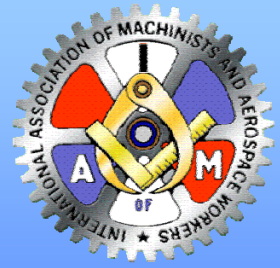


LL839 Machinists Matters

3917 E MacArthur Rd.
Wichita, KS. 67210



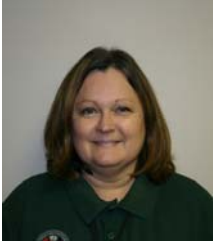
A Publication for "The Fighting Machinists" Representing the Workers of Spirit AeroSystems

Vol.4 Number 9

www.ll839.org

www.goiam.org

October 2010



WHERE HAVE ALL THE UNIONS GONE? President's Corner October 2010

By Kathy Petersen



Remember that old folksong "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" After several tedious verses you find out that the flowers were picked by girls who married young men who were then called to war, died, and then the flowers were used to decorate their graves. It was an anti-war song, of course, but even as a little kid, I got the message that it was not a good thing that the flowers were gone.

I've been thinking about that song lately because ever since our contract was accepted by default, the number of withdrawals from our local lodge has increased. With all of the aerospace layoffs in Wichita, union membership overall has, naturally, declined. What will happen if we don't grow our membership? I am certain that won't be a good thing either.

Why are people dropping out? Some of you didn't like the contract. And I get that. (Considering what's happening at Cessna and Hawker-Beechcraft, however, I'd be interested to know if your opinions have changed at all.) Two and a half years ago, I received a letter from a union member who wanted the union to improve by doing three things:

1. Change employee perception of the union's role at Spirit AeroSystems. Employees who repeatedly abuse company policy and procedure don't deserve union support.

2. Implement a plan to work with the company to help manage the workforce.

3. Change the confrontational image the union has now with Spirit AeroSystems to one that will be viewed as a partner in business.

I think our new contract with Spirit addresses all of these issues. Some people may have the misconception that the union can offer some sort of "protection" if an employee deliberately or repeatedly breaks the rules. The union has never been in the business of protecting "lazy" workers, and does not hire or fire employees. What our union can do is to reach out to troubled employees to see if some catastrophic event has occurred which has caused them to lose focus. Union leaders are more than willing to step in and talk to management on behalf of an employee who needs help. The union is here to make sure that the company does not violate the collective bargaining agreement and to negotiate wages and benefits. Our union is here to make sure that employees are treated fairly and not discriminated against.

The new contract calls for all managers and union stewards to work together. One of the main ideas behind the 2010 contract was to change the way the union and the company do business. The union and the company formed a partnership to work together to try to in-

Continued on Page 2—President's Corner

President's Corner from Page 1

crease business for Spirit and to try to keep our jobs in Wichita. Let's give it a chance. At least Spirit AeroSystems didn't turn around and send out 700 layoff notices immediately after the contract was signed. Jeff Turner obviously believes that having a relationship with the union is a positive thing.

Some of you have decided to drop out because you think you don't need the union until contract time rolls around again. That one I don't get. Some of you say that you've "never needed to use the union, so why pay the dues"? The union is so much more than just an intermediary you can use to file grievances. Union business goes on 24/7. Being a union member pays off every day in the form of our good wages and benefits. Many of LL839's members work their regular shift at Spirit and then volunteer their time in the evening attending committee meetings at the local lodge and many other union events. If you don't know what's going on there, please stop by the local sometime – we can always use an extra pair of hands. Those people who think that because they are not problem employees and will never need the union are thinking like Wall Street CEOs, only looking out for number one. (Gordon Gekko really is not a good role model.)

Regardless of your reason(s) for wanting to quit the union, please stop and think about this. **If there were no union, the legal nature of our relationship with the company will be totally changed. Without a union, there would be no collective bargaining. The current collective agreement would be cancelled. In the place of collective bargaining, there would be no unified voice for the workers; we would have no say when it**

comes to pay, benefits, hours of work, and other working conditions.

All of the benefits that we take for granted every day would be compromised. Imagine what your life would be like without dental insurance, paid holidays, bereavement leave and affordable health care. One tragic accident involving yourself or a family member and you could be in debt for the rest of your life. Imagine facing retirement without your union-negotiated pension benefit.

Kansas is not alone – there is a real anti-union sentiment brewing in this country. Union members have been called vile names and accused of committing unspeakable atrocities. The whole idea of workers coming together to form a union is looked upon as some kind of threat – some kind of evil force to be feared. We are called socialists, communists, Marxists, fascists – about every kind of IST they can think of.

Instead of backing away, we need to stand up and let people know we are proud to be union members. We are proud of the brave men and women who stood up and fought for the benefits we enjoy today. And, yes, we do still need unions today. Do not think for a minute that the union benefits we enjoy today will magically remain in place if there were no collective bargaining agreement.

What troubles me is that there seem to be fewer and fewer of us willing to take a stand. We cannot remain silent. Take time to answer questions and explain to non-members the benefits of union membership. It boils down to this; if YOU don't stand up, and I don't stand up, we really could be asking, "Where Have All the Unions Gone?"

Tune In, Turn On, and DON'T Drop Out!



Business Representative Mark Love's Report

Greetings to all! In the last month, I settled my only active grievance in the member's favor. I have recently been assisting Becky with a mapping grievance. Once a meeting was held with DBR Steve Rooney, David Eagle, Bob Skinner, Becky & myself, we were able to get resolution on the issue. Due to Steve Groom's assignment to Cessna's negotiations, I was assigned to the Selrico Services negotiations at McConnell Air Force Base. I am pleased to announce that a new three year agreement was ratified. With the upcoming November elections in mind, I sincerely hope that everyone is a registered voter and plans on exercising that right. Having worker friendly elected officials concerned about OUR JOBS has never been more important than it is today.

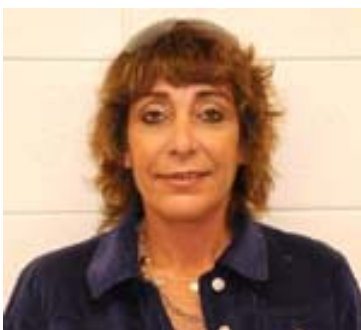
Fraternally Yours,

Mark Love BR



Business Representative Michael Burleigh's Grievance Status

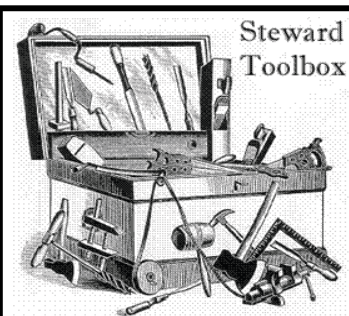
Mike Burleigh is on assignment at the William W. Winpisinger Center at Placid Harbor, and will return with a report next month.



Becky's Report

By Becky Ledbetter

Brothers and Sisters, I hope this month finds everyone well as we turn to a new season. I currently have two terminations – one is medical and the other is on attendance. Other issues that I am working are: job description, working out of job level and shift preference. Please watch your attendance and keep a good record of all your clocking. If you need anything don't hesitate to call 522-1591 or email me at bledbetter@d70iam.org.



Steward
Toolbox

Local Lodge Website

By Roger Stamback

Brothers and Sisters,

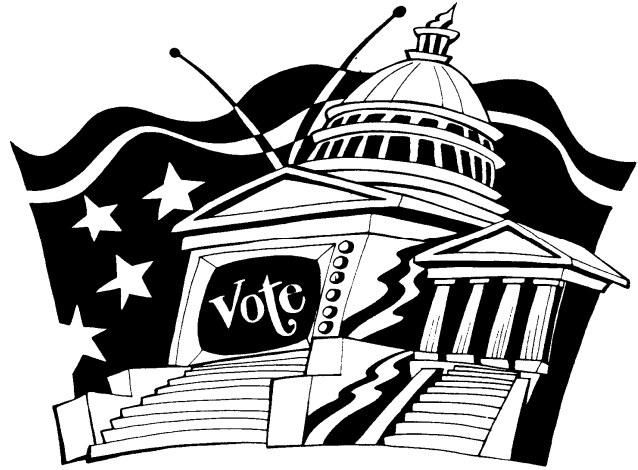
As Stewards of Local Lodge 839, we are lucky to have a great website. It has a lot of information that a Steward can use to help the membership and there's information on upcoming events. Check out the site at l839.org.

On the website you have contact information on the Officers of the Lodge, Committees, Delegates and Representatives. There is Contract information, online complaint form, union fact sheet, the Stewards Toolbox, and the Weingarten rights. There are links to I.A.M. National 401k, I.A.M Pension Fund, District 70, Union Label, Winpisinger Center, ksworkeat and numerous other links to get information for your members or to direct the membership too.

Our Communicator Dennis Williams is always looking for suggestions, information, and content to go on the website, there is a link on the website to contact him if you have any.

NEW UNION MEMBERS JOINING *SEPTEMBER 2010*

**ROBERT A. BERGER
MARK D. MADSON
LOI C. NGUYEN
DUSTI L. RUTH**



The November 2010 election will be a critical one for working families.

There are many important offices up for election that will determine the future of issues that are important to union members and their families.

Union members often want to know which candidates have been endorsed by their Local. To that end, go to the new online voting guide, <http://Vote.KansasLabor.org>. You can find the endorsed candidates in YOUR district. **Be sure to vote on November 2nd.**

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



The Fighting Machinists

www.11839.org



Monthly Union Meetings

2nd Saturday of the Month

Executive Board meets at 8:00 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.11839.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