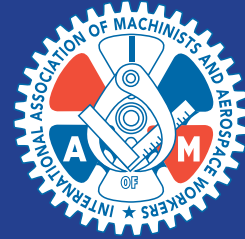


Eastern Washington Machinists News



Volume 2, No. 2 - Apr.-May 2010

Members at ASC Machine Tools Produce Top Equipment

For decades, Machinists Union members at ASC Machine Tools Inc. in Spokane have manufactured a diverse range of equipment for the metal building, can manufacturing and paperboard packaging industries. These skilled craftsmen fabricate the machines that produce material handling equipment for the can stock industry and metal buildings used throughout the world.

Our members at ASC are leaders in the design and manufacture of rollforming systems and they construct the highest quality components to maximize equipment life and minimize maintenance. ASC's customers depend on the wide range of products our members produce to operate efficiently and keep their manufacturing plants running smoothly at ever-increasing levels of productivity.

As a result of the top-notch work by our

members, ASC has developed a reputation for innovation, quality and responsiveness. All ASC equipment is built to the industry's most stringent standards – again a testament to the skills of our members.

There are multiple classifications within the bargaining unit, and each position requires skills and expertise. From the journeymen to the helper from the machine shop to fabrication and electricians, all of our members work hard to ensure ASC is successful. Members there do everything from mechanical, hydraulic and electrical assembly to tooling, multi-axis machining, milling (CNC, NC and conven-

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Above: Some of the panels produced at ASC Machine Tools.



Photo left: Lyle Johanson takes a break at his machine

Teamwork Provides Generous Support to Blinded Member

Though IAM member Dennis Meech no longer has his eyesight, he clearly saw the concern, teamwork and cooperation that went into an event on Sunday, April 18. Fellow union members and co-workers from Allied Waste in Goldendale organized a barbecue fundraiser to help Dennis; however, the teamwork went far beyond the ranks of Union membership. Union and management teamed up for this common goal.

Dennis was working at Allied Waste when he lost his sight as a result of a motorcycle accident on the drive home one day.

Members in Goldendale generously opened their wallets to help and contributed more than \$1,400. Management at Allied Waste also did its part and donated \$1,500 from the company.

District President Tom Wroblewski, along with Business Rep Steve Warren and



Member Dennis Meech (2nd from left) who lost his vision in a motorcycle accident, talks with District President Tom Wroblewski as his grandson, Riley Seaver, and wife Joan enjoy the fundraiser.

Staff Assistant Ken Howard, turned out for the event and welcomed the chance to not only help Dennis, but also to meet with the members and their families.

“Dennis has such a positive attitude and is a real inspiration. It is easy to see why so many people turned out to help. He has

obviously made an impact on them,” stated Wroblewski. “He and his family are incredible and have adapted to the situation admirably. His perseverance is a testament to the heart and soul of our membership.”

When members in Yakima working

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Machinists Keep Penske Vehicles on the Road

At Penske Truck Rental and Leasing in Spokane, 10 Machinists Union members proudly ensure all the vehicles used for rental and leasing are in top working condition, as well as provide preventive and comprehensive maintenance to commercial fleets for other companies. This full-service facility focuses on customer service – working from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday to accommodate weekend customers.

Members at Penske must be able to work on a wide variety of trucks, buses, over-road tractor trailers, refrigeration trucks, liftgates, heavy equipment and every kind of gas and diesel vehicle imaginable.

These talented mechanics continually update their skills and are required to take a minimum of 40 hours of training each year. Penske is the



L to R: Business Rep Steve Warren talks with Steward Pete Hedemark and Jeff Jones about upcoming contract negotiations with Penske Truck Rental and Leasing in Spokane.

only national lease company that has certification from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE).

Preventive maintenance is the foundation of Penske's business. Our members perform over 100 check points to ensure all major systems are functioning properly including brakes, tires, electrical, drivetrain and chassis. With state-of-the-art diagnostic tools, our members conduct component analysis to improve vehicle performance and dependability, as well as finding ways to extend the lifecycle of the fleet.

Penske markets the skills of our members to attract entire commercial fleets – offering preventive maintenance contracts, comprehensive maintenance contracts, and the performance of all federal and state inspections. Mechanics at Penske are also authorized by select manufacturers to perform repairs in-house. This translates into less down time – making a maintenance contract with Penske more attractive.

Business continues to be strong at the Spokane facility despite a downturn in the economy – proof of the fine work of our members. Less than two years ago, Penske moved into the current building, which is double the size of the previous one and includes a drive-in wash bay.

“The economy has not really affect-

ed us. We have been able to maintain our workload,” said Union Steward Pete Hedemark. “Some customers are putting fewer miles on equipment and more time between service, but we have found new business to fill in the gaps.”

This good working relationship is evident in the fact Pete has not filed a grievance in his six years as Union Steward. Members hope to build on this successful working relationship as the Union enters negotiations for a new contract this September.

If you're moving or need a commercial truck rental in Spokane, give your business to our members by visiting Penske Truck Rental and Leasing at 6223 E. Mallon Ave or call 1-509-535-3611.



Travis Kennedy (r) talks with Business Rep Steve Warren at Penske in Spokane.



Mark Freeman looks up information for a Penske customer.

Teamwork Provides Generous Support to Blinded Member

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at Pexco (formerly Filtrona) heard about Dennis, they wanted to help. Members there raised \$265 and convinced Pexco to contribute \$250, as well.

In addition, the Union is helping Dennis with paperwork and the application process for Guide Dogs of America. He is currently awaiting final paperwork from the doctors.

“Initially, we were trying to get a guide dog through a group in Oregon. Then one of his buddies told him about how the Machinists helped establish Guide Dogs of America and are top contributors to the charity,” noted his wife, Joan.

Thanks to the teamwork, cooperation and generosity of members and employers, Dennis has a good start to cover future expenses and help get his life back on track.

Life Changing Moment

We always hear how one moment can change your life. Dennis learned just

how true that can be as he drove his motorcycle home from work at Allied Waste in Goldendale one windy day.

He was about 8 miles from home when the wind picked him up on a corner and threw him against the guardrail. Luckily, a co-worker was also riding home and ensured help arrived quickly.

His right upper leg was cut from his hip to his knee, he lost his hamstring, broke his pelvis and right femur. Unfortunately, the most permanent damage was from the lack of blood to his optic nerve from the cut, which left him blinded.

Dennis spent three months in the hospital, which included six weeks of rehabilitation at The Dalles. Even after rehabilitation, he had a long road to recovery. He couldn't walk initially and spent almost a year in a wheelchair. After his release, since his home had stairs, he and his wife moved into their daughter's home, which was a single level.

Slowly, Dennis regained the ability to walk – starting with a full leg brace. He has built up his muscles so he now requires a brace from the knee down.

He still has no feeling in his foot.



to R: Nick Goddard, Dennis Meech and Kelly Koons talk at the fund-raising event. Kelly was the co-worker riding with Dennis on the day of his accident.

Despite the challenges he has faced since the accident, Dennis continues to move forward with his life. In April, he secured a job at the Goldendale Country Club working three days a week in the pro shop. The state supplied scanners to identify products and money so he could perform all aspects of the job.

Before Dennis hired on at Allied Waste, he spent years as the grounds superintendent for that golf course. The friends and connections he maintained there helped land his new job.

Losing his vision didn't stop his passion for golf. Besides just working at the country club, Dennis continues to golf – since he was only a 7-9 handicap before the accident. He has a friend position the ball and tell him the direction.

In addition, he still loves to play Texas Holdem. On Sundays and Wednesdays,

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District President Tom Wroblewski (second from right) thanks members for attending the barbecue to support their co-worker.

Pexco Members in Yakima Show Their Support

When IAM members working at Pexco in Yakima heard about Dennis' situation, they organized a fundraiser to help. Their barbecue brought in \$265 for Dennis, but the help didn't end there. Members convinced management at Pexco to donate \$250 to the cause, as well.



L to R: Staff Assistant Ken Howard, Steward Jack Clinton and Business Rep Steve Warren at the barbecue fundraiser held in Yakima to help IAM member Dennis Meech.



Staff Assistant Ken Howard (r) gets advice on cooking burgers from Local 1951 Vice President Steve Ely and Local 1951 President Craig Smoot.

Teamwork Provides Generous Support to Blinded Member

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he and his wife go to a local pub for a poker game. She tells him the cards, and he plays the rest of the game himself.

Family remains an important support network as Dennis faces a future without his eyesight. His daughter purchased the house next door to be able to better help her father, and her two sons are a big help. The youngest grandson frequently guides 'Poppa' back and forth between the houses.

While the accident changed their lives dramatically, the Meech family continues to count their blessings. They look forward to Dennis receiving a guide dog, which will not only provide the gift of increased independence, confidence, and mobility, but also act as a trusted companion providing new opportunities for social interaction.



Photo left: Dennis Meech (l) tells Steward Jerry Mickelson (center) and Staff Assistant Ken Howard how he still plays golf despite losing his eyesight.

Members Accept the Oath of Office at Locals 1951 and 86



Staff Assistant Ken Howard (l) administers the oath of office to Local 1951 Vice President Steve Ely.



Local 86 President John Kofol (l) repeats the oath of office from Business Rep Steve Warren at Local 86's May monthly Local Lodge meeting.

If you would like to purchase a raffle ticket, contact a Local Lodge officer or call 1-800-763-1305.

All proceeds to benefit Guide Dogs of America



Machinists Union
LOCALS 1123, 1951, & 86 RAFFLE

\$5.00 per ticket

Drawing to be held June 3, 2010

1st Prize
Ranch & Home Shopping Spree (\$1,000 value)

2nd Prize
Davenport Hotel One-Night with Spa Package and Dinner (\$675 value)

3rd Prize
Indian Canyon Golf Package (includes 2 rounds of golf and cart) and Dinner at Clinkerdagger's (\$100 value)

4th Prize
Anthony's Dinner for Two (\$50 value)

Thank you to the following Sponsors



Monthly Meeting Schedule - All members are welcome

- Local 1951** - Richland - 1st Tuesday of month 7:30 pm, 1305 Knight St.
- Local 1123** - Wenatchee - 1st Thursday of month 7 pm, Aluminum Trades Council, 180 Rock Island Rd, E. Wenatchee
- Local 86** - Spokane - 2nd Thursday of month 6 pm, Spokane Hall, 4226 E. Mission Ave.

Negotiations Update at Triumph Composite Systems

After receiving a strong show of confidence from the members on April 19 with a more than 99 percent strike authorization vote, Union negotiators opened formal contract talks with Triumph Composites Systems on May 4.



Photo left: Members from Triumph Composites showed tremendous solidarity when they voted more than 99 percent to grant Union negotiators strike authorization on April 19.

Members provided plenty of input to shape the Union proposal with two formal surveys, as well as meetings with the Stewards to voice concerns with the existing contract. In addition, there is a shop floor worker selected by the members (Jerry Womble) sitting at the bargaining table to continuously provide the shop floor perspective throughout the process.

Bargaining sessions have been ongoing since the opener and are characterized as making progress. Formal negotiations continued throughout the week of May 14th. While we have reached tentative agreements in some areas, there are many issues

members identified as important that remain open. We will continue to push in the following areas for improvement in:

- Job security, against the threat of work being transferred to Mexico
- Compensation
- Overtime
- COLA
- Seniority progression
- Vacation usage
- Vision plan
- Controlling health care costs

The Union has had positive discussions on many topics and expect improvements in the areas listed above, which members have

identified as essential. The Union will continue meeting to deliver a contract with improvements and no takeaways to ensure a secure future for our members at Triumph Composites in Spokane.

As reported earlier, no details from the talks will be released until we have the last, best and final offer from Triumph. This allows the negotiation process to progress at the bargaining table and is the most effective method for successful negotiations.

Photo below: Kevin Winans (r) conveys his top issues for negotiations to District 751 President Tom Wroblewski at the strike sanction vote for members at Triumph.



A special thanks to all the members who took the time to attend the barbecues on May 13 and provide additional input to negotiators, Stewards and Union leadership. Membership input continues to drive these talks.



Business Rep Steve Warren (center) provides a negotiations update to Steward Lance Hoopes (l) and member Claudia Belcourt from Triumph.



IAM & AW Aerospace Coordinator Mark Blondin answers members' questions on negotiations at the barbecue on May 13.

Congratulations on Retirement

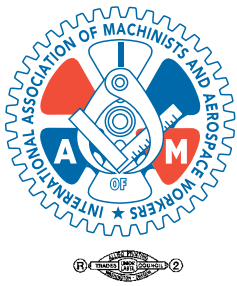
Staff Assistant Ken Howard (l) presents Howard Phillips with an IAM watch and congratulates him on his retirement from Penske Truck Rental and Leasing in Spokane.



Retirees

Congratulations to the following Eastern Washington members who retired in 2010. The Company they retired from is noted, as well as the Local Lodge.

- Michael Deines**, Battelle, Local 1951
- James Hasfjord**, Triumph, Local 86
- Paul Kippenhan**, ASC Machine Tools, Local 86
- David Newton**, Battelle (Hanford), Local 1951
- Melvin Niemela**, Rabanco, Local 1951
- Howard Phillips**, Penske, Local 86



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Members at ASC Produce Top Equipment

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tional), sheet metal, presswork, brake bending, welding, structural steel work, heavy fabrication, grinding, drilling and boring.

These members have tackled the challenges of a global market by incorporating new technology, learning additional skills and finding creative ways to improve efficiency and save jobs. The fact that employees stay for decades demonstrates that ASC Machine is a good place to work and that members enjoy the benefits of a Union contract.

Like so many other companies during the current recession, ASC had to layoff employees because business declined. They went from 100 employees to their current 62.

Even with dramatic cuts, they found ways to minimize the impact and keep as many workers as possible. The Company approached the Stewards to explore the possibility of work share, and the Union quickly agreed to the concept. This work share allowed employees to work a reduced workweek and collect partial unemployment to help bridge the difference in wages. For most members, the work share is ending, and there is hope that some of the laid-off workers may soon be recalled. A

few members are even being asked to work overtime to meet the influx of work, but feel conflicted about overtime when there are others still on layoff.

This collaborative approach and willingness to explore different options helps ensure ASC remains viable and profitable during the downturn. In addition, Union members granted a one-year extension on the contract last year.

Members are now preparing for the next round of bargaining. The current agreement expires on June 30. Business Representative Steve Warren, Staff Assistant Ken Howard and the three Stewards – Gordy Cockrell, Jim Helm and Jim Awbery – comprise the Union negotiating committee. In April, the committee put together a



Ralph Scott (l) and Gordy Cockrell discuss a project.

survey to get membership input and help prioritize the issues.

Steward Gordy Cockrell, who serves on the negotiating committee and safety committee and has worked at ASC since 1992, noted, "Job security is a top concern. Everyone wants to make sure ASC stays in business and profitable."

He added, "I believe the biggest benefit to Union membership is the fact that they cannot walk up and say goodbye.

Management must have a valid reason to get rid of you. Another benefit of union membership is having wages and benefits guaranteed in a contract. I have a feeling that even management thinks it is a good idea to have the Union – to keep things consistent and unbiased."

Members stand united in their effort to obtain a fair contract and ensure that ASC remains a leader in their industry.

Finalizing the membership survey L to R: ASC Stewards Gordy Cockrell, Jim Helm, Jim Awbery, Staff Assistant Ken Howard and Business Rep Steve Warren.

