



# BLUE COLLAR ADVOCATE

Raising Voices - Raising Awareness - Raising Standards

*“Going To Work Should Not Be A Grave Mistake!”*

## THIS WEEK’S HEADLINES

### G.I. Man Prepares Harvest of Harmony Float With Serious Message

Grand Island, NE -

Thirty-nine people died last year on the job here in Nebraska, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A reminder will be pulled along the marching bands and queen candidates at next week's Harvest of Harmony parade.

Rod Hitchler says he's lost track of the number of names he's put on a parade float he started in 2009.

"I do this in Ryan's memory," he said.

[READ MORE](#)

### New Athens teenager killed in Swansea lawnmower accident

SWANSEA, Ill. (KMOV.com) – A teenager was killed in an accident with a lawnmower in Swansea Wednesday afternoon. An 18-year-old from New Athens was reported missing while cutting grass in the 1800 block of Carrington Way. According to police, the teenager had been cutting grass for a lawn care company when another worker could not find him.

[READ MORE](#)

### Women of Steel Activist Dies in Workplace Incident

USW Local 1327 member and District 13 Women of Steel activist Marie “Velma” Perkins, 51, was fatally injured Sept. 18, 2015 in a railway accident at Domtar Paper in Ashdown, Ark. She was the Secretary-Treasurer of her Local, a safety leader and actively involved in Women of Steel. Sister Perkins worked at Domtar for 24 years.

[READ MORE](#)

## USMWF’S HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK!!!



### Jonce Hubble, 41

Jonce was killed on the job in July 22, 2010 while working at Mccord Communication Inspection (3rd party Barnhart Crane and Rigging Co., Inc.) in McClellan, Al. He died when a tower collapsed after a bucket truck struck a supporting wire.

*Jonce Hubble was doing maintenance on a communications tower in Anniston, AL on 7/22/2010. The tower's guy wires were clipped by a 33 foot bucket truck that was moving around the worksite. Jonce passed away around 9.00 pm at UAB in Birmingham after several surgeries and two amputations.*



USMWF honored Louisville, Plattsmouth, Weeping Water, Manley Fire Departments and Plattsmouth EMS along with Cass County Emergency Management for their hard work and dedication in the grain rescue on August 31, 2015 in Louisville, Nebraska.

# USMWF HONORS AND EVENTS...



USMWF held their first car and motorcycle show for their Safety STEW Campaign. USMWF would like to thank our great sponsor Brian Pierson Trucking LLC and to all the amazing companies that donated to our raffle, EZGO Convenience Store, JetSplash,, HvCCycle, Graham Tires, Anderson/Quick Lane and to our amazing host Don & Millies in Lincoln, NE.



Our event was a great success and we cannot wait to donate the safety equipment earned for the high school work courses in Nebraska.

Congrats to our winners!!!



# DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that you can help support USMWF by purchasing lapel pins, buttons, event candles for Facebook, bumper stickers, and now Memory Vinyl Decals. [Click Here](#) to Support USMWF.



## WORKPLACE SAFETY CORNER *(click each video to view)*

We feature highlights from a grain bin safety video produced by OSU's Stored Products Research and Education Center.



### Fatalities from on-the-job injuries tick up across the U.S.

Last year, 54 Nebraska workers died as a result of on-the-job injuries, up from 39 worker deaths in 2013, according to a preliminary report released this week by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In Iowa, the number of job-related fatalities rose to 90 in 2014 from 72 in 2013, the report said.

Nationwide, the preliminary number of workplace deaths rose to 4,679 last year, up from 4,585 in 2013, a 2 percent increase. Among those were eight workers younger than 16 and eight workers age 90 and up, the BLS report said.

“When the economy comes back up, there’s more people employed, so more issues,” said Steven Markowitz, professor of occupational medicine at Queens College, City University of New York. “Fatalities tend to go down during a recession when unemployment goes down.”

Still, “2 percent is small statistically – you can’t read much into a one-year bump,” he said.

Last year’s figures are preliminary. The agency’s revised report is scheduled for release in the spring.

Tonya Ford, deputy director of the Nebraska chapter of the United Support Memorial for Workplace Fatalities, said many workplace fatalities in the United States and Nebraska “occur from a lack of training for new employees.” The nonprofit offers support to those who have lost family members in work-related incidents.

[READ MORE](#)

USMWF needs your HELP!!

Please take a few minutes (and seriously it only takes a few minutes) and nominate USMWF for a great opportunity to win \$5,000 and help us reach our target audience and make a difference.

Just enter:

Your Name

Organization

United Support Memorial for Workplace Fatalities (USMWF ORG Inc)

Website

[www.usmwf.org](http://www.usmwf.org)

Organization's Email

[support@usmwf.org](mailto:support@usmwf.org)

<http://www.firespring.com/5000/>

## TESIMONIALS:

*February 28, 2014 changed my life forever. My son, Mike, 29 years old, was killed at work. Because Mike was an adult, and had a dependent, it was hard for me to find anyone to answer my questions. Let alone understand all of the different processes that take place. I spent countless hours reading laws and statutes. I spent days on the phone contacting state and federal agencies and attorneys. Not only was I in total disbelief that I would never see my son again, I was so confused and lost. Everyone and thing in the world was moving forward except me. Then I received the brochure in the mail from USMWF. I read it, and put it in my purse, until I could handle contacting them. I am so relieved that I finally took the time to contact them. This is truly a family who feels your pain, they can tell you possibilities to expect. Nothing I can do will ever bring Mike back, but USMWF is out to do everything possible to try to make sure that "Going to work is not a grave mistake!" Thank you USMWF and all of the families for being there for me!!*

Denise Byrd – USMWF Family Member

## REFERENCE SITES:

USMWF: [www.usmwf.org](http://www.usmwf.org)

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/USMWF>

GRAIN MILL ACCIDENTS:

<https://www.facebook.com/GrainMillAccidents>

## ARTICLES:

### Tree service worker dies after fall from tree

AMHERST, N.Y. (WKBW) -

Amherst Police tell 7 Eyewitness News a tree service contractor fell to his death while on a job earlier Saturday morning. [READ MORE](#)

### Girl, 6, rescued after being stuck in trench in Manchester [READ MORE](#)

## HOW CAN USMWF HELP YOU?

USMWF's goal is to offer support and guidance to families that have lost loved ones due to work related incident.

However, we strive to make awareness to safe workplaces to prevent others from enduring the same pain that our families have after the loss of their loved one.

USMWF would like to know how we can help you? What are you looking for when you go to our social media or website?

Email your suggestions to

[support@usmwf.org](mailto:support@usmwf.org)

Thank you for your time.

## HOW TO CONTACT USMWF:

PH: 1-859-266-5646 (8am-5pm, Mon-Fri. est.)

EMAIL: [support@usmwf.org](mailto:support@usmwf.org)

ADDRESS:

2837 Yellowstone PKWY, Lexington, KY 40517