

11839 Machinists Matters



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Wichita, KS. 67210

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Women's History Month President's Corner March 2010

By Kathy Petersen



International Women's Day was first observed in 1909, but it wasn't until 1981 that Congress established National Women's History Week to be commemorated the second week of March. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month. Every year since, Congress has passed a resolution for Women's History Month, and the President has issued a proclamation.

One of the first things that comes to mind when thinking about women's history (in America, at least) is the suffrage movement. American women's right to vote was codified in the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution in August of 1920. Long before then, however, women were active in the labor movement, advocating for fair wages, better working conditions, and freedom to organize. In fact, the first society of working women, the Daughters of Liberty, was organized in 1765. The first national union of women was the Daughters of St. Crispin, which was formed in 1869.

In honor of Women's History Month, I'd like to highlight just a few of the many, many women who fought for workers' rights over the years:

1. Lavinia Wright & Louise Mitchell – In 1825, these two seamstresses formed the first all-women's labor union, the United Tailoresses of New York, to protest 16-hour days that did not guarantee a living wage.
2. Sarah Bagley – In 1846, Ms. Bagley organized the Lowell Female Labor Reform Association to protest wage cuts and extended working hours at Lowell Mills. The Association prompted the state legislature to investigate labor conditions for the first time, and the mill eventually began to shorten the workday.
3. Agnes Nestor – Ms. Nestor worked in a glove factory in Chicago, Illinois. In 1898, Ms. Nestor organized the women in her shop to strike for better working conditions, for raises for the lowest paid workers, and for the right to a union shop.
4. Mother Jones – Mary Harris "Mother" Jones was born in Cork, Ireland in 1830 and came to America in 1835. She married George Jones who was a member of the Iron Moulders Union and an organizer for the Knights of Labor in the southern and southwestern coal fields. In 1867, yellow fever struck the family, and George and all four of their children died. George's death gave Mary the burning desire to continue his work in the union. From the beginning of her involvement in the union, Mother Jones was where the danger was the greatest. In 1890, she convinced the families of striking United Mine Workers to demonstrate on behalf of their husbands and fathers. In 1903, she led the "Children's Crusade" to the home of President Teddy Roosevelt to protest child labor in mills and mines. She led the miners in strikes in Virginia in 1891, in West Virginia in 1912-1913, in Colorado in 1913-1914, and in Kansas in 1921. A self-described "hell raiser," and a truly fascinating woman, she was notorious as the "grandmother of all agitators" for her tireless labor activism until her death at age 93.
5. Frances Perkins – A talented student who defended in court her right to keep her maiden name, Frances Perkins became a social reformer after visiting a factory while in college. She became involved with labor issues when she witnessed 146 garment workers die inside or jumping from the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in 1911. Working with Franklin Delano Roosevelt (who was then Governor of New York), she successfully shortened the workweek to 48 hours for women and sought minimum wage and unemployment protections. In 1933, she became Secretary of Labor, the first woman to hold a cabinet position and be included in the line of presidential succession. She was also instrumental in creating the Social Security Act of 1935.

Continued on Page 2—Women's History

Partner with union

By Robert Martinez Jr.



There has been much discussion recently about the future of the aviation industry in Wichita, and it's an important discussion. We've let our dominance slide almost everywhere else, and we've lost manufacturing capacity to the siren call of cheap labor in other countries.

We must not let that happen in aerospace. We still dominate the world in technology, productivity and innovation. Our industry is vibrant and strong.

The worried comparison to Detroit is a fair one (Feb. 14 Business). Wichita is and always has been unique, a hub of companies comprising this industry since its birth.

The comparison should end there. Sadly, some of our companies have long looked at the cheap labor in Mexico and elsewhere. Hawker Beechcraft is closing the Salina facility, and much of that work is going to Mexico, China and India; none of it will stay in Kansas.

If the aircraft companies decide to chase the cheap labor, Wichita has a real chance of becoming like Detroit. The threat is real and serious.

The companies also would hurt their own bottom line, as quality and workmanship suffer. The companies born in Wichita have proud names, and we don't want to see those names tarnished with the inferior products that would result from a cheap-labor business model.

There is another way, a better way. I agree completely with the leaders of our companies that we cannot rest on past accomplishments. We must press forward to stay on the leading edge.

To do so, we need a true partnership. Working together to increase productivity, but also to keep jobs in Wichita, not Mexico or elsewhere, is part of that partnership.

We've seen too many cities and states lose manufacturers, then pay millions of taxpayer dollars to lure something — anything — for jobs to keep from dy-

ing. It would be far more expensive to lose the aerospace industry and try to replace it than to nurture and support it, to keep it here.

The Machinists union supports a real and sustained partnership between our companies, the community, city and state government, and the work force in Wichita. We have the most experienced aviation work force in America, generations of hardworking Kansans who have airplanes in their blood.

The most important thing would be for our companies to stop treating the work force as a cost, but rather the strongest resource they have. If the companies would partner with the workers and their union, and empower the workers, the possibilities for innovation and increases in productivity are endless.

The rewards for doing so would be great. American workers can't compete with Third World wages. But the old adage is true: You get what you pay for. If our workers are empowered and unleashed, they are well worth the good wages and benefits they receive.

The local community must participate, too. We need a strong educational and training system that provides more skilled workers to grow this industry. As they are trained and enter the aviation work force, they will learn from the greatest aircraft workers in the world, to carry on the legacy we have been given.

The gauntlet is down; our union and our members care deeply for what we have built in the past century. Let's rise to the challenge of a great team, a community that refuses to give up on the last great American industry, and let's drive it on to greater heights in the Air Capital of the World.

Robert Martinez Jr. of Dallas is general vice president of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers for the Southern Territory. His article appeared on the Opinion page of the Wichita Eagle on February 28, 2010. He has granted permission to reprint his article for our Machinists Matters.



Women's History— from page 2

6. Linda Chavez-Thompson – In 1995, Ms. Chavez-Thompson was elected Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO. She is the first woman elected officer of the AFL-CIO, as well as

the first person of color and the first Hispanic. She is active in the union's political work, and is credited with helping reform the organization's position on immigration policy.

more women who deserve our respect for their courage, strength and tireless work on behalf of all working women. If we have even 1/10 of the energy and dedication of these brave women, we will be able to accomplish great things in the coming years.

There are thousands of

“We are starving while we work, we might as well starve while we strike!”
1909 Garment Workers' Strike Banner

“The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any.”
Alice Walker, author of “The Color Purple”

HERE WE GO AGAIN

By Cliff Cusick

It is time for Spring Break at the universities and schools across America. We are headed out of town to pick up my wife's daughter. She is a 2nd year student who is going to college on full scholarships, a Horatio Alger's grant, as a result of experiences of her youth, plus Beta grants.

There was a time when this would be unheard of. Actually there was a time when high school was unheard of. Children worked in sweat shops when they were pre-teens and teens. It was organized labor that pushed for cessation of sweat shops in America. It was organized labor that fought for a "free education". The idea of "free education" has deteriorated as high school registration and book fees are rather expensive.

The point here is quite simple, union membership means more

than wages and work benefits. We have paid vacations, allowing us personal and family time. We actually have women and children to thank for our "UNB" (union negotiated break). Historically, any place of business that employed women and children had to have a break every 2 hours. When I was younger and worked in the fruit orchards, I remember that we got a break. We were allowed to sit on our ladders for 5 minutes and then return to work! We worked 5½ days each week, as we worked until noon on Saturdays, and wow, \$8 a day was not quite union wages! But because I was "child labor", under 16, that's all that I was paid.

That is a far cry from what I make now, thanks to the IAM. I remind you that Kansas, until recently, had the lowest minimum wage in the United States. Now that is something to make Kansans proud, huh? We are a "right to work (for less)" State. Uninformed people blast "organized labor" almost every day. Very few people outside of a

union organization know or care what union labor organizations have accomplished for Americans.

I think it is pertinent that we stand firm and proud to be a Union workers. We need to point out that we have paid vacation- not "earned time off", we have paid sick leave, granted, not enough but we have it, and so many other benefits. Certainly some of the already earned benefits could use some refinement, such as gaining some clarity for the use of sick leave credits, preventing management from determining the valid use of our time. Our Union negotiated this benefit, it is not something that management benevolently bestowed upon us.

We all need to realize just what has been earned for us in the past, in most cases before many of us were employed by a collective bargaining unit.

So this month why don't you contemplate what was earned for you before you were even hired on? It might surprise you!

Valentine Basket Winner

By Stan Chapman

The winner of the Valentine Basket is Ronny Ketron. Ronny is a Union Steward for 834 at Boeing. "Congratulations" to Brother Ketron for having the winning ticket!



The basket contained many items relating to a fine Valentine's evening. There was a DVD, wine and wine glasses, chocolate, a teddy bear, a gift card to the Outback Steak House and a variety of other items. The basket was valued at over \$85.00.

The Community Service Committee would like to thank the membership for the support you give to us when you purchase food from the kitchen and tickets for the basket drawings. The money you spend enables us to procure additional items for baskets and raffles and allows us to help our members in need.

We draw for the baskets at the end of the Local Lodge meeting and a picture is taken to put in the newsletter. Please try and attend your monthly meetings and maybe you will be the lucky winner

next time! Coming up at the meeting in March, we will have a drawing for a St Patrick's Day basket. Believe me when I say, it will be packed full of goodies!

We also are planning a special Father's Day drawing on June 12th at our membership meeting. That drawing will be for a Sylvania 32" Flat Screen LCD HDTV. See a Community Service Committee member to purchase tickets or stop by the Local, tickets will be there.



*Drawing will be held June 12, 2010
You need not be present to Win
Proceeds will go to the
LL839 Community Service Committee
Requested donation \$1.00 per ticket or 6 for \$5.00*

Greetings

By Mark Love

Greetings to my Brothers & Sisters at Local Lodge #839. I was recently assigned to service the membership at Spirit in the areas covered by Bob Skinner. I have been in the shop trying to touch base with everyone, to let them know who I am and how to reach me. I still have a few areas to contact and I am planning those visits in the near future.

Not to make excuses, but I have been assigned to Local Lodge #1992, Eaton Corporation in Hutchinson, Ks. for negotiations, which expires on April 1st. We have been meeting on a regular basis for the last month and are gearing up for the last few weeks heading into the expiration date and vote. For those of you who remember, the Machinists Union was instrumental in fighting off a



plant closure three years ago at this location. And because of this, the negotiating committee and I are working very diligently to obtain a fair and equitable agreement for our members.

At this time I have no Spirit grievances. I do check my messages daily, so if you need to reach me contact the District @ 522-1591 or my email is mlove@d70iam.org.

Local Lodge #839 and it's members are going to be very busy in the next few months working towards a new contract also. I have been very pleased to see the Executive Board, the Committees, and the In-Plant and Business Reps working so hard to achieve a contract that our members will be proud of. Everyone remember solidarity is the key!

In Solidarity, Mark Love

Organizing

By Kenny Stone

Hi everyone, my name is Kenny Stone, and some of you know who I am. For those of you who don't, I have worked in Aircraft about 23 years and have been through two strikes. All of this time I was in the Union, because I believed that it would even the field and it was the right thing to do. I felt responsible that I should pay my way by paying my dues, and I am proud of that.

In 2006, I was elected as Union Steward, where I work in Tooling, Plant II and most recently, I was elected to the position of Chairperson for the Organizing Committee. As for this new Chair-

person position, I plan to serve to the best of my ability and welcome all suggestions. Please feel free to drop me an email at: KDSTONE2@YAHOO.COM or stop by and see me, on the 2nd Wednesday of each Month, 3:45 at the Local Lodge –that's when our Organizing Committee meets.

I know this year is going to be a very good year for our Union, if we just stick together. I know many of the members have been through strikes in the past but there are a lot of new members here now. Everyone needs to be assured that neither side goes out to negotiate a work stoppage. Both sides want a contract with a mutual understanding.

In the event that there is no

agreement reached and there is a work stoppage, only members of the Union will receive strike benefits. So if you are not a member today, join tomorrow.

A couple things you can do to prepare for the worst are: paying ahead on bills and talking to your Doctor about getting medications in a larger quantities. Then if everything works out like we hope, then no harm was caused and you were prepared and had some peace of mind. **Strengthen Your Union— Sign Up a New Member!**



Kansas State Council

By Terry Rodriguez

It is a new year and with that brings a new session in Topeka, and meeting with our legislators. Last year we had some success with some bills, such as increasing State minimum wage. This year we need to set the bar higher and work really hard on getting labor friendly bills passed. At times, this can be a really daunting task. There are many issues at the State level, as well as the National level. There are bills that could affect the working people of Kansas and many are in preliminary stages right now.

As a Kansas State Council Delegate I will work really hard to do everything in my power to persuade our legislators to do their job and pass labor friendly bills. As these bills build up steam and are identified, I will convey them, as best I can, to the membership.

Washington Days Celebration was at the end of February in Topeka. This gives is one of our greatest opportunities to lobby during the year. I will keep you informed on how this went and anything else that comes up, that will effect the working people of Kansas.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to serve this Great Membership of Local Lodge 839.

View from the Back Porch

By Stan Chapman

On any given day you can look out the back door at the Local in the late afternoon and see the deer. On the day that I took these pictures, there were eight of them grazing on the grass.



In this fast paced life, sometimes we need this kind of interrup-

tion to recharge our batteries -



the simpler things in life, like a walk in the park, going to the zoo, woodworking, doing things with our kids. Sometimes we need to remember that happiness is "working to live" not "living to work". Whatever you do to relieve the stress of work and the everyday things in life -do them, make yourself healthy and happy.

We build the finest aircraft parts in the World. We need to

STAND STRONG all of us.

Non-members, you really need to look around and thank the people who have stood up for you and gained the benefits and opportunities that you get to have! It's time to take off the blinders and look at what is really going on. This Company that we all work for is trying to take away our right to make a living. They would like for you to work for a lot less money and fewer benefits.

DO YOU WANT TO KEEP WHAT YOU HAVE?

IT'S TIME TO STAND STRONG and FIGHT TO WIN IN 2010

District 70 Business Representative Nominations And Elections

A District Lodge 70 referendum election will be conducted for one (1) Business Representative in the month of April 2010.

Nominations for BR will take place at your Local Lodge Meeting in March 2010.

Balloting will take place at the time and location below:

<p>Nominations Machinists Union 3830 South Meridian Wichita, Kansas March 13, 2010 10:00AM</p>
<p>Election Machinists Union 3830 South Meridian Wichita, Kansas April 24, 2010 6:00AM to 8:00PM</p>

All members in good standing may request an absentee ballot if they meet the requirements. Forms requesting this ballot may be picked up at the Local.



Keep your eye on the prize
Job Security
is
Job ONE!

The IAM survey results are in, and the membership's message is clear - Job security is the top concern.

Your top five concerns for Contract 2010, in order, are: Job Security, Pension Increases, Medical Costs Containment, General Wage Increases, and Improve Cost-of-living Adjustments.

Job Security is at the top of everyone's list. We see what's happening throughout the Nation, and we know what the layoffs have done to our own community.

Your Negotiating Committee will be going to the bargaining table with your top concerns in mind. Your Committee will also be addressing the other items in the survey results. Our aerospace industry is what has made Wichita great, our fathers, mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers built this industry with the sweat of their brow, and made this industry great.

Aerospace is now the last great American industry, and it should stay in Wichita, with the most productive and skilled workforce in America. That will be our message at the table.

And with your Solidarity, we will work hard to negotiate a contract that provides true job security. Our jobs must stay in Wichita.

We will be keeping you informed as our negotiations proceed. Thanks for your support.
Your Local Lodge 839 Negotiating Committee

Ron Eldridge, Aerospace Coordinator - Don Barker, Grand Lodge Representative - Steve Rooney, Directing Business Representative - Mark Love, Business Representative - Michael Burleigh, Business Representative - Steve Groom, Business Representative - Becky Ledbetter, Business Representative - David Eagle, In-Plant Representative - Howard Johnson, In-Plant Representative - Kathy Petersen, President - Dennis Williams, Negotiator

ON THE WEB: LL839.ORG

CONTRACT 2010
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS LOCAL LODGE 839



Welcome To Our New Proposed Union Brothers & Sisters For March 2010



JOSEPH ALBRIGHT
KATHY ALFERS
RUSSELL D. ALLEN
ROY H. BALDTRIP, JR.
LLOYD A. BELCHER
VELDON BENSON
WADE BLISS
JUSTIN BRILLHART
BRENT D. BROWN
JOHN C. BURGESS, III
JEFFREY CARBIENER
MARIO CARRILLO
ALEX CHAITHONH
CHARLES P. COX
THIET DANG
MICHAEL DAVENPORT
CHRISTOPHER A. DEBUHR
CHAD L. DEWITT
RU DO
DAVID J. DREILING
RUSSELL P. DRESCHER
BRYAN EDRIS
PAMELA J. ELSTON
JUSTIN FRANZ

MIKE FROST
JASON GADDIE
CHAVIS GARD
MICHAEL GARRISON
KENNETH GILREATH, JR.
CHRIS M. GORTON
JEREMY GOSSETT
CRAIG A. GRAF, JR.
DAVID L. HAMPTON
JAMES E. HATHAWAY
JUSTIN HERPOLSHEIMER
TORREY HUDSPETH
DALLAS HUTCHINSON
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ANDREW M. JELINEK
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LEONARD JUEL
SEREYBOT KHIM
TERRY L. KILLMAN
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SHERRY LASITER
MAGAN LEHNING
GARRY LEWIS
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ALEXANDER L. LONG
LORI MACIAS
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ANTHONY K. MCCOLM
CHRISTA L. MELLINGER
KEVIN C. MEN
ROBBY S. MERCER
ANGELA MILLER
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MATT MOORE
SOLOMON MWANKUSYE
DZUNG NINH
BARRY NUNNERY
ONESY BOUNMY
DOROTHY PATTERSON
VINCENT PEREZ
JACK PHAM
TOM PIKE
DOUG RICHARDSON
JAMES R. RILEY, III
CINDY ROE
GREG ROE
BERNICE L. RUCKER

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GARY W. SCHMIDT
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CLAYTON SELF
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BRENT SIMS
TRACY SMITH
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DAVID B. VU
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International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

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AEROSPACE
Jobs · Security · Prosperity
The Fighting Machinists

Fight & Win
In 2010
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,
Terry Rodriquez

Communicator - Dennis Williams

Educator - Roger Stamback

1st Shift In-Plant Rep. - David Eagle

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

Editor - Larry Stafford

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 lstafford@ll839.org.

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

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