Fighting for Our Facilities Members

Less than two months into our new contract, Boeing is challenging some of the language we fought hard to get – updating Letter of Understanding (LOU) #2 to protect Facilities Maintenance Employees.

On January 16th, Boeing issued WARN notices to 189 members in Facilities Maintenance even though there will be the same number of buildings to maintain and the same or more equipment to maintain. The reductions cut deep in some job titles – hitting employees with up to 30 years’ seniority.

The Union is fighting this action and cautioned Boeing that surplussing our members in Facilities Maintenance while the company is still hiring on site workers is doing work we are capable of performing is, in our view, a violation of our contract.

The Union contends that Boeing should eliminate the use of facilities vendors instead of trying to reduce the number of our members in those jobs. We fought Millwright Richard Woodhouse installs a solid floor in an overhead walkway in a Seattle building.

Union Delivers “Proper” Prescription

The Union’s Health and Benefits office has been instrumental in helping members get the proper reimbursement for prescriptions filled during our strike last fall. Thanks to the efforts of Health and Benefits Rep Joe Crockett, members have received literally hundreds (and in some cases thousands) of dollars owed to them after the first reimbursement checks fell short of the members’ out-of-pocket expense. Keep in mind that the Strike Settlement Agreement states every member will be made whole and reimbursed for their out-of-pocket medical expenses.

Several members reported problems when Medco reimbursed for the generic rather than the name brand prescription. Others were reimbursed at a discounted rate (typically charged when members use their prescription card with insurance coverage) rather than the amount our members were charged as an uninsured individual during the strike.

While most members have been reimbursed for prescriptions filled during the strike, all should double check what the member actually paid for the name-brand prescription. The next time you get a refill, inform the Union these layoffs will have “minimal” impact on our members, but as the paper went online, District President Tom Wroblewski issued the following statement: “It is obvious that our membership is a driving force in the success of Boeing. They are only successful when they deliver airplanes. If Boeing’s intention is to deliver 480 to 485 planes in 2009 as they indicated, they can only accomplish this with the full contingent of our membership. To date, Boeing has only told us the impact will be ‘minimal’ but they will provide some details on how our members will be affected.”

Continued on page 11

Continued on page 2

Layoff Announcement Impact Is Unclear

As we initiated a new U.S. President, we also saw our Union President Tom Wroblewski begin a new four-year term after members re-elected him last spring. Four-year terms also began for District Secretary-Treasurer Susan Palmer, District Vice President Stosh Tomala and District Sergeant-at-Arms James Coats, 14 Union Business Reps, as well as the 47 members of our District Council.

“I look forward to continuing to lead this great Union and our membership. It is an incredible honor to our Union President Tom Wroblewski begin a new four-year term after members re-elected him last spring. Four-year terms also began for District Secretary-Treasurer Susan Palmer, District Vice President Stosh Tomala and District Sergeant-at-Arms James Coats, 14 Union Business Reps, as well as the 47 members of our District Council.

“I look forward to continuing to lead this great Union and our membership. It is an incredible honor to be elected and one I hold sacred,” stated District President Tom Wroblewski. “I hope the membership solidarity we achieved last year will continue and grow stronger. We must continue fighting to preserve every job at Boeing, to ensure our members maintain the best benefits and wages in the industry, to secure success in the political arena (tanker deal, Worker Privacy Act, etc.), and to broaden our work in community service – all with the goal of creating a better quality of life.

In an effort to provide better service and representation to the membership, new staff assignments were made effective February 1st, including more even

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New Year Brings Changes in Union Leadership

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Member’s daughter accepts job in Obama White House

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Worker Privacy Act is top priority for labor in Olympia this year

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PUBLISHED BY THE WORLD’S FINEST WORKERS

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Vol. 64, No. 1

February 2009

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districts were redistributed to the Auburn Reps (see Business Rep assignments on pages 6-7).

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by Tom Wroblewski, District President

I know we were all hoping that 2009 would bring good news, but it has started out with new challenges. As the economy continues to sour, Boeing is now feeling the pinch and felt compelled to share it with their employees by announcing a stunning cut of 10,000 jobs — without any additional details.

While Boeing insists these cuts will be “minimal” to our membership, we are withholding judgment until they provide specific details. What we do know is that 189 facilities members received WARN notices. Boeing is not getting rid of buildings or machines, so we know there is plenty of work to support our existing facilities members (and probably even more). The Union believes and will fight against ANY facilities member being laid off as long as there are ANY subcontractors in any Boeing plant doing work we are capable of. In fact, we believe it should go one step further — that NO Boeing employees (IAM member, SPEEA member or non-represented) should be laid off if there is a contractor onsite performing the same type of work. That is the loyalty a world class company should show its employees.

I can tell you if Boeing truly intends to deliver 480-485 planes as announced in their earnings call (over 100 more than delivered last year), they can only accomplish this with the full contingent of our membership. Boeing continues to have a record backlog of orders and incredible profits that other companies envy.

Instead of outright their annual profit of $2.7 billion after taxes, they dwell on the last quarter losses and fail to accept responsibility for their role in the strike. Let’s face it most of the declines in revenue (since they did make a substantial profit in 2008) could have been avoided if Boeing had not made poor management decisions (i.e. their approach to our negotiations and the 787 production model).

Boeing finds it easy to blame a two-year delay in getting the 787 off the ground on our 57-day strike. Apparently, there are a lot of people (including Boeing management) who need better math skills. No matter how you calculate it, a 57-day strike doesn’t add up to a two-year delay. Boeing will never admit that it was poor management decisions or their bad production model that failed miserably which caused the first decline in recent years. Had they compromised a little on the contract, respected their workforce and negotiated fairly, they could have avoided a strike. Boeing could have continued on with their record making profits for 2008, but they chose a take or leave it attitude rather than negotiating in good faith.

The problems with their vendors (especially on 787) continue to create anxiety and stress for our members. We either have to correct their problems (which creates additional work) or have to face subcontractors who work for the “global” partner in the plant to fix the mistakes. We have been very clear to Boeing on this: If a vendor is not a part or assembly we installed in a plane to get to their rework or warranty work, then one of our members should remove that part. This is our work inside the factory and we fought hard to protect it.

I know many of you have heard rumors about a company called PlaneTech that is hiring people for work in Everett. Here are the facts. Aleina (one of Boeing’s global partners) has hired some people to do work to perform Aleina’s warranty rework. This is being done as part of an action by Boeing to try to hold its global partners accountable for their quality and protect the program schedule. The problems with their vendors (especially on 787) continue to create anxiety and stress for our members. We either have to correct their problems (which creates additional work) or have to face subcontractors who work for the “global” partner in the plant to fix the mistakes. We have been very clear to Boeing on this: If a vendor is not a part or assembly we installed in a plane to get to their rework or warranty work, then one of our members should remove that part. This is our work inside the factory and we fought hard to protect it.

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The Worker Privacy Act (HB 1528 and SB 5446) is our top legislative priority in Olympia, among the Machinists’ national legislative priorities.

Under the Worker Privacy Act, they retain their freedom of speech on all of those issues. The only difference is that they cannot require employees to participate in such meetings and communications, or punish or fire those who opt out. This is a fair and reasonable minimum standard for protection of freedom and privacy in the workplace, and in no way is it a “gag rule” as corporate lobbying groups so often paint it.

An important fact to remind legislators when asking for their support: with budget shortfalls and the broader economic crisis, the Worker Privacy Act is an important piece of legislation for workers that has zero impact on the state budget.

Boeing and other corporate lobbyists are pushing hard to defeat this legislation and retain their right to these mandatory meetings so you must listen to their opinion on matters of conscience.

Look for the corporate lobbyists to try to confuse the issue. Nationally, unions are working to pass the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) to make it easier for workers to organize. The corporate lobbyists may try to imply that EFCA passes, why do we need the Worker Privacy Act? The fact is the two laws are very different.

The Employee Free Choice Act is a federal bill that enables workers to choose if and how they will form unions, reduces delays in first contract bargaining and strengthens penalties when employers violate labor law. In contrast, the Worker Privacy Act is a state act that protects First Amendment rights in the workplace by ensuring that workers will not be forced to attend meetings on matters of individual conscience, including politics, religion, charitable giving, or personal opinions.

The Worker Privacy Act is a labor priority because peacekeepers force their employees to attend such meetings to discourage union organizing or to press political views, as Wal-Mart did last year when it urged employees to vote against the Machinists’ union in the early 90s. Workers can be — and are — fired or disciplined for refusing to participate in such communication. That’s not right.

Help Support the “Buy American”

You can help save our economy and the country by contacting your Senator and urging them to support Sen. Byron Dorgan’s (D-ND) “Buy American” provision within the economic stimulus bill.

The Buy American Act, which was enacted during the Great Depression, requires all stimulus-funded projects use only American-made equipment and goods. Inclusion of the provision in the proposed $789 billion economic stimulus package is essential to ensure the $789 billion stimulates the American economy and creates jobs here at home — not overseas!

Many countries use the money they receive into the pockets of American workers — not those of foreign corporate executives and contractors.

The U.S. Department of Labor shows we have lost more than 4 million manufacturing jobs over the past few years. The current unemployment rate is 7.2 percent, and is climbing towards 8 percent. This is the worst unemployment rate since the 1980s, and is climbing towards 8 percent. This is the worst unemployment rate since the 1980s, and is climbing towards 8 percent. This is the worst unemployment rate since the 1980s, and is climbing towards 8 percent. This is the worst unemployment rate since the 1980s, and is climbing towards 8 percent. This is the worst unemployment rate since the 1980s, and is climbing towards 8 percent. This is the worst unemployment rate since the 1980s, and is climbing towards 8 percent. This is the worst unemployment rate since the 1980s, and is climbing towards 8 percent. This is the worst unemployment rate since the 1980s, and is climbing towards 8 percent. This is the worst unemployment rate since the 1980s, and is climbing towards 8 percent.


2009 - A Lot Worth Fighting For

Continued from page 2

ing unit work. If Plane Tech employees are in your area and you see them performing our work, document it and report it to your Steward. We will take action immediately.

In the political arena, a new Democratic President who understands workers and union issues, is hopeful to see meaningful changes in our nation’s capital. At the federal level, labor is pushing for the Employee Free Choice Act (see more info in article right column) that would allow workers to sign cards for union representation. The National Labor Relations Board would then automatically hold a secret-ballot election simply by refusing to communicate with union representatives.

The WPA hearings in Olympia will alert, please take action. We have seen those arguments before, we have seen those arguments before, we have seen those arguments before. We have seen those arguments before, and we saw those arguments before.

In January, the Machinists Union was preparing for another battle to keep a sacred U.S. military contract (replacement for Air Force One) in the hands of U.S. workers. The Pentagon requested information on the replacement for Air Force One and made it an open-ended contract — meaning Airbus could put in a bid. For those who sought the idea of foreign-built tankers hard to swallow, a foreign-built plane for the U.S. President was even more appalling and drew strong public reaction.

On January 28th, EADS announced it was not planning to compete against Boeing for the three new Air Force One planes. However, until the contract is ultimately awarded to Boeing (which has built the previous five U.S. Presidential planes since the 1960’s), the Machinists Union will stand ready to fight for this sacred contract. While security should be the top priority, we saw those arguments set aside several years ago when the Pentagon selected a consortium of U.S., Italian and British companies to build replacements for the President’s Marine One helicopter fleet.

EADS Declines to Bid on Air Force One

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Below:
District President
Tom Wrobleski

districts

Above: District Council delegates urge supporters to call the legislative hotline and thank sponsors of the Worker Privacy Act.
Using Her Head (and Hard Hat) Prevented Injury

Safety should always be the top priority in the workplace, but often it is forgotten or overlooked. Recently in Renton, 751-member Chris Blake demonstrated why it is important to adhere to safety standards every minute on the job.

Only a few hours into her shift on January 5th, she encountered what could have been a potentially fatal accident had she not been following safety procedures and wearing the correct personal protective equipment (PPE). During a routine crane move, she prepared to receive the material and, as required, was wearing a hard hat. She was talking with her safety coordinator and they stepped out of the area since she wasn’t wearing a hard hat. Just moments after they both moved, a four-inch metal electrical plate (weighing 13/3 of a pound) fell about 50 feet from the overhead crane rails and struck her hard hat. Engineers estimate it fell at approximately 36 miles per hour. The impact knocked her hard hat off and sent her grasping a nearby wall for support. She suffered a mild concussion as a result of the impact, but the results could have been much worse.

The IAM/Boeing Site Safety Committee, along with various others, launched an investigation into the incident. The investigation revealed that a contractor, who was installing new energy efficient light fixtures, finished work on New Year’s Eve. The contractors were in a hurry to finish and left the plate cover on the crane rail. Vibrations from the crane move on January 5th knocked the plate off the rail to the factory floor below.

“When I originally transferred to this area, I was told if anyone gets hurt it comes down on you,” Chris recalled. “As a result, I am one of those workers who is always aware of safety and regularly asks people to move out of the way.”

“This incident is a testament to why every member should wear the proper PPE at all times in the factory. Chris Blake (l) shows IAM Site Committee Rep Bill Young and IAM Safety Coordinator Tommy Wilson (r) the mark on her hard hat when an electrical plate (inset photo) fell from the crane. Stated Business Rep Tommy Wilson, who is the IAM Safety Coordinator, “I have seen many people ignore a crane move and cut across the area because they are in a hurry. This incident also illustrates how watching out for others (Chris making sure others are out of harm’s way) can help prevent serious injuries in the factory.”

The investigation concluded that wearing the proper PPE lessened the severity of the injury. The investigation revealed no one called Boeing Fire or Emergency Dispatch. If Boeing Fire had been called, the member would have received immediate medical treatment rather than waiting several hours in Boeing medical to be checked out.

In addition, the incident resulted from vendors in the plant doing work that should have been performed by our facilities maintenance members, who adhere to strict procedures that include a final inspection of the area. If one of our members had left the electrical plate on the railing, it would have resulted in discipline or termination. The same should happen to the vendor. However, in mid-October of last year, the same vendor dropped a bracket from overhead crane rails. Instead of being on strike, no workers were below so no one was injured.

“Part of the problem is Boeing’s lack of preventive maintenance and the fact that they don’t regularly check the rails. We need to use our maintenance members to routinely check the rails,” Tommy noted. “It seems there has to be an accident or near miss before Boeing wants to allow our members to perform preventive maintenance. It is a dangerous way to do business and one the Union will continue trying to change. Having a regular check of the crane rails prevents these types of accidents and ensures our members are protected.”

As a result of this incident, Crane Maintenance will now perform monthly POD sweeps of overhead structures in Renton. The frequency of the sweeps will be adjusted based on the findings. In the future, anytime something falls from above, even if it hits the ground, there will be an investigation. This is also a good lesson to our members. To be aware of safety procedures, overhead crane moves and utilize the required PPE. This adherence to safety could save your life or prevent serious injury.

The Boeing Company talks about safety at our crew meetings and encourages every employee to speak up if they see a safety issue. “Safety is everyone’s concern” that is the motto. But is the Company walking the talk or just talking?

In August of 2008, a safety concern was brought to the attention of Senior Level 787 Management. The issue is that New Breed drives their full size truck and trailer into the factory to deliver raw materials. This truck and trailer takes up the majority of the side aisles and has created a safety hazard for all employees that must use these aisles. The suggested solution given to management to resolve this issue was for the vendor to park on the apron and walk the products to their destination.

The initial response to this safety issue was the only reason this was being brought up was because of Letter of Understanding 37. The ability of New Breed to deliver parts and materials to the factory is not in question. The method of how the delivery is being made is the question. Safety is the issue and this is what needs to be addressed.

Recently, New Breed employees were witnessed parking and leaving this vehicle to deliver parts and materials. The vehicle was left unattended for over sixteen minutes. In case of an emergency, The Boeing Company Fire Department would not have been able to reach their destination in a timely manner. This could further endanger the injured or sick employee.

Management’s answer to this issue is to have The New Breed Company send two of their employees with the truck, so one employee will be with the truck all the time while inside the factory. This would allow them to move the truck and trailer out of the way in case of emergency. However, this did not address the initial concern of the size and length of the vehicle taking up space on the apron and walkways.

New Breed trucks in the Everett plant regularly block the transportation aisle for various others, launched an investigation into the incident. The investigation revealed that a contractor, who was installing new energy efficient light fixtures, finished work on New Year’s Eve. The contractors were in a hurry to finish and left the plate cover on the crane rail. Vibrations from the crane move on January 5th knocked the plate off the rail to the factory floor below.

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Health and Safety

Day in and day out members from the IAM Site Safety Committee dedicate themselves to ensuring that the workplace is safe. In recognition of their efforts, the District Safety Committee presented members with Service Awards in January. L to R: Badge (20 years), Safety Coordinator Tommy Wilson, Pat Augustin (10 years) and Tom Sweeney (15 years). Not present but also recognized were Jim Schwalm and Stosh Tomalak (10 years) and Rich McCabe (5 years). Together, these members have given seventy years of service to the safety of our members and for that they should be proud. Special thanks to Jim Coats for arranging the food and preparing the awards for this important event.

SMEC Committee Service Awards

Now that the holiday break is behind us, don’t forget to apply for your safety shoe reimbursement for your shoes purchased in 2008! Each year, the IAM/Boeing Joint Programs allows a grace period for employees to take care of their previous year’s safety shoe business. March 1, 2009 marks the deadline for turning in applications for 2008 purchases. 

Congressional and Environmental Action

March 1st Deadline for 2008 Safety Shoe Reimbursement

Applications for 2008 purchases that have not been reimbursed as of March 1, 2009 will not be accepted. This is also a good time to review the reimbursement guidelines on our website, and browse the frequently asked questions for any possible changes. IAM/Boeing Joint Programs would like to encourage you to check back now and then to make sure you don’t miss any information that may be important to you. The better you understand the reimbursement process, the smoother the experience will be. Questions can be directed to your local IAM/Boeing Joint Programs office. For Puget Sound call (425) 965-4269 or 1-800-235-3453 or get an application online by visiting the web page at http://iamboeing.web.boeing.com/shoe_general.cfm.

Check out all the benefits and services that IAM/Boeing Joint Programs has to offer by visiting http://iamboeing.web.boeing.com on the Boeing Internet or www.iam.boeing.com from your home PC.
Building on the theme of the Obama presidential slogan (“Yes We Can”), the 2009 Martin Luther King Jr. celebration in Seattle was filled with additional energy and enthusiasm, as a new day dawned in American history. The annual MLK event had special meaning this year, as the message of change resonated with participants like never before on the eve of the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Thousands turned out and viewed the day as a step toward unity and solving the enormous problems facing our nation. 751 had over 100 Stewards and members taking part in the event – many bringing children and other family members. The Seattle MLK celebration is one of the oldest and largest in the country. This was the 27th year so educational workshops, a variety of exciting, inspirational speakers and finally a march through the streets of the city.

751 Steward Debbie Donnell not only attended the rally and march, but also took part in the morning workshops. She brought along her daughter Marius and attended the workshop - “No Other Tale to Tell: Informing our Children about Our Past”.

“The workshop explained how we each need to tell our kids about history and the important people who made sig-
New Business Rep Building Assignments

RENTON

JOE CROCKETT ............ 4-17, 4-20, 4-21, 4-41, 4-42, 4-45, 4-90, 5-02, (Flight Line: 5-08, 5-09)
(Bellevue: 33-01, 33-03), (Longacore: 33-02)

TOMMY WILSON ............. 10-16, 10-18, (Final Assembly: 4-38, 4-40, 4-42, 4-90, 5-02)

AUBURN

HEATHER BARSTOW ......... 17-06, 17-07, 17-10, 17-12, 17-239, 47-02 (Pioneer), Spares Dist
Center: 22-01, (South Site)

MARK JOHNSON .............. 17-08, 7-13, 17-45, 17-67, 17-239, 47-02, 4-25, (Bellevue: 33-01, 33-03), (Longacore: 33-02)

DON MORRIS ................. 17-04, 17-30, 17-62, 17-64, 17-66, 17-67, 24-40, (Pioneer: 4-38, 4-40, 4-42, 4-90, 5-02)

SEATTLE


JIMMY DARRAH .............. Grievance Coordinator; Outbase/Remote Support: 22-01, (South Site)

Below are the building assignments for the Business Reps:
Staff Changes for Better Service

Continued from page 1

Business Rep Jimmy Darrah has been ap- pointed Grievance Coordinator. Jimmy brings outstanding organizational and documentation skills, which will be an asset in this role. He has served as a Business Rep in Auburn and also spent years as a Work Transfer Rep.

In this capacity, Jimmy will work closely with the District President and be responsible for resolving many of the bigger contractual issues that arise. This important position interfaces with Company representatives in an attempt to resolve all third-party grievances short of arbitration. The Grievance Coordinator also coordinates pre-arbitration panel activities with Business Reps and the Union’s attorney, as well as providing assistance in preparing cases for arbitration and assisting with hearings. Jimmy will serve as Business Rep for the outback stewards and provide counseling and guidance to Business Reps.

The Health and Benefits Rep in the Seattle Union Hall will be Jackie Boschok. She brings years of experience in dealing with Boeing and has a lot of experience helping members in the community service area. In each of the last four strikes, Jackie served as a focal to help direct members to required services. She will provide an invaluable service to the members.

Recognizing the need for additional Union Steward training, Stan Johnson will serve as Education and Training Director. He brings over 10 years of experience in dealing with Boeing and the Union, as well as providing assistance in preparing cases for arbitration and assisting with hearings. Jimmy will serve as Business Rep for the outback stewards and provide counseling and guidance to Business Reps.

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Remembering the Seattle General Strike of 1919

On this, the 90th anniversary of the Seattle General Strike, we look back at a level of solidarity that seems both foreign and completely relevant to our present day struggles. Standing up against a government that declared solidarity impossible, the over 60,000 Seattle workers that walked off their jobs at 10:00 AM on the morning of February 6, 1919, made a statement the country had never seen before. Arguably the strongest show of unity that Washington State has ever seen, this strike established for many that workers do have rights and no matter what the pressure, unity is both possible and effective.

In post-WWI America, labor was caught at a crossroads. The Federal Government was pushing for immediate job placement for returning soldiers, unions were fighting for the recognition they deserved for maintaining the war through strong production, and Puget Sound workers were demanding that government mandated pay cuts be eliminated.

If you would like to take part in Union community service projects, simply check out the calendar on the District website (www.iam751.org) or e-mail kaynm@iam751.org and ask to be included in the monthly project mailing.

Volunteers Provide Assistance This Holiday Season

Area families in need got some relief thanks to the volunteer efforts of 751 members over the holidays. 751 members and their families regularly volunteer to help with many local events.

In December, as snow covered the Puget Sound region, 751 volunteers ventured to the Qwest Field Event Center to ensure the Salvation Army toy distribution could go on. Despite the over six inches of snow that fell, our volunteers put in long hours to make Christmas special for others.

“For many families, these are the only gifts their children received at Christmas,” stated 751 - Editor Connie Kelliher. “One lady we helped spent three hours on different buses to get there to pick up the gifts. She was thrilled the toy distribution occurred despite the heavy snow and grateful volunteers made sure it happened.”

On December 30th, 751 members and their families took over the Northwest Harvest warehouse in Kent. Over 30 volunteers served food to striking workers.

Members turned out to help. In just three hours, members were able to sort 19,538 pounds of food that day, which was distributed to over 300 food banks in Washington State. The work of our volunteers will feed 5,582 families. Many members have made it a holiday tradition to turn out for the Northwest Harvest event.

Steward Dena Bartman noted, “Being my first time volunteering for this particular Northwest Harvest event, I’m looking forward to the next one! Actually seeing how your efforts contribute to the big picture is humbling.”

Met with quiet instead of chaos, the new deputies of the Seattle police department and the national guard were directed to “round up the reds.” The IWW hall was raided, leaders were arrested and the Union Record newspaper was closed. With the pressure of international leaders, the General Strike Committee announced an end to the strike on February 11.

As our District looks back on the 2008 strike, it is impossible not to appreciate the strength of solidarity. As the first showing of cross-industrial solidarity in our state’s history, we must appreciate how much the Strike of 1919 positively changed the movement in America. The strength and dedication of the strikers of 1919, men and women who stood up against anti-union violence our generation can only imagine, gave meaning to the word solidarity. And they gave us a voice that, without their sacrifices, would have long been silenced.
January Retired Club Business Minutes

by Ruth Render, Retired Club Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Al Wydick.

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

Minutes: It was M/S/P to accept the minutes as printed.

Financial Report: Treasurer Betty Ness read the expense reports for November and December, which included expenditures for the Retiree Christmas Party. M/S/P. Betty announced that January 19 an audit of the last six months will be conducted. She thanked Helen Pompeoo for her hard work to put together the casino trips last year.

Business Representatives Report: Business Representative Paul Knebel wished everyone a Happy New Year. In February, two new Business Reps will begin their assignments. Also, the number of Business Reps assigned to Everett will be increased by one for a total of six and reduced Seattle from two to one. He also said not to be alarmed by Boeing’s announcement of impending layoffs. They are still hiring production workers and the layoffs will mainly affect the non-production workforce.

Health & Welfare: Helen Pompeoo gave the report. A moment of silence was observed for the following deceased members: James Benene, Glen Bradley, Dorothy Bright, Gary Bunten, Henry Cecil, Jeffrey Clark, George Clements, Russell Curtiss, Orville Hayes, Alfred Johnson, Jose Honrado, Moriss James, Donald Lurf, Dean Sorensen.

Legislative Report: Carl Schwartz stated we are looking forward to a new year with a more positive relationship with our government and administration, especially on retiree issues such as Medicare and Social Security. Some specific issues we will be working on are: (1) legislation making it possible for Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices, (2) fighting efforts to lower the annual cost-of-living adjustments to our social security payments by the use of “special” different calculations, (3) joining nationwide efforts of the Alliance for Retired Americans to protect pension funds from raids by corporate executives, and (4) locally we will continue to build up our club and keep our voices active for the concerns of our members and all retirees. Carl ended his report by asking retirees to fill out a questionnaire (see lower right) aimed at increasing awareness of the Retiree Club.

Good & Welfare: Gene Hoglund spoke about a change taking place this year with regard to withdrawals from traditional IRAs. He spoke with Boeing Employees Credit Union (BECU) and found out that on Dec. 23, President Bush signed legislation that changed the rule for taking required minimum distributions from traditional IRAs and 401(k)s. The legislation allows the 2009 distribution to be skipped but applies only to withdrawals required for 2009, which normally could have been postponed until April 1, 2010. Gene recommended getting in touch with your tax advisor for more information.

John Guevarra noted he had copies of the new laws so we can read about the purpose of the Retiree Retirement Club. It includes addressing your needs. There is some concern about dwindling participation. If we don’t membership drive, we’re losing everyone’s participation. John thanked the leaders of the club for all they do.

The Retired Club plays bingo several Mondays each month at 11 a.m. A free lunch is served each Monday at noon. Inset above: Al Wydick draws bingo numbers.

Fondly Remembering Norm Irwin

On January 10th, District 751 said goodbye as Norm Irwin peacefully passed away. Norm played an active role in this Union for many years in Local A and was a part of the Union leadership for decades. He served 25 years on the District Council, the governing body of the Union, before retiring in 1994. During his tenure as a Council delegate, Norm also spent many years on the District Finance Committee, which oversees the expenditures for the Retiree Christmas Party.

Norm Irwin (1), with son Steve (who is also a 751 member) and grandson Steven Lee (a future 751 member), was a natural Union leader, who was always there to help. After he retired Norm spent years volunteering at Hightline Hospital – again with the goal of helping others.

The 751 Retiree Club sponsors a St. Patrick’s Day lunch in March, an all-member picnic in July, an Oktoberfest bratwurst lunch in October and a gala Holiday dinner on the second Monday in December.

I will plan to attend at least one of these events in 2009.

The 751 Retiree Club considers legislative issues which impact seniors and retirees.

I will inform myself on some of these issues and do what I can to support them.

Did you know the club’s mission also includes:

- social & recreational activities – including trips and assistance for ill members
- informing members of IAM & government benefits
- Do you have other suggestions for activities the 751 Retiree Club could sponsor?
The IAM Scholarship Competition is open each year to IAM members and their children throughout the United States and Canada.

Scholarships for a Bachelor’s degree or a two-year vocational/technical certification are determined in a competition among eligible applicants that is judged by an independent Selection Committee.

Awards to members are $2,000 per academic year. They are renewed each year, until a Bachelor’s degree is obtained or for a maximum of four years, whichever occurs first.

Vocational/technical School—$2,000 per year until certification is reached for a maximum of two years, whichever occurs first.

Awards to Children of Members are $1,000 per academic year. All awards are renewed each year, until a Bachelor’s degree is obtained or for a maximum of four years, whichever occurs first.

Machinists Solidarity Night at Everett Silvertips

Machinists Union members have an opportunity to purchase tickets to the Everett Silvertips Hockey Club on Saturday, February 28th. The game against the Vancouver Giants starts at 7:00 PM at the Everett Comcast Arena. Machinists Union members can purchase discounted tickets for $6 for lower levels seats and $13 for lower level.

Celebrate Heart Truth on Wear Red Day

February 6, 2009 is National Wear Red Day. The Heart Truth is a national awareness campaign for women about heart disease. It is the number one killer of women and one of every four women will die from heart disease. The Red Dress represents the importance of taking care of your heart health.

The goal is to educate individuals on the risks and lifestyle changes that can be made to decrease the chance of having a heart attack. Here are some of the risk factors that may increase your risk of heart disease: smoking, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, being overweight, physical inactivity and diabetes.

The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute have a list of questions to ask your doctor at your next visit.
1. What is my risk for heart disease?
2. What is my blood pressure?
3. What are my cholesterol numbers?
4. What are my "body mass index" and waist measurement?
5. What is my blood sugar level?
6. What other screening tests for heart disease do I need?
7. What can I do to help me quit smoking?
8. How much physical activity do I need to help protect my heart?
9. What is a heart healthy eating plan for me?
10. How can I tell if I may be having a heart attack?

Make sure that you ask your doctor to explain the test results and what steps you can take to improve your heart health.

The 751 Women's Committee hopes to raise awareness of the risks women face from heart disease. February 6th is "Wear Red Day" as part of the Heart Truth awareness campaign.

The good news is that you can make lifestyle choices that will have a positive effect on your heart health. Here are some of the actions you can take; eat for health, become physically active and kick the smoking habit.

To learn more about your heart health go to www.hearttruth.org

Please join District 751 Women’s Committee and wear your favorite Red dress, shirt, or red tie on February 6, 2009 National Wear Red Day. Encourage your work groups to participate and remind your mother, sisters, wife and daughter(s) the importance of taking charge of their heart health.

Black History Month:
Looking Back at an Incredible Sportsman - 751’s Eddie Cotton

He was a famous boxer who fought in one of the most controversial boxing matches ever played. He was a member of the Washington State Boxing Commission, was a tool and die maker for the Boeing Company, and was a Machinist Union member.

Eddie Cotton became a famous boxer in the 1950s. Most notable was his fight for the World Title in 1966. Born in Muskogee, OK on June 15, 1927, Eddie Cotton was a skilled boxer and had fought a total of 83 fights taking 58 wins, 23 losses and two draws. "Even if he didn’t win a title, he was a champion in my mind," explained Archie Moore, who beat Cotton in a non-title fight in 1957.

The exceptional athlete, known for his defensive fighting skills, retired from boxing in 1967 at the age of forty. After his sports retirement, Eddie continued to work on the shop floor and became a member of the boxing commission.

He passed away on June 26, 1990 at the age of 64. Even now, nineteen years after his death, Eddie Cotton’s boxing matches can be found on YouTube and other internet sites. People continue to watch his incredible bouts and his championship fights will be discussed for years to come.
Member's Daughter Hired by Obama Administration

While many Machinists Union members were celebrating the inauguration of President Barack Obama, the day had special meaning for 751-member Moonja Carter. Her youngest daughter, Rhonda, started a new job in the West Wing of the Obama White House. This impressive young woman is an incredible success story. Her drive and determination were evident from an early age and a testament to the strong values instilled in her by her mom.

Rhonda is excited at the opportunity to be a part of making change happen in the new administration and eagerly assumed her new job as Executive Assistant to the Deputy White House Counsel, Cassandra Butts. As a single mother of two daughters earning Grade A Factory Service wages, Mooinja did not have a lot of cash for extras while the girls were growing up. However, Mooinja demonstrated a strong work ethic and emphasized the importance of education to both her children. The loving environment Mooinja provided, along with her strong values, resulted in both daughters graduating from college and going on to successful careers. Her oldest daughter, Sandra, is a fourth grade teacher in Atlanta, as well as the proud mother to Mooinja’s nineteen-month-old grandson, Jude.

“I always told my girls work hard for what you want your future to be. You make your own future,” Mooinja stated.

Mooinja stepped up to the many challenges in her life in an effort to make her own future and her daughters’ lives better. After coming to the U.S. from Korea in 1980 with her husband, who was in the military, and two young daughters, she made several other moves, including spending three years in Panama (where her husband was stationed). In 1985, shortly after the family moved to Los Angeles, Mooinja separated from her husband and was left to raise her two daughters on her own.

In 1992, she moved to the Puget Sound region to be near her family, who had emigrated from Korea. With English as her second language, she worked hard each day as a factory service attendant and did the best possible job. After getting recalled to Boeing in 2004, she received an upgrade to a Grade 1 and has continued to be an exemplary employee. The fine example she showed told her daughters they could accomplish anything. In Rhonda’s case, after graduating from Federal Way High School with honors, she attended Claremont McKenna College in California. Profoundly impacted by the key support she herself received as a student, Rhonda’s first job out of college was as the Program Coordinator for the University of Washington in Seattle. There she managed the on-to-operation for Student Support Services—a federal TRIO program, which serves over 300 students annually and helps low-income, first-generation students earn their Bachelor’s degree. In her job at the UW, Rhonda often traveled to Washington DC for additional training and became increasingly interested in how legislation is enacted and how public policy regulations are put in place.

In October 2008, Rhonda decided to move to the nation’s capital to expand her horizons. Her last day at UW was on a Friday and she flew to DC the following Sunday to begin her job search. When she returned home for Christmas still without a permanent job, she seriously considered not returning to DC, but ultimately decided to give it another six months. After taking several odd jobs to make ends meet, she got the opportunity of a lifetime when one of the staffing firms for which she was working set her up with an interview for a temporary job at the Center for American Progress—a think tank dedicated to improving the lives of Americans through ideas and action. She was offered the position, and hired permanently in May. She became Special Assistant for Domestic Policy in July 2007. In this position, she worked directly for the Senior Vice President (Cassandra Butts) and provided research and support for the domestic policy team. As the Obama campaign picked up speed during the primaries, she started volunteering countless evening hours and weekends, inspiring others to get involved and helping to raise awareness on the need to vote.

On the Friday after the election, Cassandra Butts, who had left the Center in August to work full-time on the Obama pre-transition effort, asked the talented Rhonda to join her as her assistant on the Obama-Biden Transition Project where she had been tapped (with Sandra) as the General Counsel. As the transition wound down in January, Rhonda was offered the White House job and she gladly accepted. “I have always tried to do the best for my children. To see them both succeed makes me so happy.”

As Rhonda settles into her new position, she looks forward to bringing her mom out for a visit this spring. To see the nation’s capital complete with an “insider’s” White House tour.

While Mooinja was initially nervous about her daughter’s cross-country move, she couldn’t be prouder of the success both her daughters have achieved. “I am so proud of both of my daughters,” stated Mooinja. “I have always tried to do the best for my children. To see them both succeed makes me so happy.”

With an example like Mooinja, the girls were bound to succeed at whatever they put their mind to.