



Machinists Matters

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
Local Lodge 839

3917 E. MacArthur Rd.
Wichita, Kansas 67210

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday



Monthly Meetings

2nd Saturday of the Month

Executive Board meets at 8:00AM

Regular Meeting at 10:00AM

“ Decisions are made by those who show up.”

The 2008 AFL-CIO Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance will be held January 17-21 in Memphis, Tennessee. Holding our Observance in Memphis in 2008 is significant as it marks the 40th Anniversary of the Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike. This was a valiant strike of men who dared to take a stand for dignity and respect on the job. This was also Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. final campaign. He was assassinated in Memphis in 1968 while supporting these striking workers.

In Memphis, the labor movement will come together to remember Dr. King and the sanitation workers strike. We will join with our allies at the observance to advance the agenda for civil and workers rights and carry on Dr. King’s legacy through a program of education and community service.

If you would like additional information, please contact either of us Eva Walton in the AFL-CIO Civil, Human and Women’s Right Department at [ewalton@ afl-cio.org](mailto:ewalton@afl-cio.org) or phone at (202) 637-6664

Inside this issue:

<i>Steward Toolbox</i>	2
<i>IAM Women Conference</i>	3
<i>Welcome December New Members</i>	4
<i>Organizing Message to Stewards</i>	4
<i>Calendars and Foldout are at Local</i>	4

In-Plant Reps

David Eagle - 1st Shift

Howard Johnson In-Plant Reps

David Eagle - 1st Shift

Howard Johnson - 2nd Shift

(316) 524-1090

Absent Reporting Line

(316) 526-6900



Roles and Responsibilities of a Union Steward

Like most vitally important jobs, that of a steward is very difficult. In fact, it may seem like a steward is expected to be all things to all people at once. Of course that is impossible, but by understanding the various roles of a steward and doing your best at fulfilling them, the steward will contribute greatly to the strength of the union.

The roles of the steward can best be described as that of negotiator, educator, leader, organizer, communicator and **Political Activist**.

The steward has the responsibility to make the members aware of political affairs that affect their livelihood and social well-being, including keeping them informed as to legislation that affects the collective bargaining process and climate. The steward should also become involved in politics by helping on campaigns of labor– endorsed candidates. Listed below are the things that the steward should do and know to fulfill the role of political activist and suggestions as to how to do them:

What To Do:

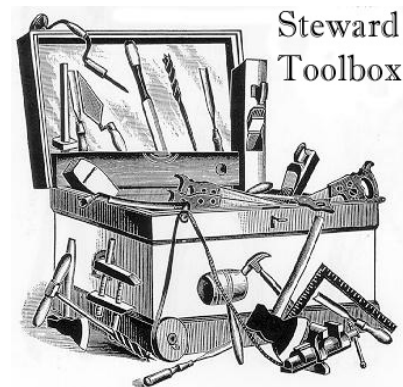
1. Keep members informed about political events
2. Register and vote in all elections
3. Encourage everyone in your department to vote
4. Write letters to your representatives and encourage others to do so
5. Work on Campaigns of labor endorsed candidates
6. Promote the political action program of you union

What To Know:

1. Pending legislation that affects worker
2. Our nation can't remain democratic with - out the participation of the people
3. Who is not registered and who need prodding to exercise their right to vote
4. Who your representatives are and current
5. Who has been endorsed and why
6. The political positions your union has taken

How You Go About It:

1. Read newspapers and union literature, such as the AFL-CIO News, The Legislative Alert, and your International paper, so that you understand the issues from a labor perspective.
2. Attend education programs that discuss the issues.
3. Volunteer to work on a phone bank, knock on doors, stuff envelopes or pass out fliers for a labor endorsed candidate.
4. Organize letters writing campaigns to your representative on important labor issues.
5. Participate in “actions” organized by your union, such as rallies and marches.
6. Distribute union literature to all members



IAM Women's Conference

IAM WOMAN

...In Numbers too Big to Ignore

By Kathy Petersen, Joni Pierce and Susan Hiebert

On behalf of the Women's Committee of Local Lodge 839, we'd like to give the following report on the IAM Women's Conference that was held on October 10, 2007 and the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) 14th Biennial Convention held October 11-13th in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The focus of the Women's Conference was on organizing. Nearly 150 women from all over the United States gathered to discuss the role of women in organizing. Women are now, more than ever, the fastest growing segment of new members. We now have a network of sisters who well understand the value of a union, and are starting to get involved in their lodges and communities and who can effectively serve as the organizing eyes, ears and arms of the Machinists Union. We have to do our part to help the union grow, prosper and protect the future of our union through organizing.

At the conference, we were divided into groups and given a project to complete. Each group was responsible for brainstorming a list of what we perceive to be our role, as women, in organizing. Are we educators? Are we communicators? Are we leaders? Of course we are. We are working women. We are determined to make a difference in our workplace. The next phase of the project was to identify the preventative actions (fears) that keep us from organizing our coworkers. How do we overcome those fears? Can we produce polices or develop laws to support our efforts? Perhaps we can reduce the ambiguity associated with our Collective Bargaining Agreement by strengthening the language within it. At a minimum, we can improve internal communications within our workplace to help reduce the fear of the unknown and/or the fear of failure. After capturing all of our ideas and information, our public speaking skills were tested by standing and presenting our report to the entire membership at the Conference.

Upon conclusion of the IAM Women's Conference, we then joined over 700 members of the Coalition of Labor Union Women for the 14th Biennial Convention. The IAM was well represented at the Convention. Only the United Auto Workers (UAW) had more delegates present than the IAM.

CLUW is America's only National organization for union women. With members on the frontline, CLUW empowers working women to become leaders in their unions and encouraging them to make a difference on the job and, most importantly, in their own lives. CLUW's values are simple: solidarity, involvement, dignity and justice.

As first time delegates, we voted on several resolutions dealing with topics such as how to stop toxic imports of toys that have been found to contain lead-based paint. The question was raised as to what to do with toys that consumers have already purchased and have subsequently been identified as toxic? Certainly, we would not want to send them to the dump for fear of contaminating the environment. (One delegate wanted to send all of the toys to Washington, D.C.!). Other topics included the Fair Pay Restoration Act, the Employee Free Choice Act and Healthcare. There were a number of guest speakers including Congressman John Conyers, former AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson and William Burrus, President of the APWU (American Postal Workers Union). The message from these dignitaries is straight-forward:

"Juggling the responsibilities of work and home often seems impossible—especially for women, who frequently bear a disproportionate share of family burdens. Somehow, working women manage to get it all done. Union membership should reflect the workplace and the union leadership should reflect the membership. Workers have no individual voice in the workplace. They only have it when they join with other workers and that is what makes the union".

Sisters Petersen, Pierce and Hiebert appreciate the opportunity to go and participate in the Conferences. It was inspiring to get together with so many labor union women from all over the United States, and to share information on on-going projects.

We would like to encourage all of our Local Lodge 839 union sisters to come to the next Women's Committee meeting. We have some exciting ideas for organizing in 2008. But, we can't do it without you. We need your help. We need your voice.

Welcome Our New Union Brothers and Sisters

New December IAMAW LL839 Members

ADKINS, ROGENIA	HEERSCHE, STEVE	MOULTON, MICHAEL D.	SHERWOOD, RUSSELL
BROCK, RICHARD	HERRING, DUSKY R.	NORRIS, JOHN B.	THOLE, TYAN
CARTER, CHRISTOPHER	HERVEY, ROY A.	NYBERG, GARY	THREET, ARTHUR CARROLL
CHANDLER, BRIAN	HILL, RANDY R.	PATA, KIMBERLY L.	TRANG, VIET HONG
COLLING, DAVID	ICENHOUR, TROY M.	PATRICK, JASON	TURNER, THOMAS K.
COOK, RITA K.	JIMENEZ, JOSE	PHAN, SOPHAL	WHEATLEY, GORMAN
CRAIG, JONATHAN	KNAUS, LELAND W.	RESONDEZ, ANTHONY	WILSON, MARY Y.
DAUSTER, JAMIE L.	LAWRENCE, DAVID W.	ROBERTSON, REGINA	WRIGHT, GARY D.
GALLARDO, DANIEL L.	MARTIN, DARYL	RONCK, JIM	
GRESHAM, CHRISTOPHER	MCDANIEL, MARY	ROTHGEB, JESSICA	

Your Organizing Committee Wants You To Know



Union Stewards--
Please, Pickup
Your 2008 Calen-
dars and Foldouts
for Your Members



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
Email: tglasslewis@ll839.org

The Fighting Machinists

www.ll839.org

Local Lodge 839 Officers

President - Gary Cochran
Vice President - Kathy Petersen
Recording Secretary - Kevin Jamis
Treasurer - Joni Pierce
Conductor/Sentinel - Dennis Williams
Trustees - Roger Stamback, Stan Chapman, Ricky Nelson



Communicator - Dennis Williams
Educator - Roger Stamback

1st Shift In-Plant Representative - David Eagle
2nd Shift In-Plant Representative - Howard Johnson

LL839 Newsletter Editor - Ernest (Ernie) L. Gonzales