

USW@Work

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Volume 13/1

A Powerful Voice for Workers

Bea Lumpkin Inducted Into the Union Hall of Honor

Inducted into the Union Hall of Honor of the Illinois Labor History Society (ILHS) is a select group of men and women who have made significant contributions to the advancement of workers' rights and improving workplace safety.

Since its inception in 1981, the ILHS Union Hall of Honor has recognized nearly 100 of the most influential figures in American labor history. Inductees are nominated by the Executive Board, and have included the likes of A. Philip Randolph, Eugene Debs, Mother Jones, Upton Sinclair, Ed Sadlowski, Jane Addams and more. At the ILHS Annual Awards Dinner held on December 1, 2017, Beatrice "Bea" Lumpkin, a member of SOAR Chapter 31-9 in Chicago, Illinois, joined their ranks.

"As a SOAR activist, I accept this honor on behalf of steelworkers who helped build Chicago, especially the ten who died on the prairie at Republic Steel in 1937, fighting for the right to form a union. And I salute my husband Frank Lumpkin

and good friends, Ed Sadlowski and Alice Peurala who were steelworkers who preceded me in achieving this honor from the Illinois Labor History Society."

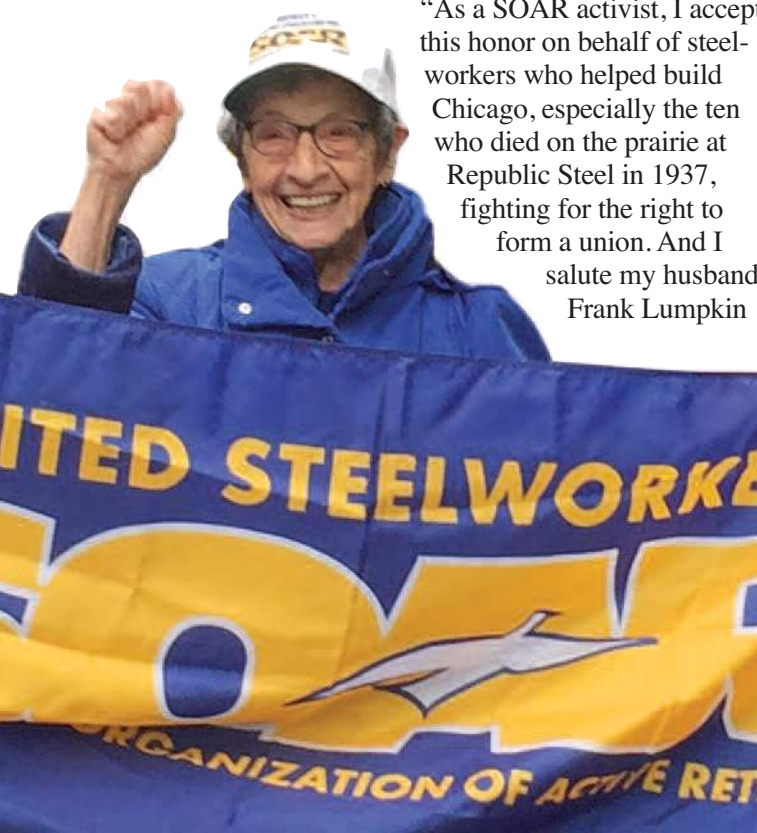
"Bea's induction into the Illinois Labor History Society Union Hall of Fame is very much deserved and long overdue. She has and continues to be a beacon of light and an example to all of us that believe in freedom, fairness and justice," says Fred Redmond, USW Vice President of Human Affairs. Redmond was the keynote speaker at this year's Annual Awards Dinner. In his remarks, Redmond spoke of Bea's steadfast commitment to advancing women's rights; her contributions as a founding member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women; her years of organizing workers at Wisconsin Steel with her late husband Frank; and her continued activism as a member of the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees.

Bea's first factory job was in 1933, when she was only fourteen years old. Not long after, she developed her first union flyer, "Are you satisfied?" which set in motion her years of activism with many unions. As a student at Hunter College she became a member and organizer for the Laundry Workers Union, and later joined the Metal Workers Industrial Union, the United Electrical Workers, and the United Steelworkers. She finished her working years as a math instructor at Malcolm X Community College and teaching at Chicago Public Schools, from where she retired at age 72.

Her activism, however, was not limited to the worksite. She and her husband Frank, an African American man, were not intimidated by the intense discrimination they



Bea Lumpkin, a member of Chicago SOAR Chapter 31-9 was inducted into the Illinois Labor History Society Hall of Honor on Dec. 1, 2017. Fred Redmond, International Vice President, was the keynote speaker at the event. At 99 years old, Bea Lumpkin was celebrated for her 70-plus years of labor activism from steelworkers, to teachers, to laundry workers, and many more.



continued on page 10



BILL PIENTA
SOAR President

In 2018 — We Still Have Old Fights to Fight

As we begin a new year, we still have old fights to fight. Recently, Congress passed tax legislation that will ultimately impact the national deficit. In recognition of this fact, members of Congress have stated that the issue of “Entitlements” will need to be addressed. “Entitlements” for many Republicans is code for Social Security and Medicare.

Many of these politicians do not care that the average monthly Social Security benefit is \$1,404. Or, that \$134 is deducted monthly from that amount as our contribution for part B coverage. Neither do they care that, for 2018, the average cost for part D, Rx coverage is \$34 monthly. We have paid into Social Security and Medicare and we continue to contribute for our medical coverage; and yet many in Washington call these benefits “Entitlements” and insist they need to be reduced.

We cannot and we will not sit by while they dissect our standard of living and quality of life. SOAR and Rapid Response are forming a coalition in an attempt to address issues of mutual concern.

The USW is holding their Rapid Response Conference May 21-23 in Washington, D.C. this year and SOAR will be among the delegates.

We have also joined with Rapid Response in a joint postcard action, which was recently rolled out to the SOAR chapters. If you aren't able to attend your chapter meeting, or happen to be an at-large member, you can still participate by signing a postcard online. (*See page 11 for more information.*)

I also recommend that, where possible, SOAR chapters invite their District Rapid Response Coordinator to speak at one of their meetings.

Your chapter should hold an event, a letter signing or attend a town hall meeting to let your Representatives know that you are watching and that you will not let them get away with giving tax breaks to the rich being paid for by seniors.

2018 will be the most important year, regarding senior issues, that SOAR has faced in many years and we must be prepared to respond to the challenge.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



JULIE STEIN
SOAR Director

A One-Vote Loss — Your Vote Did Matter

In 2018, every one of the 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives is up for election, along with more than 30 Senators and Governors each. It will be the voters who determine the outcome of these elections, and we should take this as an opportunity to shift the focus of our nation from the drama and chaos that has besieged Washington, to the issues that matter most to our families and communities.

As Steelworkers, we've all seen how the decisions of lawmakers impact every aspect of our lives, including job security, education costs, health care, and vital programs like Social Security and Medicare. While Wall Street has hit record marks over the last year, most Americans have not seen gains in their wages.

Congress does not have much to show after a year of work, aside from tax legislation that clearly favors the wealthy at the cost of hard-working, middle-class Americans. As a result, Congressional approval ratings have remained below 20 percent.

In lieu of Congressional action on the things that matter most, Americans took it upon themselves to get more involved in our democracy, by both voting and/or running for elected office. Possibly, the starkest example is in the Commonwealth of Virginia, where a wave of 2.6 million voters (about 350,000 more than the last gubernatorial election) enabled a group of insurgent candidates, many of whom never ran for political office, to flip more than 15 state Assembly seats. This nearly erased the 66-34 anti-worker majority that controlled the chamber prior to Election Day.

A victory in the 94th District would have put control of the

chamber in our hands. However, a mere ten-vote margin triggered a recount where the outcome hinged on a single vote. That vote was eventually thrown out for having too many bubbles filled in on the ballot, and the State Board of Elections decided the victor by drawing the winner's name from a bowl.

Our union played a key role in reversing the anti-worker majority in the Virginia State Assembly and in securing victories for our endorsed candidates for Attorney General, Lieutenant Governor and Governor. For the month prior to Election Day, Steelworker activists were knocking on doors and leafleting worksites to encourage fellow members and our families to get out and vote for the union's endorsed candidates.

Shifting gears after Virginia, the USW assembled a team of activists in Alabama, where the special election for a United States Senate seat had become surprisingly close after the leading candidate's campaign (Roy Moore) became plagued with scandal. Our endorsed candidate, Doug Jones, ended up winning by just one percent of the total vote. This victory marks the first time in 20 years that a USW-endorsed candidate was successful in their campaign for United States Senate in Alabama.

In 2018, we simply cannot afford to be passive observers in our democratic process. If we want to protect Social Security and Medicare, and build a better future for our kids and grandkids, we must get out and vote in our state's primary elections and in the general election on Tuesday, November 6.

Join with us, as we continue the fight to protect and enhance the quality of life of our retirees and working families. Together We Stand Strong!

The Equal Justice Institute to Open Memorial Honoring ZACHARIAH WALKER

By Alice Hoffman

The members of Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR) have reason to remember Zachariah Walker, an African-American Steelworker who worked at the Lukens Steel Mill in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, one of the oldest steel mills in the nation. Walker was lynched and burned on August 13, 1911. Those who were guilty were indicted but never held responsible. This outraged the newly formed National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). They began to advocate for an anti-lynching law in Pennsylvania which was passed in 1923.

Recently, a group from the Coatesville Ministerial Alliance, the Merion Quaker Meeting and the Greater Coatesville Deliverance Church, as well as the NAACP, gathered in remembrance. State Senator Andy Dinniman, said upon that occasion, "We cannot forget that lynching took place here in Chester County, not in the Deep South. It starts with prejudice and then it becomes discrimination and prejudice in action. And then what happens is, if no one stands up, it becomes institutionalized. It is tolerated."

The Equal Justice Institute (EJI) in Montgomery, Alabama will be opening its six-acre memorial—Remembrance of Lynching—this April. One ceremonial glass jar of soil gathered at the site of Mr. Walker's lynching will be on display in this memorial, alongside the more than 400 other jars of soil gathered from lynching sites throughout the South.

The second jar will remain in Coatesville, nearby the Pennsylvania Historical marker on Route 82, which commemorates the lynching of Zachariah Walker.

The recent gathering held in honor of Mr. Zachariah Walker was inspired by the creation of EJI's memorial. The community's remembrance of this act of violence perpetrated upon a black steelworker will help to create a contemporary environment of more equal justice for all members of society.

Alice M. Hoffman was professor of labor history at Penn State Dept. of Labor Studies and founder of the Labor Archives at the Library at Penn State University. Currently, she serves on the Board of the Pennsylvania Alliance for Retired Americans.



A ceremonial glass jar of soil is gathered at the site of Mr. Zachariah Walker's lynching.

SOAR in ACTION

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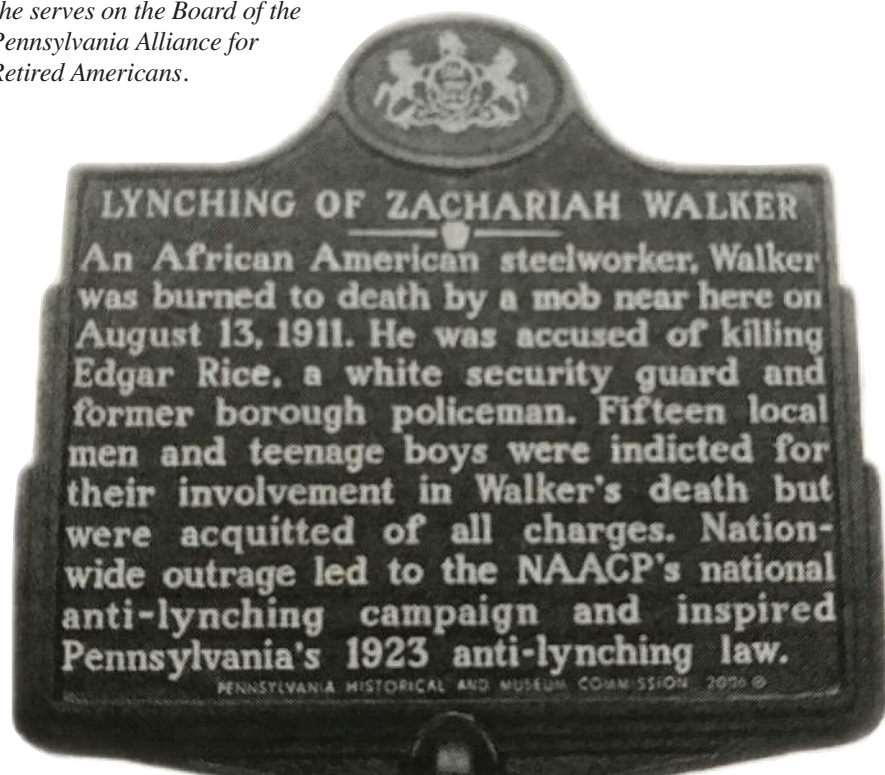
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SOAR MEMBERS DENNIS CARRIGAN AND RON FISHER Elected to the Saskatchewan Federation of Union Retirees

District 3 SOAR Executive Board Member Dennis Carrigan and Chapter 3-09 Vice-President Ron Fisher were elected to the executive of the Saskatchewan Federation of Union Retirees (SFUR) at the federation's annual meeting.

The annual meeting of retiree chapters affiliated to the SFUR, discuss and adopt resolutions in support of seniors and retiree issues.

One of the major topics under consideration, and which garnered the most debate and concern, was the decision by the current government to privatize the Saskatchewan Transportation Corporation (STC). Most senior citizens in the province depend on the service for their daily transportation needs. Privatizing this basic service will invariably lead to higher costs and reduced services. Those least able to pay will be the most affected.



Left to right: SOAR Chapter 3-09 Vice-President Ron Fisher, SOAR Chapter 3-09 President Ben Medernach, District 3 SOAR Executive Board Member Dennis Carrigan and SOAR Chapter 3-09 Treasurer Lawrence Gallucci.

District 3 SOAR Protest Service Cuts

Steelworkers and SOAR members join to protest service cuts in front of the Saskatchewan provincial legislature.

Left to right: District 3 SOAR board member Dennis Carrigan, District 3 Assistant to the Director Scott Lunny and USW Local 5890 President Kim Roberts.



Brian Corcoran

2017 Lynn Williams Award Winner for Canada

By Doug Macpherson

SOAR Canadian National Coordinator

SOAR Chapter 6-SA2 president Brian Corcoran has been selected to receive the 2017 Lynn Williams award for his work in his union and in his community of Labrador City.

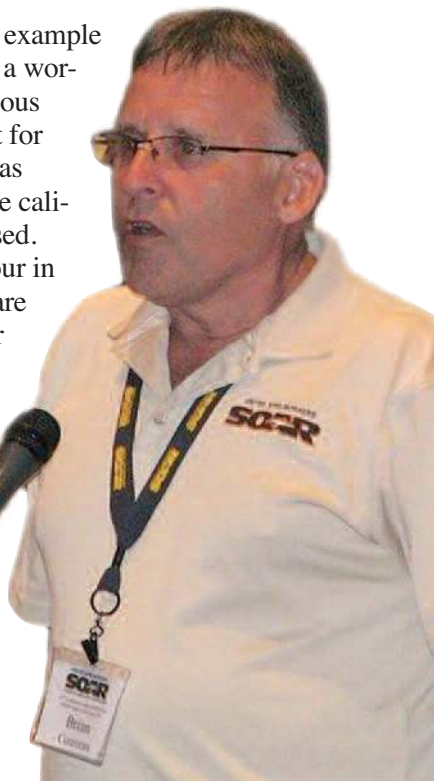
Brian was recognized for his many years of dedicated service to SOAR members, the Royal Canadian Legion and a host of community and service organizations in his home community and across the province. Despite Brian's own significant health difficulties over many years, he continues to assist others less fortunate in his community.

He has been an outspoken and consistent advocate for the seniors in this northern community. He has called for reduced airfares and hotel rates for seniors when they need to leave their community for health services. He has advocated on behalf of Wabush mine retirees; when the company ceased operations and left retirees and current workers with an underfunded pension.

Under his leadership, Chapter 6-SA2 continues to expand. Because of his willingness to help others, SOAR and the USW's reputation in the community has grown significantly.

Brian sets an outstanding example for others to emulate and is a worthy recipient of this prestigious award. Selecting a recipient for the Lynn Williams Award has become more difficult as the calibre of nominees has increased. To be nominated is an honour in itself and all the nominees are to be congratulated for their contribution to SOAR and their communities.

Brian Corcoran



From Granite City to Afghanistan

Like many SOAR chapter presidents, Jeff Rains (President of Chapter 34-2 in Granite City, Illinois) seldom runs out of stories about the activism of his chapter's members.

Recently he called to tell us about Shirley Luffman, a retiree who worked for 30 years at the Granite City Engineer Depot and current member of Rains' SOAR chapter. Shirley's son, Capt. Jeff Luffman, was first stationed in Kosovo in 1997, at which time she took it upon herself to begin sending "holiday gift boxes" to the men and women he served with. Shirley has not missed a year since then, and five years ago she approached her SOAR chapter with the idea of making this something they should consider building upon.

With support from the chapter's membership, the collection has grown every year since. On November 27, the chapter mailed out 24 large postal boxes of supplies to U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan. In 2017 alone, the chapter has sent more than 200 pounds of supplies; including everything from batteries, snack bars, raisins, coffee, and more that has been donated by their nearly 500 members.

While the annual holiday gift drive was something President Rains' chapter financed and organized, support has also come from Associate Judge Sarah Smith. According to Rains, Smith has, at times, offered to pay for the postage and shipment of the supplies and has gone out of her way to help get them into the hands of our men and women overseas.

"All of this could not be done without Shirley and with the members of our SOAR chapter who so generously donated to our annual drive," says President Rains. "Associate Judge Smith has been a great friend, and we greatly appreciate the support she's given to see these shipments through. I know it really matters to folks like Shirley's son and others who give so much." Associate Judge Smith is running for Circuit Judge in 2018.



Shirley Luffman and Jeff Rains

DISTRICT 10 SOAR Supports Winter Coat Drive to Help Students in Need

SOAR Chapter 10-8, which represents retirees from USW Local 1138, in early December held their annual Christmas Party in Leechburg, Pennsylvania. Those in attendance generously donated nearly \$400, which went to support the Winter Coat Drive at Leechburg Area School District. "We all did well for ourselves as USW members. Our kid's didn't go without. We wanted to make sure others weren't going without this holiday season," says Alan Brzezinski, Chapter President.



Alan Brzezinski,
President of the
Local 1138
Retirees

Leechburgh Area School District Superintendent Tiffany Brzezinski Nix is presented a fish bowl of money to put towards the purchase of winter coats for the students in need.



‘MINE’ versus OURS

Since 1953, the United Steelworkers Union has proudly represented the miners at Lucky Friday Mine (currently operated by Hecla Mining Company) in Mullan, Idaho— a strong, close-knit community of 650 residents that was founded in 1884 with the discovery of gold, lead and silver.

Mullan has its own library and bowling alley in the Morning Club— a building that was gifted to the town by Morning Mine Company nearly 100 years ago. The town even has its own fire department, and an Olympic-size swimming pool that is available for community use. Mullan's story is one of small town prosperity. Unfortunately the current chapter is one of struggle.

According to Hecla's website, Lucky Friday is projected to have another 20-30 years of "mine life." Our life, however, was apparently not taken into consideration when Hecla Mining decided to implement a number of provisions included in their "last, best offer,"— a proposal which had already been rejected by USW members by a vote of 244 to 2.

USW members at Lucky Friday Mine had already worked for nearly one year without a contract prior to rejecting Hecla's "last, best offer," and voting to go on an Unfair Labor Practice Strike.

Management's proposals have included changes in bonus pays, shift and vacation scheduling, as well as drastic changes to a long-standing job bid system which is a key concern. Miners are concerned that changes in how work crews are organized, will lead to even more dangerous work conditions.

However, this strike is about more than protecting seniority or maintaining the bid system. This strike is about assuring a promising future for the town of Mullan. Support for our striking members is obvious when you look around the community— signs of support appear in storefront windows all around town. Local businesses and

churches have backed the food bank that Local 5114 has organized for our members and families, and other unions have taken part in solidarity rallies and even picketed Hecla's shareholders meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Locals from nearly a dozen allied unions have donated to Local 5114's strike fund. Last fall, the Institute for Career Development (ICD) of USW Local 6163 and USW Local 7150 in Albany, Oregon, organized a 50/50 raffle and golf tournament. The proceeds helped purchase Halloween candy that was delivered to our striking members' families by a SOAR member and activist, Garry Steffy, who drove more than 1,200 miles to show his support.

"District 12 SOAR members have been an important part of our continued battle against Hecla," said Bob LaVenture, District 12 Director and SOAR member. "I appreciate all the work that SOAR members contribute. I can't say enough about how important it is that our retirees get involved, stay involved, and become members of SOAR. They were the ones that fought for much of the benefits we have today, and they contribute greatly to the strength and future of our union."

UPDATE: Region 19 of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has issued Unfair Labor Practice complaints against Hecla and the company will be prosecuted before an Administrative Law Judge beginning on January 30, 2018.



Bob LaVenture



Garry Steffy

District 8 SOAR Attended 13th Annual Convention of the
West Virginia Alliance for Retired Americans

"A FIGHTING TRADITION"



Since the state was admitted to the Union in 1863, West Virginians have always embraced the idea that hard work and liberty go hand in hand.

In fact, the Great Seal of West Virginia displays the image of a boulder with a farmer and a miner on each side. In the foreground lie two rifles and a liberty cap which signifies the state's history of fighting for liberty. Inscribed below the image is West Virginia's motto, "Montani Semper Liberi," which is Latin for "Mountaineers are Always Free."

These themes of hard work and liberty were also central to the 13th Annual Convention of the West Virginia Alliance for Retired Americans (WV ARA), which was held on November 16 and 17, 2017. This convention was the WV ARA's largest to date, thanks to the significant contributions of the state chapter's 12-member Executive Board on which six SOAR members serve elected offices. The SOAR members currently serving on the WV ARA's Executive Board include: SOAR Chapter 23-4 Recording Secretary, Robert Adkins; SOAR Chapter 23-16 Recording Secretary, Betty Totten; SOAR Chapter 23-16 President, Les Shockey; SOAR Chapter 23-16 Member, Larry LaCorte; SOAR Chapter 23-4 President, Rick Lewis and SOAR Chapter 23-16 Member, Floyd Sayre.

With the support of several other unions that are heavily involved in coordinating and planning—including AFSCME, CWA, AFT and the IBEW—this convention focused on training members and allies in ways to use social media and technology to better communicate the work of the West Virginia Alliance for Retired Americans.



Adkins explains that improved communications online by members and allies will help the ARA be more effective in their efforts to repeal the state's so-called "Right to Work" law, protect workers' right to prevailing wage and improve workers' rights overall.

Robert Adkins, District 8 SOAR Executive Board member and outgoing WV ARA Treasurer, explained to us several ways that the WV ARA is working to establish itself as one of the most progressive and active chapters in the nation. Adkins describes how last year the chapter went through the very complicated process of changing the organization's tax status—a move that will "give our members greater influence over what type of laws are passed at the state and federal levels." Specifically, this change will enable the WV ARA to lobby elected officials, make political endorsements and even give financial backing to candidates who have pledged support to the values and mission of the ARA.

The chapter has also successfully lobbied the national AFL-CIO in an effort to have a voice at the Federation's annual constitutional convention, to which the WV ARA is now able to send two credentialed delegates. To Adkins' knowledge, theirs is the only state chapter of the ARA that sends credentialed delegates to the AFL-CIO's constitutional convention.

Though Adkins is not continuing on as the WV ARA Treasurer, he made it clear that he plans on maintaining involvement in the chapter; given the incredible amount of work being done by its members and board to advance the right of retirees.

REMEMBERING

John J. “Jack” Sheehan

By Michael J. Wright

Director of Health, Safety and Environment, United Steelworkers



John J. “Jack” Sheehan

I realize that a lot of people never knew Jack Sheehan. That’s a shame. He was one of the truly great labor activists. He died Thursday evening, December 21, 2017, at age 91.

Also never far apart from each other in life, Jack’s wife, Nancy Everitt Sheehan, age 90, passed away on December 22, 2017, the morning after his passing. They were married for 56 years. During the early years of her career, Nancy worked as the administrative assistant to I.W. Abel, our union’s third president.

I’d like to tell you about Jack’s life, but I don’t think I can do it better than Jim McKay, writing for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette when Jack retired in 1996:

Most people outside of the United Steelworkers union don’t know Jack Sheehan. But he probably had an impact on your pension, the safety of your workplace, and the quality of the air that you breathe.

Since becoming a Washington lobbyist for the USW in 1959, Sheehan has earned a reputation as an environmentalist, a consumer activist, and an advocate of workplace safety and employee pension rights.

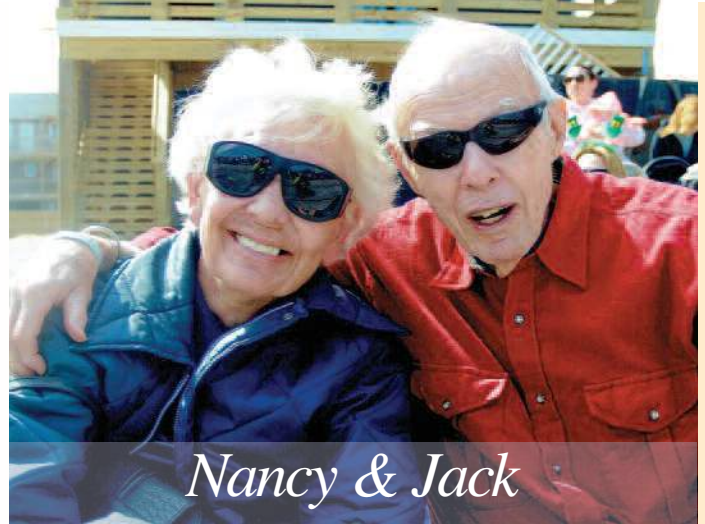
A founder of the Consumer Federation of America, Sheehan backed the Truth in Lending bill and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, passed to protect workers from the loss of promised pension or health benefits.

“Prior to 1974, pension plans were rewarded for longevity. You left beforehand and you were out,” Sheehan, 70, said last week while preparing for his retirement on Friday. “Now its five years and you (are vested). That was a big breakthrough.”

Sheehan also had a hand in the development of laws that formed the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which oversees workplace safety, and the Mine Safety and Health Administration, OSHA’s counterpart in the mining industry. He pushed for the Clean Air Act, the Civil Rights Act, the reformation of immigration laws, and a minimum wage law—even though his members were highly paid industry workers.

“I like to think that all that time that I’ve been here was kind of a fulfillment of a contract known as the New Deal,” Sheehan said. “It was kind of a social contract—the Truth in Lending bill, ERISA, Clean Air, OSHA. These were all dealing with a person’s economic welfare, the quality of their life, and the union was committed to advancing the quality of life.”

Sheehan was born in 1926, son of a New York City garbage truck driver. He joined the USW staff in 1951, and in 1959 he moved to Washington to lobby Congress for the union and to encourage Steelworker participation in the political process at federal and state levels.



He was hired by the union’s first president, Philip Murray, and worked for the succeeding five presidents. Hundreds of bills passed by Congress during nine U.S. presidencies bore the imprint of the USW’s influence because of his work.

Many longtime acquaintances - allies and foes alike—describe him as a skillful lobbyist who used reason and intellect to persuade. Facts and figures were his tools.

“Some people think they can just blast their way through an issue. Jack’s approach is to reason with you, to get you to understand substantively, as well as politically, why workers need what they need,” said Peggy Taylor, legislative director for the AFL-CIO.

Some of Sheehan’s early work, including ERISA and the founding of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp., the federal agency guaranteeing private pension plans, proved eventually to be of benefit to the union’s members, though at the time it was framed, he said, “it was just the idea of social injustice.”

The health of pensions became a dramatic issue for the union at companies like LTV Corp. and Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel in the turbulent 1980s when the industry shrank at a rapid pace.

“We became the major beneficiary of an act of which we did not think we would be the major beneficiary,” Sheehan said.

He trained others in the union in the art of lobbying and, according to his staff, would argue with them about the reasoning behind the union’s position on bills before final policy was set.

“I don’t think there was a labor lobbyist or legislative foe that ever discredited him for what he had to say about an issue, because he so thoroughly researched it,” said Kenneth S. Kovack, the union’s retired assistant legislative director. “He really knew right from wrong and he practiced it.”

Gone, too, is the nation’s optimism. No longer, he lamented, is government looked upon as a positive agent for change. “You were pushing uphill, but you thought you could get there,” he said of his efforts as a lobbyist.

Jim McKay

Let me just add a couple memories of my own: Jack was one of the driving forces behind the creation of both OSHA and MSHA, and he kept up with safety and health issues. He was always willing to help think through strategic questions or talk to a member of Congress when either agency needed some protection.

continued on page 11

Let's Make ALL of America Great Again for ALL of Us

During his 2016 political campaign the president promised to “quickly” invest \$1 trillion in America’s infrastructure if elected to the White House.

He won the presidential race and has been in office for more than one year, yet his infrastructure promise remains all talk and no action.

He has certainly realized that \$1 trillion does not come easily out of the federal budget, especially since his new tax reform package will decrease the amount of money flowing into the federal government coffers. The recently passed tax law will add nearly \$1.5 trillion to the federal budget deficit over the next decade according to the Congressional Budget Office. This will surely cut federal funds dedicated to cities trying to build a 21st century infrastructure.

The president’s plan to fix America’s crumbling and decrepit infrastructure is dependent on a combination of public and private investment. His fantasy is that the federal government would contribute \$200 billion to the plan and rely on the remaining \$800 billion to come from the private sector, states and local governments.

The president is surely operating in Fantasyland. He himself even expressed doubt in early January that his unrealistic money maneuvering could even work.

When contemplating infrastructure, we are not only referring to roads and bridges. America is so far behind in infrastructure spending that there is a grave need for updating airports, underground water pipe systems, the electrical

grid, communication networks, shipping ports, tunnels and transportation systems such as railways and subways.



Cities are struggling today to pay for basic repairs and services. Public schools are in dire shape. Our dedicated first responders such as police and fire departments are stretching their budgets thin to survive. In many cities, the money is not even available to fix potholes and repair streetlights.

And the president expects states and localities to raise the funding to fix what is only the tip of the iceberg?

The federal government hasn’t exactly been doing its job in caring for America’s infrastructure during the past 20 years. Congress has continually voted through short-term stop-gap measures to at least keep the Highway Trust Fund running. But in 2015, government spending at all infrastructure levels hit a 30-year low.

There are more than 55,000 bridges in the United States that are structurally deficient. Our highways continue to deteriorate. Broken water mains across America are at an all-time high and getting worse. Some of our airports look like they are destinations in third-world countries. Our shipping ports are long overdue for renovation to accommodate the increasingly larger ships carrying U.S. import and exports.

Our SOAR members recall when America was the envy of the world with its first-class interstate highway system implemented by President Eisenhower. Our airports were new and modern. Transporting goods and passengers by land and sea offered the amenities found nowhere else in the world. No other nation could compete with our technological advances.

But somewhere along the way we lost our focus. It is like owning a house where there is constant need for upkeep and improvements. Once you ignore the problems, they pile up to a point where catching up takes a gargantuan effort.

As painful as it may be, America can wait no longer to restore our infrastructure to first-class status.

The president should take to the streets and see what is happening in the United States. Helicopter rides to Mar-a-Lago, Trump Tower and his many five-star golfing resorts are just his little slice of America.

Let’s make all of America great again for all of us.

Jeffrey Bonior is a staff writer for the Alliance for American Manufacturing.





Washington Wrap

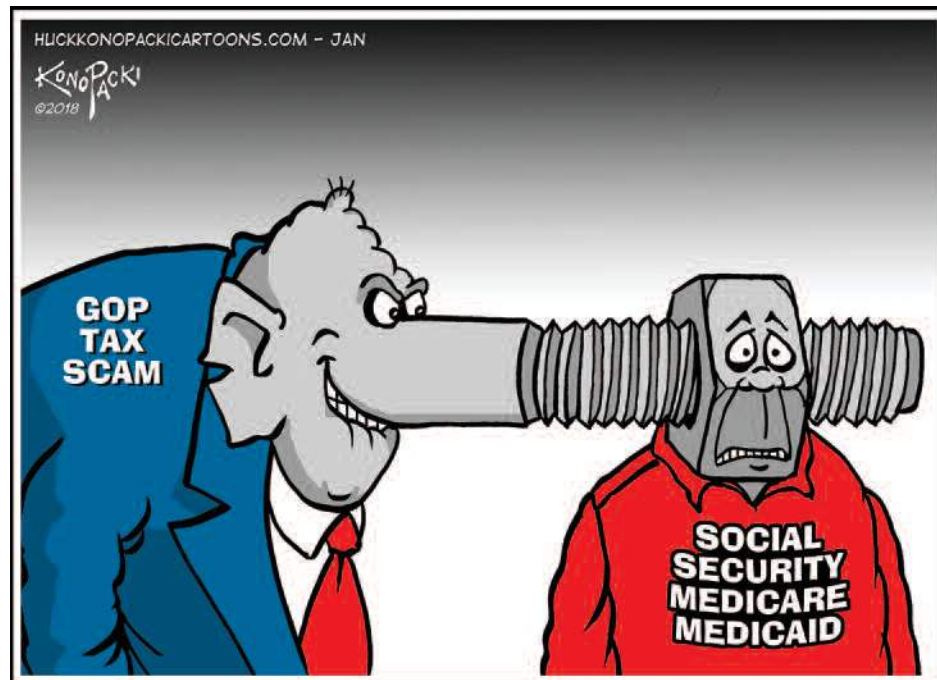
By Ken Kovack
SOAR Legislative Director
Washington, D.C.

Vote – There’s Power in Pulling Back the Curtain



I have started writing this article five times. Topics change as rapidly as the president’s mind. While a source of news is always welcomed, what is news of the moment is almost immediately compromised, misstated or outright lied about. Therefore, this edition will relate to everyone’s responsibility to vote.

At the time of this writing, the courts were making decisions about the gerrymandering of congressional districts, which involves legislatures, normally Republican, making it more difficult for certain groups of people to vote and the Census Department directive by the current administration to check out voter fraud nationwide. What was the basis for these claims of



voter fraud? The current administration stated that they would have won the popular vote except for voter fraud. How vain.

Nationwide, governors found little to no voter fraud that would come close to sustaining this claim. The result: the current administration closed down the Census Department investigation and shifted the responsibility of finding voter fraud to the Department of Homeland Security. The President’s action to justify his claim is considered petty, unjustified at its purpose, an unnecessary cost and a waste of time.

Political undermining of one’s

Constitutional right to vote can’t be denied. Leaders that try can be classified as immoral and power hungry. They ignore the history of those that risked their lives in peace time and wars, live with permanent injuries, some with military-related mental problems, broken families and more, all to protect the freedoms that we enjoy.

Your power to change this abusive drug-for-power binge is in the voting booth. Join with millions of others who may fear being disenfranchised by the powerful few. Make this year the biggest voter turnout ever. Get involved! VOTE!

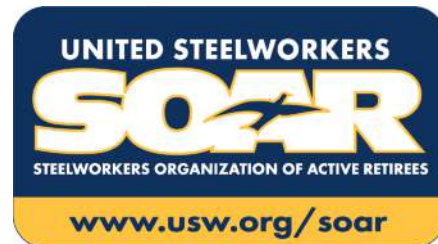
Bea Lumpkin Inducted

continued from page 1

experienced as a mixed-race couple in Chicago during the 50’s and 60’s. Instead, Bea thrust herself into organizing tenants and participating in the civil rights movement. She marched with Martin Luther King, Jr. in Marquette Park, actively supported the Black Panthers’ work in the west side of Chicago, and protested U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

“Bea’s life has been a story in its own, and I take great honor in being able to call her a friend and union sister,” says Scott Marshall, District 7 Executive Board Member for SOAR. “She is an inspiration to SOAR members all across our district.”

Bea will celebrate her 100th birthday this year.





Administration Continues Attacks on Health Care in the New Year

By Robert Roach, Jr.

The administration's attempts to dismantle the Affordable Care Act (ACA) through the use of executive orders in 2018 threatens the nation's health care security.

As the White House continues its efforts, we see millions of Americans left without affordable health insurance. That number had declined for years after passage of the ACA, but it shot up in 2017, according to Gallup and The Los Angeles Times.

At the end of 2017, 12.2 percent of U.S. adults lacked health insurance, up from 10.9 percent at the end of 2016, when President Obama was completing his last year in office.

A March 2017 document shows that despite the chaos surrounding the legislative attempt to repeal and replace the ACA, the administration had an elaborate plan all along to take apart the law without action from Congress.

Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA) obtained the document in December and shared it with POLITICO, calling it a list of options for "sabotage."

The document lists ten executive actions the new administration planned to take. Those include calling for stricter verification of people who try to sign up outside the open enrollment period; cutting the sign-up period in half; and giving states authority to determine whether insurers had to cover the full range of benefits required by Obamacare.

Health care advocates vigorously oppose most of these changes because they would undermine consumer protections and make it harder for many people to obtain coverage. And those are exactly the reasons for the administration's actions.

Robert Roach, Jr. is president of the Alliance for Retired Americans. He was previously the General Secretary-Treasurer of the IAMAW.

For more information, visit www.retiredamericans.org.



PROTECT – STRENGTHEN – EXPAND

RETIREMENT SECURITY



Retirement security is increasingly difficult for Americans to achieve, even after a lifetime of hard work. Sluggish wage growth, diminishing or threatened pensions and their guarantees, insufficient

401ks, and rising costs of living fuel the crisis. That's why we need to protect, strengthen, and expand Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and pensions.

As this year progresses, more and more discussions coming out of Washington are about potential cuts to our earned benefits. That's why the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR) is teaming up with Rapid Response to take on these issues.

We've launched a postcard campaign as a way of building our power. We hope you will join our effort by visiting the following link and adding your support. Your name will be transferred to a postcard and delivered to your Senators and Representative on your behalf. You'll also be able to sign up to continue receiving information from SOAR and Rapid Response moving forward. When we all work together, we win!

Sign the Postcard! Visit:
<http://usw.to/rrsoar>

REMEMBERING

John J. "Jack" Sheehan

continued from page 8

But his greatest contribution may have been to environmental activism. He made the environment a union issue in the 1960s. Through Jack, the USWA lobbied hard for every major environmental bill beginning with the Clean Air Act in 1963. Under Jack's leadership, we held our first union-wide environmental conference a year before the first Earth Day (1969). We were a founding member of the National Clean Air Coalition. Sometimes environmentalists would praise us for being environmental in spite of the fact that we are a smokestack union. "You don't understand," Jack would say, "We are environmental BECAUSE we are a smokestack union."



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