



International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District Lodge 66

February 2024

With the new year, we began with a meeting with the Midwest Territory General Vice President, Sam Cicinelli. Sam discussed upcoming events and expectations for the year. He began by emphasizing the importance of organizing and mentoring. We must all be actively pursuing leads and doing internal organizing on a regular basis, to increase the membership. We need to seek out the next generation of activists and assist them as they learn and grow. Not everyone aspires to be an officer or steward, but there are many ways to become involved; assisting with Union events or activities, joining/forming committees that are of interest, such as a Veteran's or Women's committee, or becoming active in Legislative actions within the Local or District lodges. The District Lodge 66 Organizing committee is always looking for people to join us! We have several internal projects that we are working on, as well as assisting with new targets. As the Political season approaches, it will be necessary to make sure that our voices are heard. We need to lobby for our causes, write or call Legislators, and show up for town hall meetings or rallies and be seen, as well.

Another topic of discussion included implementation of virtual meetings for Local and District Lodge meetings. Sam advised that there would be a training module that will be made available for implementation, as well as a template for language into the bylaws.

There will be a Staff Conference held in Rosemount, Illinois, in conjunction with former Midwest Territory General Vice President Steve Galloway's retirement dinner and celebration, from March 21-24, 2024.

The National Staff Conference will be held April 25-28, in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with former International President, Robert Martinez's retirement dinner and celebration.



International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District Lodge 66

The Midwest States Council of Machinists will be held in Missouri on May 19-22, 2024.

The MNPL/Legislative Conference will be held June 16-22, 2024, in Washington, D.C.

The IAMAW Grand Lodge Convention will be held September 1-7, 2024, in New York.

Guide Dogs Banquet will be held November 14-16, 2024, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Other events that you may want to check out are the Guide Dog events: the clay shoot, and car show will be in Missouri on May 18 and 19, 2024 and the Bike run will be July 12-14, 2024, in Bloomington, Indiana. These events are not only a great time, but also raise funds for the GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA.

There were several other topics that Sam reported on, and I will be sharing this information at local lodge and district meetings and will distribute informational flyers to take back to the membership.

Just a reminder that the District Lodge 66 Chili Cook off is scheduled for February 16, 2024, from 1pm to 5pm at 1307 Market Street. Family members are welcome to attend! We hope that it will begin a series of events to bring members from the different local lodges together, so that we can all learn and support each other. Hope to see you there!

If there are any questions about the Chili cook-off, please call the District office, at 608-784-2025.

Fraternally,

Jana Kirch