Preparing for Negotiations Is No Small Task

The leadership of District Lodge 751 has been planning and preparing for the 2005 contract negotiations with the Boeing Company. Led by District President Mark Blondin, the staff and Business Representatives have been meeting to develop strategies for a successful approach to these negotiations.

President Blondin has appointed a separate communications and planning group. Each week this group meets to further develop the communications plan for these negotiations. While the planning is in the final stages of development, one of the components include communications training for key union personnel.

Members have indicated they prefer face-to-face communication so they can give direct input and get answers to their questions. This has proven to be more effective than other forms of communication and will be one that we use throughout the negotiation process.

The Union has tallied the returned health care surveys and are reviewing the data to help formulate our health care proposal. A second survey, asking members to prioritize specific items within categories will be distributed in March through the Union Stewards. If you do not have a Steward, you can pick up a copy of the survey at any of the Union offices. A comment page will be included. Members are encouraged to use the page to expand on their top issues and provide direction to the Union negotiators.

This year, these negotiations are critical to your future, the future of our Union and the Company’s future. Our Union will be prepared to meet the challenge. Stay tuned for future events and opportunities in which you can participate. Your input and help is vital for our success. The April Aero Mechanic paper will provide details on our strategy and important dates for the negotiations.

More Health Care Meetings

The IAM/Boeing Joint Committee on Health Care Cost and Quality met again in February. This committee is comprised of Union and Company representatives and is the first of several planned meetings for the year.

COLA Generates 6¢ for March 4

Effective March 4, 2005 a 6 cent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will be added to the hourly wage rate for IAM members at Boeing bringing the total COLA gain under the current contract to 79 cents. The new 6 cents was generated for the quarter November, December, 2004 and January, 2005.

I AM Optimistic about Wichita Sale

Boeing announced on February 22, 2005 the sale of their Wichita, Kansas and Tulsa, Oklahoma plants to Onex Corp.

“The IAM plans to work closely with Onex Corp. to ensure that Wichita remains the center of a vibrant aircraft industry for decades to come,” said IAM President Tom Buffenbarger, following the announcement that Boeing’s commercial aircraft operation in Wichita, KS would be sold to Toronto-based Onex Corp.

District 751 President Mark Blondin noted, “We will continue to support the

Continued on page 2
by Mark Blondin, District President

The Union continues preparation for the upcoming negotiations with Boeing. We have had several preliminary meetings with top executives to clarify our position and begin dialogue on our issues. It is still very early in the process, but I am confident we will obtain a fair contract that addresses membership issues.

I want to thank each of you who took the time to fill out the health care survey. The second contract survey will ask you to prioritize items within a specific issue (such as retirement). That will be distributed in March. Along with that survey form, you will get a comment sheet for additional input and suggestions. I would encourage each of you to use that to give direct input to the negotiators. We are most effective when we hear from you and have a clear understanding of your concerns.

There will be at least one more survey following the one in March asking more specific questions based on your earlier responses. Again, the more active role you take in the negotiation process, the more successful we will be at the bargaining table.

With the average age of our members at 50 years old, increasing pensions will most certainly be a top issue. The Union will also be pushing to increase the Company match on the Voluntary Investment Plan (VIP), which generates additional retirement income for our members.

About 65 percent of our members are currently contributing the maximum percentage to VIP and taking full advantage of the Company’s matching fund to bolster their 401K. Unfortunately, nearly 20 percent of our members do not participate in the VIP at all.

In 2003, we left about $16 million in company matching funds on the table because members were not taking advantage of this benefit. While we cannot make people participate in the VIP, they should be aware of this benefit and realize just how much potential money they have never met anyone so caring. He said he was always there for me and have never met anyone so caring. He said he was always there for me and

Joan sat me down and told me they were going to do this. They were great about it and had a clear understanding of your concerns.

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Joan sat me down and told me they were going to do this. They were great about it and promised I would have their full support.

When Jocko returned to work after getting a procedure done to help with dialysis, Jim told him, “I have O negative blood. If we can make it work, I will donate my kidney.”

He added, “The hardest part was telling my parents I was going to do this. They were great about it and proud I was helping someone. I want to extend a special thanks to my wife Cathy and stepdaughters Sandra and Christina for their love and support throughout all of this.”

Jim had multiple tests to identify he was a match, including mixing their blood to make sure the blood would not attack each other. Once they had a green light, they scheduled the surgery.

Jocko declared, “Jim is amazing. I have never met anyone so caring. He said he was always there for me and would come down to my area to see how I was doing. When he decided to over a year. Dialysis was a last resort and he couldn’t stand the weather and even water tasted bad because his kidneys were failing. He went in Christmas Eve 2003 for his first dialysis.

“Once I got on the machine, I appreciated it. I felt like superman, but the machine totally drained you,” noted Jocko.

Since then, every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday Jocko has undergone dialysis. He would go in at 6:30 a.m., get home around 11 a.m., grab a couple of hours of sleep, then report to the Auburn plant for work on second shift. The surgery went well for both, and they are on the road to recovery. Jim even attended the Union’s District Council meeting on February 22. He was greeted with a standing ovation for his selfless act.

Jocko joked that his only worry was that his biker friends might give him a nickname like “spare parts.”

Jim encouraged others to consider giving this gift of life. He noted when his good friend Union Steward Tom Comeau, who worked on the Renton Flight Line, was seriously injured after a car turned in front of him on his motorcycle, he felt helpless because he couldn’t do anything. Tom underwent numerous brain surgeries and other challenges, but Jim could only offer moral support. When he heard about Jocko, he saw an opportunity to make a difference for someone and did.

For more information on becoming a living donor, call 1-800-622-9010 or visit www.livingdonors.org.

Health Care Presentations at March Meetings

Representatives from the Boeing medical plans will be available at the March Local Lodge meetings to answer questions about various plans before this year’s open enrollment in May.
Early Discussions Continue on Health Care Benefits

Continued from page 1

tatives. They are exploring ways to in-crease members’ satisfaction with the value of their health care benefits. These meetings are not part of the formal negotia-tions, but for the most part everyone on the committee will also be a part of the negotiation process.

Health care inflation costs are rising at double digit rates and over three times the rate of inflation of the overall economy. The Joint Committee is ex-ploring alternatives that could possibly lower the cost of health care without sacrificing the quality. They have also focused on the issues that drive up the cost of our care. These issues include appropriate emergency room usage and a better understanding and utilization of mail order prescription opportunities.

The committee discussed new trends in health care. Cost and quality are es-sential elements to ensure our members continue to have the health care they deserve. Quality of care is an important tool to fight these rising costs. For exam-ple, today, the average patient has a 50 percent chance of getting the right care, the first time would help con-serve the company the additional time and saves the company the additional cost of our care. They are leaving our shores, we’re encour-aged by Onex’s willingness to invest in a showcase U.S. industry,” said Anderson.

This version of the 777 extends the range by more than 1,500 nautical miles, which will allow airlines to service non-stop routes such as New York-Singapore at full passenger capacity and carry rev-enue cargo. The 777-200LR can carry 301 passengers up to 18,420 nautical miles.

Our members and other Boeing em-ployees played a big role in the delivery and were applauded by Lars Andersen, Vice President of 777 Program during the rollout ceremony.

“Our world-class mechanics built the first 777-200LR in several thousand hours less than we expected. And our world-class engineers designed an air-plane that has significantly better perfor-mance than we predicted at launch,” stated Anderson.

Union Optimistic Over Wichita Sale

Continued from page 1

At the Seattle Hall, Kay Haaland Michlik scanned thousands of health care surveys that members returned. Union negotiators are currently working the results, which will formulate additional survey questions and our proposal.

Nearly 5,000 people filled the Everett plant for the unveiling of the 777-200LR – the world’s longest range commercial airplane.”

Bills Progressing In Olympia

District 751 continues to work on a number of bills in Olympia dealing with family leave insurance, ap-prenticeships, health care, prescription drug coverage, and outsourcing of state jobs. Several of the bills are progressing through the legislature and one has been signed into law.

SB5809/SBH1173 would establish family leave insur-ance so workers would receive a partial wage replace-ment when on family leave. The employee would be responsible for 2 cents per hour or approximately $40 a year. In return, it would provide five weeks paid leave at $250 per week (after a one week waiting period) to enable individuals to take care of a seriously ill child, spouse or parent or to care for a newborn or adopted child.

SB 5097 - Apprenticeship Utilization Bill - This was the first piece of legislation signed into law by Governor Christine Gregoire on February 24. SB 5097 made permanent the rules that have been in place for nearly five years requiring at least 15 percent of work hours on major public works projects be performed by state-approved apprentices. Governor Locke put this into effect in 2000 by executive order. SB509 makes it a state law and a permanent requirement. It passed the Senate 27-19 and the House 58-40.

SB1219/SB5471 - Prescription Drug Purchasing Pool. This bill would establish a prescription drug pur-chasing consortium, which may include political subdivi-sions, private entities, labor organizations, and individu-als. It passed the House 55-42. SB5471 was referred to Ways and Means Committee on February 22.

HB1194 - Reimportation of Prescription Drug for State Health Care Program. This bill authorizes agencies that administer state purchased health care programs to purchase prescription drugs from Canadian sources approved by the Food and Drug Administra-tion. It also requires the state to develop a website to inform Washingtonians on opportunities to purchase prescription drugs from Canadian pharmacies. Passed the House 56-42.

SB 5637/HB 1702 the Health Care Responsibility Act. This bill would expand access to health care by increasing the number of large employers who provide health benefits to their employees and imposing a fee on large employers who do not offer such benefits.

would require companies with 50 or more employees in Washington state to take responsibility for providing basic, affordable health insurance to their employees. It is not fair that businesses that do the right thing (such as Boeing, GKN and Triumph) and provide affordable health benefits must compete with employers who do not. Investing in employer health care should be a require-ment for large businesses in Washington whether that coverage is provided through the employer or through a fee paid by the large employer to the state. On February 17, public hearings on the bills were packed with workers supporting the bills.

HCR 4405/SCHR4047 Creates a joint task force to conduct a comprehensive study of offshore outsourcing. The bill creates an advisory committee to advise and monitor the joint task force. It requires the joint task force to report its findings and recommendations to certain legislative committees by December 1, 2005.

Nearly 5,000 people filled the Everett plant for the unveiling of the 777-200LR – the world’s longest range commercial airplane.

777-200LR Worldliner Unveiled

Boeing regained bragging rights for having the world’s longest range jetliner when it rolled out the 777-200LR at a celebration attended by more than 5,000 employees and guests.

This version of the 777 extends the range by more than 1,500 nautical miles, which will allow airlines to service non-stop routes such as New York-Singapore at full passenger capacity and carry rev-enue cargo. The 777-200LR can carry 301 passengers up to 18,420 nautical miles.

751 Political Director Linda Lanham talks with Senator Luke Esser (Republican Floor Leader) about family leave insurance.
Like professional athletes training for competition, the Boeing Industrial Athlete Program takes aim at eliminating pain and improving the physical resilience of its members. This voluntary, on-hour workplace program focuses on hourly employees in physically demanding jobs and provides free services at the worksite. Initially, it is being offered in Everett and Renton.

Benefits from this program include improved flexibility, increased energy, greater resistance to injury and disease, improved ability to handle stress both on and off the job, and better recovery should an injury occur. The goal is for employees to fully engage in life, without pain, without injury, and ‘go the distance’ for themselves, their families, and career. With the average age at 50 years in our membership, it becomes even more important.

IAM/Boeing Joint Programs IAM CREST Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors, Exercise Physiologists from Boeing Health and Fitness, Physical Occupational, and Massage Therapists from Argosy Health/Boeing Medical all work together to provide services at the worksite before an injury occurs. In other words, workers no longer have to wait for an injury in order to receive specialized help.

The program is broken into four main areas: New Job and Job Conditioning, Industrial Athletics, Early Intervention Services, and Work Hardening. Services are performed at the worksite, except Job Conditioning and Work Hardening which takes place in specialized Training and Conditioning Centers located in the factory.

New Job and Job Conditioning is a customized program offered to groups of employees who are going into or are in physically demanding jobs. Work demands are reviewed to develop a customized program of exercise, conditioning and stretches to maximize the ability to handle the physical stresses of the job. Conditioning sessions are one hour twice a week, for a total of six weeks. Each round focuses on the basics such as core (abdominal and back) stability, balance, flexibility, and progress by adding strengthening and aerobic conditioning. Group lessons are augmented by conditioning equipment which is made available at the worksite.

Industrial Athletics is a voluntary program of personal health consisting of worksite promotion of programs such as full shots, Harmony Newsletter, BoeingWellness.com, and Free and Clear smoking cessation. These programs may be supplemented by onsite activity programs delivered on an ongoing basis, including factory and office yoga, group fitness programs, and encouraging classroom and recreational equipment such as table tennis and factory hoops. It is hoped that once employees have gotten used to feeling better and having more energy, they will participate in onsite health and screening opportunities and utilize Fitness Center memberships to maximize the long term benefits. Employees are also encouraged to participate in the upcoming Health Risk Assessment from Mayo Clinic offered through the BoeingWellness.com website.

Early Intervention Services are designed for employees who are experiencing either mild discomfort or task difficulty, but have not yet been injured to the point of needing medical care and/or filing a claim. This program provides Industrial Massage, Physical Therapy, and Vocational Resources to those employees. For workers in physically demanding jobs with a history of recurrent injury but no open claim, there is assistance through Worksite Intervention managed by Onsite Physical Therapy and Joint Programs Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors. These services are not treatment, but rather provide experts in the workplace who focus on work demands, body postures, and work methods. Employees may be given customized micro break stretching and conditioning programs, revised personal protective equipment, and adaptive measures to help employees stay safe.

Work Hardening is an individual rehabilitation program delivered by Physical and Occupational Therapists. Designed for employees who have suffered a significant injury, this program delivers closely supervised and customized physical conditioning, work simulation, and education. It requires a physician’s prescription and approval from Workers’ Compensation Insurance. Typically these programs are 2-6 hours per day for 2-6 weeks, and provide a safe bridge between being off work and full return to work. Work simulation done in association with the Skills Process Center allows accurate duplication of any hourly job at Boeing, so employees can be safely ‘built up’ to handling the physical demands of their job. Combined with early onsite specialized care through Boeing Medical, employees with injuries can now receive earlier, more comprehensive care.

These specialized resources provide another avenue for hourly, offer worksite fitness programs, decrease discomfort, respond to job issues early, and offer state of the art care and rehabilitation programs in case an injury does occur. We want our members to work, play and retire without pain, in the best health possible, and ‘go the distance’.

QTTP Delivers Electrical Assessment for 737 That Brings Improvements

The IAM/Boeing Central Site Quality Through Training Program (QTTP) has fulfilled another training request from employees on the 737 line. In August 2004, the 737 Quality Through Training Program (QTTP) has fulfilled another training request which brings improvements to employees on the 737 line.

Tony Curran, the quality through training program manager for the 737 Electrical Assessment program, said, “With about 75 percent of the employees who have been targeted four areas. We hope to see additional improvements when all employees are finished.”

The assessment takes about two hours and up to two additional hours of training are available for needs that are identified during the assessment. By date, 109 out of 175 employees, including rehires, have taken the assessment and training.

“The assessment has been getting positive feedback from both employees and management,” reported QTTP Union Program Coordinator Tony Curran. “With about 75 percent of the employees completing it, the assessment has already shown dramatic results – with a 9 percent decrease in defects for the targeted four areas. We hope to see additional improvements when all employees are finished.”

The assessment is good for people to learn and will help them in their daily jobs. It is good basic information we all should know.”

Debi Mashak works on her assessment board. QTTP Central Site is assisting Everett in developing an electrical assessment training for the 777/747/767 programs.
February 1 brought a new face to members working in the Renton factory as Mark B. Johnson settled in as Business Representative. Mark was elected to a four-year term during the Union elections last fall.

While he may be new as a Business Rep, he has 27 years of Union experience, including serving the last four years as Local C President and as a member of the District Council. Mark is well known throughout the Auburn plant where he worked in facilities as an electronics tech. He has also been active in the legislative arena serving on the Local C Legislative Committee, lobbying in Olympia and Washington DC and promoting workers’ issues to elected officials.

Over the years, Mark has devoted countless hours to the Union – as a Union Steward, a Local Lodge officer, a top member volunteer two years running - with an assignment that covers half of the Renton plant and approximately 1,400 employees on three shifts. Mark has been out in the shop – meeting the members in his new area of assignment and getting to know the Union Stewards in the last few weeks.

Mark noted, “I believe it is important for Union Business Reps to stay in touch with the membership.”

“I look forward to meeting the members in my area and hope they will feel free to approach me when they encounter a problem in the plant. People should know who the Business Rep is when he walks in the building. If higher Union leadership visibility will make management more aware of the presence of a Union contract and their obligation to abide by it. When you’re dealing with people’s livelihood, you must take it seriously,” added Mark.

Basically, whenever the Union was holding an event, Mark would be there asking how to help. He regularly volunteers on community service projects and was a top member volunteer two years running. He has also been active in the legislative arena – serving on the Local C Legislative Committee, lobbying in Olympia and Washington DC and promoting workers’ issues to elected officials.

If enthusiasm and commitment are any indication of job performance, Mark will do a great job. He hit the ground running - with an assignment that covers half of the Renton plant and approximately 1,400 employees on three shifts. Mark has been out in the shop – meeting the members in his new area of assignment and getting to know the Union Stewards in the last few weeks.

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Over the years, Mark has devoted countless hours to the Union – as a Union Steward, a Local Lodge officer, a committee member, a picket captain, a volunteer and in many other positions. Basically, whenever the Union was holding an event, Mark would be there asking how to help. He regularly volunteers on community service projects and was a top member volunteer two years running. He has also been active in the legislative arena – serving on the Local C Legislative Committee, lobbying in Olympia and Washington DC and promoting workers’ issues to elected officials.

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Frederickson Fundraising for Tsunami Victim Relief

Nearly every month the second shift employees from the Frederickson Skin and Spar shop hold a potluck to help a particular cause. In February, this indomitable group chose to help the many victims of the recent tsunami disaster. True to form, these employees not only supported the event, but generously donated $1,000 to the relief efforts.

Union Steward Dwayne Johnson noted, “It gets everyone together working toward a common goal at least once a month. We always select a worthy cause and have fun while helping out others. I’m proud of how generous this group of workers is when they hear of others in need.”

March is Women’s History Month

March is Women’s History month and a time for women to reflect on how far we’ve come. Women started out the 1900’s laced into corsets, without the right to vote, with a life expectancy of just over 50 years. Now we’re rebirths the earth, truly becoming partners with men in positions of leadership, looking to a future of better opportunity and recognition for our daughters and granddaughters.

As Amelia Earhart wrote, “Women must try to do things as men have tried. When they fail, their failure must be a challenge to others.”

With this sentiment in mind, the IAM Women’s Department challenges each of our IAM sisters to continue the progress made by the women who came before us.

Below are two brief bios of women who have worked in the past century for the advancement of women and working families. May their stories motivate you to become more active in your union and your communities. For more information on Women’s History Month and bios on other leaders, visit www.goiam.org/visit.asp?c=5224.

Susan B. Anthony (1820 – 1906) was one of the women who worked to secure equality for women by giving them the right to vote. She firmly believed women would not gain rights or effectively drive reform until they were legally allowed to vote. In 1869, she helped organize the National Woman Suffrage Association that worked to give women voting rights. Unfortunately, she didn’t live to see Congress pass the 19th Amendment on August 18, 1920, but her life’s work was crucial to its ratification.

Sojourner Truth (1797-1883): Born Isabella Baumfree to slave parents in Ulster County, New York, she became an icon in the movement for equal rights. Her early work involved helping newly freed slaves establish themselves, even petitioning Congress to give ex-slaves land in the “New West.” Illiterate all her life, Truth was a gifted orator. Her work for equality expanded to include women’s suffrage. In 1851 she spoke at a women’s convention in Akron, Ohio, where she coined the phrase, “ Ain’t I a Woman?” Credited with galvanizing African American women behind the women’s suffrage movement. Truth was not included in the statue commemorating the leading suffragists; however, it is thought she was intended to be included in the work. Currently, there is a movement to have Truth included in this statue or a new statue commission.

Wanted: Boosters for Annual ECF Campaign

Make a difference in your communities and learn leadership skills at the same time! Be a booster during the annual Employees Community Fund campaign in early May. Training will be provided; no experience is necessary for this fun, challenging and fast-paced assignment. The role of the booster is to talk to co-workers about the Fund (both in group settings and one-on-one) and the local non-profit health and human service organizations the Fund supports, encouraging co-workers to either begin contributing or increase their level of giving if they already participate. For anyone who has ever considered taking on this assignment, now is the time! For more information, visit the North-west community web site http://community.web.boeing.com/nwregion and click on booster information or call the appropriate contact below.

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Black Women Who Honored for WWI

As part of the black history month celebration, the 751 Human Rights Committee honored 22 African-American women, who worked during World War II by restoring their Union service. The events were also a way to say thank you to the Rosies for the sacrifices they made working at Boeing building planes during World War II. Prior to 1948, the IAM Constitution prohibited people of color from becoming members. As the 2000 Grand Lodge Convention delegates voted to restore time served beginning with 751’s Roman Mayfield. Since then, the Union has been searching for others who were part of our rich history to restore their service time.

The special event on February 8th was a celebration of diversity and recognition of their place in history. For Bell Alexander, Katie Burks, LouAnn Charles, Josei Dunn, Lorencaisa, Georgia Johnson Vivian Laye, Ruth Render, Althea Skelton, Eithier Taylor Ashford, Katherine Thompsons, Minni Tucker, Eva Vasser, Amy Williams, and Orale Williams, it was a day to reflect on their contributions. These incredible women had stories of tremendous courage and many of them were just 18 years old when they boarded a train from other parts of the country to go to work for Boeing and help with the war effort.

Their special day brought:

- New West. Illiterate all her life, Truth was a gifted orator. Her work for equality expanded to include women’s suffrage. In 1851 she spoke at a women’s convention in Akron, Ohio, where she coined the phrase, “Ain’t I a Woman?” Credited with galvanizing African American women behind the women’s suffrage movement. Truth was not included in the statue commemorating the leading suffragists; however, it is thought she was intended to be included in the work. Currently, there is a movement to have Truth included in this statue or a new statue commission.

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Black Women Who Honored for WWI

As part of the black history month celebration, the 751 Human Rights Committee honored 22 African-American women, who worked during World War II by restoring their Union service. The events were also a way to say thank you to the Rosies for the sacrifices they made working at Boeing building planes during World War II. Prior to 1948, the IAM Constitution prohibited people of color from becoming members. As the 2000 Grand Lodge Convention delegates voted to restore time served beginning with 751’s Roman Mayfield. Since then, the Union has been searching for others who were part of our rich history to restore their service time.

The special event on February 8th was a celebration of diversity and recognition of their place in history. For Bell Alexander, Katie Burks, LouAnn Charles, Josei Dunn, Lorencaisa, Georgia Johnson Vivian Laye, Ruth Render, Althea Skelton, Eithier Taylor Ashford, Katherine Thompsons, Minni Tucker, Eva Vasser, Amy Williams, and Orale Williams, it was a day to reflect on their contributions. These incredible women had stories of tremendous courage and many of them were just 18 years old when they boarded a train from other parts of the country to go to work for Boeing and help with the war effort.
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CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH


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L to R: Cynthia Sowgins, Zakiya Kangethe, Ollie Reeves and Mary Williams cooked a delicious buffet for the event.

Minnie Tucker tells Business Rep Zack Zaratzkin all about her experience working at Boeing during World War II.

Hundreds turned out in the 40-56 building for the Black history celebration dinner on Friday, February 18. It was a very positive event that all enjoyed. They are hoping for a bigger turnout next year.

black-eyed peas, macaroni and cheese, rice, corn, green beans, pinto beans, corn bread, rolls and beverages. The dessert table offered peach cobbler, sweet potato pie, 7-up cake and other sweets to finish the meal. They began cooking the night before to ensure there would be enough to serve the crowd of hundreds. Isaac Payne also helped with the food preparation by cooking the macaroni and cheese. Many others from the building volunteered to help serve the food.

Yet it was more than just a splendid buffet for the event. It was a very positive event that all enjoyed. They are hoping for an even bigger turnout next year.

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Retiree Entrepreneur Markets ‘Pocket Angel’

Since retiring from Boeing in 1983, Eba Beeler has supplemented her income with handmade windchimes and special “pocket angels.” Her angels have literally touched people around the world. Last summer, she was questioning whether to continue making her pocket angels and windchimes. She had been unexpectedly bedridden from an injury of five broken bones, including two in the right wrist and didn’t know what the future would bring — activity or disability. She asked for a sign and she should still work with the angels and got her answer very quickly.

In our nation of 295 million, what are the odds of the following happening? A woman in Illinois sent cash in an envelope ordering some of Eba’s angels. Eba couldn’t read the name or the first part of the street name. She decided to call the courthouse in Illinois, hoping they would know the name of the street. The clerk of the court gave the name of the street and asked for the address. After Eba gave the address, there was a long silence, and she asked Eba to repeat it. She said, “Could the woman’s first name be Ruth?” Eba responded, “Yes, it is.” The clerk declared, “Good Lord, I’m dating her son!”

Eba got her answer, Ruth got her angels, the wrist is healed up and she is going full speed ahead.

Eba saw it as a sign to continue making her adorable pocket angels. She recently got an order for 25,000 from the Arch Diocesan and 1,500 from Children’s Orthopedic. Her pocket angels, which she began making in 2001, have become quite a phenomenon — with orders coming from all around the globe. The miniature angels are placed in a locking plastic bag along with a poem.

The miniatures come with an inspirational poem and are in a small ziploc bag so they can fit into a wallet and always be nearby.

Put Your Cell Phone on the Do Not Call Registry

Starting January 1, 2005, all cell phone numbers will be made public to telemarketing firms. So this year, your cell phone may start ringing off the hook with telemarketers, but unlike your home phone, most of you pay for your incoming calls. These telemarketers will eat up your free minutes and end up costing you money in the long run.

To be put on the list, call the National Do Not Call Registry at 1-888-382-1222 from the cell phone that you wish to put on the “do not call list.” You can also go to www.donotcall.gov and register online.

Registering only takes a minute, (you can also register your home phone) is in effect for 5 years and will possibly save you money (definitely frustration)!

Flight for Sight - Fun Run, Walk & Jog on May 21

Join in the fourth annual Flight for Sight - Fun Run, Walk and Jog, to benefit Guide Dogs of America. The event will start at the Everett Boeing Activity Center on Saturday, May 21 with three options:

• 1 mile walk course.
• 5K (3.1 miles) run/walk course is flat and easy.
• 10K (6.2 miles) run/jog only course is challenging.

Where Does the Money Go?

Guide Dogs of America was founded by a Machinists Union member to provide guide dogs and instruction in their use, free of charge, to blind and visually impaired individuals. For more information on Guide Dogs of America, visit their website at www.guidedogsofamerica.org.

How You Can Make a Difference

Raise Pledges — Set your goal. Talk to co-workers, neighbors, and relatives about sponsoring your walk or joining you in the walk. Make it fun by identifying your “pack” with signs, jackets, hats or clever costumes! Make all checks payable to: Guide Dogs of America.

Strut Your Stuff — Arrive at the Everett Activity Center for registration anytime after 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 21.

• Runners start at 9:30 a.m.
• Walkers start at 9:45 a.m.
• Course closes at noon

For more information, visit www.iam751.org/funrun.html or call 1-800-763-1301, ext. 335 to have a form mailed to you.

Flight for Sight Fun Run, Walk and Jog

Pledge Form/Registration - Saturday, May 21

Name: ____________________________
E-Mail: __________________________
Address: _________________________
City: ______ State: ______ Zip: ______
Phone: __________________________

Registration Info

Pre-Registration by May 16: $12 without a t-shirt $20 without a t-shirt $25 with a t-shirt (sizes not guaranteed)
Race Day Registration: $18 with a t-shirt $25 with a t-shirt (sizes not guaranteed)

*NOTE: If you turn in $30 or more in donations, event registration fee is waived.

Sponsors/Pledges - Please Pre-Pay. Make checks out to: Guide Dogs of America. All donations are tax deductible. Hand in pledges day of walk or mail them to: Flight for Sight Fun Run, P.O. Box 1556 Place South, Seattle, WA 98108

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Accepting the Oath of Office

District President Mark Blandin (l) administers the oath of office to Local C Vice President Chuck Craft (center) and Local C President Jim Darragh (l) at the February 10 Local C meeting.

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Return form & checks to: Guide Dogs of America Flight for Sight, P.O. Box 1556 Place South, Seattle, WA 98108

Eba Beeler (center) has marketed her pocket angels around the world to let others know they are not alone. Above: Eba gets help from friends Connie Martin (l) and Loanne Graves in stuffing her pocket angels into pockets to market.

Eba has great compassion for others and often donates the angels to further a cause. Throughout her life, she has been aware of angels in her presence who have given her signs and let her know she is not alone. The pocket angels are a way to let others know they always have an angel with them. She carries several pocket angels in her purse to give to people who look like they could use one. Her eyes twinkle as she speaks about her personal experience and the miracles of angels.

Eba is an industrious business woman.

Eba has been making custom handmade windchimes since she was working in the shops at Boeing. When she decided to market pocket angels, she searched through various suppliers to keep the costs down. Friends gather in her home to put the pre-made parts together. Many organizations have used the angels as a fundraiser. If you would like to purchase a pocket angel, please send $1 and a self addressed stamped envelope to: Pocket Angels, P.O. Box 2864, Renton, WA 98059 or call Eba at 425-288-1088. She also has information on her custom windchimes.
February Retired Minutes

by Ruth Render, Secretary Pro-tem

At the February 14th business meeting, Al Menke called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. The Lord’s Prayer was said followed by the Flag Salute and the singing of “God Bless America.”

Roll Call of Officers: All officers were present except Al Wydick and Cherri Menke, who were excused. Minutes were accepted as printed. No communications.

Financial Report: The Financial Report was accepted as read.

Business Reps Report: Business Representative Zack Zaratkiewicz gave a briefing of what is going on in the various airplane programs throughout Puget Sound.

Zack also spoke on the importance of patronizing businesses and stores that provide good, family-wage jobs with benefits rather than shopping at Walmart.

Health & Welfare: Ill brothers and sisters this past month included: Peggy Arrington, Ebel Klepach, Homer Gritten and Lucille Olson.

A moment of silence was held for the following members who have passed away: Darlene Anderson, Donald Barnes, Howard Connelly, William Cupples, Henry DeBolt, Howard Fredell, Floyd Hagen, Betty Hanson, Larry Hersen, Robert Hoyt, Robert Payton, Bertha Read, Daniel Reyes, Harold Welch, Josie Weczkorek, and James Woodward. Sympathy cards were sent to the families.

Calendar of Events:
- March 7 Bingo
- March 14 Business Meeting
- March 21 Bingo
- March 28 Potluck

Good and Welfare: John Guevarra spoke of the ‘Budget Ripoffs’ in the budget proposed by President Bush. He read an article by columnist Molly Ivins where she reminded readers that Bush remained on this deal with America by underfunding the No Child Left Behind Act by $12 billion.

His Medicare Prescription Drug, which tremendously benefits drug companies, does not cost the $400 billion he promised over 10 years, but is now estimated to cost a whopping $1.2 trillion.

Talk about another bait and switch that he sold to the American public.

Remember, when the Administration tried to fire the whistle-blower who said they were wrong on prescription drugs because it would cost at least $530 billion:
- The Bush fiasco is planned manipulation and the American people are letting it happen. Below are just a few examples.
- To help offset the deficit, President Bush is counting on oil drilling in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge to create $1 billion in revenue. Yet that is something Congress has rejected for the past four years.
- Farm subsidies go to the wealthiest 10 percent in the agriculture business.
- Small family farmers do not qualify and are still getting screwed.
- The Bush Administration is trying to fool people into thinking the deficit is less than it is by using a fake number from the previous year – an early deficit estimate set way too high so they could claim the deficit had been ‘dramatically reduced.’

And the list goes on...

John encouraged everyone to read the handouts available at the meeting about Social Security:
- 1) It does nothing to strengthen and save Social Security.
- 2) It cuts benefits by up to 40 percent.
- 3) It cuts Social Security benefits at the mercy of market risks and corporate misconduct.
- 4) It costs more than saving the guaranteed, life-long benefits of Social Security.
- 5) It explodes the national debt and creates new deficits for future generations.

At the business meeting each month, a special table is set to honor those having a birthday or anniversary that month. Above are some of the members at the February birthday/anniversary table.

Take Action to Preserve Social Security

Carl Schwartz (phone 425-868-2821) reported that 18 members of the Puget Sound Alliance for Retired Americans met with Senator Cantwell on preserving Social Security. They also met with Representative Dave Reichert’s staff and will meet with the Congressman at a later date.

Members need to write letters to their Representatives stating that preserving Social Security is a priority.

Below are some talking points that can be included in a letter:

10 Reasons Why Privatizing Social Security Is the Wrong Answer:

1) It does nothing to strengthen and save Social Security.
2) It cuts benefits by up to 40 percent.
3) It puts Social Security benefits at the mercy of market risks and corporate misconduct.
4) It cuts more than saving the guaranteed, life-long benefits of Social Security.
5) It explodes the national debt and creates new deficits for future generations.

John also read a second article called “Saving (of Life, “ which pointed out that 25 percent of Americans cannot save money because they are barely getting by paycheck to paycheck. The article noted 40 percent of Americans would be on the brink of bankruptcy if there was a sudden accident, illness, divorce or other incident to cut off normal income.

John stressed that the dream we all want is at risk for 40 percent of our brothers and sisters. We have a duty to get the Bush Administration out of office because they think the wealthy come first and only care about them.

Tom O’Brien spoke on the importance of getting an increase for current retirees in this year’s contract negotiations.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: None.

Birthdays & Anniversaries: The Club celebrated the following February birthdays: John Pompei, John Blankenship, Robert Ross. February anniversaries included: Al and Toni Morzenti (56 years), Cal and Vera Doss (47 years), and Harold and Dorothy Dalisky (43 years).

Adjournment: Adjourned at noon.

Take Action to Preserve Social Security

Betty Ness writes a personal letter urging Congress to preserve Social Security.

The Retired Club meets at 11 a.m. each Monday and serves a free lunch at noon at the Seattle Union Hall. All 751 retirees are welcome to attend and join the Retired Club.

Congratulations to the following members who retired from Boeing:
- William Anderson
- Clarence Bale
- Bruce Ball
- Janet Beard
- Veena Bhatia
- Bernard Buck
- Kathleen Cunningham
- Pamela Deloys
- Robert Eckelberger
- Raymond Edwards
- Gail Ferguson
- Samuel Finnegan
- Daylan Folsom
- Richard Hackstock
- Dana Hicks
- Steven Harden
- Penny Johnston
- Donald Kristensen
- Choo Lee
- Troy Meade
- Gerald Olive
- James Pratt
- Larry Reeves
- Thomas Rossana
- Clifford Scheeler
- Ronald Swart
- George Tolmasoff
- Ha Tu
- Shirley Unmuth
- Joe Vangoeje
- Edward Vomrouz
- Loren Wilson
- Donna Wimschell

Buford J. Reece, President

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The 14th annual Local C Golf Tournament will be held Sunday, July 17 at Elk Run Golf Course in Maple Valley. The cost will be $100 per person, which covers greens fee, cart rental, tournament t-shirt, prizes and a buffet at the end of play. This year there is also a second option. The $100 tournament fee will be waived for any individual turning in $150 in donations to Guide Dogs for America.

Proceeds from the tournament will go to Guide Dogs of America. The Machinists Union founded this worldwide organization over 44 years ago and remains a top sponsor of the program. The tournament will be a "scramble" format with a shotgun start at 7:30 a.m. for all golfers. Prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place teams. Individual prizes will be given for longest drive, KP and 50/50 honey pot. All other prizes will be raffled off at the end of play. NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL FULL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS. Final date to return entries is JUNE 18TH.

As this event is a benefit, prize donations are greatly appreciated. If you would like to donate prizes, please contact John Rice on 253-891-3752 or Mark Johnson on 425-235-3777. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, contact one of the following tournament co-chairs: Spencer Graham on 206-251-9021, Hole sponsor Tony Curran on 206-291-7172, or Brian Cappello on 425-944-8218.
Hard Work Pays Off for Members at GKN

Hard work and initiative paid off for 751 members at GKN Chem-tronics in Kent as they took their profits straight to the bank. On Friday, February 11, all employees at the facility received a check for 3 percent of their gross income in 2004 – evidence of their success last year. The check was issued when employees met all their goals under the STAR plan – a profit sharing program called out in their Union contract.

Members at the Kent facility had been anticipating the check for nearly a month. 751 member Ron Lee stated, “As the end of the year was coming, we were all aware that it could translate into cash for us. Once they informed us we had met our goals, we were all doing the math to calculate exactly how much we would get.”

“After all our hard work, I plan to enjoy it. I’m using my check on my bike (a Harley), which is going into the shop to have the motor rebuilt,” Ron added.

GKN employees were able to meet all performance goals – including safety, production and quality. Workers at the Kent facility made their delivery schedule despite various obstacles during the year. 751 member Justin Wittmower, who has worked at GKN nearly a year, was pleased to get the extra money. He noted, “The check was nice. I put mine into savings.”

Kevin Nash, Vice President of the Thermal Joining Center, noted, “Everyone did what was necessary - hourly and salary - to ensure we hit our targets and got our complete payout. It was a challenging year, and everyone pulled together and did amazing things. Our employees are capable of doing anything we put in front of them. They are a dynamic group.”

L to R: Business Rep Paul Knebel learns how Ron Lee and Justin Wittmorrow plan to use the three percent profit sharing check from GKN.

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Laid-off members now have another avenue to get back on the payroll at Boeing – applying for the IAM/Boeing Apprenticeship Program. This is the first time laid-off members have been eligible to apply. In the past, it was limited to those on the active payroll.

District 751 President Mark Blondin pushed for the change. He stated, “By opening up the IAM/Boeing Apprenticeship Program to our laid-off members, they now have another chance to get back on the payroll at Boeing. It opens up an opportunity that otherwise was not available.”

The IAM/Boeing Apprenticeship Committee has worked closely with the State Apprenticeship Office to get the required approval and ensure the program adheres to State standards.

Larry Vigil, who was laid-off as a Tool and Die Maker in 2000, learned of the new program and decided to retrain and find another avenue to get back on the payroll. I have worked in the machine trades for over 38 years. I’m willing to learn new skills to keep up with technology changes and believe the apprenticeship program is a good fit.”

Applications Accepted in April

The IAM/Boeing Joint Apprenticeship Committee will be accepting applications for five apprenticeship programs from April 1 through April 30. Applications are available from various community service projects. They would be a good candidate to receive the scholarship. Last year, four children of 751 members received Beckendorf scholarships.

You can obtain a Beckendorf scholarship application online by visiting www.uwpc.org/Our_Partners/Labor_Beckendorf_Scholarship.htm or at any of the Union offices. Applications must be returned by March 14, 2005.

If you need more information on how to apply for the Jerry Beckendorf Community Service Scholarship or have questions about the program, please contact Emma Fadley at (253) 597-6237 or e-mail her at emafa@uwpc.org.

The Jerry Beckendorf Scholarship recognizes outstanding student volunteerism.

Children of Union Members Eligible for Beckendorf Community Service Scholarship

Children of Union members in Pierce County have an opportunity to earn a scholarship through community service efforts with the Jerry Beckendorf Community Service Scholarship. Jerry retired after working 15 years as the Way and Pierce County Labor Council’s Labor Liaison. His commitment and efforts to build a better community have made a difference in the lives of countless people. The Jerry Beckendorf Community Service Scholarship encourages future generations of union activists and volunteers to recognize outstanding student volunteerism.

The scholarship is a nice way to honor Jerry’s work over the years, while promoting young people to get involved in community service. Many 751 union members have children that have worked on the Union’s various community service projects. They would be a good candidate to receive the scholarship. Last year, four children of 751 members received Beckendorf scholarships.

You can obtain a Beckendorf scholarship application online by visiting www.uwpc.org/Our_Partners/Labor_Beckendorf_Scholarship.htm or at any of the Union offices. Applications must be returned by March 14, 2005.

If you need more information on how to apply for the Jerry Beckendorf Community Service Scholarship or have questions about the program, please contact Emma Fadley at (253) 597-6237 or e-mail her at emafa@uwpc.org.

You cannot have been enrolled in or completed an IAM/Boeing Apprenticeship Program.

You must meet specific defined vocational education or training requirements.

You cannot have received any other scholarship or training assistance.

The recruitment, selection and training of apprentices are without discrimination based upon race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin or the presence of a disability.

Informational packets will be available at all the Union Halls beginning March 1. For an informational packet, call IAM 751 at 402-303-1301, ext. 3528 (Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or call 253-951-8261. Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Visit www.iam751.org/appr.html or http://apprenticeshipweb.boeing.com.