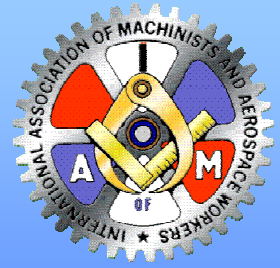


LL839 Machinists Matters

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February 2011



President's Corner February 2011

By Kathy Petersen

South Carolina Declares War on Unions

Section 1 of the NLRA, 29 U.S.C. § 151 states in part:

It is declared to be the policy of the United States to eliminate the causes of certain substantial obstructions to the free flow of commerce and to mitigate and eliminate these obstructions when they have occurred by encouraging the practice and procedure of collective bargaining and by protecting the exercise by workers of full freedom of association, self-organization and designation of representatives of their own choosing, for the purpose of negotiating the terms and conditions of their employment or other mutual aid or protection.

As most of you know, Boeing is opening up a second 787 production line in North Charleston, South Carolina. Boeing also bought out the North Charleston operations of its 787 partners, Vought and Global Aeronautica.

Last December, prior to taking office, South Carolina's new governor, Nikki Haley, vowed to pick cabinet members who will help fight off attempts to unionize Boeing's facility there. Specifically, Haley nominated attorney Catherine Templeton to head the state's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. One website notes that Templeton has been "involved in union avoidance

for the past 14 years" and that "she has extensive experience in national labor campaigns AGAINST the UAW, IBEW and the Teamsters." In nominating Templeton, Haley said that she was "ready for the challenge. We're going to fight the unions and I need a partner to help me do it."

In response to Haley's comments and actions, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) and the South Carolina American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL/CIO) filed a lawsuit on January 20, 2011, naming Gov. Haley and Catherine Templeton, in their official capacities, as defendants.

Speaking with reporters after the complaint was filed, Gov. Haley said, "There's no secret I don't like the unions and that we are a right-to-work state. I will do everything I can to defend the fact we are a right-to-work state. We are pro-business by nature. I want us to continue to be pro-business. If they don't like what I said, I'm sorry, that's how I feel."

I don't think anyone cares how Gov. Haley "feels." Some of us may "feel" like we should be able to drive 70 mph on Kellogg, but the law says otherwise. The problem is that Haley has in effect declared war against union organizing, and specifically against the IAM at the Boeing facility, and she has requested a state official to violate the very law she is charged with enforcing. Haley is violating the federal labor law listed above, along with the 1st and 14th amendments of the U.S. Con-

President's Corner continued

stitution, guaranteeing citizens rights to free speech, free association and due process, by establishing a state governmental policy of hostility to unions and workers seeking to join unions.

IAM Southern Territory General Vice President Bob Martinez said, "The state has no business whatsoever taking sides or exerting influence in a worker's decision to join or not to join a union."

And that is what the IAM is asking for in its suit – for the state to stay out of it. To quote directly from the Request for Relief section, item #3, of the lawsuit, the unions request:

An order requiring Defendants Haley and Templeton to execute an undertaking in which they commit:

- a. to refrain, and to direct LLR to refrain, from violating the statutory and constitutional rights of workers in South Carolina to form, join and assist labor unions, and to engage in other concerted activities for the purpose of mutual aid or protection;
- b. to remain neutral, and to direct LLR to remain neutral, in enforcing all state labor and employment laws;
- c. to remain neutral, and to direct LLR to remain neutral, regarding labor-management relations between employers, workers and unions within the state of South Carolina, including but not limited to, organizing campaigns, petitions for certification of a union,

ion, petitions for decertification of a union, grievances and unfair labor practices; and

- d. to remain neutral, and to direct LLR to remain neutral, regarding collective bargaining negotiations.

Why should we care about this? Well, Kansas is a right-to-work state also. Fortunately, our elected officials, while being pro-business, have not taken the extreme measures that Gov. Haley has. Could it happen here? Possibly. Other states, namely, South Dakota, Utah and Arizona, have also recently passed anti-union laws. At this time, the National Labor Relations Board is considering legal action against these states also.



What do we do? First of all, we need to be vigilant. We need to be aware of what is happening in other states, and we need to pay attention to the results of these lawsuits. It is certainly possible to be both pro-business and pro-union. Certainly, the highest level of success in business is achieved when people respect each other and work together

to increase the company's profits while at the same time providing union representation, job security, and decent wages for the employees. Sound familiar? That is what our partnership with Spirit is all about.

What can you do? Join today! If you are already a member, invite some co-workers to a meeting or talk to them one-on-one. It will not be good for America if the war on unions is won by the likes of Gov. Haley. We do not want to revert back to the time in history when workers wanting to organize were beaten and killed. Exercise your patriotic right to become a member today! Strong unions make America strong!

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE GIVES TO LOCAL CHARITIES

The Community Services Committee of Local Lodge 839 works hard all year long cooking and selling cheeseburgers and pop at our monthly lodge meetings. We have a basket drawing almost every month and a couple of big fund-raiser drawings each year. From these proceeds and through the generosity of our Stewards and Members that purchase food and tickets, we are proud to say that we were able to donate a total of \$2850.00 to help local area organizations and our members.

The organizations receiving a donation included: Center of Hope, Mario’s Food Pantry, Treat the Troops, Christmas in a Box (KFDI sponsored), United Methodist Open Door, KANSEL, and the National Federation for the Blind of Kansas. Each of these organizations works hard to help our members and the surrounding community.

We recognize that we would not be able to help the number of organizations and individuals that we do without the support and bigheartedness of our brothers and sisters. It is with great pride that we say THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all of you who attend the monthly meetings and spend your money on burgers and baskets!

From the members of the 2010 Community Services Committee:

Kathy Petersen, Chair	Stan Chapman, Co-Chair	Craig Dunbar	Rickey Nelson
Larry Stafford	Brent Allen	Greg Treadwell	Tim Petersen
	Russell Walker	Jeff Meis	

We look forward to continuing to provide service to our community and to you, our members, in 2011.

Report from District 70

By Becky Ledbetter

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

We hope this cold winter month finds everybody safe and warm. At this time your Business Representatives are working several issues together, including the M10-D paint issue and the M08-B job issues. We are working as quickly as possible to resolve these urgent matters.

Attendance is still an ongoing problem out here. You must come to work or cover your time. Computer usage is another high driver. Please use the computer only during your breaks and lunches.

I would like to thank Steve, Mark, Mike and Rita for stepping in and helping to get some serious issues resolved and still working. This team is committed to work together to get high drivers resolved! If you have any questions please call 522-1591. On behalf of all of your business reps, have a nice Month. Becky Ledbetter

GOP Blocks Aid to Trade Displaced Workers

House Republicans have this week blocked a vote on a bill that would extend training and unemployment benefits to workers who lost their job as a result of foreign trade. The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) reauthorization bill was pulled from the House floor as Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI), Chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee, expressed his intentions to use the bill as leverage for the passage of pending free trade agreements with Colombia and Panama.

“The GOP’s recent refusal to vote on a program that, since 1962, has helped to retrain, educate and find work for tens of thousands of workers impacted by our country’s unfair trade laws, is another slap in the face to working families trying to keep their head above water,” said IAM

International President Tom Buffenbarger. “And to use the bill as leverage for more unfair trade laws is unthinkable. Panama remains a tax haven for U.S. and foreign corporations. And, Colombia remains the most dangerous country in the world for trade unionists and human rights’ activists. It is imperative Congress take action to extend TAA benefits immediately.”

The TAA program was extended to service workers as part of the Recovery Act in 2009. Since that time, an estimated 400,000 workers have been certified to receive TAA services, including 170,000 workers who may not have otherwise been eligible. The extended benefits are set to expire February 12, 2011.

Act Now to Stop U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement

IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger has sent a [letter](#) to Congress urging their opposition to the Bush-negotiated South Korea Free Trade Agreement and support for policies that build our manufacturing base and create jobs.

“The recently announced trade agreement between Korea and the U.S. (KORUS FTA) fails to move our trade policies in the right direction,” wrote Buffenbarger. “The KORUS FTA continues the basic framework of NAFTA-style trade agreements by protecting multinational corporate investors at the expense of workers and communities.

“Adhering to the outdated trade policies embedded in the KORUS FTA will not revitalize our economy and create good paying jobs. Americans of all political persuasions understand this and want a real change in our trade policies.”

The Bush-negotiated agreement fails to address the serious trade imbalance the U.S. has with South Korea, which exports 500,000 automobiles to U.S., but only allows 5,000 American cars to be sold in South Korea. It also does not address the country’s serious labor rights’ problems.

The Economic Policy Institute estimates that the KORUS FTA will cost America nearly 160,000 jobs—the worst possible outcome when so many Americans are out of work and cannot find a job.

[Tell](#) your Representative and Senators that we cannot afford another free trade agreement that puts the interests of multinational corporations ahead of working America and their families. Ask that they oppose the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement and work for trade policies that create good jobs and benefit all Americans.

January

Super Bowl Basket

By Stan Chapman

January's Super Bowl Basket was won by Jeff Meis. Brother Meis is a shop steward on first shift in the door shop in Plant II. Congratulations to Jeff for having the winning ticket! I just hope that the goodies make it to the Super Bowl game?

The basket contained various goodies to enjoy during the big game, featuring a Hickory Farms Snack Pack, some Beef Jerky, Cheese-It Crackers and Honey Roasted Peanuts. Also included were some DVD Football Movies: The Longest Yard, North Dallas Forty, and Necessary Roughness. There was an NFL men's travel pack also.

The Community Service Committee sells drawing tickets during the monthly Local Lodge meeting and we draw for the baskets at the end of the meeting. A picture is taken to put in our newsletter; *The Machinists Matters*. Please try and attend your monthly meetings and maybe you will be the lucky winner next time! Thank you for your support!



BUMPY RIDE

By Stan Chapman

The State of Kansas is half a billion dollars short of revenue for 2011. The state legislature is beginning the task of trying to balance the budget.

One of the ways is Senate Bill 95 (SB95), which is a five-year phase out of income tax on corporations. The thought is that if corporations do not have to pay taxes they will bring their business to Kansas. I wonder who will pick up the tab?

The Governor wants to change the state constitution to change the way the legislature funds schools. In my opinion we are going to repeat the past. Remember when most of the people were upset with the local School Boards because they changed the mill levees to fund the schools? That means higher property taxes on our homes and property.

Why is it that the working class always gets the bill to pay for all? There are other issues that this

state has to deal with. WE need to call, write or e-mail our Representatives and let them know our thoughts. We all need to be involved in the process. They make the laws that affect our lives, our homes, our communities and our way of life.

To find your State Representatives go to our Local Lodge web site (www.LL839.org) and on the right side of the page there is a box called "Write to Congress". Put in your zip code and it will pull up all the elected Representatives for that zip code. Please find out who your Representatives are. Find out their issues and let them know yours.

It's our responsibility to communicate with our elected Representatives. Get involved! What you do (or don't do) will affect the future of our children and grandchildren.

New Members for January 2011

TERRY CARRINGTON

KRISTOPHER HARTMAN

JACOB "RYAN" MADDY

JERRY A. MILLIGAN

COLE NGUYEN

NAM D. NGUYEN

ANTHONY RONCOLI

We all need to make certain that we are being responsible and doing our part to organize the non-members. Inside this newsletter are many issues and concerns that relate to everyone who works out here on the shop floor. These are the very things that you can engage your co-workers in conversation about, and then bring up how other union members feel about those issues.

Remember the more united we are, the stronger we are, but divided we beg!

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

Local Lodge 839
3917 E. MacArthur Rd.
Wichita, Kansas 67210

Phone: (316) 524-1090

Fax: (316) 529-1277



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The Fighting Machinists

www.ll839.org



Monthly Union Meetings

2nd Saturday of the Month

Executive Board meets at 8:00 AM

Regular Meeting at 10:00 AM

President - Kathy Petersen

Vice President - Brent Allen

Recording Secretary - Larry Stafford

Treasurer - Joni Pierce

Conductor/Sentinel - Jeff Meis

Trustees - Susan Hiebert, Stan Chapman

Communicator - Dennis Williams

Educator - Roger Stamback

1st Shift In-Plant Rep. - David Eagle

2nd Shift In-Plant Rep. - Howard "HoJo" Johnson

Editor - Jarrod Lehman

We are the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. We belong to Local Lodge 839 of District 70 in Wichita Kansas. We represent the Fighting Machinists of Spirit AeroSystems. We work to give our members a voice on the job.

Visit our website often at www.ll839.org for helpful and timely information.

If you have any questions, contact one of your In-Plant Representatives at 524-1090.

If you have any articles you want published, e-mail the Editor at jlehman@ll839.org.

The opinions expressed in any articles are the opinions of that author not the representatives of LL839

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