You Have the Right to Union Representation

Security interviews and meetings with management can be frightening. Even if you have done nothing wrong, members faced with one or more of these experienced questioners will often feel intimidated or nervous. What you should know is that federal law gives Union members rights in these interviews. Recently, Union Business Reps reported several members were unaware of their right to request Union representation. This article is designed to help educate members on their rights in such instances. In 1975, the Supreme Court ruled that an employee has the right to be accompanied by a union representative when being questioned by the employer regarding an issue that may lead to discipline. This is often referred to as “Weingarten Rights” and was named after one of the parties in the case. Union members working at any company that has union representation are guaranteed this right under federal law.

While you have this right to representation, the National Labor Relations Act does not require an employer to inform Continued page 5 you.

Dental Open Enrollment at Boeing Extended to June 29

Boeing has agreed to extend until June 29 the open enrollment period during which IAM members in Washington, Oregon, California and Kansas can change dental plans or enroll if not currently enrolled. This applies to members of Districts 751, W24 and 70 for dental benefits that take effect on July 1, and gives you extra time to make your selection.

You can expect to hear more about dental coverage in June, which will help you in making informed coverage decisions. If you have already made your selection and wish to change it before the end of the extended enrollment period, please call Boeing Total Access at 1-866-473-2016. You will need your BEMSID and your Total Access password available.

Agreement Reached on IAM Incentive Plan at Boeing

When IAM members at Boeing ratified the contract extension last December, it included the outline for an incentive pay program. Since then a committee of both union and company representatives have been meeting regularly to finalize the specifics on the plan.

Working together, the IAM and Boeing have agreed upon the structure of that program – the Aerospace Machinists Performance Program (AMPP). This program will give employees represented by IAM Districts 751, W24 and 70 an opportunity to share in Boeing’s financial success.

“Our top goal was to ensure this plan paid out for the commitment our members make every day. We emphasized the targets had to be obtainable so members see the value in participating and striving to continually improve performance,” said District 751 President Tom Wroblewski. “This gives members an opportunity to take more control of the shop and their work processes, give them more input on workplace decisions while sharing in the added success they help to create.”

Stewards and first-line supervisors will be presenting additional information on the plan in crew meetings during mid-June. As outlined in the contract extension summary, the plan measures performance on safety, quality and productivity.

• For the 2012 program period, which begins June 29 and runs through Dec. 27, a payment of up to 4 percent would be made based on earnings from June 22 through Dec. 20, 2012. Targets reflect a half-year performance period. AMPP payouts from 2012 targets would be made no later than the Feb. 21, 2013, paycheck.
• All employees covered by the program will be paid the same percentage payout.
• Employees have access to a website that includes regular progress updates on the AMPP, information on the metrics used to measure performance, a link to ask questions, as well as a tool to help estimate payouts.
• Payouts from the program will be between 0 and 4 percent of eligible earnings in one-tenth increments.
• Safety, quality and productivity will be measured independently, and performance in each measure will be rolled up into one payout percentage.
• Therefore, improvement in only one measure would still generate a payout. Improvements in all three would be rolled up into one payout percentage.
• Total payout will be weighted as follows: safety 20 Continued page 5

Negotiations at Hytek Enter Into Mediation

The two sides met with the mediator on May 23. Additional sessions are set for June 6 and June 21.

Hytek Finishes, is a subsidiary of Bellevue-based Esterline Corp. The workers perform critical metal finishing and plating on aerospace parts. Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Bell Helicopters are major customers, and Hytek is an important supplier for the Pentagon’s Joint Strike Fighter.

The workers at Hytek voted by a 2-to-1 margin in August to join District 751, and talks on a first contract started in October. Cummings said some progress has been made at the table in the past month. The two sides have come to terms on language covering holidays and leaves of absence, and are closer to an agreement on improvements to paid vacation.

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Jason Bielhner (l), a machinists at Hytek, talks with IAM Grand Lodge Rep Kevin Cummings outside the Hytek plant in Kent.

District President Tom Wroblewski and Admin. Assistant Jim Bearden review plans for the Aerospace Machinists Performance Program.

Banking on Sales

Delegates lobby to preserve Export-Import Bank, which helps finance overseas airplane sales

Inflation Protection

COLA in Boeing contract generates 1% effective June 1

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Aero Mechanic

Published by the World’s Finest Workers

VOL. 67 NO. 5 JUNE 2012
Effective June 1, 2012, a 19 cent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will be added to the hourly wage rate for IAM members at Boeing. The 19 cents was generated for the quarter February, March and April 2012. COLA is designed to protect your paycheck by adding extra money to protect your families from losing ground to inflation. COLA is different from general wage increases, which are designed to raise your standard of living. Without COLA, if your pay stays the same when prices rise for food, gas and other essentials, your standard of living and your purchasing power goes down.

The chart below shows a brief history of COLA in the IAM/Boeing contract. Over the past 20 years, our COLA language has resulted in $6.77 of your current base rate, with 19¢ being carried as floating COLA since the last fold-in last September. Current COLA is being carried as floating COLA since the last fold-in last September. COLA has been earned in the previous year becomes a permanent part of your base rate and “folded” into your base wages. COLA may be added or subtracted from your base rate depending on the CPI fluctuations each quarter if there was a previous COLA float. However, once COLA is folded into your base rate each September, no negative can be subtracted from the accumulated COLA (see Section 6-4.c). A negative COLA can never go below the COLA already earned since the last September fold-in so when COLA generated negative numbers throughout 2009 and 2010, no money was subtracted from your paycheck since there was no previous COLA float during that time. COLA raises have made important contributions to our members’ wages. When gas prices rise and trigger other price increases, the quarterly COLA is essential to ensure we do not lose buying power,” said District President Tom Wroblewski.
**COPE Conference Determines Workers’ Candidates**

Stressing his working-class roots and commitment to a progressive economic agenda, Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jay Inslee thanked Washington’s labor unions for their support on May 5. “All labor has dignity,” Inslee said, quoting Dr. Martin Luther King. “It’s time we have a governor who understands that.”

Inslee was the kick-off speaker when the Washington State Labor Council’s Committee on Political Education met to decide on which candidates to endorse in the 2012 elections.

More than 400 delegates from unions across the state attended the convention, which District 751 hosted at the Seattle Union Hall.

Before the convention even started, Inslee had won the backing of the state’s labor unions in his race against conservative Republican Rob McKenna.

Inslee’s record in Congress shows he understands issues important to working people in Washington, said Larry Brown, District 751’s Legislative Director. “He has demonstrated a commitment to family wage jobs, developing an economy through investing in workforce education and developing sustainable clean industries,” Brown said. “His opponent has done none of that.”

At the Political Education committee’s convention, Inslee said economic issues would be his priority as governor. “What you are about, I am about,” he told the union delegates. “Job creation is my No. 1 priority.”

Inslee said there are two competing theories about how to grow an economy. Advocates of the “low road,” he said, believe you can somehow create prosperity by cutting workers’ wages, benefits and retirement plans and eliminating their collective bargaining rights.

He vowed to take a “high road” instead in investing public money in education and workforce development to ensure Washington companies have the most skilled workers and the best-educated workforce, which will allow them to compete and win worldwide — and in the process create high-wage jobs that can drive local economies.

Machinists Delegates applaud Inslee’s commitment to family-wage jobs. The annual Council on Political Education (COPE) conference brought union members from across the state together to determine candidate endorsements.

**Legislative Conference Lobbies for Ex-Im Bank**

Hundreds of IAM members and activists gathered in Washington, DC, in May for the 2012 Legislative Conference.

The annual conference — which involves four days of legislative planning and grassroots lobbying on Capitol Hill — focused on an array of topics including countering Republican and corporate attacks on unions, collective bargaining rights, immigration and voter suppression laws.

In its 75-year history and in over a decade, the IAM National Legislative Conference focused on something other than the Air Force air refueling tanker. With the tanker contract in hand and those jobs secured, the main work of our delegation of Machinists from District 751 instead was to secure passage of the Export-Import Bank reauthorization bill.

The Ex-Im Bank plays a very important role in the sale of Boeing aircraft to foreign customers and creates thousands of jobs in Washington State. Your union was asking both the House and the Senate to take immediate action to prevent the expiration of the authority of the Bank to secure sales.

We informed members of Congress that the U.S. Ex-Im Bank supports manufacturing jobs here at home with loan guarantees for the export of products made by U.S. workers. Nationwide, the National Association of Manufacturers estimates the Ex-Im Bank helps create 229,000 manufacturing jobs in America.

Congress needed to approve the Bank’s loan guarantee authority immediately and to give it adequate funding to ensure that the growing demands for planes and other U.S. built products could be financed.

There are members of Congress (none from Washington) who believe that there is no place for government in granting loan guarantees for the financing of U.S. built products and the jobs they produce. It is undeniable that our foreign competitors are doing the same thing and they would gladly take the jobs from American workers if we refused to fund the Ex-Im Bank. The most ludicrous aspect of this argument is the fact that the loan guarantees made by the Ex-Im Bank have returned a nice little profit for the U.S. taxpayer.

Thankfully, reason prevailed and the reauthorization has passed both the Senate, the House and now awaits the President’s signature. Once again, your legislative committee comes home with jobs for our members.

“Senator Cantwell invited us all to the Capitol while she was voting on getting the Ex-Im bank reauthorization passed,” said Local B Legislative Chair Roy Wilkinson. “We usually meet in her office. It shows what kind of pull we have in politics.”

IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger said the bottom line to winning the war on working and middle-class families is politics. “We can’t organize healthcare workers without having laws that make that possible,” said Buffenbarger during his opening day keynote address. “We can’t do anything for our members in the airline industry unless we have the laws to make it possible. We can’t represent workers in any industry we want to organize if we don’t have the laws to work in our favor. That’s why we bring everybody in this time of year to go to work on Capitol Hill.”

Speakers included Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH); Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH); Rep. Joe Donnelly (D-IN); Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-OH); Rep. George Miller (D-CA); House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA); Hilda Solis, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor; Charles Cook, Editor and Publisher of the Cook Political Report and Timothy Keating, Senior Vice President of Government Operations for Boeing, among others.

“I’ve never seen in my 38 years here, a more comprehensive and better-funded campaign against organized labor,” said Miller in his remarks regarding recent House Republican attempts to defund the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). “The Republican party has been overtaken by a radical, anti-government, anti-worker ideology. These ideologies do not believe that economic freedom for working families lies in the freedom to organize. They don’t believe in the social foundations that have made this country strong and powerful.”

President Buffenbarger also spoke about the significance of immigration reform. “Maybe you don’t know what to think about it. Maybe you think stricter immigration laws are the way this country ought to go,” said Buffenbarger. “But immigration reform is now simply...Continued on page 4
District 751 is actively involved in the Washington Aerospace Partnership and the Governor’s Council on Aerospace to help grow aerospace jobs in this state.

Retirees Meet with Larsen

By Carl Schwartz
Retired Club Legislative Chair

On Tuesday, May 21st a group of our Retired Club members met with Congressman Rick Larsen of the second Congressional District in our Everett Union Hall.

We discussed some of the concerns that we have about Social Security and Medicare. Representative Larsen agreed with us that the “cap” on taxed earnings for Social Security should be increased or eliminated and that the Social Security retirement age should not be raised.

We noted that letting senior workers retire opens jobs for recent school graduates.

Larsen noted that the Social Security program is sound, is not facing any crisis, and with minor adjustments will be funded well into the future.

Larsen also noted that with the expiration of the Bush tax rates at the end of this year major tax revisions will take place and hopefully a new fairer tax structure will be enacted.

We discussed some of the Medicare provisions and our hope that the so-called doughnut hole (which is an area of uncovered medical expenses) would be eliminated.

We are glad that Congressman Larsen met with us and that he responded favorably to our concerns.

Retirees who met with Larsen were Retired Club members Carl Schwartz, Tom Lux, Lois Holton, Arlis Hust, Jose Gongora, Karl Knust, Garth Lauterkin, and Dick Eisenbarth.

Legislative Conference

Lobbies for Ex-Im Bank

Continued from page 3

Vote suppression. And that isn’t suppressing the vote of some immigrant who found their way into this country, legally or illegally. They’re coming after you. “It’s so important that we stay vigilant because anything we negotiate can be taken away through legislation,” said Local A President Wilson “Fergie” Ferguson. “The right wing is attacking all the things that pull people out of poverty – unions, Social Security and Medicare. The politicians on the left don’t have the political will or backbone to stand up to them so it defaults to us.”

“All of Congress definitely knew the Machinists were in town!” said Local 86 Legislative Chair Gary Swartz.

751 continues role in growing aerospace here

751 delegates from across the state helped decide which candidates would be endorsed by the Washington State Labor Council at the COPE Convention on May 5.

COPE Conference Determines Workers’ Candidates

Continued from page 3

After a morning of speeches from candidates, the Washington State Labor Council convention concluded with union endorsements, and then voting on, whom to endorse.

District 751 was represented by a group of 42 delegates who were chosen by their Local Lodges on both sides of the Cascades. They endorsed candidates who had been interviewed by the District’s Legislative Committee, which is also made up of shop-floor members who are elected to represent their Local Lodges.

Union endorsements are worth more than just money, said District 751 President Tom Wroblewski.

“We invest our time and energy,” he said. “We knock on doors, we hand-deliver fliers and we make personal calls to our friends to remind them to get out and vote. That’s what makes a labor endorsement valuable to a candidate — and that’s why our opponents fear us.”

District 751 President Tom Wroblewski (2nd from right) and 751 Legislative Director Larry Brown (far right) met in May with Alex Pietsch (Governor’s Director of the Office of Aerospace). SPEEA’s Stan Sorscher and Washington Aerospace Partnership co-chair Bob Drewel to discuss Boeing’s plan for the 777X. District 751 is actively involved in the Washington Aerospace Partnership and the Governor’s Council on Aerospace to help grow aerospace jobs in this state.
Talks Begin on Second Contract for Woodinville Employees

Contract talks began in May between the city of Woodinville management and city workers represented by the Machinists Union.

“We feel negotiations started in a positive direction,” said Jon Holden, the District 751 Business Rep who leads the union bargaining team. “We’ve been able to reach several tentative agreements on specific articles in the contract.”

Based on input from members, the union negotiators are looking for a contract that would not only improve job security, but also the quality of life for workers.

The Woodinville negotiating team includes District 751 Business Rep Richard Jackson and staff members Jesse Cote and Ed Logan.

You’ve Got a Right to Union Representation

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an employee of his/her Weingarten rights.

It’s Your Right

Every member should carry an “It’s Your Right” card, which explains their Weingarten Rights. Keep the card in your wallet or badge holder so it is convenient should you need it. You can obtain these cards at any Union office or from a Steward. As soon as a member knows he or she is going to be questioned by security or by a supervisor about something that might lead to discipline, the member should immediately ask to have a Union steward present. If no union representation is in the room when questioning begins, the member should again ask for a Union Steward.

To make it easier, the member can simply hand over the “It’s Your Right” card, which says it all.

Supervision must contact a Steward from another area if the area Steward is not available. A Steward, as a representative of the union, has the same right as other members to be present when a question is asked. A Steward, as a representative of the union, has the same right as other members to be present when a question is asked. A Steward, as a representative of the union, has the same right as other members to be present when a question is asked.

It’s just a matter of staying strong.

Along with Holden and Braun, the Woodinville negotiating team includes District 751 Business Rep Richard Jackson and staff members Jesse Cote and Ed Logan.

Tips to Remember

Below are guidelines to remember in such an interview. A member should:

• Request union representation at all security or disciplinary meetings.

• Listen to the questions asked. If a member does not understand a question, the member should ask the questioner to explain it.

• Only give information the member knows.

Accurate answers can get members into trouble. “I don’t know” or “I don’t remember” are legitimate answers.

• Never sign a written statement summarizing the interview without reading it. A member will usually be held to signed statements.

• Never sign a written statement that does not accurately state what the member said during the interview. A member should explain what is wrong with the document and sign it only after changes are made. This is an exception to the “obey now, grieve later” rule.

Again, every Union member has the right to request Union representation. Unlike Miranda rights, another landmark Supreme Court case, Weingarten does not guarantee the right to have a union representative present. So get the card from your Steward or Union hall and keep the “It’s Your Right” card handy in case you find yourself in this situation. Remember, it’s your right as a Union member so don’t hesitate to use it.

I AM/Bolino Apprenticeships Offer Future Career Path

When you see the word “Apprenticeship,” it may call up images of a dirty, old-fashioned job in a dark factory setting. Times have changed though, and so have apprenticeships.

An I AM/Bolino apprenticeship features real work, on-the-job work assignments under the instruction of qualified employees. It includes mandatory off-hour trade related classroom instruction in specific highly skilled trades. Apprenticeship differs from other training by not limiting the training to a single objective. The program instructs the apprentice in a wide range of equipment, processes, and operations.

Apprenticeships offered through the I AM/Bolino Joint Apprenticeship Program in Pequot Sound are challenging, exciting and fast paced. The 10 fields of apprenticeship include NC Spart Mill Operator, Industrial Electronics Maintenance Technician, and Composite Manufacturing Technician, just to name a few. Even more exciting is that the starting wage for an apprentice at Boeing is more than $27 an hour!

It’s not an easy path to follow; however, it takes commitment and dedication. Apprenticeship programs offered at Boeing are four or five years in length and include a 20 percent probation period at the start of each program. Apprentices may work first and second shift on a rotating schedule. Off-hour instruction requires 160 unpaid classroom hours per school year.

The skills of a graduate apprentice are consistently in high demand by industry. Learning trade skills is only part of an apprenticeship program. You will also learn to think for yourself, to work with and cooperate with other workers and to develop learning skills that can be applied to any other form of education.

Graduate apprentices are certified as Journey Level Craftsperson in their selected trades by the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers, and the Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council. This certification is recognized throughout the United States and in most parts of the world.

Start preparing now for an exciting career in your future. I AM/Bolino Joint Programs Career Advisors are available to help current and eligible laid off Boeing employees who are interested in pursuing an apprenticeship.

Visit the I AM/Bolino Joint Apprenticeship website at http://apprenticeship.web.boeing.com/ for an official “prep packet” and for notification of openings. Future candidates will need to apply through Boeing Global Staffing (BESS). Requirements are planned to open for new apprentices in mid to late June, 2012.

Agreement Reached on IAM Incentive Plan at Boeing

Continued on page 1

percent; quality 30 percent; productivity 50 percent.

Future more information on AMPP; including 2012 targets, answers to frequently asked questions, a link to ask questions and status on progress as the year goes on, prior to June 15 visit; http://boeing.com/ampp, after June 15 go to: http://iam.boeing.com/AMPP.
Curran Honored in Pierce County

District 751 Machinist Rob Curran has been honored by the Pierce County Central Labor Council with its top award for community service.

Council President Vance Lelli recently presented Curran with the council’s George Ginnis Memorial Community Service Award. The award is given in the name of Ginnis, a long-time Tacoma longshoreman who was a dedicated union officer and tireless community volunteer. It is presented by the council to a Pierce County union member who does the most to support community service activities and embodies the values that Ginnis lived by.

Curran was a natural choice for the award, said Patty Rose, the Pierce County Labor Council’s Secretary-Treasurer. “Just look at your own AeroMechanic newspaper to see all that he does in our communities.”

Curran, who lives in Graham, was particularly active as a volunteer for the Tacoma Rescue Mission. He donated 350 hours of his time to preparing and serving meals for homeless people at the mission in 2011, and also was one of the leaders of a District 751 food drive that collected 58 turkeys, seven hams and $1,458 to allow the mission to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners.

The holiday meal drive was a classic example of what Curran and his fellow members of the Machinists Volunteer Program are all about, said District 751 President Tom Wroblewski. “Rob and the others saw a need and acted.” Wroblewski said. “They didn’t want to be asked. That kind of community service really is something to admire.”

Curran also spent 140 hours volunteering at Northwest Harvest’s warehouse in Kent, where he helped sort and package food that is distributed to food banks in Pierce County and around western Washington. He also took part in Tacoma Connect’s homeless outreach program, and was an active volunteer raising money for Guide Dogs of America.

In all, Curran was credited with giving 708 hours of his own time to volunteer service in 2011. This is the third time this year that Curran, who lives in Graham, has been honored for his community service. In February, the White House honored Curran with a gold-level President’s Volunteer Service Award, the nation’s top honor for community service. And in March, District 751’s MVP Committee honored him as the top volunteer among the union’s officers.

Machinists Lead Drive that Collects 2 Tons of Peanut Butter for Food Banks

Hungry Pierce County residents – particularly PB&J-loving children – will eat a little bit better this summer thanks to members of District 751 and other local unions.

The Pierce County Central Labor Council recently donated nearly 2 tons of peanut butter to the Emergency Food Network in Pierce County, all of it collected by members of unions affiliated with the council.

The peanut butter – 2,031 jars weighing a precisely tabulated 3,004 pounds – will be distributed through the 67 food banks, hot meal sites and shelters that the Emergency Food Network supports countywide.

District 751 was the top donor organization for the peanut butter drive. Members collected 552 jars, or 27 percent of the total.

Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are an American staple, but peanut butter has been disappearing from food bank shelves this year, said Patty Rose, who is the Pierce County Labor Council’s Sec-Treasurer. “They actually haven’t had peanut butter in the food banks since the federal government stopped giving it to them.”

But peanut butter is an essential source of protein for many people and children in particular, said David Henry, Local 751-C’s recording secretary, who spearheaded the union’s effort. “Peanut butter is something every kid will eat,” he said. “It’s a simple way to provide good nutrition, and it’s something that food banks really need – especially as we get closer to summer, when the low-income kids who have been getting free lunches at school won’t have access to that one good meal each day.”

Last year, the Pierce County Central Labor Council collected 173 jars of peanut butter for the Emergency Food Network, but this year’s drive far surpassed that, despite the jump in prices, Rose said.

Machinists Offer Helping Hands Throughout the Community

Helping at the Paine Field Postal Station with the Letter Carriers’ Food Drive in May L to R: Brian Pelland, Mark Hartman, Belinda Swank, Karlyn Swank and Lindsey Swank. Dan Swank and Chris Louie also helped at this location. Members helping at other postal stations, included Bob Nesbit, Mark Ryan and his son Anthony Ryan.

L to R: Rob Curran, George Braun and Tom Lindberg bag rice at the Northwest Harvest Warehouse in Kent.

751 volunteers helped prepare meals at the Everett Mission on May 13 L to R: Noel Naranjo, Dee Dee Oen and Chris Louie.

Kim Lavender (r) thanks Dave Henry after he installed a handrail for his husband who was medically laid-off and required a railing to be steady enough to get down the stairs.

Chris Louie fills cupcake tins at the Tacoma Rescue Mission.
Emerging Leaders Conference Energizes New Members

The next generation of Washington state union leaders came together recently to learn more about the ties between the labor movement’s past – and present. Seven District 751 Machinists were among the activists from more than 25 unions, community organizations and colleges who took part in the second Washington Young Emerging Labor Leaders conference.

“The group – which calls itself ‘WA YELL’ – is an effort by the Washington State Labor Council to get young adults involved in the labor movement, and broader social justice causes.”

“It was mind-blowing, to me,” said Gabrielle Rogano, one of the District 751 representatives. “I liked what everybody had to say when they came together, about how they’re spreading the word about how we are the 99 percent, and how crazy it is out in the world.”

Along with Rogano, The Machinists who attended were Kent Christian, Kevin Karnes, Jason Schmelzer, Susanna Thomas, Robert Villegas and Roman Yarosh.

The conference was April 13-14 at the Georgetown campus of South Seattle Community College.

The conference participants learned about the Bread & Roses Strike of 1912 and the lessons from the past that apply today, particularly in the areas of labor rights and immigrant rights.

They then worked on a float commemorating the 100th anniversary of the strike. That float was part of the 2012 Immigrants Rights May Day March in Seattle, and was also displayed at the Northwest Folklife Festival in Seattle over Memorial Day weekend.

Sarzynski Honored for Life Saving Action

A District 751 Union Steward who works for Boeing in Everett has been honored for her quick actions that helped save the life of a co-worker. Recently, Rachel Sarzynski received a plaque from the chief of Boeing’s Fire Department, Danny Johnson, for her “selfless service and quick response.”

Two other Boeing employees who work with Sarzynski were also recognized.

“It says a lot about the people of Boeing and the Boeing family that so many people were willing to step up to help one of their co-workers in need,” Johnson said.

The three of them were honored for their actions. One of their co-workers had a seizure and collapsed on Nov. 21, 2011. When Sarzynski and the others went to his aid, they discovered that his tongue had slipped back in his mouth and was blocking his airway, slowly suffocating him.

While others called Boeing’s Fire Department for assistance, Sarzynski did her part.

“I got his tongue out of the way so he could resume breathing, and held him until the Fire Department got there,” she said. “It was crazy.”

The quick response by Sarzynski and the others made all the difference, Johnson said.

For her part, Sarzynski downplayed her role. “I just did what they teach us to do,” she said.

But District 751 officers disagreed.

“A lot of people sit through safety training at Boeing,” said Everett Business Rep Jason Redrup, who attended the award presentation.

“But it’s one thing to just sit there,” Redrup continued. “It’s a whole other thing to really learn these life-saving techniques well enough to be able to put them into action in an emergency. That’s what Rachel did, and it saved someone’s life.”

Negotiations at Hytek Enter Into Mediation

Continued from page 1

benefits and on a better system for raises, he said.

But on the key issues – health insurance, safety and pay – the two sides remain far apart, Cummings said.

Hytek workers now are saddled with an insurance plan that forces them to pay as much as $5,200 a year out of pocket for health care, Cummings said. “It bankrupts as many people as it benefits.”

The Machinists at Hytek said improving those benefits is a priority for them, and the bargaining team has offered several alternatives that would improve their health care benefits without raising Hytek’s costs, Cummings said. The union has even proposed an alternative that would have cut the company’s benefit costs by as much as 10 percent.

Hytek has refused to consider any of the options, Cummings said. Management’s response was “we’d rather have a strike than fix the medical.”

And while some progress has been made on pay, Hytek management continues to try to misclassify many of their workers, in an effort to keep their pay low and avoid paying fair market wages, Cummings said.

“They’re ignoring the skills our members bring to the table,” he said. “They’re comparing precision aerospace processors and specialists with house and bridge painters, who paint with rollers and brushes. They might as well just survey their Facebook friends.”

The difference in pay between these skilled workers and production workers is about $5 an hour, Cummings said, citing data from the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, which tracks local wage rates.

“It’s in everybody’s best interest – the customers, the shareholders, managers and especially our members – to get this resolved,” Cummings said. “The only ones who benefit from dragging this out are Eisterline’s lawyers. I’d rather see that money go to the workers and shareholders.”
Participants in the Local F Unity Bowl had fun to spare, but the real winner was the Machinists Non-Partisan Political League (MNPL). The event raised $6,400 for the Union’s political arm.

Nearly every bowler took home a prize. Prizes were given to the top two teams. First place team was comprised of Steve Johnson, Steve Reid, Scott Groby, Ron Baker, and Dennis Hoppe, while the second place team was Nelson Apostol, Paul Marcello, Desiree Barnett, Willis Roth and Rick Quintana (see photos below). "We tried" trophies went to Jeff Rose, Addy Rose, Beth Fromong, Tricia Fromong and Denise Mount.

Participants got the chance to bowl a strike when their name was drawn to win a $50 VISA gift card. This added a bit more excitement to the game. Thanks to Mitchell Christian and Paul Velkamp who organized the event and to all the sponsors and volunteers that ensured it was a day of fun for everyone.

Thank you to Mitchell Christian and Paul Velkamp who organized the event and to all the sponsors and volunteers that ensured it was a day of fun for everyone.

As a result, the Renton Patch site is now regularly publishing Machinists News blog items about union activities in King County, and editors of the Patch sites for Redmond and Bonney Lake-Sumner have also published Machinists News blog items on topics of interest to readers in their communities as well.

"We’re trying all kinds of ways to get the word out to our communities about what our union does and what it stands for," said District 751 President Tom Wroblewski. "I’m glad that the Patch.com editors see that our union doesn’t just make news every few years when the Boeing contract expires, but that we’re out there every day trying to make life better for our members and our neighbors."
Retiree Conference Activates Seniors for Fall Elections

by John Guevarra

Several hundred retiree activists gathered in Las Vegas for an educational and invigorating Western-Southern Regional IAM Retiree Conference. 751 was well represented with Lois Holton, Darrell Wallis, Lucia Ramirez, John Guevarra, Helen Lowe, Mike Keller, Jim Hutchinson, Diane Bloedow, Tom Lux, Ron McGaha. 751 Business Rep Don Clemens, A. Buchanan, J. Clemons, D. Buchanan, L. Charloth, and B. Edwards.

The conference kicked off with a viewing of the Scrap the Cap video, a rap skit featuring 751 retiree Ron McGaha, that brought down the house with laughter. The video showed seniors moving in with their son because of proposed cuts to Social Security.

Notices have been sent out and Carl encouraged everyone to read them. The conference featured a number of dynamic speakers including IAM member and Colorado Republican Laura Richardson, who is a legislative power for workers – especially women on the job. She pointed out that women’s pay is still 77% versus men’s $1 for the same job.

IAM General Vice President Mark Blotner reported on a current strike at Lockheed Martin in Texas. Senior members there voted to strike even though they were getting a good deal so they could help the new hires because the proposal would have established a two-tier retirement system. Union members care about new employees’ rights and will fight for them.

Director Matt McKinnon emphasized the importance of supporting political action to protect all workers. We all need to understand why we are involved and that right-to-work laws create second-class workers.

In addition to covering health care and retirement issues, speakers also discussed safety on the job, apprenticeships, continuing education, and reviewed labor history and noted the correlation between the growth of unions and the growth of the middle class.

Executive Director for Alliance for Retired Americans Ed Coyle was concerned about new employees’ rights and what impressed them at the conference.

T.J. and Carl Schwartz both spoke about Al Wydick, a good person and T.J. went to Roy’s memorial. T.J. said he missed his friend and that right-to-work laws create second-class workers.

May Retired Club Meeting Minutes

by Ruth Render

The meeting was called to order by President T.J. Seibert on May 14.

Roll Call of Officers: All officers were present.

Minutes: The April meeting minutes were approved.

Financial Report: The April expense report was accepted.

Communications: Ruth Render read a card received from Helen Lowe thanking the Retiree Club for sending her to the IAM&W Machinists Union Retiree Regional Conference in Las Vegas, NV.

Health & Welfare: Helen Pompeos reported the good health of the membership. A moment of silence was observed for the following deceased members: Ivo Bannister, Claudia Bierstedt, Harold Lewallen, David Michel, Lui Nguyen, Sarah Parke, Terry Petzer, Roy Scott, Lucylde Stender, J.J. Swartzwelder, Richard Ulrich, John Wise, Sr., Al Wydick. Sympathy cards were sent to the next of kin.

T.J. Seibert said he worked with Roy Scott, he was a good person and T.J. went to Roy’s memorial. T.J. said that Roy was also a union steward when he worked at Boeing.

T.J. and Carl Schwartz both spoke about Al Wydick stating how much he meant to them.

Business Rep report: Seattle Business Representative Ernest McCarthy gave the report. Legislative Report: Carl Schwartz gave the report. Several Retiree Club members attended the IAM&W Machinists Union Retiree Regional Conference in Las Vegas, NV in late April. Carl asked each of them to give a brief report. Helen Lowe, Jim Hutchins, Mike Keller and John Guevarra each spoke about what they learned and what impressed them at the conference.

Carl reminded everyone that the District 751 Retiree Conference pertaining to Social Security and Medicare will take place Monday, June 11. Ron McGaha and Tom Lux along with the Retiree Club committee and officers are working to make it a successful conference. Notices have been sent out and Carl encouraged everyone to attend and to bring a friend.

Our state’s political calendar is moving forward.
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Guide Dog Charity Golf Tournament: July 15

The 21st annual Guide Dogs of America Charity Golf Tournament will be on Sunday, July 15 at Willows Run Golf Course in Redmond. The annual event is sponsored by District 751, and is a fundraiser for Guide Dogs of America.

One workshop discussed the issue of voting. The conference was very informative, said Tom Lux, treasurer for the club. "The plan is to show por- trauma. The plan is to show por-

Petunia Putt Motorcycle Ride June 16

Puppy Putt 10, District 751’s annual motorcycle fundraiser to benefit charity, has been scheduled for June 16. The event will feature two groups of riders, one leaving from Sound Harley-Davidson, at 16212 Snoopy Lake Blvd. in Lynnwood, and the other from North- west Harley-Davidson at 8000 Freedom Lane NE in Lacey.

The eighth annual Bill Baker Memo- ry, along with $100 for each person on
tohold gun. The win-

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Steel & Wheel Car Show - Saturday, Aug. 11

The eighth annual Bill Baker Memo-

May Retired Club Business Meeting Minutes

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Tom Lux helped out at the registration table at the conference in Las Vegas.

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newspapers in all communities on labor views and issues concerning social and economic justice.

"The conference was very informa-
tive. A lot of points were brought out that we have to get across to the public so they have to reinforce the message and get involved," said Jim Hutchins. "I was also impressed with the number of members from 751 who paid their own way to attend and get involved."

One workshop discussed the issue of bridging the gap between our young members and seasoned/mature members. The younger members got a chance to question the seniors. Questions included why do we need unions and what is the value of a Strike? These are questions that have been asked before but it was good to see younger members wanting to find out about these things.

Ron McGaha encouraged seniors to write letters to elected officials, as well as newspapers, to promote “Scrap the Cap” on Social Security.

“They brought up good points about educating seniors and how to talk to younger people about the issues, said Mike Keller. “There was great input on how to get seniors out to vote. We have to go to war with the pen - write your legislators because those who have the gold make the rules unless they hear from you.”

Margaret! 

Happy Birthday.

Birthdays & Anniversaries: The following celebrated birthdays in May: Helen Miller and Dean Dickinson. There were no anniversaries. The club sang Happy Birthday.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Mike Keller suggested reimbursing President Seibert for his gavel and would prefer to keep it. Then Ron McGaha made a motion for the club to buy a gavel. It was MSNP to purchase a gavel for the club.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn at 11:50 p.m. MSNP
Local 1123 Officers Examine Workers’ Comp Changes

Officers from Local Lodge 1123 in Wenatchee took advantage of a seminar in May that explained the dramatic changes in Washington State’s workers’ compensation system.

Local Lodge 1123 Conductor/Sentinel Adam Focht and Bailey Olin, the Lodge’s Recording Secretary and delegate to the Wenatchee Aluminum Trades Council, attended the seminar on behalf of the local. “It was great that Local 1123 took the initiative to send some officers to the seminar,” said Eastern Washington Business Rep Steve Warren, who also attended. “The changes are pretty significant, and it’s important for us as union officers to understand them, so we can help the general membership.”

The Washington State Labor Council and Project Help sponsored the Wenatchee seminar. Speakers spent a lot of time focused on the new “structured settlements,” Warren said.

Last year, lawmakers in Olympia passed legislation that dramatically changed Washington’s comp system.

The biggest change was the legalization of structured settlements, also known as “compromise-and-release” buyouts. Under these settlements, employers can negotiate with injured workers to pay a series of lump-sum payments to settle claims. This is an alternative to the traditional settlement that pays injured workers ongoing benefits. Structured settlements are only for injured workers who are over threshold ages that are spelled out in the law.

The seminar explained in detail the process for negotiating a structured settlement, should workers opt for the lump sum payment.

Organized labor in Washington aggressively opposed the legislation that allowed for structured settlements. However, now that it has become the law, it’s in the best interests of unions to learn how this new system will work, so that union officers can help preserve the rights and protect the interests of union members injured on the job.

The seminar featured presentations from various perspectives and gave participants an overall picture of the new structured settlement options. Organizations that made presentations on the conference included:

- The Washington State Labor Council;
- The state’s Self-Insured Ombudsman’s Office;
- The state’s Department of Labor & Industries;
- The state’s Board of Industrial Insurance;
- The Washington State Association for Justice; and
- Project Help.

Project Help is a cooperative effort between the Washington State Labor Council, the business community and the state’s Labor & Industries department. Its goal is facilitating early and successful resolution of workers’ comp claims.

If you need help with a workers’ comp claim, you can call Project Help at (800) 255-9752.