



International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District Lodge 66

January 2025

District 66

The year 2025 will be busy for District 66, with five contracts expiring, there will be much to do with prep and negotiations. Northern Engraving, Sparta, is the first group to negotiate, with their CBA expiring on January 31, 2025. Sawtst, LLC., at Fort Mc Coy is next, followed by Kaiyuh, (at Fort Mc Coy), Peerless Chain, and Bering Sea Environmental, (at Volk Field). The Lodge 2191 committee and I will also be travelling to the W3 center in August, for Negotiation Prep classes, as their CBA expires in February of 2026.

The District 66 IAM H.E.L.P.S. event was held at WAFER Food Pantry on December 17, 2024. Members assisted in a variety of different ways; some assisted with picking out their food and hygiene options, while others stocked the shelves, or sorted produce. It is a very busy facility, as it serves many people in the Coulee Region. We spent a total of five hours, splitting into two shifts, to accommodate the space and tasks to be completed. If you are looking to volunteer some time to a great cause, please consider volunteering at WAFER. The work is not hard and it is quite rewarding.





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The Grand Lodge nominations will take place on January 28th, with an election in February, if necessary. Training and materials for the facilitators of each Lodge will be distributed.

The Legislative and MNPL conferences are split up this coming year, and the MNPL conference is scheduled for March 6-9, 2025, in New Orleans, LA. The Legislative Conference will be held in Washington, DC, later in 2025.

General Vice President Cicinelli announced at the DBR meeting that there **will be** a Staff Conference scheduled in 2025. It will be held in Illinois, and details will be sent shortly. He will be educating on correct processes and procedures for communications, as well as changes that will be coming. There will be workshops on proper strike prep and pre-contract prep. Sam spoke of several issues that will be discussed and stressed the importance of embracing change.

On another topic, he spoke about potential changes to our Guide Dogs of America fundraising. Guide Dogs of America provides important assistance to many: not only for the vision-impaired, but for Autistic persons and those who suffer from PTSD. They provide their recipients with a better quality of life and independence. The IAM has always held this organization near to our hearts and has continued to raise funds so that many more people may have an opportunity to receive one of these miracle dogs. As such, we will be exploring new ways to increase the Lodges participation in holding Guide Dog events.

At the same meeting, Sam advised that the Midwest Territory group picture from the Grand Lodge Convention will be given to each District. The District Liaison will be distributing them.

The District 66 office has moved! The new address is **817 Rose Street**. The new phone number is **608-893-7560**. My direct line is **608-893-7558**. I did put this in earlier articles, but just want to be sure the news gets out to everyone.



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Chief of Staff to the Midwest Territory General Vice President, Rick Mickschl Retirement

In closing, I would like to thank Midwest Territory Chief of Staff, Rick Mickschl, for his dedication to our great Union. He retired at the end of 2024 and will be returning to the La Crosse area. Rick has been a role model and brother to all of us, not only in District 66, or the Midwest Territory, but to the entire organization. I have many Rick stories; some are hilarious, others are inspirational, but all share a common factor, Rick loved what he did, and he genuinely cares about people. It showed in everything that he did, and still does. Rick, although you will be greatly missed, you go enjoy that well-deserved retirement! Cheers to you! And THANK YOU for everything!

We look forward to seeing you around the LaCrosse area, regularly again!
(relaxing, of course).

Terry Kimmel has taken the role of Chief of Staff, for Midwest Territory General Vice President Sam Cicinelli.

Welcome Terry!

Let's make great things happen in 2025!

Fraternally,

Jana Kirch