



CHAPTER 6-17 - SAULT STE MARIE, ON

## NEWSLETTER

### SUMMER 2022

If it seems like a while since you have received a newsletter from us, you are right. I was quite surprised that it has been so long since we sent out a communication. Sorry for the lapse. We are still around and want to bring you up to date about a few things.

#### **Meetings - Save the Date! Save the Date!**

We have reserved the Marconi Hall for **Wednesday September 21 at noon** for our first meeting since the pandemic was declared. We will be having our usual lunch and will be following the same format – lunch followed by a guest speaker then a short business meeting. The only change is the cost of the meal. We're all noticing rising prices and the upheaval following the pandemic. Although the meal will cost the chapter close to \$17 per person, we will be charging you \$15, in part as a welcome back gesture. We are looking forward to seeing all of you. Save the date! Save the date!

#### **Benefits Update**

As you are aware, this is a labour contract year. The executive and board of the chapter reached out to Locals 2251 and 2724 with some proposals about retiree benefits in the hope that they would be able to get some improvements to our health benefits plans. They were receptive to our proposals and shared with us (on a confidential basis) what they planned to discuss with the company.

As of the writing of this newsletter, we are not sure how retirees will be affected even though both contracts have been settled. Once the terms are fully known, we will provide an update. In the meantime, if you need to buy new eyeglasses or hearing aids pay your supplier and hold on to your receipts and submit them to Green Shield once their system has been updated.

#### **Donation from Local 2724**

Our chapter decided that we should have a computer on which to maintain our membership information and financial records. To date we have been doing this on one of our executive member's personal computer. When our treasurer, Steve Bortolon, was at the Local 2724 office to pick up the mail and any dues cheques, he mentioned this to Donna Symboluk, the executive administrator of the local. Rebecca McCracken, President of 2724, overheard the conversation and suggested that we approach the executive of 2724 about assisting us

with the purchase, which we did. And they agreed to cover the **whole cost** of the purchase – over \$2000 for the laptop, a mouse and Windows software. A very big “Thank You” to Rebecca and the executive of USW Local 2724 for their generous support of our chapter. This is very much appreciated.

### **Local 2251 Website**

The Local 2251 website ([www.usw2251.ca](http://www.usw2251.ca)) has been revised and there is a section for Retiree Information. We will be posting this and future newsletters there and will also use that to announce meetings and other items of interest to retirees. Have a look.

### **Meet and Greet with Mike Garcia, President and CEO**

We’re hoping that many of you were able to attend the “Meet and Greet” with Algoma’s new President and CEO, Mike Garcia on July 18. This event was Mr Garcia’s initiative as he wanted to meet with retirees since, as he put it, retirees are part of the Algoma family. He was advised that this was not a good idea, probably because of some long standing issues that retirees had particularly around lost indexing and shares after the restructuring of 2002, and the fact that current employees were getting substantial profit-sharing payments. But, as we saw in the meetings, Mr Garcia is his own man and forged ahead much to his credit and our benefit.

He gave an update on what was going on at Algoma, that fiscal year 2022 was a very good year and that 2023 could be a very close second according to current projections. He gave an update on improvements at the plant especially with the second ladle metallurgy furnace in Steelmaking and significant upgrades to the Plate Mill. He also talked a good deal about the transition to electric arc steelmaking and away from the current Cokemaking-Ironmaking-BOSP configuration. There were also display boards explaining the transition.

His presentation was followed by a Question and Answer session. As expected, the issues of indexing and current employees bonus payments came up. He took some heat on these matters but he firmly responded that, despite not liking the answers he gave, there would be no resumption of indexing for those who retired on or before January 1, 2002 and there would be no bonuses paid to retirees. He also answered questions about the transition to electric arc steelmaking and confirmed that he felt this was the right decision and would ensure the long term viability of the plant, albeit with fewer people working. He expects that the workforce will be below 2000 when the transition is complete in 2029. It is expected that this reduction in people will be mostly done through attrition as people retire.

Despite the heat he took during the Q&A, Mr Garcia said he wants to continue these meetings at least once a year if not semi-annually. He also stuck around and talked to many people one-on-one.

It was good to see so many people attend and most seemed to be happy to see former co-workers and friends.

The refreshments were a nice touch – breakfast sandwiches and muffins in the morning, pizza and sausage on a bun in the afternoon.

If you missed this one, hopefully you’ll be able to make the next one.

### **Three-Year Calendars**

SOAR Chapter 6-10 in Hamilton is once again going to be printing three-year booklet calendars for 2023-2025. Since costs are rising, they are increasing the price of the calendars to \$12 tax included.

If you are interested in getting one of the calendars, we will put in an order. We have to get the order and payment to Chapter 6-10 by October 15, so our cutoff will be **Friday October 7**. Contact Burnie Thorp at [bjthorp@shaw.ca](mailto:bjthorp@shaw.ca), or 705-949-1724.

### **SOAR International Conference**

The SOAR International Conference was held in Las Vegas on August 4th and 5<sup>th</sup>. Steve Bortolon and Fred Pitcher represented our chapter at the conference and will give a report at the meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Our chapter submitted a resolution to the conference. It is attached. This resolution was passed with minor modifications.

### **Snow and Grass**

We received a call from a widowed member of our chapter wondering if there might be someone among us who would be willing and able to help with snow shovelling in winter and grass cutting in summer. If you or someone you know (perhaps a grandchild) might be able to help, let us know and we'll get the word out.

### **Algoma Insurance**

Algoma Insurance Brokers is now known as Northern Insurance Brokers. We have been assured by Patty Babcock, VP – Personal Insurance that this is a name change only and that the group auto and home discounts for SOAR members is not affected.

### **Green Shield Claims History**

In a member update, Green Shield provided instructions on how to access your claims history and annual statement for tax purposes. If you didn't receive this from Green Shield, it is attached for your information.

### **Pension Status Report**

Attached is the most recent pension status report. The Pension Review Committee has not met with the company due to the labour negotiations.

## Deceased Members Since the Last Newsletter

Victor Barsanti	Karen Haldenby	Luigi Mauro
Lynda Bertoncello	Alvin Hanes	Barbara McPhail
Teresa Bozzo	Helen Hindermeier	Aldo Mellea
Geraldine Breckenridge	Lawrence Howard	Stewart Myers
Joe Bumbacco	Joyce Kent	Verena Newman
Terry Burgan	John Kostenuik	Calvin Osborne
Colleen Carbone	Joseph Krancevich	Alice Pearse
Ines Chamberlain	Gerald Linklater	Gus Ryckman
Mike Corcoran	Lillie Luck	Marilyn Seccariccia
Ken Coulter	Stuart MacBeth	Diane Shewfelt
Brendan Cullen	Owen Mackay	Richard Smith
Lament Dulude	Judi Maniaco	William Thompson
Margaret Ferguson	Carmen Marcil	Steve Turyk
Ron Forbes	Frank Marques	Stella Wozny
Doris Fowler	Garnet Mathison	Ettore Perna

Our condolences to their families and loved ones.

That's all for now. Your feedback and ideas are always welcome and encouraged.

And remember to save the date – **Wednesday September 21 at noon** for lunch and an in-person meeting at the Marconi Hall.

The Executive and Board of SOAR Chapter 6-17  
August 2022



**CHAPTER 6-17 - SAULT STE MARIE, ON**

Resolution for the SOAR International Conference  
Las Vegas, NV  
August 5 - 6, 2022

Whereas the United Steelworkers of America is an international union with members in the United States of America and Canada, and

Whereas the trade in steel products and in the raw materials required for the making of steel between the United States of America and Canada is fair and equitable under the USMCA trade agreement,

Be it resolved that the requirement of "Made in America with Union Labor" or "Made in Canada with Union Labour" in either country's federal or state / provincial government infrastructure programs recognize that steel made in the United States of America or Canada be treated as though it is "Made in America with Union Labor" or "Made in Canada with Union Labour" as the case may be, and

Be it further resolved that the United Steelworkers of America will so declare that this is its unwavering position and so lobby the governments in each country.

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Burnie Thorp, President SOAR - Chapter 6-17

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Eric Silanpää, Secretary – SOAR Chapter 6-17

# PLAN MEMBER UPDATE



## How to find your claims history summary and annual statement for tax purposes

It's that time of year again, and we know some of you will be looking for a claims history summary or annual statement as you file your taxes. The Green Shield Canada team is here to save you a phone call with some helpful step-by-step instructions for accessing the information you need. Of course, if you don't claim health and dental expenses on your taxes, you can disregard this message.

### Viewing your claims history summary of processed claims for the year

You can obtain a claims history report through your online account by following these steps:

1. Log into your account through the website.
2. Click on the 'Your Claims' header at the top of the page and select 'Claims History'.
3. At the top right click on 'Claim History Report'.
4. From the Plan Member drop down menu on the left side of the page select the participant you would like to generate a report for.
5. Under the 'Benefit' drop down menu select which claims you would like. If you would prefer all claims, choose 'Select All'.
6. Enter the dates from and to that you would like the report for and click on 'Display Claims Information'.
7. On this page you can click on the green 'Print Report' button to print a copy of your report.

### Viewing your premium statements

If you pay your premiums to GSC, you can obtain a copy of your premium statement through your online account by following these steps. (Note: if you don't pay for premiums or you don't pay your premiums directly to GSC, the below information will not appear for you and you can disregard this section.)

1. Sign in to your online account.
2. Click the arrow on the top right-hand corner of the page where your name and ID number are located and click on 'Your GSC Account'.
3. Click on 'Payments' and select 'Premium Payment History'.
4. Filter your search by date range, select the dates and click 'Apply'.
5. You can view a list of premiums paid monthly for the year(s) selected.

6. You can download a copy of your premium statement using the 'Download Report' button located in the top right-hand corner.

We hope these tips save you some time and allow you to check this off your to-do list!



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# SOAR Chapter 17

## Pension Report

March 30, 2022

**Present:** Piper Lee Frech  
Fred Pitcher

Burnie Thorp  
Mark McLarney

Leslie Nethery  
Venelina Arduini

### Presentation:

This brief summary is taken from the December 31, 2021 Mercer Quarterly Update for Algoma Steel.

The Defined Benefit Plans had a total \$47M decrease in the deficit to \$222M.

Market conditions are expected to increase this deficit, pushing the Solvency Ratio under 85%. Algoma will then have to resume Special Payments.

### Solvency Funded

	Hourly	Salaried	Wrap	Total
Assets	\$1,013.9M	\$395.6M	4.9M	\$1,414.4M
Liabilities	\$1,119.3M	\$451.3M	\$66.0M	\$1,636.6M
Est. Deficiency	(\$105.4) M	(\$55.7) M	(61.1) M	(\$222.2) M
Funded	91%	88%	7%	86%

### Going Concern Funded

	Hourly	Salaried	WRAP	Total
Assets	\$1,014.6M	\$395.9M	n/a	\$1,410.5M
Liabilities	\$927.4M	\$382.6M	n/a	\$1,310.0M
Est. Surplus (Deficiency)	\$87.2M	\$13.3M	n/a	\$100.5M
Funded	108%	103%	n/a	108%