White House Honors Union for Service

District 751 and eight of its members have been honored by the White House for outstanding community service in 2010.

The union was awarded a gold-level President’s Volunteer Service Award for the community service work done by members of its Machinists Volunteer Program.

As a group, 684 volunteers from District 751 took part in 144 different MVP-sponsored community service projects in 2010, giving a total of 6,197.5 hours of their time to projects that ranged from food drives and holiday bell ringing for the Salvation Army, to building 10 wheelchair ramps for home-bound people around Puget Sound.

For those volunteers were honored for outstanding individual contributions, including Local C Member Rob Curran, who donated 268.5 hours of his time last year to public service, thus earning an individual silver-level Presidential Service Award.

Seven more Machinists received bronze-level awards for donating more than 100 hours to service projects. They were retired member George Braun, Local C Members Clark Fromong, Tom Lindberg, Chris Louise, and Vennie Murphy and Local F members Robley Evans.


Solidarity brings strength at the bargaining table, and the same is true in the political arena. The 2011 Machinists Non-Partisan Political League (MNPL) drive kicked off the week of March 28 with called Steward meetings in Auburn, Everett, Renton and Seattle.

This year’s theme is “Politics Matter, Elections Count.” That has never been more true than it is today. These are perilous times for workers. We have never seen this level of open hostility toward workers. That is why this year’s MNPL drive is more important than any other.

Keep in mind that union dues are not spent for candidate contributions, which is why we ask you to sign an MNPL authorization card – for a separate deduction designated for political use.

MNPL gives you a strong voice in the political process. The power of that voice is multiplied by the thousands of other union members belonging to MNPL.

Past efforts have paid off for members in countless ways. MNPL allowed us to wage a successful decade-long battle to win the U.S. Air Force tanker contract. That tanker contract will provide more than two decades worth of at least 11,000 living-wage jobs in Washington. This will create momentum for keeping Washington the center for aerospace manufacturing.

It also helped elect enough friends in the state legislature so that we will hopefully defeat a legislative attack on workers compensation called compromise and release. Compromise and release would allow employers to delay an injured worker’s claim until he or she is so financially desperate they will take a cash settlement while at the same time, signing away their rights to future benefits. This will save money for business but at the expense of the worker.

During the month of April, Union Stewards will be asking members to join MNPL by signing a payroll deduction authorization card. The benefits. This will save money for business but at the expense of the worker.

Progress Toward First URS Contract at Whidbey NAS

Recognizing that union negotiations are a first for many of the URS Negotiating Committee members from Whidbey NAS, the IAM wanted to deliver proper training so members would be most effective. URS Negotiating Committee members spent an intensive week of training at the IAM Education and Technology Center – with the focus on moving forward toward a first contract.

Joining the URS members at the training were Business Reps Jon Holden and Richard Jackson, along with 751 Administrative Assistant Jim Bearden – who are just a few of the Union leaders negotiating with URS on the contract.

The rigorous training focused on:

• Drafting specific bargaining agreement language to address issues members have identified;

• Studying the IAM National Pension Plan;

• Building the next membership survey (which will be distributed by the URS Negotiating Committee);

• Developing a communication plan to keep the membership informed throughout the negotiation process.
Let’s Work Together to Protect Workers’ Rights

by Tom Wroblewski, District President

After Boeing was named the winner of the U.S. Air Force tanker contest, my one thought was that we should just ride that wave. Good luck for as long as possible.

After all, it had been a tough 10-year struggle with an incredible amount of twists and turns. But the experience, after the Pentagon had made the right decision and this union had proven its ability to work hand-in-hand with Boeing and community leaders, I felt we had earned the right to feel pretty good about ourselves.

For a week or two, anyway—and that’s about how long it lasted.

Instead, we’ve seen unprecedented attacks on working Americans.

We all know that most cities and states are facing budget problems stemming from the Wall Street crisis of 2008, which snowballed the Great Recession that we’re still trying to get out of. There have been pay cuts and layoffs for public workers nationwide, including for some of our own District 751 members working for the city of Woodinville.

That’s incredibly unfortunate for those workers and their families, but it is the reality of our times, and for those public employees who were covered by union contracts, at least they had some degree of input in the process. Their ability to bargain collectively helped them make the best out of this bad situation.

But while that’s the reality, what’s happening next is stranger than fiction. Many state governors are blaming financial troubles on public workers and have blocked and undone unionized public workers in particular. From Idaho to New Jersey, they’re spreading the lie that governments are going bankrupt because unions for teachers and firefighters have done too good a job—gaining for pay and benefits—completely ignoring the hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks these states have given to Corporate America. That’s money that should be going to pay workers to fix roads and provide us with clean water. Instead, it’s padding corporate profits at taxpayer expense.

Rather than work with those public employees to find solutions to the budget problems, the governors have decided they’d rather just do away with them. Wisconsin’s governor doesn’t want road repair workers to be able to bargain for on-the-job safety improvements, and says wage increases can’t exceed inflation. Idaho’s Legislature wants to eliminate seniority rules for teachers. And Ohio’s governor wants to eliminate the right of public workers to strike altogether.

Think of what that would mean if our contract with Boeing had provisions like that: we couldn’t bargain for safety training, our safety shoe reimbursement program would be gone, and our members might end up having to buy their own handhats, gloves and earplugs. If a dangerous piece of equipment was likely to kill or maim someone, that just would be too bad.

With no seniority rules, managers could lay off fire anyone for whatever reason— or no reason—and there’d be nothing any of us could do about it. With raises capped at the inflation rate, I’d be sitting down to the bargaining table trying to win you 4-cent-an-hour pay increases in 2012—4 cents being the COLA we’ve generated since ratifying the last contract in 2008.

And if you didn’t like it tough—without a right to strike, there’s not much you can do.

There are people—even some of our members—who say they don’t believe in public employee unions. I’d argue, respectfully, that’s incorrect. Working people are working people, whether you’re in a machine operator in Auburn or a building inspector in Woodinville. The laws that allow for unions have their basis in the First Amendment to the Constitution, and that Constitution applies for all Americans, no matter who they happen to work for. And as working people, we all know what it’s like to deal with bad bosses who make arbitrary decisions. Public employees are workers and deserve a voice and the benefits of a union. Furthermore, if these union-busting politicians are successful in stripping away the rights of public workers today, you can be sure they’ll team up with their corporate campaign donors to do the same for private sector workers tomorrow. We all know the deal. In fact, Congressmen from South Carolina and Indiana have co-sponsored a bill that would keep your family from getting food stamps if you exercise your federal right to strike. They’d rather see you starve then get a fair shake at the negotiating table. And others in Congress are trying to make union elections in the airline industry the same as the rules for all other elections in America—something that will directly affect workers.

Continued on page 5

Flightline Mechanics Second in National Contest

A team of District 751 members who work for Boeing as flight line mechanics and AGO technicians took second place in the recent AMT Society Maintenance Skills Competition.

“It was a lot of fun,” said Joe Fancella, who works at Boeing’s Everett delivery center. “It’s probably one of the best, most-positive motivating things I’ve seen Boeing get involved with in a long time.”

The five-member team was picked from among all the Machinists at Boeing who holdaviation maintenance technician or AMT licenses from the Federal Aviation Administration.

The AMTs themselves picked the team by voting for their co-workers. “It was actually a lot more fun than I thought,” Fancella said.

Along with Fancella, the team was made up of Mike Barnes, an AGO mechanic from Renton, Seth Marshal, a flight test mechanic, Sean Rosenlieb from the Everet delivery center; and Phil Haldeman from the Seattle delivery center.

The Boeing team was one of 26 groups from four countries to compete in the event, which was held in Las Vegas in late February. The competition was divided into five categories, with the Boeing team completeing all five categories.

The Boeing team earned its second place overall. L to R: Mike Barnes, Sean Rosenlieb (Team Coach and Everett Manager), Phil Fancella, Seth Marshall and Joe Haldeman.

The Boeing team earned second place overall. L to R: Mike Barnes, Sean Rosenlieb (Team Coach and Everett Manager), Phil Fancella, Seth Marshall and Joe Haldeman.

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The Boeing team earned second place overall. L to R: Mike Barnes, Sean Rosenlieb (Team Coach and Everett Manager), Phil Fancella, Seth Marshall and Joe Haldeman.
Workers Are Under Attack - MNPL Gives You a Voice

Wisconsin – where radical anti-union acts by a Tea Party-endorsed governor have sparked massive protests – has gained the most attention, but government attacks on workers and workers’ rights are spreading across America.

Even in Olympia, pro-labor Democrats find themselves on the defensive. A majority of the legislature has been replaced by Big Business lobbyists to push workers’ rights recessions. Even I, Wroblewski, has been targeted by anti-union groups.

That’s why District 751 leaders are urging members to take part in a series of Union Solidarity events in April, in conjunction with union and other progressive groups across Washington and British Columbia.

The rallies will be on Saturday, April 2, at the Peace Arch in Blaine; Monday, April 4, at Martin Luther King Park in Seattle; and Friday, April 8, on the steps of the state Capitol in Olympia.

“We believe that every worker in America should be able to join with their coworkers to bargain for basic things like safety, the right to a fair wage and benefits, consistent work hours, and safety,” said District 751 President Tom Wroblewski. That should be true whether you work in the public or private sector: every working American should have a say in their own future.”

Continued on page 4

POLITICAL ACTION

751 Activists Honored for Role in New Bridge

A District 751 staff member and two retired union activists were among those honored March 7 at Seattle’s South Park community celebration in conjunction with the announcement that King County is moving ahead to replace the now-closed South Park Bridge.

The rally plans a groundbreaking ceremony for the new bridge project on May 5.

King County Executive Dow Constantine presented trophies to downtowns of South Park community activists on March 7 for their role in helping to secure the $138 million in local and federal funds needed to replace the former bridge, which was closed for safety reasons in June 2010.

Among them were Larry Brown, 751’s legislative and political director who was a chair of the South Park Bridge Coalition. An award also went to John and Robin Guevarra, two members of the District 751 Retired Club who were active in the South Park Bridge campaign.

Tim Lane, the King County engineer and project manager for the bridge replacement, credited the community activists for securing the funding after nearly 12 years of failed attempts.

“You wrote the letters,” Lane said. “You made the phone calls. You pumped some hands and you talked to the right people.”

The bridge was already more than 70 years old when it was first opened in the Nisqually Earthquake of 2001, and engineers determined it was unsafe to keep it open.

“But this new generation of conservative office holders hates that idea,” Wroblewski continued. “They want to organize government and society for the benefit of Corporate America, and they don’t want anyone – especially workers – telling them to put people first.”

Some of the anti-union attacks have been outright absurd. In May, for example, Republican Gov. Paul LePage has ordered that a mural depicting Maine’s labor history be removed from the lobby of the state’s Department of Labor on the grounds that the painting wasn’t friendly enough to business. (This from a governor who proposed that all state employees take a 2 percent pay cut, with the money funneled to make up a pension shortfall – but who excused himself from the cut.)

But other attacks have been frightening. In Indiana, a Republican county prosecutor has resigned after urging the governor of Wisconsin to stage a fake attack on himself and blame it on union members.

“If you could employ an associate who pretends to be sympathetic to the unions’ cause to physically attack you (or even use a firearm against you), you could discredit the unions,” the county attorney, Carlos Lam, suggested in e-mail to Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

That’s a mistake, he said, pointing to efforts by corporate lobbyists in Olympia this year to get Washington’s workers comp program.

“They are nothing but a public relations stunt,” he said. “The same kind of politicians who attack public employees in Wisconsin right now are here in Olympia, trying to cut our workers comp benefits, cut our unemployment benefits and cut our health and safety regulations.”

The events around the country show why it’s important for District 751 to be active in politics, Brown said.

“We support candidates who support workers, and we can’t afford not to support candidates who don’t attack workers.”

Members can purchase a “We Are One” t-shirt to show their solidarity.

“We Are One” T-shirts

District 751 is making it easy for members to show their solidarity with working people nationwide with new “We Are One” t-shirts.

The shirts are being offered for sale in conjunction with the fund-raising drive for the Machinists Non-Partisan Political League (MNPL). Members who sign up to join MNPL – or who are already donors – can get the bright red shirts for $5. Everyone else can buy them for $15 a piece. Union Stewards will have order forms for the shirts after April 1.

Solidarity With State Workers

A delegation from District 751 joined Washington’s labor unions and their political allies to stand in solidarity with workers in Wisconsin during a recent rally at the state Capital.

The Machinists joined more than 2,000 people – fire fighters, state workers, teachers and trade unionists – for the Feb. 28 rally in Olympia.

“We were standing up for union members and their right to collective bargaining,” said Larry Brown, 751’s Legislative and Political Director.

The turnout at the solidarity rally dwarfed the attendance at a Tea Party-sponsored rally held at the same time. The anti-union group only managed to scrape up between 400 and 500 people, who expressed support for union-busting governors nationwide.

Not all private-sector union workers see a connection between their daily lives and what’s happening in places like Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana and Florida, Brown said.

That’s a mistake, he said, pointing to efforts by corporate lobbyists in Olympia this year to get Washington’s workers compens program.

“The fact is that we’re fighting the same fight,” he said. “The same kind of politicians who attack public employees and their rights in Wisconsin are here in Olympia, trying to cut our workers comp benefits, cut our unemployment benefits and cut our health and safety regulations.”

The events around the country show why it’s important for District 751 to be active in politics, Brown said.

“We support candidates who support workers, and we support candidates who don’t attack unions.”

You can watch a video from the Feb. 28 rally online at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jkb7-XCGuo
Politics Matter & Elections Count: MNPL Your Voice

Some Common Questions About MNPL

Q) What is MNPL?
A) Machinists Non-Partisan Political League (MNPL) consists of VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS, which is why we ask you to sign an MNPL authorization card.

Q) Why is the Union involved in politics?
A) Many people, even some Union members, say that unions should stick to collective bargaining and leave government to the politicians. The fact is that even if we wanted to, we shouldn’t. Government decisions affect Union members in too many ways both on and off the job. And the MNPL is a united effort to educate our members on its importance. On Jan. 21, 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Citizens United vs Federal Election Commission to allow corporations UNLIMITED contributions to political campaigns. The decision is a major victory for big oil, Wall Street banks, health insurance companies and other powerful interests who have much deeper pockets than any of us and will use their power to drown out the voices of everyday Americans.

Q) What happens to the MNPL money after it is deducted from my check?
A) The Company will deduct the amount you are willing to give from your check once a month and send it to MNPL. District 751 works with MNPL to determine how the money should be spent and which candidates are worthy of a contribution from MNPL.

Q) What is the Union doing with my MNPL contributions?
A) Strengthening the political voice of the working class.

Q) Why can’t I make my political contribution directly to the candidate?
A) A) You can, but MNPL works on the theory and principle that a united effort is stronger. MNPL supports the principle that a united effort is stronger.

Q) What difference will my small contribution make when it takes so much money to elect a candidate?
A) A strength in NUMBERS – But by itself, your contribution does not mean much. Workers are under attack – MNPL gives you a voice.

Q) How can I help?
A) You can PARTICIPATE in the MNPL program through your Union on a year-round basis. Here is how:

- Simply sign up for monthly payroll deductions of $1 or more. Donating $7.51 or more a month sends you into the prestigious 751 Club.
- You can participate in get-out-the-vote campaigns such as mailings, phone banks, and putting up yard signs.
- Watch for legislative alerts asking you to call or e-mail legislators on proposed legislation.
- Help educate other members on issues and candidates.
- Show your solidarity with working people by donating $5 for the Fight. Stewards have collection envelopes.
- If you sign up for MNPL, you get a $5 “We Are One” shirt to show your solidarity. With no MNPL donation, purchase a “We Are One” shirt for $15.


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Nia Neal: Joint Programs Helped Her to a Double Success!

Nia Neal, an MPRF (Material Processors Requirements Facilitator) in Renton Wings, knows what it means to set your sights on a goal and keep going until you get there.

Nia was hired in April 2008 as a factory service worker. She soon became a steward and learned about the benefits of being a Union-represented worker. Having attended some college while living in Atlanta, she knew that she wanted to go back and finish her AA degree.

Nia researched and learned about IAM/Boeing Joint Programs and the Education Assistance (EA) Program. Shortly after the work stoppage in 2008, Nia met with IAM/Boeing Joint Programs career advisor Brenda Ames. Along with Career Advisor Laura Bell, made sure that Nia understood the EA programs through the reinstatement process, and helped her get enrolled into Pierce College in Tacoma. Nia attended Pierce College and obtained her AA degree in 2010. She plans to continue her education, and her next goal is to get her bachelor's degree through the University of Phoenix.

Still, she wasn't satisfied. Nia made the decision that she wanted to get a new job and advance in The Boeing Company. By now, Nia was familiar with the IAM/Boeing Joint Programs career advisors, and once again made an appointment to talk about the Employee Requested Transfer (ERT) process. She learned about the Career Explorer, which lists the training that is required for a given job before an ERT can be filed. Together with Brenda Ames, Nia was able to determine what type of job would be the best fit for her, and what skills she already had that would apply towards required training for that job, commonly known as “green lights.” Together, she and Brenda mapped out a training plan, and in the summer of 2010 Nia successfully completed all the required training, turning all her lights green.

With Brenda’s help, she filed an ERT. In August of 2010, Nia accepted a job offer as an MPRF in Renton Wings receiving and started in her new position in October. Nia said that she likes her new job a lot. “My new job gives me so much more exposure to what the company is all about, and what might come next. I get to work with employee involvement teams, do walkthroughs, and meet different people from all levels. I didn’t have that opportunity in my factory service job.” Nia stated that she would like to be a Steward again, now that she has more knowledge about the contract and benefits. Congratulations to Nia for a double success!

IAM/Boeing Joint Programs regularly offers several workshops to assist members in planning for their golden years. The Personal Money Management workshop and Boeing Retirement Workshops are offered in Auburn, Everett, and Tukwila. The Boeing Retirement Workshop explains how the retirement process works, how pension benefits are calculated, different ways to collect VIP funds and information on retirement medical to prepare for the workshop, review and print the seminar materials from the pension plans for union-represented employees on the Boeing Benefits website (http://www.boeing.com/benefits). The Personal Money Management Seminar is for anyone who wants a comfortable retirement or has other financial goals such as your child’s college or a new home.

Register for the workshop that is most convenient.

Upcoming Boeing Retirement
To register call QTPP at 1-800-235-3435.

**QTPP Auburn**
1102 35th St. SW, 17-239 1 Bldg.
Aug 3  Noon to 2 pm AND 3 pm to 5 pm

**QTPP Everett**
7710 Evergreen Way, 7-61 Blg.
April 14 or July 21 or Oct 20 11:30 am to 1:30 pm OR 3 pm to 5 pm

**QTPP Tukwila**
6840 Fort Dent Way, 7-62 Blg.
April 7 or Aug 4 or Nov 3 11:30 am to 1:30 pm OR 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm

**QTPP Everett**
7710 Evergreen Way, 7-61 Blg.
April 14 or July 21 or Oct 20 11:30 am to 1:30 pm OR 3 pm to 5 pm

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**QTPP Tukwila**
6840 Fort Dent Way, 7-62 Blg.
April 7 or Aug 4 or Nov 3 11:30 am to 1:30 pm OR 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm

Personal Money Management Seminar

**QTPP Everett Office** 7710 Evergreen Way, 7-61 Blg.
April 27 OR May 11 OR June 8 from 11 am to 1 pm OR 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm

**QTPP Tukwila Office** 6840 Fort Dent Way, 7-62 Blg.
April 14 OR May 19 OR June 16 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm OR 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm

**QTPP Auburn Office** 1102 35th St. SW, 17-239 1 Bldg.
April 19 OR May 17 OR June 21 from Noon to 2 pm OR 3 pm to 5 pm

To register call, 688-223-8311 or mail:mmepugetsound@mmeeducators.org

President’s Report: Let’s Work Together to Protect Workers’ Rights

Continued from page 2 affect our Machinists Union brothers and sisters working for the airlines that fly our Boeing planes.

So what can we, as individual Machinists, do about all this? A lot – but only if we work together.

In the next few weeks you will be approached by your union steward about joining MNPL, the Machinists Non-par-tisan Political League. As most of you know, not a single dime of your union dues goes to political campaigns. Every dollar that District 751 contributes to a politician is money donated by members like you, who believe that it’s important for working people to have a voice in the political process. And I pledge to you that every dollar we collect in this drive will go toward protecting the rights of working people, and creating more jobs.

The other thing you can do is take part in rallies that District 751 is planning along with other labor unions and progressive groups around the state. Our main effort will be a workers’ solidarity rally in Olympia at the Capitol on April 8, but Machinists also will take part in an evening rally on April 4 at Martin Luther King Park in Seattle, and a rally with our Canadian union counterparts April 2 at the Peace Arch in Blaine.

We need to make our voices heard. As the saying goes, when one man cries for justice, he’s a nut, but when 10,000 cry out together, it’s a movement. It’s time for us to remind the powerbrokers that America has a government that’s for the people and by the people – not for profit and not for sale.

Thank you for all you do to support this cause, and I look forward to seeing you at the rallies this month.
Volunteers Serve Dinner and a Smile at Tacoma Mission

More than 300 of Tacoma’s most at-need residents got a hot meal and a smile from District 751 volunteers recently.

Eleven members of the union’s MVP committee cooked and served dinner at the Tacoma Rescue Mission on Feb. 26. The union’s District Council also contributed $400 to provide extra food for the meal.

MVPs have served weekend breakfasts at the mission for years, but this is the first time they were asked to help with dinner, said Vennie Murphy, a member of the MVP committee who helped organize the effort.

“Instead of just serving breakfast, it was preparing, cooking and serving the meal,” he said.

“Last year they served 90,000 more people than the year before, so their budget was in the red,” Murphy said.

The effort was a big enough success that Murphy said he will propose that the MVPs do it again this spring.

“It was a good time, and we were able to help a lot of people,” he said.

The District 751 volunteers have seen it as well. For years, they regularly served slightly more than 100 people for breakfast on a weekend, but “lately it’s been close to 200,” Murphy said.

To help close the budget gap, the Tacoma mission’s managers have started asking volunteers to work in the kitchens on weekends to supplement the paid staff.

When they approached the District 751 MVPs, “we decided to give it a shot,” Murphy said.

In all 18 people connected to District 751 – including the children and wives of a couple MVP members – came out to help.

Four of the volunteers – Murphy, George Braun, Chris Louie, and Tom Lindberg – had also come in the morning to serve breakfast, then stayed all day to prepare dinner while Clark Fromong, Dave Henry and Rob Curran helped in the morning, but left to bring their spouses back to help with the dinner.

Along with the potatoes, the MVPs made 150 pounds of meatloaf, plus enough green beans to feed 350 people. They also baked 300 cupcakes.

The effort was a big enough success that Murphy said he’ll propose that the MVPs do it again this spring.

“It was a good time, and we were able to help a lot of people,” he said.

When 89-year-old Ginny Edwards needed help, she knew she could count on her family – both her actual relatives, and her union family from District 751.

Fifteen District 751 volunteers turned out in the rain on March 12 to rebuild the back deck of Edwards’ home in Kent and install a handrail on the front steps.

“It was a really nice project,” said Robley Evans, the chairman of the Machinists Volunteer Program. “She wants to stay in her house as long as she can and the deck and rail will help.”

Ginny Edwards is the widow of Lyman “Eddie” Edwards, a retired Machinist who worked 31 years for Boeing. The Edwards’ had been active in the District 751 Retired Club, up until Eddie’s death last year at the age of 91.

Replacing the rotten wood on the back deck was “something that needed to be done for a long time,” said Jeff Katzele, who is the Edwards’ son-in-law and a District 751 steward. “But as Eddie got older, he just wasn’t able to do it.”

Jeff and his wife, Karen, contacted the MVPs to see if they could help. They certainly could. It took the group – which included Katzele – about four hours to rip up the rotted deck planks and replace them, then install the new front porch rail.

The railing wasn’t in the plans at first, Evans said, but was added after Mrs. Edwards took a fall coming down off the porch in early March.

Jeff Katzele wrote a letter to the MVPs, thanking “all the great guys from the IAM 751 union who came out on March 12.” And Ginny Edwards herself was grateful for the help — especially the railing.

“I won’t worry about falling down these steps any time I go down,” she said.

The outstanding work done by our union MVPs is making a difference, and making our corner of America a better place.”
Focus Groups Aim to Involve Younger Members

With more than 3,000 new members at Boeing since the last contract was signed, Union leaders are exploring new ways to reach out and connect with the membership.

One group of members that have had little exposure to solidarity and unions is our members aged 18-25. As Boeing has accelerated its hiring, more and more of the membership falls into this age demographic.

In an effort to engage these members, the Union began holding focus groups – with the first meetings held in March at the Everett ball.

Local A Steward Jason Schmelzer, who has been active in union communications and organizing, agreed to serve as facilitator since members in this demographic could more easily relate to him.

The goal of the small meetings is to provide the Union with better ideas how to engage younger workers, determine best methods of communication, encourage each member to take ownership of the Union and make the Union “cool” so others will want to be involved.

The members who attended shared their opinions and were eager to help shape the direction their Union takes in the future. Members suggested solidarity events as a fun way to bring the membership together. Other ideas included: more face-to-face communication from Stewards, “flashier” Union bulletin boards, webcasts, vanpools to union meetings, and quarterly Union meetings at area halls to update them on activities.

Several contract issues of concern included preserving education assistance benefits, the progression system, pension, health care, dental coverage, and the ERT process. Members also discussed incentives and premium pay for certain jobs to keep a stable workforce in those positions.

One of the focus group participants who was new during the last negotiations added: “When the contract comes around, it is amazing how many people are talking about it and the activities that just happen. It is cool to be a part of it.”

Members appreciated having input, open discussion and an avenue to get their questions answered.

“It is important that we reach out to not just welcome the next generation of members, but learn their issues, how to get them to participate, and to answer their questions,” said District 751 President Tom Wroblewski. “The more members we have actively involved, the stronger we are. I hope every member who gets an invitation to attend a focus group will attend and help shape the direction our union takes in the future.”

Machinists Cheer as Intercontinental Takes its First Flight

Several thousand Boeing workers – including a sizeable group of District 751 Machinists – cheered on March 20 as the first 747-8I passenger jet took its first flight from Paine Field in Everett.

“No matter how many times I see it, it’s still pretty cool,” said Marilyn Brock, who works on the Everett flight line and has been with the company since the ‘70s.

The flight test pilots said the Intercontinental performed well on its first flight, with pilot Mark Feuerstein going as far as to call it “one of the cleanest first flight airplanes of a new design that I’ve seen.”

Machinists on the ground marveled at how quiet the big jet was. “I got to watch it lift up and rotate, and go smoothly into the air,” said Jane Jones, a ‘78 inspector. “It was wonderful.”

A second 747-8I is expected to take its first flight this month. The first two will spend about 600 hours in flight testing between now and fall, with the first deliveries expected by year’s end.

The first Intercontinental will be reconfigured after flight testing to become a VIP aircraft for the government of Kuwait. The second one will be delivered to Lufthansa, making it the first of a new generation of 747s to carry airline passengers.

The new planes are the largest Boeing airliners that Machinists have ever built. They’re 18 feet longer than the 747-400s they’re replacing, and can carry 467 passengers in normal configuration – 51 more than the older 747s.

The Intercontinental has not been a world-beater in terms of sales. So far, Boeing has firm orders for only 38 of the new passenger-carrying jumbo jets – although an order for five more, worth an estimated $1.6 billion – is waiting for approval from the Chinese government.

In comparison, Boeing has sold 76 747-8F cargo jets, as the company continues to dominate the market for large air freighters.

But Boeing has great hopes for both versions of the 747-8. The company’s commercial sales chief has dubbed 2011 “the Year of the 747” and predicted that half of Boeing’s sales revenues this year will come from sales of both passenger and cargo versions.

The program got some good news in March, when Boeing signed a firm order for two 747-8F cargo planes for Korean Airlines, and signed the preliminary agreement with China Southern for five Intercontinentals.

Anyone who knows the work done by District 751 Machinists wouldn’t be surprised. “We build the best planes in the world.” Jones said.

Progress Toward First URS Contract at Whidbey NAS

Members of the URS Negotiating Committee, along with Union representatives, took part in an intensive week of planning, research, strategy and education at the IAM Education and Technology Center – as they progress toward a first contract.
Workers’ Memorial Day in Snohomish County: April 27 at 5:30 p.m.

Workers’ Memorial Day is a day to remember workers injured and killed on the job and a day to renew the fight for safer workplaces. Under the rallying cry “Mourn for the Dead, Fight for the Living,” the Snohomish County Labor Council is planning a ceremony on Wednesday, April 27 at 5:30 p.m. at the Workers’ Memorial at the Snohomish County Courthouse (3000 Rockefeller Ave. west side of Mission Building in Wenatchee).

Concerned citizens will gather there to remember the men and women of Washington state who went to work, but never returned home. The Snohomish County ceremony will feature a speaker from the United Steelworkers who will talk about the tragic Tesoro refinery explosion that killed 7 workers.

Decades of struggle by workers and their unions have resulted in significant improvements in working conditions. But the toll of workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths remains enormous. Workplace deaths increased dramatically in Washington state in 2010 with 86 men and women killed because of job-related injuries – up from 65 deaths reported in 2009. Keep in mind this does not consider those killed while serving in the military, which would also significantly increase the number.

Check our online calendar at www.im751.org for additional Workers’ Memorial Day events across Washington state, which were still being planned as the paper went to print.

Workers’ Memorial Day is a day to raise awareness of workplace hazards and renew the fight for safer workplaces so plan to attend a rally and ensure our voices are heard and those injured or killed on the job are not forgotten.

5th Avenue Theater’s “Rosie the Riveter” at Museum of Flight April 23

Seattle’s acclaimed 5th Avenue Theatre brings its Adventure Musical Theatre Touring Company to the Museum of Flight for a special performance of a new musical, “Rosie the Riveter,” April 23 at 2 p.m.

The show tells the story of the heroic women in the World War II workforce who built the airplanes that helped win the war, known collectively as “Rosie the Riveters.”

There will be a question and answer session with former Rosies after the performance, followed by an autograph session with them in the Museum lobby.

The musicals are written by Northwest writers and composers - many with Broadway credits - and are created to entertain and spur the imagination with song, dance and stories.

For details about the 5th Avenue Adventure Musical Theatre Touring Company, see: http://www.5thavenue.org/education/adventuremusicaltheatre.aspx

For details on events at the Museum of Flight visit: www.museumofflight.org

Flight for Sight Fun Run & Walk: Saturday, June 4

The 10th annual Flight for Sight Fun Run & Walk will be June 4 in Everett.

The event includes 5-10 kilometer timed races on courses certified by U.S.A. Track & Field. There will also be a non-competitive one-mile walk.

The race day sign up will be from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Everett community center, 1208 Evergreen Way, and the race will start at 9:30 a.m., with the walk to start at 9:45.

Registration costs $25 if done before noon on June 2. Day-of-race registration will cost $30. Registration can be done online at www.databarevents.com/flightforsight.asp or www.edataabchange.com/flightforsight.asp.

The event is sponsored by the District 751 Women’s Committee. All proceeds will go to benefit Guide Dogs of America.

Last year’s fun run raised more than $10,000 for Guide Dogs of America. This year’s fun run will support more than $276,000 raised by the District 751, which made it the top contributor to the charity nationwide.

Guide Dog Charity Golf Tournament: July 17

The 20th annual Guide Dogs of America Charity Golf Tournament will be July 17 at Willow Run Golf Course in Redmond. The annual event is sponsored by District 751, and is a fundraiser for Guide Dogs of America.

Last year’s golf tournament raised more than $12,000 for the charity, part of a record $276,000 raised by the District to support the Guide Dogs.

This year’s tournament will be a scramble format with a 8 a.m. shotgun start. The winning team will get a trophy, along with $100 for each person on the team. Individual prizes will be offered for the longest drive and any holes-in-one. There will also be prize drawings.

Registration is $90 per person, which covers greens fees, cart rental, a tournament T-shirt and a buffet at the end of play.

The event is capped at 200 entrants, and the deadline for entry is June 17. Entry forms are available at District 751 union halls in Auburn, Everett, Renton and Seattle.

You can also register by calling the Everett Hall at (425) 355-4821.

If you’d like to donate a prize, volunteer, sponsor a hole – or if you have any questions – you can call Auburn-based organizers John Carter (206-437-0470), Ron Coen (253-735-0577) or Dave Swan (253-640-5161); Mark Clark in Everett (425-232-6088); Rich McCabe in Renton (425-965-5735) or Lori Dorsey at the Everett Hall.

Interested in IAM/Boeing Apprenticeship? Start Now

The IAM/Boeing Joint Apprenticeship Committee will accept applications for apprenticeships from May 1 through July 6, 2011. All interested parties will have to apply to the Boeing Company at http://www.boeing.com/careers/ before they will be eligible to receive an apprenticeship application.


The Committee allows for Boeing and non-Boeing interested parties to apply. All of the apprenticeship programs have minimum requirements that include, but are not limited to, the following math courses: Practical Math, Level 2; Beginning Algebra, Level 2; Practical Shop Geometry; and Trigonometry. These math requirements must have been completed within the past five years.

For a complete list of minimum requirements for each trade, visit the IAM Boeing Joint Programs website at http://www.im751.com/apprenticeship.cfm to download a Preparing for an Apprenticeship packet.

Interested parties may apply during the month of May using the Boeing Careers website at http://www.boeing.com/careers/. Applications may apply for only one apprenticeship program. An IAM/Boeing Joint Apprenticeship application will be sent to those who successfully complete the steps on the Boeing Careers site.

Labor History in Story, Songs and Pictures

Wednesday, April 20 - 5:30 p.m.
Seattle Labor Temple, Hall One
2800 First Avenue

The M.L. King County Labor Council Education Committee is sponsoring a labor history presentation by Sarah Laslett, director of the Washington State Labor & Education Research Center at South Seattle Community College.

The presentation will give a broad overview of U.S. labor history, with particular attention to events in the Pacific Northwest.

It will include a slide show and music, in addition to stories of our successes and those moments from which we need to learn.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring friends and family members for an entertaining and informative evening of labor history.

Guide Dog Charity Golf Tournament: July 17
March Retired Club Minutes

by Ruth Render, 
Retired Club Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President T.J. Siebert. The handout was said followed by the flag salute. Members sang “God Bless America.”

President’s Report: President T.J. Siebert welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reported that there is going to be a Day of Action on April 8, 2011, and he would like to see Retired Club members come out to join other District 751 members at the Capitol that day. Buses will be leaving all of the halls and you are asked to contact Kay Michlik at (206) 764-0335 if you would like to ride a bus.

Roll Call of Officers: All officers were present or accounted for.

Financial Report: The report was read by Treasurer Betty Ness. A motion was made to accept the report as read. M/S/P

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

Communications: Report: There were no communications.

New Members/Visitors: T.J. introduced new member Tom Lindberg and welcomed him to the Club.

Business: Representative Report: Health and Benefits Representative Garth Pompeo read the report. The moment of silence was observed for the following deceased members: Bruce A. Cronoga, Robert C. Des Rosiers, Lyman “Eddie” Edwards, Ronnie D. Flowers, Robert E. Gokely, Bertha L. Guiley, Daniel F. Maddaugh, James R. Mathiessen, Charley W. Nelson, Robert D. Riplise, Warren Farkelohn, Alfred M. Thompson, Joline C. Woodward, and Donald G. Zippy. Sympathy cards were sent to next of kin.

Ruth Render added that long time member Clara Atkinson is quite ill. She asked that everyone pray for her.

Legislative Report: John Guevarra gave the report. John spoke about a Town Hall meeting hosted by Representative Bob Hasegawa and the issues described in the Friday Alert.

He also spoke about the victory for the South Park Bridge and how Legislative Director Larry Brown was given an award for his help in that victory.

Birthdays & Anniversaries: There were three birthdays in March. T.J. Siebert and Vera Doss. There was one anniversary: Isaac and Rose Motola celebrated 62 years. The Club sang Happy Birthday.

Good and Welfare: Vice President Helen Lowe reported that her doctor said that they will no longer hand out prescription drug samples because of new rules. Those samples saved people on a fixed budget a lot of money. Now, you can turn to a website to get coupons and help with copay cards. That website is www.internetdrugs.com.

John Guevarra spoke about the importance of healthcare and how there is a possibility that the Republicans could shut down everything we’ve worked so hard for to achieve for those who need healthcare benefits in this country.

President T.J. Siebert reported that he spoke with Al Wydick and he said to tell the Club “hello” for him. He isn’t feeling very well, but he is hanging in there. We’re keeping him in our prayers.

T.J. also thanked Helen for her help with the meeting last month.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn. M/S/P

March 751 Retired Club meeting minutes

Retired Club officers met with Congressman Jim McDermott to express concerns with Social Security. L to R: John Guevarra, T.J. Siebert, McDermott, Helen Lowe, Carl Schwartz, Mike Keller, Robin Guevarra.

McDermott Supports Social Security

by Carl Schwartz, Chair 
Retiree Legislative Committee

On March 23, a group of 751 Retired Club officers and legislative committee members met with Congressman Jim McDermott in his office in Seattle.

Many Retired Club members have heard a lot of criticism about our Social Security system, by politicians and by TV commentators. Retirees express concerns and questions about the system.

Our group met with the Congressman to discuss Social Security and his position on them. McDermott unequivocally stated that the Social Security system is sound, that it is working as intended and is being properly funded.

The only suggestions made were that the cap on taxed earnings should be removed, and that the calculation of the cost-of-living for retirees should include medical costs.

Retirees agreed that the siphoning off of 2 percent of the Social Security tax (cutting the tax from 7 percent to 5 percent), to be aimlessly spent, is a criminal attack on the integrity of the system. McDermott expressed concern that proposed cuts to staffing of the administration of Social Security, which is already understaffed, would cause severe damage to the ability of the system to function.

The group thanked McDermott for his support and with meeting and answering our concerns.

T.J. Siebert (far left) and Vera Doss (far right) celebrated March birthdays, while Isaac and Rose Motola celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary in March.
2011 Kids’ Coloring & Essay Contest

After the huge success of the 75th Anniversary Celebration contests for kids last year, District 751 is starting a new tradition! Each year, children in member families will have an opportunity to participate in a variety of contests. Check out the details for this year’s contests below!

Writing Contest (Grades 7-12)
1) Answer one of the following questions, based on your current grade, in a maximum of two pages, double-spaced. Include your name, current grade, school name, family member’s BEMS or CLOCK (last 4 of SSN), family member’s place of work, and contact number on a cover page.

- 7-8 Grade: What does union membership mean to your family?
- 9-10 Grade: Why is solidarity important?
- 11-12 Grade: How will union membership benefit your generation as you prepare to enter the workforce?

2) Mail your entry in to: IAM&AW District 751, Attn: Writing Contest, 11-12 Grade: How will union membership benefit your generation as you prepare to enter the workforce?
3) Entries must be post-marked by June 1, 2011. Entries will be reviewed and awards granted to the top two essay writers in each grade group.

Writing Contest Prizes:
1st Place - $200 Visa Gift Card
2nd Place - $100 Visa Gift Card

Any questions can be directed to the Communications Department at 206-764-0340 or 1-800-763-1301, Ext. 3340 or send an e-mail to: rosanne@iam751.org.

Meet Frankie Forklift!

Little Frankie Forklift lifts and carries while Machinists help him steer. And they guide him around as he loads and lifts all kinds of heavy stuff to the ground.

His best friends are Machinists because they help him stay the safest and cleanest even when he’s in a real hurry. They help him drive around with the expertise of the best around and even partner with him to win Forklift Rodeos!

Name: ____________________________________________
Age: ____________________________
School: ____________________________

Current Grade (circle one):
PreK K 1st 2nd
3rd 4th 5th 6th

Member Relative’s Name: __________________________________________
Member Relative’s Workplace: __________________________________________
Member Relative’s BEMS or Clock (last 4): ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________

Flightline Mechanics Second in National Contest

Continued from page 2

need to do a better job so I can get picked next year," he said. "These guys are going to do better work and that’s what we all want.

The team was sponsored by Boeing, but since it was made up primarily of Machinists, Fancella said they wanted to show off their union pride, which they did by wearing custom Team 751 hooded sweatshirts.

“We were pretty proud to wear them,” he said. “What a great time to show off the union.”

And in its own way, the competition was another example of the good things that happen when Boeing management works together with the Machinists Union, he said.

“It’s another good thing to see,” Fancella said. “The union’s here, the company’s here. We’re working together on the same task and we’re getting something done.”

At the national AMT competition, Mike Barnes (r) works on Electrical Troubleshooting event while Sean Rosenlieb coaches. Our team finished second in the competition.
Machinists Keep B&B Truck Service Rolling

Four talented Machinists Union members are the heart of B&B Truck Service Inc. in Spokane. This general truck repair shop handles all kinds of vehicles from company fleets to individual units of owner/operators. This includes one-ton pick-ups to Class 7 and 8 trucks and trailers and everything in between.

“We handle everything from preventive maintenance to repair. If a truck breaks down and is movable, they bring it to the shop; however, we also make road calls to help customers,” said Bill Nikkola, who serves as Union Steward for the members. “Basically for our regular customers, we are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We go out all hours to help.”

Because their focus is on keeping the trucks running in top condition, it often requires long hours and extra effort.

It is this dedication that has won B&B a reputation for quality service, which keeps their customers coming back year after year. This family-owned shop has been in business for nearly 50 years. For more than 30 years it has been the same couple. When employees are hired, they tend to take ownership and stay. Bill hired in 24 years ago, but he is not the only one who views it as a good job. John Quinn has worked there 20 years, Eric Comer has 17 years while Steve Myhal was hired at the first of this year after another member left.

The wide variety of work that comes into the shop requires our members to be expert certified technicians—skilled in the latest technology. All continually update their skills so the shop can offer a complete line of service. Whether it is engine overhauls, computer diagnostics or routine maintenance, these professionals are there to help. “We are always ready for a challenge and we seem to have a knack for keeping a lot of antique trucks on the road.” Says Bill.

Besides serving as Steward for members at B&B, Bill is also active in IAM Local 86 and is a Steward at IAM Local 2113 as a Shop Steward. “We are active in our IAM Local 86 where he holds the Trustee position and is an Alternate District Council Delegate. In addition, he has served on the negotiating committee in the last several rounds of contract bargaining. He noted that negotiations are typically pretty friendly and that B&B has a good working relationship with the employer and the union—making it a good place to work where employees stay for years.

B&B Truck Services is located at 814 N. Yardley Road in Spokane (509-535-2028).

Irrigation Workers Ensure Agriculture Thrives in Our State

Rich soil, diverse climate and large-scale irrigation make Washington state one of the most productive growing regions in the world. Yet much of that would not be possible without the expertise of more than 200 employees of the Columbia Basin Project irrigation districts—many of them Machinists Union members.

These skilled workers play a vital role in the state’s $38 billion food and agriculture industry. They service more than 670,000 irrigated acres in Eastern Washington and maintain more than 5,000 miles of ditches, drains and canals. Too much or too little water can have a significant impact on crop growth—highlighting the importance of their work. If a canal is clogged with debris from a windstorm, a field could be flooded. If a pump house fails, water will not get to the fields and crops can wither. It is a delicate balance that these technicians deliver daily.

The Columbia Basin Project is separated into three units: East located in Othello, South located in Pasco, and a third site operated out of Quincy. The three districts work together to keep the intricate irrigation systems flowing through the eastern side of the state.

Jobs at irrigation districts range from ditch riders and canal maintenance to heavy equipment operators, mechanics, electricians, pump mechanics and drainage technicians. These professionals cover a lot of miles cleaning any debris or obstructions that might keep water from flowing through the thousands of miles of irrigation. In addition, all equipment must be in top-working order. Our members do everything from repairing the equipment that delivers water to farmers to priming the ditches for water to come in. Members maintain not just the equipment, but the pumping plants required for irrigation delivery. Reservoirs collect return flows from all irrigation for reuse—another system our members oversee.

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Members working at irrigation districts function as a team and operate under the South Columbia Basin Trades Council which is comprised of the Machinists Union, Operating Engineers, Teamsters and Laborers Union. The four unions also work as a team under one collective bargaining agreement.

“We have a good working relationship between the unions,” said Staff Assistant Ken Howard. “It is a team approach that has developed over many years. If someone has a question about their work, it doesn’t matter which union he is a member of, I am there to help.”

Water delivered by the irrigation districts allows billions of dollars worth of crops to be grown annually. “Without our members at irrigation districts much of Eastern Washington would be sand and sagebrush,” added Howard. “Irrigation is critical to the massive agriculture industry on the eastern side of our state and IAM members play a critical role to ensure that this industry remains a vibrant part of our state’s economy.”

Alfalfa, wheat, soybeans, mint, potatoes, corn, apples, cherries, peaches, apricots, oats, barley, wine grapes, beans, sugar beets, carrots, squash, watermelon, and various other crops are grown within the irrigation district, as well as livestock, ensuring that agriculture remains a cornerstone of Washington’s economy.

So the next time you go to the grocery store, farmers market or your local restaurant, look for Washington grown food and wine—you’ll know you are supporting our state’s farmers and Machinists Union members played a role in delivering that product.