



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



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October 2017

Mid-Term Elections 2018

As I forecasted in my previous articles, the race for Wisconsin Governor is getting crowded. The last time I touched on this subject, there were only 3 declared candidates running against Walker. Now my count is 9 Democrats, 1 Republican, 1 Libertarian, and 4 Independents. In alphabetical order – Democrats Michele Doolan, Tony Evers, Andy Gronik, Bob Harlow, Mike McCabe, Jeff Rumbaugh, Kathleen Vinehout, Dana Wachs, and Ramona Whitaker fill the Democratic Column. Republican Ryan Cason has declared his candidacy on the Republican ticket. As of right now, Walker has not declared his candidacy, but I am not holding my breath that he drops out. Rest assured, he will run. On the Libertarian Ticket, Phillip Anderson is the lone candidate. For Independents, Jefferson Carpenter, Robbie Hoffman, Timothy Jesse, and Travis Swenby have all thrown their hats in the ring. As I stated 2 months ago, the IAM will not endorse any candidate until the field is narrowed down more. I have my own personal opinions of some of the candidates, and if you want to know, I will definitely tell you my opinion. In the future, before the primary happens, I may list the candidates with their accomplishments and qualifications. Stay tuned.

For Wisconsin US Senate, the race is beginning to heat up as well. Incumbent Tammy Baldwin will face Mary Jo Walters in the primary before facing her opposition in the general mid-term. Republicans Kevin Nicholson, John Scheiss and Leah Vukmir have added their name to the republican primary ticket. Joseph Schnering has registered for this race under the “Veterans Party of America”. I have never heard of this party before. I have taken a look at Joseph’s stances on some issues. I would say that he leans very right wing. Probably more right wing than most of the republicans on the ticket. I don’t understand why he is not on that ticket. I think he may be trying to play the “Make America Great Again” slogan.

For the Wisconsin US House race, in District 3 Ron Kind doesn’t have any challengers in the primary, but right now will be facing Alex Virijevich, who has announced candidacy on the republican ticket.

In Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar has a republican challenger. Jim Newberger has decided to run for that spot. Tim Walz has announced he will be running for Minnesota Governor in 2018. There have been several other Democrats and Republicans who have stepped in to fill that void. In total 8 democrats and 2 republicans have thrown their hat in the ring for Minnesota District 1. The office of Governor is looking crowded as well. There are 6 Democrats, 5 Republicans, and one Independent.

We are still a long ways away, but the election I will be focusing on more than anything is the Governor race here in Wisconsin. Minnesota is equally important, but in Wisconsin, Walker has not been a friend of labor, and must be ousted!

Wisconsin State Council of Machinists

On September 21-23, the Wisconsin State Council of Machinists was held in Manitowoc, WI. This conference is always a great conference to touch base with other lodges within Wisconsin.

Midwest Territory Chief of Staff Steve Galloway spoke about the New Organizing Program. This program will be rolled out late this year, or early next year. This new program has different strategies than the IAM has utilized in the past. COS Galloway also spoke about the IAM Helps Program, the Grand Lodge Election, and training for our Communicators and Educators.

Wisconsin State AFL-CIO President Phil Neuenfeldt spoke as well. Phil gave a powerful speech talking about what we do as a Union, and that our job is not done. We need to protect the gains we have made, and fight for other worker rights.

IAM Midwest Territory Marty St. Peters spoke about the importance of MNPL donations from our members. The MNPL is the IAM’s fund for member education, and support to candidates that deserve our support. MNPL stands for Machinists Non-partisan Political League. No dues dollars go to this fund. This fund receives its donations from members

and fund-raising efforts. They support any party candidate that will vote in the interests of the IAM.

IAM Midwest Territory Organizing Leader Bill LePinske spoke about a new program of the IAM offering **free college** to members and their families. I will expand on this later in this article.

There were also candidates running for several offices that spoke at the conference. Dan Kohl is running for Wisconsin's 6th Congressional District. Randy Bryce also spoke. He is running for Wisconsin's 1st Congressional District. He will be taking on Paul Ryan. Randy is a union ironworker. He has been in politics in the past with moderate success. Let's hope someone can unseat Ryan.

This spring, the conference will be in Madison on February 25-27, 2018. Our delegates should make appointments with their state representatives to discuss labor issues.

Free College!



The IAM is now offering a program to assist Members and their families to earn an Associate Degree with NO out of pocket Cost. This program is in partnership with Eastern Gateway Community College (Part of the University System of Ohio). These credits are transferable and the college offers highly qualified instructors. This is the first time any union has offered a program to assist its members and their families in free college.

The Free College Benefit is open to members in good standing, who are full dues paying members, and their families. Family is defined as spouses (including domestic partners), children, stepchildren, children-in-law, dependents, and grandchildren. Potential students' membership will be verified by the IAM.

The following areas of study are currently offered:

Human Resources

Healthcare Management

Marketing

Finance

Accounting

Accounting Degree

Early Childhood Education Degree

Patient Navigator Certificate

Criminal Justice Degree

Paralegal Degree

Associate of Individualized Study Degree

Eligibility requires that potential students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, as well as apply for and use any employer or military tuition reimbursement or assistance for which they have eligibility. Once the FAFSA is completed, the college may require that additional documentation be submitted, for a process called verification that is required by the US Department of Education. All members must comply with the document requests by EGCC in order to complete the financial aid process to determine eligibility for federal aid.

The Free College benefit will cover the rest of the cost of tuition, fees, and e-books for EGCC's online programs.

Students can attend part time or full time. There are no residency requirements.

All steps can be found at <http://freecollege.goiam.org> or by calling (888) 590-9009. If you are a member, this is definitely worth checking out. To our members: be sure to spread the word to both members and non-members. There are definitely benefits to being a part of the IAM.

District Lodge 66

Once again, on the third Monday of the month, our delegates met at the district office for their regular monthly meeting. On Monday September 18th, 2017, our delegates took care of the regular business of the lodge. Along with the regular business, our delegates received a thank you from GLR Rick Mickschl and another from Bethany St. Joseph for the memorial of GLR Mickschl's mother's passing. The delegates approved expenditure of \$50.00 to the IAM disaster relief fund to assist our members affected by the recent hurricanes. The delegates also tabled the expenditure for the District Lodge 66 Scholarship for one year due to budget constraints.

Also in the District, Lodge 21 lost a recent arbitration. I won't go into details regarding this arbitration, but will only say this: There are times to hold the line, and take a grievance to arbitration. There are also times to work out our issues before we get to that point. If we have the type of relationship with our employers that can lead to mutual solutions to our problems, then we should utilize that means of problem-solving before we allow a third party to interject. This particular grievance was not one that an agreement was likely to be reached on, but nonetheless we owe it to ourselves, to try what we can to exhaust all of our means. If these grievances get to an arbitrator, the result could either be good, or it could lead to longer term consequences. The committee and I did all that we could, and left no stone unturned in our arguments in this case, but they were not enough to convince this arbitrator that our interpretation was correct. They say most arbitrations are a coin flip. This one was one we thought was better than a coin flip, but as you can plainly see, they have their way of humbling. This one truly was a coin flip, and we lost the flip.

Happy Halloween! Until next time...