



2022 UNITED STEELWORKERS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION COVERAGE

DAY THREE



'THE USW IS CHARTING A NEW ERA,' VP HARRIS SAYS



The USW has strengthened the nation and its economy for decades and is in the process of doing it again through the work of its members, U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris told the union's convention delegates on Wednesday.

"USW steel built our nation, and USW organizing built our middle class," Harris said. "You created prosperity and opportunity."

Thanks to a host of pro-worker initiatives the Biden administration championed in Washington over the past 18 months, the USW is poised to lead the way again in rebuilding the nation's manufacturing sector and empowering more workers through organizing.

"This is the beginning of a new era in the American labor movement," she said. "Led by you – the USW is charting that new era."

Among the administration's victories, Harris said, were the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure law passed last fall, a new law providing \$53 billion for domestic production of semiconductor chips, measures to cut health care and drug costs, and tax credits that reduced child poverty by 40 percent in less than two years.

The infrastructure bill alone has already begun to create millions of new jobs and helped to reduce unemployment to its lowest level in 50 years, she said.

"Other people promised to do it," Harris said of the administration's successful effort to secure 10 years of infrastructure funding. "We did it."

That means more work for USW members who make steel, aluminum, cement, rubber, optical fiber, auto parts and countless other industries. And, with the Inflation Reduction Act under con-

sideration in Congress, the White House is aiming to force huge corporations to finally pay their fair share in taxes and fund new initiatives to help working families.

"These investments will create good union jobs," Harris said. "It's clear that our nation is making progress."

Still, more work needs to be done to help struggling Americans, she said, like passing the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act to make it easier for workers to join unions and crack down on employers who try to silence them.

Doing that will bolster the USW's new organizing initiatives and provide a path to the middle class for millions of American workers, Harris said.

"We are guided by the spirit of this great labor union," she said. "Our administration will be with you every step of the way."

SHULER: 'CAPTURE THE ENERGY OF THIS MOMENT'

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler laid out a plan for a pro-worker future during her address to USW convention delegates on Wednesday.

Workers are hungry for unions, Shuler said, and that presents a huge opportunity for the USW and other labor organiza-

tions to help working families, expand the movement and grow the economy.

"We want to capture the energy of this moment," said Shuler, the first woman elected to lead the 12.5 million-member coalition. "Imagine what we could win for working people."

Large companies like Amazon and Starbucks, and expanding industries like technology and clean energy, are among the keys to growing the labor movement, she said.

"That is what the future of the labor movement looks like," Shuler said, citing a poll showing that unions were the only institutions in which public trust has not declined. "People trust unions, and we need to make the most of that trust."

To do that, she said, unions must collaborate, through the AFL-CIO and through state and local labor federations, to organize new shops and elect worker-friendly candidates.

With the U.S. midterm elections less than 100 days away, "our pro-worker majority is on the line," Shuler said, urging members to vote and talk to their co-workers about electing lawmakers who support union organizing.

"We need to do what unions do," she said. "And that is to join together and fight back."



BRUSKE COMMENDS RELENTLESS USW ADVOCACY

Canadian Labour Congress President Bea Bruske applauded USW members for their tireless work fighting on behalf of workers across Canada, through organizing, bargaining strong contracts and enforcing health and safety laws.

"When we need members to show up for workers, Steelworkers are always there," Bruske said during her address to the 2022 Constitutional Convention. "You are strong, active members who never shy away from a tough fight."

This year marked the 30th anniversary of the Westray Mine explosion that killed 26 Canadian miners. The USW continues to fight for improved safety provisions and to ensure these miners are never forgotten.

"Your tireless efforts, including consistent lobbying and the very powerful 'Kill a Worker, Go to Jail' campaign has led to major workplace safety reform," said Bruske. "Workers in Canada are safer thanks to the Steelworkers."

Within the current affordability crisis, there is an opportunity to make positive changes for workers, Bruske said.

The labor movement must be aggressive in organizing new members, pushing boundaries and looking to new industries. "We need to be bold, and we need to be loud."

"This is our moment to seize," she said. "It's our time to use our influence and make substantial, lasting change happen."





BIDEN'S TRADE POLICY PUTS WORKERS FIRST, TAI SAYS

American trade policy “must have workers at its heart” and “provide real opportunities to real people,” U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai told the 2022 Constitutional Convention, pledging the Biden administration’s continued efforts to build domestic production and combat trade cheaters.

“President Biden understands the importance of union workers to America’s economic vitality,” Tai said, adding that “many of you here today have the callouses to prove it.”

Tai said the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure program already has created good-paying jobs and that the just-enacted CHIPS and Science Act also will boost employment and reduce reliance on overseas supply chains.

The administration remains committed to tariffs that help level the playing field for American workers, she added, and will continue to leverage enforcement tools in the United States Mexico Canada Agreement that ensure fair treatment for workers in Mexico while safeguarding jobs north

of the border.

“Delivering for workers is our main priority,” Tai said, noting she’s met with numerous union members to inform a “worker-centered” trade policy.

Following Tai’s remarks, delegates passed a resolution, “International Trade,” that celebrated the USW’s record of fighting for antidumping and countervailing duties on trade violators and rededicated the union to battling unfair trade in both Canada and the United States.

Unions in Canada recently gained the right to file trade cases, a change that was largely the result of USW advocacy. USW members in Canada testified in close to 30 cases, demonstrating the impact of unfair trade on their jobs and communities.

The change paves the way for greater collaboration across the union in combatting unfair trade practices.

“For us, trade is a North American issue,” International President Tom Conway said.



RESOLUTION RECOMMITTS USW TO POLITICAL ACTIVISM

Delegates to the 2022 constitutional convention enthusiastically passed a resolution Wednesday to increase the USW’s impact on local, state, provincial and federal elections in recognition of the vital importance of having representatives who will fight for working people.

“I’ve seen what happens when our elected officials ignore us and vote against our values,” said Local 2660 member Dave Smith in support of the resolution.

Pennsylvania State Rep. Dan Miller, a former member of Local 3403, echoed this sentiment, crediting union solidarity for his success and encouraging USW members themselves to run for office.

“We need friends of labor in local and state government,” Miller said. “When workers hold office, there’s no better way to have a seat at the table and be part of the community.”

Miller, who represents the 42nd legislative district near Pittsburgh, recalled his time working in the public defender’s office when he relied on the union to fight for resources despite constant pressure to adhere to tight budgets.

“We didn’t win every battle,” he said, “but we would have lost all of them if we were not standing together.”

Throughout the day, delegates also received video greetings from Sens. Sherrod Brown (Ohio), Tina Smith (Minnesota) and Bob Casey (Pennsylvania), as well as U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan from Ohio, who is a candidate for the Senate.

The legislators gave USW members credit for leading the fight for infrastructure investment and spoke out in favor of bills such as the Leveling the Playing Field 2.0 and Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Acts.

USW STEPS UP FOR HUMANITARIAN, CIVIL RIGHTS CAUSES

Delegates to the 2022 Constitutional Convention recommitted the USW Wednesday to humanitarian and civil rights work that lifts up the marginalized, the poor and the devastated in the United States, Canada and around the world.

“The need is always there,” International President Tom Conway said. “It never goes away.”

Delegates adopted a resolution, “Building Unity through Helping Others,” calling on the union to continue supporting the Steelworkers Humanity Fund, which has enabled Canadian members to aid disadvantaged workers from British Columbia to Madagascar, and the Steelworkers Charitable and

Educational Organization, which enables U.S. members to support victims of natural disasters at home and overseas.

The resolution also commended members and retirees for countless individual acts of generosity – donating food, mentoring children, assisting veterans and supporting victims of domestic violence – showing they stand in solidarity not only with their union brothers and sisters but with entire communities.

“I challenge all of us here to step up and make our community a better place,” Sabrina Liu, a member of Local 3657 and co-founder of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), told the convention.

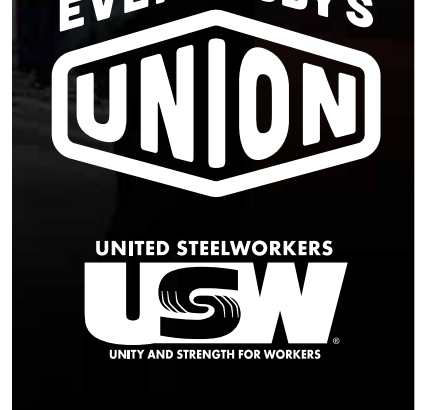
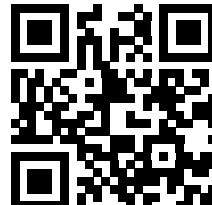
International Vice President (Human

Affairs) Kevin Mapp introduced the winners of the 2021 USW Cares Jefferson Awards, including Liu, the Champion Volunteer, who works to help immigrants and assist underserved communities.

“Steelworkers make good neighbors,” Mapp noted.

Delegates also adopted a second resolution, “Civil and Human Rights,” that celebrates the union’s history of fighting discrimination and bigotry. It rededicated the USW as a haven for workers and called on all members to oppose “bullying, discrimination, stigmatization, racism, xenophobia, and hate violence.”

“It’s time to treat everybody the way we want to be treated,” said Claude Gray, a delegate from Local 5795 in Labrador City, Canada. “We’re all human.”



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