



International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District Lodge 66

June 2024

Members attend Leadership I

Recently, several of our District Lodge 66 members had the opportunity to travel to the W3 Education & Technology Center to attend Leadership I class.



Left to right are, Brandon Ward, LL 1115, Tiffany Gates, LL 21, Brittany Swift, LL 21, and Leah Smerud, LL 1115.

As one generation nears retirement, many of our Local Lodges will be looking for activists to carry on the fight for our workers. I am fortunate to have many younger members taking part in a myriad of activities that benefit not only their Local Lodges and our District Lodge, but also their communities. The group pictured above are all a part of the District Lodge 66 Organizing Committee. Leah is a DL 66 Delegate, assisted with the last two IAM H.E.L.P.S projects for DL 66,



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completed the LEADS program, attended the Political Seminar at W3, and has been assisting with several organizing campaigns in the Midwest Territory. Brittany was elected to the Lodge 21 Shop Committee this year and has taken over their orientation program, she has had great success in recruiting new members. She assisted with the last DL 66 IAM H.E.L.P.S project, and attended the Political Seminar at W3, as well. Tiffany is a participant in the LEADS program, assisted with the DL 66 IAM H.E.L.P.S project, was recently appointed to be a District Lodge 66 Delegate, and is actively involved in several union activities. Brandon is a steward at Northern Engraving, as well as a DL 66 Delegate. He has recently become more active through the Organizing Committee and continues to grow as a representative.

Political Education Seminar





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Midwest States Conference of Machinists 2024



Pictured above (2nd row) from L to R are Steve Rasmussen, LL 2191, Chuck Fellom, LL 2191, Dean Rink, LL 1115, Mike Davis, LL 1115, and DL 66 Directing Business Representative, Jana Kirch

The states of the IAM Midwest Territory sent representatives to St. Louis for the Midwest States Conference of Machinists to gather for a national political report from the IAM and to strategize for the upcoming election.

IAM delegates were joined by Illinois AFL-CIO President Tim Drea, U.S. Senate candidate Lucas Kunce (D-Mo.), Missouri House Rep. and gubernatorial candidate Crystal Quade (D), and Missouri AFL-CIO President Jake Hummel. Although unable to attend in person, U.S. Rep. Nikki Budzinski (D-Ill.) delivered a message to the congregation via video message.



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Midwest Territory Chief of Staff Rick Mickschl gave a report showing the glaring differences between the Biden and Trump administrations, and stressed the importance of voting for the candidate who will support workers and families. He stressed the importance of educating our members of what has been accomplished with the most pro-union US President ever. We have a lot more to get done and need to ensure that those who have fought for us, as workers, remain in office.

The Legislative and MNPL Conferences will take place in Washington DC, June 17-22nd. I will be attending both Conferences, and Leah will join me for the Legislative Conference. It will be a busy election season for many of us and I will be reaching out to each of the Local Lodges for assistance to get the information out to our members. The Grand Lodge Convention, (which is scheduled for September 1-7th) conclusion will signal the beginning of our efforts to get out and promote our candidates.

As a final note, the District Lodge will be moving to Main Street in La Crosse, in early July. We have not settled on a specific date, as of this time.

Fraternally,
Jana Kirch