



International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
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Union Herald Article from the desk of:



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Election Watch 2016

As I write this, we are only a few days before our Primaries in Wisconsin and Minnesota. By the time you read this, the Primary will be over, and we will know the results. I hope all our members and non-members have taken the time to vote in their Primaries. Both the Republican National Convention, and the Democratic National Convention have taken place, and as predicted – Trump is the Republican Nominee, and Clinton is the Democratic Nominee. I have spoken in great detail about both of these nominees for both of the major political parties. Let's take a little time to look at the presidential candidates from two minority parties – Libertarian Party and Green Party.

Jill Stein – Green Party

Many Sanders supporters are flocking to Jill Stein. Her platform is similar to that in which Sanders touted in much of his run to be the Democratic Nominee. Repeal Taft-Hartley, Minimum Wage hike, Green Energy, and many more similarities exist between Sanders and Stein.

Does Stein have the popularity to win the presidency? Not at this time. Currently, the Green party only has enough signatures to get on 25 state ballots. This number will

change, but this is something that should have happened a long time ago if any Green Party candidate wanted to make a serious run. At the end of the race, Jill will not be on all 50 states' ballots, and this puts her and the party at a serious disadvantage. At the end of the day, Stein will not likely have a chance to win in any given state. She also has a long way to go in the polling numbers to even get a seat at the debates. This would take a 15% total among polling numbers to get a seat there. At this time, Stein's polling numbers are between 3 and 5 percent overall. Jill's run at this time reminds me of Ralph Nader's run in 2000, although he was more popular by this time in the cycle. Effectively it is thought that his supporters handed that election to the republicans and Bush.

Gary Johnson – Libertarian

Many republicans who dislike the way the republican ticket has turned out thus far are leaning toward Gary Johnson. His polling numbers are greater than Stein's numbers, but not by a lot. Polling numbers have Johnson anywhere from 6 to 8 percent. He will also have trouble getting into the debates with those numbers.

The Libertarian Party is currently on 36 state tickets thus far, and are working on getting on all 50. There is a good chance that this will happen before the November 8 Election.

Johnson's stances are more middle of the road than most candidates. Johnson talks about less government, and less spending by the government – to our members, this means more sequesters, more cuts in government contracts, and less military spending. In short, this could mean less jobs. He also touts how important our environment is, and how important our education system is. If he plans on cutting government spending, taking care of the environment and education will be a challenge.

So, there you have it. Those are the 4 most popular candidates to date for the office of President of the United States. The most important thing to remember is that every vote counts. When Labor doesn't get out to vote, we end up with the wrong people in office to take care of our issues.

Labor Day 2016

Labor Day is upon us once again. Monday, September 5 is right around the corner. The District Lodge 66 Delegates once again agreed to provide a T-shirt to our members who march in this year's Labor Day Parade. As we have done in the past, we will be providing candy to hand out to the kids and children-at-heart along the parade route as well as refreshments for our marchers. Last year we had a good turnout. Let's hope for the same and some great weather on September 5, 2016. I encourage all our members to march in the parade and join us at Labor Fest following the parade in Copeland Park. The Local Lodges of District 66 will be gathering prior to the 10AM parade start near the corner of Kane and Gillette. Please show early enough so we can distribute shirts as needed and decorate the float!

Our own Local Lodge 21 member Denise Grover will be the Parade Marshal this year! Congratulations Denise, and thank you for all that you do for the IAM and the Labor movement in the LaCrosse area. Come on out to the Parade, and thank Denise yourselves!

The History of Labor Day

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882 in New York City in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor union held its second Labor Day holiday on September 5, 1883.

In 1884, the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York to celebrate a “workingmen’s holiday” on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations and in 1885, Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

Through the years the nation gave increasing emphasis to Labor Day. The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886. From these, a movement developed to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887. During the year four more states — Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York — created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

Who founded Labor Day? There is some contention on who the original founder of Labor Day is. Peter J. McGuire – the general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and co-founder of the American Federation of Labor is generally credited by some to be the founder. However, recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the IAMAW in Paterson, NJ proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as the secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York.

2016 IAMAW Grand Lodge Convention

By the time you read this, we will be very close to the opening of the 2016 IAMAW Grand Lodge Convention. We have 6 delegates from the Locals of District Lodge 66 who will be attending. Local Lodge 21 will be sending 3 delegates, Local Lodge 1115 will be sending 2 delegates, and Local Lodge 1030 will be sending 1 delegate.

I have written some about the convention in previous articles, but I can’t express what a great thing this convention is. The Convention happens every 4 years, and elected delegates from all over the IAM meet to look over proposals to alter the IAM’s

Constitution. This truly is a union that is run by its members and for its members. I want to thank our elected delegates to the Grand Lodge Convention ahead of time for the work they will be doing for the IAM.

AFL-CIO comes to the District Office

District Lodge 66 will be hosting the AFL-CIO this election season so that they can have a base of operations for their phone banking, and their door to door campaign to ask members and non-members within the area to get out and vote on November 8.

This is an important campaign, and I would ask that our members volunteer a bit of their time when they can. I have said this plenty of times that when our members get out and vote, it makes a big difference in the polls. Every vote counts, and when we get out to vote, politicians like Walker can be easily ousted from their offices in favor of candidates that are more labor friendly.

I will be asking our executive boards and stewards to talk to our members in the plant to GOTV!

I have a challenge for our readers. I am asking everyone who reads this to talk to at least 15 members within your local lodge about the importance of showing up at the polls. Talk to these members about working family issues that matter, because when we become unfocused about issues that matter to the working family, people like Scott Walker and Paul Ryan get elected.

District Lodge 66

There was no District Lodge Delegate Meeting in the month for July. It was cancelled in accordance with the IAM constitution which allows Locals and Districts to cancel the July and/or August meeting(s). The District and most Local Lodges traditionally cancel the July meeting to give Delegates and Members some well-deserved time off. I want to thank all our Delegates, and Local Lodges for all the work they do for our members.

At Local Lodge 1030, members ratified a one-year agreement with Peerless Chain. I want to thank the committee for all of their hard work they did on preparing for negotiations, and their insight and input during the process.

Members out at Camp Douglas ratified their agreement with Summit Technologies, and all members will be getting paid at CBA rates rather than AWD rates. This is a good win for those folks out there.

I hope everyone is having a great summer. Until next time...