

USW International President Tom Conway issued the following statement after Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden announced that Sen. Kamala Harris will serve as his running mate:

"The USW and SOAR applaud Vice President Joe Biden's choice of Sen. Kamala Harris as his running mate. Like Vice President Biden, Sen. Harris has a strong record standing on the side of working people.

"Over the course of her career, she's worked to hold big banks accountable, prosecuted employers for wage theft and introduced pro-labor legislation in the U.S. Senate.

"Workers need leaders who put their interests first, fighting for retirement security, affordable health care and strong labor rights. We are confident that Sen. Harris, like Vice President Biden, will continue to prioritize these important issues.

"Now, more than ever, our country needs strong leadership. Together, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris offer us a choice to put our country back on the path toward stability and shared prosperity."

"Your vote is your voice, and it's a powerful tool. Don't take it for granted, especially when so much is at stake."

-Bill Pienta

Harris's VP Selection Presents Clear Contrast on Union Rights in Presidential Campaign



Kamala Harris's VP selection cements a staunchly pro-labor platform for our Union's endorsed candidate for President, Joe Biden.

Together, Vice President Biden and Senator Kamala Harris have been unwavering in their support for our right to negotiate for better pay, safer working conditions and a secure retirement.

In her time in the United States Senate, Harris:

- Fought for workers' rights. Harris co-sponsored the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act, and voted against the biggest rollback of union rights in 70 years, a move that would have impacted more than 1 million workers. (S. 140)
- Stood with us for safer worksites. Harris voted to require employers report prior labor violations when competing for federal contracts. (H.J. Res. 37)
- Championed our right to a secure retirement. Harris earned a 100% pro-retiree record from the Alliance for Retired Americans for her unwavering commitment to protecting Social Security, and for her efforts to ensure more workers can retire with the promise of a secure pension. (H.J. Res. 67, retiredamericans.org/voting-record)

Biden and Harris have spoken clearly about their belief that America deserves a President and Vice President with a firm commitment to defending the labor movement and retired Americans.

In his response to our Union's candidate questionnaire, Biden pledged his support for some of the USW's top legislative goals, including the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO Act), the Butch Lewis Act which aims to secure the viability of multiemployer pensions, and a promise to ensure a strong future for vital programs, like Social Security and Medicare.

Julie Stein, SOAR Director



Members of SOAR are united in mourning the loss of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. In addition to being a leader of civil and women's rights, Justice Ginsberg was a lifelong champion for justice. On September 18, we lost a true hero. In her final days, RBG said, "My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed."

May she rest as she served – honorably and in peace.



Why We Do What We Do at Election Time



As the president of SOAR, I write this article as a person who believes in and supports the labor movement, the USW and SOAR. That means I believe every worker should be able to join a union, with fair bargaining, a livable wage, a safe work environment, and have retirement security. As a member of our Union, I never felt it was enough as a union member to just pay dues.

Jerry Fallwell, Jr., President of Liberty University (an evangelical institution) asks more of his members than to just make donations. Wayne LaPierre, Executive Vice President of the National Rifle Association, wants dues as well as member support

on NRA issues. At Election time, this includes asking their membership to vote for candidates who support them on their issues. Why would the leaders of the USW and SOAR behave any differently?

SOAR's purpose as an organization, in part, is to advance the policies of the USW and to engage in political and legislative action. There are no union members without jobs; and no need for union leaders who have no members. There is no reason for SOAR if we do not work towards maintaining a decent standard of living for our retirees. We must help to defend vital programs like Social Security and Medicare. We must remain active and involved as we continue fighting to protect and enhance our labor rights, including retirement security.

For 35 years, SOAR has always required that any decisions made on actions be based on the best interest of our members and the USW has done the same - only for a much longer period of time. At Election time, this includes endorsing labor-friendly candidates who support us on labor issues, worker's rights, and retirement security. To make it clear, SOAR does not support a candidate who is not endorsed by the USW.

While SOAR has members who are deeply religious and/or members of the NRA, we do not ask SOAR members to quit the NRA or their church because their leaders do not walk with us on the picket lines or take a position on recent NLRB decisions. I have not heard Fallwell or LaPierre speak out or demonstrate against the illegal dumping of steel or tires or the closing of our paper mills. Nor have I read anything about their position on pension reform or increases in Social Security. I don't expect them to take a position on our issues, and no one should expect the USW or SOAR to take a position on their issues.

I am proud to state that for over 35 years SOAR has been supporting USW-endorsed candidates who support <u>our</u> issues and the issues important to the working and retired members of <u>our</u> Union, and will continue to do so. With Election Day coming soon I ask all our SOAR members to please vote for USW-endorsed candidates. *Bill Pienta*, SOAR President

SOAR Chapter Connection

A bi-monthly publication of SOAR Julie Stein, Content Editor Alysse Rico and Eric Russell, Copy Editors

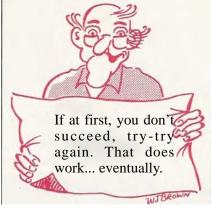
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Old Charlie Sez



Elaine Says

Tuberose is the name of the flower pictured. For four years, Charlie tried growing this tropical flower in his garden. This summer, he actually had six plants bloom! He was so proud! So, Charlie picked them and shared them with friends. Pictured is the last one. It is VERY fragrant, especially at night. We actually have to put it outside on our back porch as the wonderful scent is so powerful. Maybe we're just getting old.

Elaine Says...

Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.



Polianthes Tuberose

We Want Articles and Photos

- The deadline for the next publication of the SOAR Chapter Connection newsletter is November 20 and items should be emailed to Charlie Averill at soar3@icloud.com
- The next deadline for the SOAR in Action magazine will be January 8, 2021, and should be emailed to the SOAR Director at jstein@usw.org
- Photos should have a short caption included.
- Thanks so much.

Charlie



SEPT/OCT 2020



It goes without saying: Labor Day 2020 was unlike any other that we've experienced in our lifetimes. Even though most parades were canceled and large gatherings weren't realistic options to take place this year to commemorate those who have fought for the labor movement, no pandemic can lessen the importance of this day and it cannot be emphasized enough.

For nearly 130 years, Americans have celebrated the many victories and contributions that working families and the labor movement have achieved while taking time to reflect on what still needs to be done.

Since March, workers across the country have been tested like never before. From the hero healthcare workers fighting on the frontlines, the United States Postal Service making sure our mail is safely delivered, to grocery store clerks working overtime to ensure we have food to put on our tables, millions of America's working people have stepped up, risking their lives and livelihoods, to continuously go to work since the onset of COVID-19.

As we honor Labor Day 2020, we are especially grateful for the countless essential workers who kept our economy moving throughout the course of the pandemic. No words or actions will ever be enough to thank them for everything they've done; but, please know that their sacrifices have not gone unnoticed or appreciated, especially by those in the labor movement, including SOAR.

As we move forward, we must continue doing our part by following all safety measures to keep ourselves, family and friends safe and healthy. Practice social distancing. Wear a mask. Stay safe, stay healthy, stay active. We are all in this together! **In solidarity**.



Memories From the 2017 SOAR Conference



Left to right: Henry Ball, Gerald Thompson and Andy Rosas

At the 2017 SOAR Conference in Las Vegas, Gerald Thompson (SOAR Chapter 12-3 president from Point Comfort, Texas) and I made a new friend. This was a most inspirational day in my life. As we walked to a meeting room, we met Henry E. Ball, then-SOAR Chapter 15-4 President from Johnstown, PA. Henry told us that this would likely be his last convention. I asked if he had health problems and he answered no. He said that he was in good health and worked out regularly. He then told us he was 97 years old! He is a World War II veteran, retired Steelworker and remained very active in his SOAR chapter. Impressive and most inspirational! We now have frequent long-distance chats. I am thankful to have met him and be considered one of his many friends.

Editor's Note: Fast forward three years later, brother Ball celebrated his 100th birthday earlier this year. The USW recently interviewed Henry and put a story about him in the upcoming USW@Work magazine, which will hit mailboxes in the next few weeks. Be sure to check it out!

Andy Rosas, District 13 SOAR Executive Board Member





From The Articles of Association and By-Laws of SOAR

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The Organization shall concern itself with and deal with the social, economic, educational, legislative and political developments and concerns of its members and spouses, the USW and the labor movement. In addition, the purpose of this Organization is to better the communities in which said members live, to advance in every way the policies of the United Steelworkers, and to engage in political and legislative action directed at bettering our nation and safeguarding and enhancing the economic security and general well-being of all its members and older and retired persons in general through educational, legislative, political, civic, social, and community activities.

Charlie's Note: The purpose that most surprises me is the attention our retirees give to Community Services with their donations and time. Just in my own district, so much is given to scholarships, worthwhile non-profit organizations such as food banks and pantries, Toys for Tots, the U.S.O., The Salvation Army, delivering Meals on Wheels and on and on and on. It really does make me proud to be a member of SOAR.

When is the Next Election for SOAR Chapter Officers? From SOAR Chapter - Standard By-Laws Article 6. Elective Offices

- 1. Elective offices of this chapter shall consist of the following: President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and three (3) Trustees and if provided for, Financial Secretary.
- 2. Nomination of officers shall be held at a membership meeting during the month of October 1992 and nomination and election of officers will be held in November of 1992 and every four years thereafter. Each term of office shall be for a period of four (4) years commencing with the month of November, 1992. No member shall hold more than one (1) office in a Chapter however Chapter officers shall be eligible to serve on the SOAR Executive Board or as a District SOAR Coordinator.
- 3. Members in good standing as of the date of the nominations and election of officers shall be eligible to hold Chapter office.
- 4. Vacancies caused by ineligibility, death, or resignation shall be filled by appointment by the remaining members of the Chapter Executive Board until the next election provided that if the vacancy is in the office of the President, the Vice President shall serve as President for the remainder of the term. In the performance of their duties all officers shall conform to the policies and directives of the International Executive Board of the United Steelworkers and the International Executive Board of SOAR.

Accordingly, the next election of SOAR Chapter officers will be in November of this year.



AAM Wants The Winner of This Election to be America's Infrastructure!



As a non-partisan institution, the Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM) does not endorse political candidates. We do, however, endorse smart government policy that will improve our nation's manufacturing capabilities and provide well-paying jobs for America's dedicated workforce.

So, after November 3 it will either be another four years of President Trump in the White House or Democratic challenger Joe Biden leading our nation.

But the winner we are seeking here at AAM is America's infrastructure.

Rebuilding America's failing roads, bridges, railways, airports, water systems, electrical grids and so many other neglected facets of everyday life

will not only improve our daily existence, but it will put millions of people to work. The coronavirus-induced recession has pushed unemployment toward 10 percent in America destroying countless businesses that will never recover.

Americans need help from the federal government in times of crisis. A liberal spending package dedicated to infrastructure projects will offer hope to the people whose lives have been upended by the havoc brought on by this unexpected pandemic.

It seems America's failing infrastructure is bantered about every couple of years but is one policy matter that always fails to get aggressive congressional funding to seriously rebuild America. Our recent presidents and congress have occasionally talked a big game but typically return to stopgap measures that provide just enough resources to patch our crumbling roads and bridges while ignoring the trillions of dollars it will take to return America to its status as the modern jewel of the world.

We ask you to visit our website at www.americanmanufacturing.org and research the infrastructure proposals of both presidential candidates before you cast your ballot in the coming days. Comparative analysis can be found on the Manufacture This Blog page of the website.

Investing in infrastructure is an investment in America's steelworkers and the future of their families. Do it for them and do it for America.

Jeff Bonior Jeff Bonior is a staff writer for the Alliance for American Manufacturing

Phone the Senior Flash Hotline for legislative updates at 1-800-998-0180 sponsored by National Committee to preserve Social Security and Medicare.



Take Advantage of Your Flu Shot—More Important Than Ever This Year

People who are 65 and older are at high risk of having serious health complications from the flu. Getting your flu shot will be more important than ever this year. Be sure to take action against the flu and protect yourself and your loved ones by getting a <u>flu shot</u>.

Your Flu Shot Is Free With Medicare

Flu viruses change each year, so it's important to get a flu shot each flu season. Once per flu season, for people with Medicare you pay nothing when you get your shot from a doctor or another health care provider (like senior centers and pharmacies) that accepts Medicare. To make sure you're safe this flu season, you should take important measures to prevent the flu, like:

- Don't wait to get your flu shot
- Washing your hands
- Covering your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze
- Staying home when you're sick
- Cleaning frequently touched surfaces



Visit <u>CDC.gov</u> for more information on how to safely get a flu shot during the pandemic. **Get your flu shot today!**

Source: Medicare.gov

Senators Warren, Casey Work to Address Delays in Medicine Deliveries

Patients who rely on the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) for their prescription drugs are experiencing delays in their deliveries according to a senate report released earlier this week. Two Senators, Elizabeth Warren (MA) and Bob Casey (PA), are leading an investigation to figure out what is causing these delays.



Representatives from several large pharmacies told Sens. Warren and Casey that they have been experiencing delays and that delivery times, on average, have increased by a half a day or more. These delays were initially caused by the coronavirus pandemic, which forced patients to shift from in-person pickup to mail delivery. But the two senators believe the changes made by Postmaster General Louis Dejoy, including the removal of sorting machines and the elimination of overtime for many employees, have exacerbated the adverse effects from the pandemic.

"The delays in USPS deliveries of mail-order prescription drugs pose serious health risks to millions of Americans," said Joseph Peters, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. "Especially seniors, who rely on prescription medications even more than others."

Source: Alliance for Retired Americans Friday Alert, September 11, 2020



Joe Biden is the Candidate We Can Trust on Seniors Issues

by Robert Roach, Jr.



The 2020 presidential election is approaching, and many states have already begun voting. For a multitude of reasons, the Alliance for Retired Americans has endorsed the Joe Biden-Kamala Harris ticket for President and Vice President.

Former Vice President Biden will protect and expand Social Security benefits by making the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share. If re-elected, President Trump's plan to cut the payroll tax would permanently deplete Social Security retirement benefits by 2023, meaning millions of hard-working Americans would lose their right to a secure retirement.

The two candidates have completely different visions for health care in the United States. Biden is a strong supporter of the Affordable

Care Act (ACA) and protections for people with pre-existing conditions, and President Trump has gone to the U.S. Supreme Court to strike down the ACA, jeopardizing the coverage of millions. He has almost succeeded already in killing the law, and he could still do so in a second term.

Biden will expand Medicare to include vision, dental and hearing. He also favors free wellness exams and preventative screenings for Medicare beneficiaries. On the other hand, President Trump does not -- he favors reopening the prescription drug coverage gap, or "doughnut hole."

Forty percent of all reported Covid-19 deaths in the United States have occurred in nursing homes. Joe Biden recognizes this and has promised to increase safety measures in nursing homes to ensure the well-being of their residents and staff. President Trump has made no such promise and has even rolled back nursing home regulations. Joe Biden will also boost at-home health care services for those who prefer to age-in-place, allowing 600,000 seniors to receive care at home, not in an institution.

Vice President Biden has promised to expand Social Security and Medicare, protect pensions and lower drug prices. Trump has made no such plans. With the stakes for this year's election higher than they have been in any previous presidential race, it is especially important that seniors vote early and safely.

Go to <u>www.vote.org</u> now if you have not already made your plan to vote, to learn the laws on voting by mail in your state. You can enter your address and check your registration at that site to make sure there are no surprises at the last minute.

Robert Roach, Jr. is president of the Alliance for Retired Americans. He was previously General Secretary-Treasurer of the IAMAW. For more information, visit <u>www.retiredamericans.org</u>.







President

Where They Stand	JOE BIDEN	DONALD TRUMP
SOCIAL SECURITY		
Favors Expanding Social Security Benefits	YES	NO
Favors Making the Wealthy Pay Their Fair Share	YES	NO
Will End Social Security in 2023 by Terminating the Payroll Tax	NO	YES
PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES		
Favors Allowing Medicare to Negotiate Lower Drug Prices	YES	NO
MEDICARE		
Favors Expanding Medicare to include Vision, Dental and Hearing	YES	NO
Favors Free Wellness Exams and Preventive Screenings for Beneficiaries	YES	NO
Favors Reopening the Prescription Drug Doughnut Hole	NO	YES
${\bf www.} {\bf Retired Americans.org}$		
Favors Expanding Medicare to include Vision, Dental and Hearing Favors Free Wellness Exams and Preventive Screenings for Beneficiaries Favors Reopening the Prescription Drug Doughnut Hole	YES	NO









President

Where They Stand	JOE BIDEN	DONALD TRUMP
HEALTH CARE		
Supports Repealing the Affordable Care Act	NO	YES
Supports Protections for People with Pre-existing Conditions	YES	NO
LONG TERM CARE		
Favors Allowing 600,000 Seniors to Receive Care at Home, Not in an Institution	YES	NO
Will Increase Safety in Nursing Homes	YES	NO

The stakes are high. To learn how to cast your ballot in your community, visit vote.org.

Sources

www.RetiredAmericans.org

¹a. ("Social Security, taxes, health care, and working past retirement age: What Biden's platform wants to do for Americans over 50," Marketwatch, August 25, 2020)

¹b. ("Eliminating payroll tax could deplete Social Security by 2023, chief actuary warns," CNN, August 24, 2020)

²a, 3a ("Medicare coverage could expand under a Biden presidency," CNBC, August 22, 2020)

²b. ("Trump draws ire after retreat on drug prices pledge," The Hill, November 24, 2019)

³b. ("Medicare in the 2021 Trump Budget," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, February 13, 2020)

³c. ("Healthcare," joebiden.com, August 27, 2020)

³d, 4. ("Trump administration takes aim at ObamaCare in Supreme Court brief," Fox News, June 26, 2020)

⁵a. ("Caregiving," joebiden.com, August 27, 2020)

⁵b. ("The Trump Administration's Medicaid Block Grant Guidance: Frequently Asked Questions," Center on Budget February 6, 2020) 5c. ("Joe Biden Would Eliminate Elder Care Waiting Lists for Medicaid If Elected," Newsweek, July 21, 2020)

 $⁵d. ("The \ White \ House \ Says \ Nursing \ Home \ Regulations \ Are \ Too \ Tough," \ NPR, \ November \ 30, \ 2019)$

Saving American Democracy

By Tom Conway USW International President



Kristi Serwin knows that Americans clamoring for social justice and decent treatment of working people can correct the nation's course only with a fair, accessible election.

But she's also observed the nation's dire shortages of poll workers result in long lines and force the closure of



Getty Images

polling places around the country, depressing the voter turnout needed to drive change.

Serwin refuses to let that plight befall her Ohio community, so she signed up to serve on a precinct election board, ensuring her neighbors have convenient access to the ballot box Nov. 3.

Without many more volunteers like her, American democracy will hang in the balance this Election Day.

The COVID-19 pandemic <u>decimated the ranks of the nation's poll workers</u> at the very time Donald Trump's <u>spurious attacks</u> on the legitimacy of mail-in votes make conveniently located, fully staffed voting places more important than ever.

If they're confronted with long lines at the polls or forced out of their regular voting places, some Americans will just skip the election, no matter how high the stakes—and no matter how critical it is that their voices be heard—this year. And if America fails to conduct a fair, robust election, democracy dies.

Because this election will shape the nation for years to come, the <u>labor movement urges members across</u> the <u>country</u> to emulate Serwin's example and perform a patriotic service that will safeguard America's future.

Poll workers set up voting machines, check-in voters, accept completed ballots and transport them to county seats for tabulation. During the primary and general elections, these unsung heroes <u>log long hours</u> so their fellow citizens can exercise an indispensable constitutional right.

"If I can make sure somebody's line is shorter or give them a convenient place to vote, I'm sure as heck going to do it," said Serwin, a control room operator at BP-Husky Toledo and member of United Steelworkers (USW) Local 346. "I felt it was something I needed to do."

Most Americans want to have the option of voting by mail this year because they fear contracting COVID-19 at polling places.

However, Trump <u>falsely claims</u> that mail-in ballots invite voter fraud, and his Republican allies already filed a blizzard of <u>lawsuits</u> aimed at thwarting mail balloting. His <u>shameful efforts</u> to discount mail-in votes and silence Americans' voices, driven



Kristi Serwin

solely by his fear of losing the election, make traditional polling places more essential than ever.

Continued on next page \rightarrow



Yet COVID-19 exacerbated the shortages of poll workers that states and counties already face in every election. Many of the volunteers in their 60s and 70s who regularly fulfill this vital role declined to serve this year because they're in poor health and fear contracting the coronavirus from voters. Other longtime poll workers bowed out because they worry not about their own health but bringing the virus home to fragile loved ones. Without a wave of younger volunteers to take their places, election officials across the country will find it virtually impossible to keep all of their polling places open.

Ohio remains about 3,500 poll workers short of the bare minimum required to operate polls in all 88 counties. It really needs about 27,000 more volunteers to cover anticipated no-shows and illness-related call-offs Nov. 3 and to ensure polling places actually open—and remain open—all day.

Concerned about the rising tide of injustice in America and furious with Trump's attacks on working people, including the rollback of safety regulations protecting refinery workers like her, Serwin recognizes that this is a pivotal election.

And knowing what happens when Americans fail to answer the call to serve as poll workers—the city of Milwaukee, for example, closed all but a handful of its 180 voting places during last spring's primary she vowed to do her part to ensure the honest, inclusive election that Trump opposes.

Serwin, coordinator for Local 346's Women of Steel program, agreed to serve in a neighboring precinct, Danbury, which so needed poll workers that the county put her in charge of the election board there even though she's volunteering for the first time. She opted to take her floating Juneteenth holiday—provided under the USW's contract with BP—to make sure she's available all day.

"What better way to honor that date?" Serwin said, noting Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States and also highlights the continuing fight for equality in America. Poll workers' service yields dividends for themselves and the public.

Janice Payne, a member of the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR Chapter 11-4), began serving as a poll worker in Davenport, Iowa, when she retired from Alcoa about 11 years ago. County elections officials sought her help because of the pressing need for volunteers even then. "If we don't participate, we're as good as saying we don't care," Payne explained. "I felt very honored that they would even ask me." Like Serwin, Payne took charge of a precinct election board in a

nearby community, taking great pride in fairly and efficiently running a polling place where minority voters in prior years had been turned away because their names and addresses ostensibly failed to match the information in election records.

Not only did Payne go to great lengths to help minority residents cast ballots but she also used audible readers—designed for people with vision impairments—to help citizens with reading difficulties vote as well. Under her leadership of the precinct, she said, turnout increased from less than 100 voters per election to more than 300. But this year, she reluctantly stepped aside. She helps care for a prematurely born granddaughter with many health problems and fears bringing COVID-19, or another



Janice Payne

ailment, into the house. "I don't want to be the one to cause her to become sick," she said, noting its past time for the next generation to step forward and serve as she has.

One day, Serwin wants to be able to tell her own grandchildren that she did her part to safeguard democracy and save an election the president himself tried to sabotage. She hopes many other Americans also will volunteer to serve as poll workers in the coming weeks, embracing a civic duty at a time their country urgently needs their help. "I feel we all need to step up," Serwin said. "We have to make sure voting is accessible to everybody."

SOAR Members Volunteer for USW's Member-to-Member Postcard Campaign



SOAR Chapter 979 held a postcard writing party to assist with the USW's member-to-member postcard campaign in the union's efforts to elect pro-worker, pro-retiree candidates. A special nod goes to SOAR Chapter Treasurer Virginia Robinson for organizing the event held Sept. 21 at the Local 979 Hall in Cleveland, Ohio. From left to right, members of SOAR Chapter 979: John Haddix, Judy Haddix, Clarence Everett, Virginia Robinson, Bob Parker and Renna Ward.

SOAR 35 YEAR ANNIVERSARY COIN

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Our union is stronger when Steelworker retirees are involved as activists, advocates and volunteers; which is why the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR) was established, in 1985.







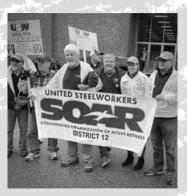












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