Alcoa layoffs have huge impact on Wenatchee area economy

The New Year delivered a devastating hit to the economy of Wenatchee as 428 workers from the Alcoa Wenatchee Works plant were laid-off on January 5. The layoffs resulted from Alcoa’s decision to “curtail” or idle aluminum production at the Wenatchee plant, along with several other smelters throughout the U.S. that generated $65 billion a year to the U.S. economy.

Alcoa is one of the largest private employers in Wenatchee and provided higher wages than many other jobs since it was a unionized manufacturing plant. As a result, our members and other Alcoa Wenatchee workers gave back both their money and volunteered their time to improve their community – compounding the impact of the layoffs to this region.

Committee fights offloading

The economy after Wenatchee Works has been producing aluminum for 63 years will not easily be replaced. The Unions are also working with the regional economic development groups to explore attracting additional manufacturing companies to the region, but there seems to be little interest in trying to save this once great industry that generated $65 billion a year to the U.S. economy.

For so many, Alcoa has been a family job with multi-generations (see member’s view on page 12). “In the past, shutdowns were called a ‘swing’ so we kept two or three pots liquid. This time none of the smelting pots will be liquid. That means it will be much more expensive, time consuming and difficult to bring the facilities back to operating condition should a restart occur,” said Bailey Olina, who worked 42 years at the plant. “Only a handful of employees will remain until a final decision on the plant is made 15 to 18 months from now.” As one Wenatchee employee noted on his Facebook page, “We basically stripped the plant down to nothing. All that’s missing is the FOR SALE sign out front.”

District 751 wins settlements for workers at Imaginetics

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The Unions are also working with the regional economic development groups to explore attracting additional manufacturing companies to the region, but there seems to be little interest in trying to save this once great industry that generated $65 billion a year to the U.S. economy.

Three workers who were severed from employment during a union organizing drive at an aerospace company in Auburn have been reinstated to their jobs and awarded cash settlements.

The National Labor Relations Board has approved the settlements in a case that started with complaints filed by Machinists Union District Lodge 751 against Imaginetics LLC.

The union filed unfair labor practice complaints against Imaginetics in 2015, after the company let three workers go it believed were taking part in a union organizing effort that started at the Auburn plant in November 2014.

The company brought the workers back about five months later, after District 751 filed the complaint with the NLRB. Lawyers for Imaginetics denied that the workers had been fired as a result of any union involvement, and tried to portray their dismissal and subsequent recall as a temporary layoff – the first in the company’s recent history.

“The company tried to say the timing of the terminations and re-hiring was a coincidence, but this was a pretty clear-cut case of retaliation and attempted intimidation against working people who were exploring their options,” said IAM 751 Organizer Jesse Continued on Page 4

ALCOA WENATCHEE WORKS plant were laid-off on January 5. The layoffs resulted from Alcoa’s decision to “curtail” or idle aluminum production at the Wenatchee plant, along with several other smelters throughout the U.S. including the Intalco smelter in Ferndale, Washington.

Alcoa is one of the largest private employers in Wenatchee and provided higher wages than many other jobs since it was a unionized manufacturing plant. As a result, our members and other Alcoa Wenatchee workers gave back both their money and volunteered their time to improve their community – compounding the impact of the layoffs to this region.

Economists estimate the layoffs will take $60 million annually from the area economy in lost wages, benefits and buying power. The unions that make up the Aluminum Trades Council immediately filed for Trade Adjustment Assistance to provide a better safety net of resources to help the workers. However, the hole left in the area economy after Wenatchee Works has been producing aluminum for 63 years will not easily be replaced.

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The reasons behind the shutdown are also disturbing and two-fold.

Unfair Chinese trade practices play a large role in the decline of the U.S. aluminum industry. In recent years, China has intentionally produced record amounts of aluminum, which caused a world-wide surplus while keeping Chinese factories in production using government subsidies. Lack of environmental and labor standards there have also played a role. These unfair trade practices have caused aluminum prices to collapse and are a big part of the closure of aluminum smelters across the U.S.

Yet there was more than simply China’s policies at play in the demise of this industry that once provided thousands of skilled, middle class jobs across America. There was a conscious decision by the companies to invest outside the U.S. That means each year U.S. plants get a little more dated and behind in technology – making it harder to compete.

“Since the 1980’s no company has invested in their aluminum facilities here

Continued on page 12
March 1 deadline to file 2015 safety shoe reimbursement

At Boeing, don’t forget to apply for your safety shoe reimbursement for your shoes purchased in 2015.

Each year the IAM-Boeing Joint Program offers a non-represented employees an opportunity to file for a reimbursement for their safety shoes purchased that year. March 1 marks the deadline for turning in applications for safety shoe reimbursements for purchases made in 2015.

Applications for 2015 purchase reimbursement received after March 1 will not be accepted. Applications must be accompanied by the ORIGINAL itemized sales receipt. Mail your applications to “HISI – Shoes” at M/C OY-90 (inplant) or to 6840 Fort Dent Way, Suite 250, Tukwila, WA 98188.

Now is also a good time to review the reimbursement guidelines online, and browse the frequently asked questions for any possible changes. IAM-Boeing Joint Program 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) 965-2429 or 425-235-3777, or visit: https://boeing.a.guidespark.com/totalaccess, then Total Compensation > Benefits > My Retirement Benefits.

March 1 deadline to file 2015 safety shoe reimbursement

737 MAX taking flight and fighting the good fight!

Roth VIP option available effective Feb. 1

Effective February 1, 2016, Machinists Union members working at Boeing now have another option in planning for their retirement – the Roth VIP option.

Boeing introduced the Roth VIP option to non-represented employees January 2015, and the Union pushed to have this option also available to our membership. The Roth VIP contribution option could provide additional tax savings, especially for participants who can benefit from years of tax-free, compounded growth or for participants who anticipate their tax rate during their retirement years will be higher than their current tax rate. When distributed, the Roth contributions and any investment earnings are distributed tax free if certain requirements are met.

Both Roth and aftertax contributions are similar because they are made on a before-tax basis. Companies that are a Roth IRA or Roth 401k, are similar because they are made on an after tax basis.

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March 1 deadline to file 2015 safety shoe reimbursement

When I look at the world today, I see that our fights are much the same as his. In 1968, Dr. King said that “most of the poor people in our country are working every day, yet they keep their wages so inadequate that they cannot even begin to function in the mainstream of the economic life of the nation.”

“We look around and see thousands and millions of people making inadequate wages every day,” he continued. “Not only do they work, they buy our products and in our hotels, they work in our laundries, they work in domestic service, and they find themselves underemployed.”

Continued on Page 4
The relentless work by Machinists and SPEEA members on Aerospace Tax Incentive Accountability is finally gaining traction and helping to change the conversation in Olympia. On Jan 19, the House Finance Committee hearing room was filled with members of the two unions who urged legislators to act now to keep more aerospace industry jobs from leaving the state.

The two unions urged lawmakers to pass House Bill 2638, requiring Boeing to keep specified numbers of aerospace jobs in Washington in order to receive the full benefit of the $8.7 billion tax cut the Legislature approved in November 2013.

The tone of the hearing was markedly different than last year as legislators asked for answers of why this job loss occurred. With bi-partisan support, the bill has a better chance to become law. Washington’s Legislators are finally beginning to understand the need to act now to keep even more aerospace industry jobs from leaving the state.

The bill, as written, would require Boeing to give back half of the annual tax break it would otherwise receive should its total statewide employment fall below 79,250 workers. It would have to give back all of it if employment fell below 78,250.

Any money Boeing gave back would be funneled into public schools.

Boeing reported having 79,238 Washington State employees as of Dec. 31, 2015—down by 4,057 people from its employment total on Nov. 9, 2013 when Gov. Jay Inslee signed the bill extending tax breaks.


Boeing has moved more than 4,000 jobs out of state since the tax cut was signed into law. There’s absolutely nothing in the law to discourage the company from shipping even more work away, the Machinists said at the Jan. 19 hearing.

“If the current legislation is left alone,” said IAM 751 President Jon Holden, “we will continue to see our Washington State jobs used as bargaining chips to secure tax incentives elsewhere. Currently, we are the only state that does not have a job requirements tied to our incentives.”

“Let’s not pay Boeing to move more work and jobs to other nations and other states,” added Ira Carstensen, the president of Local E.

Holden led the delegation of Machinists who testified alongside members of SPEEA and other supporters about the impact Boeing’s Washington State jobs cuts are having on their lives and their families.

District 751 supports the use of tax incentives as a tool to maintain and grow.

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Accountability’s a priority for all unions in Olympia

Bills at top of State Labor Council’s ‘Shared Prosperity Agenda’ for Legislature

By DAVID GROVES

Washington State Labor Council

The Washington State Labor Council — the largest union organization representing the interests of more than 600 labor organizations with more than 450,000 members — outlined its 2016 Shared Prosperity Agenda for the Washington Legislature at a Jan. 13 press conference.

“Both the governor’s State of the State speech and the president’s State of the Union address identified the need to help working families get ahead and to strengthen our families so they can meet their basic needs,” said WSLC President Jeff John- son. “Every element of our Shared Prosperity Agenda includes policies to accomplish that and to make sure that working families are healthy and sustainable.”

Four issues in particular were outlined at the press briefing:

AEROSPACE TAX BREAK ACCOUNTABILITY — Chelsea Orvella, Legislative Director for the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace, and Jon Holden, President of the Washington Labor Council, Lodge 751, made the case for ensuring that the nation’s largest corporate tax break — the $8.7 billion aerospace tax preference bill approved in November 2013 — meets its original intent to “maintain and grow Washington’s aerospace workforce” with good-paying jobs.

“Since those tax preferences were extended in 2013, an astonishing 4,057 Boeing jobs have left our state,” Or- vella said. “This job loss is not cyclical. It’s because the company has decided to move those jobs out of state.”

“Other states have required employment guarantees and levels of capital investment in exchange for their incen- tives,” Holden said. “Those states are acting responsi- bly on behalf of their citizens for the tax incentives they grant. Our state needs to be responsible as well. We cannot emphasize enough that in exchange for the biggest tax incentive package in U.S. history, Washington state citizens must receive guaranteed numbers of jobs and wage standards.”

There may be renewed momen- tum for this effort given the Depart- ment of Revenue’s recent decision to more fully disclose the value of these tax breaks for Boeing and other aerospace compa- nies.

LEGAL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS — ACLU Legislative Director Shankar Narayan discussed LFOs — people convicted of crimes support victims, pay fines, prosecution costs, and other penalties — which ac- crue 12 percent interest in Washington, the highest rate of any state in the nation. This creates a cycle of debt that prevents payment of the victims’ principal restitution, erects bar- riers to reentry and rehabilitation, and increases recidivism.

“We have a system that’s unfair and burdensome,” Na- rayan said. “It does not help rehabilitate people. It does not improve public safety. We are essentially renting offenders’ prisons. We are punishing people for being poor.”

He said that in Benton County, more than 20 percent of inmates were there because they couldn’t afford to pay their LFOs.

The ACLU and WSLC support House Bill 1390, which passed the House 94-4 last year, to adopt common- sense court fee reforms to help ex-offenders rein- tegrate in to society, and avoid re-imprisonment due to court debt.

DAIRY FARM SAFETY — Indira Trojo of the United Farm Workers explained that Washington’s dairy farm workers are routinely exposed to dangerous and deadly hazards, yet the industry is exempted from basic

Continued on Page 6

TAKING ACTION and send a note to your legislators urging support of HB 2638. Visit: www.iadam751.org

For more information:

Machinists and other members in the labor community learned about the upcoming Presidential caucus process.

Training for upcoming Presidential caucuses

District 751 held a workshop on Jan. 23 to prepare folks to take an active role in the selection of the Presidential nominee, creating the party platform and influencing Washington State politics.

Washington state’s Presidential Primary on May 24 only determines 50 percent of our Presidential choice in the Democratic party. The remaining 50 percent is determined in the Precinct Caucuses. The Washington Democratic Presidential precinct caucuses are on Saturday, March 26 at 10 a.m. To find out which precinct you live in and where your caucus will be held, check the Democrats website at http://www.wademocrats.org. Information will be posted in the Spring of 2016 as precinct caucus locations are determined.

The Republican party nominating process is no different. The Republican precinct caucuses on Sat. Feb 20 will begin to determine their national delegates, as well as establish the party platform. To find out the location, contact your local GOP organization by visiting www.wagop.org/state-committee and click on the name of your county.

Any registered voter can participate in the caucus and help select the Presidential nominee for your party. Voters support their candidate of choice, with each candidate being awarded the proportion of delegates that corresponds with their percentage of support.
District 751 wins settlements for workers at Imaginetics

Continued from Page 1

Cote. Lawyers and CEO for Imaginetics agreed to the settlement as part of a trial before a federal administrative law judge, which started in November and continued in December.

The settlement allows workers to get a cash settlement to cover the back pay they were owed, the workers also won guarantees making their job more comfortable, an end to subcontracting as part of “At Will” employment—meaning that they will not be fired in the future unless the companydocuments specific problems with their work performance or other evidence they were intentionally trying to harm the company.

The NLRB also ordered Imaginetics managers to post 30 day notices stating that workers have the right to join a union and pledging that the company will not retaliate against workers who show interest in union membership.

“All workers should know their federal rights under the National Labor Relations Act and be diligent in exercising those rights,” said IAM 751 President Jon Holden. “The Machinists Union has a long and proud history of helping all workers’ backs as we continue to help them bring a union to their workplaces.”

Imaginetics, which is owned by Kidd & Co., a Connecticut-based investment fund, employs about 120 people at its plant near Auburn. Workers there生生生s and assemble parts for the Boeing Co.’s 737, 747, 777 and 787 airplanes, as well as a number of Boeing military planes and helicopters. The company also provides parts for other suppliers, including Hsexel Corp., Spirit Aerosystems and Zodiac Aerospace.

Boeing has honored Imaginetics as one of the industry’s top suppliers every year since 2010, which is a strong testament to the quality of its workforce, Cote said.

“These are highly skilled manufacturing workers, and they deserve to be treated as such.”

Under the terms of the settlement, the size of the cash payments to the three Imaginetics workers cannot be disclosed.

But Cote said it was enough to resolve the issues at hand. Similar settlements in previous cases involving other companies have ranged as high as $50,000. Cote said.

The settlement was a definite win for the workers, and the union, Cote said.

“If we wouldn’t have pursued the legal complaint, it’s very possible people would have been rehired, or got back the pay they were due.”

There are real tangible benefits to belonging to a union, Cote said.

“That includes better pay, better health care and retirement benefits and -- as this episode shows -- better protection from intimidation and retaliation in the workplace.”

Casey Barbon, an Imaginetics insulation worker for 12 years’ industry experience — was one of those who was reinstated and received a back pay settlement.

“T’ve always been pro-union, but this experience reinforced that,” Barbon said.

“The sad thing is our country needs more unions, because of stuff like this,” he said. “Managers at companies like Imaginetics need to be held accountable, and be only way to do that is through unions.”

Fired worker got $50,000 in previous case

Scott Clark (l) thanks IAM 751 Organizer Jesse Cote.

Employee is powerless against a large company.

“People should not be afraid of stand- ing up for what is right,” he concluded. “Because right will win.”

Committee fights facilities offloading

Continued from Page 1

That has allowed them to score a lot of smaller wins that, over time, have added up. Sometimes it’s as little as pulling back four hours of work for an in-house sheetmetal worker and sometimes it’s a weeklong project for a carpenter.

All of that adds up to a bigger back-office work that keeps our Facilities Maintenance people busy.

“You’re not always going to be successful, but when managers see you in the room, they know that my intent,” Hiburn said.

“I work around some of the brightest and most-experienced craftspeople we have here,” he said. “There’s no reason somebody else should be doing our work. There’s no reason we can’t do it ourselves.”

Hiburn and Lancaster meet weekly with managers in their areas to go over outsourcing proposals. They push back whenever they can, and have gotten some success in pulling work back.

It’s a challenge, he explained. When Boeing compares the cost of doing the work in-house versus contracting it out, it hasn’t just factored in the wages it pays our electricians or plumbers who actually do the work. Instead, Boeing also adds in a portion of the overhead costs to the Facilities Managers and support staff.

Boeing frequently notes they must subcontract to keep prices down, and managers push workers to their limits – and beyond – in order to meet production deadlines.

Given what was going on, when unionizing volunteers from District 751 came to his door, Clark decided to invite them in to talk about forming a union at TMX. He filled out a form asking for a union election at the plant, and attended one union meeting.

Four days after attending that meeting, he fired.

District 751 took his case to the NLRB, which ruled that the company had violated the union’s rights, and ordered the $50,000 settlement.

Because right will win.

Financial planning workshops scheduled

District 751 members who work at Boeing can learn how to maximize their retirement benefits at a series of free retirement-planning workshops scheduled for early in 2016.

The workshops will cover a range of topics to help you calculate your real post-Boeing income, including:

• Options for your Boeing VIP, potential taxes and penalties;

• Maximizing your Boeing pension options;

• Tax-favored investing and proper asset allocation;

• Creative benefitting techniques and dealing with debt.

The schedule is:

- Everett Union Hall (8729 Airport Road)
  Thu, Feb 18 – 11:30 am-1:30 pm & 2:30-4:30 pm
  Thur, Mar 17 – 11:30 am-1:30 pm & 2:30-4:30 pm

- Seattle Union Hall 9135 15th Pl. S)
  Wed, Mar 23 - Noon - 2 pm & 3 - 5 pm

- Auburn Union Hall (201 S St SW)
  Wed, Feb 17 – 9:30-11:30 am & 2:30-4:30 pm
  Wed, Mar 9 – 9:30-11:30 am & 2:30-4:30 pm

- Renton Union Hall (233 Barnett N)
  Tue, Feb 16 - Noon-2 pm & 3 - 5 pm
  Tue, Mar 15 - Noon-2 pm & 3 - 5 pm

The workshops are offered by Money Management Educators. To reserve a seat, call (888) 223-8311 or e-mail mmpeguestsound@rmeducators.com.

737/MAX taking flight and fighting the good fight!

Continued from Page 2

Unions can – and must – play a key role in correcting that, Dr. King said.

“The labor movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress,” he said in 1965. “Out of its bold struggles, economic and social reform gave birth to unemployment insurance, old-age pensions, government relief for the destitute and, above all, new wage levels that meant not mere survival but a tolerable life.”

Our goal for this year – and every year – should be to continue the work Dr. King started until all working people are free at last from poverty and injustice.

Continued from Page 2

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Our goal for this year – and every year – should be to continue the work Dr. King started until all working people are free at last from poverty and injustice.
Members at Triumph declare “One Equal Team 2016”

In the month of January, District 751 members throughout the state had the opportunity to elect Union stewards in their shop. The voting and election date of January 20 was called out in the new bylaws implemented by outgoing International President Tom Buffenbarger.

District leaders worked hard to outline a fair and organized system to hold what could have been hundreds of elections on the same day. The biggest challenge was trying to establish a clear way to self-nominate, identify voting locations and times for each shop, and determining a correct list of eligible voters for each shop. Boeing continually is moving workers, loaning them to other organizations and e-classing them into other areas, which made getting an accurate eligibility list difficult.

Volunteer tellers were recruited from members not on the ballot to run the elections in the shop, post the notification and count the ballots. As noted in the last AeroMechanic paper, members were required to self-nominate by phone, email, fax or in person at Union Halls between Jan. 4 and before 5 p.m. January 15. Notices couldn’t be posted until all candidates were nominated at the cutoff time, leaving a very short amount of time to post notices where elections would occur.

In the interest of giving every member an opportunity to vote, tellers were instructed to give members not on that shop’s eligibility list a challenged ballot that would be placed in an envelope and eligibility determined later.

The Steward Coordinator conducted investigations to all elections where a challenged ballot could determine the outcome and had them resolved within a week.

In many areas that were without a Steward, members stepped up to serve as Steward – bringing additional representation to the members. We will have 95 more Stewards on the shop floor throughout Puget Sound to enforce the contract, represent membership and challenge management on contract issues – making us stronger going forward.

Additional training classes will be offered so that these new stewards can hit the ground running and most effectively represent the membership.

In the end, the nearly 100 elections went fairly smooth – considering we started from scratch to build a process for such a monumental task. There were a few issues and all are being dealt with. District 751 will make changes to the process going forward based on issues that arose, suggestions from members and input gained from this first time election process.

Elections result in more overall stewards/representation

Machinists seeing red to raise heart awareness

IAM 751 officers and staff will wear red clothing on Feb. 5 as part of a nationwide effort to raise awareness of heart disease, particularly in women.

“Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women,” said Grace Holland, the co-chairwoman of the district’s Women’s Committee. “We need to do more to make sure we’re taking care of ourselves.”

Heart disease affects both men and women, but women who have gone through menopause are more prone to develop it, in part because their body’s production of estrogen stops.

As a result, about one woman in four will die from heart disease, studies show. And two-thirds of women who have heart attacks never fully recover.

To combat this, the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute – which organizes the Wear Red Day campaign nationally – recommends that women speak to their doctors about heart health if they have any of these risk factors:

- High blood pressure
- High cholesterol
- Diabetes
- Smoking
- Being overweight
- Being physically inactive
- Family history of early heart disease
- Being older than 55

If you have one or more of these risk factors, talk to your doctor about improving your heart health. Be open with your doctor, and answer questions truthfully, and make sure your doctor explains treatment options in terms you understand.

Details are available online at www.hearttruth.gov.

Protecting your heart can be as simple as taking brisk walks and eating healthy foods, like vegetables, to maintain a healthy weight, said Women’s Committee Co-chairwoman Denise Bartram. “Wear Red Day is a way for all of us to get started.”

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Members march to remember MLK’s pro-worker legacy

District 751’s Human Rights Committee and many Stewards took part in the annual Martin Luther King Day march and rally in Seattle on Jan. 18. (Photo right) Machinists and their children line up behind the Human Rights Committee banner prior to the march.

King, who would have been 87 this year, is best-known as a civil rights activist, but he also was a strong supporter of labor unions. His last campaign before his assassination was in support of striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tenn.

(Photo below left) Machinists members listen to speakers during the rally, held at Seattle’s Garfield High School.

(Photo below right) Union Stewards Sav Sal and Princie Stewart led the IAM 751 delegation on a march to the Federal Building in downtown Seattle.

Tax Accountability bill gaining momentum

Continued from Page 3

the kind of middle-class jobs that build communities, Holden told the Finance Committee.

But the current aerospace incentives aren’t working, he said. Boeing has moved thousands of jobs out of Washington, even though it is going through a period of “record profits, record deliveries and record production of airplanes.”

Carterman described how Boeing’s decision to move work to Oklahoma has devastated the shop where he works in Kent.

He had been part of a team of six electronics technicians before Boeing sent their work to Oklahoma City, where it is reaping $6 million for “creating” new jobs.

Two of his fellow electronics techs have already lost their jobs, Carterman said, “and two of us were declared ‘surplus’ in November. Next month, the lab will have only two, if nothing changes.”

The engineering team that used to support the electronics lab has been gutted, he said.

“This group was told their jobs would be relocated to Oklahoma City,” Carterman said. “Fourteen of the 15 engineers declined to move. A few found other jobs with Boeing, but the rest left the company.

“In 2003, when the Legislature approved the first tax break for Boeing, worth $3.2 billion, I took the day off work, without pay, to come to Olympia to lobby in support of those tax breaks, because I thought they would provide secure, family-wage, tax-paying jobs,” he said.

“I’m here to tell you that this is about corporate greed, and power,” Carterman continued. “As a union, we cower to no one, but we need our legislators to fight for Washington State, its residents and taxpayers.”

Similarly, Local F President Robley Evans told the panel that Boeing had eliminated 10 percent of the jobs in his shop in Auburn over the past two years. Boeing managers are talking openly about further job cuts this year, he said.

“Boeing broke the deal,” Evans told the lawmakers. “The agreement with the state was to ‘maintain and grow’ our aerospace workforce, and Boeing isn’t doing either one. We need the tax breaks to be tied to job numbers.”

“If Boeing is going to take our tax dollars, it would be appropriate for our state to say we need a certain amount of jobs in order to maintain our schools, our libraries, and our parks,” said 751 Steward Dennis Knowwiter.

“We must have enough of a tax base from the employees at Boeing to maintain these things so everybody would benefit in the community.”

IAM 751 Legislative Director Larry Brown said that Washington State will have to compete to build all future Boeing airplanes. But the state has a huge advantage, because the Legislature has poured hundreds of millions of dollars into workforce training programs.

“You have created programs at the community and technical colleges, funded apprenticeship programs, created a student loan program for the Washington Aerospace Technology and Research Center and increased slots for engineering programs at the state’s public colleges,” Brown noted.

Yet all those training dollars will go to waste if Boeing continues to move work to other states in order to qualify for their tax incentive packages, he said.

“While other states require jobs in exchange for tax breaks, so must we,” Brown said. “Otherwise, we are at a competitive disadvantage.”

Accountability’s a priority for all unions in Olympia

Continued from Page 3

workplace health and safety standards.

“The workers who make Washington’s dairy industry so successful should not have to fear getting injured on a daily basis,” she said.

The UFW, WSLC and their allies support the Dairy Worker Safety Act (House Bill 2484), introduced this week by Rep. Brady Walkinshaw (D-Seattle), which would equip dairy employers, dairy workers, and the Dept. of Labor and Industries with the tools to prevent injuries and death in this growing industry.

MINIMUM WAGE / SICK LEAVE — WSLC Government Affairs Director Joe Kendo said that after three years of unsuccessfully pursuing legislation to raise the state minimum wage and to allow all workers to earn paid sick and safe leave in Olympia, a coalition of unions, faith-based organizations and community groups has introduced a ballot initiative to accomplish those goals.

Given the opposition to these policies in the Republican-controlled Senate, Kendo said, “we decided to go directly to the people” who overwhelmingly support raising these labor standards, according to polls.

This session, the WSLC will be defending against legislative efforts to undermine the progress being made on minimum wage and paid sick leave at the city level. Last year, Republicans introduced legislation to preempt cities from enacting higher minimum wages or paid sick leave ordinances, such as those already approved in Seattle, SeaTac, Tacoma, and now Spokane. This year, they have already proposed allowing businesses to subtract the value of health care benefits and pay a sub-minimum wage.

To learn more about the Washington State Labor Council’s 2016 Shared Prosperity Agenda, go online at www.TheStand.org
Union volunteers make our communities better

Members of the Machinists Volunteer Program at District 751 ended 2015 by volunteering at the Northwest Harvest warehouse in Kent on Dec. 29, where they helped sort and bag pasta to be distributed through food banks throughout Western Washington. (Photo Right) Volunteers pose after bagging 3,240 pounds of pasta that equals 2,492 meals.

(Below left) Jan Mathison, Chris Black, Jon Holden, Margie Pernell and Marieka Pernell seal the pasta bags.

(Below right) Union Steward Cliff Standfill and his son, Cody Standfill (also a member) package the pasta into family size portions.

IAM 751 Machinists volunteer to help others

Union Steward Mike Hill prepares breakfast at the Everett Gospel Mission.

Rob Curran and retired volunteer George Braun prepare to serve breakfast at The Rescue Mission in Tacoma.

L to R: MVPs Cliff Balka, Joseph Hubach and Jason Armstrong prepared breakfast at the Everett Gospel Mission recently.

MVPs did a road cleanup in Auburn. L to R: Sid Murphy, Rob Curran, Terri Myette, Clark Fromong and Brenda Reamner (not pictured).
Nominations and elections shall be made for the Grand Lodge Convention Delegates and Grand Lodge Convention Alternate Delegates as described in the table below. Nominations will be at each Local Lodge business meeting in April, June, Aug, and Oct. and elections in each first Local Lodge meeting in May 2016, pursuant to Article II, of the IAM Constitution.

**NOMINATION QUALIFICATIONS:**

In Local Lodges 751-E, 86, 1951, and 1123, a nominee shall be required to have attended at least 50 percent of the Local Lodge meetings during the 12-month period ending the date of the close of nominations (per requirements of the Local bylaws).

In Local Lodges 751-A, 751-C, and 751-F, candidates are encouraged to have attended at least 50 percent of the Local Lodge meetings during the 12-month period ending the date of the close of nominations.

According to the IAM Constitution, delegates to the Grand Lodge Convention must be a member of the Local Lodge or of a Local Lodge affiliated with District 751 or should have some form of nomination. This qualification shall not be required of a member working at the trade transferred to a Local Lodge with the approval of the International President or Executive Council.

Every delegate to the Convention of the Grand Lodge shall be free from delinquencies of any nature to the Grand Lodge, District or Local Lodge of the IAM, and at the time of nomination and for six months after nomination at the trade working at the trade that shall not apply to members who are current full-time employees of any Local Lodge, District Lodge or Grand Lodge, a council, conference, the AFL-CIO or the Central Labor Council, nor shall it apply to members who experienced a layoff during the 6-month period prior thereto, or to members who have been unable to obtain employment at the trade because of a strike, lockout, discrimination or temporary physical disability or to members who are retired on pension and paying full dues, whether or not they hold a retirement card or an exemption card.

**NOMINEES ACCEPTANCE:**

All nominees must be made from the floor by a member in good standing. All nominees, who are nominated at the meeting, sign an acceptance card or letter for the position nominated for, and it must be returned to the Recording Secretary of their Local before the close of that meeting. Members not present at nominating meeting may have their names placed in nomination only if a member nominates them from the floor who, in turn, submits a letter to the candidate, signifying the candidate’s acceptance of the nomination to the office, to the Recording Secretary at the nominating meeting. The letter must set forth the candidate’s name and card number with candidate’s personal handwritten signature. (NOTE: since it must be signed, e-mail notification is not accepted.)

**ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE:**

All members in good standing, whose dues are paid through the month of March, 2016 or retired Union members, are eligible to vote in their respective Local Lodge election.

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS:**

Absentee ballots are issued in accordance with the IAM Constitution (you can use form above). Any member entitled to receive an absentee ballot (per reasons listed on form) shall make a written request, stating the reason. Such request must be mailed singly or personally delivered by the member requesting the absentee ballot no later than 10 days before the election. For Local 751, C, E & F direct absentee ballot requests to: District Secretary-Treasurer, 9125 15th Pl. S., Seattle, WA 98108 or personally deliver to one of the following officers: Auburn: 201 A Street SW; Everett: 8729 Airport Road; Renton: 233 Burnett N; Seattle: 9125 15th Pl. S. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. NOTE: at Auburn, Everett & Renton halls are closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m. For Local 86, 1123 and 1951: Mail or deliver absentee ballots requests to: IAM & AW Ballot Request, 4226 E. Mission, Spokane, WA 99202. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed for lunch from 12 to 1 p.m.

Members can pick up a copy of their Local Lodge bylaws or the IAM Constitution. If you have questions regarding the election, call Secretary-Treasurer Susan Palmer on 1-800-763-1301, ext. 3310.
The meeting was called to order by President Jackie Boschok. John Guevarra led the prayer which was followed by the flag salute and God Bless America.

President Jackie Boschok suspended the regular order of business. She announced Mike Lough resigned from the Sergeant-at-Arms position. She then opened up nominations for the position. Vennie Murphy was nominated and elected by acclamation. District President Jon Holden swore in the new officers.

Roll Call of Officers: All officers were present or excused.

Minutes: The October and November meeting minutes were approved.

Financial Report: Tom Lux gave the report that included a year end wrap up of expenses. The report was M/S/P.

Health and Welfare: Tom Lux gave the report. A moment of silence was observed for the following deceased IAM 751 retirees: Rose C. Badillo, Horace Bolton, Eunice Hazelton, Richard Hendrie, Michael A. Johnson, and Timothy Timmons. Sympathy cards were sent to the next of kin.

Legislative Report: Carl Schwartz reported the state legislature started their 2016 session today. With an almost even division between Democrats and Republicans, not much agreement can be expected. We do expect some minor adjustments on the state budget and hope issues of concern to seniors will receive a positive response.

Senior Lobby Day will be Monday, February 25. The District will arrange for transportation to the event (see box below).

Join us for Senior Lobby Day – Feb. 25

Join other retirees in visiting legislators in Olympia on Thursday, Feb. 25 for 2016 Senior Lobby Day. There are two locations to catch the bus:
• Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the 751 Seattle Union Hall (9135 19th Pk S). Bus leaves at 7 a.m.
• Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Lakewood Grocery Outlet (11011 Pacific Hwy SW, Lakewood, exit 127 off I-5). Registration will be paid for 751 Retirement Club members and associate members. Others are welcome to attend at a cost of $15. Please RSVP to Jackie Boschok at 206-890-1009 or email jackiebchoschk@hotmail.com.

Continental breakfast provided in Olympia. Lunch box lunch provided at noon. Bus leaves Olympia no later than 3 p.m. This is your chance to talk to state legislators about issues of importance to seniors and workers.

Executive Board Report: Tom Lux read the following motions from the Executive Board:
1. Motion to send up to four members to the ARA Western Regional Conference in Las Vegas on March 8-9 with airfare, hotel and expenses approved by the Executive Board and I so move. M/S/P.
2. Motion to spend $300 dollars for a $100 bonus for the three IAM 751 maintenance employees to thank them for all they do to support our Club was approved by the Executive Board and I so move. M/S/P.
3. Motion to spend $300 dollars for the ten months of $10.00 per Fred Meyer gift card and two months of $100. Gift cards for the attendance door prizes of 2016 and I so move. M/S/P.

President’s Report: Jackie Boschok read the following motions that were approved by the Executive Board:
1. Motion to approve the agenda for the March meeting. M/S/P.
2. Motion to let the new Retiree Department Director (Edward Manhart) continue on with his task that pays $20 per month. M/S/P.
3. Motion to let Jackie know of any information that needs to be shared with the new leadership.

Legislative Report: Carl Schwartz reported the Group Health & Benefits Representative. Jon thanked the club for being one of the best in the country and for their involvement in senior issues.

Health & Benefits Report: Rod Sigvartson noted it had been an honor to serve in the office since May and he looks forward to continuing to help the members of IAM 751. Carl Schwartz asked if Rod had any recommendation about the Group Health/Kaiser vote in March. He replied he would do some research and report back at the February meeting.

Legislative Report: Carl Schwartz reported the ARA will have a Legislative breakfast on Thursday, Feb. 25 for 2016 Senior Lobby Day. The goal is to talk to state legislators about issues of importance to seniors and workers.

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2016 IAM Scholarship Open

The IAM Scholarship Competition is open each year to members of the IAM and their children throughout the United States and Canada. Awards to members are $2,000 per academic year. They are granted for a specific period from one to four years leading to a bachelor’s degree or a two-year vocational/technical certification.

Awards to Children of Members:

College: $1,000 per academic year. All awards are renewable each year, but a bachelor’s degree must be completed within a maximum of four years, whichever occurs first.

Vocational/Technical School: $2,000 per vocational certification, if reached for a maximum of two years, whichever occurs first.

Eligibility for Competition:

Any IAM member, or:

• an IAM member, or

• the son, daughter, stepchild or legally adopted child of an IAM member.

By visiting www.goiam.org/iamscholarship.

AD RULES

Each ad must be 25 words or less. Use a separate piece of paper or ad blank for each ad, as they are pre-classified physically. Ads are free only to members, active, retired, or in mourning. For best response, include phone number. Members’ “cottage industries” will be OK in ads, but no commercial. When using classified paper for ads, include information required on regular ad blank.

Deadline For Next Issue

Feb. 16th

David Clark 110-40 HEAD SET w/new pads, telex P200 push-to-talk. Pilot flight case. A2/C flight manuals and extras. $150. 218-341-6366

Dog crate Bay Isle model 1810. Polyethylene rattan, for dogs 26x40x19. Slide out may for cleaning. $50 252-852-2154

Lapidary Equipment – Pixie 6 wheel 6 grnder $800. 70s Fast-Ette machine $800. Jeweler’s lathe (show line) w/attachments $1,000. Lots of watch repair tools and misc. parts. 425-736-3263

GPS – Portable (TOM TOM) like new (barely used) make offer. refurbished $150. 252-550-9526

Quitting 4 Year Leather Craft Hobby. Over $5,000 value. Hundreds of stamps, craft aids, hardware, tools, spray gun, leather craft kits, much more. $2,500 425-353-0135

HOME FOR RENT DES MOINES, WA. 4 bedroom, 2 full bath, rambler, large yard, big deck. 2 car garage. $1,700/month incl. utilities. More info: 425-327-2514


ZIPPER 4 MOBILITY SCOOTER, battery, basket, etc. Breaks down to 3 parts. $200. 253-247-8993

3 WHEEL WALKIE WALKER drive rollator expands 16” to 25” Goodbrakes. $180 to $32.
Big carry bag removable. $40. 425-255-0839

20 AC ACRE View of Lake Roose- volt. Great hunting All private 20 acres tracts surrounding. Power at road. Blowout! $35,000. 253-218-5545

20 TWO ACRE FOREST LAND PARCELS FOR SALE on Anderson Island. Property is located next to Anderson Is- land Park with Beach Access. Standing timber, Douglas Fir, Ponderosa Pine. Priced for quick selling. For Sale by Owner 253-861-8372

Epoch Prodigy electric trailer brake control. You re- ceived a list of 12 things to watch for in 2016. Be ready. $89. 253-879-2519

OPPOSITIVE MEMBERSHIP Spring Good Vehicles COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

MINITUR TOWNE comfi aptd, in- male puppy two months old. Pretty trained on your command. Loves to play. Very loving and playful. $500. 361-691-5890

AUTOS PARTS & ACCESSORIES


1970 to 1972 CHEVELLE used & new parts. Ask me what parts you need. Too many to list. 425-358-2068 TEXT ONLY

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

WANT A FUTSY HOUSE KEEPER? Call Barbara at Beeffy House Keep- ing in the late afternoon. Works mon- tues and Fri. 417-702-5135. BUY - SELL - CLOSE: Call your real es- tate professional Von Provo at 425-359-0165 or email at vonji@skylinelproperties.com

You want the best NATURAL NUTRITION- AL SUPPLEMENTS you can get. No competitor has a more trusted name in the industry than Shaklee. Call lee at 206-819-7923.

ELECTRONICS & ENTERTAINMENT

ANTEQUE STREET LIGHT 20 inch alumi- num reflector, hangs 80 inches pole on steel brackets. Night time activated. Would make a nice security night light. Also 5 other outside lights available with $80.00 206-243-1278

DIGITAL CANON EOS 20D DIGITAL, EF-S 17-85 IS USM L, also Pen- talon Spheric ASAHE Made in Ger- many. $1,400. 253-861-6918

3 WHEELIE WALKIE WALKER drive rollator expands 16” to 25”. Good Brakes. $180 to $32. Big carry bag removable. $40. 425-255-0839

FURNITURE

MOVING MUST SELL table & six chairs. $350.00. Table has two leaves. Also included are two wooden chairs. All are in excellent con- dition. Must. See email at: kraisnem42@yahoo.com for price. 253-927-6912

NEW 2.900 SQ FT FRAME HOME on 10 acres 5 miles NE of Colville, WA. Valley & mountain views. Big shop, call for more info. 425-327-2514

Housing

NEW 2.900 SQ FT FRAME HOME on 10 acres 5 miles NE of Colville, WA. Valley & mountain views. Big shop, call for more info. 425-327-2514

2015 Retirement Club minutes

Continued from page 9

encouraged attendance at a rally in Seattle on Jan. 12 to protest against TPP. Good & Welfare: Carl Schwartz added a motion related to the Senior Lobby Day. M/S/P

There was discussion about Retirement Club members who are also IAMA members. Jackie said it will be determined later who will pay for those who are members of both organizations. Mike Keller spoke about Medicare. He said 25 states already have Right-To-Work legislation. We must keep that from happening in our state. He also spoke about ways to avoid falls at home. Hip and head injuries are the most common medical emergencies for seniors. Social Security is not in danger, but there will be no COLA in 2016. Jim said we need to get involved and vote because elections matter.

TJ Seibert also spoke about the convention and reported how to protect yourself against health care scams. He received a list of 12 things to watch for including always reading your Medicare summary statement to check for errors. John Guerard said to check with your doctor about prescriptions and vitamins, including the importance of vitamin D.

Mike Keller spoke about Medicare fraud. He gave a handout and noticed errors on their Medicare summary. Vennie Murphy thanked the Club for sending him to the convention and said he discovered that Walgreens offer no co-pay for some drugs so you might want to check with them on their co-pay.

Daily & New Business: None.

Building Anns: Joe Pinces celebrated a birthday and T.J. and Mary Seibert celebrated an anniversary.

The Fred Meyer gift card was won by TJ Seibert.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.
FINANCIAL $ENSE: Surprise! Social Security is changing

If you’ve ever attended a surprise party you know there’s a certain order to it. It typically starts when the door opens and everyone yells “SURPRISE!” at the unsuspecting honoree. The November budget compromise between Congress and the President put the party elements in reverse order – they yelled “surprise” then closed the door.

The “surprise” came in the form of new legislation that will “close the door” on some popular Social Security claiming strategies. These changes will provoke dismay from some individuals and a sigh of relief from others. Please keep in mind, this article seeks to simplify a very complex topic. Be sure to explore your options thoroughly.

First things first: People age 70 or older, or those who will be in 2016, will not be impacted by this legislation. Anyone 66 or over, and not yet 70, should reevaluate current claiming strategies before April 30, 2016. Let’s discuss the policy changes that could impact your choices when claiming a Social Security benefit.

Reforming opportunities for “double dipping”

Congress described the changes to Social Security as “closing unintended loopholes” in order to protect the solvency of the overall Social Security system. The new law will remove a small number of claiming strategies that could have resulted in cumulatively higher benefits for some people under the old law.

Disappearing claiming strategies

Filing a restricted application – Under the old law, individuals who had reached full retirement age were given an option to apply for one benefit, and retain the ability to switch to another at a later date. For example, it was possible to claim only a benefit based on your spouse’s earnings, and later claim a retirement benefit based on your own earnings. Under the new law, you can’t restrict your application to the benefit you want; instead, you must take the highest available benefit. The new rules apply to people who are not 62 by the end of 2015. Individuals 62 and over are “grandfathered” and can still use the old rules when they reach full retirement age.

File and suspend – You can still file for benefits, suspend taking them, and earn delayed retirement credits to get a higher benefit later. But under the new law, your spouse will be unable to collect benefits based on your earnings record, while suspending your own benefit. There is a very short window of opportunity – if you have reached full retirement age or will reach it by April 30, 2016, then you

You might feel appropriate arriving “fashionably late” to a party, but arrive early to this one – the Social Security Administration is a stickler for punctuality. Being locked out could have significant implications to your retirement lifestyle.

Proudly serving the IAMAW for over 25 years.

This article was written by Wells Fargo Advisors and provided courtesy of Scott Wealth Management Group in Portland, OR at 1-800-923-6399 or www.scottwealthmgmt.com.

Knowing your options and correctly claiming benefits could result in tens of thousands of additional dollars over a lifetime. At Wells Fargo Advisors, we have access to robust software that can help analyze many of the Social Security benefit scenarios available.

You might feel appropriate arriving “fashionably late” to a party, but arrive early to this one – the Social Security Administration is a stickler for punctuality. Being locked out could have significant implications to your retirement lifestyle.

Local F President Robley Evans (r) administers the oath of office to Local F Officers Luizane Chiv and Shane Van Pelt.

Aerial Machinists Inc. meets March 8, 2016

Aeronautical Machinists Inc., which owns and operates the Union’s buildings and property, will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, March 8 in the District Council chambers at the Seattle Union Hall (9125 15th Pl. S.) immediately following the 5:30 p.m. District Council meeting.

Every member of a Local Lodge affiliated with District 751 can vote on the business at the Aeronautical Machinists Inc meeting.

Office of the President

Local F and E Officers administrate the oath of office.

Officers take the oath of office to start new year

District President Jon Holden (r) administers the oath of office to Local F officers (L to R): Robley Evans, Christine Fullerton, Torri Myette, Dorothy Crace, Jill Saunders, Terry Castle, Charles Cesnati, Gina Fountain, Denise Strike.

Local F President Robley Evans (r) administers the oath of office to Local F Officers Luizane Chiv and Shane Van Pelt.

Photo Above (L to R): IAM-Boeing Joint Programs Co-Director Ron Bradley administers the oath of office to Local F Officers Jay Carterman, Roy Wilkinson, Lee Verfaille, Hainz Perry and Bruce McFarland.

Photo Left: IAM-Boeing Joint Programs Co-Director Ron Bradley administers the oath of office to Local F Officers Guerdon Ellis, Travis Oney, John Cowin, Ross Venker, and Al Gibson.

Aerospace Machinists Inc. meets March 8, 2016

Aeronautical Machinists Inc., which owns and operates the Union’s buildings and property, will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, March 8 in the District Council chambers at the Seattle Union Hall (9125 15th Pl. S.) immediately following the 5:30 p.m. District Council meeting.

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February 2016

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TITAN AEROMECANIC

WEALTH MANAGEMENT GROUP

of Wells Fargo Advisors

can still take advantage of the “old” rules by filing and suspending your benefits – but you must do so by April 3, 2016.

Lump-sum reinstatement – Under the “old” rules, people who chose to file and suspend could later change their mind and retroactively recover the unpaid amounts during suspension. This is no longer possible under the new rules. You can retain your ability to retroactively recover benefits but you must reach full retirement age, file for benefits, and suspend them by April 30, 2016.

What should you do now?

If you filed a restricted application, or chose to file and suspend, before the new law was enacted, you can continue to enjoy the benefits of those claiming strategies under the “old” rules. Even if you are already receiving benefits, you have an opportunity to re-evaluate whether suspension could benefit you.

The recent budget compromise may have shut the door on some popular claiming strategies, but many other planning opportunities still exist.

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February 5, 1830 was the first daily labor paper, the NY Daily Sentinel

Seattle General Strike February 6 thru February 11, 1919

February 15, 1901 - 64 miners die, Cumberland, BC Comox

February 26, 1977 – Vancouver Island’s first Coal Miners Union

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Local F and E Officers administrate the oath of office.

February 26, 1877 – Vancouver Island’s first Coal Miners Union

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Local F and E Officers administrate the oath of office.
Members at Triumph declare “One Equal Team 2016”

Continued from page 5

Spokane. The Northwest is home to a very unique workforce and employees here have a great work ethic, are motivated and strive to improve their contribution to their employer by being willing to be flexible,” Rick added. “We possess the talent to produce the finest quality aerospace parts in the world.” All we are asking of Triumph Group is respect, recognition and the reward we have earned.”

“I feel the committee has been very determined and cohesive in planning, educating, and mobilizing the shop for this contract,” said Don Munter, who works third shift at the plant. “I appreciate the proactive approach and personal visits from Jon Holden and district officials that have occurred during the last year.”

Alcoa layoffs have huge impact on Wenatchee area economy

Continued from page 1

In the U.S. instead, these companies have been closing or moving in foreign countries that have no environmental or labor standards,” said Bailey. “It used to be Alcoa Aluminum of America but now they are simply Alcoa Inc. and claim to be a global leader.”

Alcoa on its website confirms that being part of a global organization since 1990 they have invested more than $1 billion in China and now have 15 operating entities in China manufacturing and selling products made of aluminium and titanium. Had the same money and energy been invested in U.S. facilities, the outcome would be very different.

Factories around the world lack the quality control measures that have been ingrained in our U.S. factories. The primary aluminum material we produce has always been the highest quality – making them better for use in various products,” Bailey added. “You might not care about the quality in a pop can, but you do in an airplane or automobile.”

Long term, if U.S. capacity remains reduced and continues to lose aerospace, defense, automotive, machine tools and appliances will suffer from availability and pricing – not to mention quality. Our country should not have to depend on other countries for raw materials for these important industries – especially in defense and aerospace.

The smelter closings come after Alcoa announced a multibillion dollar supply contract with Boeing valued at more than $2.5 billion in Dec. 2015 which means the products for Boeing will come from outside the U.S.

The decline of the aluminum industry parallels much of what happened to our steel industry.

“It is frustrating that no one seems to care that the U.S. is losing this critical industry,” said Bailey. “The announcement comes on the news, but no one pays attention or tries to take action.”

In the past aluminum smelting was a multi-billion dollar industry for Washington’s economy. In the 1980s, 40 percent of the U.S. aluminum came from Washington State. In the 1980s, 40 percent of the U.S. aluminum came from Washington State. In the 1980s, 40 percent of the U.S. aluminum came from Washington State.

It is hard to imagine the impact of the loss of 428 good paying jobs with the benefits and the health contributions for so many of our members, Alcoa was a part of their family – with multiple generations working at the plant.

Rod Avey

“Alcoa has always been a part of my family. My dad went to work there in 1954 and raised four kids with Alcoa money. He retired in 1984,” said Rod Avey. “I have been working there 24 years. My brother and many cousins also worked there.”

“Now at age 61, I’m looking for a new job and will be hard to find another job in the valley that pays what Alcoa does – some places are close,” Rod added. “A few years back I tried to get my son to apply at Alcoa, but he felt there was no future. Apparently, his feeling was right. We were all suspicious when they announced Alcoa was dividing into two companies. Not too long after that they announced they were closing the smelters. It has impacted a lot of families here. I think the worst remains to be seen.”

Adam Focht

Adam Focht was born in Leavenworth, lived most of his life in East Wenatchee, and worked at Alcoa for the past 10 years. “I’m a millwright mechanic so I’m trying to get extra training and certifications to find something in this field. Once Trade Adjustment Assistance is approved, I hope it will help others chart a path to a new career. The biggest challenge will be once they get training, do they stay here or do they have to move to find work,” said Adam. “This goes beyond the 400+ people laid off from Alcoa. I heard the railroad has laid off 700 people and delivery services are laying off workers so there is a ripple effect that impacts so many others.”

Machinists Union member Rod Avey pictured with his father several years back combined to put in 54 years at the Wenatchee Works plant. For Rod, Alcoa has always been a part of his family.

“When the automotive industry was hurting, our government helped them out. But the U.S. automotive industry didn’t return the favor to the American people and buy American aluminum to build their cars and keep our jobs here,” Adam added. “I bought a Ford car because they didn’t take help when their industry was hurting. That meant something. When Alcoa got a huge contract with Ford, I was shocked Ford didn’t make a deal to say we want U.S. alumnum not Chinese aluminum for our trucks.”

“Alcoa and other companies invested all their money overseas, which set us up to fail,” Adam added. “Even with 360 years old technology, we made some of the highest grade aluminum that brought top dollar. That was a group effort and a testament to the skills and dedication of our workers and how we make aluminum. You should want our workers and how we make aluminum. You should want the top grade aluminum like we produced if you’re making airplanes, defense products or cars.”

Tie Morrison

Tie Morrison has only worked at Alcoa Wenatchee Works for 8 years, he grew up in nearby Peshastin and has known generations of families that worked and retired from the plant. At age 61 he is not as worried about his future, but the future of the younger workers.

“Our paycheck doesn’t get too far out of town and speaks on the whole community so it’s very unfortunate in that regard and will have a huge impact on our economy,” said Tie. “My concern is for the younger members. I hope they go back to school using TAA and gain a trade or credentials because without them it is a very tough job market.”

“For the older workers, age discrimination is a concern,” Tie added. “I had completed an apprenticeship at the sawmill in Winton before coming to Alcoa. As a journeyman millwright machinist, I’ll find work.”

Jim O’Brien

Jim O’Brien had 34 years at the plant and many family members connected to Alcoa. His father, who passed away in 1983, worked at the plant for 17 years. His brother and some cousins worked there and his daughter had worked there in the past. “My son was also working at the plant and was laid-off in January,” said Jim. “There has always been at least one other family member working at Alcoa. That speaks to the strength of these jobs in the community and the huge impact the layoffs will have in this region.”

It is hard to imagine the impact of the loss of 428 good paying jobs with the benefits and the health contributions for so many of our members, Alcoa was a part of their family – with multiple generations working at the plant.

Rod Avey

“Alcoa has always been a part of my family. My dad went to work there in 1954 and raised four kids with Alcoa money. He retired in 1984,” said Rod Avey. “I have been working there 24 years. My brother and many cousins also worked there.”

“Now at age 61, I’m looking for a new job and will be hard to find another job in the valley that pays what Alcoa does – some places are close,” Rod added. “A few years back I tried to get my son to apply at Alcoa, but he felt there was no future. Apparently, his feeling was right. We were all suspicious when they announced Alcoa was dividing into two companies. Not too long after that they announced they were closing the smelters. It has impacted a lot of families here. I think the worst remains to be seen.”

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The Triumph in-plant negotiating committee provides a good cross section of the factory representing all three shifts and the various work groups. Front Row L-R: Jon Holden, John Warren, Ida Auckerman, Sl Mai, Brenda Burton, Jerry Womblee, Rick Olson, Don Munter. Top Row L-R: Helen Evans, Suzie Bellino, Jerry Purser, Bob Six, Ken Howard, Gary Swartz, Tony Wade and Steve Warren. 