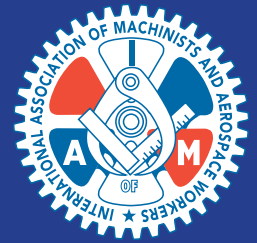


# Eastern Washington Machinists News

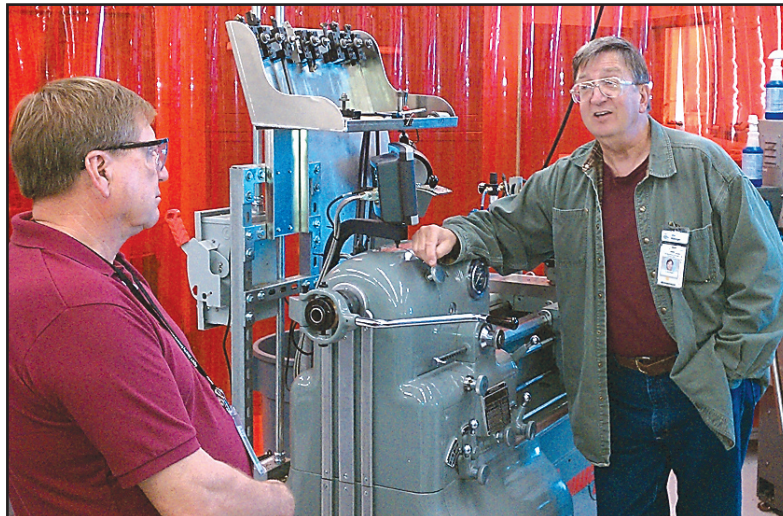


Volume 2, No. 5 - Oct-Nov 2010

## Members Make Scientists' Ideas a Reality

For the 20-plus members working at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (operated by Battelle) on the Hanford Site in the Tri-Cities, the sky's the limit on the work they perform. Their job is not what most think of when they hear Hanford and visualize nuclear waste and cleanup – these members work on the “other side of the ranch.”

As one of 10 national research laboratories for the U.S. Department of Energy, this facility's mission is to deliver advancements in science, energy, national security and the environment. These talented members are part of the research and development center at the site, and they assist scientists and engineers in following through on their thoughts and dreams. They produce small intricate specialized projects that must be held to tight tolerances – making continual modifications and maintaining constant one-on-one communication with the scientists



*Project Steward Joe Killinger (r) explains to Staff Assistant Ken Howard some of the special projects our members will be working on in the lab at Hanford.*

and engineers.

“The work is always challenging and is set up like a model shop. This is the best job a machinist could have because of the variety of work. One day we work on projects that could help find a cure for

cancer or are used on a new MRI machine and the next day we might be working on something that ends up on a space shuttle. We work on everything from saving energy to saving lives,” said Bud Higgins, a member who has

*Continued on page 5*

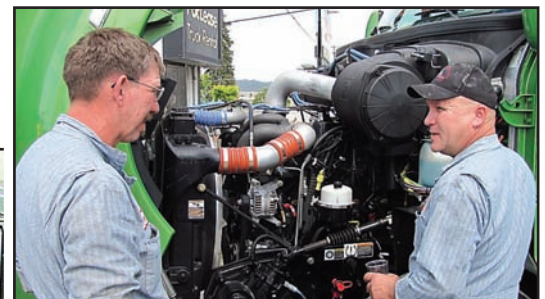
## Kenworth Sales Approve New 1-Year Agreement

Eighteen IAM members at Kenworth Sales in Spokane recently ratified a new one-year agreement.

These talented mechanics keep the new and used trucks sold at their facility in top working condition, but they do much more. They are a full-service shop open seven days a week, covering two shifts to provide maximum service to their customers. They work on all kinds of trucks including Peterbilt, Freightliner, Mack, Volvo and many others. They regularly maintain the fleets for various companies, as well as performing repairs and maintenance for independent truckers.

The Machinists Union has a long history with the shop which predates Kenworth Sales. Local 86 represented mechanics there for years when it was Williams Equipment, prior to the purchase by Kenworth in 2001.

*Below: Shawn Wood works on a Petro tanker at Kenworth Sales in Spokane. Members there perform maintenance and service on all types of new and used trucks.*



*Above: Steward Greg Rash (l) and member Mike Koppel discuss an engine repair job at Kenworth Sales in Spokane.*

# Solidarity Pays Off for Machinists at Penske

Building on the strength in numbers philosophy, the 10 IAM members working at Penske in Spokane joined together with 55 IAM District 160 members from eight Penske locations in Western Washington to secure a new four-year contract.

This unified effort resulted in members from all locations ratifying a new agreement on Sunday, October 17.

Business Reps Melody Coffman from District 160 and Steve Warren from District 751 understood the importance of working together through the sluggish trucking industries, pension surcharge requirement and the current economic times. The committee made some very important decisions that drove the company to make their last and final offer. This last and final offer was presented to the membership for a vote.

“We worked together with a large negotiating committee covering all the shops in the state of Washington. I’m so pleased with how well our committee investigated and represented each one of the locations at the table,” said Steve. “All the members of Penske should be proud of their representatives.”

“Considering the economic conditions today, I think we fared pretty well for the most part. The toughest issue was getting the company to pay all surcharges in connection with the Automotive Pension Rehabilitation Plan – the pension surcharge really had our backs against the wall,” said Steward Pete Hedemark, who sat at the bargaining table. “Preservation of our pension for the next four years without reducing our hourly wage was the most significant feature of the new agreement. We already had a high pension contribution at \$4.20 an hour. It is a lot to ask for an additional \$3.15 an hour to cover the surcharge – and it could



*Business Rep Steve Warren (light green shirt) discusses an issue in the Penske negotiations. Steward Pete Hedemark (far left end of table) also represented Spokane in the talks. To obtain the best possible contract, the IAM members from Spokane joined with union members from 8 locations in Western Washington.*

have been put on us, but the company is paying the entire amount. That is a lot of money to get into a contract, but protecting the pension was a top priority.”

While wages were frozen for the first year, members will receive small hourly wage increases in each of the final three years, as well as getting a \$2,000 net bonus in each of the first three years.

“By getting the company to pay the taxes, it ensured members take home \$2,000 in their bonus,” noted Steve who also represented members at the table. “It was a little different than anything else I had seen.”

“To help fund the pension surcharge, we agreed to move from the Machinists Health & Welfare plan to the company plan. Since they are self insured, they pay actuals now and it saves the Company money. Our goal

was to maintain benefit levels without shifting a lot of cost onto the employees,” said Pete.

Beyond just changing health plans, Union leaders also negotiated a provision that will provide more take home pay. Previously, members paid \$62.77 a week for medical. Under the new agreement, members will pay \$40 a week for the first two years of the agreement.

Revisions were also made to the tool insurance, rules governing vacation use, and removal of discipline records.

“Solidarity with other locations helped us bargain a better contract for our ten members in Spokane. It is a strategy we will continue to use going forward because it brings the best results for both the members and the company,” Pete added

## Negotiations Update at Pexco

Formal negotiations between the Machinists Union and Pexco began on November 10. The Union presented a comprehensive proposal on non-economic areas of the contract that reflected the issues identified by Union members working at Pexco. The two sides met throughout the day on the 10th and 11th and feel positive about the progress that has been made. We will be meeting with the goal of obtaining a successful contract for our members.

In order to allow the negotiation

process to move forward most effectively, few details of the talks will be released following each session. The input from the shop floor drives these negotiations and doesn’t need outside influences from those who don’t stand to gain from these negotiations. We pledge to keep you as informed as possible and give you time to review the final proposal before a vote.

Members at Pexco bolstered the Union’s position in bargaining with an overwhelming show of unity on Oct. 19 when over 89 percent voted to grant strike authorization.

*Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving Holiday!*

*from the officers*

*and staff of District 751*



# Mechanics at Cummins NW Geared for Service

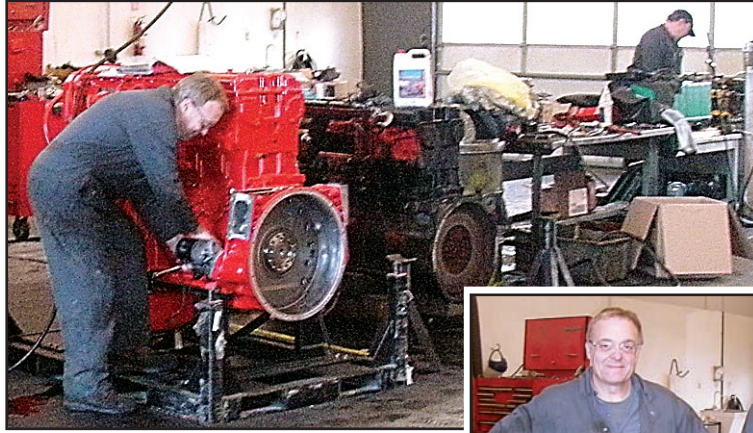
Employees at Cummins Northwest are experienced diesel mechanics who ensure all types of truck and equipment that enters their doors leaves in top running condition. Everything from major overhauls and rebuilds to routine preventive maintenance, these workers run the gamut, including emergency, on-site, full service and even field repairs.

These highly skilled mechanics understand the value of equipment “up time” and the need to accomplish timely and cost effective repairs when emergencies arise.

“We work on pretty much any kind of truck – anything from a Dodge pickup to a Freightliner or Peterbilt and everything in between,” stated Zack Mayer, a Machinists Union member at the Cummins location in Pendleton, Oregon.

While they specialize in Cummins engines and Cummins parts, these mechanics are experts on all types of engines, equipment, trailers and machinery. In addition, several of the members also serve as power generator technicians.

While the generators may not get a lot of use, when the power goes out it is critical the generators will run effectively. The members who work on the power generators are often out in the field – performing routine tests and maintenance to ensure the generators are ready when circumstances require their power. Nearly every police, fire, 911, hospital, and other emergency service rely on these generators to get the job done when electricity is out. The generators are also essential for grocery stores and other businesses that may have perishables requiring refrigeration or need electricity to preserve their products. Because the generators are very large, our members must travel to various sites to perform the work. In



Cummins NW caption goes here  
Joe Escudero and Zack Mayer are two of the IAM mechanics at Cummins NW at the Pendleton, Oregon shop.

addition to generators for buildings, they also work on lots of generators for RV’s, camp trailers and horse trailers.

Member Ted Hogeweide, who serves as the field technician at the Spokane Cummins location, noted, “I’ve been at Cummins 26 years and seen lots of changes. I began working on engines and took on generators about 16 years ago. There was more of a challenge with generators, and I recognized the important role they play. Basically, any place that requires power to provide essential services must have a working generator.”

The mechanics at Cummins maintain large fleets of trucks for Boise Cascade, Swift Transportation, and a host of other companies, as well servicing school buses for area school districts.

Because it is important to keep trucks running and freight moving, if there is a problem with any of the customers’ trucks, Cummins provides 24-hour service – which may require employees to be available for call outs.

Typically, employees have completed at least a diesel technician training pro-



gram prior to hiring into the company. Cummins also offers various specialized training on Cummins products and lots of in-house training so mechanics are knowledgeable of the latest technology, engines and equipment.

The Union contract is set to expire in December at both the Pendleton and Spokane plants. While they have separate contracts covering each location, the issues are pretty universal with benefits always being a top issue.

“The Union is behind us in case something happens. It is always good to have an advocate on your behalf,” Zack stated. “We hope to make some gains in the next contract – especially in the area of benefits, which was hit hard in the past.”

## Green for the Guide Dogs



Eastern Washington really stepped up their efforts for Guide Dogs this year and delivered \$4,681 from their raffle. Presenting the check L to R: Susan Palmer, Steve Warren, Chris Siegfried, Jim O'Brien, Ken Howard, Fred McNeil, Craig Smoot, Andy Cashion, Gary Swartz and Tom Wroblewski.

## Accepting the Oath of Office

Local 1951 Council Delegate Craig Smoot (r) repeats the oath of office from District President Tom Wroblewski (l).



# Machinists 'Goody Bags' a Hit for Halloween

The Machinists Union continues to "Build a Better Community" in the Tri-Cities. Members there volunteered to staff a booth and hand out free Machinists Union goody bags at the SafeT Street Trick or Treat Halloween event held at the Kennewick Ranch and Home store parking lot.

Local 1951 President Craig Smoot and his wife, Linda, along with Brad and Karen Davis spent Halloween afternoon handing out thousands of Machinists bags, which included yoyos, frisbees, candy and union educational brochures to the costumed children. More than 6,000 children took part.

The Machinists Union in Tri-Cities has developed a working relationship with

Ranch and Home, which has donated to many of our fundraisers and other events.

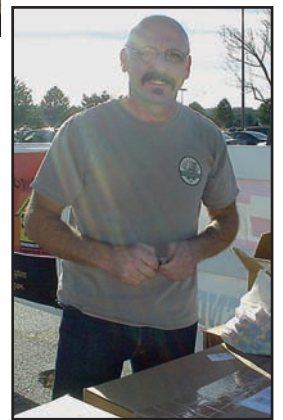
"When we were picking up the Traeger BBQ that Ranch and Home donated for our local picnic, the owner mentioned he was sponsoring the SafeT Street Trick or Treat event in the Kennewick store parking lot. He noted that as a non-profit organization, we could have a booth at the event no charge," said Staff Assistant Ken Howard. "It was a good opportunity to get our name out in the community and brought lots of smiles to local kids."



Machinists goody bags were a hit with the thousands of costumed children at the event.



The Machinists Union presence was clear as a helper in the community at the Ranch and Home SafeT Street Trick or Treat Halloween event in Kennewick.



Above: Brad Davis helped hand out the Machinists' bags.

Left: Craig Smoot unpacks the goody bags.

# Volunteers Represent Union at Rally in Nation's Capital

Labor union activists from all across America took part in the "One Nation, Working Together" rally on the Capitol Mall in Washington, D.C., but none of them traveled farther than the 16-member delegation of District 751 Machinists.

The group, led by District 751 President Tom Wroblewski and Secretary-Treasurer Susan Palmer, carried the banner for Northwest Machinists at the event, which drew more than 175,000 to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on Oct. 2. Representing members from Eastern Washington for 751 at the event were Pete Hedemark, Gary Swartz and Chris Siegfried.

The rally attracted wide support from labor unions and other

concerned citizens groups. Speakers addressed the need to elect candidates who will support improving the economy through smart government investments in technology and education, supporting justice and equal rights for all, and rebuilding America's middle class.

The group also attended a morning rally organized by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers at Washington's RFK Stadium before the day's main event on the mall. The event was in support of "U-Cubed" – Your Union of Unemployed – which is a support and political action group organized by the IAM&AW to give a voice to unemployed workers, who have been ignored or marginalized.



751 political activists pose in front of the union's Human Rights Committee banner alongside the reflecting pool at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. after attending the "One Nation Working Together" Rally. Attending from Eastern Washington: Gary Swartz, Pete Hedemark and Chris Siegfried.

# Members at Hanford Lab Make Scientists' Ideas a Reality

Continued from page 1

worked in the lab for the past 26 years. "The demanding work is very stimulating. It is the kind of job that if you get it, you stay because you couldn't find anything better."

Though their work is very specialized, when it comes to collective bargaining and their contract, they are part of a larger group – Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council (HAMTC). To effectively negotiate the best contract possible, 10 affiliate Unions join together to secure one contract that covers approximately 320 employees at the site. The negotiating committee is a mixture of Stewards and Business Reps from each of the ten unions. The Machinists had a strong presence at the bargaining table with Bud Higgins and Staff Assistant Ken Howard serving as their voice.

In the current recession and with government budget cuts, Union negotiators worked hard to obtain a fair and equitable new three-year agreement, which members ratified on September 2. Bargaining was difficult and negotiations stretched out over eight months.

The major challenge for the committee centered on the complicated area of wages and benefits while still maintaining the integrity of the contract as a whole. Despite the lagging economy, workers there made impressive gains in wages and Union negotiators protected benefits. While other workers are getting 2 percent or less in yearly raises,



Bud Higgins has to drill and tap a small pin to be used on a special project at Battelle. Higgins, along with Staff Assistant Ken Howard, served as the Machinists voice at the bargaining table.

the bargaining committee was able to deliver general wage increases of 4 percent, 4 percent and 3.5 percent. Because the talks dragged on, the 4 percent general wage increase for 2010 is retroactive to April 3.

Pension benefits were maintained and remain one of the highest multipliers of any of the Department of Energy sites. Escalating health care costs proved a challenge in the negotiations. The committee strived

to keep the costs down and the plan design changes in the final offer were well below what Battelle had consistently proposed.

Other improvements in the contract included: enhanced Work Contracted Out language, which provides for turn down criteria, removal of the "use it or lose it" eight hours of PT, and Working Leader provisions for all affiliates.



IAM member Jim Clark works on a CNC machine in the Battelle lab at Hanford. Machinists there assist scientists and work on everything from saving energy to saving lives.

# Decline of Unions Bad for America, Report Says

The top 74 wage-earners in America – including several of the billionaires here in Washington state – earned as much money as the bottom 19 million lowest-paid working Americans in 2009.

That's according to newly released data compiled by the Social Security Administration, which also found the typical wage-earner saw his or her annual pay fall by nearly \$253 last year, to \$26,261 – meaning half of all working Americans were paid less than \$505 a week.

Yet among the top tier of wage earners, the average pay was \$518.8 million in 2009 – or \$10 million a week.

The bottom line, according to economic writer David Cay Johnston at [www.tax.com](http://www.tax.com), is that government policies that have favored the rich while attacking labor unions have shattered the middle class and turned America into a nation of have's and have not's.

That's bad for America, Johnston argued. "Less money earned from labor translates into less money to finance the United States of America," he wrote.

## The Wage Gap Widens

While the wealthiest Americans continued to get richer, the average U.S. wage-earner saw his or her wages drop last year.



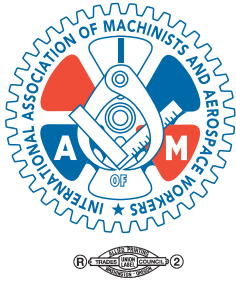
• **The top 74 wage-earners in America** -- including several of the billionaires here in Washington State – earned as much money as the **bottom 19 million lowest-paid working Americans** in 2009



• The typical wage-earner's annual pay fell by nearly **\$253** last year, to **\$26,261**. Yet, among the top tier of wage-earners, the average pay was **\$518.8 million** in 2009 – or **\$10 million** per week!

• **Government policies** have reduced the share of private-sector **union workers** by more than two-thirds.

Source: Social Security Admin.



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## 2011 IAM Scholarship Competition

The IAM Scholarship Competition is open each year to members of the IAM and their children throughout the United States and Canada. Scholarships 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. They are granted 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. All awards are 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.

To be eligible for the competition, children must be planning

to graduate during the winter or by end of the spring 2011 school year (i.e. normally a high school senior).

For complete 2011 Scholarship Guidelines or to obtain an application form, visit [www.goiam.org/iamscholarship](http://www.goiam.org/iamscholarship).

**NOTE: Completed Application Packets must be post-marked no later than February 25, 2011.**



*IAM Member Hung Truong (l), who works at ASC Machine Tool, and his wife Tina were beaming with pride when their daughter Katie received the 2010 IAM Scholarship.*

### Request For an Application Form - 2011 Scholarship Form

Please send me an Application Packet for the 2011 IAM Scholarship Competition. I understand that this request is not an application and that the completed Application Packet must be postmarked no later than Feb. 25, 2011. REMINDER: Please check the appropriate box below and the requested application will be mailed to you. As an IAM member who will have 2 years' continuous membership in the IAM as of Feb. 25, 2011, I am requesting an Application Form for:

- Child of member requesting a College Scholarship
- Child of member requesting a Vocational/Technical Scholarship
- IAM member requesting a College or Vocational/Technical Scholarship

Member's Name Requesting Packet: \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT: Complete this coupon AND attach a SELF-ADDRESSED LABEL for reply. (Do not send self-addressed envelope).**

**Mail to:** IAM Scholarship Program, 9000 Machinists Place, Room 117, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-2687

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[www.goiam.org/iamscholarship](http://www.goiam.org/iamscholarship)**