

MNPL: A PAC FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

Do you want to make a difference for a better future? As has been made abundantly clear both on a National and State level, participation in the political process by the Great American Middle Class has never been more important or more difficult. One way for each of us to have our voice heard is to stand together as a group, and a great way to do that is through the Machinists Non-Partisan Political League, a political action committee that speaks for working men and women across the country, regardless of their union affiliation. MNPL sponsoring memberships cost only \$25.00, a small price to pay for fulltime representation of your interests. You do not need to be a member of the Machinists Union or any Union to contribute. The Fight for the Preservation of the Middle Class knows no Boundaries. Look for the MNPL ad in the Union Herald. Please consider giving your support. Together, we can make a difference!

International President Tom Buffenbarger attends HPWO Signing in District 66



front left - Martin Gaul, DBR IAM District 66, R. Thomas Buffenbarger, International President IAMAW
Keith Sultana, Vice President Global Integrated Supply Chain Climate Solutions-Ingersoll Rand,
Bradley Tacheny, General Manager Climate Solutions La Crosse, WI USA Manufacturing Operations,
back left - Rich Hauser Lodge 21 Shop Chairman, Scott Seibert Human Resources Manager
Climate Solutions La Crosse WI Ingersoll Rand, Dennis Leis Lodge 1115 Shop Chairman)

On April 22-23 Trane Company celebrated its 100th anniversary and along with IAM Local 21 and IAM Local 1115 of IAM District 66 signed a new High Performance Work Organization agreement in La Crosse, WI.

IAM International President R. Thomas Buffenbarger who attended the events said, "We have shared the good times and we've endured the bad times." Buffenbarger envisioned a strong "future between the union and the company."

International President Buffenbarger toured the Trane facilities, met IAM members there, participated in the signing ceremony and attended the 100th Anniversary celebration as a guest speaker.

IAM District 66 has two locals at Trane in La Crosse, WI. Local Lodge 21 members work in production and maintenance. Local Lodge 1115 members are tool and die makers.

IAM District 66 Directing Business Representative Martin Gaul proudly said, "I would give full credit to Rich Hauser, Shop Chair of Local Lodge 21, Mike Osley, Past President of Local Lodge 21, and Rod Perry, Committeeman of Local Lodge 1115 Toolroom all of whom were on the HPWO steering committee. They were instrumental in reaching the HPWO agreement that was signed by the Union and Company."

The HPWO program is currently working on a trial basis in a portion of the facility with the parties working out the possibilities for a wider implementation in the other La Crosse plants.

District 66 Organizing Committee Sponsors Take Kids Fishing Day

The Union Sportsmen's Alliance is coordinating a Take Kids Fishing Day on Sunday June 9th, 2013 at Pettibone Park from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the morning. The District Lodge 66 Organizing Committee is again one of the major sponsors of this event. We are looking for volunteers to help these kids have a great day. Some kids will need extra or special help because some have never fished before. So from fishing techniques to baiting a hook, we need your help. We will also need members to help with food and the other logistics of the day. This can be a terrific day with your help. I am asking all members and retirees to consider giving us a morning of your time. Please call the District Office at (608) 784-2025 to get on the volunteer list.

IAMAW The Machinist's Union: Celebrating the Past

On May 5, 2013 the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers celebrated the 125th anniversary of the founding of our great Union. Tom Talbot and a group of 18 machinists, meeting secretly in a railroad locomotive engine pit in Atlanta Georgia on May 5, 1888, established one of the most successful and enduring labor organizations in the history of this country. Originally known as the Order of United

Machinists and Mechanical Engineers of America, the name was changed to the National Association of Machinists at our first Grand Lodge Convention in May, 1889.

District Lodge 66: Into the Future

In the past months, I have discussed in these articles the need to begin to prepare ourselves for the next generation of leaders in our Union. By and large, the majority of our leadership at the Local and District level is made up of long standing senior individuals, some who will be retiring in the not too distant future.

To that end, at the last District Lodge Delegate meeting, I made a proposal to expand the educational opportunities offered through the Locals and the District so we can identify those who will lead us into the future.

Every Local in District 66 has the opportunity to send two individuals annually to the Leadership Program at the Winpisinger Center in Placid Harbor MD. Any Lodge with over 500 members can send three. In the past our Locals have sent one, two, or no one. In addition, the District has sent one additional member every second year, adding five people every other year. We will be increasing our participation going forward.

The first part of this expanded effort will begin with the Locals. I am going to push every Local with the financial ability to do so to send their full allocation of attendees to Placid every year, whether that is two or three individuals.

At the District Level, the delegates overwhelmingly approved my proposal to send up to six individuals every year for the next four years to Placid Harbor, over and above those to be sent by the Locals themselves. This proposal combined with a full allotment from each Local has the potential to allow us to send 17 members each year to the Leadership program.

This effort will allow us to build the next generation of officers, leaders, and activists to take their places on the shop committees and executive boards, representing the future of our Union. I realize not everyone is cut out to do these jobs, nor does everyone want to. They can be tedious, time consuming, and thankless. But they must be done just the same. Never underestimate the need for competent and qualified people to represent us at every level. Those who deal on your behalf with our employers must be able to do so thoughtfully and in a professional manner. Whether that is you or someone you know, now is the time to step up. Everyone can and must work to find those willing and able to do so. Your job and our Union depend on it.

Additionally, the District Delegates approved the second part of my proposal to lay the ground work for our future. The delegates agreed to allow me to send up to three individuals each year for the next four years to Placid Harbor to participate in Staff level training beyond the Leadership Program. These assignments are going to be aimed at educating those with an eye to being our next District 66 Business Representative. As all of you know through my past Union Herald articles and in my speaking to you at a Local

Lodge meeting or through your District Delegates, I have been working to identify and develop a bench of people that have the interest and ability to step to this level. My intention is to work to provide as equal an educational footing as I can to this group, through full Leadership Program participation in addition to Staff level programs as I can make them available. Working with Chris Wagoner, the Director of W3 Center at Placid Harbor, we have identified programs that would provide a good basic level of knowledge utilizing the Organizing, Arbitration, and Collective Bargaining programs. Assignments to this level are made to current IAM staff first; I will attempt to use openings that remain with the approval of VP Phil Gruber in the Midwest Territory.

This effort is not inexpensive, nor is it a sure thing. The next few years will be full of challenges for everyone in this District and this State. Many things can happen that could bring changes we can neither foresee nor prepare for. We do not have the luxury of seeing the future but history shows us the way forward given the knowledge we have. Educating our members to serve as the next generation of leaders will serve us well no matter what that future holds.

Worker Memorial Day

On April 28th, we took time out to honor all of the fallen workers of our Nation. The program honored workers who have died while on the job or from work related injury. Thanks to the Western WI AFL-CIO for planning and having this ceremony, honoring our Sisters and Brothers who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Speakers at the event were Congressman Ron Kind, Senator Jennifer Shilling, Rep. Jill Billings, Rep. Steve Doyle, La Crosse County Board Chair Tara Johnson, Councilman Francis Formanek, and La Crosse Mayor Tim Kabat. I was given the opportunity to read the poem submitted for this year's ceremony as written by Mike Baird from LL 21. Rabbi Saul Prombaum gave the invocation and opening prayer, while colors were presented by La Crosse Firefighters IAFF 127. A ceremonial salute was provided by American Legion Post 52. We had about 50 people attend the ceremony on a beautiful sunny spring day. Thanks again to Bill Brockmiller and the AFL-CIO for orchestrating this event.