



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

Super Tuesday

In the democratic ticket, Hillary Clinton took majority of the states thus far. Back in 2008 in her bid against Barack Obama, Hillary fared much worse failing to take the majority of delegates on that day, while managing to get the majority of the popular vote. This time around, Hillary took 504 Delegates compared to Bernie Sanders who took 340 delegates. I do not think this came as much of a surprise as Clinton is leading in most national polls. Sanders did take Minnesota by quite a margin.

I would expect Wisconsin to be a different struggle given the differences in the states politically. After all, Wisconsin did elect Governor Walker twice. I know quite a few friends of mine that are in support of Sanders at this time. My concerns are that this struggle within will tear the party apart (which is interesting considering Sanders was an Independent until he decided to run for President). I have heard Sanders supporters say that they would write in Sanders, or just not vote if he fails to win the Democratic Nomination. I would urge any and all of our readers to reconsider this stance. If Trump is successful with his attempts to win the Republican Nomination, this type of action would only allow him to be more successful in his bid for the Presidency. I know that while I support Hillary myself, I would consider a vote for the Democratic ticket if she is

unsuccessful in her bid for the Democratic Ticket. With Trump touting “Right to Work” as an agenda item, it is more important that our brothers and sisters band together to help stop this horrible attack against Unions nationally.

On the Republican side of the ticket, Trump was once again the big winner on the Republican ticket. He managed to take majority of delegates in Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Virginia, and Vermont. Cruz took Alaska, Oklahoma, and Texas. Rubio took Minnesota. Time will tell who the next on this side of the ticket will be the next to drop out.

Wisconsin primaries are April 5. BE SURE TO TAKE PART IN THIS! Don’t forget!

District Lodge 66 wins NLRB election to represent employees at Fort McCoy

District Lodge 66 and Local Lodge 1115 of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers on February 17 won an election filed with the NLRB to represent employees at Fort McCoy in IMMA, ASP, and Warehouse employees. The contractor’s name is AECOM. They are a subcontractor to Accent Controls. This adds 25 new members to Local Lodge 1115. The next task is negotiating a contract with the employer that will give these new members a secure future with better benefits and wages. We are currently in talks about setting a date to begin negotiations. Congratulations to these new members in their journey to a better future.

I would like to thank GLR Bob Anderson, Organizing Apprentice Ko Vang, and District Lodge President Dean Rink for their hard work and assistance! Without their help, this would not have happened.

District Lodge 66 Settles Arbitration

District Lodge 66 and Local Lodge 1115 were able to reach an agreement with Crown Cork and Seal in a grievance that had progressed to arbitration. Terms of the settlement will remain out of this publication, but this serves as a reminder that our issues with companies can be worked out with mutual agreements majority of the time. District Lodge 66 has a good track record of working with the employers and members in the District. Sometimes it is necessary to proceed through an arbitration, however putting the future of employees that are represented in the hands of a third party that doesn’t know the contracts at these locations is a risk that isn’t good for either party in most cases. A binding ruling by a third party could have a negative lasting impact to both parties.

Wisconsin G.E. Workers Complete WWW Negotiation Prep Program

The negotiation committee for IAM Local 1406 in Dane, WI and District 10 staff completed the Negotiation Preparation for Bargaining Committees program at the William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center in Hollywood, MD. The week-long Negotiating Preparation class included training in drafting contract language, presenting proposals, analyzing the company’s strengths and weaknesses and identifying a broad array of potential tactics.

Recognizing that negotiations may be difficult for this contract, the committee strategized to learn from bargaining history with G.E. and map a new direction for relations with the company. The negotiators will put better language in the contract and increase efforts to build solidarity in the bargaining unit.

“The week at the Wipisinger Center did a good job of preparing the bargaining committee for negotiations. Communications during bargaining, membership survey results, history of bargaining and an understanding of the bargaining process highlight a few of the topics discussed,” said District 10 Business Representative Joe Terlisner. “The committee is committed to negotiating a fair contract that demonstrates appreciation and respect, both now and in the future, for our hardworking membership.”

Local 1406 represents employees at G.E. Healthcare in Madison, WI who produce world-class healthcare equipment. The current contract expires June 15, 2016.

District 10 are our neighbors to the east and south of District Lodge 66.

New Mexico Workers Unite to Defeat Right-To-Work

IAM members and working families in New Mexico, and across the country, can breathe a little easier for the moment, now that the state legislature officially ended its session without passing right-to-work (for less) legislation.

“I am happy to report that we were able to once again defeat right to work in New Mexico,” said IAM Western Territory General Vice President Gary Allen. “Many thanks to all the fighting Machinists who joined with the rest of the labor movement in New Mexico to drive this right-to-work trash into the ground.”

Existing right-to-work laws have proven to lower wages, weaken safety standards and mute the voices of workers and their families. Without much-needed representation provided by the IAM and other unions, workers are left to face their employers alone. Machinists and other labor activists logged countless hours of hard work on the phones, letter writing and community canvassing to prevent the legislation from passing. New Mexico’s decision is a solid step forward in the fight to protect workers’ collective bargaining rights.

“This is a good day for working families, and our IAM Western Territory Staff stepped up and delivered,” said Allen. “I’m proud of all of you who worked so hard on this effort. Thanks to the IAM Executive Council for stepping up and providing resources to help wage this successful war!”

District Lodge 66

District Lodge Delegates gathered for our regular monthly meeting on Monday February 15, 2016. Along with the regular business of the Lodge, the Delegates approved a request for an expenditure to pay for Steward Training here in the District Lodge 66 office. Our new Midwest Territory Education Representative Kevin Murch will be conducting this training in May. Also a monetary donation was approved of \$125.00 to the LaCrosse Youth Enrichment – Park and Recreations to sponsor a youth baseball team. Reports from each Local Lodge were given by Tony Diersen, Dave Bierce, Dean Rink, Robert Platz and Dale Borreson.

On the horizon in the District is Contract Negotiations with Cubic (the contractor for LL1771 members in Camp Douglas). Negotiations are currently set for the first week of May, and preparations will be forthcoming in April unless other circumstances prevent either of these from happening. Also, Contract negotiations for our new members at AECOM which our goal is to complete these negotiations by the end of March. Peerless Chain is also on the horizon; however, these will be done in late July/Early August.

I will be on my way to Washington DC for our MNPL Planning Conference, and National Staff Conference both taking place in the same week in March.

In May, we have our call letter for the IAMAW Legislative Conference. I encourage all Local Lodges who can send a member to this conference to do so if funds allow. Taking part of our political process is imperative, especially in an election year.