



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

Martin Gaul, DBR

Welcome to September...Fall is certainly in the air. August was a busy and eventful month.

One of our larger employers in District 66 entered into negotiations for a new successor contract with the members of Local Lodge 2191. The management team of Chart Energy & Chemical and the members of the Bargaining Committee, Chairman Dennis Gerke, Committeeman Bud Christianson, Committeeman Tom Conrad and myself were able to reach a tentative agreement that I am happy to report was overwhelmingly approved by the membership in a vote held August 25th. We were able to conclude negotiations on this contract in a total of only 5 days, which is a credit to everyone involved in these talks. In discussions with company representatives prior to beginning these sessions, we were able to agree to an extremely focused outline and time frame to which both sides by and large adhered, enabling the success of these talks in record time. I would personally like to thank Dennis, Bud, and Tom for their professionalism and insight which allowed us to keep moving forward during some trying moments. We were assisted during the contract meetings by the following gentlemen who volunteered their time to help insure a smooth and accurate vote. My thanks to Harley Evenson, Bill Hutschenreuter, Jeff Mullikin, Scott Phillips, and Dale Borreson for giving up most of their Saturday. When

next you see them, please join me in recognition of their service. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of Chart's management team for their diligence and hard work. The Moose Lodge proved to be flexible and accommodating by providing our meeting space on short notice.

We had a good showing for the Labor Day parade. I would like to thank everyone who came to march. Special thanks to Tyler, Aly, and Rick Mickschl and Carla Easterday for all your help!

Letter sent to our Convention Delegates.

(The following are portions of a letter sent to District Lodge 66 members representing us at the Grand Lodge Convention. I will continue to advocate for our membership across all wage groups in asking for a more balanced approach to dues assessment.)

You have been selected to represent your respective Local Lodges and District Lodge 66 at the Thirty-Eighth Convention of the Grand Lodge of the IAMAW in Toronto, Ontario, Canada convening on September 9, 2012. As you are aware, District Lodge 66 is comprised of Five Locals representing a membership of approximately 1500 people.

Our current dues structure governed by the Constitution of the IAM is not necessarily progressive in nature. The minimums required as opposed to the dues rates in our upper ranges equate to far higher dues paid as a percentage of income in the lower hourly rate ranges. This disparity is very difficult for those on the lower end of our wage scales to absorb. In addition given the area in which we live, the opportunity for us to organize effectively in groups where the wage scales are low is severely hampered when the amount of dues to be paid is explained. In some industries, the ability of either the newly organized or long standing members to make sufficient progress in wage rates is restricted by the nature of the industry itself. Not all business has income from ongoing operations to support wage growth comparable to some of our larger or more specialized employers whose markets allow more opportunity for higher living wages.

Each of your Local Lodges should have received a booklet of the proposed amendments to the Constitution. There are a number of proposals that were submitted that deal with re-formulation of the dues structure to alleviate pressure on our lower income members. I would like each of you to examine these proposals. I am asking the delegates from this District to work together to identify and support proposals that would address these issues by making our dues structure more progressive in nature. The ability of District Lodge 66 to serve our current members while reaching out to the unorganized at all income levels would be well served by these changes. I urge you to give them your support.

A Labor Day Message from IAM President Tom Buffenbarger

The origin of Labor Day harkens back to a time when joining a union was an act of bravery and the very idea of collective bargaining was considered to be treason. But American workers prevailed, refusing to accept the notion that the inalienable rights so clearly defined in the U.S. Bill of Rights should not apply to them once they walk through the factory door.

Over the 125 years since it became a federal holiday, Labor Day morphed from a solemn event honoring those who gave their lives for the cause of dignity on the job, to a day known more for picnics than politics and as the unofficial start of the school year.

This year, there is ample reason to rekindle the courageous spirit that helped bring the first Labor Day into being. The right to organize, the right to bargain and the even right to vote are all under attack like never before.

It is disheartening but necessary to highlight the agenda of right-wing extremists willing to use the ongoing recession to promote animus against unions and union members. Amplified by corporate campaigns and fueled by countless millions, the anti-union movement seeks nothing less than to harvest the financial foundation of the American middle class.

Under the guise of fiscal responsibility, Republican governors and state legislatures have launched repeated assaults on public sector unions and their members. Wisconsin provided the starkest example, with Republican Gov. Scott Walker ramming through legislation that stripped nearly 500,000 workers from having a voice at work.

While Walker initially claimed Wisconsin's fiscal crisis necessitated drastic curbs on collective bargaining rights, he later acknowledged the changes would neither add to nor detract from the state's fiscal crisis.

Even without a political axe to grind, private industry has been equally quick to seize on the recession as an opportunity to claw back workers' wages and benefits. Claiming they can no longer afford to fund workers' defined benefit pension plans, well-off companies are joining struggling firms in a coordinated effort to eliminate retirement security for millions of American workers.

The campaign to revoke the American Dream continues on the national level, with Tea Party Republicans in the House and Senate using every available resource to cripple the federal agencies that protect the right to organize and bargain collectively. Just as the Fourth of July holiday is an annual celebration of independence, let us make this Labor Day a modern day celebration of the courage and defiance upon which our movement was founded and continues to draw inspiration. Our proud past demands it and our very future depends on it.