IAM steward stands up for safety

A District 751 union steward is being praised for standing up for the safety of the people who work on his crew.

The steward, David Wyatt, did “exactly the right thing,” said Everett Business Rep Ray Baumgardner. “He put the safety of his crew first, and he didn’t back down.”

Wyatt works second shift in the Major Structures Delivery Center for 777s at Boeing’s Everett plant. On a Thursday night in late September, Wyatt was inside a 777 fuselage section when he spotted something that made him worry: a heavy-duty electrical line in a precarious position.

The line was feeding power to a bank of lights mounted on a gantry inside the plane. The lights are needed so Machinists can see what they’re doing as they lay down temporary floor panels over the floor beams to create a work area inside the fuselage section.

The problem was that the electrical line — plugged in to a power source outside the plane — was draped in a bad position. For starters, it was running across the base of the steps leading up to the gantry, making it a trip hazard.

But more importantly, Wyatt saw that the gantry, as it moved back and forth on its metal tracks, could potentially run over the power line. It had happened twice already, and he worried the insulation covering the copper wiring inside had been damaged by the weight of the gantry and the lights.

Wyatt said he worried that the damage could expose the live wires inside. “What would happen with all that metal around us?” he said. “I know what it does, and I’m scared of electricity.”

What Wyatt didn’t know was that he wasn’t the first Machinist to spot the problem. The week before, a steward on third shift had seen it too and filled out a SHEAR form. SHEAR forms (SHEAR stands for “Safety, Health and Environmental Action Request”) are documents that union members can use to report a safety problem they see and to ask for it to be investigated and solved.

Open enrollment starts at Boeing

District 751 members working at Boeing will be asked to select their health and dental insurance coverage for 2013 during the annual enrollment period, which runs Nov. 5 through Nov. 30. This is the only time you can make routine changes to your health care.

If you select a new medical or dental plan, changes take effect Jan. 1. IAM members at Boeing in Puget Sound can choose from

Hytex Machinists show solidarity

Rallies, marches show management that members remain strong after a year of contract talks.

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REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

Work on tankers made possible by political involvement

By TOM WROBLEWSKI
District President

Last month, with little fanfare, some District 751 members in Seattle began assembling the first booms for the 767 tankers that we’ll build for Boeing.

It was a huge milestone for this union – and it came after a long, hard and frustrating struggle.

Those of us Machinists who’ve been around for a while know the story, but it’s worth repeating.

In 2001, after the September 11th terror attacks in New York, Boeing was in trouble. Airlines were canceling orders and the company had announced plans to lay off 30,000 people here in Puget Sound, which was going to devastate our local economy – particularly the thousands of union families who relied on Boeing paychecks.

People in Congress, like Norm Dicks and Patty Murray got to thinking: Boeing had developed plans for a new 767-based refueling tanker; the U.S. Air Force badly needed to replace its 40-year-old fleet of KC-135 tankers; Boeing was hungry for new orders – and our members desperately needed the work.

So they proposed a common-sense solution: Boeing should build 100 767 tankers for the U.S. Air Force.

It was going to be a win-win-win: the Air Force would get the planes it needed, Boeing would get new orders it needed, and thousands of our members would keep their jobs – along with thousands of other aerospace workers around the country who work on the 767.

Of course, we all know what happened next: Boeing won the tanker deal, then lost it to Airbus, then – after a long, bruising fight – finally won it once and for all.

Through all the ups and downs of the next 10 years, your union stayed focused on winning the tanker bid. We knew it was the best option for America’s military, American taxpayers – and our members.

For years, District 751 members lobbed our Congressional representatives on Boeing’s behalf to make sure the Pentagon used a fair process to evaluate which tankers to buy. We got support from our Machinists Union brothers and sisters across America, who also lobbied their representatives.

Here in Puget Sound, we worked closely with Boeing management to find ways to build 767’s more efficiently – so that Boeing could offer the Air Force a better bid.

Finally, in 2011 – more than nine years after we started – you and I got to celebrate Boeing was finally awarded the contract. The work on the booms has now begun, and our members in Everett next summer will start assembling the first of what will be 179 tankers.

That work will keep several thousand Boeing employees – and tens of thousands more aerospace workers across America – busy until at least 2027.

We’ve got a lot of work to do between now and then. But the work we’ve done to this point has paid off in ways that may mean even more than the 179 planes we’re going to build.

I believe that our union’s willingness to stay with the tanker fight – even as three different CEOs came and left at Boeing – made an impression on decision-makers in Chicago. I believe that we’ve learned to adapt to new manufacturing processes, and propose improvements of our own, also helped convince Boeing Chicago’s management team that it had a lot to gain from a closer connection with the Machinists Union. These things, I believe, factored into the new, improved relationship we have with the company, which has resulted in improved job security, pay and benefits for you.

Of course, a major reason we were successful in winning the tanker was our union’s involvement in the political process – particularly through the efforts of our volunteers. As I’ve often said, it’s the ability of unions to mobilize groups of volunteers to make phone calls and go door-to-door that makes us an important part of America’s political landscape – far more powerful, I believe, the work we’ve written to the candidates we support.

Continued on Page 8

777 and tanker programs reach major milestones

Machinists working on two high-profile Boeing widebody programs reached major milestones in October:

- District 751 members at Hytek Finishes in Kent during one of their break-time rallies in October 2011, after the company announced plans to shut down the facility and move production to Asia.
- District 751 members in Seattle began assembling the first booms for the 767 tankers that Boeing built for the U.S. Air Force.

The 777 program reached the milestone goal of 400 ready-to-ship 777s – and tanker programs reached major milestones – in October:

- The first 777 787 Freighter entered service in October.
- The 787 Dreamliner entered service with United Airlines.
- The 747-8 Intercontinental entered service with Qantas.
- The 747-8 Freighter entered service with United Airlines.
- The 747-8 Cargo entered service with Air China.

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WASHINGTON STATE HOUSE SPEAKER FRANK CHOPP VISITED DISTRICT 751’S SEATTLE UNION HALL IN OCTOBER TO DISCUSS THE UNION’S PRIORITIES FOR THE UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

“OUR INDUSTRY NEEDS A NEW GENERATION OF TRAINED WORKERS, AND WE TALKED ABOUT WAYS THE STATE CAN HELP PROVIDE THE TRAINING PEOPLE NEED TO FILL AEROSPACE JOBS,” SAID DISTRICT 751 LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR LARRY BROWN.

BROWN SAID THE UNION IS LOOKING FOR STATE SUPPORT FOR APPRENTICESHIPS AND FOR TRAINING PROGRAMS AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES. ON THE APPRENTICESHIP FRONT, BROWN SAID THE UNION ONCE AGAIN WILL SUPPORT PROPOSED LEGISLATION THAT WOULD GIVE COMPANIES TAX BREAKS FOR HIRING APPRENTICES.

ONE THING THAT DID COME OUT OF LAST YEAR’S SESSION WAS THE FORMATION OF AN AEROSPACE PIPELINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS CHARGED WITH FINDING WAYS FOR THE STATE TO IMPROVE TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR ALL KINDS OF ADVANCED AEROSPACE MANUFACTURING JOBS IN WASHINGTON.

BROWN EXPLAINED TO CHOPP THAT AEROSPACE TRAINING ALSO CAN APPLY TO OTHER MANUFACTURING SECTORS, SUCH AS MARINE AND HEAVY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT.

BROWN SAID HE AND CHOPP AGREED TO HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS DURING THE SESSION TO TALK ABOUT AEROSPACE INDUSTRY CONCERNS AND OTHER ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THE MACHINISTS UNION.

“THANKS TO OUR CONTRACT EXTENSION, WE KNOW NOW BOEING’S GOING TO BE BUILDING AIRPLANES IN EVERETT AND RENTON WELL INTO THE FUTURE,” BROWN SAID. “THE CHALLENGE NOW,” HE ADDED, “IS TO MAKE SURE THAT BOEING AND ITS SUPPLIERS HAVE ENOUGH SKILLED WORKERS, AND THAT OUR STATE’S YOUNG PEOPLE ARE FIRST IN LINE TO FILL THOSE HIGH-WAGE, HIGH-SKILL JOBS.”
HEALTH AND BENEFITS

Open enrollment starts for District 751 members at Boeing

Continued from Page 1

the following medical plans:

- Selected Contributions Coordination Plan (CCP)
- Group Health Cooperative HMO
- Traditional Medical Plan (TMP)

If you don’t take action during open enrollment, your current benefit choices will continue automatically and the new monthly contributions will apply.

2013 contribution rates for Puget Sound are noted in the table below:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Coverage Level</th>
<th>Employee Only</th>
<th>Employee + spouse</th>
<th>Employee + children</th>
<th>Family</th>
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<tr>
<td>Traditional</td>
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<td>$570</td>
<td>$215</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCP</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>$90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer only</td>
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<td>$120</td>
<td>$120</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee, spouse &amp; child</td>
<td>$135</td>
<td>$270</td>
<td>$270</td>
<td>$135</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Amounts reflect completion of health assessment questionnaires.

Our contract with Boeing spells out your health care benefits, including deductibles, office co-pays and prescription coverage. You should be aware of several items that are changing:

- The new Member Pay the Difference Generic Incentive Plan for prescription drugs applies to all medical plans. For brand formulary and brand non-formulary prescription drugs from a retail pharmacy or the mail-order program, you’ll be encouraged to choose generic over brand-name options.
- The new Generic Copay Plus cost difference between the brand-name and generic drug.
- Members enrolled in a Boeing-sponsored medical plan must go online at www.webmdhealth.com/boeing.

Union members who’d rather not answer the questionnaire online have reminders go to the “Your Benefits Resources” web site.

Outside Boeing go to www.boeing.com/express and click TotalAccess, then My Health & Insurance, then Enroll for Benefits.

Login with your TotalAccess Password and your BEMS ID or Social Security number. When you complete your enrollment, click Confirm and print the confirmation and keep it until a copy comes in the mail or email.

You also can call TotalAccess by phone at 866-473-201. If you do, you’ll be asked to enter your BEMS ID and follow the prompts.

If you make a mistake on your choice and need to make a correction, you’ll have until Dec. 21 to re-access it by calling TotalAccess at 866-473-201.

Remember: You must have your Boeing TotalAccess password to enroll online, at home or by phone. If you’ve misplaced it, log on to Boeing TotalAccess, click My Profile, click TotalAccess Password.

Your union recommends that you study the plans carefully before selecting coverage, review how different plans affect your out-of-pocket costs and check lists of network providers to see which networks your doctor is in.

Beginning November 2012

The new health assessment questionnaires for District 751 members working at Boeing are now available through Boeing’s TotalAccess.

Union members and their spouses or partners covered by Boeing medical plans have until Nov. 21 to complete the questionnaires, or face higher monthly out-of-pocket costs for health care next year.

The questionnaires are available online at TotalAccess. Members can fill them out at work by logging on to the TotalAccess site and clicking the “My Well Being” tab. To answer the questionnaire at home, members can log on to TotalAccess by going to www.boeing.com/express, then entering their BEMS ID and TotalAccess password, then clicking “My Well Being.”

Spouses or domestic partners enrolled in a Boeing-sponsored medical plan must go online at www.webmdhealth.com/boeing.

Continued on Page 5
Members at Boeing have options for getting flu shots

District 751 members who work at Boeing have several op- tions to get flu shots for themselves and members of their families. Flu shots are available at work at most Boeing locations in the United States. For specific information on dates and times at different loca- tions, log onto Boeing TotalAccess and click on the “My Well Being” tab. Union members and the depen- dents covered under their health insurance plans can also get flu shots from their regular doctor or health care provider. New this fall, union members and dependents who are signed up for Boeing’s Traditional Medical Plan or Selec- tions – which are the Boeing pharmacy plans administered by Medco – can get coverage up to $25 for flu shots at retail clinics or local pharmacies within the Medco pharmacy network. Members who sign up for the Tra- ditional Medical Plan, the Select- ions Plan, or the District 751 Medical Plan can get $25 for flu shots at retail clinics or local pharmacies within the Medco pharmacy network. Members who sign up for the Tra- ditional Medical Plan, the Select- ions Plan, or the District 751 Medical Plan can get $25 for flu shots at retail clinics or local pharmacies within the Medco pharmacy network.

Health screenings optional; health questionnaire isn’t

Continued from Page 4 the option of calling TotalAccess at (888) 802-8776. If you're not yet a member, go to www.grouphealth.org and click on “watch video.” Having the right information will help you choose the right health plan.

Working with a primary nurse is in- cluded in your medical benefits pack- age and there is no extra cost to you. BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois con- tinues to upgrade the web and mobile services to help Boeing employees make educated decisions on their health care. Blue Access for Members, the secure portion of the website, re- cently underwent a major redesign. With Blue Access for Members, a member can easily check the status of a claim, chat live with Customer Ser- vice and estimate the cost of a pro- cedure ahead of time. One can find a provider using the Provider Finder application available through the Ap- ple and Android application stores. Anyone with questions can contact a Customer Advocate at 1-888-802-8776.

BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois administers the Selections and Tradi- tional Plans for IAM members at Boeing. Effective Jan. 1, there will be several changes to both the Traditional Medi- cal Plan as well as the Select- ions Plan medical benefits. Under the Traditional Medical Plan, the deduct- ible will be $225 for indi- viduals and $675 for family coverage. The out-of-pocket maximum will be $2,000 for individual coverage and $4,500 for families. In addition, the coinsurance for network physicians and hospital services will be 90 percent. Services provided out-of- network will continue to be covered at 60 percent. If you need to go to the emer- gency room your co-pay will be $75, then the plan will pay 90 percent after the deductible is met. This co-pay will be waived if you are admitted. For covered organ transplants and bariatric surgery, you will have the op- ternity to have your services covered under the deductible is met. This co-pay will be waived if you are admitted. For covered organ transplants and bariatric surgery, you will have the op- ternity to have your services covered. The non-network deduct- ible will be $450 per person and the annual out-of-pocket maximum will be $2,250 for individual coverage and $4,500 for family coverage. The office visit, lab, and x-ray co-pay will be $15 and the emergen- cy room co-pay will be $75 (which is waived for patients who are admitted). Your prescription drug pro- gram has a retail pharmacy and a mail-order pharmacy benefit. For a 30-day supply at a network re- tail pharmacy, you will pay $5 for ge- neric drugs. The co-pay is $20 for for- mulary brand-name drugs and $35 for non-formulary brand-name drugs – if you are not admitted. Your co-payment for up to a 90-day supply by mail (through Medco Pharma- cy) is $10 for generic drugs. The co-pay is $40 for formulary brand-name drugs and $70 for non-formulary brand-name drugs. Again, that’s if no ge- neric is available or if you are approved through the re- view process; otherwise you will pay more. If you pur- chase a brand- name medication at retail or by mail when a generic equivalent medication is available, you will pay the generic co-payment, plus the difference in cost between the brand drug and the generic. Members who sign up for the Tra- ditional or Selections plan always have access to a primary nurse who can as- sist with managing health care needs. It is your choice to work with a pri- mary nurse or not, and if you choose to do so, your primary nurse can help ad- dress any health concerns you may have. Your primary nurse can also help with questions on upcoming proce- dures, coordinating communication with your physician, and scheduling regular calls with you to help you live healthier and better manage any health conditions.

District 751 members who don’t complete the assessment by Dec. 21 will face an additional $20-a-month paycheck deduction for health care in 2013. If a spouse or partner fails to complete the assessment by Dec. 21, there will be an additional $20 a month.

Boeing mailed information on the new health assessments and voluntary health screenings to members in late October.
Retired member raffles car to help child with rare illness

A retired District 751 member who raffled off his drag racing car raised more than $11,000 for the family of a baby boy with a rare illness.

That included more than $4,000 worth of raffle tickets sold to Machinists, said Ron Cook, who parked his ‘57 Chevrolet BelAir dragster at the Everett Union Hall for a week in October.

Union members “came through for us quite a bit,” said Cook, an Arlington resident.

The boy — 7-month-old Casen Buswell of Puyallup — has an incredibly rare genetic disorder called glomuvenous malformation. Only 14 people in the world are said to have the condition, which causes hardening of the skin and tissues within his muscles. This results in painful lesions that are sensitive to touch, pressure and sometimes temperature changes.

Doctors in Belgium have pioneered treatment, using lasers. But getting baby Casen and his family back-and-forth to Europe for the treatments is going to be tremendously expensive, Cook said.

“It’s going to take quite a few hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not millions.”

Casen’s condition has been chronicled by local television and radio stations and newspapers. Cook said it was one of those TV reports — with the sound of Casen’s rapid, shallow breathing — that inspired him to act.

It reminded him of the way his mother breathed at the end of her life, when she was dying of lung cancer, Cook said. “I saw that little boy on TV, and I don’t know if it was God talking to me or maybe my mom, but it just clicked in my heart that that little baby hasn’t had a chance to live.”

Cook, who’d worked in tooling on 777s in Everett, was contemplating a retirement from amateur drag racing anyway. The only question was when to sell his car and what to do with the money. Donating it to baby Casen and his family was a way to help out, and give back, Cook said. “This baby, to me, needs more help.”

The winning ticket was drawn Oct. 14 at Evergreen Speedway at Monroe. The winner was 82-year-old Della Philips of Arlington. Cook said she told him she plans to give the car to her grandson.

District 751 was proud to help with Cook’s quest, said Secretary-Treasurer Susan Palmer.

“When he called to ask if he could use our parking lot, we instantly said yes,” she said. “It’s just so great, what he has done.”

If you want to donate to the Buswell family, go online at www.giveforward.com where the family has set up an account for donors.

Neighbors in Puyallup also plan a holiday bazaar for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 10 at Carson Elementary, 8615 184th St. E. More than 20 vendors are expected.

MVPs help local families, communities and homeless people

Members of the Machinists Volunteer Program at District 751 continued making important contributions to our communities in October.

In Everett, the group launched a new Adopt-a-Road project, coordinating with Snohomish County officials to assume responsibility for cleaning up along Fourth Avenue West between 112th and 128th Streets.

MVPs continued serving Sunday breakfasts to homeless people at the Everett Gospel Mission, with increasing numbers of volunteers coming out to help.

In Pierce County, MVPs continued their work with the Tacoma Rescue Mission, serving Saturday and Sunday breakfasts and also a Sunday dinner. (See story, Page 7.) The group extended its work with area homeless people in October by taking part in two events.

In Seattle, MVPs handed out more than 1,000 pairs of shoes to homeless people during the United Way of King County’s Community Resource Exchange event. And in Tacoma, union volunteers helped pass out soap and other personal hygiene items at Project Homeless Connect.

To take part in MVP events, call the Seattle Union Hall at (206) 764-0335.
MVPs prep for KING 5’s Hometeam Harvest

District 751’s MVPs are once again preparing to do their part in the fight against hunger.

Members of the Machinists Volunteer Program are collecting food and cash for KING-TV’s annual Hometeam Harvest food drive to benefit Northwest Harvest food bank.

In addition, as many as 150 union volunteers are expected to be on hand for the Dec. 1 food drive itself, hoping to load semi-trailers with food donated by Channel 5 viewers from around Puget Sound.

Volunteers are needed in Bothell, Everett, Renton, Tacoma and at Northgate Mall in Seattle. Volunteers must sign up in advance this year. Sign-up sheets will be available at local lodge meetings in November, and at Puget Sound-area union halls.

In addition, union members can drop off donations of food or cash at any union hall in Puget Sound.

“Hunger is no game,” said Robley Evans, the MVP chairman. “We see it all too often, through our volunteer work at homeless shelters and at the Northwest Harvest warehouse in Kent.”

According to a recent report, 15.4 percent of Washington families routinely struggle to put food on the table. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that 163,000 families statewide don’t have enough to eat, and the level of “food insecurity” here is higher than that in Oregon and Idaho.

The number is rising, the USDA said, even as the economy improves.

This will be the 11th year for District 751 volunteers to take part in KING-TV’s annual winter food drive. Last year, more than 125 union members volunteered. The union’s local lodges and individual members came together to collect $3,563, plus more than 500 pounds of food. The Washington Machinists Council -- the umbrella group for all IAM local and district lodges in the state -- contributed another $1,500.

“Truly, the aerospace machinists union has become as much a part of Hometeam Harvest as anyone else,” said Betsy Roberson, the community relations manager for the TV station.

Team 751 makes strides in fight against breast cancer

Some four dozen District 751 volunteers turned out in Bellevue Oct. 7 for the annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk. The walk was the centerpiece of the District 751 Women’s Committee’s effort to raise breast cancer awareness.

UW labor center to celebrate anniversary

The Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies at the University of Washington will celebrate its 20th anniversary this month. The conference, which is free and open to the public, will start at 6 p.m. Nov. 16, with a keynote address by labor lawyer Tom Geoghegan at Kane Hall, Room 120, on the UW campus.

It will continue from 12:15 to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 17 in Room 334 of the Husky Union Building, with sessions on topics ranging from the future of labor to union democracy and civil rights.

The celebration will conclude that evening with the banquet from 5:30 p.m. in the Husky Union Building’s South Ballroom.
Residents living near Sumner have been eating more fresh vegetables, thanks to the efforts of District 751 member Terry "Caveman" Henderson. Henderson and his girlfriend, Monica Kenney, spent much of the spring and summer rototilling more than 50 garden plots, then planting, tending, and eventually harvesting fresh vegetables at Shepherd’s Field, which is part of Sumner Community Garden. Henderson volunteered countless hours to helping Sumner residents optimize their pea patch and communal gardens, and they say the harvest was well worth it.

By late summer and early fall, their local food bank had received literally tons of fresh vegetables—a commodity that’s not typically donated. In addition, the residents tending the pea patch also enjoyed their own produce. "The food bank was used to Wyatt and his team. All he knew was that they were working inside a steel-and-concrete dam that could have seriously damaged high-voltage electrical chord," Wyatt called Baumgardner, his business rep, for advice. Baumgardner directed Wyatt to take a determination about the safety of the situation when another manager intervened—in a bad way. "He was angry, Wyatt said. Wyatt says this second manager told him the situation had already been investigated. But the manager wouldn’t say what he needed to hear. Wyatt said. "I went to Wyatt, he was veryanton with what I was saying. I’m going to call Imminent Danger." The manager responded by threatening to write him up, Wyatt said. "He said he was going to CAM me for stopping production." The business rep said he told his steward the situation was often called the "Imminent Danger Clause." Section 16.1 states that employees who feel they are at danger of "life or limb" can inform their immediate supervisor of said concern. Once that happens, work must stop until a site safety manager makes a determination about the safety of the people and the work they are doing.

When Wyatt invoked Article 16, his team evacuated the area until an HSI group arrived to investigate. The confrontation with the manager continued to escalate, however. Wyatt was on the phone with Baumgardner through much of it. Baumgardner said he could hear the angry manager shouting in the background, threatening to pull Wyatt’s badge and have security walk him out of the factory unless he got back to work.

The business rep said he told his steward to hang tough, and to call Boeing’s Security and Fire departments themselves to explain what was going on.

In the end, Boeing Security officers told Wyatt he’d done the right thing and let him go back to work, after the HSI team explained the work-around.

The preliminary investigation that night found that Wyatt was right to be worried: there was enough amperage flowing through the power line to potentially blow out the entire side of the 777 fuselage, if the wires had been exposed, and if the live wires had hit a human body instead of a metal panel, the person hit would have been electrocuted.

There’s a lot of pressure these days to make higher production rates, said District 7 President Tom Wrebslawski. "But none of that is worth the risk of killing or maiming anyone. "Workplace safety is a sacred duty for this union," he said. "That’s why we’ve got strong safety language in our contract."

Baumgardner said he was proud of the steward. "He put the safety of his crew first, and he didn’t back down."

"We’re here to build planes and make money," Wyatt said. "I’m a Boeing shareholder, and I want to earn my paycheck. But we have to do it safely," he added. "Otherwise, what do I tell somebody’s wife and kid?"

IAM steward in Everett stands up for his crew’s safety

Continued from Page 1

In this case, a management safety team had investigated and had come up with a work-around. But the SHEAR report and work-flow plan had already been communicated to Wyatt and his team. All he knew was that they were working inside a steel- and-concrete dam that could have seriously damaged high-voltage electrical chord.

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Steward uses contract to solve overtime issue

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When Belles learned of the situation, he contacted Auburn Business Rep Joe Crockett and turned to the contract book. According to Letter of Understanding 16.06 (as on page 33), if management wants to exclude a member from working overtime due to "Documented Work Performance," it has to be stated on the corrective action memo and the duration cannot exceed 90 days.

Belles researched the issue and confirmed the member’s corrective action memo made no mention of excluding him from overtime. He then went to management with the contract book and advised if they didn’t reconsider the overtime assignment, he would file a grievance the following Monday. After managers learned their plans was on the line, they relented. As a result, the member who wanted overtime got to work while the other enjoyed a weekend with his family—just like he wanted.

“I couldn’t have resolved the issue without Business Rep Joe Crockett’s support. As soon as I presented him with the facts, Joe directed me to LOU 16," said Belles. "It just shows that no matter how long you have been a steward, you need to go to the contract book in every instance."

Crockett said Belles "did a great job representing the members in his shop."

His pro-active approach ensured the situation was resolved before it became a grievance," Crockett said. "It saved everyone time and energy and ensured the members’ rights were protected."

Work on tankers made possible by union’s political involvement

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Many of you took part this year’s elections, by going door-to-door on Labor Neighbor walks, by spending time at our union hall making calls on behalf of our candidates, or by donating to the Machinists Non-partisan Political League. And for that, I thank you.

Just like our amazing MVPs, and all who volunteer and donate to Guide Dogs of America, the people who took part in the elections this year did their part to make our communities and our country better places. That, of course, is one of the core values of unionism.

Later this month, we’ll celebrate Thanksgiving. And between the start of work on our contract extension with Boeing, I as your union president have a lot to be thankful for, and I wish you and yours nothing but the best for this holiday.
October's Retired Club meeting minutes

The meeting was called to order on Oct. 8 by President T.J. Seibert. President T.J. Seibert led the attendees in the Lord’s Prayer followed by the flag salute and the singing of “God Bless America.”

Roll Call of Officers: All present except for Louise Burns and Betty Ness.

Minutes: It was M/S/P to accept the September meeting minutes with one correction: Leroy Miller’s name should have been included in the list of September birthdays.

Financial Report: The September expense report was read by Vice President Helen Lowe. A motion was made to accept the report as read. M/S/P.

Business Report: Health & Benefits Rep. Garth Lux gave the report. Health & Welfare: President T.J. Seibert gave the report. A moment of silence was observed for the following deceased members: Lila Hill, Edwin C. Johnson and Yukio Takeuchi. Carl Schwartz said he saw an obituary for Robert Balzarini who used to be a District Council Delegate and lodge officer. Ruth Render mentioned that retiree Vickie Hickes also passed away recently.

Legislative Report: Carl Schwartz spoke about the upcoming election. He encouraged everyone to check the ALEC/Mechanic for information on the positions of the various candidates pertaining to seniors and union workers.

Carl said Retiree Club and Legislative Committee activities in the coming year will depend on who wins the elections, both nationally and locally. He said regardless of the results we will continue to forcefully advocate for senior and worker issues.

Carl spoke about two upcoming events. The Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies conference to be held Nov. 16 & 17 at the University of Washington, and The Puget Sound AdvoCare legislative conference Nov. 10 from 10 a.m. to noon at the United Food & Commercial Workers’ Seattle Union Hall, 5030 First St. Several retired club members will attend these conferences and report back at the next meeting.

Carl spoke about the dangers of privatizing Social Security, mentioning the amount of fraud that has taken place in the private arena of retirement funds and accounts, such as Bernie Madoff, Ken Lay-Enron and Washington Mutual. In contrast, during the approximately 75 years that Social Security has been in place there has been no fraud. Some of the people who lost money in the private market are relying only on their Social Security benefits.

Carl then talked about ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council. This is a group based in Virginia that writes proposals for bills that benefit corporations. These bills are presented to state representatives during swanky conferences hosted by ALEC. The representatives are encouraged to present the proposed bills as their own. Some Washington state legislators have gone to these conferences. More information can be found at www.alecexposed.org.

Carl also mentioned the Norquist Pledge, which is a Republican pledge to vote “No” on any bills that would raise taxes no matter what the tax might be. Carl said this is not the way our country was meant to be run.

Good and Welfare: Helen Lowe said she was asked by Suzan Del-Bene’s organization to get a group of retirees together to stand in front of John Koster’s campaign headquaters while he was having a press conference in support of a voucher program for Medicare. She said there were only a few of them and they were standing on the sidewalk, but they were threatened with arrest.

John Guevarra spoke about an editorial by Paul Krugman in the Oct. 7 Seattle Times titled “Mitt Romney empty health-care promises” and handed out a copy to everyone at the meeting. Krugman states Romney tried to mislead the public with his answers during the debate and he shouldn’t have been allowed to do that. John said as retirees we have the responsibility to spread the truth. We are fighting today for our children and grandchildren.

John also talked on Reformendum 74 and said he supported it even though his church disapproved. He also spoke about ALEC and said that Bill Moyers did a program about ALEC in Sep. T.J. Seibert said we need to learn more about this secret organization.

T.J. Seibert said he attended the Washington Investment Trust forum that included speakers discussing the pros and cons to creating a state bank in Washington. T.J. said Tom Lux, Larry Brown and Ron McGaha also attended the forum.

Birthdays & Anniversaries: Terry George celebrated his birthday with fellow Retired Club members.

Terry George celebrated his birthday with fellow Retired Club members.

Seminars help members plan their retirements

District 751 members who work at Boeing can take advantage of retirement planning workshops being offered in November:

Auburn – noon to 2 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m., Nov. 14, at the Auburn Union Hall.

Renton – noon to 2 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m., Nov. 14, at the Renton Union Hall.

Seattle – Noon to 2 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m., Nov. 8, at the Seattle Union Hall.

To sign up, call Money Management Educators at (888) 223-8311 or e-mail mmpugetsound@mmeducators.org.
Governor honors steward for saving life of Boeing co-worker

A union steward whose quick thoughts and actions helped save the life of a co-worker at Boeing has received a Governor’s Lifesaving Award.

Rachel Sarzynski, who works for Boeing in Everett, was honored in late September at the annual Governor’s Industrial Safety and Health Conference, which was held in Spokane.

Sarzynski was honored along with two other co-workers for helping to save the life of a colleague who was having a seizure. When they went to his aid, they discovered that his tongue had rolled back in his mouth, blocking his airway and slowly suffocating him.

While others called Boeing’s Fire Department, Sarzynski reached in, moved his tongue out of the way and held the man until help arrived. Boeing’s Fire Department had already recognized Sarzynski and the others for their life-saving actions that day.

Sarzynski and the others were definitely deserving of the Governor’s Award as well, said District 751 Safety Focal Tommy Wilson, who also attended the conference. “Rachel did exactly the right thing at exactly the right time.”

District officers to be nominated at Nov. 27 District Council meeting

Throughout the month of September, union nominations were held at the seven local lodges to determine the District Council, which is the governing body of the Union. Nominations were also held for Union Business Reps, District Audit and some Local Lodge Officer positions. All positions were elected by acclamation.

While the Council was determined through the September nomination/election process, the District Officers (President, Secretary-Treasurer, Vice President and Sergeant-at-Arms) will be nominated from those on the new Council at the Nov. 27, 2012, District Council meeting.

In the event an election is required for any of the District offices, an election date will be determined at the Nov. 27, 2012, District Council meeting. Per District 751 bylaws, the election will be scheduled sometime between Jan. 5 and Jan. 20, 2013, (to be determined at the Nov. 27 meeting). If an election is required, formal notification will be sent to all eligible voters specifying the date, voting locations, poll hours, and absentee ballot requirements and due dates.

Santa Claus is coming...

Santa Claus will pose for pictures with the children of District 751 members at local lodge meetings in December at the Seattle Union Hall. The photos will be free, but donations to Guide Dogs of America would be appreciated.

On the green for MNPL

Local C’s first All in For Guide Dogs poker tournament raised $9,490. Local C officers Rod Sigvartson, Ron Coen, David Swan, Thong Trang, Paul Burton and Chris Louie present the check to District Secretary-Treasurer Susan Palmer and President Tom Wroblewski. Given the success of this year’s event, Local C has announced plans for a second tournament on Feb. 16 at the Tulalip Resort Casino near Marysville.

Local C officers present a check for $11,700 raised for the Machinists Non-partisan Political League at the annual Jimmy Darrah Memorial Salmon Derby, from left, District Secretary-Treasurer Susan Palmer, Local C President Ron Coen, Keith Elliot, Don Fike, Ron Sigvartson, Paul Burton, David Henry and District President Tom Wroblewski.
Eastern locals deliver record Guide Dogs check

More than 75 Local 86 Machinists and members of their families came out for the 20th Spokane Labor Rally on Oct. 17. The event allowed Spokane-area union members to mix and mingle with labor-endorsed candidates for local and statewide offices, including Jay Inslee, who’s running for governor.

It was great to meet with fellow members outside of work to talk about political issues that involve us all,” said Business Rep Steve Warren. “We make it a really fun, social event where the candidates are relaxed, our members feel like they have input and everyone walks away energized, a little more educated and ready to vote for people who are going to stand up for working families,” added Beth Thew, the secretary/treasurer of the Spokane Regional Labor Council.

To that end, Local 86 members served more than 2,000 beers to people at the rally, along with packets of information about the benefits of belonging to the Machinists Union. Warren thanked volunteers Carl Andrews, Allan Eveland, John Pabst, Gary Swartz, Darrin Truitt and John Warren for manning the Machinists Beer Booth.

“It was a terrific success and we had an excellent turnout for the Machinists Union,” Warren said.

District 751’s Legislative Committee – which includes Swartz from Local 86 – strongly endorses Inslee. Inslee has represented both Eastern and Western Washington in Congress, and has long been a strong advocate for Washington’s aerospace industry. He’s stood up for nuclear industry workers at Hanford as well, said Swartz.

In contrast, Republican Rob McKenna has fought against minimum wage increases in Washington, and advocates putting the state’s workers compensations system, even though voters have twice rejected plans to privatize the system, which is what McKenna favors. McKenna also has received millions of dollars from the Republican Governors Association, which says that McKenna will pursue Wisconsin-style anti-union agenda.

“When you compare Inslee’s support for our industries with McKenna’s attacks on issues important to workers, there’s really no question,” Swartz said.

Union recognizes four Local 1951 stewards

Four union stewards at Pexco were recognized in October for their handling of recent grievances and their participation in Guide Dogs of America fundraisers. From left, Stewards Manuel Balderas, Dave Bailey, Brett Travis and Jennine Jensen, and Business Rep Steve Warren.

State labor leader visits with Local 86


One of top officials in the Washington state labor movement visited Local 86 officers in Spokane last month to get direct feedback from local lodge leaders. Washington State Labor Council Secretary-Treasurer Lynne Dodson met with Business Rep Steve Warren, Legislative Committee delegate Gary Swartz and District Council delegate Allan Eveland at the Spokane Union Hall Oct. 18.

The Local 86 officers told Dodson that the top priorities for Eastern Washington Machinists are getting support for transportation improvements, statewide apprenticeship programs and expanded aerospace training. For her part, Dodson talked about the important role local lodges play statewide, and she briefed the Local 86 leaders on the new chapter of WA-YELL that is now forming in Spokane. WA-YELL is the Washington Young Emerging Labor Leaders, a group intended to get young workers more involved in union activities.

District 751 is a strong supporter of WA-YELL in Western Washington, Warren noted. “It would be great to have a strong Eastern Washington contingent too,” he said.

To learn more about WA-YELL, Eastern Washington Machinists can e-mail the group at shaunie@WashingtonYell.org.