



WOMEN OF STEEL NEWS

JUNE 2023

FROM THE UNION

Randie Pearson named new director of Women of Steel program

New USW leadership changes were announced at this past week's Rapid Response Conference in Washington, DC, including the new director of the Women of Steel (WOS) program, Randie Pearson.

She will succeed Ann Flener, who started her 25-year career at the USW as the national Rapid Response Coordinator. She will be retiring with 51 years under her belt as a union member. Through her leadership over the past 17 years, WOS has become a mighty force within the labor movement and is one of the union's most active programs.



This productive network will be in good hands with Pearson, who began her union activism as a member of Local 912 at Toledo Refining Co. She then served as District 1's Rapid Response Coordinator from 2017 to 2020 before moving to Pittsburgh to take on the role of the national Rapid Response Coordinator.

Since then, she and Rapid Response Director Amber Miller have spearheaded the union's successful fights for legislation that delivered historic infrastructure investments, saved our members' pensions and created good-paying jobs, among many other wins.

A Lasting Legacy

International Vice President Leeann Foster is also retiring after serving the USW for more than 25 years. Throughout her union career, she oversaw more than 550 locals and 30 paper bargaining councils in the USW Paper Sector to further the coordinated bargaining approach that now dominates the industry.



On top of this work, Foster also led the Women of Steel program and co-chaired the IndustriALL Global Union Federation Pulp and Paper Sector Working Group. She has left a lasting imprint on the USW and will be remembered as a champion for working women everywhere.

Registration open for International Women’s Conference

The call letter for this year’s USW International Women’s Conference “Women of Steel – Know Your Power” has officially been mailed to your local unions. The event takes place Oct. 23-26 at the Wyndham Hotel in Pittsburgh.

This conference will focus on building and enhancing members’ skills and global solidarity, as well as strengthening the labor movement. All this material contributes to your local union’s ability to better serve the membership. The program will include high profile motivational speakers from the U.S. and Canada, along with women from countries and unions where the USW is forming global alliances.

Participants will have the opportunity to choose among many skill-building workshops.

This conference is open to all members; however, local unions are encouraged to seek out female-identifying members who reflect the diversity of our union. There is no limit to the number of delegates a local union can send.



[Click here to learn more and register!](#)

SOLIDARITY IN ACTION

District 4 Women of Steel plant seeds of community and good will

The USW District 4 Women of Steel Western New York Regional Council hosted their quarterly meeting on June 3 at the Cradle Beach Camp in Angola, NY.

This is an annual event where the union siblings weed and plant flowers, trim the shrubs, and mulch the various gardens at the Camp, helping to get the grounds ready for the hundreds of underprivileged and children with disabilities that will be attending throughout the summer.

District 4 Women of Steel Coordinator Cindy Marlow was honored by the camp's Chief Executive Officer Ann-Marie Orlowski with the Cradle Beach Outstanding Service Award.

“I can’t thank my Cradle Beach family enough for all of their love and kindness, and allowing the Women of Steel to do what we do,” said Marlow.



Women of Steel in Indiana give big to animal shelters

The Women of Steel at Local 6103 collected money and much-needed items for the Porter County Animal Shelter, Hobart Humane Society, and Humane Society of Northwest Indiana. Together they were able to fill four vehicles to overcapacity.

“We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our union brothers and sisters,” said April Littleton. “We are so very glad to help our communities.”

