



International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers  
District Lodge 66  
1307 Market Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

Union Herald Article from the desk of:

## **Martin Gaul, DBR**

### **Labor Day 2013**

Once again this year we had a good turnout for the Labor Day parade and celebration. The Machinists Union marchers passed out close to 350 pounds of candy to the children along the route; tell your Dentist that they are welcome! We also passed out pencils to the kids along the route to help them prepare for their return to school. This proved to be very popular and will be repeated next year. I was pleasantly surprised at this...I wasn't sure if anyone actually uses pencils anymore.

**I want to make special mention of a couple of local businesses who assisted us this year.**

**Our trailer this year was provided by John Radtke of John's Bay, located at 3402 Fiesta Court on La Crosse's south side. In addition to providing auto service and repair, John also rents out U-Haul trucks and trailers. The trailer he provided for us was used to transport our members with some mobility issues. When in need of auto repair or a U-Haul rental, call John at 782-2457. The trailer worked out terrific; thanks John!**

**As we have for many years, the Machinists of District 66 used as our parade staging area the parking lot of the Giant Wash Laundromat, located at 1554 Charles St. The laundromat is owned and operated by Ben Bockenbauer and Karen Neeb. Ben is a gentleman I have known for a number of years who together with his wife Karen decided to keep the building open during the parade to allow our group and others access as needed. We really appreciate this gesture of support!**

**I would be remiss if I did not mention Woodman's Food Market, 9515 Hwy 16. For a number of years Woodman's has given us a great deal on the candy we distribute**

**during our parade. We want them to know that the men and women of District Lodge 66, along with the hundreds of kids along the route, thank them very much!**

We had a good showing for the Labor Day parade. I would like to thank everyone who came to march. Thanks to Tyler Mickschl who volunteered use of his trailer and Aly Mickschl who once again assisted us in organizing the shirt and candy distribution. Thanks also to my Administrative Assistant Carla Easterday for all of her hard work getting us ready for the parade and her help on Labor Day. I would also like to express my thanks and congratulations to the Western Wisconsin AFL-CIO and all of the volunteers who made the Labor Day parade and celebration a success.

I would like to note 3 individuals who marched in this year's parade. We were honored with the presence of former District Lodge 66 Directing Business Representatives Dan Mihalovic, Tom O'Heron, and Rick Mickschl. Danny is enjoying a well deserved retirement, while Tom is the Director of Collective Bargaining for the IAM working out of the Grand Lodge, and Rick is a Special Representative working out of the Midwest Territory offices. Having these gentlemen here made my day that much better. As always, thanks to my lovely wife Jo Beth, who drove the vehicle pulling the trailer AND kept me in line during the festivities following the parade; you make it all worthwhile.

### **THE MACHINISTS NON-PARTISAN POLITICAL LEAGUE**

We are currently conducting a direct mail appeal for the MNPL. As members of the IAM, we can work together to support the Machinists Non-Partisan Political League, our Political Action Committee (PAC) that speaks for working men and women across the country. The MNPL is our NON-PARTISAN political action committee, committed to supporting those who support the issues of workers, **regardless of party affiliation**. MNPL annual sponsoring memberships cost only \$25.00, a small price to pay for full time representation of your interests. Donations to the MNPL are voluntary, not tax deductible, and can be made only by members of the IAMAW. We will be including a donation envelope with the letter you will be receiving that you can return to your shop steward or to the District Lodge office. If you would prefer to make your donation on

line you can also find the link to do so on our District Lodge Website, [www.iamdistrict66.org](http://www.iamdistrict66.org).

**The next Local Lodge to receive the appeal letter will be our members of LL 1030, Peerless Chain in Winona. Please watch for your letter in the coming weeks and consider becoming a sponsoring member!**

**The first appeal letter went to Local Lodge 1115 members employed at Crown Cork & Seal, Trane Tool Room, BSA/LB&B DPW, Inuit Services TISB and TMP, and L3 Communications. We had a limited response from 1115. I would appeal once again to all of the Lodge 1115 members to consider becoming a sponsoring member of the MNPL. Also to remind the employees at Crown, you have the opportunity to sign up for payroll deduction for MNPL. If you don't have the form that was sent for you to enroll with, check with Danielle in the front office.**

The middle class in this country is under attack from all sides. Being a member of organized labor enables us to work with our employers towards a more secure future. But no union, regardless of size, can hope to repel the attack on those striving to maintain or achieve a spot in the Great American Middle Class while the political establishment continues to undermine the rights of average people across this nation. Only by electing and supporting people who will fight for the common good of EVERYONE as opposed to the privileged few will we have any hope of securing a brighter future for all.

I am asking everyone in District 66 to join the fight for a better future for you, your children and grandchildren by becoming an MNPL sponsoring member today. Watch your mail for my letter because **Together, We Can Make a Difference!**

### **Fort Worth Machinists Raise Over \$15,000 for Guide Dogs**

IAM District Lodge 776 in Fort Worth, TX hit the links recently to raise over \$15,000 for the Guide Dogs of America (GDA). Former IAM Local Lodge 2003 Educator Teresa Blevins, who lost her sight in 2009, is one of many to receive a trained guide dog from GDA.

The IAM teamed up with the Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) and the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) to bring

together 19 teams of 76 golfers to Eagle Mountain Golf Course in Fort Worth for the Bob Martinez, Jr., Invitational Guide Dogs Golf Tournament. IAM Southern Territory General Vice President Mark Blondin, Headquarters GVP Bob Martinez, Jr., and several Aerospace Coordinators also took part in the fundraising activities.

“Thanks to District 776 and the rest of the sponsors and volunteers for making this event a truly special one,” said Blondin. “We were honored to help the Guide Dogs of America, which does such great work for countless blind and visually-impaired men and women.”

The [Guide Dogs of America](http://www.godogs.org) is an organization dedicated to providing guide dogs and instruction in their use, free of charge, to blind and visually-impaired men and women from the United States and Canada so that they may continue to pursue their goals with increased mobility and independence.

The information above is from iMAIL, which is available to all at [www.goiam.org](http://www.goiam.org)

### **STRIKE CONTINUES FOR THE WORKERS OF BELSHAW**

The Company has brought in a new lead negotiator and talks were scheduled to resume on Sept. 3. As of my writing of this article, the 60 employees of Belshaw Adamatic continue on strike.

#### **Business Representative Melody Coffman comments on the strike:**

"The Belshaw Adamatic strikers are commendable in their fight for fairness and solidarity against the Company. Since March 24th, the employees have been diligently manning the strike line at the Auburn facility of the employer. Since the beginning the employer has taken the position that it would replace the workers if they did not cave and come back to work. Belshaw President Mr. Faw, through his labor negotiator, notified the Union and its bargaining committee that it has replaced about 60% of the strikers and will continue to replace the remaining unless they accept the Last Best and Final document that was offered during mediation.

"That document was voted down unanimously along with the message "WE WILL NOT GO BACK WITH LESS THAN WE WENT OUT WITH". Not only are they demanding a fair contract, but a position for themselves and everyone of their co-workers who have toiled in the facility performing a service for the Company."

Up to the deadline for this article, no progress has been made. IAM members are urged to “like” the “[IAM Local 79 on Strike at Belshaw Adamatic Bakery Group](#)” Facebook page. For more information, visit the Local Lodge 79 website through [www.iam160.com](http://www.iam160.com). Please take the time to visit the District Lodge 160 website to see what you can do to help!

### **Justice For JELD-WEN Campaign**

Join the IAM campaign for the workers of Jeld-Wen. To support the struggle for Jeld-WEN justice, please visit their Facebook site [JeldWenJustice](#) and "like" their campaign.

To show your support for Jeld-WEN workers attempting to form a union and join the IAM, please sign the pledge at <http://www.goiam.org/jeldwen/>

### **District Lodge 66 Delegate Meeting**

The regular monthly District Lodge Delegate meeting took place on Monday August 19. A number of action items were presented to the Delegates for their consideration. Motions were made and approved to make some changes within the District Lodge office itself, including replacement of the 5 year old copy machine on which the lease had expired, and replacement of the chairs in the meeting room. We also took action to approve a donation to the Western Wisconsin AFL-CIO for a fund raiser to benefit a number of their ongoing projects including the Labor Day Parade and Workers Memorial Day Commemoration.

We have received our first batch of IAMAW Constitutions as approved for purchase and distribution by your delegates. As previously noted we will be removing covers and distributing them thereafter. This is going to be a relatively lengthy process to make them available to everyone but be assured you will have a copy as soon as possible.

Our next District Delegate meeting will be held on September 16<sup>th</sup>. I have a number of items to bring before the Delegates, including approval of time for a meeting to bring together all those involved from the District in the July Training and Education sessions. I will be notifying each of you as to the time and date of this meeting, being held to allow us to discuss the pros and cons of what we learned and experienced, to improve the process in the future.

**MEMBERS OF LOCAL LODGE 1771: Please take special notice in this month's Union Herald for your notice of Officer Elections. Nominations are held at your September Local Lodge Meeting. Election Notices, should an election be necessary, will be posted in your shop.**

Have a Happy September, Welcome Autumn, and until next month...