



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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As we get into this first month of 2016, the IAM is undergoing some changes. Some happened last year, some have been in the works since last year, and some are continuing to happen. Notably, the retirements, and the new generation of leaders that are taking the helm around this District, the Territory and at the International Level. Earlier last year, you read about Robert Roach's retirement as General Secretary Treasurer, and Dora Cervantez stepping into that role. Her shoes were filled by James Conigliaro. International President Thomas Buffenbarger has retired as well, and his shoes are filled with General Vice President Bob Martinez. Southern Territory Special Representative Rickey Wallace will join the IAM Executive Council as a General Vice President to fill the spot left open by Bob Martinez.

Also, at the Midwest Territory level, we have seen a few retirements as well. More locally, Directing Business Representative for District 10 out of Milwaukee, Russ Krings has retired. Alex Hoekstra, the Assistant DBR for District 10 has taken the role of Director for District 10.

Also in the Midwest Territory, GLR Gary Schmidt retired as well. Gary Schmidt handled a lot of National Labor Relations Board work in the Territory. Taking over for Gary will be a name that most of us here in District 66 are familiar with. Grand Lodge Representative Rick Mickschl will be taking over that role. Rick as many of you may

know was Directing Business Representative for District 66 for a number of years prior to becoming a Special Representative, and ultimately a Grand Lodge Representative. Congratulations to Rick in his new role!

## **IAM Midwest Territory to host the 2016 Grand Lodge Convention**

One other notable event to take place in the Midwest Territory this year is the Grand Lodge Convention. The Grand Lodge Convention happens every 4 years. We are the Territory that will be hosting this convention this round. As such, myself and several other Business Representatives, and Grand Lodge Representatives from the Midwest Territory are tasked with planning this event. We are expecting a large delegation from all over the IAM to attend.

Each Local Lodge can elect a number of delegates to this convention from their membership. How many delegates a given local can send depends on how many members a given local has in good standing. Delegates and Alternate Delegates will be nominated in April, and elected in May at their respective Local Lodge Meetings.

Delegates will be tasked with looking over the IAM Constitution, and making changes to how the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers functions. Some things will remain the same, and ultimately some things will change. Anything from dues structure to election procedures can be changed as long as the changes comply with federal laws. All changes are proposed by elected delegates, and voted on by those delegates. This Union is truly run by the people it represents in this democratic process.

## **Election Watch 2016**

Unless you have lived under a rock for the last year, you know that there is a presidential race happening in this country this year as well. Let's recap the candidates going into the primaries...

On the Republican side there were many more, but officially there are currently 12 candidates running for the highest office in the United States. Jeb Bush, Ben Carson, Chris Christie, Ted Cruz, Carly Fiorina, Jim Gilmore, Mike Huckabee, John Kasich, Rand Paul, Marco Rubio, Rick Santorum, and Donald Trump are currently the remaining twelve. There have been several that have dropped out of the race at this point, most notably Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker. Walker decided to drop out of the race after his polling numbers tanked. Apparently seriously discussing building a wall on the Canadian border is not what will get poll numbers up. The front runner right now seems to be Donald Trump. Supporters of Trump seem to be happy that "someone is out there that speaks his mind" (at least that is what I am hearing). While this may resonate with the rest of his supporters, it is hardly a way to win the hearts and minds of all the other countries we will need to work with moving forward on the International stage.

On the Democratic side of the ticket, there are still 3 contenders with their hat in the ring. Martin O'Malley, Bernie Sanders, and Hillary Clinton. At this time, looking at the

polling numbers, Martin O'Malley doesn't seem to have the support to win a primary, let alone a Presidential Election. Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton seem to have a close race going between the two of them. Those that are supporters of either are strong in their convictions. Officially, the IAM has endorsed Hillary Clinton. Personally, I agree with the endorsement. This doesn't mean that if the primary goes the other way, I will not support the Democratic Nominee. As an advocate for labor, the Democratic Party seems to be the friendlier of the two. Hillary has been with the IAM on more fronts than her other two democratic opponents as I have outlined in previous articles.

Also of note here in Wisconsin there are a couple of Congressional races that are worth noting....

On the Senatorial Race in Wisconsin, Ron Johnson's term is up, and as of right now, it appears that Russ Feingold will be taking on Ron for his old seat in the Senate. As of right now, I support Russ Feingold in this race. The Democratic Party needs to take some seats back in the Senate, and Russ is just the right guy to take on that task.

On the House of Representatives side in Wisconsin, one race worthy of noting is Paul Ryan's race. Paul just got the Speaker job in the House, and in this first year, he has a campaign to win to maintain that seat. Ryan is obviously the Republican side of that ticket. On the Democratic side, Tom Breu from Janesville is putting his hat in the ring. While this congressional district isn't within District 66, it could be an interesting race to watch.

Stay tuned for more information on these races as we move through this year to election day.

### **Ex-Im Bank Reauthorization is Long-Awaited Victory for U.S. Workers**

U.S. workers can breathe a bit easier after a bipartisan bill to reauthorize the U.S. Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank passed both houses of Congress and was signed into law by President Obama. The independent federal credit agency issues loans to foreign buyers of U.S.-made exports, including aircraft built by IAM members.

The bank had been unable to issue new loans since July after right-wing members of Congress targeted it for extinction. An onslaught of reaction from IAM members and allies in the labor and business communities ratcheted up pressure to get the bank back on its feet.

"In a growing global economy, where other countries aggressively rely on their own export credit agencies – like Ex-Im – to capture sales, disabling Ex-Im and leaving U.S. workers out in the cold and out of a job simply makes no sense," said IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger. "We congratulate Congressional leaders for their efforts to being some sanity to Capitol Hill."

The Ex-Im Bank has sustained more than 1.3-million private sector U.S. jobs since 2009. It generated a \$675 million surplus for American taxpayers in 2014 alone.

Owen Herrstadt, the IAM's chief of staff and trade and globalization director, spoke alongside lawmakers at a press conference lauding the bank's reopening on Capitol Hill. "Since Ex-Im was created in the 1930's, its mission has been to lend financial support for the export of goods that create and maintain U.S. jobs," said Herrstadt. "Strong domestic content rules make it possible for Ex-Im to achieve its mission. Public policies, like content, set Ex-Im apart from lenders in the private sector."

## **District Lodge 66**

The District Delegates gathered for our regular monthly meeting on Monday December 21. Along with the regular business of the Lodge, the Delegates approved funding to send Lodge 21 President Brad King to Political Education class at Placid Harbor if he is selected from the names from the Midwest Territory that have been submitted. Funding was also approved to split the cost to do the research to find out if Fort McCoy would be considered entirely a federal enclave. Several other informational packets were brought to the Delegates attention including the IAM National Pension Fund, Photography Contest, Newsletter and Website Contest, and more. Former District Lodge 66 DBR Tom O'Heron (currently Director of Collective Bargaining for the IAM) and Former District Lodge 66 DBR Rick Michschl (current Grand Lodge Representative for the IAM) were in attendance, and spoke briefly to the delegates.