

RESOLUTION ON PAC ACTIVISM

WHEREAS, every delegate to this convention knows that because of failed trade policies how our members and our union has been and continues to be devastated by plant relocations to places such as Mexico and China, and until we as Steelworkers and all working people in this country decide to get involved in the political process, we can look forward to this horrible trend continuing; and

WHEREAS, the entire steel industry is being devastated by these failed trade policies, thousands of workers have lost their jobs, and thousands more retirees have lost their health care and pensions, and unless we lead the way in making the politicians that have caused this to happen accountable to all workers, these travesties will continue to happen, not only to steelworkers, but to every working person in this country and the most effective way to do this is by mobilizing our membership who in turn will mobilize their families and communities;

WHEREAS, the national average of non-registered labor union members is in the forty five percentile range, we have an immediate task of putting together serious voter registration drives in our local unions that can be transferred into our communities, and

WHEREAS, corporations outspend us in the political arena 19 – 1, we have an urgent need to set up PAC checkoff drives in every USWA local that hasn't started one in the last year; and

WHEREAS, the average union member doesn't have time to keep up with how their elected local, state and federal officials are voting on issues that have a direct affect on their livelihoods, it is imperative that we educate them on a continuous basis;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that: we urge our local unions, staff personnel and members to mobilize coordinated political efforts, which will ensure constant participation of our members that will produce the results like we had February 28, 2002 in Washington D.C. 30,000 members standing together to make a difference in America.

Each person that participates in our PAC checkoff program should attempt to convince at least one person that does not participate, to contribute through PAC check off.

Every member that votes on a regular basis should attempt to convince at least one co-worker that is not registered, to register to vote.

All elected local union representatives should attempt to bring at least one person to every union meeting that don't attend on a regular basis.

Every local union should make every effort to have active Legislative, Rapid Response and Political Action committees.

With all of these efforts combined, we will closely work with and monitor the performance of candidates elected previously, and those that will be elected later this year, in order to insure that they meet their commitments to our union, to organized labor and to all the communities and families that depend on our leadership.