



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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Buy Made in the USA

As Crazy Friday (AKA Black Friday) is approaching, we are reminded that consumerism is what drives the economy of the United States. Most retailers can't wait until this day. Consumers come in droves to the stores on Black Friday in search for the best deals on everything from the latest fad-toy to the best electronics. The reason it is called "Black Friday" is because the economic activity on this day helps get businesses that may be struggling to hit what is known as "the black" and start to turn a profit for the year. The "red" is when a business has not earned a profit.

What I ask of our members this Crazy Friday is not something that is easy. I ask that we seek out if possible, purchases of products that are Made in the USA. As I said, this is not easy. Products that are Made in the USA require an effort to find these days. Finding that new TV, Blue Ray Player, Laptop, Video Game System, or any other electronic device that is made in the USA is nearly impossible. It is still a little difficult, but items such as Clothing and Tools can be found that are Made in the USA. This small task requires some effort and research, but it ensures that the retail giants aren't the only ones who see a profit this year. Our manufacturing base needs to see the same bump in sales as well. Without this bump, we may see more factory closings, or companies looking to

send jobs outside of our borders. Less jobs in the US means less money available for consumers to spend next year. This is a vicious cycle that needs to be stopped.

I also ask that we all show respect for our fellow consumers out in the stores. The latest deal isn't worth shoving, trampling, or hurting our fellow humans. Every year it amazes me to see the videos of people hurting other people to save a few bucks on a foreign product, cheaply made, that will probably die, or be outdated within a year or two of purchase anyway.

I also ask that we all show respect and courtesy for the associates that are working in the stores. These people are working for next to minimum wage, and have to deal with angry customers daily. They likely got up in the middle of the night the day after Thanksgiving to make sure they get to the store before opening, all so that us consumers could have those "amazing" deals. Before handling whatever issue you are bringing to them, they likely just had to deal with an angry customer who didn't get the product they wanted. Give them a break, and tell them how much you appreciate their help. It goes a long way.

Me personally, I probably won't venture out on Crazy Friday. I have done this craziness one time, and for me that was enough.

IAM will be re-running its Grand Lodge Election Process

Our Grand Lodge will be running its nomination process again for Grand Lodge Officers. Those officers are International President, General Vice Presidents, and General Secretary Treasurer. This initial election process was done this past spring. Per our constitution, this process is done every four years. The DOL was called in to review the process this spring. Within District Lodge 66, everything was done by the book and appropriately concluded. Within the IAM as a whole, the current Executive Council was nominated out of a vast majority of all of the Local Lodges.

As of right now, we are set to have nominations here at the District Lodge 66 Office on Saturday January 20th, 2018 for all Local Lodges. The nominations will be open from 6am to 8am and 6pm to 8pm. All members will be receiving this notice at their last known mailing address along with instructions on how to apply for an absentee ballot if they deem it necessary, and qualify. Qualifications will also be spelled out within the notice.

I trust that the process will be done flawlessly this time around as it was done this past spring.

A Workers' Bill of Rights Passed at the AFL-CIO 2017 Convention

The 2017 AFL-CIO Convention was held in St. Louis, MO. At the 2017 AFL-CIO Convention, the delegates passed a resolution calling for the creation of a Workers' Bill of Rights. Speaking in support of the resolution, President Richard L. Trumka said:

“Sisters and brothers, working people need a bill of rights. A collective bargaining agreement for America. This will serve as a platform for our members to rally around. It will give prospective members a clear statement of our values. And it will provide political candidates and elected officials with a litmus test for our support.

We simply refuse to accept the reality of struggling to make ends meet in the richest country in the world at its richest point in history. And so we demand rights that ensure we are able, through our work, to lead better lives.”

Here are the key components of the Workers' Bill of Rights:

- **A Good Job with Fair Wages:** Everyone who wants to work has the right to a good job where we earn a fair return on our work and receive a wage that allows us to support ourselves and our families.
- **Quality Health Care:** Regardless of income, job or a pre-existing condition.
- **A Safe Job:** Free from harassment and violence.
- **Paid Time Off and Flexible Scheduling**
- **Freedom from Discrimination:** In hiring, firing and promotions.
- **Retire with Dignity:** And financial security.
- **Education:** Public K-12, higher education and career training that advances our knowledge and skills without leaving us in debt.
- **Freedom to Join Together:** To negotiate with our co-workers for better wages and working conditions, whether we are in a union or not.
- **A Voice in Democracy:** To freely exercise our democratic voice through voting and civic participation so that we can make sure our government stands up for this Workers' Bill of Rights.

Also at the convention, IAM International President Bob Martinez introduced two key resolutions on the floor that were adopted by the delegates at the convention.

The first, Resolution 24: Fighting Together for Workers in Manufacturing, fights to reform NAFTA, sets new templates for trade agreements, exposes poverty wages and demands that all manufacturing jobs become living wage jobs.

The second, Resolution 29: Supporting 100 Percent Buy American for Defense Procurement, vigorously supports eliminating all loopholes to Buy American laws, and demands that all goods purchased for US Defense procurement are manufactured in the United States.

Both resolutions easily passed and were adopted by delegates during the convention.

Machinists Union Members Travel to Puerto Rico for Hurricane Maria Relief Efforts

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Machinists Union members joined more than 300 working men and women who volunteered to travel to San Juan, Puerto Rico from Newark, N.J. to help with Hurricane Maria relief efforts.

The flight, a Machinists Union-built Boeing 777-300 ER, was volunteered by United Airlines for a business and labor partnership. It is a response to the urgent need for highly skilled workers to come to Puerto Rico to assist with the rebuilding effort and help people in need of medical and humanitarian assistance.

Machinists Union members joined other members from the AFL-CIO, the Association of Flight Attendants (AFA), the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), and United Airlines who teamed up to fly the more than 300 first responders and skilled volunteers — including nurses, doctors, firefighters, electricians, engineers, carpenters and truck drivers — to help with relief efforts and the rebuilding of Puerto Rico.

“The Machinists Union is continuing to assist working families in Puerto Rico during this difficult period,” said IAM International President Bob Martinez. “These collective actions reflect the values of the labor movement. We will continue mobilizing our teams on the ground and provide the necessary support to help working families, not only in Puerto Rico, but working families in the U.S. Virgin Islands. It is our hope and prayers that these efforts will help rebuild their lives.”

“This flight carries not only much-needed supplies and skilled union labor, but also the love and support of more than 33,000 IAM members at United who will continue helping the people of Puerto Rico recover,” said IAM General Vice President Sito Pantoja.

This flight is just one of many where IAM members have been involved in relief aid to Puerto Rico.

Since the hurricane, IAM members at United Airlines have been operating humanitarian flights every day from Newark to San Juan. The airline has operated 14 flights to and from Puerto Rico carrying nearly 500,000 pounds of relief-related cargo and more than 1,700 evacuees.

“IAM District 141 is providing additional water and other relief supplies that will be flown on a separate United flight tomorrow to be distributed to IAM members in Puerto Rico,” said District 141 President Mike Klemm.

District Lodge 66

Once again, on the third Monday of the month, our delegates met at the district office for their regular monthly meeting. On Monday October 16th, 2017, our delegates took care of the regular business of the lodge. Along with the regular business, our delegates motioned to purchase gift cards for members who are on long leave (more than 6 months). The delegates made other motions in the interest of controlling costs within the District including cancelling the practice of donating \$50.00 per delegate to Local Lodges for the holidays this year.

Also in the district, the District Web page has been updated. Local Lodge 1115 member, and Treasurer Rod Perry underwent training with our Midwest Territory Communications Representative LaToya Egwueke-Smith. Brother Perry has maintained the District Lodge 66 website for several years. This training was upgrading the site to a new platform. Check it out at www.iamdistrict66.org. I want to thank Rod and LaToya for the time and energy spent on upgrading the website. It looks amazing.

Have a great Thanksgiving! Until next time...