



International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
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Union Herald Article from the desk of:



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Senate Health Care Bill

The Senate has once again put a bill up for consideration, and once again it failed to get the votes to go through to the House of Representatives. Three brave Republican Senators said that the bill is going too far, and will not help their constituents. Kudos to those Senators for standing up for what is right rather than standing on the Republican party line. I only can hope that this is a sign that the Republican side of the Senate will reach across the aisle to fix the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) rather than pick it apart. This is relatively fresh news as I write this. Keep calling your Senators. Let them know that we need to be covered regardless of preexisting conditions.

Election Watch 2018

The election season for 2018 is already beginning. Here in Wisconsin we have a fight on our hands. We need to turn the state blue again. The citizens of Wisconsin have not voted in their best interest in recent elections. As a result, we have ended up with Governor Walker in the head seat, with his minions alongside him in the State Senate and Assembly. The results of that were devastating for Unions, and the working class. Act

10 decimated Teacher's Unions, and so called "Right to Work" has taken a toll on private sector unions.

As of right now, there have been three Democrats who have thrown their hat into the ring. At this time, there is no endorsed candidate for the race. As the IAM Representative in the area, I can say that officially, the IAM will not endorse any candidate until the primary is done. In no particular order, the candidates as of now are Bob Harlow, Andy Gronik, and Mike McCabe. It is very likely that we will see more enter the race soon. Stay tuned for more details.

For US Senate, Tammy Baldwin is up for reelection. I have had an opportunity to personally talk to Tammy regarding Wisconsin's Working Class and our issues. I can say without a doubt that Senator Baldwin is on our side, and will not waiver. She has my support at 100%.

That is all for now. I will keep you posted as I hear more, and talk to some of the candidates.

IAM Local 701 Auto Mechanics on Strike for Fair Wages, Work Schedule

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More than 1,700 IAM-represented auto mechanics from across the Chicagoland area walked off the job at the strike of midnight Monday after a group of more than 130 Chicago dealerships refused to pay the workers a fair wage and provide them a fair work schedule.

Members of IAM Automobile Mechanics Local 701, based in Carol Stream, IL, voted overwhelmingly, 1221 to 169, to strike the New Car Dealer Committee (NCDC) after reviewing the dealerships' so-called last, best and final offer Sunday.

"We provided the dealer association with a comprehensive and realistic proposal," said Local 701 Directing Business Representative Sam Cicinelli. "We fix things – that's what we do for a living. We're trying to fix this industry. Apparently, the NCDC feels much differently. Their greed continues to drive our industry in a downward spiral circling the bowl. That's not what our members want. So together they made a decision to stand up and fight."



Sticking points include uncompensated time. With the factory reducing times and restricting technicians' ability to properly fix vehicles within the allotted time, the mechanics ends up working at their own expense. Up to 6 hours (15 percent of their time) or more per week may not be compensated.

Other sticking points include a work schedule consisting of a flex work week, which prohibits IAM members from being able to spend time with their families, an extended apprenticeship progression of eight years, and increased health care costs.

The exodus of seasoned Journeymen mechanics leaving the industry to seek jobs that actually pay for their expertise is also a major concern, as well as draconian pay structures prohibiting the union's ability to

attract young aspiring mechanics into entering the auto repair field.

“The unattractive pay rates coupled with stagnation within each entry level classification restricts the trade’s ability to provide for an attractive long-term profession,” said Cicinelli, who knows first-hand the pains of attracting new talent to the industry, as IAM Local 701 is home to one of the most effective automotive training centers and apprenticeship programs in the city. “With the industry headed in this direction, who will fix the cars and trucks in our future?”

The previous 4-year contract between Local 701 and the NCDC expired on July 31 at midnight.

There have been 16 bargaining sessions (six more than last negotiations) between the parties since kicking off negotiations in June.

The last two agreements were concessionary; the technicians conceded on several monetary issues given the dealerships’ tough economic circumstances at the time. Job preservation was the primary focus the last two cycles.

However, after ratification of the last agreement, the auto industry has boomed, says Cicinelli. “Our technicians are simply looking for a fair share of the industry growth,” he said.

“Our members have spoken,” said IAM Midwest Territory General Vice President Philip J. Gruber. “The message to the Chicago dealership association is ‘no more.’ This offer currently on the table is a slap in the face to this union and our members who have worked their behinds off in helping this industry stay afloat. Now, when profits are back up, they want to turn their backs on the very men and women who helped drive up that bottom line? No more.

“The IAM stands ready to sit down at the bargaining table day or night. However, the proposal in its current state is not going to work. Union automotive technicians are highly-skilled and highly-trained – the best of the best in the industry. For that, they should be paid and treated fairly. If the NCDC wants a fight. Then a fight they will get.”

Labor Day 2017

Labor Day is upon us once again. Monday, September 4th is right around the corner. The District Lodge 66 Delegates once again agreed to provide a T-shirt to our members who march in this year’s Labor Day Parade. As we have done in the past, we will be providing candy to hand out to the kids and children-at-heart along the parade route as well as refreshments for our marchers. Last year we had a good turnout. Let’s hope for the same and some great weather on September 4th, 2017. I encourage all our members to march in the parade and join us at Labor Fest following the parade in Copeland Park. The Local Lodges of District 66 will be gathering prior to the 10AM parade start near the corner of Kane and Gillette. Please arrive early enough so we can distribute shirts as needed and decorate the float!

Next year we may have to begin charging for t-shirts that we distribute to our members who march in the parade route to assist with the cost associated with the parade, and shirts provided. Stay tuned for more info on this as we get closer to Labor Day in 2018.

The History of Labor Day

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882 in New York City in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor union held its second Labor Day holiday on September 5, 1883.

In 1884, the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York to celebrate a “workingmen’s holiday” on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations and in 1885, Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

Through the years the nation gave increasing emphasis to Labor Day. The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886. From these, a movement developed to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887. During the year four more states — Colorado,

Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York — created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

Who founded Labor Day? There is some contention on who the original founder of Labor Day is. Peter J. McGuire – the general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and co-founder of the American Federation of Labor is generally credited by some to be the founder. However, recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the IAMAW in Paterson, NJ proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as the secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York.

District Lodge 66

There was no District Lodge Delegate Meeting in the month for July. It was cancelled in accordance with the IAM constitution which allows Locals and Districts to cancel the July and/or August meeting(s). The District and most Local Lodges traditionally cancel the July meeting to give Delegates and Members some well-deserved time off. I want to thank all our Delegates, and Local Lodges for all the work they do for our members.

An agreement was reached with our members working at Fort McCoy for Onopa Services. This agreement is for a one-year Collective Bargaining Agreement. The current contractor – Onopa, will no longer have this government contract after February 28th of next year. This government contract will be up for bidding early next year, and there will be a different employer for these members. I look forward to getting them a longer contract when we talk to this new contractor.

An agreement was also reached with our members out at Volk Field. This agreement is a two-year agreement. The members are pleased with the outcome, and I look forward to working in two years to build on this agreement. The contractor out at Volk Field will be the same contractor we will be negotiating with in 2019.

Completing these two agreements gets me to a grand total of 9 contracts ratified this year beginning in February (totaling 5 months). It has been a feverish pace, but this cycle comes around every three years. I am ready for the next cycle when it arrives. I hope everyone is having a great summer. Until next time ...