



International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District Lodge 66

July 2025

July 4th, A Celebration of our Nation's Independence

I hope everyone had a safe and very happy Fourth of July holiday! Whether you were travelling, relaxing with family and friends, or whooping it up, the long weekend is synonymous with celebrating everything *American*. From the fireworks displays and parades, to the holiday sales, to the smell of campfires and hot dogs, and to the splashing in lakes, rivers, and streams, it is summertime joy, wrapped up in red, white, and blue.

Celebrating freedom. What does that mean, in today's world? Our forefathers wanted to be independent from the British Crown. The Declaration of Independence was ratified on July 4, 1776, which separated the colonies from the British crown rule, but then the real work began, building the foundations of our laws and government.

The Articles of Confederation were ratified on February 2nd, 1781, and effective on March 1, 1781. The first three Articles read

Article I. The Stile of this confederacy shall be, "The United States of America."

Article II. Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom and independence, and every Power, Jurisdiction and right, which is not by this confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled.

Article III. The said states hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other, for their common defense, the security of their Liberties, and their mutual and general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, against all force offered to, or attacks made upon them, or any of them, on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or any other pretense whatever.

The Constitution superseded the Articles of Confederation on March 4, 1789, and on December 15, 1791, the Bill of Rights was added because,



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“The Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.”

With an ever-changing, evolving, population, Amendments were needed to further ensure that the rights of the people remained intact.

Our forefathers clearly wanted the United States to be a place where everyone could live, work, and prosper; a place where people could be free. They tried to ensure that *the people* were protected. It is worth taking another look at each of documents and reflecting on what beliefs this Country was founded on. Are they the same today? Is the engraving on the Statue of Liberty still relevant? Why, then, does it seem like there is so much division in a sea of diversity? We are taking a day to celebrate, but with that, we need to remember *why* being an American is great.

DISTRICT 66

Only one more round of contract negotiations left for this year!! The committee from Peerless Chain will be prepping at the District office in July and heading to the table to negotiate in mid-August.

BSEn and Lodge 1115 wrapped up negotiations the last week of June and will have their Ratification vote on July 14, 2025. This group works out at Volk Field.

Kaiyuh Services, LLC and Lodge 1115 ratified their three-year contract on June 26, 2025. They had gains in their wages, vacation, and bereavement, as well as retaining their pension, with increased contributions.

Vanquish Worldwide, LLC signed a Bridge Agreement on the Sawtst, LLC / IAM 2025-2028 CBA. There were minor amendments, but the membership retained



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the IAM pension and increases that were negotiated earlier this year with Sawtst.

Advanced Business Systems, Inc and the IAM are working on a MEMORANDUM of UNDERSTANDING, to add a classification (job description, qualifications, and rate of pay), to the existing CBA. The position is for a Service Technician, which the Company needs to hire. Anyone who has experience in, or knowledge of mail/office equipment, might want to check this out!

For the members at Fort Mc Coy, a IAM PENSION and IAM 401k Informational meeting will be held at the Sparta American Legion, on September 29th and 30th, 2025. The meetings will be held after work shifts and will consist of a presentation, as well as one-to-one sessions with the IAM PENSION Education Representatives. Please plan on attending one of these sessions, as they are open to all members covered by IAM collective bargaining agreements.

Trane Technologies and the Lodge 21 Shop Committee are working towards resolving multiple grievances that have reached Arbitration step.

September and October will be filled with travel to the W3 center (3 trips), for Negotiation Prep with both Crown and Chart, and one for a Staff Class. A Staff meeting in Illinois, and a Labor Management meeting for Crown, in Olympia, Washington, is also scheduled. With that, it is almost the end of 2025! It has been a busy one, but the rewards are worth it.

Fraternally,

Jana Kirch