



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

June 2013 Union Herald Article from the desk of:

## **Martin Gaul, DBR**

### **MNPL: A PAC FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS**

**Do you want to make a difference for a better future? As has been made abundantly clear both on a National and State level, participation in the political process by the Great American Middle Class has never been more important or more difficult. One way for each of us to have our voice heard is to stand together as a group, and a great way to do that is through the Machinists Non-Partisan Political League, a political action committee that speaks for working men and women across the country, regardless of their union affiliation. MNPL sponsoring memberships cost only \$25.00, a small price to pay for fulltime representation of your interests. You do not need to be a member of the Machinists Union or any Union to contribute. The Fight for the Preservation of the Middle Class knows no Boundaries. Look for the MNPL ad in the Union Herald. Please consider giving your support. Together, we can make a difference!**

### **JULY DISTRICT AND LOCAL LODGE MEETINGS: CANCELLED**

Although noted elsewhere in the paper, I wanted to remind everyone that all regular Local Lodge meetings along with the regular District Lodge meeting are cancelled in the month of July to give everyone a well deserved break. I hope everyone has an excellent summer and a great July 4<sup>th</sup>!

### **JUSTICE FOR JELD-WEN CAMPAIGN**

**Join the IAM campaign for the workers of Jeld-Wen. Do you Face Book? Like us at Justice for Jeld-Wen! The workers of Jeld-Wen need your support!**

## **SUPPORT FOR THE UNION HERALD**

The men and women of Local Lodges 21, 2191, 1030, 1771, and 1115 of District Lodge 66 support the Union Herald. As the Herald's largest subscriber group we understand the value of this newspaper to our members. The Herald has asked for our help to keep one of Wisconsin's last labor newspapers available and affordable and we responded with donations of over \$1500.00 and counting. We join with the Union Herald in asking you to support our paper and those who advertise in each edition.

There are many ways to support the Herald aside from making a general donation. District Lodge 66 and our affiliated Locals publish all required member communications in the monthly Union Herald. It is the most cost effective means for us to communicate with our active and retired members. At the current subscription rate of only 45 cents an issue, using the paper is cheaper than the cost of first class postage but also does not allow for a necessary margin of profit. Display ads, whether on a monthly basis or for special occasions are the Herald's only regular way to generate that needed extra revenue. Many Unions in this area place these ads on a regular basis, but adding to the number, size, or frequency would surely help. If you frequent local businesses on a regular basis, you may want to make a suggestion encouraging them to consider an ad in the Herald as a really inexpensive way to reach a targeted audience of over 4000. Another thing to consider is passing along to your employer's that the Herald is an excellent way for them to reach an audience of skilled fellow Union members when they are looking to hire. Again the audience is targeted, the ads are inexpensive, and I would bet Mr. Hicks would be more than willing to help them put together a successful display ad!

## **READ THE FOLLOWING; DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?**

Believing that the right of those who toil to enjoy to the full extent the wealth created by their labor is a natural right, and realizing that under the changing industrial conditions incident to the enormous growth of syndicates and other aggregations of capital it is impossible for those who toil to obtain the full reward of their labor other than through united action; and recognizing the fact that those who toil should use their rights of citizenship intelligently, through organizations founded and acting along cooperative, economic and political lines, using the natural resources, means of production and distribution for the benefit of all the people, with the view of restoring the commonwealth to all those performing useful service to society; Now, Therefore; We, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, pledge ourselves to labor unitedly in behalf of the principles herein set forth, to perpetuate our Association on the basis of solidarity and justice, to expound its objects, to labor for the general adoption of its principles, to consistently endeavor to bring about a higher standard of living among the toiling masses.

The above statement is in fact the Preamble to the Constitution of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. It is a statement of the principles and

beliefs of the Union, and by extension you as a member of the IAM. Think about that. Consider that when next you ask what your Union has done for you lately, for who we are is, or should be, about much more than that.

In my articles through these past months, I have stated many times over that we are part of something bigger than each of us individually. If you are reading this article, whether you are active or retired, union or non-union, working on the job or working in middle management, you are almost certainly a member of the greatest economic force the world has ever seen, the Great American Middle Class. In a system divided into Labor and Capital, there is no success for anyone without the strength of both. Throughout our Nation's history the battle for supremacy of each over the other has been waged, ebbing and flowing as our country has grown, matured, and progressed. Progress is and should be what all strive for; that progress cannot be defined by the destruction of one or the other. For our country to be strong the social fabric must be intact. That fabric is what holds this Nation together. From the titans of industry, through those in the middle, to the poorest of the poor, we are in this together and this Nation rises only when all rise.

The IAMAW 2012 Grand Lodge Convention was held in Toronto, Canada this past September. As a result of these sessions the latest revision of our Constitution has been printed and is now available. I will be asking the Delegates of District Lodge 66 to approve the purchase of a copy of this important document to be made available to every IAM member in our District. This is your Union, this is your Constitution; it is too important for you not to have one of your own.

### **IAM NATIONAL STAFF CONFERENCE**

As I am writing this article I have just returned from the IAM National Staff Conference meetings held in Atlanta, Georgia. These meetings covered a variety of topics and concerns common to every area of the Union. Each of us has been charged to help move our Union forward to insure we always are able to carry out our work and our mission. That which needs to be done cannot be done by anyone alone. I will be looking to each of you to help as you can, whether by volunteering your time and talents when possible or by supporting the actions of your District Delegates as I ask them to provide funding as needed for a variety of projects in the future.

Atlanta is a beautiful city, too large for my tastes, but a great city just the same. The reason Atlanta was selected for this series of meetings was to officially commemorate the birth of the IAMAW on May 5, 1888, 125 years ago. Our Union was established on that day in Atlanta by Tom Talbot, the first elected leader of the IAM, together with a group of 18 other Machinists, forming Local Lodge 1 of Atlanta. One year later in May 1889, the first Grand Lodge Convention was held in the Senate Chambers of the newly constructed Georgia State House; by this time the group of 19 had surpassed 1500.

To mark this occasion, the IAM members gathered for the National Conference marched from the meeting site to the Georgia State House. There, in a re-creation of a picture taken on the steps of the Capitol of the 37 delegates to our first convention, the entire group was photographed. From this event, we were transported to Grant Park, where in 1948 a bust of Tom Talbot was placed to honor him as our founder. A wreath was placed, along with a plaque to be mounted to commemorate our return on the event of our 125<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. Our Union, yours and mine, all of ours because it is us. It has been here for a long time; we must insure it will be here for a long time to come. We owe that to Tom Talbot and all who came before us by whose work we now benefit. Let us make sure we do the same to provide "Justice on the Job, Service to the Community" for the next 125 years and beyond.

For more information on this event, Machinists Union Comes Home to Atlanta for 125th Anniversary, go to [www.goiam.org](http://www.goiam.org)

**If you have read this article, first I thank you for doing so, then to the question. Did you see my appeal on behalf of the MNPL? Have you taken the time to make an investment in your future by supporting those who fight for you in Washington, St. Paul, or Madison? Help others fight for your issues, the issues of the middle class! Until next month...**