



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



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### **Election Watch 2016**

#### **Hillary Clinton Takes Iowa with a Slim Margin**

As I am writing this, the results from the Iowa Caucus have come in. Hillary Clinton has taken Iowa with a thin margin. It was the closest Democratic Caucus in Iowa history. The margin between the top two candidates was less than one percent. Martin O'Malley took less than one percent total. Subsequently, the following morning, Mr. O'Malley withdrew his bid to become President of the United States. This leaves the two top candidates to duke it out in the remaining Primaries. Next up after typing this article are New Hampshire and Nevada. Most people are putting their focus on the New Hampshire Primary. Right now Bernie Sanders has the lead in most polling out that way, as he should. He is from Vermont, and New Hampshire is Bernie's neck of the woods so to speak. It should be an interesting Primary to watch, and will probably be over by the time this article goes to print.

On the Republican side of the Iowa Caucus, Ted Cruz has come out on top of all of the other candidates. The next highest vote getter was Trump, followed by Rubio. None of the other candidates were even close to the top three. I would expect some of the other candidates to begin dropping out of their presidential bid soon. I would also expect Trump and Rubio to begin to question the eligibility of Ted Cruz to be President of the

United States. The question remains as to what “Natural Born Citizen” really means in the Constitution. Some would argue that he was born to a parent that was a Citizen, he is born a “Natural Born Citizen”, or if it means he must be born on US soil to be considered “Natural Born”. It could also mean a combination of the two. If Obama was questioned 8 years ago, I would expect that Cruz will face the same questions.

Coming up in the area, is the Minnesota Caucus on March 1 (also known as “Super Tuesday”).

As the rest of Primary season looms ahead, let’s take another look at the Senatorial race here in Wisconsin again. As of right now, there is currently only one candidate from each party running for US Senate. As I mentioned before, Russ Feingold is looking to take on Ron Johnson for that seat in the Senate. There is also a candidate for this seat that has popped up on the horizon from the Libertarian Party. Phil Anderson has thrown his hat in the ring. As of right now, I would still have to throw my support toward Russ Feingold on this potential 3 party ticket. We will see if the race remains at 3 candidates, or if there will be just two at the time of the election on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

In the First Congressional District, I stated last month that Tom Breu from Janesville was running on the democratic ticket in that district. While this is still true according to his web page, I am having trouble finding more other than that. Jason Lebeck from the Libertarian party appears to have thrown his hat in the ring as well. This was announced on January 16, 2016. Depending on how serious either of these candidates are in their intentions, this could be an interesting race, but with a potential 3 way race, the incumbent usually prevails. As I stated last month, this is not our Congressional District here in the LaCrosse area, but it is definitely one worth watching.

### **Get your submissions in for the Scholarships**

This will likely be your last reminder to apply for all the available scholarships that are available to IAM members. The rules have been put in the Union Herald. For more information, you can refer back to the past few months’ Union Heralds, or you can contact the DL 66 Office.

### **SC Gov. Haley Jabs Workers on National Stage**

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley couldn’t help but add some anti-worker undertone while delivering the GOP response to President Obama’s State of the Union Address. Haley specifically mentioned unions in reference to so-called education reform, which seemed to be a show of support to gut public sector unions in the Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association case. Oral arguments in the case recently began at the Supreme Court for the case, which could effectively make every public workplace right-to-work. Haley is no stranger to the IAM, and her anti-union stance is nothing new. She has publicly opposed organizing efforts at Boeing in South Carolina, including running radio

ads encouraging workers at the North Charleston plant to vote for no union representation.

Haley not only fights to keep workers from organizing, she also fights companies that have unions from coming to her state.

“It’s not something we want to see happen,” Haley has said. “We discourage any companies that have unions from wanting to come to South Carolina because we don’t want to taint the water.”

Unionized workers make an average of \$200 more a week than non-unionized workers. South Carolina ranks 16th in the nation in number of people living in poverty and has the fifth-highest rate of child poverty.

This only shows how important it is to get out and vote. We need to stand up and elect those that have the best interest of workers in mind. Here in Wisconsin, we have started to see how important this is. Jobs leave the state. Let’s hope South Carolina, and Wisconsin both do what we need to do in the future to ensure security for the workers of their states. What both states are doing isn’t working.

### **Florida Machinists Win \$2.5M Grievance Settlement**



*IAM Local 2777 Chief Steward/Grievance Committee Charles Pate, Steward Rich Swindon, Steward/Grievance Committee Regina Ullrich-Holmes, District 75 Business Representative Brad Smith, Steward J.D. Baker, and Steward/Grievance Committee Wayne Mason.*

In a perfect example of why an IAM contract is so valuable, more than 200 workers for L3 Communications at Whiting Field Naval Air Station near Pensacola, FL won a grievance settlement that will result in an average payout of over \$11,500 for each member. Thanks to language negotiated into the agreement with L3, any cost savings in health and welfare contributions by the company must be passed on to the employees. In 2013 and 2014 no money was paid out, so Local 2777 Chief Steward and Grievance Committee Member Charles Pate filed a policy grievance on behalf of the members. Due to the complexity of the formulas in the agreement, they realized they would need help.

With valuable assistance from IAM economists in the Strategic Resources

Department, the department’s Assistant Director David White and District 75 Business Representative Brad Smith, Pate pored over the mass of information.

Among the list of considerations were employer contributions towards group health insurance, life insurances, short-term disability insurance and a variety of other contributions. Working together, the team was able to determine the actual costs of such fringe benefits and submitted a grievance settlement for the two years in question.

“There were 210 employees in 2013 and 214 in 2014,” said Smith. “Whoever worked there under the IAM contract during those years got a payout, even people who had quit or retired were paid for the time they were there.”

The result was a payment of \$2,503,118.32.

“This could only happen with a union contract,” said IAM Southern Territory General Vice President Mark Blondin. “Usually when a company promises a dollar amount, but finds ways to save, they pocket the money. This time the money goes to the members, who earned it. I commend the fantastic job that Chief Steward Pate, Business Representative Smith and David White did for our members. I’m sure no one under this contract will ever say it costs to be in the union.”

IAM Local 2777 members work under a service contract agreement at Whiting Field on the Navy’s TH-57 Sea Ranger training helicopter. The Local has nine other bargaining units representing aircraft maintenance workers at NAS Whiting Field and NAS Pensacola.

### **District Lodge 66**

The District Delegates gathered for our regular monthly meeting on Monday January 18, 2016. Along with the regular business of the Lodge, the Delegates approved continuing to place a half-page ad in the Union Herald for the remainder of 2016. Also approved was matching up to \$500 to support the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Midwest Territory Rides for Guides provided that the Local Lodges’ totals achieve that amount or greater.

Until next month