



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

Union Herald Article from the desk of:



Neil Kamrowski
Directing Business Representative, IAMAW District Lodge 66

Election Watch 2016

Presidential Election News

As I write this article, both remaining democratic candidates are hitting the campaign trails in California, and New Jersey. By the time this is published, those primaries will be done. As of right now, New Jersey looks like it is Clinton's to win, and California is a toss-up. There are other states also set to have their Caucus/Primary on June 7, but those are the largest delegate count states out there right now. Sanders continues to push through the campaign trail even as his chances are getting less and less to win the democratic nomination.

On the Republican Ticket, Donald Trump appears to be the guy. All other candidates have dropped out of the election. It isn't unheard of that a successful TV/Movie personality wins the nomination for the Republican Presidential Ticket. After all, Ronald Reagan was the nominee in 1980. To be fair though, he did spend some time as Governor of California, and had a previous run in 1976, but lost out to Ford. It was a close race. The point being, Reagan had some experience prior to running for this country's highest office. Trump's experience on a main stage is reality television and several failed businesses.

US Senatorial Election News

The filing deadline for the Senatorial race was June 1. Wisconsin's Senatorial Race is contested on both sides of the ticket. On the Republican side, Ron Johnson (Incumbent) will face John Schiess. There is one Libertarian on the ticket by the name of Phil Anderson. On the Democratic side, Russ Feingold will face Scott Harbach in the primary. The primary is on August 9. Thus far, it looks like Russ Feingold has some good momentum. His chance to beat Johnson in the main election looks good, especially in a Presidential year where there tends to be a higher voter turnout.

Minnesota doesn't have a Senatorial race this year. Both Klobuchar and Franken are mid-term.

US House of Representatives Election News

The last update prior to the filing deadline is that in our area in Wisconsin, Ron Kind will face Myron Buchholz in the August 9 Primary. There are no Republican declared candidates. I urge all of our readers to participate in this process on August 9. Be sure to research both candidates' stances on all of our issues. I have spoken at great length on our opposition to TPP.

In Minnesota, Incumbent Tim Walz is the only candidate on the democratic ticket for the Winona area. He will face either Jim Hagedorn or Steve Williams on the republican ticket in the main election. The primaries that will determine who Walz will face is also August 9 in Minnesota.

Legislative Conference 2016

Along with Ernie Domnie from Local Lodge 1115, I attended the 2016 IAMAW Legislative Conference in Washington DC. We spent the second week of May listening several speakers, and talking to our Legislators or their staff on issues that matter to the IAM. Depending on whom we were speaking to, we spoke about a lot of different issues.

1. The excise tax in the Affordable Care Act

This is also known as the "Cadillac Tax". I have written about this before in this article. The excise tax needs to be repealed from the Affordable Care Act.

2. The Supreme Court of the United States nominee Merrick Garland

The Republican Controlled Senate refuses to even consider confirmation of Merrick Garland for the empty seat left by the passing of Scalia. Our task was to tell the Senators to do their job in confirming a nominee per the Constitution.

3. The Export Import Bank nominee Mark McWatters (R)

The Republican Controlled Senate hasn't taken the time to confirm Ex/Im Bank nominee Mark McWatters. Without a full board, the Ex/Im Bank does not have a quorum. This severely cripples the Bank's ability to support US manufacturers and workers, particularly in the aerospace industry. This is one of the last sectors in which the US enjoys a positive balance of trade with the rest of the world.

4. The Trans-Pacific Partnership

The IAM opposes another trade deal that will no doubt continue to send good paying manufacturing jobs to countries with poor safety, health, and labor standards. We have yet to see ANY silver lining in this “deal”.

5. The FAA Reauthorization Bill

a. Assaults on Customer Service Representatives

Currently, federal law that protects flight crews does NOT apply to customer service representatives. They deserve the same protection against hostile passengers as flight crews.

b. Flight Crew Fatigue

The IAM is calling for a 10-hour rest from arrival to departure which would provide flight attendants the opportunity for 8 hours of “real rest”. Even in the best of circumstances the current 8-hour break provides a rest opportunity of less than 6 hours. Requiring a 10-hour minimum rest period prior to a duty period will start to address flight attendant fatigue.

6. Keep our Pension Promises act

The IAM continues to strongly oppose changes to ERISA’s anti-cutback rule. We support the *Keep our Pension Promises Act* (S 1631 or HR 2844).

There were several more topics to discuss. These topics are just the tip of the iceberg in our struggles to make the lives of working families better. Remember these working family issues when you go to the booth this November when you cast your ballot. We have a means to change these laws for the better for us, but we need the right people in Congress.

Local Lodge 1030 Surveys are back and being tabulated.

Surveys for negotiations have been returned, and will be sent in to IAM Headquarters for tabulation. There was good participation for these surveys, and the committee will take all comments and results into consideration when formulating proposals to present to Peerless Chain.

I want to thank the committee, stewards, and the Peerless management team for their assistance in making the process a smooth one.

Steward Training

On May 23, our Midwest Territory Educator - Kevin Murch came to the District 66 office to conduct a class for Steward Training. The class went well thanks to the great participation of our stewards and executive board members who attended the class. It was a great opportunity to get some great training from Kevin. The assistance of our administrative assistant Carla Easterday also helped keep the class moving smoothly.

Tribute to Labor Race Day Package

The Midwest Territory and the IAM are proud to participate once again in the NASCAR Tribute to Labor at the Chicagoland Speedway on September 18. We have distributed flyers to all our locals to be posted and distributed with information on how to get your reduced price tickets, and a reminder to let the District Lodge 66 office know if you are participating in this event.

Last year, the Midwest Territory distributed free T-shirts to those from the IAM that came to the race and participated. Be on the lookout for the flyers in your location or ask your local lodge for further information on this event!

District Lodge 66

District Lodge Delegates gathered for our regular monthly meeting on Monday May 16, 2016. Along with the regular business of the Lodge, our delegates reviewed information on the Grand Lodge Photography Contest, the Guide Dogs – Chapter 9 - 24th Annual Golf Tournament, and other similar information. The delegates approved an expenditure to contribute \$250 to the Western Wisconsin AFL-CIO Labor Day Parade, the same amount contributed in the past. The Delegates also approved the cancellation of the July District Delegate meeting per the IAM Constitution, and past practice of the lodge.

I want to thank once again, Lodge 1030-member Jana Kirch, and Lodge 2191-member Dale Borreson (both delegates to the District Lodge) who presented our Scholarship Awards to our two winners from this year Kim Freese, and Alisha Pfaff.

Be safe, and remember to look for the Made in the USA label this summer, as always. Until next month...