



International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
District Lodge 66
1307 Market Street
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Union Herald Article from the desk of:



March 2018

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IAM Grand Lodge Elections

Machinists Union members have completed the endorsement process for the election of Grand Lodge Officers. The results from the DOL-supervised election are that over 770 IAM Local Lodges endorsed the incumbent slate and 20 or 21 IAM Local Lodges endorsed opponent slate candidates. More than 97 percent of Lodges nominated the incumbent slate.

IAM Local Lodges endorsed each of the following candidates: Robert Martinez Jr. as International President; Dora Cervantes as General Secretary-Treasurer; and Philip J. Gruber, Gary R. Allen, Sito Pantoja, Mark A. Blondin, James Conigliaro, Rickey Wallace and Brian Bryant as U.S. General Vice Presidents.

“The membership has spoken clearly for a second time,” said International President Bob Martinez. “This union overwhelmingly and decisively endorsed our incumbent slate and the new direction we have charted for Machinists Union families. I look forward to continuing our momentum toward growing and strengthening our union.”

Final results are contingent on a DOL review of any filed election protests.

Wisconsin State Council of Machinists

Several delegates from District Lodge 66 including myself attended the spring conference of the Wisconsin State Council of Machinists. The conference convened on Sunday, February 25th in Madison, WI.

Speakers in attendance were from the IAM - Midwest Territory General Vice President Phil Gruber, Political Director Rick de la Fuente, and Grand Lodge Representative Marty St. Peters.

Wisconsin State AFL-CIO President Phil Neuenfeldt, and Secretary Treasurer Stephanie Bloomingdale both spoke as well as several candidates for upcoming fall elections.

Wisconsin Gubernatorial Candidates Mahlon Mitchell, and Matt Flynn spoke as well as Wisconsin's 1st Congressional District Candidate Randy Bryce and 6th Congressional District Candidate Dan Kohl. Candidate for Attorney General - Josh Kaul also spoke to the delegates. All of the political candidates who spoke were in favor of assisting organized labor thrive. At the end of the day, the delegates unanimously endorsed the following candidates:

Mahlon Mitchell – Mahlon is the president of the Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin Union. He was standing along side of our members in Madison when we fought against Act 10, and “Right to Work”. He has long been an advocate for organized labor and will be on our side as Governor. He spoke about the failures of Governor Walker including his refusal to expand Medicare in the state or take federal funds for the program. 84,700 more Wisconsin citizens could be utilizing Badgercare if Walker agreed to expand the program with federal funds. Currently in the state of Wisconsin there are an estimated 300,000 people without any type of insurance. Mahlon is also endorsed by the Operating Engineers and by US Congresswoman Gwen Moore.

Randy Bryce – Randy is running in the 1st congressional district. House Speaker Paul Ryan currently holds that district. Randy is a member of Ironworkers Union Local 8. He spoke about the consequences of elections, and the current supreme court case Janus vs AFSCME. He supports the Butch-Lewis Act (protects pensions). He also talked about fully funding OSHA and Medicare for all. While Randy is not running in a district covered by this publication, it is worth noting that Union Members are now taking a stand and putting up good runs for political offices.

Dan Kohl – Dan is running in the 6th congressional district. Representative Glen Grothman currently holds that district. Former Wisconsin Senator Herb Kohl is Dan's Uncle. Dan supports Universal Healthcare in the US. He spoke about some of Glen Grothman's policies are not friendly to labor. Glen opposes time and a half for overtime as one example. At last year's Legislative Conference, I spoke with Congressman Grothman's aide about Grothman's policies. It was not a friendly meeting, and it took

some doing to prevent some of District 10's delegates from completely losing their cool. I was close myself. Let's just say getting Grothman out of office would be a great victory. Once again, this is not our district, but this candidate has a good head on his shoulders to take on Grothman.

Josh Kaul – Josh is running against current Attorney General Brad Schimel. Josh talked about the opioid crisis here in Wisconsin. This crisis has caused more deaths than traffic accidents in the past year. Josh also talked about how the current Attorney General has been lax on items like rape kits. According to Josh, in Wisconsin, there have been more than 4000 rape kits collected, and only a small number have been processed. These kits sit in police and hospital storage rooms. While this is not a labor topic, it just shows how little the current AG has done for Wisconsin. Josh pledges to be more vigilant in enforcing labor laws as well.

As I said, the Wisconsin State Council of Machinists has endorsed these four candidates unanimously.

Another part of the spring conference is traveling up to the Capitol Building and lobbying your representatives. I lobbied along with my wife and son. Most delegates went home, but this is an important part of the conference, so I stayed back and talked to the staff in Jill Billing's office, Steve Doyle's office, and Jennifer Shilling. We talked about the political climate of Wisconsin, and how difficult it is to get pro-labor legislation passed with a Republican majority in both the State Senate, and Assembly. We need to be active this fall if we will have any chance of reversing the status of Wisconsin. Topics we discussed are as follows:

Minimum Wage: Minimum wage has been stagnant since 2009 when the Federal Minimum Wage was raised to \$7.25/hour. This has led to wage stagnation to all wages. When the minimum goes up, everyone goes up to an extent. It is time.

Equal Pay: This proposed law never made it out of committee. This was proposed by Assembly Democrats, but the Republican majority never let it get to the floor for a vote. This law would prevent employers from asking in an interview, or application what the applicant made at any previous employment – essentially doing so allows employers to lowball new employees if they see they were making lower wages at a past job. This proposed law also prevents employers from making rules that prevent employees from talking about each other's wages. In the private sector, employers can forbid employees from speaking about their wages leading to inequality within the work place.

Buy Wisconsin: Wisconsin AFL-CIO supports this type of legislation. This legislation puts preference to Wisconsin good over anywhere else. This keeps jobs in Wisconsin, and in the USA.

Corporate Welfare: Why are we allowing companies to take tax subsidies and grants, and then allow them to outsource work and move jobs. These benefits are supposed to keep jobs here in Wisconsin, not promote pushing jobs out of Wisconsin. Rexonrd

received \$2.25 Million, then outsourced over 100 Wisconsin Jobs. Plexus received a combined \$8.9 million then outsourced over 100 Wisconsin Jobs. What is done about this? Nothing. This needs to change.

Elections have consequences. I can't say that enough. We need to be active this fall!!!!

Janus Vs AFSCME

Mark Janus is an Illinois social worker. He works under a contract negotiated by the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Union (AFSCME). Janus does not want to give money to his union. It is likely the supreme court will rule on this case before this publication comes to print. Janus is legally required to pay a fee to cover the cost of representing him. His case is brought on by the Right to Work foundation and several anti-union groups.

This could be devastating to all employees who want union representation. Janus has painted his case as a free speech issue. He says "I'm definitely not anti-union. Unions have their place and many people like them. ... I was never given a choice".

This case could effectively gut public-sector unions nationwide and could have effect on private sector unions as well.

In 2016, the Supreme Court ruled on a similar case 4-4 due to Scalia's death. Most would agree that Scalia would have ruled against unions. Since then, Neil Gorsuch has joined the court as its ninth justice. Gorsuch was appointed by Trump and affirmed by a Republican Majority Senate. **Elections have consequences.** This case could further weaken unions.

The result of weaker unions is often less money for workers -- whether unionized or not. After Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker restricted public-employee unions in the state, the rate of unionization fell by 6 percentage points and teachers' salaries dropped by an average of \$10,000.

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 February 19, 2018, our delegates took care of the regular business of the lodge. Attendance was low due to weather. Along with the regular business, our delegates discussed several issues, but ultimately opted to hold discussion on several of these issues at next month's meeting due to the low attendance at this meeting. The delegates also read communications including a thank you from Ben Rice for the scholarship, Wisconsin Labor History Society Newsletter, and two official circulars were also read.

Also, in the District, negotiations have concluded for NECAL. This contract was ratified by the members in February. Considering there is currently a layoff at NECAL, it wasn't a bad contract.

In Solidarity....