



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

Chart Industries Dedicates Facility Expansion at its Brazed Aluminum Heat Exchanger (BAHX) HQ in La Crosse, WI



On March 28, 2014, Sam Thomas, Chairman, CEO and President of Chart Industries, Inc. gathered with company, state and local dignitaries, and more than 200 current and former employees, at the ribbon cutting ceremony to formally dedicate the expansion of Chart's brazed aluminum heat exchanger (BAHX) manufacturing plant in La Crosse, WI. The \$50 million project increases the manufacturing capacity for Chart's proprietary heat exchangers by 40%, doubles the engineering space and includes an additional vacuum brazing furnace, which is the largest of its type in the world.

Chart's La Crosse facility employs more than 500 people and has a rich heritage boasting more than 60 years uninterrupted BAHX manufacturing in the area with more than 10,000 units produced to date. A five year union contract with Machinist Union LL2191 continues a proud 60 year partnership with the IAMAW.

One of our larger employers in District 66, Chart entered into negotiations for a new successor contract with the members of Local Lodge 2191 in August of 2012. The management team of Chart Energy & Chemical and the members of the Bargaining Committee, Chairman Dennis Gerke, Committeeman Bud Christianson, Committeeman Tom Conrad and I were able to reach a new five year agreement that was overwhelmingly approved by the membership. The agreement was a major achievement and a key component in securing Chart Industries' decision to expand in La Crosse. We look forward to many years of successful partnership between the IAMAW, the members of LL 2191, and Chart Energy.

DISTRICT LODGE 66 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Each year District Lodge 66 donates two (2) \$750.00 Scholarship Awards to a son and a daughter of a Machinists Union member. District Lodge 66 is pleased to announce the winners for this year. Each essay was great and we would like to thank all who participated. The Scholarship Committee of District Delegates had a tough decision to make with the essays being well written. For 2014 there were no male entries. The first recipient is **Alexis Rice**, daughter of Dave and Stacy Rice. Dave is a member of Local Lodge 21 employed since 1994 at Trane Company. Alexis is a senior attending Desoto High School. The second recipient is **Aly Mickschl**, daughter of Rick and Sandy Mickschl. Rick is a member of Local Lodge 21 who started his career with Trane Company in 1980. He is a former DBR in District 66 now serving as a Grand Lodge Representative in the Midwest Territory. Aly is a senior attending Onalaska High School. Everyone at District Lodge 66 and all of our membership congratulate Alexis and Aly and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors. The winning essays follow.

Unions have been important to my family and community by Alexis Rice

The unions date back to the eighteenth century and the industrial revolution in Europe. Even though their physical cause at that time was ineffective, the ideas they have introduced, such as protecting our workers, soon became the new way of American Culture. Unions can be critically important for the society; because it give the workers a fair chance of economic growth. Union also put guidelines on the amount of hours an employee can work, if it wasn't for a union an employee could possibly have to work up to sixty hours a week plus, instead of forty. The Union helps support good jobs and better working environments. The Union helps with monitoring wages and pensions, and fair healthcare coverage for their members. The Union becomes more and more important as the economy tends to worsen.

My Mother and Father belong to two different Unions, and they differ in what their unions are allowed to provide for them. My mom belongs to AFT- a division of the AFL-CIO; they used to have a handbook that had a certain guidelines and duties that the employees used to follow. This hand book was agreed upon by the union and the school after many hours of debate and compromise. This was then stripped from them because of the Wisconsin Act 10. In this Act Governor Walker signed a bill were certain State workers lost all bargaining rights, and it became a different working environment. While wages and benefits remain somewhat secure in the workplace, there is discrepancy over what is classified as “work time” and “professional responsibility”.

For my father, a member of the IAM union, a traditional industry union, he still has a handbook and his union still gets to negotiate because Trane/Ingersoll Rand is not a State funded organization, so the Wisconsin Act 10 has not affected them yet. The IAM union and the company still have the opportunity to bargain and compromise on workers contracts to ensure the safest and best working conditions they can get. The Union requires all employees to have to have a union card to be able to qualify to get a job there.

The IAM union has increasingly benefitted my family be letting my Father be eligible for a safer work environment and better wages. The Union has helped my father when there have been discrepancies with overtime hours and job upgrades. My father is on the seniority list which is initiated by the Union; this solidifies a job security for him. He has been involved with Trane for almost two decades this coming March.

Committees can benefit by having active local unions for workers. Unions can provide a safe environment for the workers with fair wages. Steady employment with guaranteed wages is beneficial to the growth of a community and it is necessary for the growth of our great nation. There is much debate over whether Unions are useful and beneficial to the employees, after seeing the difference in my parent’s experiences, I can say they are a definite benefit.

Unions have been important to my family and community by Aly Mickschl

“Solidarity forever, solidarity forever, solidarity forever, for the union makes us strong”. Ralph Chaplin’s lyrics to this iconic union hymn were written in 1915, in a time where industry was booming, and America was beginning to utilize the benefits that labor unions offered. I’m happy to say that in the 99 years between then, and now, in 2014, the words could not be more true. A labor union is defined as: An organization of workers formed to protect the rights and interests of its members. Based off my experience with the union, I couldn’t agree more.

I’m proud to say that my father has been a union member for quite some time, and I know that he is passionate about the issues concerned with unions. I’m quite lucky to have gotten to share in some of his experiences, as well as learning about the union at a very young age. I’ve marched in our local Labor Day parade for as long as I can remember, I’ve attended union meetings, and I’ve even protested collective bargaining on the steps of the capitol in Washington, D.C. The list is endless. However, these are all

things that I have had the opportunity to do with the union. The burning question is, what has the union done for me?

In all honesty, labor unions have affected my life, well, even before I was born! With my dad starting off his union career at Trane Company, he was receiving financial benefits, which made it possible for my parents to afford what was needed to take care of me. As I grew older, I continued to benefits from the welfare that my father received from his job. The union has given my family the opportunity to do things like go on vacation, have health care benefits, and have a nice house and nice things. These situations that I take for granted, but the union has provided me with a better standard of living.

When you think of it matter-of-factly, I can't possibly be the only one that has been affected by labor unions. There are countless families, businesses, and individuals that are involved. Some people receive these benefits without truly being involved in the negotiation process. Others are better off because of the concern that some show for better working conditions, and employee benefits. People working at unionized companies can be assured that there is someone looking out for them, that is concerned about the worker, and can relate to them.

No matter which way you look at it, labor unions benefit the workforce. But it does not stop there. I think as it as a constant cycle. The worker provides his or her services for the company, and in turn, the company provides them with quality benefits. The union assures that the voice of the employees is heard. I know that this is true, and I've seen how it works. William Cahn, a labor historian, puts it simply: "The history of America has been largely created by the deeds of its working people and their organizations—there is scarcely an issue that is not influenced by labor's organized efforts or lack of them".

I am going to end it there for this month and will begin next month with an update on the ongoing Grand Lodge Elections...

Welcome the renewal of life that comes with the Arrival of Spring! Until next month...