



International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
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Tis the Season: Elections 2014

Ah yes, once again we begin to be blessed with the constant barrage of television commercials and campaign mailings that mark election season 2014. I am certain that I am not alone when I say I am not looking forward to the negative tone and sleazy implications that are the common theme in our political discourse these days. That being said, there has probably never been a regular election of more importance to the working men and women in Wisconsin with implications for all working people across the country.

Scott Walker is faced with a formidable challenge by Mary Burke to determine who will be our future Governor. As I have mentioned in prior discussion of Governor Walker's policies and political agenda, my hope is that the people of Wisconsin will see through the rhetoric and do what is right for the middle class in this state.

We have got to find a way to work together for the betterment of all. To move in this direction we need to divorce ourselves from the divisiveness that has marked our politics since Mr. Walker was elected four years ago. I believe historically Wisconsin for the most part is a progressive state. We have ebbed and flowed left and right, but generally I believe that our Leaders, regardless of party, have really understood the meaning of Moving Wisconsin Forward. Having lived in Wisconsin my entire life, through Governors of both parties, I can say I have had a measure of appreciation and respect for them all until now.

The extreme right of the Republican Party at every level of government, from City Hall to the State House to the Capitol, push policies that ultimately serve only the interests of their benefactors while driving wedges between the rest

of us. I for one cannot understand how any regular working person believes that they are served by being part of this far right agenda. Like it or not, we are in this together. The achievements made over the last 100 plus years that resulted in the strongest economic engine the world has ever known, the Great American Middle Class, were not the products of any one as an individual but were the outcome of us standing together for the betterment of all. Everyone in this country who works for a living, Union or Non-Union, Foreman or CEO, Rich and Poor alike, has benefited by the actions of those who stood together for the common good, whether that was in the corridors of government, on a far away battle field, or on the sidewalk outside of the fence, walking the picket line. We should never deny that for if we do it is at our own peril.

We need leaders who will serve that common good, for the benefit of all, not just the interests of the privileged few. We need to find individuals to run for office who are smart enough and bold enough to know the difference, not those from either the far right or the far left whose only concern is to be elected by pandering to their base while ignoring the rest. Those we elect should remember they are there to serve everyone's interests, always searching for the common ground that the vast majority of us, those in the middle, encourage them to find. This is not easy for them in today's political environment, but it is certainly easier if we stand in support of them when they do. And above all, we must exercise our right to choose. WE MUST VOTE.

So let us look for these folks and give them our backing. Although we are not certain what they will do in every instance, we are witness to those who work to divide us and must stand together against it. We must choose between those who will unite us as opposed to those who only succeed when they encourage our division. In the race for Governor that choice is easy. The only choice is Mary Burke. Visit burkeforwisconsin.com

Labor Day 2014

On a less than sunny Monday morning, the members of District Lodge 66 along with many of our fellow Union brothers and sisters came together to celebrate Labor Day. We had a good turnout for the annual parade, handing out Machinist Union pencils for those returning to school and over 300 pounds of candy to the children along the parade route. The Parade Marshal for 2014 was none other than our own Carla Easterday, my "executive" administrative assistant working in the District Lodge 66 office. Although the weather looked less than promising, the rain stopped and the clouds parted for a rather nice day (Carla must have sent a message to the big guy). We had a pretty good group at the Laborfest celebration after the parade at Copeland Park. Our compliments to President Bill Brockmiller and the entire crew of the Western Wisconsin AFL CIO for their hard work and a job well done! And thank you once again to my lovely wife Jo Beth for all of your work, help, and understanding.

New Poll Shows Success of 'Right-To-Work' Deception

A majority of Americans, 53 percent, approve of labor unions, yet more than seven in 10 say they would vote for a so-called "right-to-work" law, according to a newly released Gallup poll.

The contrast shows how organizations such as the National Right to Work Committee, backed by corporate political advocacy groups like ALEC, the Koch Brothers and the John Birch Society, have succeeded in using misleadingly-named right-to-work laws to drive down union membership.

Now in 24 states, right-to-work laws allow non-union workers to receive the benefits of collective bargaining off the backs of their dues paying union co-workers. The result is often weaker unions, less power at the bargaining table and poorer contracts.

Part of the right-to-work misconception is in its name – which implies it's a good thing for American workers.

Conservatives have long argued that the laws make states more favorable for business, yet ignore the fact that these jobs are often low-wage positions with few, if any, benefits. Research shows that states with right-to-work laws have lower wages and incomes, less job-based health insurance coverage, higher poverty and infant mortality rates, less education investment and higher rates of death on the job.

Despite this, extremist conservatives continue to push their anti-worker agenda all around the country.

"The right-to-work debate is ongoing in states like Ohio and Wisconsin, and New Mexico and Kentucky may adopt these laws if Republicans win control of the legislatures in those states in the next election," the report says.

Boeing CEO Regrets 'Cowering' Employees Gaffe

The President of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) is calling on Boeing CEO Jim McNerney to apologize to Boeing's workforce for offensive remarks made during a quarterly earning call with reporters on July 23, 2014. "The heart will still be beating, the employees will still be cowering, I'll be working hard," said McNerney in response to a reporter's question about whether he had plans to retire after he turns 65 next month. Boeing's policy is for executives to retire at age 65.

"Boeing's CEO would have been far better served to give credit to the workforce that has driven the company's sales and profits to record levels," said IAM President Tom Buffenbarger. "Instead, his unfunny and unnecessary remarks serve as reminder that the Jack Welch style of anti-personnel management is still alive and well at Boeing. If he is able to get his foot out

of his mouth, the very next thing we hear from Mr. McNerney should be a sincere apology to all employees at Boeing.”

Boeing CEO Jim NcNerney sent a companywide message saying a comment he made during an earnings call with reporters last week was a “joke gone bad.” The IAM represents more than 32,000 Boeing workers among more than 600,000 active and retired members across North America.

District Lodge 66

The Delegates of District Lodge 66 came together for our regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 18. Along with the regular business of the District, a number of Bylaws changes were presented for consideration of the Bylaws Committee, to be voted on at our September meeting. Once again, the Delegates will explore making these changes with an eye to the future for the benefit and stability of the District. The Delegates voted for expenditures in support of the Annual Labor Day parade, the community activities of the Western Wisconsin AFL CIO, and to place an ad in support of the AFL CIO Biennial Convention to be held in La Crosse this month. We also discussed the status of negotiations between Local Lodges 21, 1115, and Trane Company which resulted in a new four year agreement, along with ongoing efforts to secure contractual Bridge agreements for a number of contracts at Fort McCoy.

My favorite time of the year is upon us. With the Autumn comes the promise of cool days, chilly evenings, and the warmth of the fire. Hug your kids. Tell your significant other that you love them. Try to be understanding of those you just do not understand. Be kind to each other. Until next month...