



International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
District Lodge 66
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Union Herald Article from the desk of:

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JOIN THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE: THE JELD-WEN CAMPAIGN

Join the IAM campaign for the workers of Jeld-Wen. To support the struggle for Jeld-WEN justice, please visit their Facebook site [JeldWenJustice](#) and "like" their campaign.

To show your support for Jeld-WEN workers attempting to form a union and join the IAM, please sign the pledge at <http://www.goiam.org/jeldwen/>

THE STRIKE : BELSHAW ADAMATIC

The employees of Belshaw Adamatic continue on strike. A renewed effort to reach an agreement in September proved unsuccessful. IAM members are urged to "like" the "[IAM Local 79 on Strike at Belshaw Adamatic Bakery Group](#)" Facebook page. For more information, visit the Local Lodge 79 website through www.iam160.com. **UPDATE: STRIKE SETTLEMENT WAS ANNOUNCED ON OCTOBER 9TH. DETAILS NEXT MONTH.**

DISTRICT LODGE 66 MNPL FUND RAISING DRIVE

We are currently conducting a direct mail appeal for the Machinists Non-Partisan Political League. The MNPL is our political action committee, committed to work in support of those who support the issues of workers, **regardless of party affiliation.** MNPL annual sponsoring memberships cost only \$25.00, a small price to pay for full time advocacy on behalf of working men and women across the country. Donations to the MNPL are voluntary, not tax deductible, and can be made only by members of the

IAMAW. We will be including a donation envelope with the letter you will be receiving that you can return to your shop steward or to the District Lodge office. If you would prefer to make your donation on line you can also find the link to do so on our District Lodge Website, www.iamdistrict66.org.

Local Lodge 2191, Chart Energy and Chemical will be the next group to receive the appeal. Please watch for your letter in the coming weeks and consider becoming a sponsoring member!

So far we have sent the appeal letter to the members of Local Lodge 1115 and Local Lodge 1030. 2014 is going to be a big year for all of us politically and I don't think that it's a stretch to say our futures are at stake. **I would appeal again to all of our members, please consider becoming a sponsoring member of the MNPL. Return your envelope to your steward or consider signing up for payroll deduction if it is available.**

Being a member of organized labor enables us to work with our employers towards a more secure future. No union, regardless of size, can truly succeed while the political establishment continues to undermine the rights of average people across this nation. Only by electing and supporting people who will fight for the common good of EVERYONE will we have any hope of securing a brighter future for all. I am asking everyone in District 66 to join the fight for a better future for you, your children and grandchildren by becoming an MNPL sponsoring member today. Watch your mail for my letter because **Together, We Can Make a Difference!**

2014 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 2014 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, 2012-2013, we received 347 applications for scholarships. The fund-raiser that was held in January was a great success and permitted us to award 16 scholarships valued at \$64,000. Currently, there are 63 active awards valued at \$164,000. 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, under the Scholarship Department. 2013 Scholarship winners were announced in the i-Mail dated June 27, 2013. Also, for the third year, 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.

OF GUNS AND UNIONS

I have had some enlightening discussions in recent months with a variety of working people, union and non-union, about the political question as to support of the Democratic Party given their perceived position on gun control.

This is an interesting subject and a major issue of concern to many working men and women, among them a lot of our own members. The argument for or against gun control is a nationwide discussion with different perspectives depending on multiple factors. As a blanket statement, by no means scientific, we can see urban vs. rural, the east vs. the west, the coasts vs. the middle of the country, and so on; the demographic divisions are endless.

The problem as I would define and explore it is one of perspective, one of perception versus reality.

First, the perception. In a simplistic breakdown of our two primary political parties, it is generally held that the Democrats support gun control while the Republicans support the right to bear arms; it can be said that there is some truth to this belief. When we have seen gun control legislation advanced in this country on a state or nationwide basis, generally those advocating for this have been from the Democratic Party. For Republicans, the opposite is true as the rights to own and often carry are most likely to be given legislative priority by the GOP. However, this is not the case for many elected officials. More importantly for this discussion, it is certainly not a constant front page issue for either political party. More often than not, the debate occurs as a result of an event happening somewhere in the country that triggers the discussion. In my lifetime, the gun issue has come to the forefront many times, whether as a result of an assassination attempt on one of our elected leaders, a mass shooting in a public setting, the intrusion of an armed gunman into an educational facility, or a question of self defense by standing your ground. In the aftermath of these events, while we reflect in a genuine attempt to understand, the issue inevitably will return to the debate on guns. This is as it should be.

We live in a democracy. The issues that confront us as a people and a nation require discussion and debate to allow us to move forward as a society. We can never say there are truly winners or losers as a result of this, but there are constraints, limits, and laws that result, most of which please no one who has staked out an absolute position on one side or the other of an issue. But in a society as diverse as ours, most of what is put forth to guide us as a nation is not, nor can it be, an absolute. This of course is not always the case; there are certain things that will always garner unwavering support, questioned only by those in some dark place at the fringe. These issues, by comparison to most of the questions we face, are the easy ones. The majority of what we deal with through our democratic process is far more complex as we seek common ground that defines us as a society, thoughtfully asserting the collective will over the belief of the individual as to their own rights.

This perception we hold concerning gun ownership as it defines the Democrats always being the ones who threaten it, while the Republicans are always the ones who defend it, is at once incorrect and short sighted. It is certainly true that during times of tragedy, when we are again pushed to this debate, the outspoken of both parties will again be at the forefront. But by and large this is not the most pressing issue for either, and I would argue nor should it be for us.

The reality is that since the time I have been able to participate in the political process, which is quite a long time, very few attempts at seriously restricting the rights guaranteed us by the Second Amendment have been made, let alone been successful. We certainly have seen an ebb and flow in the discussion, but collectively the vast majority have made it clearly understood that aggressive attempts to severely curtail our rights will not be tolerated. During times of tragedy, when we again revisit the debate, those responsible not only destroy the lives in their immediate path, they also assault our common humanity, causing pain and damage far beyond their killing field. All of us, regardless of where we stand on the gun issue, feel compassion for those lost, real sadness, and the feelings that cause us to question why. But the reality is also that these events, while horrible, are an aberration. They are against the law, laws that already exist, and in a nation born by and awash with guns, impossible to stop. Given this, we must keep the debate in the context of the moment and respond as thoughtfully as we can while acknowledging the realities that we face in our great country. Neither political party owns either side of this debate and contrary to what they would have us believe they never will; in this the people will always prevail.

My point in this discussion is this; we cannot be defined by any one issue. We owe it to ourselves to not allow ANY political party to pander to us in this way. Both major parties serve only themselves when they divide us along these lines. The issues facing regular men and women in this country are far too complex and require us to demand more from our elected officials than a coined response to issues such as gun control, because we the people have already answered this question.

Politics creates strange bedfellows; an old adage never more prescient than today. It is not guns that should determine how we vote. It is having the means to buy them if we so choose. The ability to purchase what we feel is important and through our work being able to keep it. It is putting a roof over our heads, over the heads of our families, covering the cozy den where your gun cabinet is used to proudly display a fine collection of firearms; the collection that NO one is going to take from you. It is putting food on the table for your children and providing the means to help them live a better life. It's about being there for your grandchildren, enjoying a comfortable retirement. These are the things that should determine for whom we vote.

These are the things that those we elect to represent us are dealing with every day, that effect us every day, that we seldom hear much about or may choose not to pay attention to. We need to pay attention; we must be concerned with the real, everyday issues. Having and keeping our guns is one thing, extremely important and not ever forgotten. Being able to afford those guns, along with all of the other things we strive to achieve through our work lives, is another. Without this, the ability to exercise our right to bear arms and protect our heritage does not exist except for those wealthy enough to do so. The Armed One Percent? Let God, and us, forbid.

District Lodge 66 Delegate Meeting

The regular monthly District Lodge Delegate meeting took place on Monday September 16. Your Delegates took action on a number of things put before them. District Lodge 66 will again be making a donation to the Community Thanksgiving Dinner and will make available gift cards to our members on long leave as recommended to the District. We have approved and will be having a meeting of the team involved in the July training sessions. I will be in contact so we can get a date set. In my November article, I will have some exciting news about Guide Dogs of America. The next DL Delegate meeting will be on Monday, October 21.

I wish our hunters carrying on the great Midwest tradition a safe and successful season. Get outdoors and enjoy the wonders of Autumn. Until next month...