



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

Union Herald Article from the desk of:



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In October of 2013, Ron Kamrowski and I were involved in an organizing drive down in Kansas City, Missouri. The two of us from District Lodge 66, along with as many as 40 plus other Machinists from the Midwest Territory participated in this drive to organize ATK Ammunition. It was a huge undertaking. Collectively we knocked on 1700 plus doors to spend a few minutes with all the employees and their families to talk about the value of adding a union to their lives. What we heard from them, was a lot of stories of unfair treatment, unsafe conditions, and the company changing rules and benefits unilaterally without any input from their workers.

In the end, when the vote took place, the workers at ATK made the right decision. They voted **YES** to being a part of a union, and from that point forward, they have been in the process of electing their own officials, and starting the bargaining process.

I am happy, and proud to announce that after a year and a half of negotiations, they have ratified a contract. It was a long process, but due to the diligence of our representatives down in that neck of the woods, our members can sleep better at night knowing they have security.

On that note...

ATK Ammunition Manufacturers Learning How to Stand up to Company at W3



New shop stewards at ATK in Lake City, MO attend training at the IAM's William Winpisinger Training Center.

Working conditions at defense contractor ATK's Lake City, MO plant got so poor that Carolyn Treffer, a 33-year ATK employee, realized a union was the only way things were going to improve.

Treffer and her co-workers make ammunition for the U.S. military. They've always taken pride in their work, but just like anybody else, they want to be treated fairly on the job.

"The reason we voted a union in is because the way the conditions got, the way management treated people," said Treffer.

Treffer recently joined 34 of her coworkers for shop steward training at the IAM's William Winpisinger Center. They're learning the skills they'll need to improve low morale on the shop floor.

"I think that through this union, we can not only make things better for ourselves, we can actually improve things at the company as a whole," said Warren Peery, a shop steward at ATK and one of many new IAM Local 778 members.

Building on the foundation of their first contract, ATK workers will have a voice with the IAM.

"They will have every resource available to them that the IAM has," said IAM Midwest Territory General Vice President Phil Gruber. "I would just like them to know that myself, the International President, the General Secretary-Treasurer

and all of my colleagues on the Executive Council are fully committed to bringing justice to the workplace at ATK."

Donate to the IAM Assistance Disaster Relief Fund

Thanks to the generosity of our IAM brothers and sisters, the IAM Assistance Fund disbursed over \$200,000 last year to help members who suffered a loss due to natural disasters. With the rise in natural disaster occurrences, the need to help our members through such devastating times will increase.

The IAM has set a fundraising goal of \$400,000 and hopes IAM Districts and Locals will help by hosting fundraisers to benefit this worthy charity. All donations made to the IAM Assistance Fund are tax deductible.

The IAM Assistance Fund provides help in situations where our members and their families endure hardships due to natural disasters. The IAM reacts quickly to these needs before other sources of assistance are able.

If you have questions, please contact Carlos San Miguel, Director of the IAM's Retirees, Community and Membership Services Department, at csanmiguel@iamaw.org or 301-967-3433.

IAM Executive Council Welcomes Cervantes, Conigliaro



Dora Cervantes, the first woman General Secretary-Treasurer (GST) in IAM history, begins her initial term of office this week alongside newly-appointed General Vice President James Conigliaro, in a leadership transition that continues the IAM tradition of sound fiscal stewardship.

Named to the IAM's top financial positions by IAM President Buffenbarger in May during the MNPL Planning Committee meeting in Houston, TX, Cervantes will fill the office vacated by retired GST Robert Roach, Jr., while former District 15 Directing Business Rep Conigliaro will fill the GVP position previously held by Cervantes.

In addition to experience and ability, Cervantes and Conigliaro represent the IAM's ongoing commitment to diversity in leadership positions at every level of the union. The IAM Executive Council now includes individuals from every major demographic in North America, including Hispanic, Native American and African American.



“Dora Cervantes and Jim Conigliaro are two of the most capable and dedicated individuals this union has ever produced,” said IAM President Tom Buffenbarger. “Their record of service spans decades and includes a wide range of responsibilities and accomplishments. It will be an honor to serve

alongside them on the Executive Council and I look forward to their contributions on behalf of this great union and its members.”

Labor Day 2015 is Monday September 7

The District Delegates once again agreed to provide a District Lodge 66 T-shirt to our members who march in this year's Labor Day parade. As always we will be providing candy for the kids along the parade route and refreshments for our marchers. Last year was a great turn out, and we hope for the same for September 7, 2015. I encourage all our members to march in the parade and join us at Labor Fest to follow in Copeland Park. The Local Lodges of District 66 will be gathering prior to the 10:00 AM start near the corner of Kane and Gillette. Please show early enough so we can distribute shirts as needed and decorate the float.

District Lodge 66

There was no July meeting. This is done every year to enable our Delegates some well deserved time off. I want to thank them for all their hard work for the District, and for all their hard work at their respective Local Lodges.