



International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers  
District Lodge 66  
1307 Market Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

Union Herald Article from the desk of:



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**IAMAW Grand Lodge Elections**

As most members know, every four years the highest positions of the Grand Lodge of this great union are elected. This union utilizes the democratic process for all its leadership positions. Elected positions range from the Shop Steward to the Local Lodge Executive Board, to my position as Directing Business Representative, and all the way to the International President and General Vice Presidents. These positions are all elected by the members with term limits set forth in Local Lodge Bylaws, District Bylaws, and our Constitution. The nomination process for the Grand Lodge will take place on January 21. The Grand Lodge positions up for election are International President, General Secretary-Treasurer, 7 General US Vice Presidents, 5 Law Committee Members, and 3 A.F.L.-C.I.O. Delegates. All of our members should have received a letter in the mail to their latest updated address. The letter outlines the process to request an absentee nomination ballot, and the location and times to cast their nomination ballot in person. A member wishing to cast their ballot should bring this letter with them to cast a ballot. This will be used for identification purposes, and will have the member's IAM Book number printed on the top of the letter.

The process for nominations and election of our grand lodge has been revamped by our Grand Lodge Delegates. For more information on this process, you can talk with your Local Lodge Recording Secretary, or call me at the District Office for details.

Two Week Strike Ends in Victory for Illinois Hollister-Whitney Members

IAM Local 822 members in Quincy, IL are back on the job after a nearly two-week strike against Hollister-Whitney, an elevator parts company. The more than 240 members returned to work after voting in a new proposal Wednesday, December 14.

The Machinists went on strike in early December after voting down the company's proposal, which called for a six-year agreement, insufficient wage increases, a slow progression rate and high healthcare premiums.

The final deal is a five-year agreement with a 2.5 percent yearly raise and a doubled progression rate of 50 cents every six months until they hit the top rate. The signing bonus was increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500 and workers will now have premium caps on their health care with no increase the first year, and an additional personal day. In addition, each worker will receive a Christmas bonus of \$150 for each year of service by next week.

"Thanks to our members' determination, strength and solidarity, they were able to negotiate a final deal that better reflects their worth and the hard work they've each put into this company," said District 9 Business Representative/Organizer Ross Miller. "I'm glad we were able to get a deal. They received some justice on the job."

"I am so proud of our Local 822 brothers and sisters," said IAM District 9 Directing Business Representative Mark Conner. "I want to thank the bargaining committee and District 9 Business Representative Ross Miller for their dedication and hard work in, not only helping our members get back to work, but negotiating a deal that Local 822 members can be proud of. I would also like to thank the families, members of the community and other labor unions who came out to stand with the IAM on the picket line and donated food, money and fire wood. Their support made a huge difference."

"Congratulations to the members of IAM Local 822," said IAM Midwest Territory General Vice President Philip J. Gruber. "Their show of solidarity and tenacity, in the wake of the recent election and anti-union rhetoric spewing from Springfield and DC, is exactly the kind of fight we mean when we say we're putting the fight back into the Fighting Machinists. Local 822 members are able to return to work today standing strong and proud. Congrats again, brothers and sisters."

The IAM has represented workers at Hollister-Whitney since the 1940s. This year's strike was the first strike at the company since the late 1980s.

### **The South Wants Unions. The IAM Just Proved It—Again.**

In an 18-hour stretch between December 8 and 9, the IAM won three separate organizing drives to represent nearly 300 working people in Florida and Kentucky.

First, IAM District 711 won elections for two units of 13 Simulator Technicians at Kentucky's Fort Campbell. The groups work for NOVA Technologies and Pinnacle

Solutions, respectively, and support the U.S. Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment.

"These workers wanted the IAM and a contract that will bring justice and security to the workplace," said District 711 Assistant Directing Business Representative Tim Wright. "We welcome these members at Fort Campbell and look forward to negotiating an agreement that reflects the value of the critical work they perform to support our nation's warfighters."

The Simulator Technicians work under the Service Contract Act, where the IAM has extensive negotiating and representation experience.

"We look forward to representing and improving the working conditions for these and many more workers at Fort Campbell and all over Kentucky, Tennessee and the entire Southern Territory," said District 711 Directing Business Representative Jerry Benson. On December 9, IAM District 75 notched yet another organizing victory as 279 workers at Reliance Test and Technology at two Florida locations voted overwhelmingly to join the IAM.

"These workers have wanted to be represented by the IAM for some time, and they overcame the vicious anti-union rhetoric put out by the company," said Organizer Mike Cooke, who led the campaign "This was a team effort, with Business Representatives Brad Smith, Steve Jordan, Randy Garrett, Tony Bishop; Grand Lodge Representative Tony Wirth; and District 75 Directing Business Representative Steve Pridgen. The Shop Committee never gave up and reached out to every member in the unit to give them truthful information."

The new members perform a large and diverse mission of providing engineering and technical services necessary to operate the 96th Test Wing's ranges and facilities in order to support the research, development, test and evaluation of weapon systems, subsystems, and components at Eglin Air Force Base in Niceville and Port St. Joe, FL.

"Congratulations to our Organizer, Mike Cooke, and all on the team who helped District Lodge 75 help these workers," said District 75 Directing Business Representative Steve Pridgen. "We will continue to grow in Florida and Alabama and continue to assist other Southern Territory Districts with their campaigns. I am proud of all of our Representatives who worked so hard to get the job done."

The IAM's organizing success in the South, where it's won 29 campaigns this year, was recently highlighted by Forbes.

"I couldn't be prouder and happier for our staff, districts, locals and our rank and file members in every southern state who have worked so very hard and made it our collective mission to improve the quality of life for working families," said IAM Southern Territory General Vice President Mark Blondin. "The word is spreading that the IAM is the union of choice not only for workers in the Service Contract arena and aerospace, but for all workers in many diverse occupations who desire a better and more secure future for them and their families. The facts are what they are. No matter what the

work, or what state it's performed in, the worker with a union contract has better health care, better pay and superior workplace advantages all around as compared to the lack of benefits offered to workers in non-union jobs.”

## **District Lodge 66**

The District Delegates gathered for our regular monthly meeting on Monday December 19, 2016. Along with the regular business of the Lodge, the Delegates discussed the Wisconsin State Council of Machinists Conference held beginning February 12, the Labor History Essay award and the Grand Lodge, and District Lodge Scholarships. A motion was made and passed to send a member to Political Training and Education to be held at the William W Winpingsinger Center.

### **DBR Schedule:**

I have a busy few months on the horizon. After having several months with no travel, (but plenty else to do around the office), the schedule picks up in January, we will be negotiating the contract for our members in Fort McCoy in Tomah. We have our Grand Lodge Nominations in January as well. Also in January, I will be traveling along with 2 members from Crown Cork and Seal to Philadelphia for Labor/Management, and Negotiation Preparations.

In February, I will be traveling to Placid Harbor (William W Winpingsinger Center) for a class on the Service Contract Act. I will be unable to go to the Wisconsin State Council of Machinists because it will take place at the same time as my SCA Class. Members from Trane will be traveling to Clarksville in February. I will be unable to attend this, as my schedule will not allow this time away.

In March, I will be traveling again with our members from Crown Cork and Seal for negotiations of their Master Agreement. Also in March, we will have Educational Representative Kevin Murch in the District office for Executive Board Training. This will take place on March 10th.

As always, this schedule is subject to change, but this is a rough overview of my schedule amongst the other duties that my job entails.

## **DISTRICT LODGE 66 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP**

I wrote about this competition last month. The essays must be in at the District Lodge 66 office at 1307 Market St., La Crosse WI by March 1, 2017. For more details, either refer back to my December Union Herald Article, or stop by the District office.

## **2017 Machinists Union Scholarship Competition**

All of our Local Lodges should have received their 2017 Scholarship Competition Announcement that will have the rules and regulations for IAM members and children of IAM members. The District Lodge has received this information as well.

This Competition is available to IAM members, and children of IAM members with eligibility requirements spelled out along with all other information at:

<https://www.goiam.org/news/departments/hq/scholarships/2017-iam-scholarship-competition/>

On that web page is also information on former winners, and links to apply online for the scholarship. You can also receive this information from your Local Lodge President, or Recording Secretary. The deadline for submissions is February 24, 2017. Any application packets postmarked later than that date will not be acknowledged or considered. No exceptions will be permitted even if a third party is responsible for the delay.