



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**

### Labor Day 2017

Labor Day has come and gone. I would say the parade was a success. The IAM had a great turnout. There was representation from all 5 Local Lodges marching in the parade.



Senator Tammy Baldwin was the Parade Marshal, and gave a great speech about the importance of organized labor.

Tammy has always been a great advocate for workers' rights.



I want to take the time to thank Brad King for pulling the float, and providing chairs on the float from Local Lodge 21. I also want to thank Phil Easterday for hauling all of the decorations, t-shirts, and candy down to the parade route. This is a rather large amount of supplies that are necessary to make the day a success. I also want to thank our Administrative Assistant Carla Easterday for all she does to make the day go smoothly – from the administrative aspects of the parade to the physical tasks such as filling all of the bags with candy, folding and counting the shirts, ordering the float, and passing out



candy and t-shirts on Labor Day with her family. Without the help of these three individuals and their families on Labor Day, the task would be a large one to bear. The saying is “many hands make small work”, and that couldn’t be more true when we all work together to make an event like this happen.

I also want to thank my wonderful wife Tasha (Kamrowski Photography) for assisting decorating the float, and taking tons of wonderful photos of the day. I have a ton more photos from her, but I don’t have enough space within the Union Herald to post them all.





## **Canada has stood behind workers in the USA**

In the current news environment, we tend to lose track of some big events that affect our country. In case you missed it – Canada, Mexico and the USA are in the process of renegotiating NAFTA (The North American Free Trade Agreement). Trump made the campaign promise to renegotiate NAFTA. This is one of the campaign promises that I have to agree with Trump on. NAFTA has caused countless jobs to end up south of the boarder in Mexico. These jobs were good middle-class jobs.

As of right now, Canada negotiators are demanding the United States roll back “right to work” laws. This request is part of a push by Ottawa to get the U.S. and Mexico to adopt higher labor standards under the deal. The US has not agreed to this request as of now. The Canadian negotiators are also pushing for the US to enact a law allowing for paid family leave – a law that Canada already has on the books.

Just because Canada is pushing for these laws doesn’t mean that they will end up on the final trade deal. I wouldn’t hold my breath waiting for that to happen. It is a positive to know that even though our current Republican lead congress is not fighting for workers (and won’t), US workers do have an ally in Canada. At the end of the day what we need is a worker friendly congress in the US.

## **Oklahoma City Air Traffic Controller Instructors Latest to Join IAM**

*From the IAM’s Imail. Subscribe to Imail at [www.goiam.org](http://www.goiam.org)*

More than 280 air traffic controller instructors at SAIC in Oklahoma City, OK have voted overwhelmingly in favor of IAM representation. Workers cited job security, pay, and health and welfare benefits as reasons for seeking out the IAM.

“This is a tremendous victory for the workers of SAIC,” said Organizing Department Grand Lodge Representative Bob Anderson, who led the campaign. “Confronted with an aggressive anti-union campaign, they stood together and demanded better. Their union contract is going to provide them just that.”

It should be noted the IAM's newest members are retired air traffic controllers who have actually returned to the workforce in order to train the next generation of air traffic controllers. Their work is vital to the safety and security of our country.

Assisting the Organizing Department in the campaign was the IAM Aerospace Department, IAM District Lodge 171 in Enid, OK and IAM Local Lodge 850 in Oklahoma City, OK.

“Congratulations to everyone who played a role in making this victory happen,” said IAM Headquarters General Vice President Rickey Wallace. “The hard work put in by all involved is going to pay off in a big way for the workers of SAIC.”

### **District Lodge 66**

Once again, on the third Monday of the month, our delegates met at the district office for their regular monthly meeting. The delegates reconvened after a much-deserved break in July. On Monday August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016, our delegates took care of the regular business of the lodge. Along with the regular business, our delegates approved a monetary donation for a memorial in the name of Kay Mickschl. Kay was the mother of former DBR, and current GLR Rick Mickschl. The delegates also approved the purchase of IAM H.E.L.P.S shirts. These shirts will be worn by our members while they are taking part in community service events. Motions were made to table expenditure for Pocket Planners, Basic Communications Class, Intermediate Web Development Class, Salvation Army, and attendance to the retirement part of GVP Diane Babineaux.

Information was read to the delegates regarding the topics of constitutional changes, the IAM selling its Jet, SPD for the IAM National Pension Fund, Labor Day Celebration, and several other topics.

Also in District Lodge 66 we are reinvigorating our organizing committee. This committee will meet quarterly, and will discuss organizing strategy within the area, and within the IAM.

I hope everyone is had a great summer. By next month, we will be seeing the leaves change color. Until next time...