Machinists at AIM: Low pay is not OK

Machinists on 767 line get overtime pay as a result

There are a lot of new managers at the Boeing Co. these days. Sometimes they need a veteran union steward to straightforwardly enjoin them to act.

That’s what Mike Baker, a steward on Boeing’s 767 in Everett, did recently when he stepped up to stop a plan by managers in his shop to change his team’s work hours.

“Management just wants to do it to get out of paying the overtime,” he said. “You can’t agree to ignore part of the contract.”

In December – while Baker was taking some leave – management on the 767 line approached his heavy structures team to propose a change in work hours: instead of working a normal second shift of 2 to 10:30 p.m., they would start at 10 a.m. and leave at 6:30 p.m.

The day Baker came back to work, several of the members in the area came to him to ask if the company could do that.

The obvious answer: No. Article 5.3 in the Machinists Union contract with Boeing spells out start times for second shift workers: Boeing spells out start times for second shift workers.

The Machinists Union member regularly works 50 hours a week at AIM Aerospace in Sumner, where he’s a lead-

er on a team that assembles air ducts for Boeing and Airbus jets.

If he works enough overtime, and he gets to his local food bank once a week, then things are OK, he said. “But if I’m not getting overtime, I won’t make it.”

Workers at AIM Aerospace don’t make enough to live on, and that’s why the Machinists Union is fighting hard to win them a better contract, said Brett Coty, a business representative for Machinists Union District Lodge 751.

“Jeff Feutz, the CEO of AIM, doesn’t seem to think that his employees qualify for food stamps and low-income housing,” Coty said. “But we’re not OK with that.”

Coty was one of four dozen Machinists Union activists to take part in a Feb. 4 rally in support of the low-wage workers at AIM. They served up free hot lunches to the AIM workers – chili and hot dogs – and encouraged them to stay strong during the critical next phase of contract negotiations with the company.

Roughly 250 workers at AIM Aero-

space in Sumner voted to join District 751 in July. Negotiations on a first union contract started in September. The No. 1 unresolved issue is pay, said Coty, who is leading the talks on the union side.

Getting better pay is critical, said Christie O’Farrell, who works in shipping and receiving at AIM.

“There are people who work here, single parents, who are on state assistance and get (taxpayer subsidized) Section 8 housing,” she said. “Half the people here use the food bank.”

As she spoke outside the plant, an AIM manager drove by slowly in a shiny new black Audi sedan.

The average worker at AIM in Sumner earns $13 an hour, but most – including all but the most senior people in the largest job classification – are paid less than that.

“I started at $9.50,” said Moldanado. “They seem to think that’s adequate.”

Business Rep Richard Jackson (left) praised Everett Steward Mike Baker for educating Boeing managers on how the company's contract with the IAM spells out start times for second shift workers.

Machinists Christie O’Farrell, Noalani Tapasa, Grant Billups and Greg Clark send a message to their employer, AIM Aerospace, that the company must do better than paying the poverty wages it offers now. Average pay at the plant is $13 an hour, and as many as half of the workers rely on local food banks to put meals on their tables.

Machinists on 767 line get overtime pay as a result

Elections

District 751 leader March 6

District 751 members will vote March 6 for a new person to lead their 33,000-member union.

At the Feb. 25 District Council meeting, candidates were nominated for the office of president and directing business representative. The district Election Committee was scheduled to meet as the AeroMechanic went to press to rule on their eligibility and finalize the ballot.

Whoever is elected will serve out the remainder of Tom Wrobleski’s term, which will run until Feb. 1, 2017.

Wrobleski retired at the end of January after nearly seven years in office, after being hospitalized twice due to a stress-related illness.

Voting for the new district president and directing business rep will take place from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 6 at each District 751 union hall.

In Puget Sound, members of Local A, C, E and F will vote at the union halls in Auburn, Everett, Renton and Seattle also Pierce County Skills Center in Puyallup near the Frederickson site.

In Eastern Washington, members will vote.

Unions win fight over shift switch

Company’s poverty wages force workers to rely on food banks to feed families

Miguel Moldanado is hungry for work.

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Continued on Page 11

Machinist wins fight over shift switch

Elections for International leaders in April

In April, our union will hold an election for the IAM Executive Council positions of National President, General Secretary-Treasurer and for eight General Vice Presidents based in the United States. This is the first nationwide vote for IAM leadership in more than 50 years.

That is the result of runoff elections held at local lodges across the IAM on Feb. 8.

Voting will take place on the day of each local lodge’s regular business meeting in April. Notices will be mailed to members in March. (see page 11 for details). Plan to cast a ballot in this historic election.

See page 11 for dates, times and locations for International Executive Council elections.
REPORT FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Be engaged in your union; anger is a luxury we can't afford

By WILSON FERGUSON JR.
District 751 Vice President

Brothers and Sisters, we have been through a lot over the last two years. One hundred thousand people have worked in the region for the next five years. We need to be stronger and when they come at us again in four or five years, we need to be a different union. We need to be hunky-dory until 2024, you are mistaken. We need to take the right reasons. We lost. Many of us are bitter and angry. I know it's a hard pill to swallow. Get over it. We have plenty of work to do to maintain what we have built.

The people who voted yes had multiple reasons. Some believed the company would take our work away if we rejected the second offer like we did the first one. Maybe they were right. Others fell victim to the fear and intimidation campaign waged in the media by the company, with the support of some people we thought we could count on. Still others truly believed that pensions are a thing of the past. Whatever the reasons for voting yes, we as a body accepted the proposal and we must move on from here.

The talk on the shop floor these days is angry. It’s about a dozen things that amount to lashing out to vent that anger. It’s a dozen things that amount to lashing out to vent that anger. It’s about a dozen things that amount to lashing out to vent that anger. It’s about a dozen things that amount to lashing out to vent that anger.

I urge you to stay involved in vital union activities like stewards, then you are part of the new folks. Let’s use this as a wake up call and get off our backsides and go to work. Build a strong union that once again will command the respect of Boeing or our politicians or anyone else who works against us.

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District 751 Machinists joined activists from other labor organizations to the Washington State Labor Council’s Legislative Conference Feb. 6-7.

Higher wage rewards work, protects taxpayers

By DAVID GROVES
Washington State Labor Council

“You know what it means when they pay you minimum wage?” comedian Chris Rock asks. “You know what they’re trying to tell you? ‘Hey, if I could pay you less, I would. But it’s against the law’.”

So why do we have a law setting the lowest legal wage? It’s because, in America, we believe that people who work hard and play by the rules should be able to afford a decent standard of living. If you work a full-time job, you shouldn’t be forced to live in poverty.

That was the message of the 1998 initiative campaign to make Washington the first state to automatically adjust its minimum wage for the rising cost of living. Opponents made their usual doomsday predictions of job losses and businesses moving across state lines, but voters approved it by a two-thirds majority, passing it in every single county.

And it has served us well. While inflation has eroded the value of other states’ minimum wages, Washington’s lowest-paid workers have earned more and spent more in their communities, creating a virtuous cycle for other workers and businesses. The doomsday predictions proved false. Our state unemployment rate is lower than the national average. Retail, restaurant, hospitality, and other minimum-wage jobs have increased at rates similar to other sectors.

But at $9.32 an hour, Washington’s minimum wage is still less than $20,000 a year for a full-time worker. Is that enough to assure “the maintenance of the minimum standard of living necessary for health, efficiency, and general well-being of workers,” the law’s stated goal?

The 2013 Job Gap Study found that a single adult in Washington needs to earn more than $16 an hour to meet basic needs for food, housing, transportation, health care, and other non-discretionary expenses.

And yes, we’re talking about adults. As America’s economy has changed, more adults are employed at or near the minimum wage. A 2013 study by the Economic Policy Institute found that 88 percent of workers that would be affected by a federal minimum wage increase are 20 years old or older, more than a third of them are over 40, and 56 percent are women. The study also found that the majority of minimum wage earners work full time.

What happens when people work but still can’t afford to meet their basic needs? We all pay the price.

All individuals and businesses pay higher taxes, in effect, to subsidize the companies that pay the lowest wages. Our society created safety nets intended to provide temporary help to the poorest among us and those who have fallen on hard times. But increasing, it’s the working poor who visit food banks, seek housing assistance, and apply for Medicaid - even though they have a job, or multiple jobs.

Those safety nets are struggling under the weight of the working poor. State lawmakers face increasingly hard choices every year about how to maintain them while also funding our schools, roads, public safety, and other critical functions of state government.

The good news is that policymakers in both Washingtons have turned their attention to income inequality and its consequences. President Obama, frustrated by Congressional gridlock, just announced plans to raise the minimum wage for federal contractors to $10.10.

In our state, as often happens, cities are leading the way by raising their minimum wages to as high as $15, as voters did in Seattle and city leaders plan to do in Seattle.

In the Washington State Legislature, 33 Democratic state representatives are sponsoring House Bill 2672 to raise our state minimum wage in three steps to $12 an hour by 2017 and then to continue annual adjustments. The current minimum wage is already on pace to exceed $10 an hour by 2017, so the actual net increase of HB 2672, which is prime-sponsored by Rep. Jessyn Farrell (D-Seattle), would be less than $2 an hour over three years.

Once again, opponents of minimum wage increases are predicting dire consequences for our state and ignoring the benefits of working families earning higher wages. In fact, some Republicans in Olympia have proposed legislation that moves us in the opposite direction by lowering the minimum wage for new or young employees, or by ending the voter-approved annual adjustments.

Washington should not pursue the path of promoting fundamental economic fairness. Extra money in people’s pockets will boost our state economy and it will relieve some of the pressure on those taxpayer-funded safety nets.

HB 2672 rewards an honest day’s work with a fair wage, and it protects taxpayers from having to subsidize the fast-food and other businesses that pay wages so low that they should be against the law.
Apprenticeship graduates honored as best in their trade

On Feb. 7, six union members were honored for a commitment of more than 8,000 hours of work to complete the IAM/Boeing Joint Apprenticeship Program. These members have earned the honor to be called “journeyperson,” which signifies the best in their trade. It was fitting to hold the apprenticeship graduation at the Museum of Flight — home to so much of aviation history.

Most people are unaware of the rigorous schedule and standards these members endure to finish the program. For four years, these individuals rotated plants, learned a new machine every few months, attended school two to three days a week after work, in addition to having their progress regularly reviewed by a group of people. The mixture of on-the-job training and classroom instruction covers courses such as shop theory, trigonometry, physics, metallurgy and machine programming. This is just a small sample of what an apprentice goes through during the program.

Just getting into the program is an accomplishment, which requires meeting stringent criteria and demonstrating certain skills. Many take classes for years to qualify and compete against hundreds of applicants to enter the prestigious program.

This year’s graduates represented three trades. Duane Erickson and Harvey Hussey completed the Industrial Electronic Maintenance Technician; Ken Inglet and Slaveck Moraru graduated as Model Maker, while Lurelee Lorenzen and Brian Meyer completed the Manufacturing Machinist program.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Arnie Durall Achievement Award to Brian Meyer, who graduated from the Manufacturing Machinists program. This award, named after an apprenticeship-related instructor who taught for more than 40 years, is presented to the graduate receiving the highest marks in both shop work and classroom work over the life of the program.

Class of 2013 representative Slaveck Moraru addressed the guests. He shared his story of his journey to apprenticeship, beginning with his childhood fascination for airplanes while growing up in a tiny village in Moldova. He expressed thanks to the apprenticeship community for the opportunity to serve an apprenticeship. He mentioned his desire to give back to the program by providing training to future workers.

“Today we are celebrating together all the good times as well as the work and commitment we all have put in the last five years,” Moraru said. “I didn’t even know what an apprenticeship was, but when it was explained to me I thought why isn’t everyone doing this?”

Moraru went on to say, “That was almost 5 years ago and in this time I have learned so much, I met some wonderful life coaches if I could call them that. The apprenticeship was one of the hardest things that I had to do in my life, but also is one of the most rewarding things I have done in my life.” Congratulations to all the graduates for a job well done!
Boeing puts 777X wing plant in Everett

District 751 Machinists will fabricate and assemble the new composite wings for Boeing’s 777X jets at a new plant in Everett.

The company announced the decision on Feb. 18.

“The good news, for Boeing, is that the best aerospace workers in the world will build its next derivative widebody jet,” said IAM 751 Business Rep Ray Baumgardner, who represents workers on the 777 final assembly line in Everett. “We said all along that the company’s only real chance for success with this plane was to have our members build it.”

The wings will be fabricated and assembled in a new 1.1 million square foot building to be constructed on the north side of the main Everett factory.

Machinists voted on Jan. 3 to accept steep contract concessions – including giving up pensions – in return for 777X work. After March, the only question about the wings plant was where in Puget Sound it would go.

Most Everett Machinists believed the company would carry through with proposed plans to knock down the “flattop buildings” – a pair of small office buildings – and put the wings building on the site, taking up some existing parking space.

However, Boeing briefly considered other locations, including the south end of Paine Field and some company-owned land next to the Frederickson plant.

Boeing already has started some preliminary work on the new building. Construction is expected to start in earliest

More workers at JBLM vote to join union

Aviation specialists who provide support for U.S. Special Forces personnel have voted to join District 751.

The vote affected nearly 50 workers who are employed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord by defense contractor Kay and Associates Inc., commonly known as KAI. They do classified work on helicopters used by the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, which is based at JBLM.

The election was held Dec. 5.

The union and company have completed talks on a first contract, which workers were set to vote on as the AeroMecanic went to press. The KAI workers approved a strike sanction authorization with 97-percent yes vote.

For the workers, this was the second vote on whether to join the union.

In February 2013, they voted narrowly to reject union membership. However, District 751 filed a complaint alleging that managers with MI Support Services – which at the time was the contractor that the employees worked for – had committed at least 10 different violations of federal labor law in the days before that vote.

The National Labor Relations Board agreed and ordered a new election. Before the vote could be held, KAI replaced MI as the contractor providing the services at the base.

There were no problems with the second vote.

“These workers do specialized work that requires top-level security clearances,” said Joe Crockett, who is the union business representative for the group. “They’ve seen the good things that can happen to defense workers who have union contracts, and they want that for themselves.”

District 751 now represents more than 500 civilian workers at JBLM, Whidbey Island Naval Air Station and Fairchild Air Force Base.

“We are happy to welcome our new brothers and sisters at KAI to our union family,” said District 751 Unionizer Jesse Cote. “They do work that’s essential to preserving America’s might, and they deserve the kind of pay and benefits that a union contract can bring.”

Retirement planning workshops set for March

District 751 members who work at Boeing can learn how to maximize their retirement benefits at a series of retirement planning workshops.

“With the changes coming to our Boeing retirement plans as a result of the recent contract extension vote, it’s more important than ever for our members to get informed about their retirement planning options,” said union Health and Benefits Rep Garth Luark.

The workshops will be:

- 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. March 12 at the Auburn Union Hall, 201 A St.
- 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. March 12 at the Everett Union Hall, 8729 Airport Road.
- Noon to 2 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. March 18 at the Seattle Union Hall, 9135 15th Place S.
- Noon to 2 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. March 19 at the Renton Union Hall, 233 Burnett Ave. N.

The workshops will also be held at the Auburn, Everett and Renton union halls in April. The workshops will cover a range of topics to help you calculate your real post-Boeing income, including:

- Options for your Boeing VIP potential taxes and penalties;
- Maximizing your Boeing pension options;
- Tax-favored investing and proper asset allocation;
- Health and life insurance options; and
- Creative budgeting techniques and dealing with debt.

To reserve your seat, call Money Management Educators at (888) 223-8311 or send an e-mail to mme-pugetsound@mmeducators.org.

MVPs seek new projects

The Machinists Volunteer Program Committee is looking for new public service projects for 2014.

“We’re looking for new opportunities to help in our communities,” said MVP Chairman Robley Evans.

Members who have projects to propose are asked to come to either the main MVP Committee meetings or the North End Subcommittee meeting.

This month, the main MVP Committee will meet following the District Council meetings (approximately 6:30 p.m.) on March 11 and March 25 at the Seattle Union Hall. The North End Subcommittee will meet at noon on March 12 at the Everett Union Hall.

“Our committee is committed to improving the quality of life of our members and our neighbors,” Evans said. “We’re open to new ideas into new activities.”

Doss-Whidbey Machinists sanction strike

Former District 751 Business Rep Jon Holden (at left) briefs Machinists Union members who work for Doss Aviation at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station prior to their strike sanction vote on Feb. 1. They later approved the strike sanction with a unanimous, 100-percent yes vote. The aviation refueling specialists voted in November to join District 751. Holden was leader of the union team during negotiations on a first contract for the workers.
All the chips were in for the third Local C Guide Dogs Hold’em Tournament on Feb. 15. A slot tournament allowed participants to double down on their bets in an effort to win some great prizes while raising money for Guide Dogs of America.

The event brought in approximately $12,000 for Guide Dogs. Local C officers were still tallying the numbers as the AeroMechanic went to press.

751-Member Steve Fiske, who won $1,000 in the slot tournament, immediately donated the cash back to Guide Dogs.

“I came to this event to raise money for Guide Dogs. It was only fitting that I donate the cash winning back to this worthwhile charity,” said Fiske.

This year’s tournament drew 125 poker players. A slot tournament was added as part of the entry to the poker tournament for guests and spouses of the poker players and for the players that were eliminated early.

“We had another great tournament,” said Local C President Ron Coen. “Our committee members worked hard, we had some really good sponsors, and the people at the Tulalip Resort Casino were once again great to work with.”

Special thanks to the tournament committee, which included Paul Burton, Thong Trang, Chris Louie, Ron Coen, Rod Sigvartson, Dave Swan and Chuck Fromong. These individuals worked throughout the year to ensure the event was a success.

The tournament is a fundraiser for Guide Dogs of America, the California-based charity that provides guide dogs and training free of charge to people who are blind or have impaired vision from across the United States and Canada.

Local C goes all in for Guide Dogs with poker tourney

Poker Tournament Winners were:
1st: Randall Hicks
2nd: Quang Pham
3rd: Tyson Briggs
4th: Karen Van Dyke
5th: Larry Monger
6th: Jim Rice Sr.
7th: Jim Van Dyke
8th: Joey Fischer
9th: Larry Brown
10th: Mark Johnson

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8th: Joey Fischer
9th: Larry Brown
10th: Mark Johnson

Competition was fierce as many bought additional chances to make it to the final table in the third Local C All in Poker Tournament to benefit Guide Dogs of America.

Special thanks to all our Hold’Em sponsors...

Table Sponsors:
• Susan Palmer
• Darren Hadley
• Cliff Goestch
• Don & Linda Fike
• Dave & Lisa Swan
• Nathan Navaro
• Gary Carr
• Dorothy Davidson
• Jesse Cole & Loren Guzzone
• Tonja Carrier & Paul Burton
• Fergie Wilson & Pat Bartucci
• Tony Currant/Gayl Bailey

Final table Sponsor:

Office: 800-894-3476
Fax: 253-630-6319
faxemail@newberryrealty.com

Full House Sponsors:
• Chris Louie
• Debbie Doi

3 of a Kind Sponsor:

Winners of the poker tournament: (standing L to R): Joey Fischer, Larry Brown, Mark Johnson, Karen Van Dyke, Tyson Briggs, Jim Rice, Sr., Jim Van Dyke. Seated: Larry Monger, Quang Pham and Randall Hicks, along with one of the casino dealers.

Above: Guide Dogs and their trainers pose for a photo with tournament organizers Chris Louie, Ron Coen and Paul Burton.

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The $100 poker tournament entry fee also gave participants and their guests an opportunity to play in a slot tournament. 751-member Steve Fiske (center with trophy) won the $1,000 slot tournament prize and immediately donated his winnings to Guide Dogs of America. Winners in the slots tournament L to R: Rosa Fischer, Pam Smith, Gary Kiehl, Mark Johnson, and Fiske. Tournament organizers Ron Coen, Rod Sigvartson, Chris Louie, Paul Burton and Thong Trang were on hand to congratulate the winners.

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Special thanks to all our Hold ‘Em sponsors...
Machinists on a Mission to raise money with 5K in Fife

District 751 MVPs are once again teaming with The Rescue Mission in Tacoma for a 5K fun run and walk to raise money for the mission.

The second annual Rescue Race: Vennie Murphy 5K will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 12, at Dacca Park on 54th Avenue East in Fife. Registration is $25 for adults, $20 for youth under 18 and $10 for children under 12.

Boeing employees and members of their families receive discounted rates if they register online at www.RescueRace.org.

In addition, Boeing employees will complete the 5K option, with proceeds to go to TotalAccess to secure an additional $100 donation from Boeing to the mission.

Last year’s walkathon raised more than $9,000 for the mission, which works with people at all stages of addiction, homelessness or other life challenges. Founded in Tacoma in 1912, The Rescue Mission now has six locations across Pierce County.

The mission serves about 1,000 meals a day to homeless people in Pierce County, and provides shelter to about 160 homeless children and their parents each night.

The walk and fun run is named in honor of longtime District 751 Machinist Vennie Murphy, a District 751 retiree from Puyallup who has volunteered at the mission since the ’90s.

Due to Murphy’s involvement, union MVPs now prepare and serve breakfast to the mission’s homeless clients in Tacoma two weekends a month, and periodically throw Sunday dinners as well.

Murphy was named one of the mission’s volunteers of the year in 2012.

Volunteers with District 751 and other labor unions pose with more than 4 tons of peanut butter collected by affiliates of the Pierce County Central Labor Council last year. District 751 members contributed more than 1.3 tons last year.

Union peanut butter drive to help feed Pierce County kids

District 751 Machinists are once again collecting peanut butter to help feed hungry people in Pierce County, as part of the Pierce County Central Labor Council annual peanut butter drive.

Last year’s drive collected slightly more than 4 tons of peanut butter, which was donated to the Emergency Food Network and distributed to hungry families throughout Pierce County.

District 751 members contributed 1,690 jars of peanut butter last year with an estimated weight of 2,096 pounds – or nearly 1.3 tons. That represents roughly a third of all the peanut butter collected by the 35 unions affiliated with the council in Pierce County.

Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are an American staple, and peanut butter is an essential source of protein for many people – children in particular, said David Henry, a District 751 officer who is one of the union’s delegates to the Pierce County Central Labor Council.

As Machinists, many of us spend a lot of time on our feet,” Evans said. “We know the difference that simple things like comfortable footwear and dry socks can make.”

For the past two years, District 751 MVPs have helped Redeeming Soles distribute free shoes to Seattle-area homeless people during the annual King County United Way community resource exchange.

Last year, the union collected more than 300 pairs of socks to go along with the shoes. This year, the MVPs aim to surpass that total, Evans said.

District 751 MVPs are once again this year collecting socks to complement the work of Redeeming Soles, a Seattle charity that provides shoes for homeless people.

Stewards and members are encouraged to bring new and unused men’s and women’s socks to their local lodge meetings in March. Donations also can be brought to District 751’s Seattle Union Hall at 9125 15th Place S.

Redeeming Soles does a fine job of collecting used shoes and sanitizing them so they can be worn by homeless people, but the organization doesn’t always have clean socks to go along with the shoes, said MVP Chairman Robley Evans. That’s where union members can help.

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District 751 MVPs are once again this year collecting socks to complement the work of Redeeming Soles, a Seattle charity that provides shoes for homeless people.

Stewards and members are encouraged to bring new and unused men’s and women’s socks to their local lodge meetings in March. Donations also can be dropped off at District 751 union halls in Auburn, Everett, Renton and Seattle.

Donate socks to District 751 MVPs for the annual sock drive.

Redeeming Soles does a fine job of collecting used shoes and sanitizing them so they can be worn by homeless people, but the organization doesn’t always have clean socks to go along with the shoes, said MVP Chairman Robley Evans. That’s where union members can help.

“As Machinists, many of us spend a lot of time on our feet,” Evans said. “We know the difference that simple things like comfortable footwear and dry socks can make.”

For the past two years, District 751 MVPs have helped Redeeming Soles distribute free shoes to Seattle-area homeless people during the annual King County United Way community resource exchange.

Last year, the union collected more than 300 pairs of socks to go along with the shoes. This year, the MVPs aim to surpass that total, Evans said.

Union presents scholarships

Local C plans shotgun event to benefit Guide Dogs of America

Local C will hold its second annual Sporting Clays Shoot May 3 at the Summer Sportsmen’s Association, 15711 96th St. E., Puyallup.

The shoot will be a fundraiser for Guide Dogs of America. Registration for the event will start May 3 at 8 a.m., with a safety orientation at 9 a.m. and shooting to start at 10 a.m. The cost is $190 per shooter, or $950 for a team of five. The entry fee covers targets, ammunition, loaner guns, troph-
Study: Union workers earn 21 percent higher wages

Union workers on average earn $200 a week more than their non-union counterparts, a recent report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows.

The extra income — which equals $10,400 a year more — can make a real difference in the lives of working Americans, said Jesse Cote, who leads the unionizing department at District 751.

“The numbers don’t lie — individual working people do better for themselves when they work together as part of a union,” he said.

The new BLS data shows that the average union worker earned $950 a week in 2013, or $49,400 a year. That was a 1 percent increase over the year before.

Non-union workers, by comparison, earned only $750 a week, or roughly $39,000 a year — which is 21 percent less than the pay for union members.

“We often say it pays to be union,” Cote said. “These numbers show that it’s literally true.”

Union workers also are far more likely to have employer-provided health care and retirement benefits than their non-union counterparts, a separate report released last year shows.

Union workers also are more likely to have paid sick leave, the data shows.

The U.S. Department of Labor’s annual survey of employee benefits found that:

- 95 percent of non-union workers have an employer-sponsored retirement plan, compared to 63 percent of non-union workers; and
- 86 percent of union workers have life insurance, compared to 56 percent of non-union workers.

When it comes to health insurance, the data suggests that not only are union workers more likely to have coverage, the insurance is likely to be better.

Most American employers pay for the majority of the cost of their workers’ health-insurance premiums. But union workers, on average, pay only 13 percent of the cost of individual health insurance, and 20 percent of the cost of family coverage.

Non-union workers, on the other hand, are forced to pay 21 percent of the cost of individual coverage, and a whopping 35 percent of the cost of family coverage.

One statistic on medical benefits really stands out, Cote said.

“Only 50 percent of non-union workers sign up for health insurance benefits at work,” he pointed out. “We see that often when we talk to workers at non-union companies — their insurance is so bad, or so expensive, that it’s not worth the cost to them.”

“That’s sad,” Cote continued. “A health insurance benefit that you can’t afford to use isn’t much of a benefit at all.”

There’s been a national push to provide workers with paid sick leave, especially those working in the food service industry. But already, 84 percent of union workers have paid sick leave, compared to 62 percent of non-union workers.

“Clearly there are benefits to belonging to a union,” Cote said.

Machinists at AIM tell management low pay is not OK

Continued from Page 1

Low pay has been an issue for years, and it probably hurts the company’s productivity, said Greg Fox, who worked at AIM’s Auburn plant before taking a better-paying job with Boeing.

He said he hired on at AIM making $13 an hour, and was making $14.30 an hour when he left three years later. With pay that low, workers simply didn’t care, he said. “If pay had been better, they’d have gotten more work out of people. People would have shown up.”

Recent studies show a single person living in Washington State needs to earn $16 an hour just to cover the cost of basic necessities like food, housing, clothing and health care.

AIM management’s latest wage proposals fall far short of that, Coty said.

“We’re trying to educate them on the difference between minimum wage and a living wage,” he said.

There has been a lot of discussion on the national scene about income inequal-

ity and the plight of low-wage workers. The Washington Legislature is discussing a bill to raise the minimum wage in steps to $12 an hour, voters in SeaTac approved a $15-an-hour minimum wage for certain jobs, and the Seattle City Council is expected to vote on a citywide $15-an-hour minimum wage as well.

However, most of the discussion about low-wage workers has focused on the fast-food industry, said Coty. People ignore the fact that non-union workers in manufacturing often are paid just as poorly.

“The community certainly has a stake in this,” he said. “As taxpayers, we are directly subsidizing AIM’s profits, because the company is eligible for a share of Boeing’s $8.7 billion state tax incentive. And indirectly, we’re subsidizing AIM as well, by providing taxpayer-funded low-income housing for AIM workers, along with food stamps, Medicare and other welfare assistance that allows them to survive on the poverty wages AIM pays.”

“AIM Aerospace is one of Washington’s 100 largest private companies, with revenues of more than $80 million a year,” Coty said.

“This is a highly profitable company in a booming industry,” he said. “There’s no excuse for AIM management to pay poverty wages to the people who do the work that generates these profits. It’s bad for AIM’s business, it’s bad for the Sumner community and it’s just morally wrong.”

“As a union, we’re committed to making it better.”

Machinists push pro-worker agenda at Olympia conference

Continued from Page 3

35 years old. These aren’t kids earning spending money. Sixty eight percent are women, many as sole breadwinners supporting their kids. You simply cannot support a family on Washington’s $9.32 an hour minimum wage. That is why the State Labor Council is supporting a bill to raise the wage to $12 an hour. It’s not enough but it is progress.

There are several problems with the Affordable Care Act that labor is concerned with. Although this is a federal law, there is much implementation at the state level. The biggest concerns are that employers are reducing hours to avoid the need to cover their employees. There is also a problem with Taft-Hartley healthcare plans, which are negotiated between labor and employers, not being recognized under ACA. Lastly, unions are very concerned with the healthcare excise tax, otherwise known as the “Cadillac tax.”

Your delegates to the Legislative Conference worked hard and visited the lawmakers to give input on behalf of you, the member. If you have questions about any of these or any other issues please feel free to call me at (206) 764-0306.

Business Rep Brett Coty (center) talks with union members at AIM Aerospace in Sumner during the Feb. 4 rally.

District 751 members (from left) Harold Buffalo, Chuck Fromong, Paul Burton and Jim Roberts outside the state Capitol in Olympia, where they lobbied legislators for bills to help working people.
Minutes from February Retired Club meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Jackie Boschok. Lucia Raum led the attendees in a prayer followed by the flag salute and the singing of God Bless America.

Roll call of Officers: All officers were present or excused.

Minutes: M/S/P to accept the January minutes.

Financial Report: None.

Communications: None

Business Rep Report: None

Health and Welfare: Helen Pompeo gave the report, a moment of silence was observed for the following deceased members: Wilson Barnes, Lester Black and Donna Webb. Sympathy cards were sent to next of kin, also, a get well card was sent to James Evanson.

Legislative Report: Carl Schwartz gave the report. Elections for IAM International officers and executive council will take place sometime before June. Retirees are eligible to vote in this so look for additional information. (See Page 11 for notice).

Nominations for the District 751 President to replace Tom Wroblewski will be held at the District Council meeting on Feb. 25. If more than one candidate is nominated, an election will be March 6. Retirees are eligible to vote in this election. Note the information in the Aero Mechanic (Page 1). Carl thanked Wroblewski for his service to the District and to our Retiree Club and wished him well in retirement.

Five delegates will be sent to the national conference of the Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) in Las Vegas, April 28 – May 1. Our President, Jackie Boschok will lead the delegation.

Carl stated we are concerned about continuing cuts to staffing of Social Security offices and the closing of several offices. This makes it even more difficult for retirees to receive the services they need. Our club has an ongoing resolution supporting full staffing. We will again send copies to our Congressional representatives. AARP has a free tax-aid service to help seniors with their income tax forms. Visit aarp.org/findtaxhelp or call 1-888-227-7669 for information.

Robin Guevara reminded the attendees that a bus has been chartered to allow seniors to attend the Senior Lobby Day in Olympia on February 20. Carl made a motion to pay the $15 registration fee for the event for IAM Retiree Club members. M/S/P

President’s Report: Jackie Boschok

Retirees active on senior lobby day

More than 300 determined senior citizen lobbyists swarmed Capitol offices in Olympia Feb. 20, sending strong messages to legislators on 2014 Senior Lobby Day. District 751 retirees took part while the union funded bus transportation to and from the Seattle Union Hall.

The retirees heard from Gov. Jay Inslee, as well as other speakers, and panel discussions on issues important to seniors.

After a morning of issues briefings, the activist seniors spent a full afternoon in-face-to-face lobbying with legislators and their staffs.

“The day was a success,” said IAM 751 Retired Club President Jackie Boschok. “We were able to have several face-to-face meetings with legislators and aides and really got to emphasize our issues. Rep. Chris Rykdahl expressed the same sentiment so many of us share that Boeings’ extortion on the Machinists Union members and the state should be illegal. Nice to hear someone telling what really happened.”

Senior activists urged legislators to support:

• Passing legislation providing Paid Sick Days for workers statewide
• Adopting the Federal Basic Health Continued on Page 11

Retirees

Wroblewski retirement

Tom Wroblewski poses with his cake at his retirement reception following the Jan. 28 District Council meeting. Wroblewski retired as District 751 president and directing business representative on Jan. 31, after nearly seven years in the job. He served as grievance coordinator and business rep for a combined 18 years prior.
AD RULES
Each single ad must be 25 words or less. Use a separate piece of paper or ad blank for each ad, as they are pre-classified physically. Ads are free only to members - active, laid-off, or retired. For best response, include phone number. Members’ “cottage industries” will be OK in ads, but no commercial ads. When using own paper for ads, include information required on regular ad blank.

Deadline For Next Issue
March 18th

F.C.C. COMMERCIAL EXAMS. Dream of becoming a commercial radio operator or operating radios on a large ocean ship? Call Mark to schedule F.C.C. exam. 513-604-4054

H2O GUTTER CONTROL, licensed & bonded, continuous aluminum gutters & downspouts installed repairs, roof & gutter cleaning. Gary the owner/operator has 37 plus years experience. License #390-U36041, 533-538-7966 (office), 253-722-4119 (cell)

HEARING AID DISCOUNTS on quality major brand hearing aids for union members and their families. For info, call Affordable Hearing Solutions at 425-951-5278

ELECTRONICS & ENTERTAINMENT
BEAUTIFUL KIMBALL ORGAN w/matching bench. Great for church, home, assisted living. $200. 425-226-0431

FURNITURE & APPLIANCES
RUG SHAMPOOER, used once, works good. $100 Bissell. 206-446-7024

HAUSSNER'S
A GETAWAY SPOT in the quietness of morning sun, hanging or sitting, are beautiful, real deep purple color with little flowers. Have other plants for sale: 253-582-8699

HONEYWELL HEPA AIR FILTER $50. Smith-Comsa typewriter, case included $25. Microwave stand on wheels $50. Sharp Microwave with turn table, $25. 253-941-5987

STAINLESS, FOR PARADE ORNAMENTS CARRY 12 1/2 LA. Carry holster, extra magazine box. $90. Cash. 360-659-8032

TOYOTA CELICA FRONT END BUMPER, 1998-2000, beige in color. $150 OBO. 253-852-6809

DOUGLAS
130 MACHINIST meeting. 11th call 253-804-0563. 7:30 PM, Wednesday night, 4505 106th St E, University Place, WA, 98334. Call 253-804-0563 for more information. Call 253-804-0563 for more information. Call 253-804-0563 for more information.

SMOKELESS 500 SHOTGUN, chrome folding stock and other add-ons. All 223amma and 22 caliber ammo for sale. $425 for shotgun. 253-356-1944

RUGER P9 9mm stainless steel 9” barrel (30 rounds), 12” barrel, 10+1 capacity, 12 round stainless steel magazine & load of 15 boxes ammo. $325. Call 253-429-4835 or email ryleenrichard6@gmail.com

MACHINIST/COTTAGE INDUSTRIE
A GETAWAY SPOT in the quietness of morning sun, hanging or sitting, are beautiful, real deep purple color with little flowers. Have other plants for sale: 253-582-8699

HONEYWELL HEPA AIR FILTER $50. Smith-Comsa typewriter, case included $25. Microwave stand on wheels $50. Sharp Microwave with turn table, $25. 253-941-5987

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TOYOTA CELICA FRONT END BUMPER, 1998-2000, beige in color. $150 OBO. 253-852-6809

TOolls
MURRAY RIDE MOWER, JD, 5HP. In good condition, sold 500 or best offer. 253-435-0501

MACHINISTS.U.D. BOX & TOOL TRUNK
200. 253-776-1659

VEHICLES
1978 CHEVY CAPRICE CLASSIC, 48,000 actual miles, 99% original. PS, PB, PDL, PW, AC, AM/FM 8 track, new tires, no rust, runs great. $4,500. 253-355-4136

2005 PONTIAC G6 GTR super charged, Monsoon stereo system, new tires, new brakes, no scratches, no dents, $6,200. 253-122-8554

1990 DODGE DAKOTA 1580. 1995 MERCEDES 4, 2450 SEL. 2006-783 1111

2007 FORD 500, 4 dr, sedan good condition, clean, runs good, 64,000 orig miles. One owner. Elderly mother’s car, doesn’t need anymore. $920. 253-946-5399

1993 DODGE DAKOTA, V8, 5.2L, trail er plg, hitch, canopy, CD, new battery, 216,000 miles, $2,150 obo. 253-845-3389

WANTED: MID 80’s DODGE DAKOTA, good body. Junk engine & tires preferred. Must be stick shift. 360-829-1938
International Executive Council Election Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCAL</th>
<th>ELECTION DATE &amp; TIME</th>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>ELECTION VOTING LOCATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auburn</td>
<td>April 3 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.</td>
<td>1st/Pres, Gen. Sect-Ars, &amp; Gen. Vice-Pres.</td>
<td>Auburn: 201 A St. SW; Everett: 8729 Airport Rd.; Renton: 233 Burnett N. Frederickson: Pierce County Skills Center, 16117 Canyon Rd E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>April 10 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.</td>
<td>1st/Pres, Gen. Sect-Ars. &amp; Gen. Vice-Pres.</td>
<td>Seattle: 9135 15th Pl. S. Renton: 233 Burnett N. Frederickson: Pierce County Skills Center, 16117 Canyon Rd E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auburn</td>
<td>April 2 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. for 1/2 hour closest of meeting whichever is latest</td>
<td>1st/Pres, Gen. Sect-Ars. &amp; Gen. Vice-Pres.</td>
<td>Auburn: 201 A St. SW; Everett: 8729 Airport Rd.; Renton: 233 Burnett N. Frederickson: Pierce County Skills Center, 16117 Canyon Rd E</td>
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ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE:

All members in good standing, whose dues are paid through February 2014, and retired Union members, are eligible to vote in their respective Local Lodge election.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS:

Absentee ballots are issued in accordance with the IAM Constitution (can use form at right). Any member entitled to receive an absentee ballot (per the reasons listed on form) shall make a written request, stating the reason. Such request must be mailed singly or personally delivered by the member requesting the absentee ballot no later than 10 days before the election.

For Locals A, C, E & F: Direct absentee ballot requests to: Recording Secretary, 9125 15th Pl. S., Seattle, WA 98108 or personally deliver to one of the following offices: Auburn - 201 A Street SW; Everett - 8729 Airport Rd; Renton - 233 Burnett N; Seattle - 9125 15th Pl. S. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. NOTE: Auburn, Everett & Renton halls are closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.

Members can pick up a copy of Local Lodge bylaws or the IAM Constitution at any Union offices. If you have questions regarding the election, call District Secretary-Treasurer Susan Palmer at 1-800-763-1301, ext. 3310.

February Retired Club Minutes

Continued from page 9

Option (FBHO) promoting access to care and continuity of care for low-income families.

- Protecting Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) by requiring shared employer responsibility.

Budget items for 2014 seniors talked about included:

- Allocating $400,000 for Long Term Care financing study that will examine new models for financing long-term care.
- Restoring the cuts in the Housing Trust Fund to $100 million.
- Restoring funding to Medicaid funded home care services.
- Ending corporate tax breaks that fail to produce more revenue.

Steward wins fight over shift switch

Continued from page 1

Seven-shift workers don’t get home in time to see their families. But the downside for workers is that it can also be a play by managers to get out of paying workers for overtime by getting them to agree to start working before their normal shift started, he said.

“I’ve been around for 23 years,” he said. “This isn’t my first rodeo.”

Baker said he went to management to explain the issue. “I argued with them for a couple days and I just got tired of it,” he said. At that point, he elevated the complaint to a more senior representative in Boeing’s Human Resources, who quickly set matters straight with their managers. The managers agreed to put the shift start time back to 2 p.m., and to pay workers for four hours of overtime on each day that they came to work at 10 a.m.

That should have been the end of it, said Business Rep Richard Jackson. But “unbelievably, management argued that if we were going to force them to pay overtime, then affected members would have to cover their unworked time from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.”

“They were going to hold them accountable for their attendance,” Baker said. “I just laughed at them.”

“Mike had to remind them of the company’s retaliation policy,” Jackson said.

“Mike did a great job educating management and Boeing HR on contract language,” Jackson said. “The members have now been paid overtime for the time they worked prior to their shift start time.”

Pensioners and retirees active in senior lobby day

Continued from page 9

Of the below - check appropriate box:

- I reside more than 25 miles from the designated poll location
- I am an approved employer travel assignment outside the area
- I am confined with a verified illness
- I am certified with a verified illness
- I will be on vacation
- I will be on an approved Family Medical Leave of Absence
- I will be an employee of a business approved by the Local, District or Grand Lodge

NAME (print):
NAME (signature):
Last 4 of Soc. Sec. # or BEMSID:
Address:

In accordance with the Constitution of the IAM & AW, I hereby request an absentee ballot for the election date of , qualify under the IAM Constitution for an absentee ballot for the following reasons (must qualify under one of the above - check appropriate box):

NAME: (signature)______________________ Last 4 of Soc. Sec. # or BEMSID:_____________________
Address:______________________________________________________

Just a handful of the 751 retirees who took part in senior lobby day on February 20th in Olympia. Seniors heard from various speakers and panel discussions in the morning and talked with legislators in the afternoon.

- Supporting restoration of full funding for the Public Guardianship Program.
- Thanks to all who took the time to spend the day voicing our issues to legislators. While it was a long day, our voices were heard and a clear message delivered.

February Retired Club Minutes

Continued from page 9

wish everyone a happy Valentine’s Day and noted cherries pie would be served in addition to cake. Next month in celebration of St. Patrick’s Day, corned beef and cabbage will be served. She welcomed visitors Louis Swain and Bill Frans.

Good & Welfare: Mike Keller warned about various scams. There are phone scams, gift card scams and charitable giving scams.

John Guevara spoke about the Friday Alert communication from the Alliance for Retired Americans. Discussion followed about Medicare and Medicaid coverage and the Affordable Care Act.

Max Templin said he received a letter in the mail from someone asking if he wanted to sell his house. He spoke to the police about it and found out this isn’t illegal and found out that home ownership records are open to the public. He was advised to not reply to letters of this nature.

Jim Hutchins spoke about a recent ramp project built for a retiree who unfortunately died the day after the ramp was built. Members from his shop paid for the materials and helped build the ramp. Contact Kay Michillic at 206-764-0335 if you need a ramp.

Old Business: None

New Business: Jackie Boschok announced that the Executive Board met and agreed to purchase a $100 gift card for Sally’s to give to Tom Wroblewski from the Retired Club. She made a motion requesting approval to pay for the gift card.

Birthdays & Anniversaries: Birthdays: Betty Hutchins and John Pompeo. Anniversaries: Calvin and Vera Doss.

Adjudication: The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.
Fundraisers help members during tough times

Machinists Union members in Eastern Washington continually step up to help members when they learn about others in need. Last summer, Local 1951 put together a fundraiser to help Mike Saari, a member who worked at Monarch Machine in Pasco and delivered $1,235. In the fall, members stepped up and delivered $1,775 for Cliff West, a 1951 member who worked at Tri-County Disposal.

For Mike Saari, the fundraising effort began when Staff Assistant Ken Howard donated a custom William Forge knife. Ken had won the knife in another raffle to benefit a member and redonated it to help Mike. Mike lost his leg in an on-the-job accident at Monarch Machine in Pasco in August 2001. He was off work for 1.5 years when he tried to come back to his old position at Monarch as a welder, but could not do the work. Monarch Machine created a position for him, still in the bargaining unit, doing sales and front desk work. In that position, he also served as Union Steward to help co-workers with any contract enforcement issues.

About a year after Mike’s accident he started having seizures caused from the original accident. The seizures started to become everyday petit mal seizures and have graduated to every other day grand mal seizures. Since the seizures intensified, Mike has been off work since January 2013. The doctor explored doing brain surgery to take out part of his brain that is damaged due to the accident to hopefully stop the seizures. Adding to the pressures of his medical issues, Mike is a brand new first-time dad. Union brothers and sisters stepped up to help offset his medical expenses and loss of income.

By raffling the custom knife, they raised $1,235 for Mike, member Phung Pham, who works at Triumph was the lucky recipient. Local 1951 member Cliff West also saw members jump into action during his time of need and deliver $1,775.

Cliff has always been a staunch supporter of the Union and was one of the workers at Tri-County Disposal who originally contacted the IAM about representation. When he was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis in June of 2012, his life changed dramatically. Members of 1951 looked for ways to help him — especially after he had a double lung transplant last June. Machinists members put together a raffle, which brought in $1,775 for Cliff. Prizes included fishing trips for 2, 118-piece Craftsman tool set, and a buck pathfinder knife. Members were happy to pitch in for the fundraiser and help a fellow member in need.

Pulmonary fibrosis is when the tissue in the lungs becomes thickened and scarred, making it more difficult to transfer oxygen into the bloodstream. There is no cure, which means a lung transplant is the only option. Cliff was doing amazingly well after the double lung transplant, but was required to remain within an hour drive to Seattle for six months following the operation in case there are complications. The lung transplant allowed him to breath on his own without oxygen.

Proactive effort to secure benefits if Triumph has layoffs

With the potential for possible layoffs later this year at Triumph Composites, the Machinists Union has been taking a proactive approach to ensure that if any members do get laid-off, they have the broadest possible safety net. Last fall the Union invited Bill Messenger from the Washington State Labor Council to a meeting at the Spokane Hall. There, Bill explained what Trade Adjustment Act benefits are, why they are important and outlined timelines for applying for and accessing such benefits. In late January, Machinists Union and Triumph representatives met with individuals from Senator Maria Cantwell’s office, along with Bill Messenger, to gather the facts, documentation and required information so that the TAA paperwork can be filed as soon as the first layoff notice is issued.

“It is important that we do a lot of this preliminary work ahead of time to expedite the time required to file and get approval for TAA. The goal is to secure these benefits as quickly as possible for members,” said Steve Warren, IAM Business Rep for Eastern Washington. “Triumph has been working with us to ensure that IAM, SPEEA and non-represented workers would have access to these benefits as quickly as possible.”

Members at Triumph Composites proudly show Seahawk pride

Citizens across the state were beaming with Seahawk pride and members working at Triumph Composites in Spokane were no different. The first shift crew was decked out in Seahawks attire on Friday, Jan. 31 in anticipation of the Super Bowl that Sunday. Since the Hawks’ resounding victory, Seahawk pride has soared to new levels.