



Leo W. Gerard
International President

March 9, 2009

**United Steelworkers'
2009 Health, Safety and Environment Conference
August 17-21, 2009
Hilton Americas-Houston Convention Center Hotel — Houston, TX**

To: All USW Local Union Presidents and Recording Secretaries

Greetings:

I am pleased to announce that the 2009 United Steelworkers' Health, Safety and Environment Conference will be held August 17-21 at the Hilton Americas-Houston Convention Center Hotel in Houston, Texas. The conference is specifically for your Health, Safety and Environment Committee chairperson, committee members, full-time health and safety representatives and other activists from your local union.

The conference convenes on Monday, August 17 with an all-day, union-only session. All sessions beginning August 18 are joint labor-management sessions. You are encouraged to invite management representatives to attend from your workplace. **Please provide them with a copy of this letter so that they have the registration information.**

Conference Registration

It is imperative that all participants pre-register for the conference at www.usw.org. Please select the 2009 United Steelworkers' Health, Safety and Environment Conference icon and complete the online registration form.

The conference registration fee is \$295.00 U.S. or \$350.00 Canadian. However, there is a reduced fee of \$275 U.S. and \$325.00 Canadian for any early registrations received between April 1 and May 30. After registering online, please have a check, made payable to "**USW Secretary-Treasurer**," remitted for the registration fee(s) to:

USW Health, Safety and Environment Department
5 Gateway Center, Room 902
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Please indicate on the subject line of your check the name of the individual(s) registering with that payment and include a copy of the registration form(s).

On-site conference registration/name badge pick up times at the hotel will be as follows:

Sunday, August 16: 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (union only registration)
Monday, August 17: 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (union only registration)
Monday, August 17: 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (joint labor/management registration)
Tuesday, August 18: 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. (joint labor/management registration)

Union conference participants will not need to re-register for the joint sessions once registered for the union-only portion of the conference. The conference will convene at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, August 17 with a union-only session. The joint labor-management sessions will begin on Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. and the conference will adjourn by Noon on Friday, August 21. There will be a conference reception Monday evening.

Hotel Information

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hilton Americas-Houston Convention Center Hotel, 1600 Lamar, Houston, TX 77010. Rooms are limited so please book early. **The cutoff date for booking hotel room reservations is Friday, July 24, 2009.**

Hotel reservations can be made either by phone or online. Please use the following Web site link: www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/HOUCVHH-1US-20090815/index.jhtml or call (713) 739-8000 and identify yourself as attending the 2009 Steelworkers' Health, Safety and Environment Conference and provide them with **Group Code 1US**. All reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card and one night's deposit is required. Hotel cancellations will be accepted 72 hours prior to the day of your arrival; if a cancellation is not made, the room charge and tax will be billed to the credit card on file. Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and room rates start at \$129.00 per night.

Airline Arrangements

In cooperation with Gateway Travel Management, special travel arrangements have been made for air transportation to the conference. Reservations may be made by calling Gateway Travel at (877) 439-0374, **Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. EST**. Please identify yourself as a participant in the 2009 United Steelworkers' Health, Safety and Environment Conference and provide the agent with **Code G5932**.

Many USW local unions and employers find benefit in taking time during this conference to meet as a group to discuss issues and concerns. This is particularly useful for local unions from more than one location with the same employer. If local unions and/or employers wish to schedule a meeting specifically for your joint committee(s), please contact Mary Krutz by Wednesday, July 15, 2009, at (412) 562-2579 or mkrutz@uswtmc.org.

I look forward to seeing you at the conference in August and continuing our work with your local union to build a safer and healthier workplace.

In solidarity,



Leo W. Gerard
International President

c: International Executive Board
USW/TMC Staff
HSE Coordinators
HSE District Advisors