



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

Mid-October already! I know it is hard to believe, but it is election season again. A few short weeks from now we will know the direction this country will be heading in as a result of our choice for President along with a new Wisconsin Senator. I have been getting many calls from our politicians and the groups working for or against one issue or another. Politics are always a difficult subject for some. We all know that a wide range of views and opinions are held by union members as they are in our society as a whole. The good news is of course that in this country diversity of thought and ideas is not only allowed but encouraged. For my part, I only encourage everyone to think about our choices and make your own decision an informed one.

Making an intelligent choice is not as easy as it would seem given the constant bombardment of information to which we are all exposed. Unfortunately a lot of that information is one sided and incomplete, regardless of the direction from which it comes. We owe it to ourselves and our families to make thoughtful, informed decisions as to who we want representing us at every level of government, from City Hall to the White House.

Beyond the immediacy of an election we should also expect and require those we vote for to actually do what they say they will do insofar as they can. Those in a position of representation and leadership often make decisions that are unpopular and may not be in line with our perceptions of pre-election promises, but there is a distinction to be made between decisions of governance versus positions taken for no other reason than to draw a vote. Our challenge is to have enough information to help us decide which is which.

At the same token, as members of a society we also must give our leaders the latitude to compromise. The continued polarization we see in our country today results in stagnation in our system while allowing our political parties cover in blaming one another. The only thing accomplished by this is the ability of those on the extremes of either side to claim the protection of their ideals as a great achievement while nothing of real benefit to all is realized. To my mind, this is not governance; we should expect more, but in doing so we must allow the flexibility required for those expectations to be fulfilled at times in ways we may not entirely agree with. If we do not want our politicians to be one or two issue oriented, we must allow them to be more than that by being more than that ourselves.

If you are reading this paper, you are in all likelihood a member of the Great American Middle Class, a huge and powerful group under attack from all sides, but the most damaging attacks are from within. Without one another we are not in a position to exercise that power. Keep that in mind when you consider for whom to vote.

2013 MACHINISTS UNION SCHOLARSHIP **COMPETITION**

Sisters and Brothers,

Following are the details of the **Machinists Union 2013 Scholarship Competition**. This competition is available to children of Machinists Union members and the member themselves.

To keep up with current times, the International has made the Scholarship Program fully accessible from the web. Please check out the web-site to see about the eligibility for competition. Additionally, applications are available via internet from the IAM Scholarship web page at <http://www.goiam.org/iamscholarship> for downloading. You can now download and print the three (3) different Scholarship Applications online.

- IAM Child of a Member applying for College
- IAM Child of a Member applying for Vocational/Technical School
- IAM Member applying for College

Another option is you can call the District at (608) 784-2025 and have a paper application sent to you.

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.

Since its implementation in 1960, the Scholarship Competition has continued to grow.

Although information appears in the IAM JOURNAL as well as on the web page, please let any member you know who has children graduating and going on to college about this very valuable scholarship opportunity. We need your help letting others know in order to eliminate the many disappointments expressed in past years by members who learn about the Scholarship competition too late.

Do not wait to request your application packet, the sooner the better. The deadline for returning your application packet is February 25, 2013. District Lodge 66 has had 2 winners and 1 honorable mention in recent years of this competition, so apply today! Good luck to all applicants!

The following information is from iMAIL, which is available to all at www.goiam.org

International Solidarity Defines 38th Grand Lodge Convention

IAM delegates returned home from the 38th Grand Lodge Convention in Toronto, ON carrying the message that union members' interests at home can be protected by supporting workers' struggles around the world. The quadrennial event concluded with a look at highlights since the first IAM convention was held in 1889, one year after the union was founded in Atlanta, GA.

From its earliest days as a secret society to its current status as one of the most influential trade unions in North America, the IAM has continually urged its members to support human rights struggles at home and abroad.

While the IAM's international legacy was on full display in Toronto, the speakers, panel discussion and debates during the five-day event were more about the future than the past.

"Never before has this union... or any union for that matter... spent so much time focused on the future – the threats that lie over the horizon, the plight of our brothers and sisters across the globe, the actions we must take and will take to make our promise of Hope for All Who Toil a reality," said International President Buffenbarger in his closing remarks.

Taken from the second verse of Canada's national anthem, the convention's theme; '*Hope for All Who Toil*,' provided both the message and mission for the nearly 1,000 members from 388 locals across the U.S. and Canada who were elected to serve as delegates.

Among those in attendance was Gabrielle N. Rogano, 24, of Local 751F in Seattle, WA, who was the youngest delegate at the convention. The most senior delegate in attendance was 84-year old Emil Skorup from Local 49 in Chicago, IL. More than 400 delegates took part in their first-ever convention.

The 2012 Convention was notable for its focus on global events, its use of wireless technology to conduct convention business as well as its emphasis on preparing young Machinists for leadership roles.

"This great union of ours is and must remain a meritocracy – the best and the brightest, the strongest and the toughest, the hardest working and the shrewdest negotiators, the savviest politicians and the straightest shooters – all must have a fair shot at moving up the leadership ladder," said Buffenbarger.

The 2012 Convention was also notable as the first to be held in Toronto, ON in more than 100 years and the first since TCU-IAM completed their historic affiliation, bringing more than 30,000 new members into the IAM.