



International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
District Lodge 66
1307 Market Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Union Herald Article from the desk of:



Jana Kirch
Directing Business Representative, IAMAW
District Lodge 66

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September is here again already, with Labor Day festivities signaling the unofficial end to Summer. Hopefully you all were fortunate to spend the long weekend doing things you love, surrounded by family and friends. Unfortunately, with the surge in Covid cases rising-the Annual AFL-CIO Labor Day festivities were again cancelled. Even so, the first Monday of this month is for workers everywhere to celebrate the Federal Government's recognition of the contributions and works of laborers to the development and achievements of the United States. The proposal that a day be set aside to celebrate labor, was first promoted by the Central Labor Union and the Knights of Labor, which organized the first parade to celebrate "Labor Day" in New York City. It became an official federal holiday in 1894. Today, it means a nice long weekend to enjoy the last lazy days of Summer, and for the kids-back to school. For those of you who enjoy shopping, it may have meant scoring some great bargains from those numerous Labor Day sales, or others, working in the yard to prepare for Fall-with a nice cold adult beverage and grilled food goodness for reward. However you chose to celebrate, thank the labor movement for celebrating us, as workers.

The Grand Lodge Convention, which was scheduled for this month, in San Diego, has also been put on hold until next year. The plan is to continue on the same four- year schedule, which means that there will be two, for Local Lodges to send delegates to, within the next two years.

District Lodge 66 has been selected by the Grand Lodge, to attend the LEADS program at the Winpisinger Education Center, which has recently reopened. Myself, along with Andrea Jaskola, Local Lodge 1030, and Theresa Opitz, Local Lodge 2191 will be attending September 13-15. More details to follow....

I have been working with Local Lodge 1030's committee, in their negotiations with Peerless Chain Company, in Winona, MN. We will continue to meet with the Company on September 10, to try to reach agreement after signing a thirty- day extension, after the membership rejected the proposal on August 30. Marco Federal, at Fort Mc Coy is also to be negotiated in the near future, as their contract has also been extended. Sawtst LLC has signed a bridge agreement which extends into March of 2022.

It has been very busy at Fort Mc Coy, with the transitioning of the Troops vacating, and the refugees from Afghanistan moving in. The Union members of Local Lodge 1115 have been working hard to ensure that both groups are taken care of, and that the fort runs smoothly. Next month, I will be bringing more information on the transition, and showcasing our members who have shined throughout this process.

September also reminds all Americans of the worst terrorist attack in United States history, which occurred on September 11, 2001, when four planes were hijacked-with two of them crashing into the World Trade Center buildings, killing thousands of civilians, firefighters, and rescue personnel. Many of us watched in horror, as news footage captured the second plane coming in, as people were being evacuated from the first. Few will ever forget where we were, as we were in disbelief as the tragedy further unfolded, with the hit on the Pentagon. There was one bittersweet moment of triumph, which made heroes out of a group of passengers aboard Flight 93, when they fought back, and attempted to overpower the hijackers, sacrificing their lives to save countless others. As heartbreaking as it was-it made me so proud of them for being as brave as they were. May all the souls lost on that day, rest in peace-and know that we will never forget. Ever.

On September 13, 1814, Francis Scott Key was aboard a ship, observing the Battle of Fort Henry in Baltimore Harbor. He watched the British attack overnight, and at dawn saw the American flag still flying over the fort. The experience inspired him to write the verses of what became our U.S. National Anthem in 1931.

At the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia on September 17, 1787-delegates from twelve states voted unanimously to approve the proposed U.S. Constitution.

The Northern Hemisphere will welcome Fall with the Autumnal equinox on September 23rd. The Southern Hemisphere will celebrate the beginning of Spring. I am excited for the Fall season! Warm days and crisp nights, the beautiful colors of our valleys, and the return of football season. Halloween is my favorite holiday, so many days are spent preparing for the big night. Visiting the local orchards and roadside stands for the perfect pumpkins and enjoying a caramel apple is a perfect Autumn afternoon. There are many upcoming activities to enjoy, including Oktoberfest-in LaCrosse, Cranberry Fest-in Warrens, and in Minnesota-the Renaissance Fair in Shakopee. Enjoy the season, and all it has to offer.