



# International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District Lodge 66

**August 2024**

## **District Lodge 66 Move**

The District Lodge has moved to **817 Rose Street**, in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Originally, we agreed to a location on Main Street, but this building will be better to accommodate our needs! Once everything is settled, we would encourage everyone to stop in, and see our new space. I would like to give MUCH APPRECIATION to all the volunteers who helped us move! The LODGE 2191 TEAM CANNOT BE THANKED ENOUGH! There was A LOT of stuff here and it seemed to be a monumental task, but thanks to everyone's help, it was less stressful than imagined. Special thanks to Rod Perry, for all your technical support!!

## **Peerless Plater Event in Winona**

On July 18<sup>th</sup>, Peerless Chain celebrated the completion of their new chain plater. For those not familiar with chain-making, this was a pretty big deal. The chain plater runs continuous chain, boxes connected to boxes with connecting links. The chain runs through a system of rollers, going through a series of baths to clean and apply the shiny silver or yellow coating. The new plater is completely enclosed, and the operators no longer have to manually add or remove chemicals. The event consisted of speakers from the Crosby Group, Peerless Chain, and the IAMAW, as Peerless insisted on celebrating as a team. Lunch was catered in, swag was given to everyone, and a tour of the plant and new plater, closed out the day. The tour gave opportunities to showcase the skills of the Union employees, and the ability for the IAMAW Executive team to get up close to the process and speak with the members along the way. Local Lodge President, Tom Ruben, Shop Chair Becky Spande, and Shop Committee members Bob Siebenaler and Tim Ingersoll were on hand to answer any questions the Executive team may have otherwise had.

The Peerless Chain leadership team invited the IAMAW Leadership to be a part of the celebration, and it was an honor to host International President Brian Bryant, Chief of Staff to the IP Vinnie Addeo, In-House General Vice-President Jody



## **International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District Lodge 66**

Bennett, our Midwest Territory General Vice President Sam Cicinelli, Chief of Staff to the MWT GVP Rick Mickschl, and District Lodge 77 Directing Business Representative Andrew Peltier. International President Bryant and Midwest Territory General Vice-President Sam Cicinelli were invited to speak at the event, along with Peerless President George Kosidowski and Crosby Group CEO Robert Desel. After the event, members were invited to the American Legion, in Winona, to meet with our Executive Officers and share experiences. I am so grateful that the working relationship that the Union shares with Peerless allows for our Leadership team to be welcomed and made a part of the celebration. I am also thankful that our Executive Officers were willing and able to attend!

A big thank you to the Local Lodge 1030 team, Ryan Kowalski-for being an excellent tour guide and for all you do, Craig Olson-for including the IAMAW to be a part of the event, George Kosidowski-for your continuing support and inclusion of ALL of your employees, and for hosting us all, and to Robert Desel, John Backes, and Yoshio Kito, for your gracious hospitality. It was a day that will not soon be forgotten!



## International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District Lodge 66



IAMAW International President Brian Bryant  
and Crosby Group CEO Robert Desel.



Becky Spande,  
Heat Treat  
Operator Steve  
Erdmann, and IP  
Bryant



# International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District Lodge 66



Welder  
Operator  
Jesse  
Jonsgaard,  
with IP  
Bryant





## International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District Lodge 66



Break Strength testing, Tom brought out the 1 inch, to shake the floor for them!



Ryan Kowalski, showing the group the rebuild area, in Plant Services.



# International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District Lodge 66



Left-Right: John Backes, Vinnie Addeo, Sam Cicinelli, Rick Mickschl, Jody Bennett, Brian Bryant, George Kosidowski, Jana Kirch, Andrew Peltier, Yoshio Kito, and Robert Desel

## LABOR DAY Parade and Celebration

This year's Labor Fest will be held on Monday, September 2, 2024. The celebration starts at **10 am**, with the Parade beginning at the intersection of Gillette and Kane streets. District Lodge 66 T-shirts and candy will be passed out to all participants, beginning at **9 am**. After the parade, the festivities will be held



## International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District Lodge 66

at Copeland Park. Continuing the tradition of family fun, there will be kid's fishing booth and sawdust pile, and raffles and Bingo for the adults. Food and Beverages will be available for purchase throughout the event.

Many of the usual parade participants will be at the IAMAW Grand Lodge Convention for the week, so I am hoping that those who haven't participated before will come out and represent our District Lodge! Please contact the district office, if you have any questions!

In closing, I would like to urge EVERYONE to get out and vote in this upcoming Presidential Election. Do your research. Fact-check, Fact-check, and Fact-check! This election has far more consequences than most realize. Check out Project 2025. HEAR the candidate who worships Communist Leaders like Putin and Jinping, gushing about them, endlessly, and ask yourself if he really is all about PROTECTING DEMOCRACY. The "old guy" who did more for the working-class people of this Country, than any other, has withdrawn from the race. He fought for women's rights, he fought for Union rights, and he made damn sure that money was spent to update infrastructure. The only thing I got from Trump was cheaper gas. I would rather pay more at the pump than give up my right to vote, period. Definitely not taking chances...I've seen enough already. Voting BLUE, all the way.

Fraternally,

Jana M. Kirch