought by Rio Tinto in Alma, Quebec, and 25 years following a mining tragedy known as Westray is still fighting to hold managers accountable when a

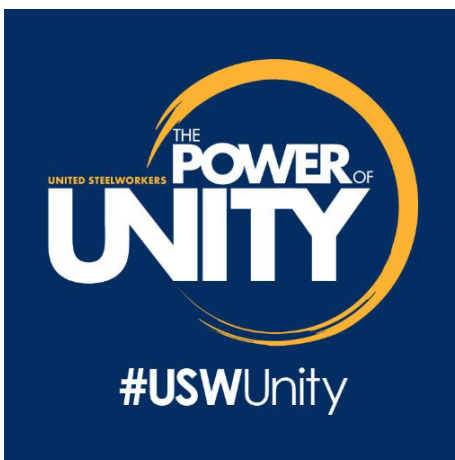
fatality occurs.

Canadian members fought to keep the steel industry alive while resisting Stelco's attempt in bankruptcy protection to stiff retirees out of pensions when it has \$300 million in the bank.

In both countries, the USW has been fully engaged for 40 years in a relentless fight against unfair trade by countries that cheat the system, destroying lives and exporting unemployment, Gerard said. In the United States that has included participating in 81 trade cases aimed at saving jobs and industries.

"No Bay Street or Wall Street financier, no trade representative, no politician – no Republican or Democrat, Conservative or Liberal has the right to steal our jobs in the name of so-called Free Trade," Gerard said.

In the United States, Gerard said Republican billionaire developer Donald Trump "took a page out of our playbook" during last year's presidential campaign and delivered speeches attacking unfair trade that



sounded like ones USW leadership has been delivering for decades.

Yet there's a danger that what "looked and sounded like a victory may really turn out to be a Trojan horse," Gerard said, referring to the "most radical, right-wing Republican Congress we've seen our lifetimes – bent on wiping out every bit of social and economic progress we've made in the last 50 years."

Trump and Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan are already gearing up to weaken Medicare, Gerard said, noting that their "half-assed" plan to replace the Affordable Care Act would have dumped the runaway costs of health care on workers while giving the super rich \$465 billion in tax breaks.

Gerard also warned of extremists on the state level who want to wipe out public sector bargaining and outlaw



Local 1999 Delegate Kelly Ray Hugunin shared the Power of Unity that was shown by the membership in the recent Sumco strike.

union dues check offs.

"Before you know it, they'll be gutting OSHA, the Chemical Safety Board and other work place protections that we badly need," Gerard said.

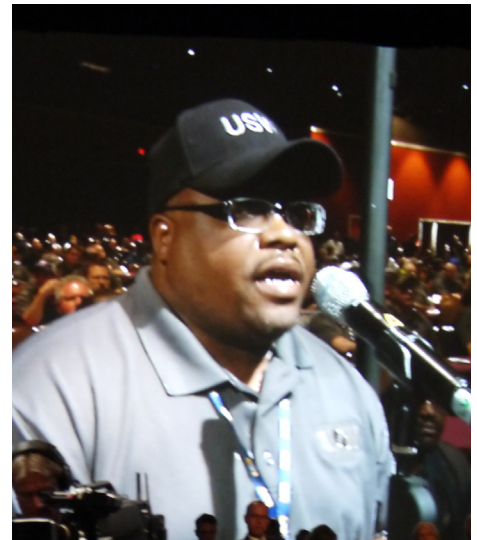
In no time, Gerard said, right wing politicians will be clamoring for a national right to work law and a balanced budget they will use to wipe out what few progressive policies that might be left.

"And if you think Trump will stop all of this, you might want to think again," Gerard said. "We need to remember what we've learned the hard way over 75 years of bargaining ... Billionaires don't go to bat for working people. Only we can look out for ourselves, our families and our communities."

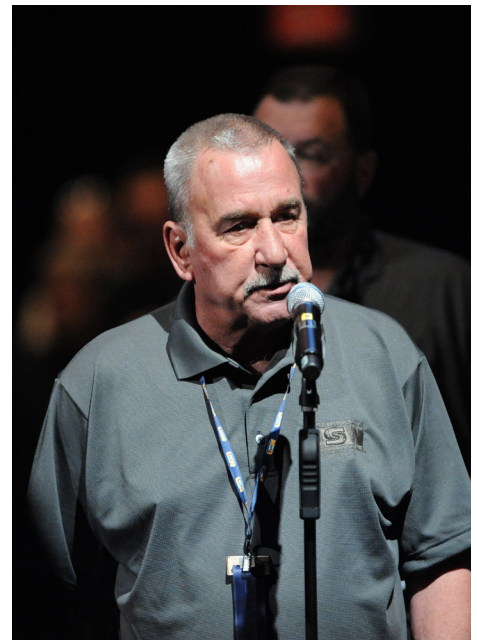
The USW, Gerard said, must above all else not let political divisions tear the union or its members apart. We must fight back with the power of unity and activism, more now than ever before.

Gerard urged union members to run for office at every level of government in both countries with help from the union.

"We need to have a union voice and union influence at every level," he said. "Run for the school board, city council, state rep, damn it, if you need to get started run for dog catcher. We will help you." □



Local 1999 Delegate Derrick Morris went to the mic in support of the Resolution on Civil & Human Rights.



Local 1999 Delegate Chuck Jones spoke of the effects of unfair trade agreements.

**Copies of the resolutions that were adopted by the delegates to the 2017 International Convention can be viewed and downloaded at:**

**<http://convention-public.usw.org/resolutions>**



# Governor Holcomb Meets With Rexnord Steelworkers



Members of Local 1999 speak to the press after meeting with Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb. Left to Right: John Feltner, Brian Reed, Gary Canter, Derrick Morris, Joe Joyce, Local 1999 President Chuck Jones, Local 1999 Vice President Robert James, and Rexnord Unit President Don Zering.

Members of Local 1999-00 working at Rexnord and Local Union officials met with Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb on February 23. Governor Holcomb committed state resources to the workers at Rexnord. He said that attempts to talk with Rexnord executives about saving the plant were fruitless. They had no interest in talking with state officials.

Union members had previously taken 300 signatures from Rexnord employees losing their jobs to the Governors office on February 2. The petition asked Governor Holcomb to reach out to President Trump and ask him to intervene in the plant's closure

as he had for the Carrier plant.

Brian Reed, who has worked for Rexnord for 24 years, said the governor seemed sincere in the meeting. Short of saving their jobs, Reed said workers' representatives told Holcomb the state could send more officials to the plant to help those losing their jobs apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), for workers losing their jobs due to foreign trade. Reed said he planned to use TAA benefits to enroll in machinist training.

Reed likened the experience to being a passenger on the Titanic. "It's

miserable."

Local 1999 President Chuck Jones said he asked Holcomb if there was anything the governor could offer, such as new tax incentives, to convince the companies not to proceed with the layoffs.

"They said that there wasn't anything they could do on that, so that was not an option," Jones said.

Permanent layoffs at Rexnord began last week. The closure of the plant is expected to be completed in June or July of this year. □



## ↩ WTO From Page 5

Organization (WTO) in an attempt to stop Beijing's destruction of the American industry, one that is crucial to national defense.

But the outlook for this case isn't great. The WTO has repeatedly stiffed the United States. It's supposed to adjudicate trade disputes, but a new report, commissioned by the Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM) and titled, "How the WTO Undermines U.S. Trade Remedy Enforcement," shows that the WTO treats the United States like a punching bag that must suffer the economic blows of trade cheating by nations worldwide.

For a quarter century, since the dawn of NAFTA, the USW has called for fair trade and protection for American manufacturers like Alcoa and workers like Brandon and Josh against abuses such as currency manipulation, government subsidization and dumping. Finally, last week, President Donald Trump announced the United States would not be bound by WTO decisions. That sounded great to laid-off manufacturing workers nationwide.

The President's action is supported by findings in the Alliance for American Manufacturing report written by trade law experts Terence P. Stewart and Elizabeth J. Drake. The report shows that the WTO has taken a hugely disproportionate number of cases against the United States. And in those cases, the WTO ruled against the United States a shocking 90 percent of the time, a rate that seriously erodes America's ability to enforce its own trade laws.

Stewart and Drake wrote, "The world trading system depends on countries'

ability to take rapid, effective, and meaningful action against unfair dumping and subsidization that is harming their manufacturers, farmers, ranchers, and workers. That ability is currently being undermined by the WTO dispute settlement system, contrary to the system's original design."

Since 1995 when the WTO was established, it heard 42 trade remedy cases involving the United States and issued 38 decisions against the United States. That means that in 38 instances when the U.S. imposed sanctions against foreign companies for violating U.S. trade laws, the WTO ordered reversal of those rulings. It's nearly five times the number for any of the other 163 member countries.

In addition, the report points out that the WTO's focus on trade sanctions is out of line. Forty-five percent of WTO final or interim decisions have challenged trade remedies, even though these measures, such as tariffs, affect a minuscule portion of world trade.

Stewart and Drake note that WTO decisions have "prompted legal scholars to criticize dispute panels, and especially the Appellate Body, for going beyond their mandate and creating new rights and obligations beyond those contained in the WTO agreements." They also point out that the U.S. Trade Representative and other WTO members have repeatedly expressed concern about WTO over-reaching.

"For years, Congress has identified reining in the WTO dispute settlement system and preserving the ability of the United States to rigorously enforce its trade remedy laws as key trade negotiating objectives," the

report states.

That is what the Trump administration told Congress last week it intends to do. America will defend its "national sovereignty over trade policy," the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative said in its annual report to Congress. Under the terms of its entry into the WTO, the U.S. didn't abandon its own trade rights, the annual report says.

Free traders responded immediately with complaints. For example, Eswar Prasad, a senior professor of trade policy at Cornell University, told the Washington Post: "If the Trump administration follows through on the proposals in this document, it would be a body blow to the multinational trade system that the U.S. has helped to build up. . . The WTO will lose effectiveness and credibility in trade resolutions if the U.S. decides to walk away."

The United States helped build up a multinational trade system that is tearing down American manufacturing. That system already has lost credibility by focusing the vast majority of its enforcement on the United States, which from 1995 to 2015 accounted for only 14.17 percent of global imports and imposed only 12.73 percent of trade sanctions among the WTO nations.

The current system, as last week's Alliance for American Manufacturing report points out, is deeply flawed. It's not free trade. It's faulty trade. Companies like Alcoa and U.S. Steel, workers like Brandon and Josh, communities like Wenatchee and Warrick are all suffering as a result. The president is right to move the country toward fair trade by trumping the WTO. □

# "Keep It Made In America" Rally



Central Indiana Jobs With Justice brought out the light boards to the Keep in Made in America rally.

On February 2, District 7 Director Mike Millsap held the "Keep it Made in America" rally in downtown Indianapolis. The rally focused on the jobs being lost at Carrier and Rexnord. The rally also brought attention to the need to keep other good paying jobs from leaving the country. There are still other manufacturing plants in danger of being moved out of the

country.

Members from Rexnord and Carrier packed a meeting room for the rally.

"They pulled the rug right out from under me like they did the other 287 or 298 other people," said Rexnord worker Don Zering, who has a story that was pretty common at the event.

He started working at Rexnord 43 years ago, four days after graduating high school. Now at 62, he can retire, but was hoping to work for another few years.

"Keep the American jobs here and let's have the family dream of being able to work, retire and enjoy your grandkids," said Zering, who expects to soon lose his job.



District 7 Director Mike Millsap speaks about the importance of keeping good paying jobs here in the country.

"We're trying to do everything we possibly can to help these people have as soft a landing as possible but the fact remains it's not going to be solved," said United Steelworkers Local 1999 President Chuck Jones. He says the Rexnord jobs being lost usually pay around \$25 an hour. His push at the rally: hold leaders' feet to the fire to do everything they can to keep jobs in America.

"They got to take a look at what they're doing to these folks, these families and communities by taking jobs out of this country," said Jones. □



# Organizing is Key to the Future: Trumka

Activism and organizing among union members is the key to rewriting the rules to the economy and providing a better life for working people.

That was the message AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka delivered to the USW international convention on Tuesday, arguing that unions must

"Whoever they planned to vote for, every single person that I spoke to wanted the same thing," Trumka said. "They wanted a better life for themselves and their children."

To support that goal, Trumka issued what he called a "bold" proposal – that "everybody deserves a job, and

fight together," he said. "We win together."

Despite hard-right politicians gaining power in the United States and elsewhere, more people are mobilizing on issues such as income inequality, unionization, trade and higher wages.

"Collective action is on the rise," he said. "The momentum in this country is swinging our way."

Trumka said that the labor movement would cooperate with Donald Trump when it could find common ground, and oppose him when his plans violate union members' core values.

"We'll judge his White House on actions," Trumka said. "We're watching and we're keeping score."

One issue on which unions and Trump might cooperate, Trumka said, is on an infrastructure bill to repair crumbling roads, bridges and other public assets. Trump has promised a \$1 trillion investment, which Trumka called "a good scale."

On issues like trade, Trump has talked the talk, but unions like the USW must make sure he walks the walk.

"Nobody knows trade like the USW," Trumka said. "Remember, Donald Trump didn't kill the TPP. Working people killed the TPP."

The kind of activism USW members displayed in that fight must continue if unions are to grow stronger, he said. "That's how we build an economy that works for everyone," Trumka said. □



AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka addresses the USW 2017 Constitutional Convention.

fight harder than ever to uphold their basic principles of good jobs, safe workplaces, fair trade, quality health care and equality for all.

As he spoke with American workers during the 2016 U.S. election, Trumka said, voters were hungry for change that would shift power from greedy corporations and billionaires and return it to working people.

everybody deserves the power to make that job a good job, whether you're black or white, gay or straight, immigrant or native-born, union or not-yet-union."

Keeping that promise means making it easier, not harder, for workers to join unions and bargain collectively, he said.

"When we stand together and we

# UNIT REPORTS

## UNIT 00 REXNORD

Hello Union Brothers and Sisters:

Not a whole lot to report from the grievance side of things, had 2 3rd step grievances on 4/6/2017, had 2 grievances settled at the 1st step level. AS FAR AS GRIEVANCES GO I AM ASKING EVERYONE TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR NON-UNION EMPLOYEES PACKING MATERIAL THAT BELONGS TO THE UNION WORKERS. PLEASE REPORT IT IF YOU SEE ANYTHING. IT WILL BE ADDRESSED. PLEASE DON'T FORGET, THIS IS STILL A UNION SHOP AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE ONE UNTIL THE PLANT IS CLOSED. No matter what it takes it is OUR job to pack the parts and fixtures up after the machine is done with production.

I do want to think all of the people that have taken advantage of what Employee Indy has provided we have had a great turn out I was told on 4/13/17, they will be here until the closing, please see them if you haven't

yet, there is a lot of opportunities if you take advantage of it.

Now for the worst part of this article, the assembly area will probably be gone by the time you read this article, as far as I know per the company most if not all of the areas will be gone by the end of June, but as we all know things change all the time. As everyone knows this could very well be the last article printed with the majority of us here. I WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE HERE AND EVEN THE ONES THAT HAVE ALREADY LEFT THE BEST IN THEIR FUTURE NO MATTER WHAT IT MIGHT BE. IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE BEING YOUR PRESIDENT FOR SO MANY PEOPLE THAT CARED FOR EACH OTHER AND I FEEL THEY WERE GREAT UNION MEMBERS. I feel like we all put up a good fight to get the story out about CORPORATE GREED and the DIRTY CEO'S THAT ARE BEHIND IT. GOOD LUCK TO ALL

In Solidarity,  
Don Zering  
Unit President

## UNIT 09 RSR QUEMETCO

To my Brother's and Sister's,

Here at the Q all is quiet. We currently have one grievance pending that should be worked out real soon.

We have a lot of new hires and the company is hiring more. Let's all look out for the new guys. The heat is on the way so be vigilante and keep hydrated. We have to continue to stand as one even though we all come from different backgrounds. We have the same aspirations "make a decent wage & provide a good life for our families."

If anyone at anytime has any issues, please let someone on the grievance committee know we are here for you.

In Solidarity,  
Derrick Morris  
Unit President

## Congress Should Keep Promises to Mine Workers

Starting in the years after World War II, mine workers were an important part of the American economy. They did the hard, dangerous work that helped make sure the country prospered. Without them, the country could have been a much different place. And we promised them that we, as a country, would take care of their health care and retirement for their service. If Congress doesn't

act soon, many retired mine workers could lose their health care and pensions.

Congress has until April 30 to pass legislation that would make sure we continue to keep this promise. On that day, the extension Congress passed in December will expire, as will funding for many retired mine workers' health care.

Call 855-976-9914 to tell Congress to pass the Miners Protection Act.

UMWA President Cecil Roberts spoke to the importance of passing the Miners Protection Act, which was introduced this year by West Virginia Sens. Joe Manchin (D) and Shelley Moore Capito (R):

⇒ See MINE Page 19



# HOW TO FIND UNION-MADE TIRES

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has made it very easy to find union-made tires by requiring that each tire carry a code that shows the company and the location of the plant that manufactured the tire. DOT requires that each tire sold in the United States carry a code that looks something like this: DOT BE XX XXX XXX. The two letters or numbers that follow the DOT identify a particular factory as listed below:

E: B.F. Goodrich – Tuscaloosa, Ala.  
BF: B.F. Goodrich – Woodburn, Ind.  
VE, YE, YU, 8B: Bridgestone/Firestone – Des Moines, Iowa  
D2, E3, W1, Y7: Bridgestone/Firestone – La Vergne, Tenn.  
2C, 4D, 5D: Bridgestone/Firestone – Morrison, Tenn.  
UP: Cooper – Findlay, Ohio  
UT: Cooper – Texarkana, Ark.  
JU, PC, UK: Goodyear – Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada  
JJ, MD, PU: Goodyear – Gadsden, Ala.  
DA: Dunlop – Buffalo, N.Y.  
JN, MJ, PY: Goodyear – Topeka, Kan.  
JE, MC, PT: Goodyear – Danville, Va.  
JF, MM, PJ: Kelly-Springfield – Fayetteville, N.C.  
CF: Titan Tire – Des Moines, Iowa  
JH, MN, PK: Titan Tire – Freeport, Ill.  
B plus serial #: Titan Tire – Bryan, Ohio  
CC: Yokohama Tire – Salem, Va.

All tires made at the above locations are made by members of the United Steelworkers (USW). Make sure you use this easy-to-follow guide to buy union-made tires.

# Barber Calls for a 'Moral Battle'

The Rev. Dr. William Barber II closed the first day of the USW international convention, bringing the delegation to its feet with a passionate call to activism.

Barber, a protestant pastor and president of the North Carolina NAACP, called on USW members to join forces with other groups and to fight for all working families on moral grounds.

"We must have a revival of values," Barber said. "These issues are not about Democrat vs. Republican. This is about right vs. wrong. These are moral issues, not political issues."

Barber is the founder of North Carolina's Moral Mondays movement, launched in 2013 in response to right-wing attacks on civil rights, voting rights and other causes that Barber views as moral imperatives.

The "moral decay" that led to the birth of that movement is also responsible for the environment that led to the election of President Donald Trump in the United States, Barber said.

Barber called for the labor movement to take a cue from the USW's 2017 convention theme: The Power of Unity. "We must have a strong, steadfast

unity" among labor, religious, civil rights, environmental and other organizations in order to beat back the "national immorality" of hard-right politicians, Barber said.

Barber called for a connection between USW leaders and those of other like-minded groups to build a national "moral resistance" to the right-wing politics of hate and fear.

"If they're all together, we can come together," he said. "No more separating our movements. We need steadfast togetherness." □



Rev. Dr. William Barber II brought the USW Convention Delegates to their feet with his call for unity.



# We Need Tax Reform That Works for Working People

April 17, Americans fulfill our civic duty of paying taxes to a system that is far from perfect or fair. As Congress reportedly is working on a plan to reform it, the AFL-CIO has a simple framework for what a serious proposal should include and what should not be included. These are the standards we will judge it by:

Big corporations and the wealthy must pay their fair share of taxes: Our rigged and broken tax system lets big corporations and the wealthy avoid paying their fair share of taxes, sticking the rest of us with the tab. Any tax reform proposal must not cut taxes for big corporations or the wealthy. On the contrary, tax reform should restore taxes on the wealthiest estates and tax the income of investors as much as the income of working people. It's imperative that tax reform make our tax system more progressive than it is now. Big corporations and the wealthy must pay more in taxes than they pay now, so we can build an economy that

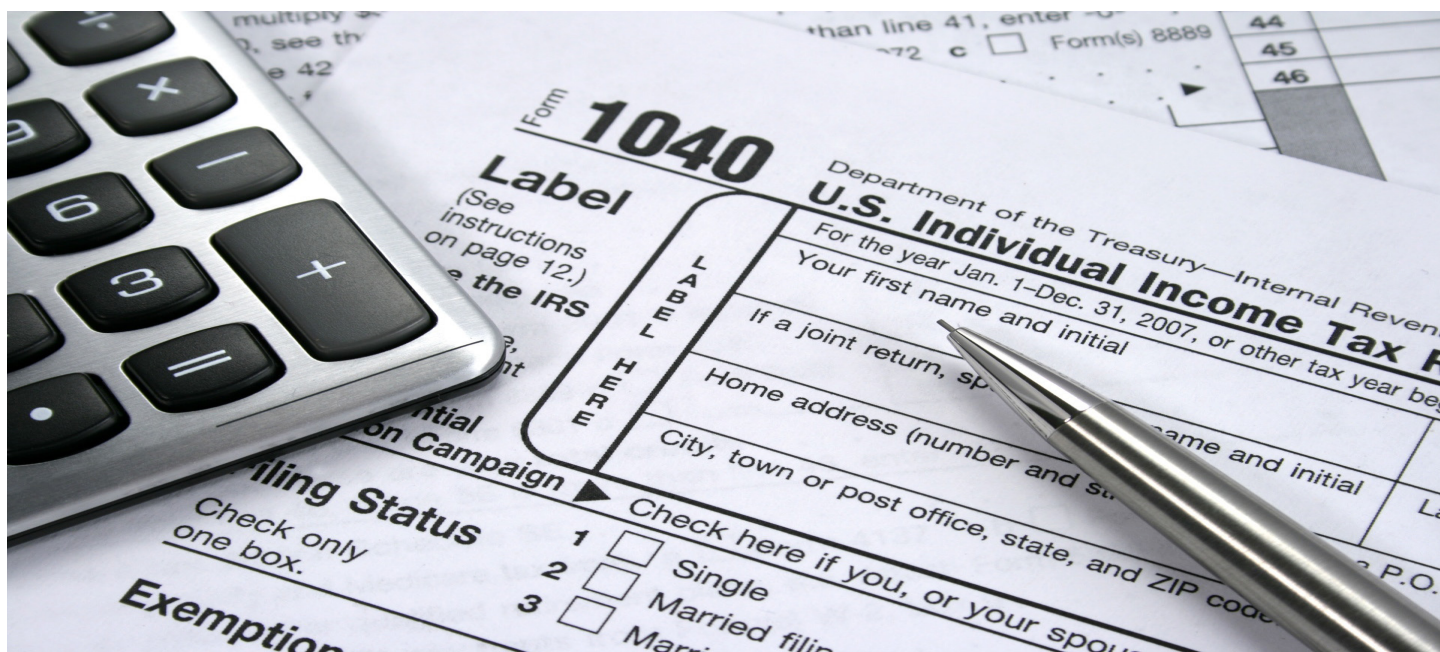
works for all of us.

Tax reform must raise significantly more revenue: Tax reform must raise enough additional revenue over the long term to create good jobs and make the public investment we need in education, infrastructure, and meeting the needs of children, families, seniors and communities. Any tax reform that reduces revenues in the short term or the long term is unacceptable. Additionally, cost estimates must be honest and not rely on gimmicks that hide the true long-term cost of tax cuts.

Tax reform must eliminate the tax incentive for corporations to shift jobs and profits offshore: Taxing offshore profits less than domestic profits creates an incentive for corporations to shift jobs and profits offshore, while giving global corporations a competitive advantage over domestic corporations. Tax reform must eliminate the tax incentive for corporations to shift jobs and

profits offshore, a move that would raise nearly \$1 trillion over 10 years. Reform must not include a "territorial" system that further reduces taxes on offshore profits and would increase the tax incentive for global corporations to shift jobs and profits offshore. Tax reform also must encourage investment in domestic manufacturing, production and employment to ensure a robust manufacturing sector.

Global corporations must pay what they owe on past profits held offshore: Global corporations owe an estimated \$700 billion in taxes on the \$2.6 trillion in past profits they are holding offshore. Tax reform should use these one-time-only tax revenues to increase smart public investment in infrastructure rather than cut corporate tax rates permanently. The higher the tax rate on these accumulated offshore earnings, the more funding will be available for public investment in infrastructure. □



# The Steel Industry Isn't Rebounding Quite Yet, But Hopefully the Worst is Behind Us

Elizabeth Brotherton-Bunch

Steel industry leaders tell Congress we must stay vigilant against unfairly traded imports.

Steel executives, union leaders and manufacturing experts told Members of Congress on Wednesday that America's steel industry remains at risk because of unfair foreign imports, noting that a further decrease in America's steel producing capabilities threatens our national security.

The Congressional Steel Caucus hosts a briefing each year to examine the state of the steel industry. After several years of dire warnings about the devastation occurring in steel communities because of imports from China, this time around witnesses told the Members that trade enforcement has helped stabilize the sector.

But they emphasized that the steel imports crisis is far from over.

"Without continued action, America's steel sector will remain in peril," testified Tom Conway, the international vice president of the United Steelworkers. "Capacity utilization at U.S. mills is increasing, but it is gaining slowly... Now is not the time to do a 'victory lap' but, rather, to accelerate the actions we can take."

More than 13,500 U.S. steelworkers have faced layoffs because of the steel imports crisis, which is largely driven by China's massive industrial overcapacity. In response, the United States issued several sets of anti-dumping and countervailing duties on some unfair Chinese steel imports, which alleviated some of the pain.

About 200 workers in Granite City, Ill., and others on the Iron Range in Minnesota have been called back to work. But thousands of steelworkers remain laid off – and this past month, about 600 of them in Lorain, Ohio were notified that the temporary closure of tubular operations at the city's U.S. Steel plant would become permanent.

"Other facilities across the country over the last several years have also announced layoffs," Conway said. "This is not 'rebounding,' but hopefully, a bottoming out."

Members of Congress have a role to play to help these steelworkers. Conway and the other witnesses – including Alliance for American

⇒ See STEEL Page 19







## **STEELWORKERS ORGANIZATION OF ACTIVE RETIREES**

### **District 7 Chapter 30-10 SOAR & Golden Age Club**

We invite all Steelworker Retirees to join us. We start off with a pitch in lunch then we discuss issues that are affecting retirees. Join us for some good food and good conversation.

**Meets at 11:45am on the 3rd Monday  
of every month at  
United Steelworkers Local 1999  
218 South Addison Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46222**



**Charles J. Jones**  
President USW - Local 1999

**Robert James**  
Vice - President USW - Local 1999

## SHEET OF SHAME

DAVID BAKER - A.S.C.  
DANNY DODSON - A.S.C.  
MARK A LASLEY - A.S.C.  
JULIE McNEELY - A.S.C.  
TERRI R. WOODARD - CENVEO  
STEPHEN THOMPSON - CENVEO  
RICHARD CAMP - CENVEO  
DONALD BUNCH - CENVEO  
RYAN BUNCH - CENVEO  
TERRY ELLIS - CENVEO  
JOSEPH PERKINSON - CENVEO  
BOB BRATTAIN - CENVEO  
DEBRA COREY - CENVEO  
MICHAEL A. ELLINGTON - CENVEO  
THERESA HURRLE - CENVEO  
STEVE PATTINGILL - CENVEO  
GARY TACKETT - CENVEO  
MARK HOLLAND - CENVEO  
FREDDY COOK - CENVEO  
MARY SICKING - CENVEO  
STANLEY NIX - PEPSICO  
JUSTIN DAVIS - DIAM CHAIN  
COREY HOWARD - DIAM CHAIN  
MARTIN RADICAN - DIAM CHAIN  
CHAD SMITH - DIAM CHAIN  
ALAN HICKS - DIAM CHAIN  
JUDITH A. ENGLAND - DIAM CHAIN  
DENNIS HIGDON - DIAM CHAIN  
IVORY DAVIS - DIAM CHAIN  
BANGEN FINLEY - DIAM CHAIN  
LUIS AGUILAR - DIAM CHAIN  
GARY TACKETT - DIAM CHAIN  
ERNEST WATERMAN - DIAM CHAIN  
SUSAN AGEE - CORNETT-CARRIER  
WILLIAM CARPENTER - CARRIER

SUSAN CARTER-CARRIER  
CHRIS CHANEY-CARRIER  
JOHN CHILTON-CARRIER  
LEILANIA CLEMENT-CARRIER  
WILLIAM CORNETT-CARRIER  
JESUS CORONA-CARRIER  
PAMELA CUSTIS-CARRIER  
RALPH GORDON CUTSHAW-CARRIER  
CHARLES DAILEY - CARRIER  
SHEILA DANIELS-CARRIER  
BRET DAVID - CARRIER  
TINA DEBERRY-TAYLOR-CARRIER  
SUSAN DEBRULER-CARRIER  
MAKADJI B. DIAMBOMBA - CARRIER  
CINDY DISHMAN-CARRIER  
STEVEN DORSEY-CARRIER  
MATHEW DRAKE - CARRIER  
RONALD GENTRY-CARRIER  
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RICHARD MIKE HANCOCK-CARRIER  
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TRACY MAYNARD-ROBINSON  
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MUHAMMED VIJASA-CARRIER  
JANET WALLEN-CARRIER  
ROBERTA WESSEL - CARRIER  
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LINDA BOHANNON - COLORS  
KATIE GILLIN - COLORS  
BYRON MONDAY - COLORS  
SHARON SLAYTON - COLORS  
JESSICA STEPHENS - COLORS  
DAROL THOMAS - COLORS  
JON TRUETT - COLORS  
MONTE ERIC WALKER - COLORS  
COREY BERNSTEIN - COLORS  
MELISSA BERNSTEIN - COLORS  
PAUL COPE - REXNORD  
JAMIE CRUM - RSR QUEMETCO  
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JOSE A. RAMIREZ-RSR QUEMETCO  
CHRIS MASK - RSR QUEMETCO  
MICHAEL SAONER - RSR QUEMETCO  
RODRIGO SOLANO-RSR QUEMETCO

**THESE PEOPLE HAVE NO MORALS!**

*Chuck*



**↩STEEL From Page 16**

Manufacturing President Scott Paul – pushed for specific policies such as infrastructure investment, trade enforcement and efforts to strengthen our defense industrial base to safeguard our national security.

Any infrastructure package, they noted, should include strong Buy American preferences that ensure tax dollars are reinvested into local communities and create jobs.

Those preferences should also follow the "melted and poured" standard, which states that all steel manufacturing processes take place in the United States to qualify for Buy America. This is important because Buy America opponents – like the Russian steel company NLMK –are lobbying to weaken Buy America by allowing imported foreign steel to qualify, so long as it is finished in the United States.

But strengthening the steel industry isn't just about jobs, the witnesses said – it's also about keeping America safe.

Case-in-point: Right now, AK Steel is the only steelmaker that manufactures electrical steel in the United States, said Roger Newport, the company's chief executive officer.

This type of steel is needed for transmission and distribution transformers for energy systems. A surge of unfairly traded steel imports led to a decrease in American-made electrical steel – and that's putting America at risk, Newport said.

"If large power transformers are destroyed by a terrorist attack, natural disaster, or simply old age, critical

parts of the U.S. electric grid could be down in a region for an extended period of time, causing a significant impact on national security and the U.S. economy," Newport testified. "If domestic electrical steel production and transformer protection is not maintained in the U.S., the future could entail a situation where the U.S. is 100 percent reliant on foreign producers, like China, to supply these critical materials."

Our military also depends on American-made steel for things like armored vehicles and aircraft. The U.S. Navy, for example, needs steel for its ships, said Bryan Clark, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments.

"The military shipbuilding industry exemplifies the need for a robust steel industry," he testified. "Ships use hardened steel for armor, specialized alloys for sensor and weapons housings, and high-carbon forged steel for machinery components that all require different production processes."

Tracy Porter, executive vice president of Commercial Metals and the chair of the Steel Manufacturers Association, noted that despite the challenges, domestic steelmakers remain optimistic about the future of the industry. Commercial Metals built a new micro mill in Durant, Okla., that will be up-and-running later this year, he said.

"To support investments of this magnitude, we must enforce our trade laws and address the harm caused by the unfair trade behavior of some foreign nations," he added. "We are appreciative of the trade law updates that were enacted during the 115th Congress... we must now make sure

that our government agencies fully utilize the tools and resources that Congress has given them." ☐

**↩MINE From Page 16**

We believe something will be done about the health care for 22,600 retirees and their dependents by the end of April, because if that doesn't happen, they will lose their health coverage. I don't believe the leadership on either side wants to see that happen.

We've got bipartisan support to this. It's got to happen with respect to the health care.

No other group of workers actually was promised this by the United States government. These people earned these benefits. This is not a handout. This is not welfare. This is something these people are entitled to because they worked for it and energized this nation.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka addressed the legislation in his speech before the National Press Club last week:

Today UMW retires are on Capitol Hill lobbying for a fair retirement deal. Over 20,000 health care cut-off notices have been sent out and benefits are set to expire on April 30. We have a responsibility to keep our promise to America's coal miners. Congress should send the Miners Protection Act to President Trump's desk today. ☐

## STEEL VOICE

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