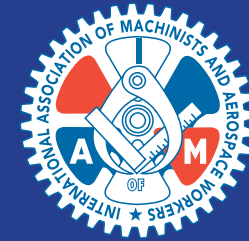


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Eastern Washington Machinists News



Volume 1, No. 1 - Sept. 2009

Our Commitment to Better Communication

The Machinists Union, in response to requests from members in eastern Washington, has started a separate newsletter to feature the various members and contracts throughout eastern Washington. Each issue will feature several of the shops, as well as highlight other activities or interests throughout the region.



Tom Wroblewski,
District 751
President

Each and every contract is important to us, and we believe it is a privilege to serve and represent each of you on the job. We are looking forward to growing this communication tool. If you have story ideas, please call 800-763-1301, ext. 3343 or ext. 3357 or email webmaster@iam751.org.

2010 Officers Elected in Two Locals

Local 86 (Spokane) and Local 1123 (Wenatchee) held nominations for Local Lodge officers at their September meetings. Following are the officers who were elected at nominations because they were unopposed and will accept office in January, 2010.

Local 86 - Spokane

President: Jeff Jones
Vice President: John Kofol
Rec. Secretary: Dale Ronquille
Sec-Treasurer: Pete Hedemark
Conductor-Sentinel: Bob Simpson
Trustees: Bill Nikkola, Terry Frei and Gary Swartz
Audit: Robert Six, Mike Blashill

Local 1123 - Wenatchee

President: Jim O'Brien
Vice President: Barry Wright
Rec. Secretary: Bailey Olin
Sec-Treasurer: Tie Morrison
Conductor-Sentinel: Adam Focht
Trustees: Fred Willsey and Elmer Wall

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 8 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.

Edwards Equipment – Manufacturing the Finest

Our members at Edwards Equipment, located in Union Gap, Washington are very proud of the specialized equipment they manufacture.

Since the 1940's, this family-owned business has produced dependable, specialized, agriculture and industrial equipment and built a solid reputation for quality and reliability. Just as important as product reputation is their reputation as a good place

to work.

The IAM has had a contract with Edwards Equipment since 1956, and it is a relationship that works well for all parties involved – employees, union, management and ownership. As a result, employees tend to stay employed there for a long time once they are hired.

“When I heard of an opening at Edwards, I applied because I knew it was a good place to work,” stated Union Steward Dale Glaspey. “There is an atmosphere of mutual respect between workers, management and ownership. It is a close-knit company, which is hard to find anymore. I really enjoy working here.”

While it may be a small shop – with just 8 members – their products have made a big impact on the agricultural community in eastern Washington and beyond. Our members at Edwards work as machinists, welders, cutters, assemblers and painters. While much of the work is interchangeable, the welders and machinists are required to be certified in their respective trades, but all employees pitch in and help when something needs to be done. This teamwork and mutual responsibility make it very unique.



Member Doug Gangl

Edwards offers a wide variety of tractor mounted forklift models and accessories – the most complete line in the industry, as well as roadside highway mowers and other specialized orchard and vineyard equipment.

Beyond the mowers and forklifts, members there make everything from lifts, bin dumpers, various brush spiders and rakes to sweep prunings, leaves and debris from trees, and spray booms.

The union and owners work together to benefit the employees and the company. Steward Dale Glaspey noted, “I see the ad-

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Union Steward Dale Glaspey.

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Members Are Skilled Craftsmen at Brands Truck Repair

Brands Truck Repair in Yakima has been a proud Union shop since 1946. With just two employees, it is definitely one of the smallest IAM union shops in Eastern Washington, but the members there work only on the big rigs – mainly 18 wheelers. Danny Wohl and Chris Jessop are the experienced mechanics who run this full service truck repair and maintenance station. They regularly service Kenworth, Peterbilt, and International trucks, as well as engines by Cummins, Detroit and Caterpillar.

Because it is a small shop, members there have a strong relationship with the owner, Frank Mitchell. Union Steward Danny Wohl, who has worked at Brands for the past 20 years, noted, “We regularly sit down at lunch right across from the owner to brainstorm suggestions to improve the business because we all need our jobs. We have just as much at stake.”

With business down, Danny and Chris agreed to roll over the Union contract another year effective September 1st. “We didn’t ask for a raise because we can see Brands is barely surviving as a company,” noted Danny. “By changing health plans, we were able to keep benefit levels the same while lowering costs for both the employer and employees. It was the right thing to do at this time.”

These tough economic times



Steward Danny Wohl performs a brake overhaul.

have been especially troubling for this small shop. While they have regular customers who bring in entire fleets of trucks for service and repair, much of their business has tapered off.

Like many of the IAM shops represented in Eastern Washington who have just a handful of employees, a common theme recurs when asked about the reasons for Union membership. Better benefits through the Union health and welfare programs, which equates to strength in numbers. With only a handful of employees, finding a good benefit plan can be extremely costly. But through the Union programs, various groups of members

at different employers are pooled together – lowering the premium costs while increasing the benefit levels – making it a win-win for everyone.

These journeymen continue to keep their skills top-notch and hope that business will pick up as the economy rebounds. In the meantime, they are thankful to have the Union benefits and contract and a steady job that utilizes the trade they have mastered over the years.

Members at Edwards Equipment IAM Proud

Continued from page 1

vantage of a Union contract – especially in the benefit package. It is great. I haven’t seen any

Member Joe Tindall



better. Because it is a small employer, the union can get us a group rate on benefits so it is more cost effective for the company while still providing top-notch benefits.”

Dale also served on the negotiating committee, which delivered a new contract effective September 1st. The union and owners worked together to find something that works for everyone. Last year when their office manager wanted to be included in the union for the benefit package, a special Letter of Understanding was signed to include her in the unit – testimony to the working relationship between union and company.



Member Les Swale

“It is a great atmosphere to work in. We offer a variety of products and work in a stress-free environment,” Dale stated. “We all work together and everyone is very happy day-to-day with smiles on their faces.”

Retirees

Congratulations to the following Eastern Washington members who have retired in 2009. The Company they retired from is noted.

Dana Albert, Triumph
John Bohmfalk, Grand Coulee Dam
Jay Britain, Cummins
Don Colenso, Kenworth Sales
LeRoy Fields, Rabanco
Roy Hays, Central Pre-Mix
Charles Hore, Rabanco
Dale Issacson, Kenworth Sales

Kenney Luedke, ASC
Paul Milliken, DL 751
Tom Munch, Alcoa
Theodore Nichols, Spokesman Review
Larry Pegram, Rabanco
Earl Rehms, ASC
Ed Rittenberg, DL 751
Richard Rothmund, ASC

IAM Proudly Represents Bus Facilities Employees for Public Transit

Throughout Washington State, the Machinists Union represents employees at various bus facilities for public transportation. These skilled machinists ensure that public transportation vehicles remain in top condition and have chosen to be represented by the IAM as their collective bargaining agent.

The Machinists Union is proud to be the bargaining representative for maintenance employees of the following public transit systems:

- Ben Franklin Transit
- First Transit
- Kitsap Transit
- Intercity Transit in Olympia
- Skagit Transit
- Community Transit (Snohomish County)
- C-Tran (Portland)



The sign indicating Federal stimulus funds to update Ben Franklin Transit Base.

IAM members at Ben Franklin Transit in the Tri-Cities are seeing an expansion of their maintenance facility with federal stimulus money. It is important to see these improvements to the facility, and we are hopeful they will translate into additional jobs and job security for our members there.

Members Maintain Safeway Distribution Center in Spokane

The six IAM members working at the Safeway Distribution Center in Spokane play a big role in ensuring that products arrive at the various Safeway stores throughout Eastern Washington.

They have been represented by the IAM since 1980. Not only does this facility process nearly all the products for Safeway stores throughout eastern Washington, these six individuals are responsible for keeping the facility and all its equipment in top operating condition.

The 288,000 square foot facility is a continual hub of activity – meaning equipment must be in top condition to handle the volume of product traffic. Our members there are dedicated to their jobs and have accumulated a lot of experience – with the least senior member having 13 years with Safeway.

These members are split into three classifications: two are diesel truck mechanics to keep the semi trucks in top running condition; two are assigned to material handling equipment, which covers all the electric equipment including pallet jacks and forklifts used to move the products throughout the center; and finally two are responsible for building maintenance, which encompasses nearly every form of building upkeep including boilers, plumbing, electrical, refrigeration, and carpentry skills.

To help ensure proper coverage, two of the members work an alternative week – one Tuesday through Saturday and the other Sunday through Thursday. These members ratified a new Union contract in 2008, which will expire in 2011.

Union Steward Doug Way not only has 21 years at Safeway, but 21 years as the Union Steward representing his fellow employees. “When the chief engineer retired, he was the Union Steward. No one at that time wanted to do the job so I stepped up to do it and have continued ever since,” Doug noted.

In addition to serving as their representative to management, Doug has also been on the negotiating committee and served several years as the vice president of IAM Local 86 – giving him added Union experience.

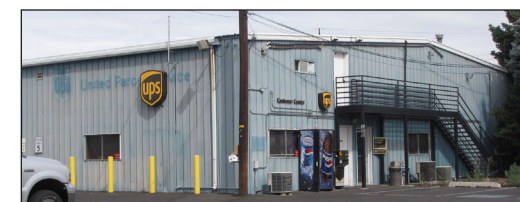
The next time you’re shopping at Safeway think about these six members who play a key role in ensuring all the products are properly stored in the distribution center and get to the proper stores on time.



IAM members at the Spokane Safeway Distribution Center L to R: Tom Rowland, Ken Holweger, Doug Davis, Doug Way, Pat Flowers. Not pictured: John Ryser. Inset Photo: Doug Way works on a boiler.

Machinists Union Members Ratify National UPS Contract

On July 30, IAM members at United Parcel Service (UPS) voted by an 82 percent margin to approve a new contract that covers approximately 3,200 maintenance workers at multiple locations across the United States. We have many members covered by this new agreement, including those working at the Spokane UPS hub and 9 satellite stations located in Moses Lake, Yakima/UnionGap, Wenatchee, Coeur d’Alene, Colville, Pullman, Lewiston, Sand Point and Kennewick, which are represented by all three Local Lodges in eastern Washington.



The UPS facility in Union Gap/Yakima, WA.

The new five-year agreement includes annual wage increases, im-

proved pension contributions, eligibility for the IAM 401(k) plan and improved tool allowances.

Members’ health care benefits under the new agreement will remain intact.

“This agreement is a credit to the solidarity of our members and the hard work of our negotiating committee and UPS to find a way to increase wages and benefits during these tough economic times,” said IAM Automotive Department Director Boysen Anderson.



The UPS hub in Spokane.