



International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers  
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Union Herald Article from the desk of:

**Martin Gaul, DBR**

**Do you know what day Tuesday November 4<sup>th</sup> is?**

Barely a day goes by without the news of another report on the destruction of any semblance of economic fairness in this country. According to a report issued in September by the Census Department, available at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov), median household income was \$51,939 in 2013, not statistically different from the 2012 median in real terms, 8.0 percent lower than the 2007 (the year before the most recent recession) median (\$56,436), and 8.7 percent lower than the median household income peak (\$56,895) that occurred in 1999. According to a review of the data in the Washington Post, the government IRS data on inflation adjusted income shows that median household income rose by a few thousand dollars since 1979, to \$51,017 in 2012, and remains below its level before the recession began in late 2007. By contrast, the top 1 percent of earners have thrived. Their incomes averaged \$1.26 million in 2012, up from \$466,302 in 1979. That's right...income for those who should be firmly planted in the middle class has gone up just a few thousand bucks since 1979 while the income of the top 1 percent in this country has almost tripled. The sad fact is that in this time period we have had Presidents from both parties and our Congress has been controlled by the Democrats or been divided between the parties which begs the question, is anyone on our side?

Massive amounts of money flows to both parties to influence the direction and set the course of our country. The richest of the rich invest to influence our leaders and the electorate in a bid to keep the playing field firmly tilted in their favor. As I have mentioned before, they also invest in and support issues that keep us divided from one another, because they know if we come together and decide to change this wealth tilted status quo, we can do so. So they keep us going after each other, fighting amongst ourselves on gun control, tax policy, women's rights, climate change...you name it. They stoke the fires of the highly Politicized flames burning in both of our political parties to make certain the system that they have created to protect and concentrate their wealth remains not just intact but ever more effective. The interesting thing about this is

that in buying our political system the money invested is obscene, but they do this for only one true reason. They do this because THEY ARE AFRAID OF YOU. Why? Because no matter who you are, no matter how rich or poor, no matter the color of your skin, your religion, your ethnicity, no matter what, on ONE DAY, EVERYTIME THIS DAY COMES, WE ARE ALL EQUAL. THAT IS THE DAY THAT WE ALL HAVE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT EQUALITY, NO MATTER HOW MUCH OR HOW LITTLE YOU HAVE...THAT IS THE DAY WE VOTE.

On Tuesday November 4<sup>th</sup>, the decision is yours. Regardless of where you stand on the issues, the only way to influence the outcome is to exercise this right. Please don't ever think that it does not matter, because it does. If they have spent enough money to persuade you that it does not matter, then they have received what they paid for. By not voting, they have purchased the one right you have that is exactly as powerful as everyone else's. So on this one day, stand up for yourself and stand up for your family, stand up together so we can take our State and Country back to the great progressive places they should be. So go ahead; be as powerful as Mr. Koch.

# **VOTE!**

## **NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF LOCAL LODGE 1771**

**NOMINATIONS FOR SECRETARY TREASURER OF LOCAL LODGE 1771 WILL BE HELD AT YOUR REGULAR NOVEMBER UNION MEETING TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> 2014. TO RUN FOR THIS IMPORTANT POSITION YOU NEED TO BE PLACED INTO NOMINATION. IF YOU WANT TO RUN FOR THE POSITION BUT FOR SOME REASON ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THIS MEETING YOU WILL NEED TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE.**

## **New York Life is now the record keeper for the the IAM National 401(k) Plan.**

If you have questions or want to access your account, go to [mylife.newyorklife.com](http://mylife.newyorklife.com) or 800.294.3575. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Eastern time on New York Stock Exchange business days. For your protection, all calls are recorded. When you contact New York Life for the first time, you'll be asked to provide your Social Security number and date of birth so that you can create a Personal Identification Number (PIN)/Password.

If your employer is not participating in the IAM National 401(k) Plan, talk to your IAM representative to learn more about how to negotiate the plan into your contract. After the plan is negotiated into your collective bargaining agreement, you will be eligible to participate immediately after acceptance is completed.

## **Report: Pentagon Skirting Buy American Act, Costing U.S. Jobs**

A new report by calls attention to the staggering amount of Buy American Act waivers, granted by the Department of Defense and other federal agencies, that are hurting U.S. manufacturers.

The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) spent over \$163 billion of taxpayer money on goods manufactured by foreign companies since 2007, according to a report released by U.S. Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT).

The report sounds the alarm on the staggering amount of Buy American Act waivers granted by the DOD and other federal agencies. In 2013 alone, the DOD used 28,887 waivers and spent \$19.7 billion on foreign goods. “This is a simple concept: the United States government should give preference to American manufacturers when it purchases goods with taxpayer dollars. But right now that’s not happening,” said Murphy. “Instead of investing billions of dollars in our manufacturing economy, we’re shipping money and jobs overseas.”

The Buy American Act, enacted in 1933, is supposed to give U.S. manufacturers a leg up on foreign firms during federal procurement. Most of the waivers granted by the Department of Defense fall under the blanket exemption of “goods used overseas.”

“While we were engaged in two wars, with military personnel all over the world, it is clear that this exemption makes the Buy American Act almost meaningless,” the report says.

The waivers are creating what the report calls a “vicious cycle” of U.S. manufacturing job loss. The DOD will often award contracts overseas instead of working with U.S. companies that are the last manufacturer of a certain item, “thereby assuring the demise of a struggling domestic manufacturer.”

Murphy has introduced a bill to update the Buy American Act and reorient procurement decisions toward American manufacturers. The **21st Century Buy American Act** closes many of the loopholes that the DOD and other federal agencies have been using to get around domestic production requirements.

## **District Lodge 66**

Your District Lodge Delegates came together to do the business of the Lodge at the regular meeting held on Monday September 15<sup>th</sup>. The Delegates voted to amend the District bylaws to allow for some increase in the number of Delegates to accommodate those who may want to serve on the Executive Board. We also changed the method by which changes to the bylaws can be submitted to allow action at any time. Beyond that we continued refining the bylaws insofar as they affect the finances going forward as they pertain to the Business Representative. By doing so we have completed changes I was hoping to see put in place to allow the District to be better positioned for the future.

In addition, the Delegates took action to provide Christmas donations to the Local Lodges and provide some Christmas cheer for anyone on long leave (yes, I said Christmas). We were also sent a letter from District Lodge 10 thanking us for being a co-sponsor of the Guide Dogs of America Ride for Guides held in Wisconsin this past July. The ride raised almost \$20,000.00 for this important charity that is primarily sponsored by the IAM. For more information or if looking for a great charity to contribute to at year end, visit [www.guidedogsofamerica.org](http://www.guidedogsofamerica.org).

Autumn is here, my absolute favorite time of the year. Get outside to see the great colors as the seasons turn again towards winter. Brisk nights and star filled skies, cool and rain filled days; you gotta love it all. Be good to each other and yourself. Once again, please remember to vote. Until next month...