

Building Power

Steelworkers Action Plan

Thirty-Second Constitutional Convention
April 11-14, 2005



Building

Steelworkers

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Our Union was forged in the battles for industrial democracy — the fight of workers who courageously stood up to demand an end to the boss's tyranny on the shop floor, who organized themselves in local unions to win guaranteed rights on the job, and who combined with millions of others in labor's crusade to secure economic justice for working families throughout the United States and Canada, and around the world.

Our Union's mission throughout its history has been to continually expand workplace democracy, and to beat back ceaseless corporate attempts to re-impose their domination.

In recent years, increasing globalization and an unprecedented concentration of corporate power has confronted us with grave new threats to the jobs and economic security of workers everywhere — and to the very existence of the labor movement. At the same time, economic and political realignments have presented new opportunities for building bargaining power to preserve jobs and enhance the financial well-being of our members and retirees.

Throughout our Union's history, we have faced daunting odds in every arena, from bargaining table to bankruptcy court, from contract campaign to election campaign. Yet time after time, we have found ways to fight back, to neutralize threats to our members' well-being by building the power of our Union.

In virtually every instance, success depended on the involvement of an educated, mobilized membership and innovative activism. Our success in mobilizing 30,000 members and supporters in Washington, D.C., to demand temporary import relief — the high point of our Union's five-year campaign to end dumping and illegally traded steel — is a clear example of the power and solidarity that activism can generate.

There can be no better example of this activism than passage of the Westray Bill in Canada, an effort that forged success from our Union's 11-year struggle, ensuring that serious neglect of worker safety will be punished by the criminal law, and that the 26 miners who lost their lives in the Westray Mine disaster did not die in vain.

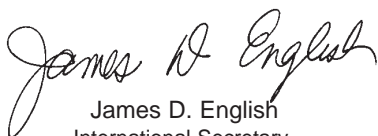
This Steelworkers Action Plan carefully analyzes the challenges and threats we face in the coming years. More importantly, it specifies the actions we believe are necessary to build our Union's power in successfully meeting those challenges, a detailed plan to build on the legacy of activism that has made us one of North America's most progressive fighting unions.

We urge you to review this plan and endorse its recommendations. Through our solidarity and renewed commitment to the activism that has been the hallmark of our Union for more than 60 years, we can forge lasting change for our members, their families, and our communities.

In solidarity,



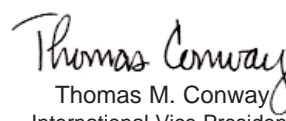
Leo W. Gerard
International President



James D. English
International Secretary-
Treasurer



Leon Lynch
International Vice President
(Human Affairs)



Thomas M. Conway
International Vice President
(Administration)



Ken Neumann
National Director
of Canada