

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



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### **The war on the ACA**

This war continues....The GOP led House of Representatives passed legislation that will gut key provisions of the Affordable Care Act (also known commonly as “Obamacare”). At the center of their plan, they cut the part of the ACA that allows people with preexisting conditions to get insurance without being discriminated against. This will raise insurance costs to our brothers and sisters with preexisting conditions to a rate that is unaffordable, leaving them without insurance at all.

As of right now (May 4<sup>th</sup>), there aren’t enough votes to get this through both the House of Representatives and the Senate to make the current bill law. It did make it through the House alone, but the Senate is a different story. I would expect this type of legislation to constantly come up. The House wasted hours and hours, and millions of tax payer money while President Obama was still in office in an effort to repeal “Obamacare”. I highly doubt they will give up. This will no doubt lead to more wasted time and money. As I said before, fix what is wrong with the ACA one piece at a time, rather than repealing, or outright replacing.

## **Member of Lodge 1771 Receives Donations from DL 66, LL 1771, and the Disaster Relief Fund**

Disaster can strike at a time when we least expect it. It did for IAM Lodge 1771 member Lisa Jensen. On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, Lisa was at her regular job at Northern Engraving. What she didn't realize was the nightmare that was taking place at her house miles away.



A fire was consuming her house and all of her belongings along with it. Fire experts stated that the heat index within Lisa's house reached as high as 1820 degrees Fahrenheit. There was nothing salvageable.

While these items cannot be replaced, Lisa received donations from Northern Engraving, co-workers, District Lodge 66, Local Lodge 1771, and applied for funding from the IAM Disaster Relief Fund with the guidance of Local Lodge 1771 Recording Secretary Brenda Rediske, and Steward Melissa Shore. Lisa received the funding from the Disaster Relief Fund shortly after her application was submitted.



This goes to show what solidarity, and a true brotherhood a member receives when they are a part of the IAM. While these donations do not replace the items lost by Lisa and her family, they are a start in the road to recovery.

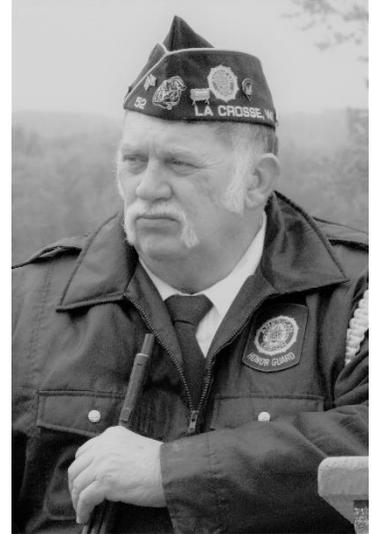
We wish Lisa the very best in recovering from this disaster.

## **Worker's Memorial Day 2016**

On a cold, rainy day on April 28<sup>th</sup>, we gathered to remember the members who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit of a better life for themselves and their families. Every year, the AFLCIO adds more names to the list of those who perished. We must remember those that have fallen, and learn from what these accidents have taught us about safety in the work place. I encourage all who read this article to look around in your work place and see that all aspects of safety are followed.

I want to thank Mike Biard for his wonderful poem that I had an opportunity to read at the ceremony here in LaCrosse. Mike has written a poem for Worker's Memorial Day for around 25 years now, and each one is better than the last.

I also want to thank my wonderful wife Tasha for attending, and taking some photos of the event posted below:



## **District Lodge 66**

The District Delegates gathered for our regular monthly meeting on Monday April 17, 2017. Along with the regular business of the Lodge, the Delegates made motions and passed the expenditure as per years in the past to sponsor the LaCrosse Parks and Recreation's Youth Baseball League. Motions were made to table attendance to a Retiree's Education ad Strategy Program at WWW, and the Communications conference in Austin, TX.

Also in the District, negotiations were completed with Peerless Chain Company, and Local Lodge 1030 for a new 3-year agreement. The new agreement expires on August 31, 2020. The contract was ratified by the members.

Negotiations also took place with Choctaw Defense Systems. The final language is still being crafted, and should be available for a vote for the members soon.

The new CBA between the IAM Lodge 1115 and both AECOM and Accent Controls was completed, and signed. Their new CBA expires in March of 2020.

In the future in District Lodge 66: Negotiations are set to take place between MTNT, Bearing Sea Environmental, Onopa, and Kaiyuh. As you can see from last month, we are progressing along, but we are not done yet. Needless to say, this will keep me quite busy.

### **Legislative Conference 2017**

I will be attending the 2017 IAMAW Legislative Conference this month. By the time you read this, the conference will be over. I will be sent on behalf of the Wisconsin State Council of Machinists as their representative to speak to our representatives.

The Legislative Conference gives us an opportunity to communicate with our representatives on the issues that matter, and affect our members on an ongoing basis. I will be meeting with several representatives from Wisconsin and Minnesota. Topics will include healthcare, our Pensions, and several other topics that you have no doubt seen me talk about in this publication. The conference takes place in Washington DC.

### **Memorial Day 2017**

Let's take the time on May 29 to not just think of what most of us get as a paid holiday, but remember the real reason for the holiday. Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day, and was initiated to honor the soldiers for the Union and Confederate armies who died during the American Civil War. By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the holiday became known as Memorial Day and was expanded to include the deceased veterans of all the wars fought by American forces. In 1971, Memorial Day became a federal holiday.

Until next month...