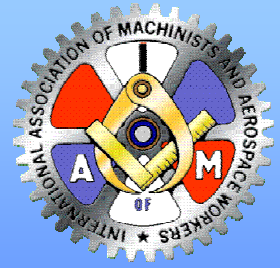


LL839 Machinists Matters



3917 E MacArthur Rd.
Wichita, KS. 67210

A Publication for "The Fighting Machinists" Representing the Workers of Spirit AeroSystems

Vol.5 Number 9

www.ll839.org

www.goiam.org

September 2011



President's Corner September 2011

By Kathy Petersen

LABOR DAY

Some people only think of Labor Day as the unofficial end of summer and celebrate the three-day weekend as a last blast of summer fun with cook-outs, picnics and family get-togethers. Most of us know that Labor Day's true meaning is to honor the everyday working people, but how many of us know how Labor Day came about?

Labor Day differs from the other national holidays of the year because Labor Day is devoted to no person, living or dead, to no sect, race or nation. Labor Day is the creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of our country.

Who first proposed the holiday? There is some dispute about that. Some records indicate that Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, was first in suggesting a day to honor workers. Recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, a machinist who later became the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, New Jersey, proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York.

What is undisputed is that the Central Labor Union adopted a Labor Day proposal and appointed a committee to plan a demonstration and picnic.

The first Labor Day was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union, an umbrella group made up of representatives from many local unions. On that day, some 20,000 workers assembled in New York City to participate in America's first Labor Day parade. They carried banners that read: "LABOR CREATES ALL WEALTH," and "EIGHT HOURS FOR WORK, EIGHT HOURS FOR REST, EIGHT HOURS FOR RECREATION." After marching from City Hall, past reviewing stands in Union Square, and then uptown to 42nd Street, the workers and their families gathered in Wendel's Elm Park for a picnic, concert, and speeches. They ate Irish stew, homemade bread and apple pie. At night, fireworks were set off.

The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day celebration a year later, on September 5, 1883. Few, if any, workers got the day off. Most were warned against marching in the parade with the threat of getting fired. Despite the warning, more than 10,000 workers showed up for the march. Led by mounted police, bricklayers in white aprons paraded with a band playing "Killarney." In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea moved across the country as slowly as did recognition of the rights of the working man. It was not until 12 years later, on June 28, 1894, that President Grover Cleveland signed a Labor Day holiday bill designating the first Monday in September for the national holiday. Cleveland was a foe of organized labor, but signed the bill under voter pressure.

Presidents Corner cont.

Why Did We Ever Need Unions?

Most U.S. citizens take for granted labor laws which protect them from the evils of unregulated industry. Perhaps the majority of those who argue for “free enterprise” and the removal of restrictions on corporations are unaware that over the course of this country’s history, workers have fought and died for protection from industry. In many instances, government troops were called out to crush strikes, at times firing on protestors. In 1806 the union of Philadelphia Journeymen Cordwainers was convicted of and bankrupted by charges of criminal conspiracy after a strike for higher wages, setting a precedent by which the U.S. government would combat unions for years to come. Such examples are too numerous to list all of them here, but here are just a few:

In July 1851, two railroad strikers were shot dead and other injured by the state militia in Portage, New York.

On November 23, 1887, the Louisiana Militia, aided by bands of “prominent citizens,” shot at least 35 unarmed black sugar workers striking to gain a dollar-per-day wage, and lynched two strike leaders.

In 1894, federal troops killed 34 American Railway Union members in the Chicago area in an attempt

to break a strike led by Eugene Debs against the Pullman Company.

On November 22, 1909, a New York judge told the striking female garment workers that they were “on strike against God.”

On November 21, 1927, picketing miners were massacred in Columbine, Colorado.

Why Do We Still Need Unions?

I hope most of you saw the article by Hilda L. Solis, the U.S. Secretary of Labor, which was published in Monday’s Wichita Eagle, and has been reprinted with permission in this edition of the Machinists Matters. Ms. Solis talks about how she learned about unions from her father, who was a union steward, and how having a collective voice at work made a real and significant difference for her father, his co-workers, and her mother, who worked at a toy factory. Ms. Solis also emphasizes the importance of corporate management recognizing their workers as an asset and how workers can offer valuable input if someone will make the effort to listen to them. If you haven’t read this article, I encourage you to do so, and to share it with those people you know who vociferously state that unions were important once upon a time, but just aren’t needed anymore.

Human Rights Conference

By Becky Ledbetter

Last week over labor day, I had the privilege to attend the Human Rights Conference. It was truly an eye opener to see how far we have come and how far we still need to go. I cringed to learn that just a few years back, many hard working black men and women could not strike with their fellow Boeing workers even though they were dues paying members. I have had many strikes with all my brothers and sisters and cannot imagine not being able to hold hands with everyone together. We have truly progressed but we are not done. We heard a story about a tobacco worker who collapsed in the heat and the supervisor told his co workers to stick him under a tree. They then moved to another field and left him there under the tree only to find him dead the next morning. Then the tragic story of the Ikea workers in Danville, Alabama who worked under horrible conditions and were not even allowed to go to the restroom. This left them with no other choice but to vacate on themselves. Today they are proud members of the Machinists Union and are working towards a better way life. This is what the fight is about. It is about the working people and the everyday battles we endure. This is about you and I and our kids and grandkids. This is about Caesar Chavez who stood up one day for the field workers who picked fruit, the fruit in which we enjoy every day. In his battle for rights for those workers he said, this is not about lettuce and grapes, this is about the rights of the people!!! That’s what I am talking about! Be safe and have a good month.

Why unions are still important

By Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis

The following article is a re-print from the Wichita Eagle

When I was in ninth grade, my dad often asked me to translate little scraps of paper that he got from his co-workers at the battery recycling plant. He was a union steward and through those notes — often written in Spanish — his co-workers shared their concerns about unsafe conditions, paychecks that didn't add up, or new ideas to improve efficiency. My dad explained that the notes started conversations to make things better.

From an early age, I saw how having a collective voice at work made a real and significant difference for my father, his co-workers and my mother, who worked at a toy factory.

"Union" is a simple word with a powerful impact — when workers unify, they get a little more leverage to bargain. They can collectively ask for fairer wages and safer working conditions. They have a better chance at entering and staying in the middle class.

I am pleased to see that in the Air Capital of the World, union members and management have reached collective-bargaining agreements that were beneficial to the aircraft companies as well as union workers. These agreements offer workers, among other things, increased job security and a stake in the company, while manufacturers see increased productivity and lower operating costs. I have no doubt that these types of agreements have helped Wichita and the general aviation industry get back on the road to economic recovery.

More than 100 years ago, Labor Day was established to pay tribute to workers. It's a day to recognize the contributions working men and women have made to the strength and prosperity of our nation.

Throughout our nation's history, unions have played a role in all that. Their efforts have made the workplace better and safer for all workers, whether or not they are in a union.

If you enjoy your weekends, you can thank a union. If you work an eight-hour day or get paid overtime when you work more, you can thank a union. If you're paid a minimum wage and if you take time off to care for a sick family member or new baby, you can thank a union.

Unions are still a crucial and articulate voice in advocating for workers and keeping families in the middle class. Across the country, unions are leading the way with registered apprentice programs — helping to rebuild our nation's infrastructure — that provide first-rate training, good jobs with good pay and a gateway to a better life.

Unions also are helping veterans make the transition to civilian life with programs like Helmets to Hardhats, a nonprofit organization that has connected thousands of veterans with careers, training and jobs in the construction industry.

One of the reasons the American auto industry has soared back is that management recognized its workforce as an enormous asset with unique wisdom about making cars. For example, when the unionized workers building the Ford Explorer noticed that a bracket-installation process could cause paint damage, they took their concerns to the engineers. Management listened and responded with a new protective covering on the paint surface. As a result, Ford Explorer drivers nationwide are saving money in paint repairs.

Having that voice makes a difference in all of our lives — and not just about the paint on our cars. The people who teach our children, the nurses who care for us when we are sick, the firefighters who run into burning buildings, or the police who patrol the streets while we sleep need and deserve that voice, too. And when they have it, those of us who depend on them benefit from it.

It's been a long time since I sat with my dad and those scraps of paper, but what I learned from our time together then is still true: A voice at work makes things better.

That idea is worth remembering and celebrating. Not just on Labor Day, but every day

When Will We Get Our Fair Trade?

In 1994, Congress introduced the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) as the solution for jobs expansion and prosperity for the American people. Seventeen years later, NAFTA has yet to live up to its promise. Costing Americans **682,900** in lost or displaced jobs, the trade deficit with Mexico stands at a mind-boggling **\$97.2** billion.

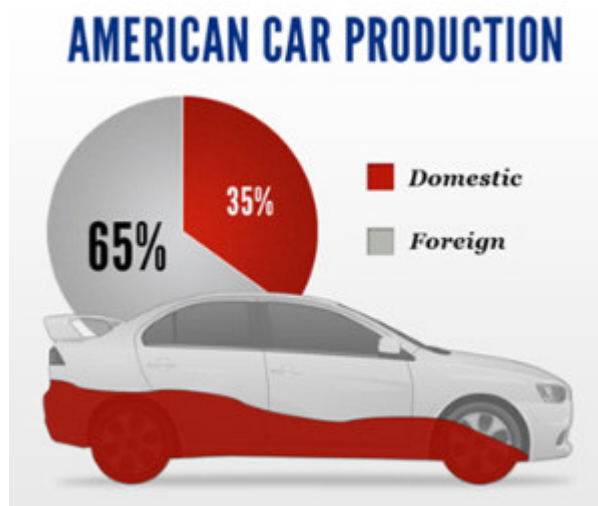
As Congress attempts to pass the largest FTA since NAFTA in the form of the Korean – US Free Trade Agreement (KORUS), it's time to compare the proposed agreement with what was learned during the nation's debacle with NAFTA.

U.S. Auto Industry Will Continue to Struggle

Out of all the American jobs NAFTA destroyed, 61 percent came from the automotive industry. Will KORUS help make up the difference? **NO WAY.**

In 2009, Americans exported a measly 75,000 cars to Korea, accounting for 800 jobs. Korea exported 476,833 to the USA.

Furthermore, if U.S. automotive companies do increase sales in South Korea, the major parts like tires, steel or electronics will most likely not originate in the U.S. Under KORUS, cars with 65% content from Mexico or China can still qualify for the trade agreement benefits.



KORUS Will Kill U.S. Jobs

Despite claims that NAFTA would lead to spectacular job growth, the Labor Department estimates the U.S. lost 525,000 jobs in high-paying industries like motor vehicles, many of which were relocated to Mexico for cheaper, lower-skilled workers.

Will anything change this time? While President Obama suggests KORUS will create 70,000 new U.S. jobs, the Economic Policy Institute calculates South Korea will displace 159,000 U.S. workers during the first seven years due to increased imports in aerospace, electronic equipment, metal products and motor vehicles.

Korean Electronic Imports Will Increase the Deficit

Similar to the automotive industry, NAFTA influenced the outsourcing of electronics factories and jobs to Mexico for cheaper labor. In fact, the state of California alone lost over 450,000 manufacturing jobs well before the economic crisis.



KORUS will be no different. The United States International Trade Commission (USITC) predicts the biggest losers under the South Korea trade pact are tech communities from the Bay Area like computer

Cont. from page 4

and solar-power industries. Thanks to reduced trade tariffs and minimal influence over workers' rights and child labor laws, KORUS incentivizes U.S. companies to move manufacturing offshore, resulting in a predicted loss of 154,000 jobs and a deficit increase of over \$790 million.

North Korea's Influence

Jobs displaced through NAFTA have moved from Mexico to regions with desperately-poor working standards like South-east Asia and parts of Africa. Due to the lack of unions and government labor standards, the same practice of importing manufactured goods from impoverished regions and areas in conflict will continue under KORUS.

Items with up to 65% non-South Korean material can enter the United States with zero safeguards or stopgaps to prevent North Korean sweatshops and other Asian countries with rock-bottom labor standards from producing these goods.



Who Benefits Most from KORUS?

The most comprehensive free trade pact since NAFTA only benefits one type of American – the corporate fat cat. With the power to send America's livelihood overseas, these executives gleefully distribute pink slips in exchange for another bonus check. As their coffers grow, America's rallying cry for hope and change dwindles to a low murmur.

When will **WE** get our fair trade?

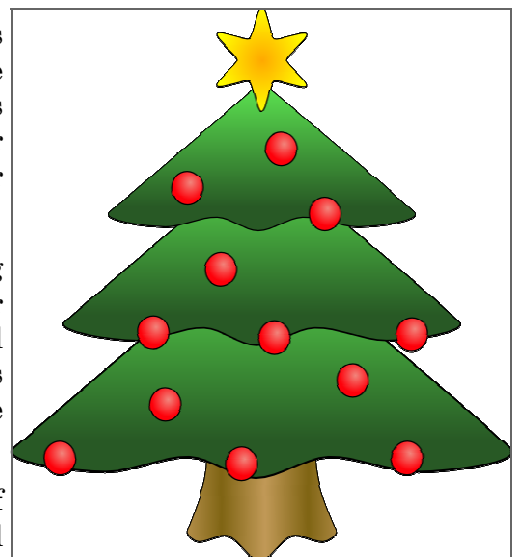
Christmas Cash Drawing

By Jarrod Lehman

Your Community Service Committee is going to have a Christmas Cash Drawing to be held at the December meeting. The first place winner will receive \$1000.00, second place is \$700.00 third is \$500.00 and fourth place is \$300.00. The requested donation for tickets will be \$5.00 each, or 5 tickets for \$20.00. A limited number of tickets will be printed.

Your Community Service Committee has been very busy supporting our members this year; we have helped more members this year than in the last 5 years. We have donated over \$2,000.00 to local organizations such as United Way, Kansel, Center of Hope, Mario's Food Pantry, Treat the Troops and the National Federation for the Blind of Kansas.

We would not be able to function at all without the support of all of our brothers and sisters who attend the local lodge meetings and purchase cheeseburgers and take part in our monthly basket drawings. This year the need for help has been much greater than in past years. Thanks again to all of you, and remember the money you spend on these drawings, goes right back to our members whom are in need.



POKER RUN

POKER RUN

**Sat. Sept 17th 2011
Rain or Shine
3917 E. MacArthur Rd. Wichita, KS**

**\$20.00 for Poker Run
Registration 7:00am-8:30am
First bike out at 8:45am**

TO BENEFIT:



**\$200.00 for Best Hand
\$100.00 for 2nd Best Hand
\$50.00 for 3rd Best Hand**

**LOCAL LODGE 839
POKER RUN**

**LOCAL LODGE 839
POKER RUN**



Stops include:



Alefs



WICHITA LODGE 839

The undersigned Entrant agrees to observe the rules and decisions of event Management and in no way holds the Poker Run or its Sponsors responsible for any loss or injury to the Entrant or their property.

Name: _____ Distance Traveled: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

For more INFO Call:
Shawn Mead 990-1373
Greg Treadwell 519-9090
Jarrod Lehman 633-0687

**PARTICIPATION IS
OPEN TO THE ENTIRE
COMMUNITY**

Mail Checks to:
Local Lodge 839
3917 E. MacArthur Rd.
Wichita, KS 67210

A September 11th Message from Tom Buffenbarger



A decade ago, in the immediate aftermath of the September 11th attacks, I expressed the outrage of our union at what had just occurred. I explained in a message to IAM members that “It was our planes that were used as weapons of mass destruction. It was our members who were forced to endure the unimaginable nightmare. It was our members who were among the murdered.” I pledged then that “we will have our vengeance.”

Nearly four thousand days have elapsed since that message went out. America imposed a new reality on those who attacked us. And, with the elimination of Osama Bin Laden, our vengeance is complete.

But members of the IAM did more than just build the weapon systems and the high-tech munitions that imposed a new reality on the terrorists and nations who shielded and supported them. Our members, like so many other union members, raced towards the sounds of the sirens – at Ground Zero and the Pentagon. From all across our union came donations and volunteers to help out our brothers and sisters in desperate need.

The bravery and patriotism of union members that day and in the weeks that followed was captured in [Everyday Heroes: Our Stories of 9/11](#), a 55-minute documentary written and produced by the IAM. Even as we taped hundreds of hours of interviews, the Machinists Union recognized the toll being taken on those working on the pile. The IAM made a substantial donation to Mt. Sinai Hospital to begin the treatment of those workers, and donated the proceeds of Everyday Heroes to their care.

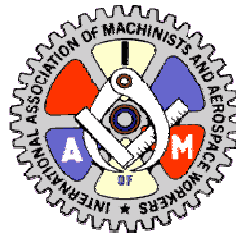
Now, a decade later, many of the unionized, blue-collar workers who gave their all in those dark days are suffering grievous illnesses. To add insult to injuries sustained in the service of their country, those same workers – and the union brothers and sisters who supported them – are being vilified by right-wing politicians and ignored by far too many on the left. And that is a travesty.

Commemorating the September 11th attacks should include a nationwide period of thanksgiving for what the American Labor Movement did individually and collectively in the minutes, hours and days after the terrorists struck. That may be too much to ask. But I would ask that, as part of your personal commemoration of those events, that you take one last look at who America’s everyday heroes really are.



New Members for August 2011

Alan Aipperspach	Christopher Albright	Jeffery Allen	Spencer Allen	Byron Patterson
Alfred A. Aramburu	Toby Austin	T.J. Baker	James Ball II	Jay Patton
Kimberly Banuelos	Rob Baron	Galan W. Bentley	Adrian Bolder	Jake Phillips
Rufus Bonham	Robert Briggs	Joel Calvert	Richard L. Carlson	Shauntell Polite
Joseph Catron	Dwayne R. Chaney	Matthew J. Cline	Christopher M. Conner	Russell Rauh
Gary D. Cox JR.	Sylvester Cowans	Buddy Creamer	Tri C. Do	Kyle D. Redger
Jason Dubois	Brock A. Eggleston	Matthew S. Elder	Chris R. Evans	Alvin E. Richard
John C. Fajardo	Allan Federico	Larry D. Fisher JR.	Kyle Flickinger	Gary Sawyer
Jamal Franklin	Mark Hackett	Alea M. Haggerty	Kimberly Hartman	Travis Scates
Nathan Hedrick	Durand Henriques	Eric A. Hicks	Adam Hoag	Rob Sharma
Dianna Hoang	Zac Hough	Winnie L. Howard	Ryan R. Hunt	Nathaniel Shipman
Joe A. Hutchings	Cody Jackson	Richard Juarez	Morgan Kirkwood	James W. Siever III
Ralph D. Kitchen	Trissda Kohlhorst	Tu Thien Lam	Stephen Lance	Josh Soza
Bryce Loyd	Edward J. Lumpkin	Tam Mai	Creighton Maloney	Jason Sprayberry
Matthew McCarthy	Michael McIntosh	Sean R. McVicker	Andrew Murphy	Ellis Stapleton
Timothy S. Murphy	Nghi Nguyen	Curtis Nicks	Justin T. Partridge	Linda P. Tran
Minh Q. Tran	Aaron J. Turner			
Eugene Vasilescu	Marie F.I. Vasquez			
Matthew W. Waggoner	Troy Walrod II			
Jason Whiterock	Matthew T. Wiechman			
Ronnie Williams	Rose Wright			
Juan Pablo Vazquez				



Monthly Union Meetings
2nd Saturday of the Month
Executive Board meets at 8:00
AM
Regular Meeting at 10:00 AM

**International Association of Machinists
and Aerospace Workers**
Local Lodge 839
3917 E. MacArthur Rd.
Wichita, Kansas 67210
Phone: (316) 524-1090

The Fighting Machinists

President - Kathy Petersen
Vice President - Brent Allen
Recording Secretary - Larry Stafford
Treasurer - Joni Pierce
Conductor/Sentinel - Jeff Meis
Trustees - Susan Hiebert, Stan Chapman
Christopher Phillips
Communicator - Dennis Williams
Educator - Roger Stamback
1st Shift In-Plant Rep. - David Eagle

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.