



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

Union Herald Article from the desk of:



Neil Kamrowski
Directing Business Representative, IAMAW District Lodge 66

January 2018

This Fall's Elections

This fall there will be several pivotal elections in the state of Wisconsin. The most notable is the Governor race. Governor Walker is nearing the end of his current term. What has Walker done for the working class? Nothing. He has signed legislation to take away bargaining rights for teachers and public workers (Act 10), and has made the private sector "Right to Work". Walker and his party have also waged a war on Worker's Compensation law and Prevailing Wage laws.

None of these changes have been friendly to Unions or the average Wisconsinite. At this time, the IAM is not officially endorsing any one candidate for this position. All I know for sure, is that the current Governor is not friendly to the cause of this publication, or the IAM.

Has he done this on his own? No. In order to sign this legislation, he needed members of the State Assembly and State Senate to pass bills to sign. These bills were done strictly down party lines. Officially, the IAM does not endorse any given political party, but if you haven't figured out yet that the members of the Assembly and Senate who gave these

anti-union and anti-worker bills to Walker to sign all belong to the party that's name begins with an "R", then you haven't paid attention. That is a fact that is undisputable. This same party with an "R" has also appointed non-labor friendly members of the Supreme Court, and to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) at the federal level. Be ready for more anti-worker decisions. As I stated last month, elections have consequences.

Be warned Minnesota Residents. What happened to Wisconsin can happen to you if you are not proactive in your election process. When Franken was elected to the Senate, there was a relatively narrow margin of votes. As I recall correctly they needed to be recounted. While Franken has had his issues, he had a record of being friendly to labor. There are other races in the state of Minnesota to watch. Pay attention, and vote in the best interest of the Worker, not Corporate America.

Martinez Pledges 'Machinist Arsenal' to IAM Members at Harley-Davidson

Story from Iamail – December 14, 2017 – To subscribe to Iamail, go to <https://www.goiam.org/subscription-services/>



The IAM stands ready to deploy every union resource available in order to ensure members at the former American icon Harley-Davidson get a fair and just contract, said IAM International President Bob Martinez, along with IAM Midwest Territory General Vice President Philip J. Gruber, during a recent visit with IAM Local 176 members at the Harley-Davidson plant in Kansas City.

“The IAM is behind its membership one-thousand percent,” said Martinez. “We will do whatever it takes to ensure our members get a fair agreement.”

The visit comes as the IAM prepares to negotiate Harley-Davidson contracts, in coordination with the United Steelworkers (USW) union, in Kansas City and Milwaukee.

The Machinists also represent Harley-Davidson workers in York, PA. Martinez met with those members in February 2017.

He says this visit to Kansas City was especially important as IAM Local 176 members will be the first group at the bargaining table beginning in 2018.

“One of the main reasons I’m here is to make sure you know that you have the full support of your Union in this upcoming negotiation,” said Martinez. “This unit will be the first unit at the table. We have to draw a line. And whatever we do, it will be predicated on the Bargaining Committee and the membership’s approval. I personally commit to you everything we have in the Machinist arsenal, to make sure we change the collective bargaining agreement based on what the membership wants.”

At issue is the company’s hiring of temporary workers to replace and do the same job as full-time workers – for significantly less pay. The continuous outsourcing of American jobs to foreign soil and health care are also major concerns.

The IAM has already begun – as early as 2017 – putting in place a number of resources dedicated to upcoming negotiations with the motorcycle-maker, including negotiation preparation training for the Bargaining Committee, a comprehensive communications plan, dedicated staff members from the IAM Grand Lodge, and meetings with IAM Local and District leadership, economists and attorneys.

“We’re not going to *get* a good contract – we’re going to *take* a good contract,” said Gruber. “My commitment to you is whatever happened seven years ago, we’re moving forward. You have my full commitment with any resource you need, to put together a good and successful agreement with this company.”

The IAM visit follows a May 2017 announcement of the company’s plans to open a production facility in Thailand. Martinez characterized the announcement as a “slap in the face to U.S. workers who built an American icon.”

The visit also comes on the heels of a September 2017 IAM joint statement with USW, where Martinez along with USW International President Leo Gerard announced, on behalf of their respective memberships, the unions’ decision to withdraw from a two-decades old partnership agreement with the company.

“The restraints are off of us,” said Martinez. “Getting rid of the partnership agreement unleashes you from any other commitments you had before. We’re on new ground. The Committee is free to submit whatever proposals the membership believes is necessary to bring pride and integrity back to what was once a true ‘Made in America’ icon.”

Following the meeting, Martinez and Gruber toured the Kansas City facility where they received a first-hand look at how Harley-Davidson products are made in the U.S.

In addition to meeting with IAM members in the plant, Martinez and Gruber also met with members of the Harley-Davidson Joint Union Council, a panel made up of IAM and USW leadership from four locations, including Tomahawk, WI, represented by the USW.

The Council was put together in 2013 in response to unfair contracts of the past and meets approximately four times a year to discuss union issues and share best practices.

“Solidarity – both within each bargaining unit and across the multiple locations – will be key this negotiation,” said IAM Collective Bargaining Director Craig Norman, who will be leading negotiations on behalf of the IAM. “That’s what this Council is about – to show solidarity when addressing items that are common to each Local at each facility. Our cooperation and alignment are imperative to our membership. The fight starts at the ground level. No longer will the company be able to divide and pit one location against another. We’re in this together.”

IAM will be re-running its Grand Lodge Election Process

As I wrote about last month and the month before, the IAM Grand Lodge will be having a re-run of its nomination and election process. Every member eligible to make a nomination for these offices will be receiving a letter from the Grand Lodge if they have not received one already. This letter has been sent to each member’s last known address, and will serve as the official notice for this election along with instructions in the letter on where to vote, when to vote, and how to apply for an absentee ballot if necessary.

This nomination process will take place for all Local Lodges in the District Lodge 66 Office at 1307 Market Street, LaCrosse, WI. The date of nominations will be on January 20, 2018 from the hours of 6am to 8am, and then again from 6pm to 8pm. It is likely that this part of the process will be done before this publication reaches the members.

If a run-off is necessary for a given Local, that will be done on February 10, 2018 with the same hours of operation as the January nomination process. This will only be done if a run-off is necessary from a given Local.

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 December 18th, 2017, our delegates took care of the regular business of the lodge. Along with the regular business, our delegates opted to table sending members to AFL-CIO, Retiree Education & Strategy, Human and Women’s rights classes. A motion was made, seconded, and passed sending three people from District Lodge 66 to the Wisconsin State Council of Machinists. The three attendees are the President, Secretary Treasurer, and DBR for District Lodge 66.

Information was read regarding School for Workers through the University of Wisconsin, WI Labor History, first appeal for strike assistance from Lodge 1584, and the notice of the Convention Call of the MN State Council of Machinists Conference.

Also in the District, we are in preparation stages for negotiations at NECAL and Trane. Surveys have been distributed and returned from the members in both of these facilities. Retirement Security, Healthcare and Wages tend to be the most important subjects in no

particular order. Trane committees have asked to take part in Negotiations Prep Class at Placid Harbor. This will be taking place in February.

Necal Negotiations will begin on January 22.

In Solidarity....