

MAJOR EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE STEELWORKERS, 1933–85

June 16, 1933	President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs National Industrial Recovery Act, which includes employees' right to form unions
June 16–30, 1933	Steel companies establish employee representation plans
June–October 1933	Steelworkers flock to join Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel, and Tin Workers (AA)
April 17, 1934	AA rank and file demand recognition of union by steel companies and threaten to strike if demand is refused
May–June 1934	AA rank-and-file movement loses momentum; strike call is canceled
January 3, 1935	Delegates from fifty rebellious AA lodges reconstitute rank-and-file steelworkers' movement
July 5, 1935	National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act) passed, giving workers the right to bargain collectively
September 1935	Development of area joint councils of employee representatives in Pittsburgh-Youngstown and Calumet regions

November 1935	Formation of the Committee for Industrial Organization (CIO)
January– April 1936	Formation of Pittsburgh-Youngstown councils of U.S. Steel employee representation plans
May 1936	Collapse of plans to establish joint American Federation of Labor–AA organizing drive among steelworkers
June 4, 1936	Agreement reached between AA and CIO to organize steelworkers
June 17, 1936	Steel Workers' Organizing Committee (SWOC)—CIO formed in Pittsburgh, with Philip Murray as head
August 1, 1936	Publication of the first issue of SWOC's official newspaper, <i>Steel Labor</i>
August 25, 1936	Committee of employee representatives in U.S. Steel Pittsburgh-Youngstown area mills votes to demand wage increase
August 26, 1936	First SWOC charter in Canada issued to Local 1005 in Hamilton, Ontario
November 9, 1936	SWOC captures leadership of joint conferences of management and employee representatives in U.S. Steel
January 17, 1937	First meeting of Wage Policy Committee of SWOC
March 26, 1937	SWOC signs first contract with a major steel producer (Carnegie-Illinois)
April 12, 1937	U.S. Supreme Court upholds 1935 Wagner Act in case involving discharged SWOC members in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania
May 12–20, 1937	Jones & Laughlin Steel employees win strike and vote for SWOC in National Labor Relations Board election
May 26, 1937	SWOC strikes against Little Steel companies
May 30, 1937	Memorial Day massacre at Republic Steel in Chicago

October 1940	Bethlehem Steel organizing drive begins
November 1940	Philip Murray, chairman of SWOC, is elected president of the CIO, following John L. Lewis's resignation
December 13, 1940	First white-collar local organized in SWOC by office employees at U.S. Steel's National Tube Company
February 1941	SWOC Canadian organizing drive accelerates, following contract settlement at National Steel Car Company
March 29, 1941	Youngstown Sheet & Tube Company reinstates strikers fired in 1937, with back wages
May 15, 1941	SWOC wins National Labor Relations Board election at Bethlehem Steel's Lackawanna mill
May 19, 1942	SWOC convention in Cleveland adopts constitution and becomes United Steelworkers of America; Philip Murray elected president
July 16, 1942	U.S. War Labor Board issues formula for wage increases in wartime, based on decision in USWA–Little Steel dispute
August 1942	Inland Steel, Youngstown Sheet & Tube, Bethlehem Steel, and Republic Steel sign contracts with USWA
January 12, 1943	Beginning of first industrywide Canadian steel strike
April 1944	USWA officially recognized as collective bargaining agent at Steel Company of Canada
June 4, 1944	Aluminum Workers of America merges with USWA
February 13, 1945	First referendum election held for USWA International and district officers
January 21, 1946	Nationwide steel strike of 750,000 workers begins

October 1946	Wage inequity agreement reached between USWA and U.S. Steel
April 22, 1947	"Era of Good Feeling" contract signed between USWA and U.S. Steel
October 31, 1949	USWA and Bethlehem Steel reach first agreement in steel industry for company-financed pension plan
April 8, 1952	President Harry Truman declares government takeover of steel mills in union-industry wage dispute
November 9, 1952	Death of Philip Murray
March 11, 1953	David J. McDonald installed as new president of the USWA
June 12, 1953	USWA-U.S. Steel agreement wipes out differential wage rates between North and South
November 17, 1953	Beginning of McDonald-Fairless (president of U.S. Steel) joint tour of steel mills to promote better labor relations
August 1955	USWA wins supplementary unemployment benefits for first time in can industry contract
February 7, 1957	David McDonald defeats Donald Rarick for president of the USWA in referendum election
July 15, 1959	540,000 steelworkers begin strike, which will last for 116 days, against eleven major steel companies
October 1959	Kaiser Steel signs contract with USWA, leading to settlements between union and other steel companies in 1959 strike
January 1960	Formation of joint USWA-steel industry Human Relations Research Committee
April 10-17, 1962	"Steel Crisis": President John F. Kennedy demands rollback of steel price increases following signing of union contract

January 1963	Inauguration of USWA–Kaiser Steel productivity and profit-sharing plan
November 1964	I. W. Abel, Walter Burke, and Joseph Molony declare candidacies for USWA International offices
February 9, 1965	Election held between I. W. Abel and David McDonald; Abel elected president
September 1966	Industry conferences initiated by USWA as new vehicle for establishing collective bargaining policy
January 1967	International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers merges with USWA
February 23, 1968	End of seven-month strike in North American nonferrous industry
January 2, 1970	USWA merges with United Stone and Allied Products Workers
April 23, 1971	USWA merges with District 50, Allied and Technical Workers of America
March 28–29, 1973	Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA) ratified by USWA and major steel companies
April 12, 1974	Consent decree reached between nine steel companies and USWA to provide equal employment for minority workers
February 11, 1977	Lloyd McBride defeats Edward Sadlowski in referendum election for president
November 6, 1983	McBride dies; Lynn Williams named acting president
March 29, 1984	Williams defeats Frank McKee in referendum election
October 21, 1985	USWA merges with Upholsterers International Union