



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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IAMAW GRAND LODGE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS
HISTORY IN THE MAKING!

In accordance with the IAMAW Constitution, all Local Lodges will be holding elections for the IAM Grand Lodge Executive Council.

Elections will be held for the IAM Grand Lodge Executive Council at the **first** regular business meeting during the month of April. In District Lodge 66, all Local Lodges have only one monthly meeting at which time the Grand Lodge Executive Council elections will be held.

Those running for each respective office are as follows:

International President (1): R. Thomas Buffenbarger (I), Jay Cronk

General Secretary-Treasurer (1): Robert Roach, Jr. (I), Dale Cancienne

General Vice-President (8): Mark Blondin (I), Gary Allen (I), Lynn Tucker, Jr. (I), Robert Martinez Jr. (I), Dora Cervantes (I), Sito Pantoja (I), Philip Gruber (I), Diane Babineaux (I), Patrick Maloney, Karen Asuncion, Timothy O'Brien, Jason Redrup, Sande Lien.

The candidate receiving the highest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected.

As all are aware, we had renominations for the Grand Lodge Executive Council with the first session held on January 25 and the second where needed on February 8. The result of this process is a new election being held for the offices listed above representing our GL Executive Council. Members of our Union have the opportunity to let their voices be heard by exercising our right to vote. Unlike the

nomination process wherein votes are tallied on the basis of our respective Local Lodge, with each Lodge representing one, we now have the opportunity AND the responsibility to be heard individually. EVERY VOTE is counted; those receiving the highest vote totals will be declared elected. From those listed above, we will elect ONE (1) International President, ONE (1) General Secretary-Treasurer, and EIGHT (8) General Vice-Presidents. IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER WHEN YOU VOTE YOU MUST VOTE FOR THE REQUIRED NUMBER FOR EACH OFFICE LISTED ON THE BALLOT; if the number required is not selected that section of the ballot is void per our Constitution.

This process has been very involved and caused a great deal of additional work for those elected to serve as your Local Lodge Officers. The Recording Secretaries of each of your Lodges are at the forefront, bearing the immediate responsibility of making this work for you. I would like to thank Recording Secretaries Denise Grover of Local Lodge 21, Dawn Hoem of Local Lodge 1771, Tom Conrad of Local Lodge 2191, Becky Spande of Local Lodge 1030, and Jon Halverson of Local Lodge 1115 for rising to this challenge. In addition, the Local Lodge Presidents have been a great help, working with their Executive Boards to insure this process goes as smoothly as possible while adhering to the guidelines as set forth in our Constitution, which governs this process. Thank you to Lodge Presidents Brad King of Local Lodge 21, Scott Morgan of Local Lodge 1771, Dennis Gerke of Local Lodge 2191, Neil Kamrowski of Local Lodge 1030, and Ernie Domnie of Local Lodge 1115 for all of your assistance. Thanks also to the Executive Boards of each Local and the District for their support in this endeavor and to my assistant Carla Easterday who has borne the brunt of my frustrations with the process.

In conclusion, please review the contents of the **Union Herald** for your own Local Lodge voting information. There are official notices and details specific to your Lodge published throughout, along with postings in your respective shops and locations.

Given the enormous importance of these elections to the members of District Lodge 66 and all IAMAW members across the nation, I asked for and was granted my request to delay publication of the Herald until late in the month of March, allowing important notices and voting announcements to be presented to my members as close to the April vote as possible. I must give credit and thanks to Terry Hicks and the staff of the Union Herald, along with the numerous subscriber groups and advertisers for allowing us this courtesy. Once again, our union newspaper has shown its value to my membership and we are proud of our continued support of the Union Herald, for the support is always returned.

LOCAL LODGE 1115 NEGOTIATIONS: FORT McCOY

We had early Contract Negotiations for two of our SCA units at Fort McCoy in Sparta. Both contracts, covering the Logistics Linen Support and Central Vehicle Wash Facility (formerly TISB) and the Logistics Transportation Motor Pool (TMP), are with Inuit Services, Inc. The negotiations went smoothly thanks to the commitment of the respective groups and the Management Teams for both units to work quickly and efficiently towards a fair agreement. The membership had separate contract meetings and voted to accept their new agreements. We were able to take contract negotiations from start to ratification in under one week; it can be done if all parties wish to do so. I would like to thank Chief Steward Alice Kester who worked well to represent her TMP group during their negotiations. I would also like to thank the memberships of both Linen Support and TMP for the support you gave me at the ratification meetings.

RESPONSE FROM SENATOR TAMMY BALDWIN: TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

Thank you for contacting me about Trade Promotion Authority (TPA). I appreciate you taking the time to write about this important issue.

In March of 2013, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative announced its intention to seek TPA (also known as fast-track) for congressional consideration of free trade agreements currently under negotiation. TPA prohibits amendments from being offered to trade agreements while being debated on the floor of the U.S. Senate in order to expedite their approval process.

I appreciate knowing of your concerns with the TPA. I strongly oppose renewing the TPA in its current form and believe it must be replaced with an approval process consistent with the constitutional role of Congress in trade agreements. For this reason, I joined a dozen of my colleagues in the Senate in sending a letter to Majority Leader Reid expressing our opposition to TPA.

For too long our trade policies have unfairly hurt Wisconsin manufacturers, the backbone of our Made in Wisconsin economy. I know that if we give our workers a fair shot and a level playing field, they can compete with anyone. Any new trade agreement should protect manufactures in our state and around the country, as well as include provisions that promote our nation's competitiveness.

For this reason, I cosponsored the Level the Playing Field in Global Trade Act, S. 1801, to crack down on unfair trade practices that undercut Wisconsin manufacturers. This legislation would ensure that sub-standard wages as well as a lack of workplace safety practices and environmental protections are considered unfair subsidies by foreign countries when calculating American duties intended to offset cheating. S. 1801 is currently awaiting action in the Senate Finance Committee.

Please know that I will keep your concerns in mind as the Senate debates upcoming trade legislation.

Once again, thank you for contacting my office. It is important for me to hear from the people of Wisconsin on the issues, thoughts and concerns that matter most to you. If I can be of further assistance, please visit my website at www.baldwin.senate.gov for information on how to contact my office.

Sincerely, Tammy Baldwin, United States Senator

I urge all of our members to contact Congressman Ron Kind and ask him to join with his fellow Democrats in the Senate and House to stand against the Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement. Free Trade is not Fair Trade. These agreements do not serve the interests of the majority of working men and women in this country. Congressman Kind can be reached my mail to his local office, 205 5th Ave. S in La Crosse WI, 54601; by Fax to 608-782-4588 and 202-225-5739; and

By email THROUGH HIS WEBSITE AT www.kind.house.gov

DISTRICT LODGE 66: We did not have a regular February Delegate meeting due to the threat of inclement weather on February 17. As previously mentioned, the District has been buzzing with activity with the GL elections, contract negotiations, and negotiations prep for the other contracts that

have already started to come together.

The elections being held for the Grand Lodge Executive Council have been tremendously time consuming for all concerned. From my own perspective, while it has certainly been difficult to the point of being overwhelming, it is also an opportunity of historic significance for our Machinists Union.

In 2014 I will celebrate being a member of this great Union for 40 years. It has been over 50 years since the membership has had to face the challenge of electing a full Executive Council. **My goal is to have our entire membership exercise their right and responsibility to vote.** This is an event none of us has ever experienced; I hope we all recognize the significance of what is happening. Be part of it. VOTE.

Until next month...