Employees at GKN Chem-ronics in Kent have obtained job security, which is evident because of the massive investments being made in capital equipment. Literally everywhere you look, there is construction going on, additional equipment being added, as well as bringing new employees onto the payroll. Since GKN purchased this Thermal Joining Center from Boeing in December, 2001, they have more than doubled their payroll—a testimony to their pledge to grow the business.

Employees have taken notice of the various changes. GKN member Dave Barrie noted, "It is a good thing when you see them hiring people rather than handing out layoff slips. It's encouraging to see a company purchasing major capital equipment and making improvements throughout the building. It is a sign we will be here in the future."

This commitment to workers and increasing business goes beyond simply adding heads to the payroll. One need only take a quick tour to see the amazing transformation that has occurred in this facility. GKN in Kent is striving to utilize every inch of space in their building—including building additional decks above existing work areas. Just a few of the changes in the past year, include:

- Purchased a second electron-beam welding chamber (even larger than the first). Because the new chamber is much taller, it can accommodate parts the existing chamber could not. By adding the second chamber, GKN will effectively double their EB Welding capacity. This will help with some new potential work packages.
- Added two mezzanine levels above the shop floor to get additional work space without leasing additional floor space. Other mezzanines will also be installed above various work areas to increase work space.
- Installed and are in the process of qualifying a new six-axis milling machine.
- Built a new facility to house the bead shaving process, which included installing lots of lights and closed circuit air conditioning. The new areas incorporated suggestions from the employees and are more ergonomically sound for this manual process. In addition, the area houses a robotic bead shaver, and they will be getting a second one so employees use their skills in other areas that are less stressful on their hands and back.

GKN in Kent Just Keeps Expanding for the Future

Union Delivers More TAA Benefits

The Machinists Union was successful in obtaining a new certification for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for all laid-off Boeing Commercial Airplane Group workers in Puget Sound, Portland and Wichita. The new certification will also extend TAA to employees laid-off at the Triumph Group in Spokane, Washington. The announcement came in response to a petition filed in January by the Machinists Union and becomes effective for individuals laid-off March 19, 2004 or later.

This new certification offers additional benefits from the previous petition, which expired on March 18, 2004. If the Union had not submitted a new application, none of these benefits would have been available.

Law Signed to Save Aluminum Jobs

On Friday, March 19, Governor Gary Locke signed into law a bill that will preserve jobs at the Alcoa aluminum plants in Wenatchee and Ferndale until cheaper electric rates are available. These family-wage union jobs are critical to those local economies, which made the bill a top priority of our Union during the 2004 legislative session in Olympia. Local 1123 workers Mike Bratton, Steve Reynolds, Loy Bell, along with IAM District 751 President Mark Blondin, attended the bill signing at Alcoa’s plant in Ferndale. Spirits were optimistic that the bill could even lead to a restart of production in Wenatchee. District 751 President Mark Blondin declared, “When business, workers and community unite, we make a difference.”

Tooling Area May Get More Work Thanks to QTP Training

Thanks to the training delivered by the IAM/Boeing Quick Through Training Program (QTP), the Everett Tooling area of the Interior Responsibility Center (IRC) may soon be able to take on additional work packages. QTP delivered a customized laser tracking course to Tooling employees on both first and second shifts.

Tooling supervisor Michael Hickock stated, “Prior to the training, the shop had only one expert on laser tracking so we had to turn away some jobs. Now we can support that work and complete it in the shop.” He added, “We hope to land some of the 7E7 work as a result of the new skills, as well as more of this type of work. This training gives us one more tool to say let’s keep the work in-house. It also shows we are not afraid to learn new skills.”

Member Steve Reed was just one member praising the training. He stated, “I learned a lot and built my confidence using the laser tracker. Michael Lazar was a great instructor who had a lot of patience.”

The Tooling area, like many other operations organizations, often has such tight production schedules it is difficult to allow a whole group to attend training at the same time. The IAM/Boeing QTP Training Program is a wonderful tool to help employees improve their skills.
IAM Responds to Outreach of Goodrich Employees

After being contacted by several employees working at the B.F. Goodrich plant on Paine Field in Everett, the IAM responded by distributing informational brochures about membership in the IAM. For three consecutive days, 751 members staked out the street corners to give Goodrich employees an opportunity to hear what the IAM is all about. The activity generated interest far beyond just Goodrich employees. The Snohomish County sheriff was called and the IAM activity made the front page of the Goodrich employee newspaper the very next day.

Special thanks to all the Stewards and members who volunteered their time to support the efforts and let others know the benefits of joining a union.

As with any organizing activity, the decision will ultimately be up to the Goodrich employees. Thanks to members who volunteered to help. If you are interested in participating in future organizing activities, please contact Jesse Cote at 206-764-0308 or 1-800-763-1301, ext. 3308.

Stewards Mike Heggie and Kimberly Krause were two of the Stewards passing out literature outside of B.F. Goodrich in Everett.

751 members reach out to Goodrich employees to share information on the IAM.
Union Delivers More Help for Lay-off Workers

Continued from page 1

able to members laid-off after March 19.

These new benefits include:

- A tax credit of up to 65% of the premium cost of COBRA health insurance. Employers have the option of paying just 35% and the Health Care Tax Credit program will pay the remainder or they can pay 100% and claim the 65% credit off their taxes. However, a new state law offers those on TAA the chance to utilize Washington Basic Health Care (see article below).

- Workers over age 50, who find re-employment in a lower-paying job may choose (in lieu of other TAA benefits) to receive 50 percent of the difference between their new salary and old salary for up to two years, up to a maximum of $30,000 and also may receive health care assistance. These would be individuals who elect not to receive new training.

- Allows 26 additional weeks of income support for workers participating in training—resulting in maximum of 104 weeks of income support (enough to get a person through a two-year training program).

- Allows workers whose training includes remedial education an additional 26 weeks of income support—for a maximum of 130 weeks.

- Increases cap on one-time payment for job search and relocation from $800 to $1,250.

The Union was also successful in persuading Triumph to extend their current layoff notices until after March 19 so that our members in Spokane can utilize the new TAA benefits.

“This Union will not forget about the members who are out on layoff. We pledged to continue to help and intend to do that in every possible way. Our first priority is getting them back to work, but in the meantime, there must be an adequate safety net during the transition. Jobs remain our top priority and we will continue to push Boeing to bring work back and create additional jobs,” declared Mark Blondin, IAM District 751 President.

“Having benefits throughout a two-year training program will enable our members, as well as other laid-off Boeing workers, to focus their efforts on retraining. For our members that are over age 50, they also have the option of taking the income-supplement if they chose to accept a lower-paying job rather than going the retraining route,” Blondin added.

The Machinists Union has aggressively lobbied at both the federal and state level to assist our laid-off workers on a variety of fronts. The Machinists Union continues to fight to enhance the safety net for laid-off workers by obtaining this new Trade Adjustment Assistance certification and is pushing Congress for additional extensions on unemployment benefits. Just last month, District 751 President Mark Blondin joined U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell at a press conference urging President Bush and Senate Republicans to grant an additional extension of federal unemployment benefits.

Bill Allows Laid-off Workers Using TAA to Enroll in Washington Basic Health Care

Thanks to Union efforts, laid-off members using TAA will soon have an additional option for medical insurance—one that will cost them substantially less.

In the final hours of the 2004 legislative session, state lawmakers in Olympia unanimously approved ESHB2797. This bill allows members who are TAA approved to enroll in the State’s Basic Health Plan rather than pay the expensive COBRA payments to continue the Boeing insurance. The state hopes to have the plan in place and certified by June so members can take advantage of this new law.

In addition, since the individuals are approved under TAA, they can tap into the Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC). This means once enrolled in the program, they would have the option to only pay 35% of the cost of the Basic Health Plan and have HCTC pay the remaining 65%.

District 751 Political Director Linda Lanham stated, “This will provide substantial savings for our laid-off members paying for health care. COBRA coverage for a family is about $800 to $1,000 per month while a family on the Basic Plan pays around $300 a month. With HCTC, they would only have to pay 35 percent of the Basic Plan or approximately $105.”

New Law Preserves Jobs

Continued from page 1

legislators all work together, it is good for the state of Washington, good for the workers and good for business. This is a great example of how everyone can win. In a closely divided legislature, not a lot of bills were passed, but by building a broad-based coalition that included business, labor, community leaders and bipartisan officials, the bill passed overwhelmingly and preserved these jobs for our members.”

Loy Bell was one of the members that testified in Olympia. He stressed the bill was needed to keep jobs and allow their families to continue to live in the communities they call home.

Local 1123 President Mike Bratton noted, “We appreciate the Union’s efforts to make sure the bill passed. I just hope this gets the plant restarted. It’s all about jobs and we’re anxious to get back to producing aluminum.

While the bill does not ensure a secure future, it is a step in the right direction. Alcoa’s survival depends on getting a better deal on electric power under new purchase contracts with the BPA in 2006.

Blondin pledged the Union would continue to work to save these jobs and stated, “This Union will continue to press Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to lower electricity rates – with the goal of again producing aluminum at the Wenatchee plant and opening additional lines in Ferndale. Every job is important – whether it is at Alcoa, Boeing or any other employer.”

Blondin thanked Senator Dale Brandtland and Representative Jeff Morris for sponsoring the bills as well as Governor Locke for his leadership on the issue. He added a special thanks to 751’s Legislative Director Linda Lanham, who worked the issue every day of the legislative session, to ensure it passed the House.
Local F Aids Ex-Steward

The application process for Social Security Disability begins with filling out the initial application. However, statistically 60 of the first-time applicants are rejected—many due to incomplete or poorly filled out applications. An actual example is someone putting “I deserve social security cause I’m disabled” on their application.

By sharing information from his experience in the Union’s Health and Benefit Office, perhaps many could avoid these rejections and expedite the processing of their claims. The application form, while fairly clear in questions asked, does not indicate what is behind the question and how the information will be used.

There is a tendency for an applicant to hang all of the explanation of a disability on a “diagnosis.” This is not surprising since doctors make so much of a “diagnosis.” It is important to realize that disability is not necessarily a medical person who may have their own biases about certain diagnoses. Rather than using a diagnosis as an explanation, it is important to tell the reviewer, in detail, how it affects your ability to work. Stiffness and pain in joints may translate to limited mobility, inability to sit, loss of concentration, poor sleep patterns, “good days and bad days,” or poor attendance. I say “may” because unless an applicant puts these正如问题problems a reviewer is not going to assume these are issues. It is important to be consistent throughout the application. If an applicant puts they are incapable of lifting more than a couple of pounds or standing and walking more than a few minutes and then lists under “activities of daily living” that they babysit three toddler grandchildren on a daily basis, the reviewer is going to question the ability they are exhibiting. They don’t exaggerate symptoms, applicant credibility is critical. I see many review forms with reviewer comments, such as “applicant specifically states“ as problems a reviewer is not going to assume these are issues. Be sure to list all of the medical professionals you have seen and all prescription medications being taken. If you are under an antidepressant, it is okay to say that you are suffering some depression, even if you have not seen a mental health professional. It is not going to help much weight to say you’re depressed but have not sought any professional help or are not taking any medication.

The reviewer is going to read all the medical complaints and review all of the information given, but the applicant statement will lack “weight” if it is not backed up by others. If there is information that is pertinent, such as seizures that are not observed by medical personnel, or changes in personality or behavior that are observed by non-professionals, have them write a letter in their own words to document the information. This type of additional information is appreciated.

Sometimes an applicant will not put all the information on the application, thinking that it can be an opportunity to bring in witnesses. This is true at the hearing level, but if documentation is provided in the initial application, the claim may not have to go all the way to hearing for a favorable decision.

The age of the applicant will also have an effect on how Social Security looks at an application. Prior to age 50, the person must prove to the reviewer that they are incapable of doing “any work, any where” in the U.S. or in their region. On the applicant’s side is the fact that Social Security Administration looks at the “whole person” and takes the persons’ entire medical picture into consideration. The downside is that the jobs referenced as being ones the applicant can do may not exist in the applicants’ area of residence. Information Clerk, Video Surveillance Monitor and Toll Booth Attendant don’t exist in Gray’s Harbor County Washington, but do exist in the applicants nationwide and in the Pacific Northwest.

The burden of proof after age 50 and becomes even more restrictive after age 55. The Administration must now prove that the person can do work closely related to their past work, in other words closely related transferable skills within their residual functional capacity (RFC).

The application asks for a 15 year past work history. It is important to list all jobs, keep in mind that social security has access to wage information. List the job title and include a detailed enough description of the work so a vocational person can look up the job in their data base. Job titles at Boeing don’t necessarily translate to jobs on the outside. For example, what Boeing may call a “Clerk” may not have any relation to what a “Clerk” does on the outside. Again, don’t exaggerate. This goes to credibility. Saying that you frequently lifted 100 pounds and you weigh 130 is going to raise an eyebrow.

By and large, as far as Boeing is concerned, the employees applying for early social security have a “singular” work history—in other words they have done the same job for the past 15 years. If they are also over 50 and have an RFC that limits them to desk or office work or if over 55 with an RFC of Light work, it is likely that they will qualify for benefits. If they fill out the application fully, honestly and as soon as they stop working, then they will likely get it on first application if not, APPEAL. Appeals can be taken all the way to hearing phase, which will involve an Administrative Law Judges (ALJ), vocational expert, and most likely a medical expert. The medical experts will depend on the area of alleged disability. For example, if the claim is based on psychosocial issues, then a psychologist or psychiatrist will be called. The administration will make every effort to provide an appropriate medical expert. Even at the hearing phase an attorney is not absolutely necessary.

The ALJ will make a decision regarding benefits so they will question the applicant and any witnesses that may be present. They do an excellent job reviewing the file; however, the more pertinent information an applicant can provide, the easier their job is.

One of the interesting phenomena I have observed after sitting in literally hundreds of hearings is the conflict that some people have with wanting to present themselves in the best light and still maintain that they can’t work. I have seen applicants say, on their application and in court, that they could work if they had to. This may even be inconsistent with medical information. If you can’t work, don’t say you could if you had to.

Continued on page 6
Banquet Honors Community Service Volunteers

Unless you have been there, helping out with the projects, it’s hard to imagine what a difference Union members have made in our community over the last year. Over 200 different individuals volunteered over 1,000 hours on the various projects in 2003. On Saturday, March 20, the Volunteer Recognition Program (VRP) held its annual potluck banquet to thank its members and their families that step forward and participate in these important community projects. The Union has improved life for area residents from Everett to Tacoma and everywhere in between. A brief slide show highlighted the 57 different volunteer activities 751 participated in during 2003. That equals more than one project per week and included activities like building wheelchair ramps, serving meals, road cleanup, erecting a canopy for a playground, Salvation Army bell ringing, constructing a sidewalk for a community center, and the list goes on and on.

Special thanks to the VRP Committee who work diligently throughout the year to coordinate events, give reports at meetings, encourage participation and put together the awards banquet. Committee members include: Heather Barstow, Ronnie Behrke, Howard Churchill, Jon Holden, David Henry, Mark Little, Garth Luark, Ed Latgen, Rick McKinney, Vennie Murphy, Jason Redrup, Duane Roopo, Kent Sprague and Stosh Tomalga.

While everyone was applauded for their efforts, awards were given to the top three volunteers in the member, steward and officer category (see chart at left). In addition, the VRP Committee gave special recognition to secretary Kay Haaland for her steadfast help over the years in support of the program. The highlight of the banquet was the presentation of the “True Trade Unionist Award” which is given to an individual who demonstrates the characteristics of a true trade unionist whether it be volunteering or going beyond the call of duty as a Union member. District 751 President Mark Blondin presented the award to Larry Monger, who recently retired as the Union’s Grievance Coordinator after over 30 years of service with the Union. Throughout that time, Larry continually worked to improve life for others both in his union activities and in the community.

Volunteers ‘Ramp Up’ the Community

751 continued to help others in the community with two recent wheelchair ramp projects. One ramp allowed an area resident with ALS to go on and on. The second project was heartfelt and involved first, second and third shift employees from CDC, Flight Line and Prieflight (both shop and QA). These members turned out in force to help a Union brother in need. 751 member Tom Comeau was in an auto accident last July. Since then, he has had multiple surgeries and had been living in a nursing home. His wife decided to bring him home, but required ramps for wheelchair access. When the shop learned of the situation, they not only collected $800 to buy the materials, but built a ramp at both the front and back door, as well as widening and extending the sidewalk. All three shifts showed up to help with the project.

Steward Derek Wright who helped organize the project noted, “We had great participation and support from everyone.”

Above: The resident was all smiles after volunteers built a ramp.

Photo Right: Volunteers built a ramp at the front and back door of the home of 751 member Tom Comeau, as well as extending a sidewalk.

Bottom: The resident was all smiles after volunteers built a ramp.

Top Volunteer Awards

The people listed below were recognized for their volunteer efforts throughout the year.

Officers

Vennie Murphy
Jason Redrup
Jon Holden
Garth Luark
Kent Sprague
Stosh Tomalga

Members

William J. Smith
Robert ’Gus’ Gustavson
Gerry Miller

Certificates of appreciation were also given to: Heather Barstow, Ronnie Behrke, Howard Churchill, Jon Holden, David Henry, Mark Little, Garth Luark, Ed Latgen, Rick McKinney, Vennie Murphy, Jason Redrup, Duane Roopo, Kent Sprague and Stosh Tomalga.

Annual Campaign for ECF Brings Unions Together

The annual Employees Community Fund campaign is fast approaching. The Employees Community Fund is an employee-owned nonprofit organization that offers employees a simple, no-hassle way to make contributions to their communities to help people in need. During the campaign, May 3-14, boosters will be available to answer questions about the Fund and how to give.

And union leaders are getting involved, too. Some IAM and SPEEA stewards and representatives will be attending an April 1 meeting at the Everett union hall or an April 6 meeting at the Seattle union hall to learn more about the Employees Community Fund campaign and how union members can get involved. One way for Boeing employees to take part is to be boosters during the campaign. Boosters develop personal leadership skills and make a difference in local communities at the same time. Training will be provided; no experience is necessary for this fun and challenging assignment. Boosters will thank co-workers for past community support, answer questions about the Fund and ask for contributions via payroll deduction. For more information about opportunities in the Puget Sound region, visit the Northwest community web site http://community.web.boeing.com/nwregion/ or call the appropriate contact below.

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<tr>
<th>Site</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auburn/Fred</td>
<td>Christine Stoba</td>
<td>253-653-9160</td>
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<td>Everett</td>
<td>Jeanetta Roberts</td>
<td>425-750-0204</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Corridor</td>
<td>Ron Blomster</td>
<td>425-957-5338</td>
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<td>Kent</td>
<td>Sandra Brown</td>
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<td>Yonnee Flota</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Corridor</td>
<td>Barb Foley</td>
<td>206-655-1265</td>
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</tbody>
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District 751 President Mark Blondin congratulated all the winners. Top L to R: John ’H ook’ Sayers, Gus Gustavson, William Smith, Vennie Murphy, Phil Hicks, Front L to R: Larry Monger, Garth Luark, Jason Redrup, Gerry Miller, Mark Blondin and Jon Holden.

District 751 President Mark Blondin (l) presented Larry Monger with the True Trade Unionist Award for a lifetime of Union activities.
GKN Continues to Grow

Continued from page 1

- Will be installing overhead cranes to be used on both EB weld chambers.
- Have plans to add new chemical milling capability to the chemline.
- Are scheduled to purchase a vacuum stress relief furnace.

In addition, GKN plans to acquire an additional 7500 square feet directly north, in the same building within the next 9–12 months—with the potential to lease even more space after that. They are working at possibly adding a prime and paint area as part of the expansion.

The Kent facility is looking to bring work back from their parent company in El Cajon. By moving the work to Kent, it will help with the flow time. They are also pushing to get development work on new projects for Boeing and other companies, as well. They have had a rate increase on the F/A-22 and are hoping to get the contract to do an additional work package on the F/A-22.

Kari Marsh, a third shift employee at GKN, stated, “The new bead shaver area makes the job easier, safer and the lighting is great!”

Union Steward Todd Bowne added, “It is great to see the investment GKN is putting into this facility and their commitment to expanding our services.”

Business Rep Paul Knebel noted, “It is refreshing to see a company thriving with the public or co-workers. Employees recognize the investment and gain job security from knowing their company has a long-term business plan that they are a part of.”

Tips When Applying for Social Security Disability

Continued from page 1

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Ly Bu (r) shows Business Rep Paul Knebel the new bead shaver processing area that includes better lighting, has air conditioning, and incorporates more ergonomic improvements.

Nice Guys Do Finish First

by Len Charleston, Union Steward

Thomas Sanborn 1958-2004 - On Friday March 19, 2004 the sun set on one of our best and brightest loved ones, a courageous and special man, Thomas Sanborn. A wonderful son, loving father, adoring husband, and one of the best friends anyone one could ever hope to have.

On Monday, March 23 at 10 a.m. the 777 Final Assembly crew had already planned a benefit luncheon for Tom and his family. To all that participated and donated to Tom, we wish to express a heartfelt thanks. To have known Tom was a blessed experience. He was one of the most talented functional test mechanics in 777 Final Assembly. An avid fisherman, hockey fan, race fan and Mariners fan, Tom was one who loved life and understood the value of living. We will miss you dear friend. Our hearts and our prayers go out to your wife and two sons. We would like to extend our gratitude to the brothers and sisters of District 751 who made the luncheon event such a success: Richard Anaya, Stephen Bickler, Patti Jo Lloyd, Steven Curran and Kevin O’Brien explored ways to bring the training to the employees. They were acutely aware that classroom space not only costs money, but takes additional time away from the shop floor including travel time. In addition, delivery schedules didn’t always allow time for members to attend class. The mobile lab seemed a logical solution. As part of the pilot program, the mobile lab is available Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Now, if employees have a few minutes during the day, they can walk over and renew their certifications.

In the past, 737 employees could only get re-

Thanks to a pilot program delivered by the IAM/Boeing Quality Through Training Program (QTPP) and Learning, Education, Assessments and Development (LEAD), Renton employees on 737 final assembly have a much more convenient way to obtain their required certifications. Now, they simply visit the mobile recertification lab located on the factory floor at a time that is convenient to their schedule.

This innovative mobile lab allows members to renew certifications for respirator, bond and ground, relight, seam, electrical, flight line, skills, and mechanical skills—all of the certifications required to perform their job.

After collecting input on how to make training more convenient for the employees, LEAD representatives and QTPP Program Managers Tony Curran and Kevin O’Brien explored ways to bring the training to the employees. They were acutely aware that classroom space not only costs money, but takes additional time away from the shop floor including travel time. In addition, delivery schedules didn’t always allow time for members to attend class. The mobile lab seemed a logical solution. As part of the pilot program, the mobile lab is available Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Now, if employees have a few minutes during the day, they can walk over and renew their certifications.

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Tooling Gets Customized Laser Training

Continued from page 1

the same time. On the other hand, economics dictate that most training classes require a minimum number of students to even start a class. These two facts of life make it hard for a smaller group of workers to get the specialized training they need. That’s where QTTP can help.

When the 40-hour laser tracking course would not work, the IRC Tooling organization came to QTTP looking for a solution. QTTP designed a customized course, broken up into manageable segments that fit into the IRC’s production schedule. The training was provided on the shop floor; the classes were individualized; and the training materials were relevant to the specific job.

Over a three-month time frame, eight students were taught the Basic Laser Tracker course. The training was performed on both first and second shift for up to four hours per day. To add a more individualized approach to the training only two students were taught at any one time. This smaller class size allowed more time for each person to operate in the hands-on portions of the course. With the smaller class size, the students found it much easier to learn the materials and finish assigned daily work. With other customized courses in the works, the classes were so well received that they were extended.

Steward Chuck ‘Hawk’ Hawkins with the training and noted, “Being that it was a lot better than holding it in a class, we were excited about it. Then we could use the new skills we were taught.”

Tooling Administrator, Program Managers, the instructor and Business Rep Jackie Bosco congratulate IRC Tooling employees who have taken a laser tracking class in hopes of additional work. Those completing the training include: Dean Giroux, Tim Debrabander, Doug Solbeck, Tom McFarland, Steve Reed, Kevin Farrow, Chuck Hawkins and Richard Smith.

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Steps Away Thanks to QTTP

Tony Curran noted, “The Recent Mobile Lab takes training to point of use - making it ship side training. Up to four people utilize different tests at the same time. We have received nothing but positive feedback. Once we work the bugs out, we hope to expand the hours from 6 to 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Also we will look to introduce the concept in other buildings such as the 4-20 and out on the flightline.”

Tony added, “A personal thanks to Chris Schorr, Ann Kirtley, Ken Jordan, Michael Lough and Bert Groom for their help and ideas.”

George Grimm, who is one of the mechanics who used the mobile lab, stated “I was really excited when I heard about it. Training is now about 200 feet away from my work area as opposed to leaving the building and going to a classroom. That is the way it should be. We had talked about it for a long time, and I’m glad to see it actually materialized. I think it is great, nice and accessible. Another advantage is you aren’t confined to just one week each month to get recertified. With the mobile lab, you can do it anytime and just get your recertification. This helps a lot.”

Ron Barker, who was getting recertified on the respirator, added, “This is very convenient – not just because of the location, but in the hours it is available. Recertification only takes a couple of minutes with the mobile lab. Being a painter, I don’t always have a lot of spare time to get the recertification. This helps a lot.”

Dave Wilkinson (l) and Bob Gianetti are two of the members who have taken the PC Maintenance and Repair class at QTTP’s Tukwila office.

QTTP Offers Classes in Computer Training and Other Fields

QTTP Spring Quarter Classes are scheduled to begin the week of April 12th at the Everett, Tukwila and Auburn locations. All members are welcome to take advantage of these classes. Below is a brief description of several available classes.

- **PC Maintenance and Repair** – learn to upgrade and perform maintenance on IBM compatible personal computers.
- **PC Operating Systems** – gain the knowledge and hands-on experience to select, install, configure, maintain and troubleshoot PC operating systems.
- **PC Networking** – learn how to connect and integrate multiple computers using a collection of processes that manage, transport and store information.

QTTP also continues to offer a two-hour course on personal finance and pre-retirement planning that has been very popular.

NOTE: Renton Technical College is offering a new class QTTP will cover that may be of interest to members: Beginning RV Body Repair, and preventive maintenance, water damage in floor- and exterior and minor body damage repair will be covered through hands-on experience. Registration deadline for this class is April 2.

For more information or to register for any of the classes above, call the site nearest you:

- Everett: 425-342-9973; Tukwila: 425-477-0001; Auburn: 253-931-3577 or Toll Free: 800-235-3453

Remember Workers’ Memorial Day April 28

On April 28, the labor movement will once again observe Workers’ Memorial Day to remember workers who have been killed or injured on the job and to renew the fight for strong safety and health protections. Decades of struggle by workers and their unions have resulted in significant improvements in working conditions. Since taking office in 2001, the Bush Administration has overturned or blocked dozens of important workplace protections and weakened job safety programs, leaving workers in danger. Unions will continue the fight until safe jobs are a reality for all workers. Below are a few of the Workers’ Memorial Day celebrations in our State:

- **Spokane**: 5/1 - noon. Mission Park (Perry & Mission). A picnic in the park will follow the ceremony.

Check the website for additional events (www.iam751.org).
Flight for Sight - Fun Run, Walk and Jog on May 22

Join in the third annual Flight for Sight - Fun Run, Walk and Jog, to benefit Guide Dogs of America. The event will start at the Everett Aviation Activity Center on Saturday, May 22 with three options:

- 1 mile walk course.
- 5K (3.1 miles) walk/run course is flat and easy.
- 10K (6.2 miles) run/jog only course is challenging.

Where Does the Money Go?

Guide Dogs of America was founded to help blind and visually impaired individuals. More information on Guide Dogs of America can be found at their website www.guidedogs.orgamerica.

How You Can Make A Difference

Raise Pledges - Set your goal. Talk to co-workers, neighbors, and relatives about sponsoring your walk or joining you in the walk. Make it fun by identifying your "pack" with signs, jackets, hats or clever costumes! Make all checks payable to Guide Dogs of America.

Sturt Your Stuff - Arrive at the Everett Aviation Activity Center for registration anytime after 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 22.

- Runners start at 9:30 a.m.
- walkers start at 9:45 a.m.
- Course closes at noon

For more info, visit www.im751.org/ funrun/html or call 1-800-763-1301, ext. 335 to have a form mailed to you.

Sponsors/Pledges

Thank you to all donors:

SPONSORS/PLEDGES  PLEASE PRE-PAY. Make checks out to: Guide Dogs of America. All donations are tax deductible. Hand in pledge day of walk or mail them to: Flight for Sight Fun Run, 9125 15th Place South, Seattle, WA 98108.

Members Pledge Green to Help Co-worker

Ray 'The Bison' Meduna would like to thank everyone who donated to the fundraiser for the Kent Porhnn Family, which raised almost $9,000. Ray 'The Bison' Meduna ate 22 glazed doughnuts in 99 Seconds on KISW 99.9 F.M. to set a new world record. Meduna says that the experience left him feeling hungry, which is what gave him the drive to eat that many. The family is very touched by the generosity, as well as the thoughts and prayers. Kent Porhnn has been undergoing Gamma Knife Procedures in Seattle and hopefully will be able to eventually return to work and thank everyone personally. People can still send a donation to: Kent Porhnn Fundraiser, Safegate State Bank, P.O. Box 2040, Merton, WA 98674. Thanks to those who donated.

Local F Unity Bowl

DATE: Sunday, May 2
TIME: 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.
WHERE: Lelani Lanes, Seattle
10201 Greenwood N.
WHO: Any 751 member, family or friends

Strike up a good time with food, fun, friends and prizes. Money raised from participants goes to charities.

- Trophies will be awarded to high scores and those who "tried."  
- Many door prizes - everyone wins!
- Bring your family and friends - have fun!
- $100 Lane Sponsorships available to support Guide Dogs

W We'll have fun to spare so sign up today!

NOTE: Bowlers wishing to bowl together, please submit just one form. Enter early! Please submit form by April 22nd.

Name: ________________________________________
Phone: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________________
City: __________________ State: ______ Zip: ____________
E-mail: ________________________________________

Registration Info

Pre-Registration by May 15: $52 without a t-shirt $58 with a t-shirt $20 without a t-shirt $25 with a t-shirt (sizes not guaranteed)

RACE DAY REGISTRATION:
Registration will be handed out the day of the race only.

*NOTE: If you turn in $30 or more in donations, event registration fee is waived.

Prizes will be awarded to individuals with highest dollar amount in pledges.

Name: ________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________
City: __________________ State: ______ Zip: ____________
Phone: ________________________________
E-mail: ________________________________________

Flight for Sight Run, Walk and Jog Form/Pledge Registration - Saturday, May 22

Name: ________________________________________
E-mail: ________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________
City: __________________ State: ______ Zip: ____________
Phone: ________________________________

Registration Info

Pre-Registration by May 15: $52 without a t-shirt $58 with a t-shirt $20 without a t-shirt $25 with a t-shirt (sizes not guaranteed)

RACE DAY REGISTRATION:
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*NOTE: If you turn in $30 or more in donations, event registration fee is waived.

Prizes will be awarded to individuals with highest dollar amount in pledges.

Name: ________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________
City: __________________ State: ______ Zip: ____________
Phone: ________________________________
E-mail: ________________________________________

By Machinists Union members to provide guide dogs and instruction in their use, free of charge, to blind and visually impaired individuals. More information on Guide Dogs of America can be found at their website www.guidedogs.orgamerica.
March 751 Retirement Club Minutes

by Mary Wood, 
Retired Secretary

At the March 8th business meeting, Al Wydick called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. The Lord’s Prayer was said followed by the flag salute and the singing of “God Bless America.”

Roll Call of Officers: All officers were present. Minutes were accepted as printed.

Communications: Received a letter from Ron Roller. Also a note from Business Rep Larry Monger, who retired last month, and donated for Mary King’s 90th birthday.

New Members: Carolyn Baker visited and brought guest Orla Garburgh.

Financial Report: The Financial Report was accepted as read.

Health & Welfare: A moment of silence for the following members who have passed away: Leonard Allen, Walter Ashby, James Chinn, Jack Conn, Fred Deacon, Charles Denham, Bernice Duncan, Don Egan, Robert Goodspeed, Victor Guevara, Philip Hoggard, Duke Holm, James Hunter, Gilbert Iles, Robert Joyce, Albert Lewis, Gordon Lyons, Charmian Nielson, Edward “Ted” Poole, Chester Puchelt, Robert Rhodes, Otto Roscher, Delmar Sampson, Hazel Thrasuer, Vernon Tullis, Joshua Wea, Alton Wilds, Richard Zinski. Sympathy cards were sent to the families.

Travel: Mary King gave a short report on travel and upcoming trips.

Calendar of Events: April 5 Bingo
        April 12 Business Meeting
        April 19 Video
        April 26 Bingo

Good and Welfare: Alliance for Retired Americans meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at the Kent Senior Center at 1 p.m. For more information, call Helen Miller at 253-852-8927.

Unfinished Business: None.

Birthdays & Anniversaries: The Club celebrated the following March birthdays: Eugene Erf, Donna Evenson, Merle Bangsve, Vera Doss, Perry Sherman, Carl Schwartz, Margaret Richardson, Mary Wood, Jim Franchebis. March anniversaries included: Homer and Roxanne Gritten.

Adjournment: Adjourned 11:59 a.m.

Seniors Let Your Voice Be Heard. Call 1-800-718-1008
Tell your Representative and Senators to protect Social Security and pass a real prescription drug program.

Drug Bill Ads Misleading and False

by Carl Schwartz, Retiree Legislative Chair

Carl began by asking everyone, who was able, to stand and stretch out your arms as far as you can. That’s how big a bundle of lies the latest TV ads promote the so-called drug bill are.

From the Agewise Magazine of the Alliance for the Retired Americans: Here are five claims for the law — ALL FALSE:

1) It doesn’t change Medicare — actually redefines the privatization of Medicare.
2) All Beneficiaries will have access to coverage — actually private companies will be able to decide who and whether to cover.
3) It is voluntary — actually seniors must use the private companies and low income seniors will lose Medicare coverage.
4) The plan will help those most in need — actually the income requirement disfrualizes the very lowest income people.
5) The plan protects existing retiree coverage — actually many seniors who have drug coverage through a former employer will lose it.

George Kourpias, President of the Alliance for Retired Americans, stated this is not settled. We continue to seek a senior-friendly Congress and President, who will revisit the law and bring out REAL prescription drug benefits.

On the topic of the Alliance for Retired Americans, we are all members because of our membership in the 751 Machinists Retiree Club. However, the Alliance is asking those who are able to please contribute individual dues of $10 per year to make it possible for the Alliance to do more of its work to protect our interests. For more information, visit the Alliance website: www.retiredamericans.org. The address of the Alliance is: 888 16th St. NW, Suite S20, Washington, DC 20006, Phone: 202-974-8222.

Retired Americans, stated “This is not settled. We continue to seek a senior-friendly Congress and President, who will revisit the law and bring out REAL prescription drug benefits.”

At the Alliance, George Kourpias continues to be a strong voice for seniors.

Alliance Says Greenspan Wrong on Social Security

George Kourpias, President of the Alliance for Retired Americans, expressed “shock and outrage” when Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan suggested the way to solve the soaring federal deficit is to cut Social Security benefits for future retirees. Greenspan told members of Congress that rather than raise taxes to make up the deficit they should reduce spending, including cuts in programs such as Social Security and Medicare. He recommended raising the retirement age to 67 and slowing the rate at which benefits are adjusted for inflation.

“Greenspan is wrong to support permanently extending more than $1.5 trillion worth of tax cuts which mainly benefit the richest Americans, when the country is already facing a deficit of $521 billion this year. Social Security and Medicare are earned rights paid for by payroll taxes. They did not cause the current financial crisis facing this nation. The Bush tax breaks for the wealthy are the real culprit,” says Kourpias. “Bush promised his tax cuts would leave Social Security solvent. He promised to set aside $2.4 trillion to strengthen Social Security and pay all benefits. That $2.4 trillion has vanished, eaten up by the tax cuts.”

Kourpias pledged that the Alliance and its three million members will fight any attempt by Congress or the White House to further reduce the Social Security retirement age or cut future benefits.
Boring Boat Club seeking new members.

Group, cruisers, parades, Commodore balls, and reciprocal discount overnight mooring at many marinas. www.bocgolf.org, Wait 253-852-4781.

The thirteenth annual Local C Golf Tournament will be a one-day event at Elk Run Golf Course in Maple Valley. The cost of the $100 tournament includes cart rental, tournament tee-shirts, a sponsor, green fees, and lunch. The thirteenth annual Local C Golf Tournament July 18.

Contact Jack Rice on 253-852-4781 or email hollandgardens or email jackrice@verizon.net.

For Safety.

Aid aircraft with rollaway electric tool chest, hose reel, oxygen tank, life rings and first aid kit.

ARE YOU TIRED AND SLUGGISH? Now you can feel healthy and have energy. www.myseahealth.com/fredvittetoe/retail.html

NEED A COMPACT TRACTOR? We specialize in used Gray-market tractors. Yanmar, New Holland, Kubota, Case IH, etc. Please contact Ron at 360-468-2532.

We are offering a very clean, low mileage, low hour, and low hourly rate rental car. Call us at 425-335-4136.


The first, second and third place teams.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams. Other prizes will be raffled off at the end.

For all golfers. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams. Other prizes will be raffled off at the end.
On March 5, the 63rd IAM/Boeing Apprenticeship Graduation Banquet was appropriately held at the Museum of Flight, which holds so much aviation history. Like the museum, these graduates also hold a place in history. They were the first graduating class to complete the Machine Tool Maintenance Mechanics Apprenticeship. Unfortunately, each has subsequently been laid-off from Boeing.

Minh Chu, David Edgar, Martin Hansen, Vinh Pham and Robert Segebrecht earned the right to be classified as a “journeyman” in their trade. Their graduation culminated over 8,000 hours of work. Yet most people are unaware of the rigorous schedule and standards these members endure. For four years, these individuals rotated shops and 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.

Despite getting laid-off, these individuals maintained a positive attitude and set new goals for their future. Before coming to Boeing, Vinh Pham was laid-off from McDonnell Douglas five times. Vinh echoed the sentiments of other graduates stating, “We all want to thank the instructors and mechanics in the shop. So many people helped along the way and shared their knowledge. We made strong friendships we will never forget.”

Minh Chu continues his quest for knowledge and is attending Washington Technical College full time to get a degree in Industrial Maintenance Planning.

Bob Segebrecht was saved from lay-off four years ago when he got accepted into the program on the final day of his WARN after taking an NC Operator course through QTTP. After 9-11, he realized he would be laid-off after graduation and immediately planned another career path. He will graduate spring quarter of this year from Green River Community College with a degree in Waste Water Management.

IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger recalled how he received a layoff notice from General Electric the day he completed his Tool & Die Apprenticeship Program. Ironically, he received it from Harry Stonecipher, who was then President of General Electric and today is CEO of Boeing. He added America needs to realize the importance of these jobs. He added a job here is the best investment in the future.

District 751 President Mark Blondin also addressed the graduates. He noted, “Getting each of you back on the Boeing payroll and in a job that best utilizes your talents is a top priority of this Union.”

Blondin ended by saying, “Be proud of your accomplishment. It demonstrates your dedication and a spirit of learning that is much needed in the world today.”

Retired 751 Business Rep Carl Ritcheson was recognized for the 25 years he served on the committee and the tremendous contribution he made to the program.

Congratulations to all of the graduates on a job well done!

The highlight of the graduation banquet was the announcement that Martin Hansen was selected to receive the Arnie Durall Achievement Award. The award is given to the apprentice who posted the highest marks in the classroom and in shop work throughout his apprenticeship.

Martin was an instructor for the apprenticeship program for over 40 years and personally trained over 800 Boeing apprentices. His legacy lives on through this annual award.

Martin demonstrated his commitment to learning throughout the program. He has almost 17 years with Boeing – where he originally hired in as a forklift driver. He currently is considering additional schooling and also working on building websites.

Martin Hansen (center) was presented the Arnie Durall Achievement Award for excellence throughout his apprenticeship. Presenting the award were Apprenticeship Instructors (L to R): Harold Runciman, Henry Keiley, Tim Wilson and Rick Brannon.

The four apprentice graduates who attended the banquet pose for their picture. Top L to R: Bob Segebrecht, Martin Hansen. Front L to R: Vinh Pham and Minh Chu.

Hansen Earns Arnie Durall Award