

BY-LAWS OF THE USW DISTRICT 2 COUNCIL

PREAMBLE

Believing it to be the right of those who work in the diverse industries that make up USW District 2 to fair wages, benefits, and conditions of employment; and also believing that trade unionism does not begin and end at the time clock, in grievance meetings or at the bargaining table; but rather begins there. And that the true source of our vitality is rooted in our actions as a social justice movement that establishes our ongoing relevance to our movement, our communities and our society. Here in District 2 we believe that our strength is tied to uniting the proud and distinct heritages from the AIW, UPIU, URW, OCAW, USWA, the independent associations, the former District and Regional Councils to form a single, activist and education centered Council to establish ourselves, unequivocally as a primary advocate for justice for working families.

DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this Council shall be to further develop the effectiveness and activism of our Union at a District level and promote the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union, (to be known in short as the "United Steelworkers" and the acronym "USW") AFL-CIO•CLC. We will accomplish this through various and ongoing education, advocacy, activism, and organizing projects and through promotion of the programs and policies of the International Union and District 2.

ARTICLE I

This organization shall be known as the United Steelworkers, AFL-CIO-CLC, District 2 Council (hereinafter referred to as "Council").

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES

- A. To unite in purpose all Local Unions within the jurisdiction of USW District 2, that hereby are required to affiliate with the Council.
- B. To engage in political activities and secure beneficial legislation and obtain the defeat and repeal of harmful legislation.
- C. To aid and cooperate with organizations whose purposes are in accord with and approved by District 2 and the International Union.
- D. To assist, help develop, support, and implement the policies of the District and International Union.
- E. To act upon resolutions presented to the District 2 Council Conference.
- F. To elect District 2 Council Rank and File Steering Committee Members and Trustees.
- G. To use the Funds of the Council to promote activism in the following Programs, including establishing committees when appropriate to provide structure for programs related to:
 - 1. Education
 - 2. Political/Legislative Action/Rapid Response
 - 3. Local Union/Community Activism
 - 4. Solidarity Building/Promotion of Union/District 2
 - 5. Civil Rights

- 6. Organizing
- 7. Safety and Health
- 8. Additional Legal Assistance to Local Unions
- 9. Scholarships for Union Educational Programs
- 10. General Welfare of the Membership
- 11. Political Education
- 12. Senior Citizens and Retirees
- 13. SOAR
- 14. Women of Steel
- 15. Communications
- 16. Health and Welfare

- H. To encourage each Local Union through its Officers, Committee Chairperson and members to participate in the activities of the Council, including but not limited to, the programs enumerated in Section G above.

ARTICLE III – RESOLUTIONS

- A. A Resolutions Committee consisting of not less than twelve (12) members representing a diverse cross-section of the District shall be appointed by the Director prior to the District Council Conference.
- B. The Resolutions Committee may combine Resolutions of like import and intent into a single Resolution. The Committee may submit majority and minority reports if necessary.
- C. The District Director may submit Resolutions to the Committee.
- D. Any Local Union may submit a Resolution if it has been passed by a majority vote of members present at a Local Union meeting and received in the District Office no later than ten (10) days prior to the convening of the Council Conference. Such Resolutions must be properly signed and dated by the Local Union President and Recording Secretary and must carry the impressed Local Union Seal. Resolutions so received shall be forwarded to the Resolutions Committee.
- E. No Resolution which is in conflict with the United Steelworkers AFL-CIO•CLC Constitution or within the exclusive jurisdiction of the International Convention or International Executive Board may be discussed or voted upon by the delegates except for reference to the appropriate International body for consideration.
- F. The Council may pass or reject a Resolution by a majority vote of those delegates present and voting.

ARTICLE IV – CREDENTIALS

- A. The District Director shall appoint a Credentials Committee prior to each District Council Conference which shall consist of not less than five (5) members.
- B. Credential and Registration Fee Forms shall be sent to each Local Union. Both forms shall be executed by the President and Recording Secretary immediately after the election of delegates in the Local Union and be impressed with the Local Union Seal. The original copy of the Delegate Registration Fee Form must be forwarded to the District Office no later than ten (10) days prior to the convening of the Council. Each Delegate shall receive a properly executed Delegate Credential Form which they shall present to the registrars, when registering at the Council Conference.

- C. The Credentials Committee shall rule on all questions pertaining to delegates subject to appeal to the general delegate body and present a credentials report to the delegates for approval. The decision of the Credentials Committee may be reversed by a simple majority of the delegate body. The delegates whose credentials have been questioned shall not be entitled to vote until the body has ruled on their eligibility.

ARTICLE V – COUNCIL CONFERENCE DELEGATES/VOTING

- A. Each Local Union shall elect delegates and alternates to the District Council Conference at least one month prior to the Council Conference at a general membership meeting. Local Unions may alternately name automatic delegates by virtue of the offices they hold provided the Local Union by-laws specifically address this issue.
- B. Local Unions shall be entitled to one delegate for each 100 members, rounded to the nearest 100 members. (For example: Local Unions with 151 members will be eligible to cast two [2] votes; Local Unions with 451 members shall be eligible to cast five [5] votes, etc.) This shall also be the formula used to determine voting strength during roll call votes.
- C. Delegates to the Council Conference must be members in good standing who have been such for at least twelve (12) consecutive months/and are regular participants at Local Union meetings (attend at least three meetings per year) are eligible to be delegates to the Council Conference should they be elected. Locals may also send alternates (but must meet delegate requirements above if they replace a delegate from the local) and guests to the Council Conference however they will not be entitled to voice or vote.
- D. A Local Union's voting strength shall be based of its average paid and exonerated membership during the last full quarter of the year prior to the receipt of the Call for the District Council Conference.
- E. A new Local Union which has officially begun dues check-off at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the District 2 Council Conference shall be entitled to delegates with full voting power, in the same manner as all other Local Unions, except that the base number used to determine delegate entitlement shall be the most current number of dues paying members within such new Local Union. The District Director, Assistant to the Director, Sub-District Directors and all full-time Staff Representatives shall, by virtue of their positions, be delegates to the District Council Conference and shall be entitled to one (1) vote.

ARTICLE VI – DELEGATE EXPENDITURES

Except for the District 2 Council Rank and File Steering Committee Members, each Local Union shall pay all costs of its delegates while in attendance at the Council Conference plus transportation to and from the Conference.

ARTICLE VII – DISTRICT COUNCIL DUES

- A. Each Local Union is required to pay the sum of one percent (1%) of the amount of the Local Union monthly dues forwarded to the International Treasurer on a monthly basis. Local Union Membership shall be computed, for the purpose of payments to the District Council Fund, based upon the number of dues paying members on the last day of each calendar month. (However, for the period beginning June 1, 2007, to December 31, 2007, Locals will be required to pay only one-half percent [$\frac{1}{2}\%$] of the amount of Local Union monthly dues forwarded to the International Treasurer.)

- B. All Local Unions shall be required to execute and forward to the International Union a check-off authorization, which provides for the above.
- C. District Council dues collected from Michigan and Wisconsin Local Unions shall be combined into one USW District 2 Council fund.

**ARTICLE VIII – ELECTIONS OF DISTRICT 2 COUNCIL
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (10) AND TRUSTEES (8)**

A. Nomination

Any delegate may nominate any member in good standing for the position of District 2 Council Steering Committee Member. Steering Committee Members will be nominated from each sector listed in B.1.a. Trustees will be nominated from their appropriate Sub-District. The Nomination does not require a second or support. Each member so nominated must be in attendance unless unavoidably detained and must accept or decline in reverse order of nomination. Candidates not in attendance on the call for acceptance or declination shall be considered as declining such nomination.

B. Elections

The District Council shall hereby establish a rank and file structure, from which its members will select two rank and file committee Co-chairs and a Secretary. The Director may also appoint advisors to work with this committee, and the Director shall serve as official Chairperson of the Council and Steering Committee.

1. District 2 Council Steering Committee

- a. There shall be ten (10) District 2 Council Steering Committee Members, one each from the following sectors:
 - Chemical and Energy
 - Paper
 - Allied Industrial
 - Steel and Related
 - Health Care
 - Public Sector
 - Automotive Related
 - Amalgamated Unions
 - (2) at large seats not falling into above categories
- b. The delegate receiving the highest number of votes cast for Steering Committee Member from each sector shall be declared elected.

2. Trustees

There shall be 8 Trustees/Council Conference Sergeants at Arms elected.

- a. The delegate or delegates receiving the highest number of votes cast for Trustee in each area shall be declared elected.
- b. The Trustees shall be elected as follows:
 - Four (4) from Wisconsin (two from each Sub-District)
 - Four (4) from Michigan (two from each Sub-District)

- c. Delegates will vote for Trustee candidates from their Sub-District areas through a caucus held by the Sub-District Director, and assisted by the Steering Committee.
- 3. Delegates cannot hold a position as a Trustee and District 2 Council Steering Committee Member at the same time.
- 4. The term of office for Trustees and the District 2 Council Steering Committee shall be four (4) years.

ARTICLE IX – DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DISTRICT DIRECTOR

- A. The District Director shall be the Chairperson of the District Council Conference and District 2 Council Steering Committee.
- B. The District Director may schedule a District Council Conference biennially, in a location to be approved at a previous District Council Conference. The District Office will be responsible for sending the meeting call, conference logistics and collecting registration fees, etc.
- C. The District Director may schedule a Conference in Michigan and a Conference in Wisconsin focusing on legislation, political education, Rapid Response and other educational initiatives as needed.
- D. The District Director shall set reasonable Registration, Banquet, and Guest Fees.
- E. The District Director shall fill, by appointment, any vacancy in the positions of Trustees and/or District 2 Council Steering Committee members from the time such vacancy occurs until the next District Council Conference, in consultation with the Steering Committee.
- F. The District Director shall be responsible for the distribution of Council Funds in order to promote the objectives outlined in Article II, as well as the general welfare of the membership.
- G. The District Director shall appoint a Co-Chairperson, Secretaries and necessary committee members for the promotion of the objectives in Article II, and to prepare reports to be given at the District Council Conference.
- H. The District Director shall appoint a Co-Chairperson of the Election Committee and necessary assistants to conduct the election of District 2 Council Steering Committee Members and Trustees.
- I. The District Director shall interpret these By-Laws.

ARTICLE X – DUTIES OF TRUSTEES

- A. At least one (1) Trustee shall sign all District Council Fund checks, signed and authorized by the District Director.
- B. The Trustees shall meet once a year to review the annual audit report with respect to District 2 Council fund income and expenditures and will distribute and report on such at the District 2 Council Conference.

ARTICLE XI – DUTIES OF THE DISTRICT 2 COUNCIL STEERING COMMITTEE

- A. This District 2 Council Steering Committee shall assist in the following:
 - Development of agenda for Council Conference

- Planning of the District Council Conference and Political/Educational Conferences
 - District 2 Strategic Planning
 - Determining and assessing educational needs within the District
 - Generating and leading activism and other purposes consistent with the mission and directives of District 2 and the USW
- B. The District 2 Council Steering Committee will normally meet biannually.
- C. The District 2 Council Steering Committee is expected to be present at the District 2 Council Conference.
- D. Once elected, the District 2 Council Steering Committee will meet to elect 2 Co-Chairs and a Secretary. The District Director or his designee shall preside over the committee as Chairperson.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

These By-Laws, as approved and amended from time to time by the delegates of the USW District 2 Council Conference, must adhere to the programs and mandates of the International Union and District 2, as set forth herein or as may be promulgated under the International Constitution.

- A. These By-Laws may be amended only if a resolution for such amendment is submitted to the District Office a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to each succeeding District Council Conference from a Local Union with its seal impressed thereon, and signed and dated by the Local Union President and Recording Secretary.
- B. These By-Laws may be amended only by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates present and voting at a duly called District Council Conference.

ARTICLE XIII – DISSOLUTION OF DISTRICT 2

In the event that District 2 of the United Steelworkers, AFL-CIO-CLC, is dissolved in the future through merger with another USW District or otherwise, a special conference of the District 2 Council will be called prior to such event. At this special conference, duly elected delegates at this conference will decide, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates present and voting, what actions, if any, shall be taken with respect to future distribution of the fund created pursuant to these By-Laws.

Amended April 13, 2014
Kalamazoo, MI