

LL839 Machinists Matters

3917 E MacArthur Rd.
Wichita, KS. 67210



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

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Support Your Union President's Corner May 2010

By Kathy Petersen



Thank you to all of my union family who volunteered to participate in the strike sanction vote. I know that the vote was on Mother's Day weekend – and the first weekend of River Festival – but nobody deliberately chose this date to inconvenience anyone. We pretty much have to take the dates that are open at the facility – and high school and college graduations are rampant this month. Remember that it takes a minimum of 30% participation of our union members to authorize a strike in the event it becomes necessary. Do your part and don't let your brothers and sisters down.

It is a shame that more Americans do not realize the value of a union. The right wing talk show nut jobs – oops! I mean hosts – have certainly done their jobs well by convincing the poor and uneducated in this country to vote against their own best interests. Yes, I mean you, Rush, Glen, Bill and Lou! Think about this – these guys' salaries are more on a par with what a CEO makes than what their viewers earn. They are Big Business! Why would anyone think their sympathies lie with the average guy rather than their salary peers? And they certainly are hard workers aren't they? They get to spout off whatever they feel like without bothering to actually do any research on a topic. Why bother to take the time to find out the facts? To quote Dire Straits: "That ain't working – that's the way to do it."

What these guys really want is for workers to have no rights at all, and if they complain about their meager wages or inhumane working conditions find themselves without a job. Unions are

what created the American middle class. When unions had strong support from Americans, things were much better. Families could be supported by one income. Things have certainly changed, and not for the better. The decline of unions equals the decline of the middle class. No more unions means no more consumer economy. The rich are not going to "trickle down" anything. That didn't work under the Reagan administration, and it's never going to work. They might trickle across, or trickle up, but never down!

The recent mining disaster in West Virginia is a good example of what can happen when big companies flout the law. (And God bless and keep the families of the miners who were killed! Even though coal mining is inherently dangerous, this should never have happened!)

Under federal law, union rights afforded to protect union interests include the following:

- The right to organize a labor union and bargain collectively with an employer with regard to wages, benefits and working conditions.
- The right to discuss the union during work, to distribute union literature, and to wear union buttons or stickers.
- The right to sign a union card – which demonstrates the first step in securing union representation that essentially protects union rights.

Continued on Page 2—President's Corner



Blog On!

To facilitate fast and informative communication during these negotiations, we have started a blog for negotiation updates. The address for the "Truth and Facts 2010" blog is: contract2010.blogspot.com, or you can find a link at our website: LL839.org.

You can follow the blog, and get updates via email when a new update is posted to the blog. The blog will be our clearinghouse for information as the negotiations continue. Visit often to get the latest news!

President's Corner— from page 1

An employer cannot undermine union rights by:

- Firing, punishing, intimidating or coercing employees seeking to organize, or join, a union.
- Threatening to close the facility or lay off employees if they organize a union.
- Telling employees that unionization will take away benefits and privileges currently in place.
- Bribing employees to vote against the union, or promising other benefits or privileges in order to influence their vote.

We know for a fact that Massey Energy's Big Branch mine had received hundreds of citations in the past year, including six for inadequate ventilation plans, and it wasn't unionized. Newsweek magazine reported that activists and area miners told reporters that Massey Energy CEO Don Blankenship has a stern reputation for union busting: firing union workers in some cases, and shutting down entire mines that were unionized in others. In 2007 the National Labor Relations Board determined that the company's refusal to hire union miners was illegal.



Remember the 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 for tickets.

*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*

Would being unionized have prevented this mine disaster? Maybe not, but if given a chance to unionize, perhaps the union workers would have been in a position to bring more attention to the flagrant violations of safety regulations. Union miners would have representation; they would have a voice. They could report problems, file grievances, and look out for their union brothers.

There may be enough laws out there to protect workers, including mine workers, but some companies (Massey is one) see violations as a cost of doing business. They contest the fines and sometimes don't pay them, and somehow they continue to get away with it. I believe that a united, unionized workforce could have brought enough attention to these problems at Massey to have at least made a difference in the safety conditions at the mine – probably not preventing the explosion, but maybe have been successful in developing an adequate ventilation plan which could have saved lives.

Unions may not be perfect – but I think they are more trustworthy than CEOs such as Blankenship when it comes to protecting us workers and securing our economic well being.



Business Representative Mark Love's Grievance Report

By Mark Love

Greetings to everyone! In my last report I spoke to the fact that I was involved in contract negotiations with Local Lodge 1992 and the Eaton Corporation. I am happy to report that we were able to secure a new three year agreement for the membership.

Currently at Spirit AeroSystems, I have no active grievances in my areas, but I am working on one involving overtime that Becky requested I help with. Hopefully everyone is prepared for the current round of negotiations with Company.

Be mindful, we are all a team, leadership and membership. SOLIDARITY is the key to our success. I want to wish all of our members a Happy Mother's Day!

Business Representative Michael Burleigh's Grievance Status

By Michael Burleigh

Currently, I have about thirty-two open grievances. Issues of these grievances include jobs and Company violations, many that have lead to terminations. Company policy violations continue to be regarding performance, medical and *always attendance*.

If you receive discipline, it is YOUR responsibility to file a complaint. Contact your Union Steward, they will assist you with the paperwork, include a copy of any Disciplinary Memo issued and supporting documents. Good advice is to challenge all *violations*.

Always and again: These jobs belong to YOU and it is YOUR responsibility to report to work every day and to be there on time!

Have a Wonderful and Blessed Mother's Day!



BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE BECKY LEDBETTER'S Report

By Becky Ledbetter

Hello to all of our Brothers and Sisters out there. At this time I have grievances that include 2 suspensions, job remapping, medical termination and attendance terminations. I would like to encourage everyone, as I do every month, to *watch your attendance* keep track of your hours, pay attention to your clocking. WATCH YOUR TIME.

Please continue to encourage our non-members to sign up and let their voice be heard on June 25th. It is such an important day for all of you. Remember if you need anything call: 522-1591.



The Power to Negotiate

The negotiations this year at Spirit AeroSystems could well be one of the most important in the aerospace industry for years to come, as we look for a new, sustainable path for the American aerospace worker. A path that brings job security, and strong wage and benefit packages for the hard work you do.

Make no mistake; this won't be an easy contract to negotiate. The IAM will be providing every resource it has to make this successful. We will work for a contract that moves us forward, not backwards. We will work for a contract that rewards the workers, without takeaways and attacks upon health care and pensions.

This is a year that we move forward.

A strong, successful contract is important to our Union, and we will have the resources we

need for these complex negotiations.

Your Negotiating Committee is Directing Business Representative Steve Rooney, as well as Business Representatives Mike Burleigh, Becky Ledbetter, Steve Groom and Mark Love. LL 839 In-Plant Representatives David Eagle and Howard Johnson, LL 839 President Kathy Petersen, and Negotiator Dennis Williams.

Your Committee received Negotiations Preparations Training during a week at the William Winpisinger Center at Placid Harbor, where the Committee made plans for this year's negotiations.

International President Tom Buffenbarger joined us for the Contract Opener in March. Buffenbarger plans to continue to be involved closely

Continued on Page 5



YOUR COMMITTEE AT THE WW CENTER NEGOTIATIONS PREPARATIONS TRAINING
FRONT ROW, L TO R: LL 839 PRESIDENT KATHY PETERSEN, IN-PLANT REPRESENTATIVE DAVID EAGLE,
DIRECTING BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE STEVE ROONEY, BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE BECKY LEDBETTER
2ND ROW, L TO R: IN-PLANT REPRESENTATIVE HOWARD JOHNSON, HEADQUARTERS GENERAL VICE PRESIDENT
RICH MICHALSKI, INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT TOM BUFFENBARGER, NEGOTIATOR DENNIS WILLIAMS
BACK ROW, L TO R: GENERAL COUNSEL CHRIS CORSON, GRAND LODGE REPRESENTATIVE DON BARKER,
AEROSPACE COORDINATOR RON ELDRIDGE, BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE MIKE BURLEIGH

Continued from page 1

during the entire process.

IP Buffenbarger is also providing support from headquarters. Leading the team is Aerospace Coordinator Ron Eldridge. Brother Eldridge is one of the most experienced negotiators in the nation.

Grand Lodge Representative Don Barker is also assigned to our negotiations. Brother Barker's assignment is to increase our membership during these negotiations, so we have the power of a strong membership behind us.

Our headquarters Legal Department is on call at all times for these negotiations. General Counsel Chris Corson and his staff will ensure that our contract is strong and protective of our membership.

The IAM Strategic Resources Department provides a wealth of information and research about our industry and the company. We will have a research economist at the negotiating table, who can advise our Committee during these negotiations.

Southern Territory General Vice President Bob Martinez also takes an active role on behalf of our membership in dealing with aerospace companies. Brother Martinez is also providing support from the Dallas Office for these negotiations.

GVP Martinez has assigned Communications Representative Bob Wood to the negotiations. Brother Wood's experience during many District 70 negotiations, communicating both with the members and with the press and community provides a powerful tool for our negotiators.



"He's away from his desk right now."

GVP Martinez assigned Southern Territory Education Representative James Parker to the negotiations, to help provide information and training during the negotiations.

The IAM is proud that Jim Leslie will be working on Steward and Management training during this process. Brother Leslie is retired from the IAM. He was the Director of the William W. Winpisinger Training Center at Placid Harbor, the greatest labor training center in the nation. Brother Leslie's vast labor experience is a great asset as this process moves forward.

As you can see, your District Staff and Negotiating Committee has a great deal of expertise and experience to draw upon during these negotiations. However, the most important part of these negotiations is you, the membership on the shop floor. You should be involved and informed as these negotiations move forward. We must work to organize those potential members you work with. Our future is too important to leave to someone else to decide. It will take all of us, working together, to make these negotiations successful.



NEW MEMBERS FOR APRIL 2010



JEFF W. ARMSTRONG
 GARY L. ARNN
 TODD BELLEW
 JASON C. BIVENS
 WESLEY BIVINS
 LANDON BLACKBURN
 ROBERT BOHANNON
 CHARLES BOZONE
 ROBERT T. BROWN, JR.
 DAVID K. CAMPBELL
 STEVE CANARY
 BRETT CODY
 STEPHEN D. COLDWELL
 GARY KEITH CROUSE
 BRIAN S. DILLER

NICHOLAS DOOLITTLE
 LINDA D. EVANS
 HARRY W. FRITCHMAN
 BOBBY GARTEN
 SUSAN M. GOETZ
 JEREMY HARRIS
 JUSTIN R. HARTUNG
 ROBERT HAZELTON
 COLEMAN C. HOANG
 BRIAN HORST
 PHO V. HUYNH
 RONALD INKELAAR
 DARREN LEE JACKSON
 RAYMOND JACKSON
 JOHN KEDZUF

RANDALL KRUEGER
 MITCH LINDSAY
 LAP V. NGUYEN
 DAVID PIPITT
 WILLARD RATCHFORD, JR.
 SARFRAZ C. SADIQ
 PHILLIP SNARE
 PATSY L. SWARTZ
 FREDRICK A. SWISHER
 DEREK WAKEFIELD
 WILLIAM J. ZAWKO
 ANDREW J. ZOGLMAN

**International Association of Machinists
 and Aerospace Workers**

**Local Lodge 839
 3917 E. MacArthur Rd.
 Wichita, Kansas 67210
 Phone: (316) 524-1090**



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**

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. All Content © of IAM Local Lodge 839 2005-2010, All Rights Reserved