Thanks to all the members who took the time to vote in the interim election for District President on Friday, March 16. Tom Wroblewski was elected the new District President. The election was triggered after Mark Blondin accepted a position with the International as Aerospace Coordinator. Below are the vote totals for each candidate:

Tom Wroblewski ........ 2914
Clifton Wyatt ............ 2346

After thanking members for the privilege of serving as District President (see quote in box at right) Tom Wroblewski added, “I want to unite to the payroll classification to identify all individuals. They ‘fell through the cracks.’” Workforce began looking at the documentation process to identify all individuals and ensure no one ‘fell through the cracks.’

When the situation was brought to the attention of Boeing Compensation in early 2006, they began correcting the problem on an individual basis. In September 2006, Boeing Workforce began looking at the documentation process to identify all individuals and ensure no one ‘fell through the cracks.’

Boeing Compensation Specialist Cindy Jorgensen noted, “We are hiring very qualified individuals. They should be given credit for their previous time and commitment to Boeing. This adjustment will accomplish that.”

She added, “For the individuals affected, be patient. It will take time to correct our records, but we will ensure each person receives the proper compensation and back pay.”

751-Member Lori Belles, who will be receiving an adjustment and back pay, declared, “I’m thrilled to get the back pay and be restored to my previous pay rate. I appreciate having the Union and Company work together on this.”

District 751 President Tom Wroblewski worked with Boeing to ensure the over 1,000 members who choose to receive their compensation in traditional paychecks rather than direct deposit will again get their checks on time.

The process for live paychecks will be moved back to Renton beginning with the May 29th payroll. This should eliminate any of the delays members experienced after Boeing subcontracted the processing of live paychecks to an out-of-state vendor.

Members have the right to choose to get their pay in a traditional paycheck, as well as a right to receive it on time.

Resolution on Pay Check Issue

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Wroblewski Elected District President

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Preparing a Proposal for Triumph in Spokane

Members at Triumph identified key issues as their top concern in the second membership survey distributed in February. Membership participation was high as nearly every eligible member took part in the survey process.

Aerospace Coordinator Mark Blondin, along with Business Rep Paul Milliken, Staff Assistant Ed Rittenberg and Local 86 President Steve Warren have been working to draft an initial proposal for the negotiation opener in April.

Business Rep Paul Milliken noted, “Pay issues are definitely on every member’s mind and it showed in the survey results. Members are looking for a GWI, want to secure COLA, believe the entry rate should be increased, as well as reducing the time to reach the maximum. Another issue we must address is getting proper compensation for prior Boeing experience. A number of preferential hires worked at this plant for years when it was owned by Boeing, but were treated as a new hire on their wage rates. This needs to be addressed.”

Health care, pension and improvements in vacation and sick leave were also identified as issues to address in the upcoming negotiations.

Triumph has done extremely well since purchasing the facility and has become a model for lean manufacturing. Our members have stepped up to ensure Triumph is financially sound and profitable. With contract negotiations pending, it is time our members share in the profits they helped generate. Members will vote Strike Sanc- tion on April 17.

Triumph Strike Sanction Vote

Members get their ballot at the Auburn hall.

We face a similar issue at Triumph in Spokane. Many of our members who were laid-off when it was a Boeing plant are now working for Triumph. Yet their years at the Boeing Spokane plant only earned them an additional $1 per hour rather than getting credit for their previous experience. I hope to get Triumph to do the right thing and correct this inequity in their upcoming contract negotiations.

We need to move together into the 2008 Boeing negotiations. I have been working with the business reps and staff to put together a comprehensive program that will include education, visibility, better communication and increased involvement for the members. We are currently drafting the first contract sur- vey for Boeing, which should get distrib- uted in late May. I hope every member will take the time to complete it and offer their concerns and ideas on our Union. Only with input from the membership can we get stronger and improve our bargaining position.

Yet there is much more on the horizon than just the 2008 Boeing negotiations. In April, we will have our contract opener with Triumph Composites in Spokane. The strike sanction vote for those mem- bers will be held on April 17th. I hope every member at Triumph will take part in that process. Our members at Triumph have worked very hard in the last five years to improve the profits of this Com- pany, and they deserve to be rewarded for that hard work. They took an agonizing vote five years ago when there was a real danger of the plant closing for good. We preserved those jobs and the Company has prospered. Now is the time for our members to get their fair share.

I have a lot of ideas I will be looking to implement in future negotiations to make our Union stronger and hope each of you will also take part in making our Union even better for the future.

I am honored to be trusted with me this leadership position.

I also want to thank Mark Blondin for his leadership and dedication and wish him much success in his new position as Aerospace Coordinator.

by Tom Wroblewski, District President

First and foremost, I want to thank all the members who turned out to vote in the in- terim District President’s election on March 16th. Tak- ing part in the process is what makes our Union strong.

To serve as your District President will be an honor and a privilege. I want to thank the members for trusting me with this position. Our Union has to listen to members, have their respect, help solve problems and be willing to fight for them, which I have been doing for over 30 years. I have hit the ground running in this new position and will keep our Union moving forward.

In the past month, I have talked to a lot of members about many concerns in the various shops and plants. What I heard tells me we need to make some changes, and I will work to make them happen.

Servicing our membership is a big issue. With more members, we need to look for new ways to provide better service and respect. Members across Puget Sound want to have the Union more visible in the shops. It is something I want to see, as well.

Educating our member- ship is also a priority. We need to find new ways to educate both our new mem- bers and those who have been here for years. An informed membership will strengthen our position in the bargaining table next year. Just as important is the need to improve communication with the reps and staff, the Stewards and the members on the shop floor. Two- way communication is critical to ensure we are addressing members’ issues and know your concerns.

In addition, we need to understand where the Company is going and work with them to be a part of that change. We must affect change to the benefit of our membership. The $848,000 back pay I helped deliver is a prime example of working with the Company to better understand and address an issue. Just because these members did not have recall rights, they should not have re- turned at the minimum wage rate. Their previous experience and time has to count for something. This cooperation is why Boeing did the right thing and corrected a situation they were not contractually obligated to even address.

Union halls had a steady flow of members throughout the day. Nearly 25 percent of the members took the opportunity to vote Strike Sanction Vote for those members to attend.

Union Offices: • 9125 15th Pl S, Seattle; 206-763-1300 • 201 A St SW, Auburn; 253-353-5390 • 233 Burnett N, Renton; 425-235-3777 • 8729 Airport Rd, Renton; 425-355-8821 • 4228 E. Mission, Spokane (509) 534-9690 or 1-800-763-1305 Toll-free to Seattle from: Nationwide 1-800-763-1301 Tacoma 253-627-0622 Hotline: 1-800-763-1310 Web site: www.iaam.Local1.org

District Lodge 751, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

Tom Wroblewski
President, Directing Business Representative

Clifton Wyatt
Vice President

Susan Palmer
Secretary-Treasurer

Joe Crockett
Sergeant-at-Arms

Tommy Wilson
Roy Moore
Ernest McCarthy
Paul Knebel
Mark B. Johnson
Jackie Boschok
Ray Baumgardner
Zack Zaratkiewicz
Emerson Hamilton
San John
Paul Milliken
Ron Bradley
Jimmy Darrar

Union Business Representatives

District Lodge 751, IAMAW

Connie Kelliher, Editor
Member of The Newspaper Guild,
CWA No. 37082

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Tacoma 253-627-0622
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751 AERO MECHANIC
Connie Kelliher, Editor
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District Lodge 751, IAMAW

751 AERO MECHANIC

ISSN 0894-7864. A to Z Guide 2006-2007 edition, monthly publication in December/January by Aerospace Industrial District Lodge 751, 9125 15th Pl S, Seattle WA 98108. $3.50 of the annual dues goes toward the publication of this publication. Published by the IAMAW.
The name of the publication is a registered trademark.

Wroblewski Elected 751 President

Continued from page 1

and by working together, we will continue to have the best contracts in the aerospace industry.”

Union halls had a steady flow of members throughout the day. Nearly 25 percent of the members took the opportunity to gain a voice in who will negotiate our next contract. Taking part in the election process is what makes our Union strong.

Special thanks to Paul Fox and Ben Rogers who served as co- chairs of the Election Committee, as well as to all the members who stepped forward to volunteer to help with the election.

Tom Wroblewski was sworn in as District President and Directing Business Representative at the March 27th District Council meeting.

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751 AERO MECHANIC
April 2007

Connie Kelliher, Editor
Member of The Newspaper Guild, CWA No. 37082

751 AERO MECHANIC

ISSN 0894-7864. A to Z Guide 2006-2007 edition, monthly publication in December/January by Aerospace Industrial District Lodge 751, 9125 15th Pl S, Seattle WA 98108. $3.50 of the annual dues goes toward the publication of this publication. Published by the IAMAW.
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Workers Freedom Act Dies, but Other Bills Survive Cut

The legislative session in Olympia has been a mixed bag with some disappointments and some legislation that appears hopeful to become law.

What began as the Aerospace Incen-
tive Accountability Act eventually evolved into legislation covering all employers, giving workers the freedom to choose whether they want to attend their employers so-called “captive au-
dence” meetings about unionization. Employers should not be forced – under threat of loss of their livelihood – to attend meetings where they are subjected to indoctrination by their employer on issues unrelated to their work or job performance. This new legislation, the Worker Freedom Act, would have al-
lowed employers to conduct such meet-
tings but have allowed workers to walk away if they so choose.

Although there was strong support for the concept of tying the $3.2 billion in aerospace bonuses to neutrality among the Boeing contractors that receive the subsidy, some lawmakers were concerned about targeting a specific industry and felt that a bill cutoff deadline. Democratic legis-
ator leaders said they would try to keep the issue alive by passing “intent-language” legislation. The committee appointed to oversee and help invest the funds includes Secre-
tary-Treasurer Susan Palmer, District President Tom Wroblewski, Tomala, Rod Sigvartson, Jay Carterman, and Bryan DuPaul.

The committee voted to invest these funds and let them grow from year to year so in

Apprenticeship Program Will Accept Applications in April

The Boeing/IAM Joint Apprentice-
ship Program applications will be provided to interested candidates beginning Monday, March 26, 2007 for the following trades:

Cellular Manufacturing Machinist
Industrial Electronic Maintenance Technician
Macroe Tool Maintenance Mechanic
Model Maker
NC Spar Mill Operator

**Note:** The Composite Technician apprenticeship program is currently in development. Applications accepted for Composite Technician will be placed in a pool of eligible candidates.

To obtain an application by in-plant mail or U.S. mail, call the apprentice-
ship office at 253-351-1918. Leave your name, BEIM ID, and mail code (or mailing address for former employees). An application will be sent you.

To obtain an application electrone-
cally, go to the Seattle Lodge’s apprentice-
ship.cfm. Print the applica-
tion, fill it out completely, sign it where indicated, and send it to any of the loca-
tions noted below.

Applications will be accepted begin-
ing April 1st and must be postmarked or received no later then April 30th. Applicants for the apprenticeship program must be at least 18 years old; be a Wash-
ington State Puget Sound area Boeing employee who has been on active pay-
ment for 9 months of the start of the current application acceptance period and

Health Care
Presentations for IAM Members at Boeing at April Meetings

Representatives from the Boeing medical plans will be available at the April Local Lodge meetings to answer questions about their vari-
ouis plans before this year’s open

751 Implements District Strike Fund to Supplement International Strike Benefits

In passing the 2007 budget, District 751 introduced an innovative idea de-
signed to provide additional financial assistance for members in future strikes. The District Council approved starting a District 751 strike fund, which could supplement strike benefits received from the International. Money will be invested in 2007 at a rate of $40,000 per month or $500,000 this year.

The committee appointed to oversee and help invest the funds includes Secre-
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ington State Puget Sound area Boeing employee who has been on active pay-
ment for 9 months of the start of the current application acceptance period and

who has never been enrolled in or com-
pleted a Boeing/IAM Joint Apprentice-
ship program, have a GED or a high school diploma; have US person status; meet specific defined vocational training or trade related work experience re-
quirements for the apprenticeship pro-
gram being applied for; and be able to perform the physical requirements of the apprenticeship. For the Industrial Elec-
tronic Maintenance Technician Program, applicants must be able to distinguish between primary colors. Submit completed applications to any of the following five locations:

The Boeing/IAM Joint Apprentice-
ship Office, PO Box 3707 MC 5X-12, Seattle, WA 98124-2207. 253-351-1918

Auburn Union Hall
201 A Street SW, Auburn, WA 98001
Renton Union Hall
425-235-3777
Seattle Union Hall
206-764-0350
Seattle 15th Place SW, Seattle, WA 98108

Questions? Call one of the numbers above for help.

Note: When applying, don’t send origi-
nal documents in your application. Any documents submitted will not be returned or made available for copying at a later date. Make sure that you retain copies of everything you submit.

Applicants will not be called for an interview until program development is complete and open positions are identified.
Members active in the Machinists Volunteer Program (MVP) regularly build wheelchair ramps throughout the community. However, when one of our own retirees needed a ramp – more than just the usual volunteers turned out.

Within one week of announcing the need for a ramp for 751 retiree Chuck Michaels, Steward Mike Cummins had more than enough volunteers to complete the project. Many of Chuck’s former co-workers turned out to help. As they gathered on Saturday, March 10th, the cul-de-sac was packed with cars. 751-member Vennie Murphy even made the drive from Tacoma to help with the event.

Thanks to the volunteer effort, Chuck was able to come home from the hospital and easier access to his home. His wife was so appreciative.

The following helped with the ramp: Bruce Bob Anderson, Keith Chigbrow, Mike Cummins, Jon Holden, Brian Hughes, Scott Larsen, Garth Luark, Vennie Murphy, Duane Roope, Jay Sanchez, Mike Shong and Sandy Torfin.

Special thanks to Bodacious BBQ, who provided lunch for the volunteers. This caterer is a former 751 member who began a new business in Granite Falls a few years back.

The volunteer crew posed on the finished ramp for retired 751-member Chuck Michaels.

Sno-Opolooza Event a Success

Over 40 guests gathered at the SPEEA Everett Hall to see who would win the Snohomish County-opoly tournament March 3rd. Participants played 30-minute rounds, and the winners went on to play a final championship round.

SPEEA Everett hosted the tournament to help the United Way of Snohomish County (UWSC) liquidate its overstock of game boards (in the form of Monopoly and other games) and to raise money for the Puget Sound Labor Agency, and to have fun. The event brought in over $2,100.

The IAM was well represented as Joint Program Administrator Don Shove took first place while Union Steward and Local 5 Audit James Williams captured second place. Third place went to Chris Glenn, a retired SPEEA member while Megan Winsor (daughter of Boeing’s April Winsor) took fourth. 751 Retiree Jim Hutchins, who now works at the Puget Sound Labor Agency, was awarded the Wipe-Out Award for his play in the tournament.

In addition to IAM and SPEEA members, elected officials, Boeing and community leaders joined representatives from United Way and the labor agency for an evening of fun. Volunteers from Frontier Bank served as bankers for the tournament. Participants were also treated to a dinner catered by Little Italy Italian Market and Trattoria.

751’s Garth Luark, who played in the tournament noted, “This was a great event to bring union members, community leaders, volunteer agencies, friends and family together for an evening of fun.”

Special thanks to all the 751 members who turned out and took part in the event: Don Shove, Garth Luark, James Williams, Jon Holden, Jim Hutchins.

Volunteers Build Ramp to Help a Fellow Member

The volunteer crew posed on the finished ramp for retired 751-member Chuck Michaels.

To keep the slope gradual for a wheelchair, the ramp had to wrap around the front yard.

Volunteers nail in the frame for the ramp.
On March 13, Propulsion Systems Division (PSD) employees received an "Eternal Flame of Safety" award from the IAM/Boeing Joint Programs Health and Safety Institute. This prestigious safety award was presented after PSD employees hit the milestone of more than one million labor hours with no time lost due to occupational injury or illness.

In February, the approximately 550 people in Propulsion Systems achieved an entire year of safe performance. Two Propulsion Systems teams experienced no occupation-related time loss in more than six years, and other teams' records range from more than five years to more than a year. For the past three years, the organization has achieved a safety record that is considered to be world-class in the aerospace industry.

Bill Stanley, Executive Director of IAM/Boeing Joint Programs presented the award and commented on what he believes will be significant to the team apart. "It’s commitment," he said. "You are committed to doing the right thing, and you are committed to doing it safely. That many hours without any lost time is truly an honor to you.”

This achievement was not a coincidence, not a stroke of good luck or any-thing left to chance. It was based on a well formulated plan, belief that this was achievable and commitment by everyone to make it happen,” Bill added. "The lesson that we all learn is that it can be done with good understanding, innovation by both management and workers and a constant focus on safety. This is truly a classic example of teamwork making it possible to affect the culture, something that many areas are currently working on. Congratulations to the workers and their management for finding a way to make this happen and not give up because they didn’t think it could be done.

PSD’s commitment is visible to anyone who visits the organization’s factory. A bright orange crescent marks the entrance to the Center for Safety & Wellness, which employees and leaders have come to view as a vital resource since it opened about a year ago. The Center for Safety & Wellness has proved very popular with employees, who frequently visit for ergonomic issues and other health-related advice and resources, for a quiet place to stretch or de-stress, and for other support offerings. Signs throughout the factory remind team members of their mantra, Safety Excellence Everyday.

DSI Administrator Spencer Graham noted, "This is a monumental achievement within Boeing or any organization that does a similar process. This is what employee involvement looks like in the real world. When I say employee, I mean just that, from the top management to the hourly and salaried employee, this entire organization is looking out for each other's safety. This is a true Safety Cultural shift!”

Ask Propulsion Systems employees who’s responsible for their safety on the job, and their response is: “I am!”

On hand to congratulate PSD employees: L to R: Quentin Sisco, Annette Champoux, Don Larson, Sandy Pastor and Bill Stanley.

The Eternal Flame of Safety Award was presented to PSD for achieving one million labor hours with no lost time due to injury.

New Digital Media and Small Business Classes

These days nearly every home has some sort of digital media whether it is a digital camera, an MP3 player, digital television or even a cell phone. With the rapidly changing technology, little training has been offered to help people correctly use their new electronic devices.

After members expressed an interest in learning more about digital media, the IAM/Boeing Quality Through Training Program (QTTP) partnered with Green River Community College to develop a unique course to satisfy the request. QTTP Instructor Rachel Jorren was instrumental in developing the new course Introduction to Digital Media (Course #TR011897), which will be offered in April at the 17-239 building in Auburn. Tuition for the classes will be paid through Education Assistance funds. Call 253-931-3577 to sign up for one of the following dates:

• Thursday, April 12th – 3 pm to 6 pm OR

• Thursday, April 24th – 10:30 am to 1:30 pm Members are encouraged to sign up for the class and learn what digital media is and how we interact with it. This is the first class in a series of digital media classes. Participants will talk about and see examples of CD and DVD technology, Digital Video, Digital Photography, Digital Television, E-Books, Video Games, Cell Phone, MP3 players and PDAs. This will be a fun, hands-on class so come and learn more about the world of digital media. As soon as there is enough interest at Frederickson, a class will be scheduled at that location, as well.

New Series on Small Business

QTTP advised has received several requests from members getting ready to retire, as well as active members, on how to run a small business. In response, QTTP partnered with Green River Community College to offer a series of classes aimed at those interested in starting their own small businesses.

The series will be offered on Wednesdays at the 17-239 building in Auburn beginning April 11th from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuition for the classes will be paid through Education Assistance funds.

If you would like to sign up for the series, please call 253-931-3577.

Below is a brief outline of each class, as well as the date it will be offered.

April 11th - Small Business Start-Up and Management

This class will help you plan the start-up of a new business. Learn strategic and tactical keys to success such as: assessing your resources, identifying your business personality, developing your concept, protecting your assets through proper business structure, and understanding the necessary licenses and taxes. The entire process is built into a simple start-up map that you can follow step by step.

April 18th - Small Business Marketing

Learn the basics of making strategic marketing decisions and building an integrated marketing plan. Utilizing a practical and repeatable process, you’ll learn about important concepts such as pricing, distribution, messaging, and message delivery - and how to base all of those decisions on your customer profile, product advantages, and competition.

April 25th - Small Business Financial Management

Learn the basics of making strategic marketing decisions and building an integrated marketing plan. Utilizing a practical and repeatable process, you’ll learn about important concepts such as pricing, distribution, messaging, and message delivery - and how to base all of those decisions on your customer profile, product advantages, and competition.

Industrial Massage Has New Phone

425-717-1017

One aspect of the Industrial Ath- letic program is Industrial Massage as reported in the March Aero Me- chanic. Phone contact information for the Industrial Massage changed in mid-March. The new contact num- ber is 425-717-1017.

Industrial Massage, which is part of Symptom Intervention, is designed for em-ployees who are experi- encing mild dis- comfort but have not yet been in-jured.

Boeing Retirement Workshops

IAM/Boeing Joint Programs regularly offers workshops to assist members in planning for their golden years. The Boeing Retirement Workshop is offered in Auburn, Everett and Tukwila and helps members understand how the retirement process works, how pension benefits are calculated, different ways to collect VIP funds and information on retiree medical.

QTTP Everett - May 8th 10:30 am to 1:30 pm OR 3 pm to 5 pm. To reserve a seat, call 425-342-9473

QTTP Tukwila - May 17th - 10:30 am to 1:30 pm OR 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. To reserve a seat, call 425-965-4300

QTTP Auburn - June 7th - Noon to 2 pm OR 3 pm to 5 pm. To reserve a seat, call 253-935-3377
Unions have made life better for all working Americans by helping to pass laws ending child labor, establishing the eight-hour day, protecting workers’ safety and health and helping create Social Security, unemployment insurance and the minimum wage. For example, unions are continuing the fight today to improve life for all working families in America.

It pays to be union is more than just a slogan—it is fact according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Union members on average earn nearly 30 percent more than non-union counterparts.

The BLS figures for 2006 reported median weekly earnings of wage and salary workers for Union members at $887 compared to $642 for nonunion workers. On an annual basis, this $191 per week difference in median earnings works out to an $9,932 advantage for the Union member. On average, male Union members had weekly earnings of $833 compared to $579 for their nonunion counterparts. Female Union members had a similar advantage with Union members making $758 and nonunion bringing in $579 per week.

Just how much does that make your union membership worth? Nationally, approximately 18 times the average cost of dues – proving once again that it pays to belong to a union. The government’s earnings data are based strictly on wages and do not include the additional value of employer-paid benefits.

But compensation only paints part of the picture. The real union advantage is in the area of benefits, such items as health insurance, pension and savings plans, and paid leave are measured.

Union workers are more likely than their nonunion counterparts to receive health care and pension benefits, according to the BLS. In 2006, 80 percent of union workers in private industry had jobs with employer-provided health insurance, compared with only 49 percent of non-union workers.

Union Advantage Continues to Grow in Wages and Benefits

After years of service, workers deserve a secure retirement. Eighty percent of union workers have defined-benefit retirement coverage, compared with 14 percent of nonunion workers. Sixty-eight percent of union workers have defined-benefit retirement coverage, compared with 14 percent of nonunion workers. (Defined-benefit plans are federally insured and provide a guaranteed monthly pension amount regardless of fluctuations in the stock market. They differ from defined-contribution plans, in which the benefit amount depends on how well the underlying investments perform.)

Union workers are also more likely to have short-term disability plans.

More Vacation, Holidays, Paid Leave

The Union advantage is also evident in paid time-off benefits. Union workers are more likely to receive vacation, more holidays, paid bereavement and jury duty pay than nonunion workers do.

Yet beyond just monetary and benefit advantages, union workers have a say in their working conditions, hours of work, defined promotion system, safety programs and outlined grievance procedures to dispute management actions. These issues, coupled with giving a member a true voice in their workplace, are priceless.

Unions vs. Nonunions Earnings by Occupation

In nearly every occupational category, union members earn more than nonunion workers. By comparing the wages of workers within occupational groups, the union difference is most clear.

Union vs. Nonunion Earnings by Occupation

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<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Union</th>
<th>Non Union</th>
<th>% Increase</th>
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<tr>
<td>Construction &amp; extraction</td>
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<td>$539</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community and social services</td>
<td>$388</td>
<td>$307</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Union vs. Nonunion Benefits

Health Care Coverage

- Health care coverage:
  - Union: 80%
  - Nonunion: 49%

Pension Benefits

- Disability benefits:
  - Union: 68%
  - Nonunion: 53%

Paid Time-Off Benefits

- Paid holidays:
  - Union: 83%
  - Nonunion: 25%

- Paid vacation:
  - Union: 83%
  - Nonunion: 23%

- Paid bereavement:
  - Union: 81%
  - Nonunion: 34%

- Paid jury duty:
  - Union: 18%
  - Nonunion: 22%
by Rick S. Bender, President of the WA State Labor Council

When it comes to unions, there seems to be little middle ground. Americans either love them or hate them. The good news for organized labor is, these days, more people love them.

A new survey by Peter D. Hart Research Associates shows that the public support of unions is at a 25-year high -- 65% approval of unions while only 25% disapprove. More than half of all workers say they would join a union today, given the chance.

And why wouldn’t they? It pays!
The U.S. Department of Labor reports that full-time wage and salary workers who were union members in 2006 had median weekly earnings of $833, compared with a median of $642 for those not represented by unions. Union members are also far more likely to have health and pension benefits. Plus, having a union contract means more job security.

Having a higher percentage of Union members is good for the economy of a state. In states that have laws restricting workers’ rights to form strong unions (right-to-work states), the average pay for all workers is 14.4 percent lower than in states where workers have the freedom to form strong unions.

In Washington state, more people are forming unions. The number of union members climbed 26,000 in 2006 to an estimated 549,000. The state’s union membership rate is now 19.8%, up from 19.1% in 2005. With that increase, Washington now ranks 5th in the nation for unionization. Only Hawaii, New York, Alaska and New Jersey have higher rates.

That’s the good news. Here’s the bad.
The overall U.S. unionization rate declined to 12.0% in 2006 as membership dropped 326,000 to about 15.4 million. The national unionization rate has steadily declined from a high of 20.1% in 1983. Analysts say last year’s drop in unionization can be traced to the loss of traditionally unionized manufacturing jobs -- particularly in the automobile industry -- and the outsourcing of jobs, both overseas and from large unionized companies to smaller nonunion contractors.

That may explain the drop in numbers. But if Americans say they like unions and want to join them, why don’t they? Why hasn’t it been easier for union members in information technology, retail, service and other growing sectors to replace the previous generation?

There is growing evidence that the culprit is our antiquated, unenforced labor law, which employers have learned to evade, manipulate or ignore to prevent their employees from forming unions.

Americans are supposed to have the freedom of association. That freedom extends to the workplace, where we have the right to choose for ourselves whether we want a union. The law says it’s illegal for employers to harass, intimidate or fire workers who support unionization.

Nice law. Shame it doesn’t work.

But union leaders have come to realize that the labor movement and the middle class face extinction unless we fight back and fix our broken labor laws.

So to help restore workers’ freedom to choose whether they want to unionize, we support the Employee Free Choice Act. This important legislation for workers passed the U.S. House in February. We will continue to push this legislation in the U.S. Senate.

In addition, we have pushed to level the playing field at the state level with the Worker Freedom Act (see article on page 3).

This Month in Labor History - The Ludow Massacre

The first decade of the 1900s witnessed thousands of European and Asiatic immigrants coming into southern Colorado. The coming of these immigrants radically changed the workforce in the small way played a major role in the 1913-14 miners’ strike.

The United Mine Workers (UMW), voicing a two-faction with the coal companies were handling the immigrant influx, initiated a concerted effort to unionize this new workforce. Not only did union organizers encounter problems within the ranks of immigrant miners, they also found unionizing efforts severely disapproved, armed themselves and moved to discuss a particular matter, a number of Company B troopers – as instructed by superiors – located themselves atop Water Tank Hill. Many colonists voted passed the U.S. House in February. We will continue to push this legislation in the U.S. Senate.

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Custom Choices Programs Offers Financial Security

The Machinists Custom Choices Worksite Benefits program is currently in Everett meeting with members to introduce their benefits. In our 2005 negotiations, Boeing agreed, as noted in Letter of Understanding #33, to provide a payroll deduction service to IAM-repre- sented employees who choose to purchase optional life insurance, long term disability or critical illness with cancer coverage. After members indicated an interest in having these programs, the Union worked to provide these options. Since 1997, the Machinists Custom Choices Worksite Ben- efits program has allowed mem- bers to provide more financial security for themselves and their families through a series of indi- vidual insurance products of- fered at the worksite through payroll deduction. The Life, Cancer, Critical Illness and Dis- ability products are custom made for Machinists and nego- tiated with features and values based on the size of our national membership. A few of these features include:

• Life insurance is guaranteed to be issued with NO health questions.
• The cost of life insurance will never go up and the death benefit will go down.
• Critical Illness/Cancer Coverage provides tax-free $20,000 or $50,000 in cash benefits paid to you upon diagnosis of a covered medical condition.
• Long term disability benefits of up to $2,000 per month are available on a guaranteed issue basis.
• Life and Disability have a 6-month Strike Waiver of Premium feature, so if you are out on strike, your policy will remain in force up to 6 months without any payment and no payback when the strike is over.
• Many door prizes - 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 Sponsorship available to support Guide Dogs

751 member Dan Grieve talks with a Machinists Custom Choices rep. Members are given up to 15 minutes on Company time to learn about the program.

Understanding how busy ev- eryone is, the Union was able to negotiate introduction of these plans in the workplace for our members’ convenience. Boeing has agreed to allow members the opportunity to learn about the plans and con- duct a consultation on the clock during the employee’s shift (lasting up to 15 minutes) in the Everett plant. Again, this is for your convenience.

These plans are only offered to Union-represented employ- ees. Machinists Custom Choices enrollment counselors are also Machinists Union members paid on a salary, not a commission basis. Custom Choices counselors will be working at the Everett plant through May-4th. Your Shop Steward will let you know when they will be in your area, and will distribute detailed information to you before they come. You can also check our District 751 website at IAM751.org for a detailed schedule, including infor- mation on the special enrollment period for the deaf and hard of hearing on March 15th in the 40-25 Building. These policies are now carried by more than 60,000 Machinists across the country. Everett members should have already received a mailing with information. Take time to meet with the enrollment counselors when they are in your area and decide if these benefits are right for you and your family.

Local F Solidarity Bowl Fundraiser, April 22nd

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

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 6th.

DATE: Sunday, April 22nd
TIME: 3 to 6 p.m.
WHERE: Magic Lanes
10612 15th Ave SW
Seattle WA
WHO: Any 751 member, family or friends

Register online at www.athleteslounge.com/events/event.php?eventid=2058
or download a registration form at www.iam751.org/runfun.html

Flight for Sight - Fun Run, Walk & Jog on May 19th

The sixth annual Flight for Sight - Fun Run, Walk and Jog, to benefit Guide Dogs of America, will start at the Everett Boeing Activity Center on Saturday, May 19th with three options: 1 mile walk course, 5K (3.1 miles) run/walk course is flat and easy or 10K (6.2 miles) run/jog only course is challenging. Arrive at the Everett Activity Center for registration any time after 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 19th. Runners start at 9:30 a.m. Walkers start at 9:45 a.m. Course closes at noon.

For more info, visit www.iam751.org/ funrun.html or call 1-800-763-1301, ext. 3335. Register online at www.athleteslounge.com/events/event.php?eventid=2058

Here's how you 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 and clever costumes! Make all checks payable to: IAM District 571/ Guide Dogs of America. Turn in pledges at the walk/run. Any pledges you do not have by the day of the walk need to be gathered ASAP after the walk and mailed to: Flight for Sight Fun Run, 9125 15th Pl. S., Seattle, WA 98108

Where does the money go?

Guide Dogs of America was founded by Machinists Union members. It’s mission is to provide guide dogs and instruction in their use, free of charge, to blind and visually impaired individuals from the U.S. and Canada so that they may continue to pursue their goals with increased mobility and independence. Guide Dogs of America is a 501(c) non-profit organization. For more information, visit www.guidedogsamerica.org.
March Retired Club Minutes

by Ruth Render, Retired Club Secretary

The meeting on March 12th was called to order by President Al Menke. 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 or accounted for.

Minutes: It was MSP to accept the minutes as printed.

Financial Report: The report was read by Treasurer Betty Ness. A motion was made to accept the report as read. MSP.

Health & Welfare: Helen Pompeo gave the report. Ill members were James Evenson and W. C. Taylor. Get well cards were sent. Deceased members were George B. Adams, Betty E. Carey, Elaine B. Fowler, Jack C. Langley, Paul A. Lawson, Milton Lee, Peter Luszy, Lora B. Mack Jr., Eugene R. McInnis, Bitty J. Miller, Donald A. Rae, Roman P. Salbrun, Vincent P. Schmidt, Harold F. Schultz, Donald E. Willadson, and Leslie A. Williss. Sympathy cards were sent to the next of kin.

Business Representatives’ Report: BR Paul Knebel spoke about the Apprenticeship Program. Last month, we had four apprentices graduate and they each got jobs in their chosen field.

Paul also reminded everyone to vote in the interim District Election that will be taking place on Friday. The polls will be open from 5:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

BR Zack Zaratkiewicz spoke about what we are facing as the Company continues to hire more vendors. It is important that everyone supports the District’s organizing efforts.

Legislative Report: Carl Schwartz gave the report. Our state legislature is now in session until April 22, 2007. A number of bills that concern retirees are still being considered. Washington State’s Elder Care Alliance is supporting seven measures of special concern to us. The list is on the back table. You can help by calling the legislative hotline (1-800-562-6000) to tell the receptionist which district you are from and that you support the Elder Care Alliance proposals.

We at District 751 are especially supportive of the bill that would remove state tax incentives from any corporations that use these state incentives to wage anti-union campaigns.

Ron McGaha spoke about the Conference that was held in Las Vegas. It was the largest Retiree Conference in the IAM with almost 1000 attendees. He also mentioned that they are working to try and get other districts to form Retiree Clubs like that of District 751. We are lucky here because the District gives per capita and a lot of other areas don’t get that.

Old Business: None. New Business: None.

Good of the Order: Gene Hoglund spoke about the Campaign for Yes Elevated. There was a rally held in Seattle this morning. The tunnel is no longer an option and the Governor is supporting the retro/ new viaduct options. Everyone should be getting involved in this issue. “An injury to one is an injury to all!” Please support the yes on elevated, no on tunnel effort.

John Guevarra spoke about the “Friday Alert” newsletter that comes from the ARA in D.C. He also spoke about the importance of paying attention to healthcare issues.

Tom O’Brien spoke about prescription drug costs and the importance of everyone being involved in efforts to change the way things are going.

Birthdays: President Al Menke read the Birthdays: Vera Doss is 69, Mary King is 93 and Carl Schwartz will be 75 next week.

Adjournment: President Al Menke adjourned the meeting at 11:43 AM.

Did You Know...

More than 25% of Medicare drug plans increased beneficiaries’ co-payments and prices for prescription drugs in 2006, often after beneficiaries were committed to plans for the year, according to a study released last week by Consumers Union and reported in USA Today.

Bad Week for Drug and Insurance Companies’ Public Relations

Taxpayers Against Fraud Education Fund (TAFEF) released a new study noting that in the last two years, pharmaceutical manufacturers have paid a total of $1.6 billion to resolve allegations of Medicare and Medicaid fraud. More than 180 additional cases remain under seal, representing scores of billions of additional stolen dollars. In total, more than $3.9 billion has been recovered in settlements. Victims over the past six years as the result of just 16 cases brought by whistleblowers under the False Claims Act.

U.S. Senate Rejects Medicare Cuts

The Senate on March 22nd easily defeated a bid by conservative Republicans to curb the growth of the Medicare program as debate on a $2.9 trillion budget outline for 2008 entered its third day. The 74-27 vote on Medicare dismissed a bid by Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) to impose $34 billion from Medicare over the next five years. The plan was aimed at reducing payment increases to Medicare providers and was approximately half the size of the cuts that President Bush proposed in February.

This vote is yet another example of how critical it is that Alliance members stay educated and mobilized. What happens in Washington and in our state capitals affects retirees’ daily lives. We must keep the pressure on our elected officials,” said Edward Coyle, Executive Director of the Alliance.

Access to Generic Drugs May Be Expedited

Legislation to stop pharmaceutical firms from making deals to delay generic versions of drugs was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee reported Congressional Quarterly Weekly. But some Republicans expressed “misgivings” and indicated that without significant changes, they would oppose the bill - S. 316 - on the Senate floor. Sponsored by Sen. Herb Kohl (D-WI), the changes are aimed at settling between brand-name-drug companies and generics manufacturers in patent disputes.

More information about TAFEF can be found at http://www.taxpayers.org
At the March 13th District Council meeting, Tom Plummer shared an interesting story about an item of historical interest that was passed down from his grandfather. Mark Blondin was a well-known union activist who was involved in several strikes since 1948. During the 1948 strike, Tom was a Steward and Union Activist, and he entrusted Tom to keep the strike jacket.

Since Tom was a Steward and Union Activist, he entrusted Tom to keep the strike jacket in good condition. It has been passed down to various members of the union, and now it is in the care of Tom Plummer. Tom presented former District 751 President Mark Blondin with the strike jacket.

Tom noted, “With Mark moving on to the International, it seemed an appropriate time to present the strike jacket to the Labor History Committee for preservation in the archives.”

The jacket will now be a permanent part of the Labor History Committee records. Tom Plummer (l) presented Mark Blondin with a 1948 strike jacket to preserve in the 751 archives with the Labor History Committee. The jacket has been worn by a Steward or Union Official in every strike since 1948.

The 16th annual Local 751 Golf Tournament benefit to Guide Dogs of America will be held Sunday, July 15 at Elk Ran Golf Course in Maple Valley. The cost will be $100 per person, which covers greens fees, cart rental, tournament t-shirt, prizes and a buffet at the end of play. The 100 tournament fees will be taxable for any individual turning in $150 in donations to Guide Dogs. The scramble format tournament will have a shotgun start at 7 a.m. for all golfers.

Local C Golf Tournament July 15

TALL MAN’S BIKE, Nishike 12-speed roadbike, dual position brake levers, steel frame.

27” stand-over height 34 3/4”, $75.

1947 WILLYS JEEP CJ 2A, 6-ft roll-cage, City use and back. Best top, stock engine in garage for 22 years, locking hubs. $475.

Tom Plummer, President of Mark Blondin with the jacket in 2005.

Local C Golf Tournament July 15

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A team of Everett employees, who install fuel systems, close fuel cells and seal the 747's wings have officially achieved “Level 4, high-performance work team” status. This group was recognized for their accomplishments on February 22. The crew functions as a true team with each person taking responsibility for the shop as they continue to evolve and make changes.

At the meeting, every member of the team was honored for their part in the group’s success. High performance teams work independently of direct management and are part of a four-stage employee engagement strategy in place on the 747, 767 and 777 programs in Everett. This team is one of several who are part of the 747/767, Seal, Test, Paint and Decal production team in Everett.

“Our shop has really embraced the teaming process,” said Tim Moen, 747 fuel systems team leader. “Wherever we can cut costs and streamline our processes— we are doing it.”

The employees track costs like it is their own money. This approach has reduced costs significantly. In addition, they have dramatically improved quality while reducing rework and eliminating redundancy. The group has built a collaborative environment in which teamwork and open communication are keys to their success.

The team began using the team process more than three years ago, gradually increasing performance, productivity and morale. This crew is the first 747 high-performance team to achieve Level 4, and was recognized for its significant accomplishments with quality, cost, safety, delivery and morale. In addition, the team last year achieved a major safety record—10 years without a lost work day injury. A lost time injury is one that causes an employee to take time away from work.

But what makes this safety accomplishment so impressive is the fact that this crew has one of the most strenuous and physically demanding jobs in the factory.

“We all look after each other,” Moen said. “We sit down as a crew and structure our jobs so that nobody gets burnt out.”

In 2006, the team improved quality targets, exceeded delivery commitments and beat cost goals. They also implemented a new tube and duct delivery system with their value stream partners in Auburn. The new system uses a board that travels back-and-forth from Auburn to Everett with designated locations for all parts. Previously, parts were bubble-wrapped and piled into a cart, increasing the potential for damage and making it difficult to find parts at the bottom of the cart.

More recently, the team has been developing improvements for the design of the 747-8 Intercontinental wing. Their work includes identifying assembly improvements in structure, tubing, wiring and wing seals, with the goal of improving the production process, reducing weight, improving quality and reducing build unit time. Everyone offered input and discussed potential changes with the goal of a better product.

The team said the key to their success is open communication at all levels and a focus on relationships and teamwork.

Continued from page 1

751-member Tibor Korody has stepped up to serve as temporary Union Steward for the members working 787 employees at the Training Center in Everett. Thanks to Tibor's efforts, his entire group of ERC employees received one-half hour back pay after management made them clock in on Leave Without Pay (LWOP— unpaid time) when they reported as scheduled to their classrooms for training. Employees were paid report time.

Tibor believed this was a contract violation and contacted Business Rep Stan Johnson for advice. Tibor documented report time language out of the contract and noted those who reported as instructed should not be penalized.

Seven of the 787 employees had arrived to work early and in time for the 6 a.m. class, not all employees had an issue. Tibor compiled facts with names and times and then met with 787 HR to resolve the issue. After reviewing the information, HR agreed to pay the employees for the half hour since they had followed management’s instructions.

Stan applauded Tibor’s effort and noted, “Tibor is a go-to guy. It is admirable he is stepping up at this stage even though he is only a temporary steward. He is an example of a Union leader.”

The circumstances are unique in this group since the members are assigned to the ERC for 8 to 12 weeks of training before they move to their permanent assignment in the factory. Rather than having no Union representation during their initial phase, Tibor volunteered to be the temporary Union Steward.

As with any new Company program, 787 employees have faced many challenges implementing a new production process. While these members may be working on a new program, they are still operating under the same Collective Bargaining Agreement and work rules as every other hourly employee at Boeing. As more employees are added to the 787 program, Business Rep Stan Johnson has made a special effort to visit the 787 employees weekly to help with any issues that may arise during their training.

Workers Memorial Day Remembered - April 28

The first Workers Memorial Day was observed in 1989. April 28 is set aside as a day to remember those who have died or been injured while at their jobs. Each year, a list of names is distributed to the union, and a remembrance ceremony is held at the union hall to honor those who have died or been injured while at their jobs.

I write these words of honor, for those who gave their lives; And for their families, their husbands and their wives... For those whose lives were spent, doing what you must Working for a living like every one of us. Their time cut short, by things that didn't have to be... To make the workplace safer, for people like you and me. To make sure their stories will never go untold; To always keep their memories from every growing cold. We must remember the price they all had to pay; When we honor the men and women on Workers Memorial Day.