Injured Machinist returns to Boeing

Nearly a year after the accident that caused him to lose his legs, Josh Divers thanks members of his crew at Boeing’s Everett Modification Center for their support during his recovery.

Union Business Rep Tommy Wilson and Local A President Wilson Ferguson met him outside the factory door that afternoon, just before the start of second shift. “We have a couple people who want to welcome you back,” they told him.

OK great, Josh Divers replied.

And with that, the District 751 Machinist who’d lost both his legs in an accident at Boeing in February 2012 walked back into work at the Everett Modification Center, standing firmly atop two new artificial limbs.

Sure enough, there was a small group in the break room waiting to say hello. “Hello Josh,” said Scott Wroblewski, the District 751 President at Hytek.

The 180 hourly workers at Hytek do metal coating and finishing work on aircraft parts for all of Boeing’s wide-body jets – the 787, 747-8, 777 and 767 – and for the Pentagon’s F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

The contract ratified by members on Feb. 28 was the result of discussions between Wroblewski and Hytek President Clif Johnson. The two spoke following Saturday’s vote by union members to reject the first contract, and worked out the revised offer.

Under the contract, Machinists at Hytek will get:

• Raises of 3 percent in each of the first two years of the contract, 2.5 percent in the third year and 3 percent in the fourth year;
• A $1,000 ratification bonus for all workers on the payroll prior to September 2011 (everyone hired since then gets a bonus of $550);
• The option of putting the ratification bonuses into flexible health spending accounts to help defray future medical costs within 15 calendar days of ratification (must be submitted in writing on Hytek form);
• A new system of job classification and labor grades that improves minimum pay levels and provides guaranteed promotions after three years;

Rod Burns was one of the members voting on the revised offer on Feb. 28.

Other customers include BAE, Bell Helicopters, Gulfstream, Triumph Aerostructures and United Technologies.

The work done at Hytek is highly specialized, so a strike would have had a wide ripple effect, Cummings said. “There are only five companies in the world certified to do this kind of work.”

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• A new system of job classification and labor grades that improves minimum pay levels and provides guaranteed promotions after three years;

Continued on Page 5

Report shows union workers earn more

Union workers on average earn $201 a week more than their non-union counterparts, new data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows. The extra income – which equals roughly $10,500 a year – can make a real difference in the lives of working Americans, said District 751 President Tom Wroblewski.

“When a paycheck is that much bigger, it makes it easier to buy a house or a new car, to save for a child’s education or just take a long vacation,” he said. “All these basic elements of the American Dream are more within reach when you have a union representing you at work.”

The new BLS data shows that the average union worker earned $943 a week in 2012, or roughly $49,000 a year. That was a 1 percent increase over the year before.

Non-union workers, by comparison, earned only $742 a week, or roughly $38,500 a year – which is 27 percent less than the pay for union members.

“We often say it pays to be union,” Wroblewski said. “These numbers show that it’s literally true.”

Union workers also have better benefits at work, federal data shows. A separate BLS report last year showed that 93 percent of union workers nationwide had employer-provided health care benefits, 93 percent had employer-provided retirement benefits and 85 percent had life insurance benefits.

By contrast, only 69 percent of non-union workers get health care benefits at work, only 64 percent have a retirement plan and only 57 percent get life insurance through their job.

The new BLS report also debunks a theory promoted by conservative politicians, who falsely claim that unions slow economic growth.

Washington state – which recorded the nation’s sixth-fastest job growth in 2012 – was also among the leaders in union density.

The BLS report showed that 18.5 percent of all workers in Washington state were union members in 2012, compared to just 4.7 percent nationwide."
Members investing energy to build the future is good

By TOM WROBLEWSKI
District 751 President

There are four things I want to talk about today. The first and foremost, I want to thank everyone involved in the contract talks with Hytek Finishes. This was a very difficult battle, and it stretched over nearly 18 months.

In the end, we did not get all that we fought for, but there are some very real improvements that will make a difference for the Machinists at Hytek. More importantly, we laid a foundation for future success. The improvements we made in this contract will be the starting point when we renegotiate with Hytek four years from now. As the starting point when we renegotiate with Hytek Finishes. This was a very real improvement that will make a difference for the Machinists at Hytek. More importantly, we laid a foundation for future success.

So far, the union has documented 10 cases of what appear to be coercion, lying, threat of job loss or any other kind of intimidation or coercion.

“coercion or intimidation.” Cote said. “It should have been a free election, without coercion,” Cote said. “It should have been a free election, without coercion, they should call me,” said Cote. “We’re not going to allow any company to violate the National Labor Relations Act.”

In the meantime, District 751 continues to collect evidence to present to the National Labor Relations Board.

“If anyone at M1 can give a statement verifying any alleged coercion or intimidation, M1 workers reported what the union alleges is a clear pattern of acts intended to illegally discourage employees from voting in favor of joining District 751, District 751 Organizer Jesse Cote.

As a labor organization, we can’t allow these things to happen,” Cote said. “It should have been a free election, without coercion or intimidation. I’m urging you to invest a few minutes of your time today to help a fellow union member, and help the economies of our local communities to add to your paycheck. It’s another way to keep our communi- ties strong as we build to the future.

Union disputes vote at JBLM contractor

District 751 has filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board accusing local managers of a Joint Base Lewis-McChord defense contractor of violating federal labor law in the days leading up to a recent vote by workers on whether to join the union.

So far, the union has documented 10 cases of what appear to be clear-cut violations of the National Labor Relations Act, said District 751 Organizer Jesse Cote.

“As a labor organization, we can’t allow these things to happen,” Cote said. “It should have been a free election, without coercion or intimidation.” At issue is the Feb. 15 vote by workers at M1 Support Services on whether they wanted to join the Machinists Union. About 30 workers at M1 perform helicopter maintenance and other services for the U.S. Army’s 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, based at JBLM.

The workshops will be held in March and May at District 751’s Puget Sound Union Hall.

The workshops will be held in March and May at District 751’s Puget Sound Union Hall.

Everett: March 12, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Everett Union Hall, 8729 Airport Road;

Aurora: March 13, Noon to 2 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. at the Auburn Union Hall, 201 A St. SW;

Seattle: March 14, Noon to 2 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. at the Seattle Union Hall, 9125 15th Pl. S.

Renton: March 20, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. at the Renton Union Hall, 233 Burnett Ave. N.; and

The workshops will be held at all four sites again in September.

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

Options for your Boeing VIP, potential tax savings, debt consolidation, your Boeing pension options;

Tax-favored investing and proper asset allocation;

Health and life insurance options; and

Creative budgeting techniques and dealing with debt.

To reserve your seat, call Money Management Educators at (888) 222-8311 or send an e-mail to mmepgni@iowmail.com.

If you want to get answers to these kinds of questions, I’d personally like to invite you to the conference.

March 30 is a Saturday. We’ll start at 10 a.m. and go until 2 p.m. It’s free, and we’ll provide lunch and send you home with a t-shirt.

Most importantly, we’ll help you figure out how our union works, and how you can get involved, whether it’s volunteering for community service or political events, or taking part in one of our various union activities.

We’re investing the time and the money to do this event because we’ve seen, time and again, that the more active, involved and informed individual union members are, the more successful the union is as a whole when it comes to negotiating contracts, or raising money for charity, or electing politicians who support working families.

But in the days following the election, M1 workers reported what the union alleges is a clear pattern of acts intended to illegally discourage employees from voting in favor of joining District 751 -- right up to the day of the vote.

Because of that, the union has decided to file objections to the election. The NLRB is reviewing the union’s allegations. In the meantime, District 751 continues to collect evidence to present to the National Labor Relations Board.

“If anyone at M1 can give a statement verifying any bullying, threat of job loss or any other kind of intimidation or coercion, they should call me,” said Cote. “We’re not going to allow any company to violate the National Labor Relations Act.”

Cote can be reached at the Seattle Union Hall: (206) 764-0308.
Bills promote real working family values

By DAVID GROVES
Washington State Labor Council

Democrats in Olympia are offering Republicans an opportunity to embrace true family values, but early signs Indicate that the GOP is siding with big business over our families.

House Bill 3131 establishes minimum standards for paid sick and safe leave, similar to what was recently enacted in the city of Seattle, but for all workers in Washington.

“Families should not have to make a choice between putting food on the table and sick leave,” said sponsor Rep. Laurie Jinkins (D-Tacoma). “When people cannot access sick leave, that’s the biggest way epidemics spread.”

At the bill’s hearing in front of the House Labor Committee, proponents estimated that nearly 1 million workers in Washington state are unable to take any paid sick leave. Many of them work in grocery stores, restaurants and health care, where they pose a risk not only to co-workers but to the public. Amid a nationwide flu outbreak, HB 3131 is especially timely.

But alas, Senate Republicans have countered with Senate Bill 5728, sponsored by Sen. John Braun (R-Centralia), to counter the leave ordinance and render any such measure statewide unenforceable.

House Bill 1457 would implement a new Washington’s currently inac-
vive Family and Medical Leave Insurance program. Said prime sponsor Rep. Tami Green (D-Tacoma): “As a mom, and a nurse, and a legislator, I see how dev-
astating an illness in the family can be. Family and medical leave is the solution.

Political Action

Inslee puts aerospace at heart of jobs plan

Gov. Jay Inslee wants to add room for 500 more students in aerospace training programs at Washington’s community colleges.

Inslee also told members of the Pa-
cific Northwest Aerospace Alliance that he wants to double the number of aerospace training programs for high school students and vocational skills cen-
ters statewide.

His goal is to push a strong message to young people, that they can parlay vocational skills into rewarding careers in aerospace manufacturing, the govern-
ror said. “You don’t have to be a four-
year graduate to be a success in the state of Washington.”

Inslee’s plan works exactly why he was the right choice for Washington governor, said District 751 Legislative Director Larry Brown.

“Gov. Inslee is focused on all the is-
Sues that we care about, including the most important for our industry’s growth,” Brown said. “He gets it.”

Inslee said building up Washington’s aerospace industry is at the heart of his economic plan for the state, which he outlined in a speech during the PNAA’s annual awards banquet, Feb. 13 in Lynn-
wood.

“The most important thing I can do as governor, to help your business, is to provide a skilled workforce to you,” In-
slee said. “I intend to do it.”

Among the specific proposals Inslee outlined were:
• A series of “return-to-industry” grants that would pay for work-
force training educators to spend time on shop floors to ensure that their teaching is in line with current industry needs;

House Bill 3131 outlines his plans to boost Washington’s aerospace industry at a conference in Lynnwood.

• Increased funding for science, technology, engineering and math education;

• Business tax reforms to encour-
ge the growth of executive jet completion centers in the state, plus tax credits for carbon fiber manufacturing;

• Testing programs to allow voc-

cational skills graduates to earn industry certificates;

• Creating a national center for biofuels research that would focus on western Washington’s aerospace industry with eastern Washington’s agricultural re-

searchers;

• Encouraging the production of unmanned aerial vehicles in Washington, in part by working with the federal government to make the Pentagon’s Yama-

ka Firing Range a Federal Aviation

Labor stands up to protect rights of immigrant workers

Klayson Braga, like countless other fathers, wanted to send his daughter to college so she could live her dream of becoming an engineer.

Like generations of immigrants before him, he decided his best opportunity was to come to America, where he could work, save money and send it back home to Brazil.

But Braga didn’t understand U.S. immigration and labor laws. His employer – a Redmond pizzeria – did not know the laws, however, and how to take advantage of them. And because Braga lacked the proper paperwork, he’s been cheated out of thousands of dollars he earned – and there’s nothing he can do about it.

Keeping hardworking people like Braga from being cheated by their employers is why labor unions must get involved in the debate over immigration reform in America, union leaders said.

“The United States was built on the blood, sweat, tears, dreams and cultural diversity of immigrant workers,” said Washington State Labor Council President Jeff Johnson. “Every single person in this room has an immigrant worker’s story in their family. And because Braga is one of the speakers at a State Labor Council rally held Feb. 18 in support of comprehensive immigration reform that includes a pathway to

 Continued on Page 8

Administration test center for the UAVs;

• Improving the state’s trans-

portation network so that aerospace companies can move their people and produ-

cts around easier; and

• An “all-in push around the world” to help Washington state and Washington as a place where aero-

space companies can flourish.

Washington won’t sit back and let the Boeing or some other aero-

space company to announce it’s look-

ing for a new location, Inslee vowed, and he’s specifically targeted Boeing’s proposed 777-X jet family, saying his goal is to ensure the plane’s final as-

ssembly is done here, as well as fabrici-

ating “as many of the components as possible.”

“We want to be proactive, not re-

active,” he said. “This means early engagement between Boeing, suppli-

ers, labor and government.”

The state will also encourage Air-

bus and other small aircraft manufacturers to do more business with Washington companies, Inslee said. “In this room, 40 percent of you do business with Airbus, and we think that’s great.

But amid all of this, workforce training will be key, Inslee said.

“The single-biggest competitive advantage we have is our highly skilled workforce,” the governor said.

“But like it or not, our workforce is about to have a dramatic change, as Baby Boomers move into retire-

ment, he continued.

To meet that challenge, Inslee vowed to “build a robust pipeline of aerospace workers,” and he promised to work closely with the industry.

“No one knows better the skills, sets you need,” he said.

Continued on Page 8

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Above: Several hundred union and community activists, who’d packed the Seattle Labor Temple for the immigration reform rally, pose for photos. Right: Congresswoman Suzan DelBene confers with District 751 organizer Lee Newgent, the executive secretary of the Seattle-King County Building and Construction Trades Council.

Below: For District 751, it’s a matter of basic fairness, said Legislative Director Larry Brown, who led an union delegation to the event.

“The system we have lets unscrupulous employers cheat and steal from working people,” he said. “That’s wrong, and we need to fix it.”

Speaking at the rally through an interpreter, Braga told how he was paid $7 an hour for making pizzas – well below the legal minimum wage in Washington. He also was not given overtime pay – even though he regularly worked 115 to 120 hours each pay period.

When he found out that his pay wasn’t meeting Washington state laws, he asked his manager about it, Braga said. “He always had some excuse.”

“One day he threatened me,” Braga told the crowd. “He said ‘How would you like to go back to your country, because I can send you back.’ I didn’t know if he had the power, but that frightened me. I shut up.”

Other immigrants told similar stories. Xochitl Rojas, for example, told of watching her children’s hands being cheated out of pay in jobs that provided no benefits, by employers who hired them off the books to avoid paying payroll taxes – or even living wages.

Companies that hire undocumented workers get unfair advantages over those that play by the rules, flouting minimum wage laws, payroll taxes and health and safety regulations. The workers can’t complain, for fear of deportation, so the companies are free to abuse and exploit them.

“You could call these circumstances modern-day slavery,” Rojas said.

The corporate practice of abuse of undocumented workers inevitable, said Lee Newgent, the executive secretary of the Seattle-King County Building and Construction Trades Council.

“If you’re working and you’re undocumented, you’re going to be the victim of exploitation,” Newgent said. “It’s just a matter of when. And yet, if you get hurt, your blood is the same color.”

That’s wrong, he said. “We can’t have
Apprentice graduates are ‘Masters of their Trade’

The graduation banquet on Feb. 23 culminated over 8,000 hours of work for the nine union members who were honored for their commitment to continual learning and successful completion of the rigorous IAM/Boeing Apprenticeship Program. The program sets the bar high and pushes participants to rise to the top of their trade. It was fitting to have the banquet at the Museum of Flight, which is home to so much of aerospace history.

For the graduates, their hard work and dedication earned them the right to be called “journeyman/woman” in their respective trades. Each made tremendous sacrifices and commitment to complete the program.

Most people are unaware of the tremendous dedication required to complete the program. These dedicated individuals rotate plants, learn a new machine every few months, attend school two to three days a week after work, in addition to having their progress regularly reviewed by a group of people. The mixture of on-the-job training and classroom instruction covers courses such as compound angles, trigonometry, physics and metallurgy.

Getting into the program is an accomplishment, which requires meeting stringent criteria and competing against hundreds of others who apply.

The highlight of the evening was the Arnie Darrell Achievement Award, which is named after a former Boeing employee who spent more than 40 years as an apprenticeship-related instructor. Kwangwoo An received the award for being the graduate receiving the highest marks in both shop work and classroom work over the life of the program.

Two of the graduates addressed the crowd, expressing thanks to the instructors, apprenticeship committee, the company and the union for support throughout their journey.

Gwi Musch, who completed the Composite Manufacturing program, spoke to the crowd emphasizing the program gave apprentices a chance to excel. “The four-year program is not just about learning different skills and higher mathematics, but you become a competitor.” Musch said. “It also includes learning to challenge yourself to get to the next level. It is about learning new skills while becoming a better person overall.”

Aaron McCain, the second graduate to address the crowd noted that the learning was continual. “Because there are thousands of years of shop knowledge and experience on the shop floor and in offices, that aren’t always going to be there. Now is the time to grab that knowledge,” said McCain. “I’m also happy to see that we have so many new apprentices on the shop floor, for there is knowledge that needs to be attained from the previous generation of Boeing employees.”

Both the union and company had leaders at the banquet to recognize and applaud the graduates’ success at becoming the best in their respective trades. From the union, District President Tom Wroblewski and IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger each offered their personal congratulations to the apprentices while Boeing Vice President of Manufacturing and Safety Tim Copes did the honors for the company.

“With the speed the world is changing, the challenges of the future will be many and varied, but this program equips you with the skills to meet those challenges head on,” Wroblewski said.

“The skills you learned in this program are valued throughout the aerospace industry and around the world,” he added. “You took advantage of the additional education and became a master in your trade. Because of your hard work, you control your destiny.”

IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger congratulated the graduates.
Injured Machinists Union member returns to Boeing

Continued from Page 1

saw hundreds of his fellow Boeing work- ers lined up along the main hallway that runs through the EMC. Union stewards had passed the word that afternoon – “Josh is coming back” – and just about every single person in the building that afternoon was there to welcome Divers back with cheers and tears.

“The walk in from outside, there must have been 400 people giving me a round of applause,” Divers recounted later. “People were coming out from around corners.

“Everyone would lift the plane off me with their bare hands if they could. I’m definitely glad I’m still here and still working a half-time basis, for now, as he adjusts to getting around on his prosthetics. He said his goal is to transition into a computer support job where he can still work with our union brothers and sisters.”

Two days later, Divers thanked his co-workers during the EMC’s weekly Rally Cry – a stand-up all hands crew meeting.

Whatever he ends up doing, District 751 Business Rep Jason Redrup, who represents the workers in the EMC, said: “We’ve had too many accidents,” he told the team at the Rally Cry meeting. “We have to get out of all of us, working together, to make this a world-class company when it comes to safety.”

Divers is back to work – only on a half-time basis, for now, as he adjusts to getting around on his prosthetics. He said his goal is to transition into a computer support job where he can still work with the same group of guys but not have to stand up all day.

Report shows union workers earn more

Weekly Earnings, Union vs. Non-union

Continued from Page 1

- $131,000 in all – belong to a union. That’s the fourth-highest unionization rate nationwide.

“Some professional union-haters say you can’t grow a state economy unless you get rid of unions and slash pay and benefits,” Wroblewski said. “But I’d say the opposite is true.

“What happens here in Washington is that union workers at companies like Boeing have more money to spend at local businesses, which creates prosperity for everyone,” he added.

Attacks on unions only hurt local economies, Wroblewski said. “Just think of where the Main Street businesses in our state would be if a half-million consumers were hit with 27-percent pay cuts,” he said.

“It would be an economic disaster. But thanks to unions like ours, working people are able to support both their families and their communities.”

Hytek ratifies contract

Continued from Page 1

- Improved skill point system and structure;
- Increased paid time off – as much as 80 hours a year per employee; and
- Other improvements including a better grievance procedure and a joint training and skills committee.

After the initial rejection of the contract on Feb. 23, and the authorization to strike, the IAM began preparing for the work stoppage. But, in an effort to see if Hytek would improve the offer and avoid the strike, Wroblewski spoke with Johnson.

Wroblewski thanked Cum- mings and the rest of the union negotiating team for their efforts over nearly 18 months of often- contentious contract talks.

“These negotiations were a fight from the beginning,” he said. “We didn’t all get what we wanted in this contract, but in the end, we got a deal that satisfied the majority of our members, so that makes them a success.”

Cummings agreed. “In our union, the members always have the final say,” he said. “Whether we go out on strike or go back to work, it’s always up to them. Their union brothers and sisters will support them either way.”

“I’m really proud of what we have done together,” said Jay Lang, one of the Machinists at Hytek. “This is a strong union, and we appreciate the time, resources and support.”

“This is an improvement,” said Tracy Hedges, who is a chrome plater at Hytek. “But we are a long way from where we need to be. If this company is going to have a successful future, it needs to realize that the people who work here are its No. 1 asset.”

Lang agreed. “We need to all work together to build this on for the future.”

District 751 Business Rep Jason Redrup helped welcome Josh Divers back and stressed 751 has an ongoing commitment to safety.

Machinists member Tracy Hedges noted, “The second offer is an improvement, but we are a long way from where we need to be.”

Photo left: Mae Mae Heard and daughter, Da’Vieona, understand the vote is about the future.
Machinists top donors to aerospace scholarship fund

Three community college students studying for careers in aerospace are getting scholarships thanks to District 751. The scholarships went to Chevy Hoover of Green River Community College, Kenneth Needle of South Seattle Community College and Chris Thomsen of Everett Community College.

The three were among 14 Washington state students awarded scholarships worth $25,000 from the Pacific Northwest Aerospace Alliance. The presentations were made Feb. 13 at the alliance’s annual conference.

District 751 is the top donor to PNAA’s scholarship foundation. It’s $5,000 gift provided the money for the three students’ scholarships.

Local C doubles down for Guide Dogs at tournament

Local C could be doubling down on its donation to Guide Dogs of America after its second All in for Guide Dogs Hold ‘em Tournament on Feb. 16.

Local C officers were still tallying the members as the AeroMechanic went to press, but it appears this year’s poker tournament raised almost twice as much money as last year’s event, Local C President Ron Coen said.

“We had a great tournament,” Coen said. “Our committee members worked hard, we had some really good sponsors, and the people at the Tulalip Resort Casino were once again great to work with.”

Coes added a “big thank you to everyone involved,” including the players and the poker tournament committee, which included Paul Burton, Thong Trang, Chris Louie, Rod Sigvartson, Dave Swan and Chuck Fromong.

This year’s tournament drew 150 poker players. A slot tournament was added as part of the entry to the poker tournament for guests and spouses of the poker players and for the players that were eliminated early.

Bobbie Hodge won the tournament, and took home the $1,500 top prize. The annual tournament is a fundraiser for Guide Dogs of America, the California-based charity that provides guide dogs and training free of charge to people who are blind or have impaired vision from across the United States and Canada.

District 751 is the top fundraiser for the charity. Over the past four years, union members have donated more than $1 million to Guide Dogs, including a record $299,000 raised in 2012.

Five local guide dog trainers brought their puppies to the poker tournament. The tournament was also attended by Local 1951 member Dennis Meech and his guide dog, Lefty. Mech was blinded in 2007 in a motorcycle accident on his way home from work. He was paired with Lefty in 2010, and is believed to be the only District 751 member ever to receive a service dog through Guide Dogs of America.

Special thanks to all our Hold ‘Em sponsors...

Table Sponsors:
- Gary Jackson
- Andreas Hollbrook
- Jim Holden
- Rich McCabe
- Don Vondrid/Tim Tsubahara
- Ernie McCarthy/Garth Luark
- Ray Baumgardner/Ron Bradley/Cuck Craft/Richard Jackson/Jason Redrup

Pair of Aces Sponsors:
- Keith Elliott
- Jané Bromily, Local 8
- Daphne Becker, Local 8
- Lori Dorsey, Local 8
- Traci Keeney, Local 8

Chair Sponsors:
- George Braun
- Monica Britana
- Donovan McLeod
- Les Millen
- Kip Wilson

Final table (top sponsors):
- Mark Blodin, GVP Aerospace Territory
- Mark Johnson, Aerospace Coordinator
- Larry Brown, 751 Leg. & Political Director

Poker tournament winners Bobbie Hodge (seated) with the Local C organizing committee: Paul Burton, Ron Coen, Thong Trang, Andrea Sipes (a Guide Dog puppy raiser), Chris Louie and Rod Sigvartson.

Winners at the final table were Hodge, Brad Jeffries, Steve Parks, Bob Carter, Chip Johnson, Alan Dacie, Joey Fischer, John Lopez, Jim Kakuschke, and J.R. Schaam.

Below: Many took advantage of the free training prior to the start of the tournament.

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March 2013
Walkathon honors Murphy, benefits mission

Machinists Union members are joining with The Rescue Mission in Tacoma for a walkathon to benefit the mission’s community service work.

Along with raising money, the first Vennie Murphy Walkathon also will honor a member of the Machinists Volunteer Program Committee who has been an outstanding volunteer at the Tacoma mission since the ’90s.

The 5-kilometer walk will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 6 at Federal Way High School. Registration is $15 for adults, and $5 for youth under 16.

Murphy — a retired member from Puyallup — was honored as one of the mission’s volunteers of the year for 2012. “I don’t know of anybody who’s had as much faithfulness about serving, and has been so influential in bringing in other people to serve,” said David Curay, The Rescue Mission’s chief executive officer. “We need lots of Vennies.”

In particular, Curay credited Murphy with creating the partnership between the mission and the Machinists Volunteer Program. MVPs help prepare and serve Saturday and Sunday breakfasts for two weekends each month, while also throwing periodic Sunday dinners for the mission’s clients.

Murphy is one of the union’s top volunteers. In 2012, he received a gold-level President’s Volunteer Service Award from the White House, which is the top award given by the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation. It goes only to volunteers who have given more than 500 hours of their time in a year to community service, which Murphy accomplished in 2011.

“Vennie’s been an example and an inspiration for a lot of us at the union,” said Robley Evans, who is chairman of the MVP Committee. “He’s also a great friend. We couldn’t think of a better way to honor him for all he’s done in the community than to have a fundraising event in his name.”

For details, go online at www.rescmission.org/walk-a-thon.

Union MVPs collecting socks for homeless Seattle people

District 751 members are collecting socks to complement the work of Redeeming Soles, a Seattle charity that provides shoes for homeless people.

Union stewards and members are being encouraged to bring new and unused men’s and women’s socks to their local lodge meetings in March and April. Donations also can be brought to the Seattle Union Hall.

Redeeming Soles is the brainchild of Scott Sowle, who is known in Seattle’s charitable community as “the shoe guy.” District 751 volunteers first encountered Sowle at King County United Way’s community resource exchange event in October, when they helped him distribute more than 1,000 pairs of shoes to Seattle-area homeless people at the Seattle Center.

“We met Scott and were really impressed with the work he does, so when he asked if we could help him collect socks, we said ‘Yes! right away,” said Robley Evans, the chairman of the Machinists Volunteer Program. “Every pair of socks we collect over the next two months will make a real difference in somebody’s life.”

Sowle spent 13 years living as a homeless man — including several years living under Seattle’s Magnolia Bridge — and says he constantly struggled with pain in his feet from the hard and cold concrete.

One day, he decided to do something about it. He set up outside the Columbia Tower with a sign, a box and some flyers to ask people for their used shoes.

The idea took off. Sowle got dozens of shoes, which he cleaned and disinfected and gave to homeless people.

Today, Redeeming Soles distributes donated shoes at homeless shelters, food banks and rescue missions across Seattle. It also provides medical treatment for homeless people with foot pain.

“I took for so many years when I was on the street,” Sowle told the Huffington Post. “Today, I can give back. And that’s huge for me.”

That attitude really impressed District 751’s MVPs, Evans said. “He’s giving back, which is what we do too.”

MVPs set date for awards banquet

The annual Machinists Volunteer Program awards banquet will be from 5 to 7 p.m. April 20 at the Seattle Union Hall.

The annual dinner honors District 751’s top community service volunteers for their contributions. It is open to everyone who took part in MVP activities during 2012.

The annual dinner will be a sit-down meal. A main course and soft drinks will be provided.

Spread the word: Peanut butter drive continues

District 751’s peanut butter drive to support Pierce County food banks continues in March.

Stewards and members are encouraged to bring jars of Jif or Adams peanut butter — both made by union workers — to their local lodge meetings this month.

“If you can buy it at a union grocery store, like Fred Meyer or Safeway, so much the better,” said David Henry, who is heading up the peanut butter drive.

The union is supporting the Pierce County Central Labor Council’s annual peanut butter drive. All the peanut butter collected will be distributed to Pierce County families through the Emergency Food Network.

Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are an American staple, and peanut butter is an essential source of protein for many people — children in particular, said Henry, who represents the union as a delegate to the Pierce County Central Labor Council.

“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.”

Last year’s drive collected nearly 2 tons of peanut butter.

District 751 Machinists were the top contributors to that effort, collecting 552 jars of peanut butter, which was 27 percent of the total.

IAM 751 supports Renton Technical College Foundation

A Machinists Union delegation led by District 751 President Tom Wroblewski (at right) and Secretary-Treasurer Susan Palmer listens as Alex Pietsch, the director of the Governor’s Office on Aerospace, speaks at a Renton Technical College Foundation scholarship fundraising breakfast on Feb. 5. Pietsch talked about the importance of the aerospace industry to the Washington economy at the breakfast. Palmer is an RTC trustee.

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New ‘competitors’ aren’t much competition, analyst says

The obstacles facing newcomers in the aerospace industry are so great that new competitors have little chance of seriously challenging the Boeing Co. and Airbus in the next decade, a noted industry analyst said.

Top Group Vice President Richard Aboulafia said he expects China’s Comac will deliver only eight of its new C919 commercial jets — "not eight a year, just eight" — over the next decade.

Canada’s Bombardier will do better with its CSeries jets, but his projection of 32 deliveries a year from the company is dwarfed by the hundreds of competitors’ 737s rolling out the door of Boeing’s Renton factory, as well as the similarly sized 320s proposed by Airbus in Europe.

"When you’re up against two guys that both have more than $300 billion in backing...this is really hard,” Aboulafia said. "This duopoly thing seems to work.”

Aboulafia was the keynote speaker Feb. 13 at the Pacific Northwest Aerospace Alliance’s annual conference. The event drew more than 400 representatives from aerospace companies in Washington, Oregon and British Columbia.

Much has been made in recent years of efforts by the Chinese and Canadian companies to elbow their way into the passenger jet market now ruled by Boeing and Airbus.

Boeing executives stressed the need to remain competitive against the new competitors as they tried to justify cutting retirement benefits during the recent talks with SPEEA’s engineers and techs.

Supporters are getting the same treatment. On the day Aboulafia spoke, Boeing’s vice president in charge of supply chain management, Stan Deal, warned suppliers at the PNAA conference that competitiveness will be a consideration as Boeing awards contracts in the future.

But Aboulafia said that Comac and Bombardier aren’t likely to threaten to Boeing and Airbus market dominance anytime soon.

"I'm not projecting any challenge in the 10-year time horizon," he said. Comac, he said, has been plagued with development problems on its first airplane, the ARJ21 regional jet. The plane is behind schedule and not close to meeting its performance goals.

But instead of learning from their mistakes, the Chinese are following the exact same path that led them to fail the first time, Aboulafia said. "I’m not a believer.”

Bombardier, on the other hand, has developed a strong performer with its CSeries jet. But the Canadian company is struggling to book orders for it.

The reason, he said, is the market dominance that Boeing and Airbus enjoy. Because they produce jets in such great volume — 80 single-aisle jets a month — it’s easy for them to offer price discounts that Bombardier just can’t match.

After a run of record years for sales and deliveries, Boeing and Airbus should enjoy a decade of good — if not great — business, Aboulafia said: “No bust, less boom.”

High fuel prices, and the ready availability of low-interest loans for aircraft mean that airlines have both incentive to acquire fuel-efficient new jets and the cash to do so, he said.

He said he doesn’t see a bubble forming. “This isn’t housing,” Aboulafia said. "You’ve got mobile assets that are always able to produce revenue for someone.”

Aboulafia also had good news for Puget Sound’s military aircraft builders. “Sequestration” — the deep federal budget cuts set to come on March 1 if Congress can’t agree on a spending deal — isn’t likely to harm Boeing’s KC-46 tanker program, or its P-8 Poseidon sub hunter for the U.S. Navy.

With the tanker, "I think it will be OK,” he said. “That requirement has been pushed off for ever and ever, and the contract is really beneficial to the Air Force.”

And Boeing has done such a good job with the P-8 program, Aboulafia said he thinks it will be safe. “This thing survives,” he said. "No problem with 108 planes for the Navy, and I’d be very surprised if they don’t get 40 or 50 export (sales) as well.”

IAM: Defense workers face layoffs if Congress doesn’t act

In a letter to Congress and civilian employees of the Department of Defense (DoD), Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced 22 days of furloughs for 700,000 of the department’s 800,000 employees if "sequestration" takes effect March 1. The result would be a 20 percent pay cut through the remainder of this fiscal year for the affected employees.

Workers will be notified in writing whether or not they will be furloughed between April 1 and April 25. As previously outlined, furloughs will begin no earlier than April 26 in accordance with law regarding specific notification periods.

In his letter to employees, Panetta explained that furloughs will be taken one day per week over the course of the 22 remaining pay periods of the year. Employees are not eligible to take annual leave on their furlough days, meaning their biweekly paychecks will be slashed by 20 percent overnight. The cuts affect DoD workers struggling to get by in a tough economy on more than two years of frozen pay.

“This is an absolute outrage,” said NFFE-IAM National President William Dougan. “This is exactly the wrong way to go about reducing spending. All this does is hurt employees, their families, and the communities they live in. Congress needs to come back from its weeklong vacation and do their job. We will not back down until this Congress-ionally-manufactured crisis is defeated.”

As the AeroMechanic went to press, the likelihood of Congress acting to prevent the $85 billion in automatic cuts was becoming smaller and smaller.

The IAM&W is urging all members across the United States to call the Capitol Switchboard and over again to tell them to act. Even though the deadline has passed, you can do your part by calling the Capitol Switchboard (on your own time, using your own phone) at (202) 224-3121 to tell Congress to act quickly to solve the sequestration issue before further furloughs have to take place.

Local C’s 1st sporting clays shoot will benefit MNPL

Local C is signing up shooters for its first-ever sporting clays shoot to benefit the Machinists Non-Partisan Political League (MNPL) this month. The shoot will be April 14 at the Sumner Sportsmen.

"This duopoly thing seems to work.”

National President William Dougan. “This is an absolute outrage,” said NFFE-IAM National President William Dougan. “This is exactly the wrong way to go about reducing spending. All this does is hurt employees, their families, and the communities they live in. Congress needs to come back from its weeklong vacation and do their job. We will not back down until this Congress-ionally-manufactured crisis is defeated.”

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Local C’s annual Jimmy Darrah Memorial Shoot will benefit Local C officers, including Fike, Ron Coen, Paul Burton, David Henry, Rod Sigvartson and Keith Elliott.

Local C’s Jimmy Darrah Memorial Shoot will be April 14 at the Sumner Sportsmen, a shooting range near Sumner.

Local C is signing up shooters for its first-ever sporting clays shoot to benefit the Machinists Non-Partisan Political League (MNPL).

The shoot will be April 14 at the Sumner Sportsmen’s Association, 15771 96th St. E., Puyallup.

The Sumner Sportsmen have “one of the nicest facilities in the state catering to shotgun sports,” said Don Fike, who is a member of Local C’s organizing committee for the event.

“They go out of their way to make these events memorable,” he added. We’re excited to partner with them for our first sporting clays shoot.”

The cost for the shoot is $150, or $750 for a team of five. Registration starts at 8 a.m., with safety training at 9 a.m. Shooting will start at 9:30 a.m.

Competitors will shoot 100 "report" targets at 10 stations. Trophies will be awarded to the highest-scoring teams and top individual shooters.

Ammunition will be provided for 12- and 20-gauge shotguns. Lunch and morning coffee and donuts will also be provided.

First-time shooters are welcome and instruction will be available.

Sign-up sheets are available from Local C officers, including Fike, Ron Coen, Paul Burton, David Henry, Rod Sigvartson and Keith Elliott.

Local C’s annual Jimmy Darrah Memorial Shoot will benefit MNPL, which will be July 28 in Westport.
February’s Retired Club meeting minutes

By RUTH RENDER
Retired Club Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Walt Bowen.

Call of Officers: All officers were present.

Minutes:
It was MSP to accept the January minutes with the following corrections:
The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. 

On the national scene the proposed automatic Big Cuts in our budget are putting a lot of pressure on those of us that seek to keep the Social Security and Medicare programs safe. President T.J. Seibert explained that Social Security and Medicare are based on one principle: big contributors pay big taxes.

Big cuts in defense programs will cause job loss, including many workers represented by the Machinists.

The Alliance for Retired Americans is supporting, again, a bill to permit Medicare to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices. The Retired Club Legislative Committee makes a motion that we send a letter in support of this proposal to our two state senators. It was MSP to send the letters.

Tomm Lucy spoke about the Seniors Lobby Day on Olympia on Feb. 21. The following four items were to be highlighted: support the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, support establishment of a State Investment Trust (or State Bank), support carrying across generations legislative priorities and support increased revenues for quality education and protect jobs.

Helen Lowe spoke about changes in Medicare coverage. She also reported that Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors are available at many community centers to offer no cost assistance in selecting a drug program based on your particular needs. Call the Senior Services hotline: (206) 727-6221 or toll free 1-800-562-6900 or go to the web site www.seniorservices.org for more information.

Birthdays & Anniversaries:
John Pompeo celebrated his 91st birthday and Calvin and Vera Doss celebrated their wedding anniversary in February.

Seniors visit Olympia to lobby state legislators on retiree issues

By CARL SCHWARTZ
Retired Club Legislative Chairman

On Feb. 21, some 30 members of District 751’s Retired Club went to our state Capitol in Olympia to participate in the 2013 Senior Citizens Lobby Day. Led by Retired Club President T.J. Seibert, Vice President Helen Lowe, our members joined with 25 members of the Puget Sound Advocates for Retiree Action on our ride to Olympia. We then joined in a meeting with about 200 retirees from a number of unions and public retiree groups from around the state.

Gov. Jay Inslee addressed the seniors and spoke on retiree issues and general state issues being considered by the Legislature. We also heard from Attorney General Bob Ferguson. State Senior Citizen Lobby President Walt Bowen then introduced a number of speakers who gave us information on a number of the health and retiree issues.

Following the box lunch, retirees split up and visited our various state legislators, taking on a number of the health and retiree issues. Retiree Jackie Boschek, who lives in the 44th District, met with Rep. Dan Jesschek, then joined other senators to meet with reps from the 44th District. “It was good to get that face-to-face time with my rep,” she said.

My favorite speaker from the morning’s agenda was Andy Nichols, senior fiscal

Continued on page 11
FREE WANTS AD RULES
Each single ad must be 25 words or less. Use a separate piece of paper or ad blank for each ad, as ads are pre-classified physically. Ads are free only to members - active, laid-off, or retired. For best response, include phone number. Members “cottage industries” will be OK in ads, but no commercial ads. When using own paper for ads, include information required on regular ad blank.
Deadline For Next Issue March 15th


HOUSING
HOME FOR SALE ON 5 ACRES. Cano Island: $398,000. Will give you 3% down for payment. Very nice School, shop around the corner. 206-387-6904.


ROOM FOR RENT IN MARYSVILLE. $315. Includes water & electric, internet & more. 306-537-1069.

MISCELLANEOUS
NICET ORNATE picture frame 26" x 14" - holds a picture size 19" x 6" x 60, collectible. London Frames Pictures (5) 17" x 17" wide, nice (Big Bend, Winston Castle, St. Paul's Cathedral, Tower Bridge, Westminster Abbey) & 1 L. Cortlandt $30 or $55 each. 206-724-0059.

TIN MAPLE LEAVES, WALL HANG 36" x 38" x 1.5" thick. $25. Cat framed picture 16 x 20 by Elizabeth Brown, $20, very nice. 253-852-8009.

Kirby G F 64 MURIN MAGNIFIC heatluphra vacuum cleaner, used once, owner's manual, tapes, 6 bags, 3 belts, all accessories, shampoer, etc. For more info, call 253-852-8009.

Cup Guns, 3 Nicholls Stallion 45 in a box, with holster, 2 Buck Bros. BBl rifle, 2 Muffler 38, space guns & other guns $50. 253-760-1864.

AUTOMOBILES
1990 FORD, 2 DR custom street rod or show car, nice ride, clean, low miles, blue color outside, gray entertainment, ask $16,000 obo. Flat head V8. Cell 253-951-3363 or home 253-835-7756.

BOATS

20 FOOT SHELL BOAT, all hand built, unlimited talk/text/data. $49 a month or less.

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Interest rates are still low. Start your home mortgage in 2013. Call V on Provo at Admiral Re.

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FREE AUTO PARTS  AUTO PARTS & ACCESSORIES
HEADERS FIT “TUNDRA 2000-2006” New, never used. $65. Should add more HP. If not sold soon, will keep them. Can send pictures or go to craigslist for pictures coming soon...worth over $1,000 obo. 253-686-7833 text or leave a message.

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DOMESTICATED ANIMALS LARGE DOG CRATE, used once $75. 253-475-5030 after 5 PM.

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I AM THE FUTURE

MACHINISTS

DO YOU WANT TO...
• Know how your union works
• Meet union leaders
• Get involved in your union

Then plan to attend:

NEW MEMBER CONFERENCE
Saturday, March 30
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(lunch & t-shirt provided)
Seattle Union Hall, 9135 15th Pl. S.

This fun, informative four-hour interactive conference is designed to introduce you to your union. You will be provided pathways to get involved in events, community service or committee activity OR you can simply learn more about the activities.

The event is free and includes lunch and a free t-shirt. Reserve your spot TODAY by calling Kay at 206-764-0335; 1-800-763-1301, ext. 3335 or email conference@iam751.org. Include BEMS ID or last four digits of SSN, contact info and shirt size. Deadline to register & order a t-shirt is March 8.

IAM Scholarship deadline extended to April 26, 2013

The IAM Scholarship Competition is open each year to members of the IAM and their children throughout the United States and Canada. The deadline for the 2013 scholarships has been extended to April 26. Awards to members are $2,000 per academic year. They are granted for a specific period from one to four years leading to a bachelor’s degree or a two-year vocational/technical certification. Awards to children of members are:

• College -- $1,000 per academic year
• Vocational/Technical School -- $2,000 per year until certification is reached for a maximum of two years, whichever occurs first.

Eligibility for Competition

Any applicant must be either:
• An IAM member, or
• The son, daughter, stepchild or legally adopted child of an IAM member.

Child of a member applicant:
• Must have one living parent with two years of continuous good-standing membership up to and including the closing date of April 26;
• Must be planning to graduate during the winter or by the end of the spring 2013 school year (i.e., normally a high school senior);
• Must plan to take a regular college or vocational/technical program on a full-time basis, maintaining qualifying grades;
• Will be eligible if the parent died after the son or daughter entered high school, if the parent had two years of “continuous good-standing membership” at the time of death;
• A “continuous good-standing membership” is understood to be a period of membership during which the member continuously has paid monthly dues uninterrupted by withdrawal cards; and
• The IAM member must maintain continuous good-standing membership throughout the life of the award.

For information on rules of eligibility or to obtain an application form, visit www.goiam.org/iamscholarship.

NOTE: Completed application packets must be postmarked no later than April 26.

Obtain an IAM Scholarship application and guidelines online by visiting www.goiam.org/iamscholarship. Completed applications must be postmarked no later than April 26, 2013 (deadline was extended from Feb. 26).

Cola for March 1, 2013 minus 9¢ at Boeing

Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) are generated quarterly under the IAM/Boeing contract and are based on the federal government’s Consumer Price Index (CPI). It is rolled into your base rate once a year in September - becoming a permanent part of your base rate. COLA for the quarter (Nov. Dec. 2012 and Jan. 2013) resulted in a minus 9 cents effective Mar. 1, 2013.

Q) How can 9¢ be subtracted from my pay?
A) COLA is folded in and made permanent in your base pay September of each year. Anything not folded in is in jeopardy if there is a negative COLA.

Below is COLA history for the last year:

Sept. 14, 2012 - 21¢ COLA (generated Aug 2011 through July 2012) was folded in becoming a permanent part of your base rate.


Again, COLA may be added or subtracted from your base rate during a given year depending on the CPI fluctuations each quarter. 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). There are multiple times in our past when COLA was negative and resulted in a subtraction from the already generated COLA.

Seniors visit Olympia to lobby state legislators

More than 30 District 751 retirees joined other seniors for a day of lobbying our legislators in Olympia on senior issues. Our members met with their respective legislators, as well as hearing from Governor Jay Inslee, Attorney General Bob Ferguson and a number of other speakers.

Tom Lux, Robin Guevarra and all the volunteers who coordinated the transportation and put the conference together. And thanks to our state legislators listened and responded to our concerns. It was a long day but well spent.
This year is a busy year for Machinists Union members in Eastern Washington who have 22 collective bargaining agreements expiring. Members covered by the 22 contracts are in various stages of preparation for negotiation and bargaining.

Business Rep Steve Warren and Staff Assistant Ken Howard are continually meeting with the various groups to identify issues, outline negotiation schedules, hold strike sanction and contract votes – not to mention doing the day-to-day contract enforcement for these contracts, and the many others in Eastern Washington.

Heading into this intensive negotiation schedule, union officers wanted to educate members on the benefits of the IAM National Pension Fund (IAM NPF). In February, Damien Anderson, a representative from the pension fund held a series of informational meetings to provide an update for members currently covered by the plan, as well as allowing other bargaining units an opportunity to learn about the benefits of the IAM NPF prior to including it in their contract proposal.

The meetings covered topics such as: • Defined benefit plan contributions; • Steps necessary in planning your retirement; • Early retirement; and • Vesting service/credit service

IAM NPF had meetings at the Triumph Composite Systems plant on both first and second shift to educate and answer questions for the nearly 500 members who now participate in the IAM NPF. Meetings were also held with members working for Delaware Resource Group at Fairchild Air Force Base. Negotiations on their new contract begins March 12 in Oklahoma City. In addition, members at ASC Machine Tools on both first and second shift met with IAM NPF rep at the Union Hall. ASC’s contract expires July 31.

The IAM NPF rep also gave another presentation at the Local 86 general membership meeting on Feb. 14, and answered more pension benefits questions on multi-employer versus single employer plans, vesting and retirement planning, the multiplier benefit table and voluntary contributions and defined benefit contributions.

In the Tri-Cities, Machinists Union members working at five contractors on the Hanford Nuclear Site voted by 95 percent to grant strike sanction on Feb. 20. The five contracts are negotiated through Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council. The Machinists Union is one of 14 affiliates who participate in the Metal Trades Council negotiations for these five collective bargaining agreements.

The key to success in each contract is membership involvement and feedback, which drive the proposals presented at the bargaining table.

At lunch, members at Triumph Composite Systems fill out the health and benefits contract survey to provide input to union negotiators.

Damien Anderson (far right) from the IAM National Pension Fund answers questions on the IAM National Pension Fund for members at Triumph. The current contract provides a contribution rate of $1.70 an hour.

Machinists Union members working at Hanford Nuclear Site negotiate through the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council, which involves 14 different affiliate unions. Above L to R: Mark Johnson, Karen Andrews and Craig Smoot at the strike sanction vote.

Members working at Delaware Resource Group at Fairchild Air Force Base learn about the benefits of the IAM National Pension Fund.

Carl Andrews, a Steward at Triumph Composite Systems, prioritizes issues for health and benefits.

Members at ASC Machine Tools hear a presentation on the IAM National Pension Fund. Their current agreement expires on July 31.