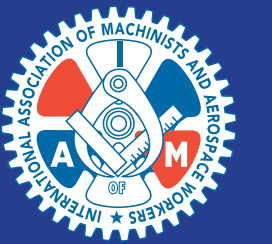


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Eastern Washington Machinists News



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Generous Giving for Guide Dogs



IAM Staff Assistant Ken Howard (l) accepts the \$500 check from Bill Engel, Labor Relations Director for CH2MHill Plateau Remediation Company.

When the Machinists Union requested a contribution for Guide Dogs of America to help with a fundraiser, CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation Company came through with a \$500 check.

This is another example of labor-management cooperation to help others.

Local 86 Gives Holiday Helping Hand

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ting together the dinners and distributing them.

The Local overwhelmingly approved

the activity after recognizing the tremendous need for our laid-off members – especially during the holiday season. It was a great surprise that was truly appreciated by all.



Above: Natasha Kopet picks up a turkey dinner for her family. Her husband Max is laid-off from SpoMac.



Photo Left: John Kofol, Glen Barta and Barb Strole package the dinners for laid-off families.

Helping Hand for the Holidays

Local 86 in Spokane lended a helping hand to laid-off members by giving out complete turkey dinners. Dozens of members accepted the gesture to help ensure the holidays were special. They were treated to a 16-20 pound turkey, with all the trimmings, which included: stuffing mix, gravy mix, cranberry sauce, yams, can of vegetables, rolls, 5 lb sack of potatoes and pumpkin pie.

Mike Blashill and Jeff Jones volunteered to do the shopping over the weekend. Jeff Jones, Andy Cashion, John Kofol and Glen Barta volunteered all-day on December 21 put-

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Scott Booth, who is laid-off from SpoMac, appreciated the turkey dinner from his Union family. L to R: Andy Cashion, Glen Barta, John Kofol, Kylie Booth (Scott's daughter), Scott Booth, Steve Warren, Jeff Jones.

Monarch Machine Goes That Extra Mile

Since 1947, Machinists Union members have proudly worked for Monarch Machine & Tool Company in Pasco, WA. The skilled craftsmen at this full-service fabrication facility tackle a wide assortment of work and deliver quality and expertise that has built

them a reputation as one of the best. In 2004, they were named "Manufacturer of the Year" after being nominated by Fluor Hanford.

Because they do not machine production parts, they work on a wide range of products and a lot of one-of-a-kind processes.

One project may entail fabricating and leak testing boxes and lids to contain low level radiological waste for vitrification, another could be machining spare parts for a sludge retrieval system, and the next may be fabricating a bulkhead screen structure for irrigation water in the Columbia River. Members there perform complex structural metal fabrication, manufacture industrial machinery, fabricate and install irrigation manifold systems, and perform Hanford prototype work. Monarch also offers up to 50 tons of field crane services to assist with installations and repairs.

Beyond just the skills and expertise of our members, there are many other features about this Union shop that motivates members to stay there for many years. At this company, loyalty is a two-way street. Many of the members have worked there for over 20 years – making them part of the "family." The Machinists Union has built a strong working relationship with Monarch.

When work was slow earlier this year due to the trying economic times, the own-



Administrative Assistant Jim Bearden (standing far r) meets with members at Monarch Machine in Pasco. This quality employer consistently provides top pay and benefits and treats workers with respect, which results in loyal employees who continually deliver a top-quality product.

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Federal Stimulus Dollars Boost Hanford Employment

Federal stimulus dollars are pouring into the Hanford clean-up, creating thousands of jobs for the Tri-Cities.

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, \$6 billion in new funding was provided to the Department of Energy to accelerate environmental cleanup work and create or save thousands of jobs in 12 states. The DOE allocated nearly \$2 billion of that funding specifically to the Hanford site.

The stimulus allocation has roughly doubled the \$2 billion annual budget for cleaning up Hanford, which still contains great amounts of nuclear waste from the

Cold War, when it was one of the nation's prime suppliers of atomic material for nuclear warheads. So far, about \$224 million of the stimulus dollars have been spent. It's intended to last for about two years, and estimates are that the stimulus will result in upwards of 4,000 new or saved jobs at Hanford.

As the work force at Hanford has expanded, so has the need for specialized training to equip the new workers with the necessary knowledge and skills to perform their work in a safe and effective manner. This translated into additional training courses at the highly acclaimed Volpentest HAMMER Training

and Education Center. A primary reason for HAMMER's success has been Worker Trainers – bargaining unit employees who are experts in their fields and share their knowledge while instructing their co-workers. Worker Trainers also serve as mentors for their peers as they work side-by-side in the workplace. The Machinists Union has several members who serve as Worker Trainers at the Center – helping to prepare new workers to safely work on the nuclear reservation.

IAM Local 1951 President Ken Howard, who serves as a HAMMER Worker Trainer, noted, "Hanford is one of the few places to train their own workers

onsite. That is a testament to our Worker Training Program. It is great to see a buildup of new faces on the site. Nearly every bargaining unit here has seen their numbers grow thanks to the federal stimulus dollars – including Machinists Union members."

Senator Patty Murray recently visited the HAMMER Center to see how some \$1.96 billion in stimulus funds are being spent and observed a class at HAMMER where new employees were learning how to correctly seal up clothing to protect them against hazardous substances during cleanup work.

Earlier this year Department of Energy's Environmental Management Assistant Secretary Dr. Ines Triay also toured the site to observe to see the outcome of stimulus funds. She also sat in on several of the HAMMER training courses and recognized the value in this unique program.

The hiring at Hanford has spilled over into the rest of the community, creating demand for retail goods and leading to a tight market for rental housing. The result? Benton and Franklin counties had some of the state's lowest unemployment rates in October, at 5.7 and 6.3 percent, respectively. The statewide average was 9.3 percent that month, and nationwide, joblessness was at 10.2 percent. Hanford employment is expected to peak in 2010.



Department of Energy's Environmental Management Assistant Secretary Dr. Ines Triay (far left) addresses students at the HAMMER Training Center at Hanford. IAM Worker Trainers regularly instruct classes at the facilities. All new hires under ARRA funding are required to go through the intensive safety training.

Monarch Machine Goes That Extra Mile for Members

Continued from page 1

ers (Doug Winters and Dennis Shepard) had employees perform repairs on some of their rental properties.

"It is unusual to find a small business that will work to keep people employed. Basically, this whole year has been slow for our company," stated member Dan McVicker, who has worked at Monarch Machine for over 32 years in the welding shop. "Instead of laying people off, they found other things to keep us employed – it wasn't welding work, but it kept us busy."

"We have good pay and benefits, and we have a good working atmosphere. The work is different all the time since we don't make production parts – making it more interesting and challenging," Dan added.

Member Mike Saari has worked at Monarch since 2001. After he was injured on the job, the company created a project manager type position in the front office.

"This company was great when I got hurt on the job. Monarch paid me for one year and encouraged me to retrain even if I didn't come back to work for them. When they created a new position, they said try this out because we will work with you. I still weld on area jobs to keep my hand in shop work, but now I have learned the business



Monarch created a project manager position for Mike Saari after he was injured on the job a few years ago.

end, as well. I purchase material, work with customers, get jobs lined up and have a more well-rounded position, which I really enjoy. I'm also the safety focal for the company."

Mike also volunteered to be the Union Steward a few months ago. "I became Steward because I like working with the guys and wanted to make sure they were taken

care of," stated Mike. "If there is a problem, I can help fix it. The bosses work with us to accommodate us."

He added, "It is a very family-oriented company. The bosses are more like your dad. They always want us to better ourselves at work and provide encouragement. They provide a Christmas bonus for our families and hand out hats and shirts. That is why people stay so long – a Union machine shop with good pay and benefits and a great atmosphere."

The goodwill at this company is nothing new. IAM 751 Administrative Assistant Jim Bearden recalled working at Monarch Machine in 1979 and recognizing it was a good employer then that treated its employees fair. The statement still holds true today.

Howard Appointed Eastern Washington Staff Assistant

Ken Howard has been named as District 751's Staff Assistant/Organizer for Eastern Washington effective January 4 to replace Ed Rittenberg, who retired in 2009. He will be based out of Richland.

In his new job, Ken will assist the Union's Eastern Washington Business Rep Steve Warren, in providing support to Union members with contract enforcement, handling grievances and negotiating contracts. Ken's assignment will cover a lot of miles and includes Hanford, Tri-Cities, Yakima, Goldendale, Roosevelt, Wenatchee, Quincy and Pendleton, Oregon.

Ken has been a member of District 751 since 1983, when he hired on as a light-duty mechanic at the Hanford site. He became a Steward in 2003, Local 1951 President in 2004, has been a delegate to both the Washington Machinists Council and Washington State Labor Council and has worked various organizing drives.

Ken has also been active in other ways to help the members. Since 1995, Ken has been a trainer at the HAMMER Center, and the site coordinator for both the IAM and International Chemi-

cal Workers Union since 1998. In this capacity, he developed valuable organizational, communication and presentation skills, as well as dealing with multiple employers and coordinating efforts with other Unions at the site.

It was that experience – working with several different employers and labor Unions at the HAMMER Center – that gave him the edge over several other well-qualified candidates, District President Tom Wroblewski said.

"We needed a strong person to assist Steve Warren in covering our widely spread-out Eastern Washington territory. I'm confident Ken has the right mix of skills for this important job," Wroblewski said.

"As the workforce has become more educated, technical, and diverse, I have learned how to engineer new ways of solving problems by being able to look at unique situations from others perspectives, from

workers to upper management. All of these skills will help in my new position," said Ken.

Ken is up for the challenges of his new position. "Will I have a lot to learn? Absolutely," he said. "This is going to be fun. I'm really looking forward to it."



Effective January 4, Ken Howard will begin serving as the Staff Assistant/Organizer in Eastern Washington and will service the members in Tri-Cities, Yakima, Goldendale, Wenatchee, Roosevelt, Quincy and Pendleton, Oregon.

2010 IAM Scholarship Competition

The IAM Scholarship Competition is open each year to members of the IAM and their children throughout the U.S and Canada. Scholarships for a bachelor's degree or a two-year vocational/technical certification are determined in a competition among eligible applicants that is judged by an independent selection committee.

Awards to members are \$2,000 per academic year for a specific period from one to four years leading to a bachelor's degree or a two-year vocational/technical certification.

Awards to Children of Members are: College – \$1,000 per academic year, renewable each year until a bachelor's degree is obtained or for a maximum of four years, whichever occurs first.

Vocational/Technical School – \$2,000 per year until certification is reached for a maximum of two years, whichever occurs first.

For complete 2010 Scholarship Competition Guidelines, visit www.goiam.org/iamscholarship. NOTE: Completed Application Packets must be postmarked no later than February 26, 2010.

