**28-Day Strike Ends With 80% Ratification Vote**

After 28 days on the picket lines, 80 percent of the members voted to accept Boeing’s revised offer and go back to building airplanes. Thanks to membership solidarity, Boeing was forced to withdraw their take away proposals on every major issue and improved their offer.

“I’m so proud of our members. They stood shoulder-to-shoulder ‘For All the Right Reasons’ and that is what finally got Boeing to ‘Do the Right Thing,’” declared District 751 President Mark Blondin. “The overwhelming unity and solidarity of the Machinist Union membership won this strike. Since the 1990’s, no Union in North America has held the line on health care and retiree medical – costs that have risen dramatically. Our members did just that in this strike.”

“We achieved a better pension, better seniority rights, better recall rights, maintained one of the best health care packages in the country with no additional costs, improved their offer. "I'm so proud of our members. They improved their offer. "I'm so proud of our members. They

Above: Members cheer as the 80 percent approval vote is announced. The ratification settled the strike in 28 days.

**Strike Offers Opportunity to Help with Hurricane Relief**

During the strike, many members seized the opportunity to help others and ventured down south to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. Several members attended Red Cross Training in hopes of getting to the region and provide hands-on help.

“aroused spontaneous prayer circles and worship in the General Election

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751 President Mark Blondin announces the vote results.

**A member casts his ballot at the Seattle Union Hall on September 29.**

**Members standing picket duty in Seattle review details of the revised offer from Boeing.**

**Contested Election**

For 28 days, members kept the lines strong in every location.

**Strike Stories**

The stories from the picket lines are as unique as our members. A few members share their experiences.

**Unused Sick Leave Payout**

- Members whose eligibility date occurred between 9-02-05 and 9-29-05, who were not paid their hours or who were given vacation time for anything over 40 hours of unused sick leave per & did not get an adjustment in their paycheck on 10-27-05.

**Labor Day Holiday**

- Boeing refused to pay their September 5th Labor Day holiday since we were on strike at the time of the holiday. We disagree with this interpretation of the contract language. The Union has filed a grievance to pursue holiday pay on this issue.

**Unclaimed Strike Checks**

- Any unclaimed strike checks returned to the International Headquarters on Friday, October 21st and will be redeposited into the strike fund. To request any unclaimed checks, see the process outlined on page 3.

**Union Dues**

- Members are entitled to a strike stamp for the month of September. Since the strike was settled September 30, members will owe full dues for October. If members had dues deducted from their first check following the strike and also had September dues taken, they will be entitled to a refund of the September dues, which will be processed in late October.

**Things You Should Know**

- 8% Ratification Bonus – The tentative date for payment of the 8% ratification bonus is November 10th. This will be issued on wages earned from September 2, 2004 through September 1, 2005.

**Settled**

Several 751 members went to the hurricane region to help with the recovery effort.
Solidarity Forced Boeing to Do the Right Thing

by Mark Blondin, District President

I am so proud of our members for their strength and courage you showed in agreeing to ratify the Union leadership and turning down the substandard contract offer from Boeing. You stayed out there through the strike, and the contract was achieved. The 80 percent ratification shows that the membership was united, and, for the most part, pleased with the deal.

No contract is perfect. Some members are upset with the 17 percent increase in pension for future retirees to $70, but it is nonetheless a substantial increase. This contract is now the model contract for the nation.

Let’s put things in perspective: St. Louis got $60 in pension; however, they paid substantially more in health care and eliminated retiree medical for new hires. The same is true for the Lockheed Martin Company’s proposal was referred to as the “Lackluster Contract.” They told us they wanted to divide the membership by geographic locations.

Alaska is the lowest in the nation.

We stood up for machine operators, as well as our brothers and sisters in Wichita. We got seniority in the Team Leader selection process. We got some security for assembly mechanics and fork lift drivers. The health care costs are among the lowest in the nation.

You showed your integrity and ethics were not for sale. You earned this contract because of your solidarity and unity, and personally wanted to thank you for all of your support throughout the strike and throughout the years.

Although some members might feel we didn’t get enough in one area or another, it is the job of the negotiating team to try to get progress in issues important to all of the members.

It’s a shame Boeing failed to offer anything to current retirees. Boeing knows and acknowledged they have no legal obligation to bargain for retirees. The Union will continue to work to change the laws so Boeing will be obligated to bargain in good faith on behalf of our retirees.

The Union also wants to thank our Governor, Christine Gregoire, for her steadfast efforts to get the two sides back to the bargaining table. Immediately after the strike was announced, she called asking how she could help. Throughout the strike, she was in constant contact, searching for ways to bring a satisfactory resolution. Her commitment to our membership is appreciated.

Our members at Edwards Air Force Base also deserve medical insurance, and the holding the line in a remote location. It was lonely, but you showed Boeing they could not divide the membership by geopolitical locations.

I also want to thank all of our Business Reps, Staff and office employees who helped prepare for this contract and who helped lead a successful strike. But most of all, I want to thank the Stewards and members. I have always believed that when you trust in the membership and in the judgment of the membership, you can’t lose. Thanks again for making me proud to be a member of this Union – Mark Blondin, President, Boeing Business Representative

Christy Furuness

Zack Zaratkiewicz

Tom Wroblewski

Emerson Hamilton

Stan Johnson

Paul Milliken

Union Business Representatives

Donated Strike Check Greatly Appreciated

My mother retired from Boeing after 25 years of service. About 2 years ago, she and my dad moved to Mississippi to live out their golden years. Unfortunately, she and my dad moved to Mississippi to live out their golden years. Unfortunately, they lost everything. I was helping out in the rebuilding effort.

Thank you Laurie Gochanor for all of your kindness.

Sincerely,

Elvera Anderson, retired member

Letters to the Editor

Mail letters to the editor to: 9125 15th Pl. S., Seattle, WA 98108 or e-mail them to connie@iam751.org

Chrisy Furuness

Union Business Representatives

District Lodge 751, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

Mark Blondin, President, Boeing Business Representative

Gloria Millsaps

Vice President

Bruce Spalding

Secretary-Treasurer

Kim Leufroy

Sergeant-at-Arms

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- 233 Burnett N., Renton; 425-423-3777
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- 4228 E. Worton, Spokane (509) 534-9690 or 1-800-763-1305
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751 AERO MECHANIC

Connie Kelliher, Editor

Member of The Newspaper Guild

CWA #37082

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Volunteers Ensured Strike Check Distribution Flowed Smoothly

Saturdays turned into strike check day in September and early October. Per the Constitution, eligible members could collect $150 per week beginning the third week of a strike. The International made a surprise ruling and determined our striking members would be granted a third strike check, which was much appreciated by the members who had been walking the line.

Now that the strike is over and the final mass distribution has occurred, members are asking how to pick up any unclaimed strike checks since the International only allowed 751 to keep the checks through October 21. On that date, 751 had to return the checks to the International to be placed back into the Strike Fund.

Procedure to Claim Strike Checks

Members who did not pick up their checks by October 21, must follow the procedure below to claim any unreceived checks.

1) Contact Suzan Merritt on 206-764-0319 or 1-800-763-1301, ext. 3319. Please have name, Social Security Number, and number of checks you are requesting.

2) District 751 will then submit a letter to the International on your behalf requesting your remaining strike checks.

3) The International will send the checks to District 751. Members will then have to pick up the checks in the Seattle Union Hall ONLY.

Thanks to hundreds of members who notified their Strikes to ensure that the check distribution ran in an orderly fashion. Without their assistance, we would not have had such a smooth distribution.

Members Approve New Offer with 80 Percent Vote

Industry observers reported this as “the last union with any power in the U.S.” Teal Group analyst Richard Aboulafia offered his perspective calling our strike a battle to preserve eroding benefits and security that no other union has the power to fight.”

Changes from the first offer included:

- $70 per month for pension.
- Kept health care at 2002 costs - defeating Boeing’s proposal to eliminate a no-cost plan and pass on the $2,000 and $4,000 per year in costs.
- Maintained Retiree Medical at 2002 level. Boeing backed off the proposal to eliminate retiree medical for new hires, as well as the proposal to have those under 50 earn the coverage back at 3-1/3 percent per year.
- Restored lost medical benefit to six months. First proposal would have reduced it to three months.
- Added seniority language to team leader selection process.
- In addition, the Union and Company will jointly develop criteria and an interview process through the Joint Programs.
- Secured, in writing, that current leads will not lose grade or pay as a result of team leaders.
- Clarified LOU to vendors that vendors will not install parts or components on the airplane. Also added language that our flight drivers will deliver parts within the factory. Company will conduct quarterly reviews to update the Union on the status and discuss ways to improve the process.

- Withdraw proposal to cut Wichita out of the economic package.
- Withdraw proposal to have simultaneous multiple machine operation.
- 5% cut in craftsmanship bonus had other earnings from 9/204 through 9/1/05. Tentatively scheduled to be paid 11/10/05.
- $3,000 lump sum payments. Payable 12/1/06 and 12/1/07.

International Tom Buffenbarger praised the membership and stated, “This Agreement, and the dramatic improvement over what the Company originally proposed, should be the last word in any debate over the value of a militant union and a determined membership fighting today’s cutthroat economic environment.”

Holding the line on health care is huge – especially as others continue to accept cost shifting and eliminating benefits for new hires. Our members accomplished something no one else has done since the 1990’s. Be proud of your accomplishments and for holding the line.

Triumph Members Recalled to Work

Machinists Union members at Triumph Composites in Spokane, who were surprised shortly after our strike began, were glad members at Boeing held strong on the picket lines and defeated all of the takeaways Boeing had proposed.

Immediately after the Boeing contract was ratified, Triumph Composites sent notices for our members there to return to work. In addition, Triumph has hired 11 additional members onto their payroll since our strike ended.

With the Union contract expiring at Triumph in 18 months, members there are hoping our success will carry over into their contract. Holding the line on health care is a huge issue in every employer’s country. Hopefully, we have set a new pattern at Boeing – one that other employers will follow.

Thank you to all the Triumph employees for your support!
COMMUNITY SERVICE

Members Make Day of Caring a Huge Success

While our members may have spent the month of September on strike against Boeing, many utilized the time off from Boeing to help with various community service projects throughout the region.

On Friday, September 16, over 70 Machinists members hit the streets as part of United Way of Snohomish County’s 14th annual Day of Caring. Our members took on seven different community service projects over a span of two days. The value of the work cannot be measured.

Members constructed a wheelchair ramp, put together outdoor shelters, and built horse fencing. Others planted trees and washed windows at the Little Red Schoolhouse. Another group painted walls and moved furniture at Families & Friends, while others repaired bicycles for Christmas House at the Sharing Wheels Program. Members also sorted and organized goods at St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Store.

Suzanne Moreau, Director of the Puget Sound Labor Agency for Snohomish County, stated, “The Machinists Union basically covered the county with volunteers for the Day of Caring. Your members put the community first and showed they care about others. They were outstanding, as far as the assistance they provided to our organizations. I can’t say enough about how they pull together to help the community.”

Beyond the Day of Caring activities, members also served meals at the Tacoma Rescue Mission and Everett Gospel Mission, performed a road clean-up project, helped with a yard clean-up for a disabled retired member, and constructed several additional wheelchair ramps for area residents.

Members Hit the Road at the Pierce County Hunger Walk

751 Union Steward Darry Woodson and his daughter Shelby were two of our members who took part in Pierce County’s annual Hunger Walk. Darry and Shelby, who attends Bethel Junior High, take part in the event each year. They stopped to pose with the Hunger Walk mascot “Bag Dude” before setting out on the walk. Over 1,300 people participated or volunteered despite the rainy weather. The walk raised more than $250,000 to help provide food for those in need.

Members Still Help with Hurricane

Throughout the strike, members continued to bring in clothing and household goods to help those affected by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

The donations filled one of the large meeting rooms in the Seattle Union Hall and completely filled the Salvation Army’s large delivery truck.

The Salvation Army representative noted, “I am always amazed at the generosity of the Machinists Union members. They not only give their time to help out the community, but contribute monetarily, as well as donating clothing and household goods to help out those in need. These contributions will certainly help those who are struggling to recover from the recent hurricanes.”

Making Strides for Breast Cancer

On Sunday, October 2nd, twenty-six 751 members and their families participated in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk. This year, 751 did more than just walk and donate money. Our Union helped with registration and some even volunteered to be route marshals. Overall, the event raised over $300,000 and we were glad to be a part of it. For many of those participating, it was very personal and they were proud to wear the survivor ribbon.

Thanks to the Stewards, members, and their families who participated, which included the following: Becky Beasley, Garth Luark, Gus Gustavson, Duane Rooper, Wayne Wilson, Don Ingerslev, Hans Peschau, Gene Kinder, Tina Wilson, John and Pat Jorgensen, Gloria Millsaps, Stephanie Schuman, Lucille Mullins, Dave Hamre.

Team 751 members walking in the Breast Cancer walk braved rainy weather to help out this very worthy cause. Many of our walkers were cancer survivors themselves.

Michael Byrne, Carlos Lopez, Debbie Barnes, Debbie Donnell and family, Hans and Stephanie Ulstein, Phillip Roberts, Connie Kelliher and Sue Palmer.

The event coincides with Breast Cancer Awareness month. Washington state has the highest rate of breast cancer in the country and Seattle has the highest rate for a metropolitan area – making early detection essential.

Members construct a wheelchair ramp as part of Snohomish County’s Day of Caring.

Mullins, Dave Hamre, Schuman, Lucille

751 members donated clothing and household goods that filled a huge truck to help victims of the recent hurricanes.

Hans Ulstein and his wife Stephanie, who is a breast cancer survivor, finish the walk.

751 members built a horse fence at Equifriends Therapeutic as one of the seven Day of Caring projects 751 completed for Snohomish County’s Day of Caring.

Members construct a wheelchair ramp as part of Snohomish County’s Day of Caring.
OUTSIDE SUPPORT FOR OUR STRIKE

Other Unions Step Up Support for Our Strike

Throughout our 28 day strike, support came from across the country and various other unions. On Friday, September 16, union solidarity was alive and well as seven other unions joined our picket lines in front of the old Corporate Boeing Headquarters and pledged $125,000 to help our striking members.

Having other unions stand shoulder to shoulder with the Machinists “showes the light extends beyond the gates of Boeing to all American workers.” District 751 President Mark Blondin told the crowd.

Along with the Service Employees International Union, the Teamsters, United Food and Commercial Workers, Carpenters, Hotel & Restaurant Employees, the Farmworkers and the Laborers Union worked collectively to raise the $125,000.

“Working people know that if a company as profitable as Boeing can skimp on retirement and health care, everyone’s future is at risk,” said Anna Burger, national Secretary-Treasurer of Service Employees International, speaking at the rally.

Diane Sosne, president of SEIU Local 1199 coordinated the local contributions. She said her members are fighting a move by Swedish Medical Center to completely rewrite their retirement options. SEIU members were eager to see our members prevail. “We need to maintain standards for unionized workers so that other workers can have a chance to have the same kind of benefits,” Sosne said. “We admire what the Machinists have been able to achieve in their years of collective bargaining.”

Beyond the financial support, the other unions also sent dozens of members to join our picket line. Chanting and marching, they energized our members on picket duty that day despite it being one of the few rainy days of the strike.

Other Unions Step Up Support for Our Strike

Strikers from Boeing Australia Walk Our Line in Solidarity

On Friday, September 23, members of the Australian Workers Union (AWU), who are embroiled in their own strike against Boeing, walked our picket lines in Everett and Renton to show their solidarity. While our members were on the line to improve pensions and maintain quality health care, the Australian workers were fighting for the right to have a Union contract.

Workers on the two continents called on Boeing to embrace internationally recognized labor standards, including the right of workers to form unions and to engage in meaningful collective bargaining.

Adam Szady and Adam Burgoyne have been on the picket lines in Australia since mid-June in a fight to simply allow the Union to bargain a contract on their behalf. To date, Boeing has refused to even meet and discuss the prospect of a collectively negotiated agreement and insisted instead on secret, individual employment contracts for each worker.

These AWU members are highly skilled technicians who work on the upgrade and maintenance of the Royal Australian Air Force’s (RAAF) F/A-18 Hornet fighters. Since the strike began in June, the AWU members have been manning a picket line at the gates of RAAF Base Williamtown 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

AWU striker Adam Szady (l) talks with a 751 member on the Everett picket line. Their strike against Boeing began in mid-June and continues.

AWU National Secretary Bill Shorten, who also made the trip to Seattle, noted, “Boeing has argued all along that the majority of its workforce prefers to be on individual contracts, but when they get an opportunity to prove that claim, they refuse. We proposed a secret ballot as a means of bringing this dispute to an end. I don’t understand why an American company is trying to treat workers in Australia with less rights than American workers.”

Adam Borgoyne explained, “Our workers have individual contracts that Boeing can change at will. Because of that we see people who are not as qualified as they should be because the more skilled workers move onto other plants. A better package for workers will result in more qualified workers who will stay.”

The visit helped open doors for Bill Shorten to visit high-level Boeing executives to explain their situation. Hopefully, the meetings will help resolve their dispute.

Bill Shorten and Adam Burgoyne (right side) from the Australian Workers Union visit with 751 members on the Everett picket line. Their strike against Boeing began in mid-June and continues.

AWU striker Adam Szady (l) talks with a 751 member on the Everett picket line. Their strike against Boeing began in mid-June and continues.

Members from the Operating Engineers joined the picket line on several occasions during our strike.

SPEEA members turned out in force for a solidarity rally in Everett where they contributed $1,245 to the hardship fund. 751 Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Spalding addresses the crowd.

Seven members of the Steelworkers Union drove down from Anacortes each Friday to bolster our picket lines for a 4-hour shift. In addition, they contributed several hundred dollars to the hardship fund.

Local members of HERE and SEIU bolster our picket lines on one of the few rainy days.
Volunteers Keep Strike Going Behind the Scenes

There is so much more to running a strike than simply walking the picket line. Strike kitchens at each location prepare food for the hundreds of picketers dispatched that day. Firewood is continually split and delivered to stoke the burn barrels. Phones must be answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week at each location. Members must check in, get their gate assignments and be driven to the picket location.

Thanks to all the members who stepped forward and volunteered their time to help during the strike. You made it a success.

Members volunteer for kitchen duty at the Auburn Union hall.

A member in Everett cooks up a specialty dish.

Members on the Seattle phones help reschedule picket duty.

Volunteers chop wood for burn barrels at the Auburn Union Hall.

Above: Volunteers assigned members to gates when they reported for picket duty in Renton.

Below: Members prepare sandwiches in Renton to deliver to picketers during their four-hour shift.

Members hold strong on the Everett picket line.

District President Mark Blondin and several other Union officials visited with members at a barbecue coordinated by Union Steward Donn Vey.

For 28 days, our members at Boeing held the line from Everett to Frederickson and everywhere in between. Members at Edwards Air Force Base also did their part — keeping the picket line active on a highway in the middle of a desert.

For the most part, members in Puget Sound enjoyed good weather throughout the strike with very few rainy days. Members found creative ways to pass the time on the line. Barbecues were frequent in nearly every location. Many shops planned weekly barbecue days and would gather the crew at their gate in a show of solidarity. Spirits remained high as members did the right thing until Boeing returned to the bargaining table and changed their offer.

Walking the Line...
for All the Right Reasons

In Everett, members organized a tailgate party outside the 40-56 building one sunny day. Ginny Garcia helped organize the event and noted, "It was very great to see everyone. Everyone brought yummy food! The photo was taken early in the day – Lots more showed up after this was taken."

Union Steward Bob Betsworth cooked up quite a spread of barbecued chicken, salad, beans and corn along East Marginal Way in Seattle – demonstrating why they call him ‘barbecue Bob.’

Members in Auburn have a strong showing at this gate.

In Everett, members organized a tailgate party outside the 40-56 building one sunny day. Ginny Garcia helped organize the event and noted, "It was very great to see everyone. Everyone brought yummy food! The photo was taken early in the day – Lots more showed up after this was taken."

Two members on the Everett line pass the time playing a game of chess.

Members on the gate to Renton field.

Thursday afternoons always found strong lines at PSD in Seattle following a tasty barbecue.

Members in Frederickson wave to the passing cars on Canyon Road. With only one Frederickson had quite a crowd time of the day or night.

Members on the Bellevue picket line following.
Forklift Drivers Champion Safety and Win State Title

751 forklift drivers at Boeing showed they are the best in the state by winning top honors in both the individual and team competitions at the Governor’s Forklift Rodeo Championship. Mike Weinman captured the individual title of best forklift driver in Washington—beating out 20 other drivers.

Rob Jansen of Everett placed fifth; Tim Eacrett of Auburn finished sixth and Mike McAllister of Seattle was eighth. Weinman, Jansen, and Eacrett combined their scores to win the team competition, beating five other team entries. It was the second straight year that 751 drivers from Boeing won the team trophy.

The Forklift Rodeo was the featured event at the 54th Annual Governor’s Industrial Safety and Health Conference, a two-day forum providing training, tools, technologies, and strategies for workplace safety and health to some 3,000 attendees from across the state.

The forklift competition consisted of a precision driving test in which drivers had to move odd loads, navigate narrow passages, and weave their three-ton machines through a slalom of plastic pylons. Competitors were judged on smoothness and efficiency, safe operating speeds, hazard avoidance, and maintaining maximum safe visibility. The runs were timed, but safety and precision were far more important than speed.

Yet to even get to the finals was an accomplishment in itself. First, they had to win an internal Boeing competition between approximately 200 forklift drivers. Next they had to win at the regional competition among drivers from other companies. Only the top seven drivers from regional rodeos in Spokane, the Tri Cities, and Seattle advanced to the statewide competition.

“The forklift rodeo is another way to increase safety awareness for drivers, as well as others that work near forklifts,” stated 751’s Mark Little, who serves on the Governor’s Committee and helped organize the event. “These drivers not only have exceptional skills, but practice the safety skills required to execute their jobs safely every day at work.” The Bureau of Labor Statistics says forklifts, stackers, and other material-holding equipment are involved in approximately 68,400 accidents each year, which emphasizes the need for expert skills and heightened safety awareness.

Organizing Summit a Success

Nearly 1,000 Machinists from all over North America gathered in Chicago in October to kick off the IAM Organizing Summit.

International President Tom Buffenbarger called on each and every participant to organize and help grow the Union. In his opening remarks, he asked the IAM Machinists at Boeing to stand and acknowledged the courage, solidarity and integrity in defeating Boeing’s takeover proposals. Our success was noted by many throughout the organizing summit.

Each day was filled with hands on, interactive meetings and workshops. Participants came to share their ideas and stories, talk about the obstacles they’ve faced in past organizing campaigns, and explore new opportunities for the future.

In order to produce unique and effective strategies for organizing, the participants took part in a historic e-brainstorming session in which over 120 interconnected computers allowed members to simultaneously exchange a free flow of ideas on how to better organize and help grow the Union. In his opening remarks, he asked the IAM Machinists at Boeing to stand and acknowledged the courage, solidarity and integrity in defeating Boeing’s takeover proposals.

Other sessions allowed participants the chance to take part in educational workshops covering a variety of topics, including bargaining to organize, tools and techniques for organizing, strategic targeting and positive message development.

Participants also met by territory to discuss how they will take the information and apply it to growing their territory. Afterburners, a group of fighter pilots, gave an inspiring presentation on how to efficiently identify targets and execute organizing campaigns. They associated this to plans that fighter pilots use to win in combat.

At the conclusion of the summit, participants had delivered 464 solidarity leads and thousands of ideas, suggestions and action plans for them to take back home.

Wichita Members Send Message of Thanks

Members in Wichita appreciated the solidarity shown in other locations to defeat Boeing’s proposal to separate Wichita from the economic package. Members of Local 834, in Wichita, sent a signed banner expressing their thanks for the unwavering support. The banner was presented at the September 30th District Council meeting to 751’s Labor History Committee (Keith Hanson, Tom Lux and Jason Redrup), who will find an appropriate location to display it in the Union hall.

Area Businesses Deliver

Barten Chevrolet was one of the many businesses that supported our strike efforts—they delivered 40 pizzas to the Seattle Union hall one night. Picket captains (right side) Rick Humiston and Dave Bartman were happy to deliver the donation out to the picket lines.
October Retired Club Minutes

by Ruth Rend, Retired Club Secretary

At the October 10th business meeting, Al Menke called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. The Lord’s Prayer was said followed by the flag salute and the singing of “God Bless America” led by Ruth Rend.

Roll Call of Officers: Al Wydick was excused. He is visiting his sister in Minnesota. Dick Dickinson was on vacation and will keep her in our prayers. Minutes were accepted as read.

Financial Report: The Financial Report was accepted as read.

District President: District President Mark Blondin reported on the recent strike. He noted that the Union could not get Boeing to even negotiate on a COLA for retirees or giving an increase. It illustrates the need to change federal law. Currently, the Union can only request that Boeing negotiate changes for existing retirees. If Boeing says they don’t want to talk about it, the Union must drop the case because federal law only compels Boeing to negotiate on behalf of current employees. Blondin noted it is not a worthwhile cause. Boeing can propose takeaways for existing retirees - such as increasing retiree medical expenses, yet the Union cannot bring up such issues. It is very frustrating and an issue we will continue to pursue to get the required changes.

It is disappointing that Boeing will not give the proper respect to the people who made the Company so successful. He noted that most of the top executives and their airplanes are flown by retirees and so it is difficult for them to feel any loyalty to our retirees. Mark thanked those retirees who gave their support during the strike.

Tom O’Brien thanked Mark for what he was able to do to protect retiree medical for those retirees who are not yet eligible for Medicare.

John Guarvaa asked that the agenda of the retirees be kept on the Union’s agenda. We should be ignored. We need a copy of the bill that addresses these issues and hope to have elected officials willing to make the changes.

The question was asked why so many people voted for George Bush in these elections? Both parties need to get to the business about what’s affecting everybody.

It was noted that the disparity between what CEOs make in this country compared to CEOs in other countries continues to grow. The CEOs here are making way too much money.

Barbara Flye, Chair on Initiative 330, encouraged us to vote NO on 330. She spoke on medical malpractice and patient safety. She advised reading Initiative 330 very carefully before voting.

Betty Ness spoke about people who go to Canada to purchase prescription drugs. Check with Costco before going to Canada. Many times Costco prices are far better.

The last Monday in October will be October Festival. Please plan to attend.

Health & Welfare: A moment of silence for those who have passed away: Russell Atkinson, James Heier, Milton Matson, Donald Meschke, James McElroy, Jackie Newton, Charles Rentero, Clare Seaman, Gerald Smith and Daniel Webster. Sympathy cards were sent to the families.

Calendar of Events:
Oct 31 October Festival
Nov 7 Bingo
Nov 14 Business Meeting
Nov 21 Bingo
Nov 28 Bingo

Good and Welfare: John Guarvaa spoke about Molly Ivins’ recent column in The Seattle Times reporting that most of Boeing’s retirees use their positions to make money for themselves and their friends yet no one is even reporting this. She noted Tom Flanagan, Bush’s nominee to deputy attorney general, was the top lawyer for Tyco, which is under investigation for its shaky business dealings. In fact, the top five Bush appointees at the justice department have no prosecutorial experience, they are simply loyal to the administration.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Election of Officers was held. The outgoing officers were elected and will take office in January: President - Al Menke, Vice President - Al Wydick, Secretary - Ruth Rend, Treasurer - Betty Ness, Sergeant-at-Arms - Leroy Miller, Trustee - Louise Burns, Trustee - Cherie Menke, Trustee - John Guarvaa.

Birthdays & Anniversaries: The Club celebrated the following October birthdays: Hank Hendrickson (90 years), Betty Ness, Gert Harvey. Special thanks to Mary Allen and Irene Tiftord for their beautiful birthday cakes.

Adjournment: The business meeting adjourned at noon.

LOUIE O’CALLAGHAN REMEMBERED FOR HIS ROLE IN 751 HISTORY

In September, one of 751’s original members passed away - Patrick “Louie” O’Callaghan died at the age of 104. Louie was one of the founding members of 751. He passed away at age 104.

Louie O’Callaghan, pictured with his wife Pearl, was one of the founding members of 751. He passed away at age 104.

Senior Politics

by Carl Schwartz, Retired Club Legislative Chair

Members were reminded that choice time for the new prescription drug plan is approaching. Each retiree will have to decide which plan, if any, to enroll in.

The White House Conference on Aging will be December 11-14. Our Bill Holway is one of the delegates. They will be discussing a wide variety of senior’s issues and making recommendations to the President.

The Bush Administration has temporarily backed off from trying to change Social Security. I stress temporarily. A lot depends on how the 2006 Congressionals elections go.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that the Retired Club endorse voting NO on Initiative 330.

Medicare Drug Plan Comparison Website Delayed

The planned October 13 launch of Medicare’s online comparison tool at www.medicare.gov intended to help seniors choose a drug plan came and went with no service. Medicare officials would not confirm a revised date instead saying it hoped to debut its site by “mid-October.”

Although seniors are more likely to enroll in the new Part D prescription drug benefit will pay the 35 million seniors who will receive the handbook, no premiums. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services explained they will not mail a corrected page to seniors that if they qualify for an extra subsidy for their drug costs, every plan is available to them with no monthly premium. The truth is only 40 percent of the plans have no premiums. The Medicare for America Act that was passed would instead rely on insurance companies to correct the misinformation.

A USA Today/CNN/Gallup Poll taken last week reveals that 61 percent of Americans want Congress to understand the new Medicare drug plan. A paltry 37 percent understand the program at least somewhat. The administration should also give pause to poll figures showing 54 percent of those questioned do not plan to enroll.

“If the people who gave us this flawed drug benefit cannot correctly explain it, how can they have high hopes people will enroll?” asked Edward Coyle, Executive Director of the Alliance for Retired Americans. “This early confusion signals the problems seniors are bound to encounter.

Social Security COLA NOT Enough to Cover Rising Costs

Retirees will see an average monthly increase of $39 in their Social Security checks next year. The Social Security Administration announced the 4.1% cost of living adjustment (COLA), the largest increase since 1999. However, one-fourth of the COLA will be eaten up by rising Medicare Part B premiums, which will increase by $39 in their Social Security checks next year. The Social Security Administration announced the 4.1% cost of living adjustment (COLA), the largest increase since 1999. However, one-fourth of the COLA will be eaten up by rising Medicare Part B premiums, which will increase by $39 in their Social Security checks next year. The Social Security Administration announced the 4.1% cost of living adjustment (COLA), the largest increase since 1999. However, one-fourth of the COLA will be eaten up by rising Medicare Part B premiums, which will increase by $39 in their Social Security checks next year.
An unlikely pair on the Renton picket line became fast friends. Marion Lauck has 52-1/2 years seniority and was walking the line for her fifth strike. She has the most seniority in her job classification, while Wendy Hopkins has six years' seniority, recently returned from 2-1/2 years on layoff and was involved in her first strike.

Picket lines are nothing new for Marion. With over half a century of Union membership, this was her fifth strike. She recalled in the 1966 strike she picked apples to make ends meet. Marion dutifully reported for picket duty – eager to share her experiences, which is the same attitude she uses in her daily work at Boeing.

Marion wound up working for the aerospace giant after she was dared to put in an application. She filled out the questionnaire, impressed the interviewer and was hired on the spot. After just three months, she transferred to a mechanic job and three months later she was upgraded to a grade 6 position. Incredibly, she has worked her entire career at Boeing – working on KC97, KC135, 707, 727, 737-classic and 737-next generation. She boasts a perfect attendance record and strives for perfection in her work. She is proud that she has never had a pick up written on her work and added that she can’t stand rework. Marion hopes to work at Boeing until she reaches her 60-year mark because she loves airplanes.

In contrast, Wendy Hopkins was recalled the end of July so she didn’t even receive a picket duty card. Instead, she set her own schedule and chose to picket 4 hours every other day and often stayed for an 8-hour shift. Many times she brought her daughter and other family members.

Wendy was thankful for the Union and stated, “Being laid-off and working for low wages makes me appreciate what the Union has done for all of us. I really like my job at Boeing and want to do my part in the strike.”

During her layoff, she worked at Fred Meyer for $8 per hour and was never given enough hours to qualify for medical benefits. All of this made her appreciate the Union even more.

Seniority Brings Different Perspectives to the Line

Millie Hughes - a True Veteran

As one of our more veteran members, Millie Hughes is no stranger to strikes. In fact, with 53 years at the Company this is her fifth strike at Boeing. Yet, she was not content to simply pull four hours of picket duty when she was assigned. Instead, she regularly showed up at the Everett Union hall asking how she could help. She put in countless hours throughout the strike – an effort that did not go unnoticed.

District 751 President Mark Blondin commended her commitment, “I want to personally thank Millie Hughes for her efforts during the strike. Every time I was at the Everett Union Hall during the strike, Millie was there – working with the picket captains, helping in the kitchen, answering phones or whatever needed to be done. She truly is a Union career anyone could be proud of.”

Millie regularly shares her wisdom and experience with other members. She took part in one of the Union focus groups prior to the strike and encouraged others, who are invited to such groups, to take advantage of the opportunity and help shape the direction of our Union.

Some volunteers just stopped and asked of residents if they could help with the clean-up.

751-member Debbie Anderson may have been on her first strike during the current strike, but she was very active in volunteering her time. Several times a week, Debbie was at the Everett hall checking in picketers, helping in the kitchen or walking the line. “If it wasn’t for the members, you wouldn’t have a Union hall asking how she could help,” Bob reported. Instead, she regularly showed up at the Everett Union hall asking how she could help. She put in countless hours throughout the strike – an effort that did not go unnoticed.

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I didn’t have time on the books to go on volunteer missions. My anniversary date was September 1st so I’m hoping to stay connected to the volunteer ministry and to have other opportunities to serve.” He emphasized that since most volunteers can’t stay for an extended period of time they need a constant influx of people to help. It is a job he highly recommends. 751- Member Bob Schlimmer also got to help with the relief effort. “I was waiting for the phone to do the right thing and watching hours of Hurricane Katrina coverage. I decided it was time for me to do the right thing and packed my truck and went to help.” Bob reported.

He contacted his brother in California who was coordinating and delivering supplies, as well as assisting with clean-up. Help. A fellow Union member got to help. He decided to move his office to Biloxi, Mississippi to help organize and deliver supplies, as well as assisting with clean-up.

Bob noted, “It was very rewarding. While in Biloxi, I would offer to help people clean up their homes. I told them I was on strike at Boeing in Seattle and came to help. They would give me a shovel, a rake or other tools and let me help with their cleanup and recovery. I went to several different homes. I met so many good people. The trip made me appreciate what we have here and what nature’s wrath can do. It was a personal goodwill mission. I just wish I could have stayed longer and been able to help more people.”

The strike and loss of a paycheck in the month of September were the least of the worries on the mind of 751-member Kate Ball. In September, Kate and her husband Denny, took in six family members who lost everything in Hurricane Katrina. They opened their home to their extended family and are now housing her husband’s older brother and his wife, their daughter and her husband and their two children.

Kate’s focus during our strike was to make these displaced survivors comfortable in her home. She not only took in the six relatives, but their animals, as well which included three cats, a Rottweiler, a lab, and a boxer.

“When the New Orleaners arrived, I believed if I held them tight enough I could feel their pain. Our house is full of war stories – of broken glass and dreams dashed.” Kate stated.

Her husband, Denny, was born and raised in New Orleans. When his relatives escaped the hurricane’s wrath, they literally left everything behind. They fled their homes and only packed for two days – believing when the storm was over they would return home as they did in the past. Unfortunately, there was no home to go back to.

“When I told the brother and his wife to sleep in our bedroom, they insisted they didn’t want to inconvenience us. I replied that we just walked across the hall to relocate. They had to come cross country,” said Kate.

As others heard about their loss and the six new residents, they came forward to help. A fellow Union member brought over an enormous ham and two loaves of bread. Another brought a camper and another delivered a 5th-wheel trailer. A family member collected $1,000 for clothes through gift certificates from the wonderful community of Gig Harbor.

While the strike is over, life at Kate’s home remains changed forever. Kate noted, “The entire country was ripped apart by this hurricane, and we will all become seamless streets to sew this back together.”

Taking In the Victims

The strike brings different perspectives to the Line. On the Renton picket line, Marion Lauck (r), who is one of our most senior members, visited with Wendy Hopkins (center), who was only recently recalled from layoff. Also pictured is Wendy’s daughter, Samantha. Both members were eager to play their part in the strike.