



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

Union Herald Article from the desk of:

### **Martin Gaul, DBR**

#### **WISCONSIN RIGHT TO WORK WATCH**

It would seem that the chess match surrounding Right to Work Legislation in the State of Wisconsin has begun. Governor Walker along with the Republican leadership in the State Legislature are doing their best to move attention away from any action on Right to Work in the near term. Governor Walker continues to deflect any discussion of the subject as a “distraction” from his policy plans for the State.

This would seem to run counter to recent pronouncements from various corners of the conservative movement and their agenda for Wisconsin. Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald has made clear his preference that debate begin on legislation as early in this session as possible, a notion that Assembly Speaker Robin Vos did not dispel, although he denied plans to take the issue up right away in January in the Assembly according to PolitiFact Wisconsin, a partnership of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and PolitiFact.com.

Wisconsin Right to Work (WRTW), led by Executive Director Lorri Pickens, a licensed lobbyist who has worked in the past for Americans for Prosperity, began running radio ads recently and the state’s largest business association, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, favors such a drive according The New York Times. WRTW announced their intention to extend the work done by Governor Scott Walker under Wisconsin’s Act 10, which slashed the collective bargaining rights of public employees in Wisconsin. So...which is it? I would like to believe the most recent efforts to take Right to Work out of the spotlight reflects the realization that this legislation is bad for our state, our workforce, and our politician’s political futures. I WISH I could believe that. But my gut tells me that my original prediction of action being taken within 120 days of the Governor’s inauguration, and possibly before the end of January, will still hold true. I think what we are seeing is part of the plan to move this legislation forward as quickly and quietly as possible. We have seen this before. The ability to put forth legislation, stifle debate, and approve this in the Legislature ready for the Governor’s signature has

never been greater, nor more important to both the conservative interests commandeering our state and our Governor's political aspirations. Hold onto your hats!

### **MACHINISTS UNION SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITIONS FOR 2015**

#### **DISTRICT LODGE 66 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Once again, it is time for the District's Annual Scholarship Program as approved at the November District Lodge meeting by your Delegates to District Lodge 66. It is open to all High School Seniors that are children of any IAMAW Lodge that is affiliated with District Lodge No. 66. This includes Lodges 21, 1030, 1115, 1771 and 2191.

There are Two (2) \$750 scholarships annually, one for a female student and one for a male student. If we do not have one of each, then it will be given to two female or male students. Only seniors in High School that are the children of Machinist Union members and those that are seeking post high school education are eligible.

An essay must be written and must be based on how Unions have been important to your family and your community to be considered for the Scholarship. Information should be gathered from your parents or relatives and the struggles they may have faced in their jobs. The essays must be at least 500 words in length. Please note: Essays copied directly from Labor History Books, encyclopedias, etc., or essays where the material is mostly plagiarized will NOT BE ACCEPTED. After a review of the competency of each essay, a selection process will follow and the winner will be the essay that best meets the requirements stated above.

The scholarship must be used beginning in the year of the award and in consecutive semesters. The first half of the scholarship will be paid directly to the school in the first semester and the second half will also be paid directly to the school in the next consecutive semester. Selections of essay winners will take place no later than the April Meeting of the District Lodge. The essays must be in at the District Lodge 66 office 1307 Market St., La Crosse WI by **Tuesday, March 1, 2015**. Scholarships not used in consecutive semesters beginning in the year of the award will be forfeited.

See our full ad with all of the Competition rules elsewhere in this month's Union Herald.

#### **MACHINISTS UNION SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION**

It is with renewed enthusiasm that we are beginning another year for the IAM Scholarship Competition. All of our Locals will receive the 2015 Scholarship Competition Announcement that covers the rules and regulations for IAM members and children of IAM members. In order to be able to inform members of the opportunities for themselves and their children, lodge officers are urged to read and discuss the announcement thoroughly. Please note that we now have a vocational-technical two-year scholarship available to both children of members and members. Also, at the 2004 Grand Lodge convention, the delegates voted unanimously to name one of the scholarships after Roman A. Mayfield, a 55-year member of D.L. 751, now deceased. This will be given to one of the scholarship recipients who best represent the spirit of volunteerism and the strong sense of service to their community that was a hallmark of Brother Mayfield.

I thought it was important that while we advise you of the competition, I also bring you up-to-date on the financial condition of our Scholarship Program.

Since its implementation in 1960, the Scholarship Competition has continued to grow. Our financial resources were strong in the beginning and we were able to award as many as 30 scholarships each year. This past year, 2013-2014, we received 346 applications for scholarships. The fund-raiser that was held in January was a great success and permitted us to award 16 scholarships valued at \$66,000. Currently, there are 66 active awards valued at \$170,000. With your lodge's help, we will continue this program and, hopefully refuel the funding to include awarding many more scholarships in future years.

By Convention resolution the delegates determined that voluntary contributions to finance the funding be set at 50 cents per member per year. If your lodge has not adopted this resolution or has not contributed for this year, please give it serious consideration at your next lodge meeting. The check should be made payable to the IAM Scholarship Program. Please include on the mailing address, Attn: Accounting Department.

To keep with current times we have made our Scholarship Program fully accessible from the web. We will now announce Scholarship Winners in the IMAIL and will also be available to view at [www.goiam.org](http://www.goiam.org), under the Scholarship Department. 2014 Scholarship winners were announced in the i-Mail dated July 1, 2014. Also, you can now download and print the 3 different Scholarship Applications online:

1. IAM Child of a Member applying for College
2. IAM Child of a Member applying for Vocational/Technical School
3. IAM Member applying for College

At the [goiam.org](http://www.goiam.org) website:

(<http://www.goiam.org/index.php/headquarters/departments/scholarship>) or you can call the Scholarship Department, 301-967-4708 and request an application packet to be mailed. Also, the application packets for the 3 different scholarships were sent to the Local and District lodges.

### **District Lodge 66**

The Delegates of District Lodge 66 came together at our regular meeting on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Along with the regular business of the District, your Delegates took action on a number of issues and recommendations. The Delegates have approved placing a monthly ad in the La Crosse Union Herald, continuing the extensive financial support we provide through ads and subscriptions provided to all of our active and retired members. Looking to the future the Delegates also elected to continue our educational efforts by sending members to participate in the IAM Women's and Young Machinist's Programs at the William W. Winpisinger Educational Center at Placid Harbor in Hollywood, Maryland, along with the IAM Political Education Program. The commitment of District Lodge 66 to educate the next generation of leaders has never been stronger and will continue as long as circumstances allow. We also approved a donation in support of the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive. We had a kettle in the District Lodge over the holidays in which we raised an additional \$221.29 through the contributions of those stopping in at the office; our thanks to all!

After the regular meeting we took the opportunity to celebrate the holiday season. I would like to personally thank all of the Delegates for their service on behalf of their Local Lodges as representatives to the District. When next you see any of these folks, make sure they know you appreciate their efforts made on **your** behalf. From **Local Lodge 1030: Dave Bierce, Tom Ruben, Neil Kamrowski, and Howard Gaedy**; from **Local Lodge 21: Brad King, Rich Hauser, Denise Grover, Curt Hanson, and John Davis**; from **Local Lodge 2191: Dennis Gerke, Tracey Taylor, Cole Herold, and Josh Kipp**; from **Local Lodge 1115: Dean Rink, Dennis Gonia, Milt Tyler, and Ernie Domnie**; and from **Local Lodge 1771: Scott Morgan**. Thanks also to my administrative assistant, **Carla Easterday**...we got through a heck of a year. I have appreciated working with all of you this year and look forward to working together for the betterment of District Lodge 66 in 2015! (Hello Francis!) Enjoy the cold, crisp days of Winter for with January the days continue to extend again towards the promise of Spring; until next month...