



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

It appears as though for the most part, the leading candidate from each party is determined at this point. Hillary Clinton continues to keep a lead on Bernie Sanders despite a run of states in his favor. The states in Bernie's favor had a small amount of delegates for each state, and while they did eat away at Clinton's lead, they were not enough to establish a lead. We could be seeing a year where neither candidate has enough pledged delegates to achieve the goal to win the nomination outright. Super Delegates will no doubt play a part in this Democratic Ticket.

On the Republican Ticket, there are no Super Delegates. This race isn't over, but it appears as though Trump will have the most delegates at the end of Primary Season. If no candidate from this ticket gets enough delegates to win the nomination outright, it could be interesting to see if the party stands behind Trump as an outsider to the party.

Grand Lodge Convention 2016

All of the Local Lodges in the District have had their nominations for their Grand Lodge Convention Delegates. Two Local Lodges have elected not to send delegates to the convention. In the other three Local Lodges, each nomination was uncontested, so there will be no election process in the District. Those that were nominated were cast on a unanimous ballot seeing no opposition.

Planning is still ongoing for the convention itself. The committee I reside on meets on nearly a monthly basis to continue planning for the convention. April 14 was our last meeting date, and we will meet on May 16 to continue the process.

Legislative Conference 2016

I will be attending the 2016 IAMAW Legislative Conference this month along with Local Lodge 1115 member Ernie Domnie. I will be sent on behalf of the Wisconsin State Council of Machinists as their representative to speak to our representatives, and Ernie will be sent on behalf of Local Lodge 1115 with the District picking up a partial portion of the cost.

The Legislative Conference gives us an opportunity to communicate with our representatives on the issues that matter, and affect our members on an ongoing basis. I will be meeting with several representatives from Wisconsin and Minnesota. Topics will include the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Import/Export bank, our Pensions, and several other topics that you have no doubt seen me talk about in this publication. The conference takes place in Washington DC.

Local Lodge 1030 Surveys will be out this month.

Surveys to members of Local Lodge 1030 will be out this month. Negotiations are around the corner, and getting a barometer on what the membership is looking for the committee to pursue is important. I would encourage all members of the lodge to participate in the survey.

The surveys are due to be turned in either to a committee member, or to a locked box in the break room by June 1, 2016. Once they are collected, they will be sent to IAMAW headquarters for processing. The surveys are run through a scanning machine that will automatically scan the selections and tabulate the results. I would expect the Negotiating Committee to review the results and begin to draft contract proposals based on the results in the two-month period following the survey tabulation.

Chart Lays off more members

Chart has laid off yet more workers. This isn't the first time that we have seen a layoff from Chart in this past year. These cuts are due to lack of work. Oil prices have a huge effect on Chart's business. While most people see low prices at the pump as a good thing, those prices mean lost jobs for our members.

Layoffs can be stressful both for those that are still employed, and for those already laid off. I just want to remind our members that there are resources out there for financial planning, and for therapy that will assist in getting through this stage. Chart does offer an EAP program. Some services are free, and some do require fees, but it is worth checking into if the need is there.

Worker's Memorial Day 2016

On a cold, rainy day on April 28th, we gathered to remember the members who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit of a better life for themselves and their families. Every year, the AFLCIO adds more names to the list of those who perished. We must remember those that have fallen, and learn from what these accidents have taught us about safety in the work place. I encourage all who read this article to look around in your work place and see that all aspects of safety are followed.

I want to thank Mike Biard for his wonderful poem that I had an opportunity to read at the ceremony here in LaCrosse. Mike has written a poem for Worker's Memorial Day for around 25 years now, and each one is better than the last.

Wisconsin Judge Holds Firm on Right-to-Work Ruling

A Wisconsin Circuit Court judge who sided with the IAM and other unions by ruling the state's "right-to-work" law unconstitutional has denied the state's request to stay the ruling. This means the state will not be able to enforce the law while it is being appealed to the higher court.

IAM District 10 in Milwaukee, the Wisconsin AFL-CIO and United Steelworkers District 2 in Menasha, WI argued against the stay this week in court.

"The current non-members who are required to pay for the services they receive is not very significant irreparable harm compared to the size of the loss suffered by the unions - in that they are required to provide services without fees," said Dane County, WI Judge William Foust.

"We are pleased with Judge Foust's decision stating clearly again that right-to-work is unconstitutional in the state of Wisconsin," said Wisconsin AFL-CIO President and IAM member Phil Neuenfeldt. "Rather than respecting the constitution, Gov. Walker and Attorney General Brad Schimel are trying every legal maneuver in the book to advance their own partisan agenda and deny workers their right to a meaningful union."

The Wisconsin law is almost a word-for-word copy of what the Big Business-backed American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) proposes for right-to-work legislation, which guts unions by making it illegal for companies and workers to negotiate contracts that require union-represented workers to pay their fair share of collective bargaining costs.

The average worker in a right-to-work state makes \$5,971 less than non-right-to-work states, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The state is expected to challenge Foust's decision in the Wisconsin Court of Appeals. While this is currently a win for the IAMAW and other unions, this ruling may be reversed in the Wisconsin Court of Appeals. I think it would take a miracle for the current ruling to stick as the law of the land. In other states where "Right to Work" has been challenged in courts, there has been very limited success at overturning such laws.

District Lodge 66

District Lodge Delegates gathered for our regular monthly meeting on Monday April 18, 2016. Along with the regular business of the Lodge, the Delegates approved sending \$200.00 in lieu of a gift basket to raffle at the 8th Annual Midwest Rides for Guides. The Delegates also approved splitting the cost of expenses incurred with Lodge 1115 to send Ernie Domnie to the Legislative conference in Washington DC.

Lodge 1030 member Jana Kirch, and Lodge 2191 member Dale Borreson (both delegates to the District Lodge) will be presenting our Scholarship Awards to our two winners from this year Kim Freese, and Alisha Pfaff.

Memorial Day 2016

Let's take the time on May 30 to not just think of what most of us get as a paid holiday, but remember the real reason for the holiday. Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day, and was initiated to honor the soldiers for the Union and Confederate armies who died during the American Civil War. By the late 19th century, the holiday became known as Memorial Day and was expanded to include the deceased veterans of all the wars fought by American forces. In 1971, Memorial Day became a federal holiday.

Until next month...