



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

July 2012

As reported to the membership last month, I have been selected to replace Directing Business Representative Rick Mickschl for the remainder of his term. Rick has accepted a position as a Special Representative for the Midwest Territory and departed for his first assignment on July 1.

I want to begin by expressing my gratitude to the District Lodge 66 interview committee for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Business Agent. I intend to do my best to demonstrate that the confidence you have shown in selecting me was well placed.

Now I will provide some background for those of you who do not know me.

I am a lifelong resident of the La Crosse area, having been born here in 1956. I have been with my lovely wife, Jo Beth, for the past 21 years. Between us, we have 2 daughters, my stepson and 2 grandsons. Prior to moving on to my new position with the District, I was employed with Crown, Cork and Seal, formerly Continental Can Company. I have been with them and a member of the IAM, Local Lodge 1115, since 1974. Thus, I am now considered to be one of the old timers...not sure how that happened.

I have had the chance to meet a number of people throughout the District since coming on board 8 weeks ago. I also was given the opportunity to tour many of the facilities in which our members are employed. The range of skills we have and the jobs we do are amazing. We work with a diverse group of employers in this area and our relationships with them are strong. I look forward to helping our members and our partners in

management to continue building on our solid past towards a bright and stable future that will benefit all.

I have a number of goals for the District and our individual Locals that I will be talking about in the coming months. Face time with our members in the District is very hard to come by and a source of concern I have heard repeated many times. I want to begin to lay the groundwork to enable me to meet with as many of our members as possible. I will do my best to make myself available on a more regular basis, but I have to take the opportunity here to remind you all that together with the leaders of your Local Lodges and your shop committees, I am for the most part always at your regular monthly Lodge meeting. I am a firm believer in strong shop committees and strong Local leadership. It is far too easy to convince ourselves that our busy lives don't allow us the time to serve while complaining about those who choose to do so. I would argue that unless we provide quality representation to work with our employers we can expect nothing less than a slow erosion of our working conditions, our employer/employee relationships, and ultimately our quality of life. Not serving, not electing the best people that we can, should simply not be an option for you. If it is, the next time you have a complaint about your union, look first to yourself.

In closing, I would like to thank Special Representative Rick Mickschl for his guidance over these past weeks. Jo Beth and I have had the opportunity to spend valuable time with Rick and Sandy and consider them friends. Rick, you are a fine teacher and a good man for whom I have a lot of respect. I wish you and Sandy all the best in the future. My style may be different, but the goals are the same. Safe travels...

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I have heard a lot of discussion concerning our brothers and sisters at Lockheed. I have included the following information from iMAIL (see below), which is available to all at www.goiam.org

Machinists Vote to End Strike at Lockheed

Members of District 776 voted by a wide margin to accept the improved contract proposal from Lockheed Martin, ending the strike that began on April 23rd.

Key economic features of the four-year accord include an 11 percent increase in wages and a lump-sum bonus of \$2,000, plus an up-front Cost-of-Living payment of \$1,600. The new contract preserves and improves the existing defined benefit pension plan for current employees and improves the 401(k) savings plan for future employees, adding an employer-paid benefit through the IAM National 401(k) Plan.

The new contract includes an Aetna Point-of-Service plan that was not offered in the previous proposal. Current and future IAM members at Lockheed can now choose a comprehensive health care plan with out-of-network options, which are important for employees with family members going to school or living in other parts of the nation. The premiums have reasonable caps, also not in the previous offer.

“We improved on the previous offer,” said District 776 Directing Business Representative Paul Black. “Our members stood strong and sacrificed for a better future for the workers at Lockheed, and they are to be commended. We will continue to oppose proposals that would cut health care and retirement benefits on the installment plan.”

District 776 represents more than 3,600 IAM members at Lockheed’s facilities in Pax River NAS, MD, Ft. Worth, TX and Edwards AFB, CA.