



## **International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District Lodge 66**

**March 2024**

The Minnesota State Council of Machinists Spring Conference was held February 23-25, 2024, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In attendance, was IAMAW International President Bryan Bryant, as well as General Vice-President of Air Transportation Richie Johnson and Midwest Territory General Vice-President Sam Cicinelli. Delegates heard from Secretary of State Steve Simon, U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan, and State Auditor Julie Blaha to name a few. We also heard from Ms. Kelly Morrison, a candidate running for the open seat in CD-3. After her address, the delegates voted to endorse Ms. Morrison, based on her record of voting 100% of the time for working people. The Council will continue supporting Angie Craig and Betty McCullom, as well. As it is said each and every election year, it is so important for everyone to vote. Focus on issues, not personalities. Now, more than ever, the people need to make their voices heard on issues that impact them, directly. I urge you to do some research and find out if your elected officials are hearing you, and working to support the issues that matter to you-if they are not, ask yourself why they are still there.

At this conference, I was nominated to serve as President of the MN State Council, and I was honored to accept the position. I have some big shoes to fill, as John Steigauf has done an exceptional job for so long! John is retiring and looking forward to the quieter life! Congratulations, and thank you for the years of hard work that you have put into this organization, you will be fondly remembered and



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always missed!



Necal Corporation negotiations with Local Lodge 1115 will begin on March 13, 2024, in Tomah, Wisconsin. This is a small company, located in Sparta, Wisconsin.

After negotiations, I will be attending the Midwest Territory Staff Conference, which will be held in conjunction with former MWT General Vice President Steve Galloway's retirement celebration.

This year will be busy with much travel, to prepare for the upcoming election season. Scheduled Lobby days will be held at each of the State Conferences, and Organizing events will be held at others. The focus will be on mentoring and Organizing; internal and external. We need to educate and mobilize members into action, whether it be Political action, mentoring the next generation of leaders, or growing our Union.



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The District Lodge 66 Organizing Committee is planning another event in June, to bring members and retirees from all the Local Lodges together. We are planning a Family Day BBQ. The tentative date is June 8, 2024, so keep it open to attend! You will meet new people, catch up with old friends, and share experiences! We hope that you all can make it! There will be more information coming, with sign-up sheets (to get a ballpark number for food).

The lease on District Lodge 66 is not being renewed. The owner wants to use it for his own personal use, so we are currently looking for another location. The lease expires on June 30, 2024. We will look for space not only within the LaCrosse area, but all areas that our District Lodge services. I will update on this each month, until we have settled into our new location.

In closing, I want to thank all of my Officers, Stewards, and Committee members, for all of the hard work that they do, on behalf of the membership. Oftentimes, it is thankless and challenging. I truly appreciate your efforts! Again, THANK YOU!

Fraternally,

Jana M. Kirch