



International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
District Lodge 66
1307 Market Street
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Union Herald Article from the desk of:

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Worker Memorial Day

On April 28th, we took time out to honor workers who have died while on the job, died from work related injury or illness, and those who have lost their lives to workplace violence. Thanks to the Western WI AFL-CIO for planning and hosting this ceremony to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Speakers at the event were La Crosse Mayor Tim Kabat, John Medinger speaking on behalf of Senator Tammy Baldwin, State Senator Jennifer Shilling, and Councilman Francis Formanek. I was again given the opportunity to read the poem submitted for this year's ceremony as written by the newly retired Mike Baird from LL 21, Trane Company. Colors were presented by La Crosse Firefighters IAFF 127 and a ceremonial salute was provided by American Legion Post 52. I would estimate about 40 people attended the ceremony which seemed like an excellent turnout given the cold and blustery weather. Thanks again to Bill Brockmiller and the AFL-CIO for orchestrating this event. Mike once again did an excellent job creating the following poem for Workers Memorial Day...

Sad But Honored

By Mike Baird

I sadly sit here today; thinking how you went away.
Went to work to make a living; it's your life you end up giving.
I'll make sure they never forget; and we will keep a candle lit.
We'll call out your names with pride; and hope another has not died.
We place the crosses because we care; and lower the flag and our heads in prayer.
We will honor you in just this way; God bless you all on this day.

Grand Lodge Executive Council Elections

Last month I mentioned in my article that I hoped to have an update for you on the Grand Lodge Executive Council Elections. As I write this article the final vote tally is still in process with no results released to this point. As this information is provided I will make sure each shop is given the results. We may have preliminary numbers around May 10th.

That being said, I am very happy to say that this part of the process is finished for District 66. The amount of work required to make this happen was tremendous. Once again I would ask each of you to recognize and thank those who took on this task. Our Recording Secretaries Denise Grover (21), Becky Spande (1030), Dawn Hoem (1771), Tom Conrad (2191) and Jon Halverson (1115) were on point for each of the Locals. On the day that the polling for your Local Lodge took place, each Local had a group of Election Inspectors who were tasked with actually running the election while the polls were open. These folks volunteered their time on the Saturday of your voting to make this happen for you. When you see them please thank Mary Olson, Dennis Olson, Ron Stetzer, Pat Lawrynk, Mike Baird, and Don Lee from Local Lodge 21; Del Denzer, Kevin Franzen, Mark Jungerberg, Marci Larocque, Jana Kirch, Tom Ruben, Bob Siebenaler, Bob Thomas, and Chuck Avila from Local Lodge 1030; Milt Tyler, Jim Sanchez, Francis Schenecker, and Terry Stuart from Local Lodge 1115; Cindy Debilzen, Shirley Smith, and Adam Adams from Local Lodge 1771; and Tracey Taylor, Jeff Mullikin, Joe Gierczak, and Rick Devine from Local Lodge 2191.

Without people like these volunteering when needed to take care of the business of your Local Lodge we would not exist as a Union. They do this work on behalf of all of us and they deserve our thanks.

Local Lodge 1115 Negotiations: BSA/LB&B, DPW and Crown Cork and Seal

Local Lodge 1115 Department of Public Works entered into negotiations with BSA/LB&B, Bering Straits for a new Collective Bargaining Agreement. I worked together with the members of the Shop Committee, Chief Steward Sean Hogan, Steward Jim Buckhannon, and Steward Dean Rink to achieve a new three year contract. The Shop Committee and the Management Team from BSA were committed to achieving a fair and equitable agreement which allowed the negotiations to move forward in a positive fashion; that agreement was reached and ratified by the membership. Thanks again to the Shop Committee and the Team from BSA for the hard work and positive atmosphere all brought to these negotiations.

During the last week of March the Shop Committee from Local Lodge 1115, Crown Cork and Seal Co. and I traveled to San Diego CA to participate in the national Master Agreement Negotiations for a new Collective Bargaining Agreement for our members in La Crosse along with those from Omaha NE, Olympia WA, Mankato MN, and Lawrence MA. I am proud to say that the Committee from La Crosse has always played a leading role in these negotiations and continue to do so. Our members were well represented by Shop Chairman Ernie Domnie and Committeeman Gordie Rieber through their work toward achieving a new contract. We held a contract ratification meeting with the entire

membership on March 31 with the agreement being ratified in La Crosse and across all locations.

District Lodge 66

Our District Lodge Delegates came together for our regular monthly meeting on Monday April 21 to once again do the work of our District on your behalf. Along with the normal business of the Lodge, the Delegates took action to once again be one of the primary sponsors for the "Take Kids Fishing Day" to be held Saturday June 4th at Pettibone Lagoon. This is a great event being coordinated this year by the Western Wisconsin AFL-CIO. Aside from our financial donation, there is a need for volunteers! If you have the time please consider helping out for a couple of hours at this worthy event. Contact the District Lodge for more information.

Until next month...