



International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers  
District Lodge 66  
1307 Market Street  
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Union Herald Article from the desk of:



**Neil Kamrowski**  
**Directing Business Representative, IAMAW District Lodge 66**

### Senate Health Care Bill

We hoped things would be better. Better than the House version of the health care bill. I have to say I was optimistic. Unfortunately, my optimism was dashed with the release of the Senate Health Care Bill. This bill was written in secrecy. It was not written with bipartisan support or input.

This bill is almost as bad as the House bill. Within this bill, it allows insurance companies to not necessarily charge more for people with preexisting conditions, but prescription drugs for a preexisting condition (such as cancer) may not be covered at all by an insurance company. This leaves families to make very tough choices. What kind of world do we live in where people have to make the choice of whether or not to put food on the table to pay for the prescription drugs needed to stay alive?

Additionally, cuts to some of the programs within the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) are literally going to give tax breaks for big business, and the top 1 percent. Literally this bill makes the rich – richer, and the poor – poorer.

I know this rant about these bills seems blunt, but our readers need to know what they are in for with the current Senate, and House. Please contact your legislators and tell them what junk these bills are, and that we expect more. Strangely enough, our Senator Ron Johnson is holding out on a yes vote on this bill. Normally he falls in line with the party. Continual contact with Senator Johnson could help. Who knows, by the time you read this, the vote could already have taken place, and if it did, we still need to be heard.

## **NASCAR Tribute to Labor Day 2017**

Once again, the IAM is teaming up with the Chicagoland Speedway Tribute to Labor. The date of the race is September 17<sup>th</sup>. Offered as a package deal for \$64.00 you get:

- A premium Race Ticket in Section D to the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Tales of the Turtles 400 on September 17.
- A Sunday Infield Fan Zone Pit Pass with access to the Drivers' Red Carpet Walk, pit road, track and infield lawn access before the race and up-close access to the pre-race concert performed by country star Josh Turner.
- Free Parking

To get the package, go to [chicagolandspeedway.com/union](http://chicagolandspeedway.com/union) or call 815-722-1591 and use union code: **CLSUNION17**

IAM members attending the race will also receive a free t-shirt from the Midwest Territory. To receive the t-shirt, members will first need to purchase tickets to the race, then let the IAMAW District Lodge 66 office know your Name, Phone Number, Email Address and Shirt size. This information will be gathered in the district office, and forwarded to the Midwest Territory for shirt purchase. If you are attending, please give this info to myself or IAMAW District Lodge 66 Administrative Assistant Carla Easterday by August 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **Tony Wickersham Appointed Midwest Territory Special Representative**



Tony Wickersham

IAM International President Bob Martinez has announced the appointment of IAM District 90 Directing Business Representative Tony Wickersham to the position of Midwest Territory Special Representative.

“On behalf of the Midwest Territory members and staff, I’d like to congratulate Tony on his appointment and welcome him to the Midwest Territory staff,” said IAM General Vice President Philip J. Gruber. “As a longtime labor activist and Directing Business Representative, Tony has shown time and time again his unwavering dedication to the working families of Indiana. Tony brings a fresh perspective and new and innovative ideas to the Territory. We welcome his skills and

talent and look forward to his continued service of the IAM membership.”

Wickersham initiated into IAM Local 2069, District 90 in 1996 while working in assembly at Schneider Electric in Peru, Indiana. While working at Schneider, Wickersham served as Union Steward, Chief Steward, Bargaining and Grievance Committeeman, as well as District and State Council Delegate. He was also a Local 2069 Trustee and Secretary-Treasurer, and Delegate to the 2004, 2012 and 2016 IAM Conventions. In 2006, Wickersham was elected District 90 Secretary-Treasurer. He also served as Secretary-Treasurer and is currently President of the Indiana State Council of Machinists.

In 2007, Wickersham was elected District 90 Business Representative and in 2010 as Assistant Directing Business Representative. He was appointed Directing Business Representative of District 90 in 2015. He was also asked to serve as Vice President of the Indiana State AFL-CIO.

Wickersham currently holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management and Masters in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.

His appointment is effective July 1, 2017.

### **Workplace Freedom Coming Under Grave Attack in Washington**

Extreme right wing politicians and corporate CEOs are attacking our freedom to join together and negotiate by pushing anti-workplace freedom bills in Washington, DC. They’ve started with federal workers, and all working people are next on the chopping block.

Congress just passed legislation gutting workplace rights at the Veterans Affairs Department. Instead of fixing management flaws plaguing the agency, the so-called “VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act” throws out due process rights. It’s expected to be signed by President Trump in the coming weeks.

“Weakening VA employee protections will not make the VA more accountable. It will likely do the exact opposite,” said NFFE-IAM National President Randy Erwin.

Three more bills attacking our freedom are on deck. These bills are designed to empower billionaires and CEOs, not working people.

#### **Employee Rights Act (H.R. 2723)**

- Prohibits employers from voluntarily recognizing a union based on majority support, a practice known as “card check.”
- Makes non-voters in union elections count as “no” votes.
- Requires union recertification election every time more than 50 percent of a workforce changes
- Needlessly delays union elections and prohibits working people seeking a union from getting contact information for their coworkers

## **Workplace Democracy and Fairness Act (H.R. 2776)**

- Unduly complicates and delays union elections

## **Employee Privacy Protection Act (H.R. 2775)**

- Undermines ability of union supporters to talk with employees, while doing nothing to rein in the employer's anti-union campaign.

These bills are in committee now, and will take a groundswell of working people talking to their members of Congress to defeat on the House floor. Stay tuned for updates.

## **District Lodge 66**

The District Delegates gathered for our regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 19, 2017. Along with the regular business of the Lodge, the Delegates made motions and passed the expenditures for the Labor Day Parade for t-shirts, candy, and more. A thank you card was received from Lisa Jensen for the District's contribution, and help in receiving donations from the Disaster Relief Fund. A thank you card was also received from the Western Wisconsin AFL-CIO for the donation to their Community Fund. Information was also received regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Buffenbarger-Walworth Flatlanders Pheasant Hunt and Trap Soot.

The Shop Committee out at Chart (Lodge 2191) and the Management Team at Chart came together on June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> for some FMCS Training on consensus based issue management. This two-day class was free of charge from FMCS. There was value in these classes for our members. Both sides of the table learned how issues arise that make sense to resolve together. As we all know, there are also issues that arise that cannot be resolved mutually, but this is a step in the right direction to have an understanding on both management and union side that sometimes problems arise that can be solved by mutual resolution that make sense to both parties.

The week of June 19<sup>th</sup> brought three contract ratifications to District Lodge 66. The members out at the Roads and Grounds in Fort McCoy ratified a three-year agreement with Kaiyuh Services, LLC. The members at Pest Control at Fort McCoy ratified a three-year agreement with MTNT. The members at Facilities Maintenance at Fort McCoy ratified a three-year agreement with Choctaw Defense Services.

We have yet to reach an agreement for our members out at Recycling in Fort McCoy. The collective bargaining agreement was extended until the end of July. I am confident that we will reach an agreement this month.

We have also yet to reach an agreement for our members working at Camp Douglas (Volk Field). This CBA expires at the end of August. I am confident that we will reach an agreement on this one as well.

I want to once again thank my wonderful wife Tasha for her patience in this busy 6 months. With all of the travel, and contracts coming due, it has been a whirlwind. It takes a strong woman to be there to deal with the time away, and the stresses that don't stay in the office as much as they should. I love you Tasha. When I come home after a long day, your smiling face warms my heart.

Until next month...