



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

Union Herald Article from the desk of:

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UPDATE: WISCONSIN RIGHT TO WORK

According to the Bloomberg Daily Labor Report, an announcement issued on December 1, 2014 has publicized the formation of a new organization whose purpose is to promote legislation establishing Wisconsin as a right to work state.

Wisconsin Right to Work (WRTW) is lead by Executive Director Lorri Pickens, a licensed lobbyist who has worked in the past for Americans for Prosperity. The group has announced their intention to extend the work done by Governor Scott Walker under Wisconsin's Act 10, which slashed the collective bargaining rights of public employees in Wisconsin. The National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation has reported that 24 states have enacted such laws.

According to Phil Neuenfeldt, president of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO, "The formation of this group is just another way for CEOs and multinational corporations to weaken unions and stack the deck even more in their favor, all at the expense of the middle class". Governor Walker has stated that right to work laws are not a priority under his legislative agenda. That was of course a statement made prior to the outcome of the elections just last month. Now, just to refresh our collective memory, let me call your attention to the statements I made on this subject in the Union Herald only one month ago...

"Governor Walker has tried to dispel any talk of making a Right to Work push in Wisconsin, but the reality of the situation cannot be ignored. I have no doubt we will see legislation in Wisconsin and I believe we will see it soon; my prediction is within 120 days of inauguration. There are strategic reasons for this calculation. First, given Governor Walker's support provided by outside interests, I believe that the movement embracing Right to Work is inevitable. They did not make the investment with no expectation of seeing a return. This is particularly true now given similar pushes in the Great Lakes Region. With an eye towards 2016 and the national stage, Governor Walker

will further burnish his conservative credentials by making Wisconsin the next Right to Work state”.

In the December 1st announcement WRTW made known their intention to press the issue in the State Legislature during 2015. Again as I stated last month, “Campaigning for the 2016 Presidential elections will begin in earnest by the summer of 2015. He needs to act quickly enough to allow the wounds opened by a move against organized labor some time to heal. There are those who will agree with what he has done but will shy away from the heat; that heat needs to move from fire to ember before he can expect these supporters to openly embrace his candidacy. The furor created must dissipate enough to give sufficient time to develop support amongst those outside of his immediate base”. Inauguration day is January 5, 2015.

My November article went on to say “I would assume he will continue to move against equality in Women’s Healthcare and Economic rights, along with making further attempts to suppress the right to Vote. I would also expect continuing assaults on the dignity of the poor and the unemployed. In the very near term, we will certainly see additional reductions in taxes, with the bulk of those reductions aimed at those who need it least, paid for by further cuts in the programs provided to those who need them the most. These are my predictions for Governor Walker’s second term. Let’s pray he proves me wrong”. The announcement from WRTW would seem to indicate that so far my prayers have not been answered.

2015 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 2015 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, 2013-2014, we received 346 applications for scholarships. The fund-raiser that was held in January was a great success and permitted us to award 16 scholarships valued at \$66,000. Currently, there are 66 active awards valued at \$170,000. 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. 2014 Scholarship winners were announced in the i-Mail dated July 1, 2014. Also, 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.

DISTRICT LODGE 66 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

Once again, it is time for the District's Annual Scholarship Program as approved at the November District Lodge meeting by your Delegates to District Lodge 66. It is open to all High School Seniors that are children of any IAMAW Lodge that is affiliated with District Lodge No. 66. This includes Lodges 21, 1030, 1115, 1771 and 2191.

There are Two (2) \$750 scholarships annually, one for a female student and one for a male student. If we do not have one of each, then it will be given to two female or male students. Only seniors in High School that are the children of Machinist Union members and those that are seeking post high school education are eligible.

An essay must be written and must be based on how Unions have been important to your family and your community to be considered for the Scholarship. Information should be gathered from your parents or relatives and the struggles they may have faced in their jobs. The essays must be at least 500 words in length. Please note: Essays copied directly from Labor History Books, encyclopedias, etc., or essays where the material is mostly plagiarized will NOT BE ACCEPTED. After a review of the competency of each essay, a selection process will follow and the winner will be the essay that best meets the requirements stated above.

The scholarship must be used beginning in the year of the award and in consecutive semesters. The first half of the scholarship will be paid directly to the school in the first semester and the second half will also be paid directly to the school in the next consecutive semester. Selections of essay winners will take place no later than the April Meeting of the District Lodge. The essays must be in at the District Lodge 66 office

1307 Market St., La Crosse WI by **Sunday, March 1, 2015**. Scholarships not used in consecutive semesters beginning in the year of the award will be forfeited.

See our full ad with all of the Competition rules elsewhere in this month's Union Herald.

District Lodge 66

The District Lodge Delegates came together for our regular monthly meeting on Monday November 17th. In addition to the regular business of the Lodge, the Delegates took action on a number of programs and classes that were determined to not be of value for us to participate in. The Delegates decided to again sponsor our District Lodge 66 Annual Scholarship program, which awards \$750.00 scholarships to two children of District Lodge members. The scholarship information and program announcement are included in this month's Union Herald. We are currently preparing to begin negotiations on behalf of our Local Lodge 1771 members working at Necal in Sparta. Chief Steward Adam Adams and I met with the membership to discuss proposals and the upcoming meetings to be held with the Company. We have maintained a good working relationship with the Necal management team and look forward to continuing this into the future. We have also been working on finalizing the various Contract Bridge Agreements with a new group of companies and our members of Local Lodge 1115 at Fort McCoy. As of November 17 it would seem these agreements are now complete. There is a chance we will need to negotiate additional Bridge Agreements with a few other groups before the end of the year, but no definitive plans are in place at the time of this writing.

WISHING YOU AND YOURS A JOYOUS AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS SEASON

It is hard to believe that another year has gone by, but I have to say I am thankful that 2014 is coming to a close. To my knowledge we have never had a year quite like this one in the history of our District. 2015 is going to bring with it many changes for all of us in District 66. There are going to be some important announcements regarding our future, so please remember to review my articles in the Union Herald in the coming months. In this Holiday season I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a safe, Happy New Year. Remember to reach out to those around you in the true spirit of giving and sharing, so often forgotten in the extravaganza that Christmas has become. Spend time with those you love, extend your hand to help those in need, grant forgiveness and give guidance to someone who has lost their way. Remember to look inside yourself for only there can you find happiness. To my lovely wife Jo, to whom I do not say it enough, thank you with all of my heart for your love and understanding. My life would be empty without you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Everyone! Until next month...