



International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers  
District Lodge 66  
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Union Herald Article from the desk of:



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### **Election Watch 2016**

This should be the last time we have to talk under this heading. As I type this we are a week away from the election. I hope our members have made their way to the voting booth, and cast their vote. By the time you read this, I hope any contention about this election is done (if any). By Trump not saying he will concede gracefully if he loses, this could create some turmoil. All this talk about “rigging” an election, and biased media does nothing to further us as a country. All we can do is wait and see what will happen.

### **2017 IAMAW Midwest Territory Cornhole Charity Tournament**

The Midwest Territory is having a charity cornhole tournament on Sunday January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Entry fee is \$40 per team. The tournament is limited to the first 50 paid teams. All proceeds will be donated to Guide Dogs of America. I would recommend our locals considering either sponsoring, or entering the tournament. It will take place in Joliet, IL. Obviously, this is a long travel, but it is a worthwhile cause.

Guide Dogs of America is one of the IAM’s largest charities that we raise money for. A Guide dog takes upwards of \$42,000 to raise and train. These dogs are given away to those in need at no cost to the recipient.

I have sent the literature for this tournament to all the Local Lodge Recording Secretaries, and Presidents within District 66. If you want more info, contact your Local Lodge President or Recording Secretary.

### **Need Proof That Unions Work in the South? Here It Is**



A group of newly organized IAM members at Fort Benning in Columbus, GA are the latest example of what many union members already know—when you are part of a union, you make higher wages and better

benefits. The nearly 70 highly skilled simulator instructors and technicians overwhelmingly voted to ratify their first contract with this week, just a few short months after voting to join the IAM.

The District 131 members, who work for CSRA, provide Bradley Fighting Vehicle and HMMV simulator training and support of armored and infantry troops.

“I couldn’t be prouder of what this group has accomplished—from the vote to join the IAM all the way through negotiations and ratification,” said District 131 Directing Business Representative Billy Barnwell. “Thanks goes out to the entire group, including the Negotiating Committee of Art Murphy, Jerry Ricketts and Samantha Walker.”

The agreement provides wage increases totaling almost 10 percent over three years, and an almost 30 percent increase in fringe dollars over that same span. The bargaining unit gained a grievance procedure, seniority protections and many other benefits.

“This is a prime example of how much workers benefit by joining a union,” said Southern Territory General Vice President Mark Blondin. “When you bargain collectively, there is no limit to what can be achieved. We are very proud of what District 131 and this group has done in such a short time frame.”

### **Wisconsin Metalcraft Ordered to Pay IAM Local 2053 \$100K in Union Dues**



The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has issued a complaint alleging Wisconsin metal fabrication company, Metalcraft, is responsible for paying IAM Local 2053 of Iron Ridge, WI, more than \$100,000 in back dues —and counting.

The NLRB recently charged that Metalcraft broke federal law by canceling IAM Local 2053 members' voluntary dues "checkoff" – the system whereby an employer regularly deducts a portion of an employee's wages to pay union dues or initiation fees.

Metalcraft suspended members' checkoff on June 4, 2016 under their interpretation of Wisconsin's right-to-work law, which went into effect in 2015.

IAM District 10 immediately filed charges with the NLRB.

The Board recently issued an official complaint alleging Metalcraft is in direct violation of federal labor laws which allow voluntary dues checkoff for collective bargaining employees.

The Board's complaint states that Metalcraft must pay all union dues it refused to collect dating back to June 4 – plus any and all costs associated with pursuing the complaint.

"It's not complicated," said IAM District 10 Directing Business Representative Alex Hoekstra. "Metalcraft's unilateral decision to cancel dues checkoff takes a page out of Scott Walker and his cronies' playbook for hurting Wisconsin workers. The company hid behind an intentionally misleading right-to-work law, whose dues deduction provisions are preempted by federal law. Wisconsin families have paid dearly for Walker's arrogance, now Metalcraft can pay for their union busting tactics. Management's plan was destined to fail from the start. Instead of destroying us, our proud members are stronger than ever."

Metalcraft has chosen to fight the complaint. A formal hearing has been set for December 5, 2016.

In the meantime, and until a final decision has been issued in the case, the meter keeps running. To date, IAM District 10 estimates the company is behind more than \$100,000 in back dues – not including the union's legal fees.

Metalcraft employs approximately 370 IAM members who make lawn mower decks for Scag Power Equipment and John Deere.

"Congratulations to the members of IAM Local 2053 and District 10," said IAM Midwest Territory General Vice President Philip J. Gruber. "This case is a perfect example of why we, the labor movement, must continue to fight against the right's efforts to create national right-to-work legislation.

"It's been a long, up-hill battle against right-to-work in the great state of Wisconsin, but our members refuse to back down. They're in the fight to protect unions and working families for the long haul. And they're not done."

## **IAM Members Win New Contract, Wage Hike with City of Long Beach**



IAM Local 1930 members who work for the city of Long Beach, CA finally have a contract after two years of city stall tactics and attempts to bust its largest union.

The three-year deal includes a 6 percent pay raise over three years for approximately 2,700 city librarians, janitors and other service employees. The contract

also mandates pay raises for IAM-represented workers if other city bargaining units, other than police or firefighters, get higher wage increases over the next three years.

“If the city of Long Beach seeks to maintain its reputation of being a thriving community, it must first take care of the women and men who are tasked with building the community,” IAM Grand Lodge Representative Richard Suarez told the Long Beach Press-Telegram. “This contract is a step in the right direction, but there is still work to be done to strengthen the relationship between city management, city employees and the IAM.”

The agreement was reached only after 18 trips to the bargaining table and the use of a state mediator.

“Our members perform, with distinction, the work of making the City of Long Beach a thriving community,” said IAM Western Territory General Vice President Gary Allen. “The IAM is in the beginning stages of building a stable working relationship with the City, but it will take more than one decent contract to rebuild what the City of Long Beach was determined to dismantle. My hat goes off to our members for standing in unity and demanding a fair contract for their effort.”

### **District Lodge 66**

The District Delegates gathered for our regular monthly meeting on Monday October 17, 2016. Along with the regular business of the Lodge, the Delegates discussed the annual Wisconsin Labor History Society’s High School Labor History Contest. Delegates approved sending a donation to our Administrative Assistant Carla Easterday, and our one-man cleaning crew and maintenance specialist (basically jack of all trades) Bryan Adams as a Christmas Gift. Delegates also took time to listen to former District Lodge 66 Directing Business Representative, and Current Grand Lodge Representative Rick Mickschl who is on assignment at District Lodge 66 to assist with the GOTV campaign.

Also at the meeting, we saw the new calendar for Leadership Classes at Placid Harbor. I encourage all Local Lodges to send some members out there! For more information, contact your Local Lodge Recording Secretary.

I would like to thank my wife Tasha for volunteering to help the Working America Coalition. They are renting out half of the District Lodge 66 office for doing phone banking, sending volunteers out knocking on doors to talk about working family issues, and running a GOTV campaign. To date, Tasha has put in more time than most of our members. I only hope that next election cycle we are more successful at getting our members out to help this worthwhile cause.

Members of Local Lodge 1115 are close to welcoming their new members from the unit that was recently organized out at Camp Douglas. AECOM employees are about to begin their first round of negotiations. We are looking to combine three contracts out at Fort McCoy. This will be a good thing for our current members, and these new members. The newly organized members have not had a raise in more than 6 years. Wish us luck in bettering the lives of these new members and their families!