



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

As I write this article, the Wisconsin primary is still pending. I think Wisconsin is anyone's game on the Democratic ticket, and on the Republican ticket, Cruz tends to lead. By the time you read this, you will see the results for yourselves. I have to say that this is the most interesting election season I can remember.

Hillary Clinton comes to LaCrosse

On March 29th, IAM endorsed candidate Hillary Clinton came to LaCrosse at the WWTC Campus. I was able to attend, although the security lines to get in were slow. I went to wait in line at 1pm, and didn't get in the door until after 3pm. There was one security guard with a wand type metal detector, and one was checking bags. This could have gone twice as fast with two doing each job rather than one, but I digress. There were so many people there, that there needed to be an overflow room on the fourth floor. Hillary made it up to the overflow room to give a continuation of her speech there, and stayed long enough to shake some hands and meet her supporters. Clinton continues to send a strong message on support of Unions and the working class.

Bernie Sanders comes to LaCrosse

Just one day after Clinton came to LaCrosse, Sanders made a visit to the OmniCenter in Onalaska. I did not get a chance to attend this event, but I am told it was warm inside. I'm told a couple of people passed out due to the heat. No overflow room was necessary for the crowd there, but it was crowded in the main room. Sanders offers a strong message that tends to resonate well with a lot of people.

Trump Comes to LaCrosse

As of writing this, Donald Trump is slated to come to the LaCrosse Center on Monday, April 4. Unlike Clinton and Sanders, a ticket is necessary to attend this event. I personally don't plan on attending this event, although it could be entertaining. By the time you read this, it will be over, and likely reported on by all of our local news organizations (perhaps even national ones).

TPP Watch

For right now the topic of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) seems to be on the minds of all of the Presidential Candidates. It is definitely a topic of discussion. Clinton has come out against the TPP after learning what a poor deal it really is (remember, the text of this abomination wasn't made available for a long time). Sanders has been against TPP from day one. Cruz voted against TPA, and Trump has criticized the deal. Kasich is for the TPP saying it will create jobs. I think we all know that is false.

Right now, there aren't enough votes in congress to pass this terrible trade deal. Most people feel that this will be attempted this fall after the election season is over in an attempt to pass it in a lame duck congress. I think we need to wait and see what happens this fall, and who controls the Senate come January. Keep the pressure up on all of your congressmen on this subject! So far we have won in pushing this down the road, but we need to keep the pressure up on our legislature to not allow this bad trade deal to become law.

Scholarship winners announced for District Lodge 66

I am pleased to announce that two winners have been announced for the 2016 District Lodge 66 Scholarship. Both winners were female this year as there were no entries by any male. In no particular order:

Alisha Pfaff, daughter of Local Lodge 2191-member Bill Pfaff out of Chart has received one of the two awards this year.

Kim Freese, daughter of Local Lodge 1115-member Dave Freese out of Crown Cork and Seal has also received one of the two awards this year.

Congratulations to both of these winners. The papers were well written, and very worthy of the award they earned. Both of the essays are included in this Union Herald.

Workers Memorial Day 2016

Just a reminder that Workers Memorial Day is on April 28 this year. Please feel free to join the AFL-CIO for this event honoring our fallen workers, and reminding us the struggles are not over in demanding a safer work place for our members, and non-members. OSHA is a good thing for our working class, but employers still ignore OSHA's standards. Employees in both Union, and Non-Union shops are still afraid to report safety violations of these employers fearing retaliation. On this day, we need to remember our fallen workers, and continue the fight going forward to maintain, and reinforce workplace safety.

As has been the tradition in past years, Mike Biard has contributed a poem he wrote to be read at the ceremony. This year's poem is entitled "Love & Respect". I want to thank Mike for this wonderfully worded poem, which will be submitted outside of this article in the Union Herald.

MNPL Planning Conference and Staff Conference 2016

The Machinists Non-Partisan Political League (MNPL) is the political arm of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. It was created in 1947 to allow IAM members to gather individual contributions, coordinate political activity, and elect candidates who support IAM members and their families. I attended the MNPL Planning Conference which was followed up by the Staff Conference the week of March 15-19, 2016.

At the MNPL Planning conference there was plenty of discussion on the political climate in this important election year. The direction which we are going, and need to go as an organization is to support our candidates that support us-not just part of the time-all of the time. These candidates that say they are for us most of the time are hereby put on notice. If you support legislation that will send our jobs overseas (such as TPP), you can no longer count on our support if you want to retain your role in our government. If you are looking for donations to your campaign funds, you can look to Vietnam, or Korea, or Mexico where you have sent our jobs.

The 2016 IAMAW Staff Conference started on Friday, March 18. There were plenty of remarks from Phil Gruber (Midwest Territory General Vice President), Hasan Solomon (Director of the IAM Legislative Department, and Bob Martinez (new IAMAW International President) among other speakers.

Among the topics discussed is the direction and vision that IP Martinez has for the IAMAW. Organizing is something that we need to take on full steam ahead. Last year, the IAMAW grew by less than 800 members. Although this is a step in the right direction, we need to look at other organizing opportunities out there. The Midwest Territory was the worst of all the Territories, with a net loss of 1321 members. I know in District 66, we shrunk by a couple hundred members ourselves due to layoffs in the area.

I am in hopes that this year will be a better year with some rehiring at our represented plants, but there are no guarantees.

At the Grand Lodge, there is a hiring freeze on hiring new staff. This doesn't mean that if a position is needed, a retiree or member moving on won't be replaced, but each position needs to be looked at as to its necessity. Departments like Strategic Recourses, Legal, Coordinated Bargaining, etc. are a necessary resource for our members and staff. Strong recourses make for a strong Union. In order to afford to keep these departments running, we need to maintain our membership, or grow our membership.

Grand Lodge Convention 2016

By the time this is printed, all Local Lodges in District 66 will have made their decisions on whether or not to send delegates to the 2016 Grand Lodge Convention. April is the month for nominations for these delegates at each local lodge meeting as posted in this publication. Next month delegates and alternate delegates will be elected at each local lodge meeting. Members may be eligible for an absentee ballot if they meet the qualifications outlined in the IAMAW Constitution.

Each committee continues to plan its designated area. As mentioned before, along with GLR Rick Mickschl, and DBR John Herrig, I am part of the Raffle Committee. We are in charge of planning daily raffles to raise funds for the Convention. Along with that duty, we are in charge of designing a quilt to be raffled off at the convention as is tradition. We are also in charge of clothing sales at the convention. We continue to put a plan together as we get closer to the Convention.

District Lodge 66

District Lodge Delegates gathered for our regular monthly meeting on Monday March 21, 2016. along with the regular business of the Lodge, the Delegates approved to donate the same amount as in years past to the Fire Safety Buddies. Also, a delegate will be sent to the MN State Council of Machinists, the Legislative Conference, and the Midwest States Conference of Machinists.

The Delegates also had a guest Speaker. Kevin Murch came to speak to the delegates about his new position, and availability to assist the District in training. Kevin is the new Education Representative for the Midwest Territory. We already have Steward Training scheduled with Kevin here at the District 66 office. Kevin also offers other types of training here in the Territory if we deem it is necessary.

An update on Cubic negotiations: Cubic is no longer the contractor for the group up at Camp Douglas. There currently technically is no contractor at this facility. One will be awarded in the next few months, but due to the hard work of the Commanding Officer on the base, and the District's efforts with our legislators, we were able to continue to keep employment for that group in the interim until a new contractor can be chosen. They are currently state funded rather than being in a Federal Service Contract. This unfortunately means that they do not fall under the Service Contract Act, and we may not be able to

represent them in the interim. We are still looking into the implications on this, but at least those seven employees have a job.