



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**

### **Walker has a press conference in LaCrosse**

Governor Scott Walker held a press conference here in LaCrosse on Friday, February 2. Unfortunately, I was only given a short notice that he would be here in LaCrosse. I made an attempt to put together a “welcoming party” along with our friends with the AFL-CIO. The turnout was lacking to say the least. A special thank you to Cole Herold, and my wonderful wife Tasha Kamrowski for dropping what they had planned and being ready to hold signs about how proud they are to be a part of a Union. Given that there was a low turnout, Cole, Tasha and myself ventured inside to Workforce Development to see what Walker had to say.

Walker took some time to walk (no pun intended) around the room and shake hands and get introductions. One gentleman made sure to comment on Walker’s receding hairline. Who does that guys hair anyway? Who cuts it, Veg-O-Matic?

When Walker got to my area, I made sure to grip his hand nice and strong (so he couldn’t squirm away). Since he was there to talk about Welfare Reform, I asked him: “What are you doing to reform Corporate Welfare?” He claims that he has reformed it. To me, this

is admitting that welfare exists for the 1%. He soon moved on to the next hand. My wife refused to shake his hand.

At the end of the day, he knew who we were, and that we were there. I called several of our Locals within the District to come and show our presence. I didn't get the response I was hoping for. It was short notice and a cold day, but as members we need to be ready to go when given the call to action. People like Cole, my wife Tasha, and myself are always ready to go when the call to action happens. As members if we can't do better at these things, then we are in a sad state indeed.

## **IAM Grand Lodge Elections**

As I have been writing about the last several months, the IAM held its Grand Lodge Nominations on January 20, 2018. Here at District Lodge 66, all 5 Locals held nominations here at the District Lodge. All nominations were uncontested at the end of the day; therefore, no run-off needs to take place here at District Lodge 66.

Throughout the IAM, there are several contested nominations (lodges with more than one candidate receiving a nomination for a given position). It is unclear at this point whether or not there will be a full-on election. Stay tuned for more details.

## **IAM Scholarship**

As you should already know, the IAM Scholarship is taking applicants again as it has every year. See below for more information, or go to the below website for more details:

<https://www.goiam.org/departments/headquarters/scholarships/>

### **The Scholarship Competition**

Scholarships to make possible the attainment of a Bachelor's degree or a two-year vocational/technical certification are determined in a competition among eligible applicants that is judged by a special Selection Committee.

### **Amount of the Awards**

Awards to members are \$2,000 per academic year. They are granted for a specific period from one to four years to enable the member to earn a Bachelor's degree or a two-year vocational/technical certification.

Awards to Children of Members are: College — \$1,000 per academic year. All awards are renewed each year until a Bachelor's degree is obtained up to a maximum of four years. Vocational/Technical School — \$2,000 per year until certification is reached up to a maximum of two years.

## **ELIGIBILITY FOR COMPETITION**

**An Eligible Applicant Must Be Either—**

- an IAM member; or
- the son, daughter, stepchild or legally adopted child of an IAM member.

***A Member Applicant –***

- must have two years of continuous good-standing membership through the closing date of the competition which is February 23, 2018;
- may apply either when entering college or vocational/technical school as a freshman or at a higher level with some college credits already completed;
- may apply as a full-time or part-time student; and
- if not a winner, may apply again the following year.

***Child of a Member Applicant –***

- must have one living parent with two years of continuous good-standing membership through the closing date of February 23, 2018;
- will be eligible if the parent member died after the son or daughter entered high school, and the parent had two years of “continuous good-standing membership” at the time of death;
- A “continuous good-standing membership” is understood to be a period of membership during which the member continuously paid monthly dues uninterrupted by withdrawal cards;
- must be planning to graduate high school during the winter or by the end of the spring 2018 school year
- must plan to take a regular college or vocational/technical program on a full-time basis, maintaining qualifying grades.

***Ineligible Applicants Include –***

- applicants who do not intend to work without interruption for a bachelor’s degree or completion of a vocational/technical school certification;
- members’ children who are attending or have already attended college or vocational/technical school;
- children of members on the payroll of the Grand Lodge,
- graduate students; and
- applicants who do not plan to enroll in an accredited college or vocational/technical school.
- retired members

Hurry, the deadline is February 23, 2018.

**Machinists Union Statement on Electrolux St. Cloud, MN Plant Closure**

**JAN. 31, 2018, WASHINGTON, DC** – Machinists Union International President Robert Martinez Jr., released the following statement on the decision by Electrolux to close its St. Cloud, Minn., facility:

“I want my Sisters and Brothers to know that I share your anger over the decision by Electrolux management to stop operations in St. Cloud. The way you are being treated by

this company is unacceptable to myself, this Executive Council and your leadership team in Minnesota. We are in touch with the company to start a dialogue about next steps. We're also reaching out to our Sisters and Brothers in Sweden, the home base of Electrolux. Elected officials in Minnesota have also offered any support necessary.

“As for Electrolux corporate management, I cannot fathom the thinking behind abandoning a workforce that has given their all to a company for generations. This foreign company has made a habit of slashing our good-paying jobs so they can make a few more bucks off the backs of working families. The corporate-driven race to the bottom must stop now, or we'll continue to see good jobs disappear and communities destroyed.”

*The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, or Machinists Union, represents approximately 1,000 members at the affected Electrolux plant in St. Cloud, Minn.*

## **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 January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, our delegates took care of the regular business of the lodge. Along with the regular business, our delegates opted to table sending members to the Young Worker's classes at the W3 Center. A motion was made and seconded to send the District 66 Educator and Communicators to training at the District Lodge Office on March 7. All Locals within the district will be sending their Educator and Communicator to the training.

Also in the District, negotiations have begun for NECAL. As of the writing of this article, they are still ongoing. The contract with NECAL expires on March 3.

By the time you read this, Lodges 21 and 1115 will be with me at the W3 Center for Negotiations Prep Class. This is in preparation for negotiations with Trane Company which will take place this summer.

In Solidarity....