Injured Machinist Thanks Union: ‘Great to Have You Always There!’

A Machinists Union member who lost both legs below the knee in a high-profile accident at Boeing came to see me – the support’s been overwhelming,” he said. “It’s great to have you always there.”

Divers was injured on Feb. 3. He was part of a crew walking with a 7/8” while it was being towed that night. He was run over and dragged about 12 feet. His feet were crushed under the landing gear and both of his legs were later amputated below the knee.

Washington’s Department of Labor & Industries came together in August at a luncheon meeting to thank them for their support after his accident in February.

“I was like, ‘Yes!’” Divers said, pumping his fist. “It’s only been six months, and I’m up and walking. The doctor said.

“Injuries at one time seemed a fact of life for the engine build-up crew. From 2001 to 2005, the workers on that team were getting hit with serious injuries at the rate of one a year. But over the past eight years, there haven’t been any injuries, even as the workload has doubled to meet Renton’s increased production rate. During that time the shop also moved from its previous location near Boeing Field to next to final assembly in Renton.

Quality and productivity have also increased. The team has delivered 5,500 engines over the past eight years, and in that time they’ve managed to cut 14 man-hours off the time it takes to build up each engine, while also cutting error rates by 50 percent.

They now deliver four engines a day. “I challenge anyone to remember when the last one was late,” Sisco added. “That never happens. It’s really amazing.”

“These guys have done something that a lot of people say you can’t do,” said Stanley. The reason for the group’s success, he said, is that they look out for each other and take responsibility for each other’s safety.

“It’s about caring for each other,”

In the General Election

On November 6th

VOTE

President’s Message … 2
Want Ads ……… 9
Political Action … 3
Have an opinion? … 3
Grand Lodge Conv … 6
Eastern Washington … 3
Community Service … 5
INSIDE INDEX

We’re All in This Together

Global solidarity was the theme for the 38th IAM Grand Lodge Convention in Toronto

751 Political Director Larry Brown (center) talks to other Union members about the importance of voting as part of the Labor Neighbor Program.

Inslee Is Focus of IAM Political Efforts

Corporate America is pouring billions of dollars into this year’s elections, paying for political attack ads in every state – many of them targeting working people and their unions. But there’s still something average working people can do to make sure their voices are heard, said District 751 Legislative Director Larry Brown. That’s to volunteer for a Labor Neighbor activity.

On September 15, District 751 hosted volunteers from unions around King County at the Auburn Union Hall. About 80 people – half of them District 751 members – took part in a Labor Neighbor walk in Auburn neighborhoods.

Some 60 more union volunteers – including about a half-dozen Machinists – took part in a Labor Neighbor walk the following weekend in Everett. That walk was hosted by the Laborers Union Local 38.

“We went to union households to remind them to vote in the Nov. 6 election, and to explain why unions are supporting candidates like Jay Inslee for governor, and

Machinists Honored for 8 Years of Safety

Their job title may be aerospace mechanic, but when the 737 engine build-up team in Renton gets going, top managers say they are artists.

“It’s almost like a ballet,” said Quentin Sisco, Boeing’s director of manufacturing quality. “They know where they need to go to get out of each other’s way so they can get the job done.”

Sisco, District 751 President Tom Wroblewski and IAM/Boeing Joint Programs Co-Executive Director Bill Stanley Jay Stendahl works engine build-up for installation in the Next Gen 737. The group earned the “Eye on Safety” award for going 8 years without a reported injury – even with 737 rate increases and the shop moved locations in 2007.

came together in August at a luncheon where the group was honored for having gone eight years without a single lost-time injury.

“You guys are the leading edge,” said Wroblewski.

“I appreciate the support,” he said. “That support has been phenomenal.”

The reason for the group’s success, he said, is that they look out for each other and take responsibility for each other’s safety.

“It’s about caring for each other,”

Continued on page 2

Continued on page 4

Continued on page 8
**Health Screenings Not Required:**

**IAM Health Assessment Starts Nov. 1.**

Questions have arisen from communications sent out by Boeing recommending all their employees get health screenings in anticipation of the health assessment survey. The implication is all employees need to get the screenings. Here is what IAM members need to know:

- IAM members are **NOT required to take the health screenings** Boeing has been promoting in Boeing News Now, emails and other communications. Although we encourage our members to get a screening to better understand their personal health, screenings are absolutely **NOT REQUIRED of our members for the health assessment survey** – it is strictly voluntary. You can enter your numbers when taking the assessment if you know them or choose not to enter the numbers – it is your choice. Answering “I don’t know” is acceptable.

  **The Health Assessment Survey for IAM members working at Boeing will be available to take from Nov. 1 to Dec. 21. Before then, you will see communications from Boeing talking about a health assessment survey, which begins October 1 – this is not for IAM hourly employees. Although the other payrolls at Boeing will be taking their assessment surveys sooner than Nov. 1, our members’ survey will be different and more sensitive to privacy concerns. **IAM members and their spouse or partner will need to take the health assessment survey between Nov. and Dec. 21 to avoid additional paycheck contributions in 2013.** Look for more information in the next newsletter.

**Injured Machinist Thanks Union: ‘Great to Have You Always There!’**

To pass the time, Divers has been working on restoring a 1936 Chevrolet delivery truck. “Before I had my legs I was able to get out there with my wheelchair,” he said. “It was better than laying down all the time.”

District 751 Business Rep Tommy Wilson, who was involved in the accident investigation, has been in contact with Divers and his family since the accident.

“The man has got one helluva heart,” said Wilson, who also credited Divers and friends for keeping his spirits up and helping his recovery. Other Machinists Union representatives also have been really helpful, Divers said. He singled out Local A President Wilson Ferguson – who was on the accident investigation team – and district Health & Benefits Rep Garth Laurk.

“Anything that I need, any questions, I just give them a call,” he said. “They’re basically doing anything and everything they can. And instead of just occasionally showing up, these guys have been there through the whole entire thing.”

Divers said his goal is to return to work at Boeing. He said he’ll get evaluated by doctors later this fall, and if all goes well, he could work at Everett sometime after the first of the year.

“I’m hoping to come back as soon as I can,” Divers said. “I’ve been bored. I need to work.”

His union brothers and sisters will do all they can to help, Wilson said. “We’re going to be there with him the day he walks back into that plant.”

**Negotiations at Hytek Continue**

District 751 members who work at Hytek Finishes in Kent are still fighting to get their first Machinists Union contract. As the Aeromechanic went to press, there was one more mediation session set for Sept. 28.

“We have been in discussions for quite a while on this contract, and the company still hasn’t addressed the concerns of the members,” said Grand Lodge Rep Kevin Cummings.

While there’s been some movement on pay and a few other issues, he said, “Hytek’s management has not been the least bit interested in treating our members fairly and giving them the kind of contract they deserve.”

Machinists on the Hytek negotiating committee are frustrated.

“I’m just disgusted,” said Dee Fox. “If everything” Jay Lang added: “It’s clear the company does not value its employees.”

Hytek’s refusal to negotiate improvements to its worse-than-Walmart health care plan has been a particularly frustrating point, Cummings said.

“We’ve offered a number of options that would provide our members with better health care coverage, which wouldn’t cost Hytek a dollar more,” he said. “We’ve offered alternatives that would have saved the company money. But they’ve refused to discuss them. They’d rather see our members go bankrupt under huge medical bills than do something that would help make their lives better.”

The negotiating team has scheduled a Sept. 29 meeting with members at Hytek to let them know where the company is attacking them, and to answer their questions.

“We still have an opportunity to help the members to better understand the level of arrogance the company is showing,” said Cummings. “We have presented their concerns, and have witnessed Hytek’s repeated disregard. Our members will get a chance to understand how spiteful and petty Hytek has been.”

“Their current offer isn’t adequate,” he added. “Our members have shown a lot of patience and resilience to this point, but we may have to go one step further to get the contract they deserve.”

Those recommendations then go to our union’s District Council, whose delegates are elected by you, the members. The Council delegates review the recommendations and then vote on whether to make the endorsements.

The same procedure takes place when our union decides to make a political contribution. The Legislative Committee makes the recommendations, and the District Council reviews it and votes on it.

And let’s be clear about contributions – despite what the anti-union pundits claim, our union does support candidates or causes. All the contributions we make from the Machinists Non-partisan Political League come from voluntary donations.

**District Lodge 751: International Assn. of Machinists and Aerospace Workers**

**Tom Wrobleski**

President, Directing Business Representative

**Wilson Tergie’ Ferguson**

Vice President

**Susan Palmer**

Secretary-Treasurer

**Clark Fromong**

Sergeant-at-Arms

**Tommy Wilson**

Heather Barstow

Don Morris

Ray Baumgardner

Richard Jackson

Jon Holden

Brett Coty

D. Joe Crockett

Ron Bradley

Emerson Hamilton

Charles G. Craft

Steve Mahoney (Eastern WA)

Ernest Mocellin

Richard McCabe

Jason Redrup

Union Business Representatives

Union Offices:

• 925 110th P.S. Seattle 206-763-1300

• 204 1st Av. NW, Auburn 253-825-5590

• 215 Burnett Rd. Renton 425-235-3777

• 8729 Airport Rd. Everett 425-351-8821

• 428 E. Mission, Spokane (509) 534-9600 or 1-800-763-1305

Toll-free to Seattle from: Nationwide 1-800-763-1301

Tacoma 253-627-0822

Hotline: 1-800-763-1310

Web site: www.iam751.org

**751 AERO MECHANIC**

Connie Kellihor, Editor

Bryan Corliss, Editor

Member of the Washington Guild, CWA 437062

District 751 AEROMECHANIC (ISSN 0894-7864)

USSFS 008-6501 is published monthly except Bi-monthly in December by the International Industrial District Lodge 751, 9125 115th Pl. S., SeaTac, WA 98188. Published 10 times per year on the 10th of the month. Copyrighted material. For a one-year subscription to the AEROMECH.


Periodicals postage paid at Seattle, WA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to District 751 Aero Mechanic, 9125 115th Pl. S., Seattle, WA 98108.
**Politics and Your Union**

*By Larry Brown, 751 Political and Legislative Director*

There have been some who suggest unions should not engage in politics. Unions participate in politics because they have to. The union movement must either DO politics or be DO them in. Ignoring politics is like ignoring gravity. Business NEVER ignores politics, and unions do so at their peril.

While self-preservation compels our union to participate in politics, when we endorse, it is important to focus on issues and not personalities. Our endorsements and support for candidates must remain valued and useful. In this, the core values of our union looks for in candidates is pretty straightforward: First and foremost, any candidate our union supports must believe in the fundamental right of workers to join a union and collectively bargain for wages and working conditions. They must support educational and workforce training opportunities so Washington workers can compete for jobs with any worker, of this nation or the globe. There must be support for transportation infrastructure investments to ensure the efficient movement of the goods and services we produce. Next on the priority list of issues for working people is the social safety net related to the job that is Worker’s Compensation and Unemployment Insurance. Does the candidate seeking our endorsement support a benefit level that allows a worker to survive while they are injured or have been laid off, through no fault of their own?

In this paper you will see the list of our endorsed candidates. Your union has worked to support our members and their jobs and rights on the job in America and Washington state. As you think about the election and how the outcome will affect you and your family we encourage you to support these candidates.

If you have any questions, please call me (Larry Brown) at 206-764-0306.

---

**Clinton Pushes Workers to Support Inslee for Governor**

*Jay Inslee was impressive, but shaking hands with former President Bill Clinton was a major thrill, said District 751 Retired Club Vice President Helen Lowe. Lowe attended a Sept. 15 luncheon in Seattle where Clinton and other Democratic Party notables turned out to support Inslee’s bid for Washington state governor. She won a ticket to the $150-a-plate luncheon in a drawing conducted by the Washington State Democratic Party to celebrate the opening of its new Seattle field office. The fundraiser generated $750,000 for Inslee, who is facing Republican Rob McKenna, who has the backing of several conservative Super PACs who are pouring millions of dollars from national donors into his Washington state campaign. Lowe—who shared a table with Congressman Jim McDermott—said she was impressed with what Inslee had to say about topics important to her: jobs, women’s rights to choose, marriage equality, environmental protection and health care. Inslee “has a list and an agenda about what he’ll do,” she said. “Inslee has a good plan for the future and it’s all written down.” Clinton also praised Inslee, Lowe said, talking about how he’d be a good leader for Washington.

Inslee has made building a green energy industry a key part of his economic plan, and Clinton talked about how the same ideas have been used in Germany to make that country’s economy one of the world’s strongest, she said. Clinton said Republicans, on the other hand, are ignoring global warming, Lowe said. “They used to work hard to help the environment. Now they’re not paying attention.” Clinton also criticized Republicans for not trying to cooperate with Democrats anymore, and how that’s hurting all Americans. “They need to work more together,” Lowe said.

After the speeches, Clinton went around shaking hands and exchanging pleasantries. When he approached her, Lowe said she told the former president how impressed she’d been with his speech at the Democratic National Convention just the week before.

Lowe said Clinton “stopped a moment and said ‘I hope it did some good.’ Then he was gone. The Secret Service pushed him on. But he did shake my hand. I was really excited about it.”*

---

**751 RECOMMENDED CANDIDATES FOR November 6th GENERAL**

**VOTE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION Tuesday, November 6th**

**FEDERAL RACES**

**U.S. President**
- Barack Obama, D

**U.S. Senate**
- Maria Cantwell, D

**U.S. House**
- 1st Dist. - Suzan DelBene, D
- 2nd Dist. - Rick Larsen, D
- 5th Dist. - Rich Cowart, D
- 6th Dist. - Derek Kilmer, D
- 8th Dist. - Derek Stanford, D

**GOVERNOR**
- Jay Inslee, D

**Secretary of State**
- Kathleen DREW, D

**TREASURER**
- Jim Mcentire, D

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**
- Robert Ferguson, D

**INSURANCE COMMISSIONER**
- Mike Kreidler, D

**COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS**
- Peter Goldmark, D

**DO YOUR PART AND VOTE ON NO. 6!**

---

**SUPER of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

**Washington State**
- Ralph Fish, D

**STATE SUPREME COURT**

**Pass. 2** - Susan Owens, NP
**Pass. 3** - Steven Gonzalez, NP
**Pass. 5** - Sheryl Gordon-McCloud, NP

---

**BOLLOT MEASURES**

- NO on Initiative 1185
- APPROVE R-74
- YES on Pierce County Transit Prop 1

---

**STATE LEGISLATURE**

**1st District**
- House 1 - Tom Probst, D
- House 2 - Janice Drake, D

**2nd District**
- House 1 - Dave Upthegrove, D
- House 2 - Cyrus Habib, D

**3rd District**
- House 1 - Steve Bergquist, D
- House 2 - Timm Ormsby, D

**4th District**
- House 1 - Debora Juarez, D
- House 2 - Steve King, D

**5th District**
- House 1 - David Engle, D
- House 2 - Kevin Rankin, D

**6th District**
- House 1 - Derek Rosenthal, D
- House 2 - Jody Wilson-Raybould, D

---

**Recommendations based on review of voting records and responses to questions on workers’ issues.**

---

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**
- Peter Goldmark, D

**COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS**
- Peter Goldmark, D

---

**POLITICAL ACTION**
Inslee Is Focus of IAM's Political Efforts

Continued from page 1

Suzan DelBene for Congress," Brown said. "Unions believe that America is stronger when all Americans do better, Washington State Labor Council President Jeff Johnson told the Everett Labor Neighbor walkers. "We’re walking for folks who believe unions make a difference, that working people make a difference and that shared prosperity is the way to go," he said. They’re also walking against people who “blame unions, blame poor people, blame students.”

One of the candidates the union supports is Hans Dunshee, a Democratic state Legislator from the 44th District in Snohomish County. Dunshee was one of the prime movers behind last year’s $1.3 billion Jobs Now bill, which provided funding for construction projects around the state. The project list includes hundreds of millions of dollars for building new schools and college buildings, or giving them energy-efficient upgrades. It also provided hundreds of millions more for local projects, like new water systems, as well as environmental projects and public housing – and did it without new taxes.

It wasn’t hard to figure out, Dunshee told the walkers. “If you put people to work, it helps the economy.” But opponents of the plan – particularly Republicans – want so badly to take away the benefits that they tried to sink the jobs bill. That’s wrong, Dunshee said. “You can’t cut your way to a good country. You’ve got to build a good country. Conservatives have a well-funded machine to push their agenda, Dunshee said. “But the Koch Brothers and the big corporate money you see, they don’t have shoes, they don’t have handshakes and they don’t have a good honest look in the eye when you come to the door.”

That’s what makes the work of union volunteers so effective. Mary McNaughton – a union member who is running for the Legislature in Snohomish County – thanked the Labor Neighbor walkers for giving up part of their Saturday. You’re doing important and important work.

“We’re fighting to hold back and to hold on to all the benefits that the union movement was able to install,” McNaughton said – things like the 40-hour work week. So if you get tired, she said, “Remember Rosie the Riveter, and keep moving.”

Endorsements All About a Candidate’s Support for Workers

Continued from page 2

made from your fellow union members. But the most valuable contribution unions can make to political campaigns isn’t financial. Volunteers from our union have been hard at work in the past month, going door-to-door and making phone calls on behalf of the candidates we’ve decided to endorse. Our volunteers are motivated and effective, and that’s why our political opponents fear us.

Now let’s talk about the current election, and who those political opponents are.

In recent years, the Republican Party has become more and more viciously anti-union. We all saw what happened when Republican Scott Walker got elected governor in Wisconsin and launched his anti-union campaign. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney is likewise very anti-union. He’s also complained that union contracts would prevent him from hiring as many federal workers as he’d like. Statements like that make you ask why would you fire people before you even know what they do? Is that what we want in a leader for our country or a company? It shows a shocking disregard for the lives of hundreds of thousands of federal employees and contractors – some of them members of this union. And it’s also bad economics: You can’t convince me that we will suck out dollars for corporate profits that should be going to injured workers – even though Washington voters have rejected this idea, twice.

In addition, the Labor Council is working with unions around the state – including District 751 – to build phone banking nights throughout the month.

Phone banking volunteers meet at 5:30 p.m. for a light meal and training, then spend from 6 to 8 p.m. calling union households. On Fridays, callers meet at 1:30 p.m., and make calls from 2 to 4.

“We host phone banking every Monday night at our Seattle Hall," said District 751 Legislative Director Larry Brown. “We’ve found that it’s a very effective way to remind union members of two things: one, that they need to vote, and two, that they need to vote for candidates who will represent their interests.”

The Labor Neighbor Activities Are Planned Across the State

The Washington State Labor Council has organized two more weekends of Labor Neighbor walks around the state in October. Members are encouraged to take part in any events convenient with their schedule.

In each case, volunteers will meet at 9:30 a.m. at a union hall in their county for a briefing. They’ll spend three or four hours visiting union households in the targeted neighborhoods, then return to fill out a report tallying their results for the day.

After that, the union sponsoring each Labor Neighbor walk will host a barbecue for the volunteers.

**Tuesdays**

Pasco – Plumbers Union Training Center, 1328 Road 28
Seattle – IAF Local 27 Union Hall, 517 Second Ave. W.
Tacoma – IBEW Local 76 Union Hall, 3049 S. 36th St.
Everett – IBEW Local 191 Union Hall, 270 Hoyt Ave. (Oct. 9, 23 and 30)

**Thursdays**

Pasco – Plumbers Union Training Center, 1328 Road 28
Seattle – IAF Local 27 Union Hall, 517 Second Ave. W.
Tacoma – IBEW Local 76 Union Hall, 3049 S. 36th St.
Everett – IBEW Local 191 Union Hall, 270 Hoyt Ave. (Oct. 4, 11 and 25)

**Fridays**

Spokane – UFCW Local 21 Union Hall, 5030 First Ave. S.
Seattle – UFCW Local 21 Union Hall, 2701 Hoyt Ave. (Oct. 5, 12 and 19)

**Labor Neighbor Activities Are Planned Across the State**

Renton – Plumbers Union Local 32 Union Hall, 5095 Master Road SW
Spokane – UE Local 370 Union Hall, 510 S. Elm St.

Marine Point, Business Rep Don Morris and his wife Annie also prepare to...
COMMUNITY SERVICE

MVPs Offer Helping Hand Across Region

District 751 MVPs continued making our communities better places to live in September. In September, the Machinists Volunteer Program committee members built a wheelchair ramp for a family in Snohomish. Union steward Don Balakin brought the project to the Union and helped recruit new volunteers from the shop to help with the ramp for a teenage girl. MVPs also fed homeless people at the Everett Gospel Mission and the Tacoma Rescue Mission several weekends. Union volunteers also continued their fight against hunger by volunteering each Wednesday at the Northwest Harvest warehouse in Kent, where they sort and repack food donations for distribution to food banks around western Washington. More information about ways you can get involved in MVP community service activities is available at the “Upcoming Events” page at www.IAM751.org, at the union’s Facebook page (com/IAM751) or by calling the Seattle Union Hall at (206) 764-0335.

751 Food Collections for Hometeam Harvest Starts in October

District 751 MVPs are once again preparing to do their part in the fight against hunger. Union volunteers will start collecting donations of food and cash in October for KING-TV’s annual Hometeam Harvest food drive to benefit the Northwest Harvest food bank. In addition, as many as 150 District 751 volunteers are expected to be on hand for the food drive itself, helping to load semi-trailers with donations of food dropped off by Channel 5 viewers from around Puget Sound. Members can drop off donations of food or cash at any union hall in Puget Sound. “Hunger is no game,” said Robley Evans, the chairman of the Machinists Volunteer Program. “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, 18.6 percent of Washington families – nearly 1 in 6 – 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. “It’s true that more people are working,” Evans said. “But many of them are working in jobs that don’t pay enough, and they’re burned through whatever savings they may have had.” Northwest Harvest supplies food banks across Washington. Since 2008, the number of people visiting the food banks it supports has jumped 40 percent — from 500,000 a month to 700,000. Northwest Harvest now distributes 26 million pounds of food to those people — up more than 50 percent from 2008. This will be the 11th year that District 751 volunteers will 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 in cash, plus more than 500 pounds of food. The Washington Machinists Council – the umbrella group for all IAM local and district lodges statewide – 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. “You’re the ones out there directing traffic and carrying those big bags of food from trunks to trucks.”

751 Candy Drive in October

District 751 members are once again organizing a candy drive to benefit children living in the White Center neighborhood of Seattle. The union will accept donations of unopened, individually wrapped candy through Oct. 25 at all its Puget Sound union halls — in Auburn, Everett, Renton and Seattle. Last year, the union collected more than a half-ton of candy. All the candy will be given to the Salvation Army of White Center so it can provide treats to children who attend its Halloween party, which its supports as a safe alternative to trick-or-treating. But each year, the union collects enough candy to help the Salvation Army provide treats at other holiday celebrations as well, said Business Rep Joe Crockett, who is the Auburn focal for the candy drive. “It ties them through Easter and sometimes into summer camp,” he said. Along with Crockett in Auburn, the candy drive focuses are Business Rep Richard McCabe in Everett, Business Rep Heather Barstow in Renton and Health & Benefits Rep Getha Lack in Seattle. Memers with questions about the drive can call McCabe at (425) 267-3204.

751 Helps in Fight Against Breast Cancer

Team 751 will once again take part in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Bellevue. This year’s event is on Sunday, Oct. 7. Team 751 will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the fountain across from the JC Penney store at 300 Bellevue Square for a group picture. The walk starts at 9 a.m.

Individuals can make donations at the Making Strides Event website — http://makingstrides.acsevents.org — or to any member of District 751’s Women’s Committee. Proceeds go to the American Cancer Society to help fund breast cancer research and provide mammograms for women who need them.

Team 751’s participation in the walk is part of an effort by the Women’s Committee to promote breast cancer awareness during October. “Great strides have been made to ensure that more birthdays are celebrated each year,” said committee Chairwoman Grace Holland. “But the battle is not over.” The Cancer Society recommends that women older than 40 should get annual mammograms and breast cancer exams. In addition, everyone can reduce their breast cancer risks by maintaining a healthy weight, being physically active on a regular basis and by limiting alcohol consumption to less than one drink a day for women, or two drinks a day for men.
Last month’s 38th Grand Lodge Convention in Toronto stressed the “international” part of the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers.

“It’s not just about our District 751, or the Canadian Local 99, or the countless other locals and delegates that I met in Toronto,” said Marilyn Young, a Local A member who was one of the district’s delegates to the convention. “It’s about the whole world. It’s about workers’ rights for all.”

Young was one of 35 District 751 delegates to the Grand Lodge, which is the supreme governing body of the IAM, meeting every four years to set policy and guidelines for the union. One of our delegates—Local 751-F member Gabby Rogano—had the distinction of being the youngest delegate at the convention. She’s 24.

Emil Skorup, 84, was the oldest delegate. He’s a member of Local 49 in Chicago.

Delegates met in committees during the week to discuss and debate resolutions and proposed amendments to the IAM constitution. They concluded the convention by approving more than two dozen resolutions, including more than 20 relating to job creation, training and safety.

Delegates also approved resolutions of support for members of the U.S. and Canadian armed services, and the Union Veterans Council, as well as resolutions in support for the rights of indigenous residents of the United States and Canada.

International solidarity was a major theme for those who spoke before the Grand Lodge.

Officers of IndustriALL—a global federation of trade unions–spoke to the delegates on the convention’s second day. IndustriALL was formed earlier this year after a merger of three other union federations. It represents the interests of 50 million workers in 140 countries.

As industries globalize, unions should globalize with them, said IndustriALL General Secretary Jyrki Raina of Finland. He said that the global aerospace supply chain in particular is ripe for organizing—to loud applause from the delegates, who represented more than 100,000 North American aerospace workers.

“In this new world, we have to join with workers from all continents to fight back,” he said, pointing to coordinated campaigns in India and Indonesia that produced laws that guarantee pensions and health insurance for hundreds of millions of working people.

Conditions in each country may be different, said Napoléon Gómez Urutia, the general secretary of the Mexican Mine and Metal Workers Union. Union organizers in his country have been murdered, and the Mexican government froze his union’s bank account and filed criminal charges against him after he spoke out in the wake of a mine accident that left 65 people dead.

But the goal of workers in each country is the same, said Ambet Yuson of the Philippines, the General Secretary of the Building and Wood Workers International: fair pay and benefits; safety on the job and justice in the workplace.

The IAM delegates from all across North America certainly found they had a lot in common, said Local C member Rob Curran.

“We had a chance to talk to them before and after the meetings and find ourethr issues the same way it treats workers in Europe, Yuson noted.

“You showed IKEA the power of workers, the strength of workers to unite and the real power of global solidarity,” he said. “We are connected as workers, and as global citizens.”

Speakers on other days emphasized the role women must play in the labor movement, both here and globally, Young said.

“If we all band together in solidarity, I believe that we can slow, maybe even reverse the race to the bottom,” the Local A member said.

“The need for the globalization of solidarity, for the oppressed and developing countries, is incredibly important. Doing that will help secure our own jobs, and go a fair step in the right direction to protecting the safety and rights for all.”

“Our union has very strong leadership and it shows,” said Local C delegate Jared Moschka. “Not just at Boeing, but around the globe.”

“The convention was very rewarding talking over ideas with people from different parts of the country. It’s nice to see how the Machinists Union is working to help other countries raise their working standards and see where the Union is going in the future,” said Local 86 delegate John Kofol. “It was a very informative week, which I really enjoyed.”

“I thought it was a once in a lifetime opportunity and a great learning experience,” said Local A delegate Jason Chan.

“We had many wonderful speakers, and the International leadership addressed some key issues for the future of our Union. However, the most amazing thing there was the solidarity, not just from District 751, but from the entire body of the convention.”

“The world seems a smaller place after the 38th Grand Lodge Convention. All members of the IAM are tied to a unity of concerns that affects all people worldwide,” said Scott Seeley, a local A delegate. “Our strengths and commitment to social change help our membership, but more importantly speak out to all people for what is right. Our theme sends a message to all ‘Hope for all who Toil.”

International Solidarity Defines Grand Lodge Convention

751 delegates listen intently to debate on resolutions and Constitutional charges brought forward before voting on the proposals.

AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka led a call for economic dignity for all workers.

Kerry Kennedy, President of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights spoke.

751 delegates listen intently to debate on resolutions and Constitutional charges brought forward before voting on the proposals.

751 delegates listen intently to debate on resolutions and Constitutional charges brought forward before voting on the proposals.

Kerry Kennedy, President of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights spoke.

751 delegates listen intently to debate on resolutions and Constitutional charges brought forward before voting on the proposals.

751 delegates listen intently to debate on resolutions and Constitutional charges brought forward before voting on the proposals.
Financial Report Shows Secure Future for IAM

The International has made it through the global recession and a series of unprecedented corporate attacks in strong financial shape, General Secretary-Treasurer Robert Roach Jr. told Grand Lodge convention delegates.

“Our members have been under attack at Caterpillar, Boeing, Lockheed, United and Continental, Delta and Northwest, Express Jet and many other fronts,” Roach said. “We fought back at every carrier and every enemy. Being the most viable labor organization in North America means something. It means when airlines and Congress want to fight us, they understand they are up against a formidable foe, somebody who has the finances to fight back.”

The convention “gave me a better understanding of how strong we the union are, as well as all the things that we fight for currently, and in the past and future,” said District 751 delegate Richard Anderson, a Local F member.

The union plans to grow, Roach said, and one of its important new initiatives is the Young Machinists organization. District 751 is a strong supporter, and three Young Machinists from District 751 — Gabby Rogano, Nick Condon and Kevin Karnes — took part in the presentation that closed the convention.

“As we develop these programs and we continue to do our work, leave here with one idea,” Roach said. “Recognize that we need one another. Recognize that we can’t do it as aerospace workers alone. We can’t do it as airline workers and railway workers alone. We must do it as Machinists.”

751 Honored with Communication Awards

The AeroMechanic was honored recently with three general excellence awards from the International Labor Communications Association, as well as being honored in the IAM newsletter and website awards.

In addition, District 751’s YouTube channel was honored by the association as one of the best social media Web sites for labor unions in North America.

“Our communications staff works hard to keep you informed, and to tell the news, media and general public what’s really going on with our union,” said District President Tom Wroblewski. “These awards are a sign that what they’re doing is working.”

The AeroMechanic was honored in categories of Best News Story, Best Column and Best Informational Graphic. The news story — “Documents confirm Boeing broke law; pursued riskiest choice” — was in the October 2011 edition. It detailed how internal Boeing documents showed that even senior company management thought moving 787 final assembly was a bad decision. It received a second-place award.

Wroblewski’s column in the June 2011 edition — “The truth about the NLRB case: It’s about our jobs in Everett” — also received a second-place award. The column took Boeing’s Chicago management team and its political allies to task for misleading statements about last year’s National Labor Relations Board complaint.

And an informational graphic titled “The long and winding road to health and benefits,” which was also published in the October edition last year, received a third-place award. The graphic explained how District 751 members fought over decades to establish and maintain the high level of health care benefits we enjoy now.

Online, District 751’s YouTube channel also honored with a second-place award for social media. The YouTube videos show District 751 members involved in community service projects and raising funds for Guide Dogs of America. At the IAM Grand Lodge Convention, District 751 President Tom Wroblewski accepted the first place for Best Layout and Design for newspaper award, second place for general excellence in website and second place for Social Media.
Workers at Exotic Metals Turn to 751

District 751 officers are working with employees of Exotic Metals in Kent to form a union at the company.

More than 600 men and women do hourly work at the company. About 60 percent of the work they do involves fabricating parts for Boeing aircraft. Over the past couple months, we’ve had a number of workers from Exotic Metals contact us to ask about forming a union,” said District 751 Organizer Loren Guzzone. “We conducted a door-to-door blitz in August, and most of the people we talked to seemed really in favor of joining the Machinists Union.”

Given that favorable response, District 751 is moving forward, working with a team of workers from Exotic Metals to get to work understanding the word out about the benefits unions bring.

Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that on average.

751 Supports Washburn for Group Health Trustee

751 members who are a voting member of Group Health have an opportunity to help shape the direction the health care co-op takes in the future by voting on their upcoming board of trustee positions.

Taylor Washburn, who worked closely with 751 as co-chair of the Washington Aerospace Partnership’s 737 MAX and Air Force tanker contract, is running for the board. He has shown steadfast support on our issues of workforce development and expanding the aerospace industry. Washburn also understands the importance of providing quality, affordable health care for our region.

751 members are encouraged to vote and support Taylor Washburn for Group Health Trustee. Ballots have already been mailed to voting members and can be returned by mail by Oct. 10th. OR members can attend the annual meeting on Oct. 13 and if they have not voted before can do it at that meeting.

“I bring decades of leadership experience dealing with some of our region’s toughest business and political issues. I am passionate about Group Health’s values and protecting its members and its legacy. We face tremendous changes in how health care will be delivered and paid for in the future. In tough economic times, Group Health can deliver and paid for in the future. In tough economic times, Group Health can serve as a leader in health care through its core values, care- ful stewardship, protection of members’ rights and innovative approach to preventive care,” Washburn stated. “Health care is a really important issue for our region – much like aerospace. There is a lot at stake for all of us. Good leadership, while difficult, will be needed on such a complex issue, is what is needed for the future of health care.”

Machinists Honored for 8 Years of Safety

Continued from page 1

make sure everyone’s doing their job the right way, and make sure all our equipment is in working order,” said District President Tom Wroblewski (l), Business Rep Tommy Wilson (2nd from right) and Joint Programs Co-Exec. Director Bill Stanley (far right) congratulate Jay Stendahl and Gil Molinari for receiving “Eye on Safety” award.

After workers at Exotic Metals in Kent contacted 751 for representation, District President Tom Wroblewski thanks volunteers for the door-to-door blitz.

AMPP Shows Strong Performance in Productivity and Quality

Quality and Productivity performance have both improved throughout July and August, the first two months of the Aerospace Machinists Performance Program (AMPP). The third performance measure tracked by the program, Safety, did not improve.

Based on the current performance levels after two months, the projected payout under AMPP would be 3.1 percent of an employee’s eligible earnings in the last six months of 2012. The actual payout won’t be determined until after the 2012 performance period is over.

In 2012, AMPP will measure performance in these three categories in the last six months of the year. If there is improvement in at least one of these metrics in that period (even if there is degradation in the other two metrics), the program will pay out an award in February 2013 to about 33,000 employees, members of the International Association of Machinists, covered by AMPP.

Details on AMPP progress in August are available on the AMPP website (http://iam.web.boeing.com). Employees can also estimate their payout for this current period by visiting the website and clicking on the Personal Payout Calculator button. The website also includes a page devoted to Program Performance for additional detail.

Your performance in the first two months of AMPP has been excellent. The challenge will be to continue improving on Quality and Productivity while turning around results on Safety. Based on how performance has been in the first two months, we’re confident we can do that.

Free Flu Shots Available Onsite at Boeing for Members There

It’s easier than ever for IAM members working at Boeing and their covered dependents to get a flu shot, which is the best way to prevent the flu.

• On-site: Beginning in October, Boeing employees can get a free flu shot on-site at most U.S. locations. Visit Boeing Total Access and click on “My Well Being” for information on dates, times and locations.

• Physician’s office: Employees and their covered dependents can also get a flu shot from their physician or health care providers.

• NEW: Retail locations: Effective August 15, 2012, employees and their covered dependents in a Boeing pharmacy plan administered by Medco can now get a flu shot at retail clinics or local pharmacies within the Medco pharmacy network. Employees and dependents with other pharmacy benefit coverage may also be able to receive flu shots at retail locations. Contact your medical carrier for a list of covered locations. Be prepared when receiving shots to present either your Medco prescription drug ID card or your medical plan ID card. If you or your covered dependents pays for the flu shot out of pocket, you can submit a claim form for reimbursement.

As always, discuss with your health care provider which immunizations are right for you.
**DelBene Offers Strong Support on Senior Issues – Social Security and Medicare**

Retirees at the September meeting heard a strong message about Social Security and Medicare from our endorsed candidate in the First Congressional District – Suzan DelBene.

DelBene thanked the crowd for being involved because there are a lot of complicated issues that need to be resolved, as well as correcting misinformation. She stressed that all voters should have accurate information so they make the right choice with their ballot.

“The No. 1 issue I hear from voters is about Social Security, but she noted it is in reasonable shape. She stressed we need to be sure the government is not taking money out of Social Security to use for other things and ensure it is only used for Social Security. In addition, she talked about raising the cap or scrapping the cap so all Americans pay into Social Security on their earnings. Before voting, people need to look into who wants to raid Social Security to use it for other things. If allowed, that would effectively dismantle Social Security as we know it and cut benefits, which is absolutely the wrong way to go,” DelBene stated. “This is a promise we have made to Americans, and I intend to keep that promise if elected to Congress.”

District 751 Retiree Carl Schwartz pointed out that the people who would privatize Social Security will not do it for free. Current Social Security administrative fees are about 1 percent, but a private entity could charge up to 30 percent to ensure they have a profit, which is not what we want for America.

DelBene also spent time talking about Medicare, which also has a lot of confusing and misleading information. She noted the Romney-Ryan plan is to make Medicare a voucher system. This would equate to giving you a voucher for a certain amount of money, which may or may not buy you the health care you need. The Romney-Ryan plan would eliminate the current Medicare, which is a defined benefit program, where you know what benefits you will receive. That is not the promise we made in terms of benefits to make sure Americans have access to quality, affordable health care.

DelBene noted the conversation needs to be about making sure the promise of certain benefits is delivered and what we are going to do to make sure people have access to the benefits they paid into and expected to receive once they retire.

There has been a lot of complicated and misleading discussion on both these issues so it is important to be engaged and talk to others and to be active in No.

Continued on page 11

**September Retired Club Meeting Minutes**

by Ruth Render, Retired Club Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President T.J. Seibert on Sept. 10 with the flag salute and God Bless America. The Club welcomed Suzan DelBene, our endorsed candidate for the First Congressional District. DelBene spoke to our endorsed candidate for the First Congressional District, who are struggling and that is what I intend to do,” said DelBene.

She emphasized the need to fight for benefits we have promised Americans throughout their lives that are in jeopardy today – like Social Security and Medicare. There are a lot of conversations about Social Security, but she noted it is in reasonable shape. She stressed we need to be sure the government is not taking money out of Social Security to use for other things and ensure it is only used for Social Security. In addition, she talked about raising the cap or scrapping the cap so all Americans pay into Social Security on their earnings.

Before voting, people need to look into who wants to raid Social Security to use it for other things. If allowed, that would effectively dismantle Social Security as we know it and cut benefits, which is absolutely the wrong way to go,” DelBene stated. “This is a promise we have made to Americans, and I intend to keep that promise if elected to Congress.”

District 751 Retiree Carl Schwartz pointed out that the people who would privatize Social Security will not do it for free. Current Social Security administrative fees are about 1 percent, but a private entity could charge up to 30 percent to ensure they have a profit, which is not what we want for America.

DelBene also spent time talking about Medicare, which also has a lot of confusing and misleading information. She noted the Romney-Ryan plan is to make Medicare a voucher system. This would equate to giving you a voucher for a certain amount of money, which may or may not buy you the health care you need. The Romney-Ryan plan would eliminate the current Medicare, which is a defined benefit program, where you know what benefits you will receive. That is not the promise we made in terms of benefits to make sure Americans have access to quality, affordable health care.

DelBene noted the conversation needs to be about making sure the promise of certain benefits is delivered and what we are going to do to make sure people have access to the benefits they paid into and expected to receive once they retire.

There has been a lot of complicated and misleading discussion on both these issues so it is important to be engaged and talk to others and to be active in No.

Continued on page 11

**Union Retirees:**

Congratulations to the following members who retired from the Union:

- Gerald T. Adams
- Dennis L. Barthule
- Brian J. Barton
- Patrick A. Briney
- Deborah K. Carlisle
- Steve L. Childers
- Roger F. Donaldson
- Doreen J. Duenas
- Douglas C. Edwards
- Ralph R. Fillion
- Patricia D. Fisher
- Gary W. Gage
- Betty N. Garcia
- Charlene L. Gearhart
- Roderick B. Goodwin
- Jerome A. Gori
- William C. Green
- Robert J. Gregory
- Robert L. Haight
- Richard L. Harrison
- Jacqueline A. Hartill
- Wayne D. Hatfield
- Sonja D. Huffman
- Daryl A. Johnson
- Terry D. Johnston
- Cheryl M. Jones
- Michael P. Jones
- Kim M. Kennedy
- Moon S. Kosmicki
- Russell K. Kuster
- Deborah A. Lauer
- Cynthia M. Leggett
- Bonnie L. Lewis
- Paul G. McPeek
- Mark M. McKinnon
- Robert S. Martin
- Lenetha McKinney-Ali
- Debra J. McQueen
- Marvin D. Miller
- Leslie M. Murphy
- Donald E. Ormsby
- James J. Paulus
- Dale R. Payne
- Douglas A. Peck
- Giuseppe Perrone
- Michael D. Prokop
- Teresita A. Ramnso
- Dameron J. Ray
- James N. Rice
- John D. Simon
- James P. Thompson
- Minuko Tilka
- Cort W. Toland
- Denise A. Usher
- Nan T. Vo
- Robert E. Weiss
- Kenneth A. Wosnig

Celebrating birthdays recently L to R: Leroy Miller, Ruth Render, Mary Lou Simpson, Helen Pompeo, and John Mah. Note: Robin Guevara also had a birthday but was not in the photo.
Nominations for District Offices - Nov. 27

Nominations will be made from the newly-elected District Council delegates at the November 27, 2012, District Council meeting for District President, Vice President, Secretary Treasurer and Sergeant-at-Arms.

September Retired Club Minutes

Continued from page 9

Birthdays & Anniversaries: The following celebrated birthdays in August/September: Louise Burns, Robin Guevarra, John Mah, Helen Pompeo and Ruth Render.

Good and Welfare:

Tom Lux mentioned a forum taking place in late September to discuss whether a state bank would benefit the people of Washington state. This is an issue on the ballot in November. A state bank would allow state funds to be invested in the state.

Helen Lowe extended thanks to Mike Warren for putting on the convention hosted by Washington AKA in August. She also said volunteers are needed to get out the vote.

Helen also spoke about a retired flight attendant she met when she walked with the South Park float in the SeaFair parade. The woman now gives seminars for people who have a fear of flying and needs some work. T-tops Everett area. $2,500 OBO. 425-327-3113.

DelBene Offers Strong Support on Senior Issues

Continued from page 9

Nominations are open each year to members of the IAM and their children throughout the United States and Canada.

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/Associate: College: $1,000 per academic year. All awards are renewable each year, until a bachelor’s degree is obtained or for a maximum of four years, whichever occurs first.

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 February 25, 2013

• 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 at least 10 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;

• 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.giam.org/iamscholarship. NOTE: Completed Application Packets must be postmarked no later than February 25, 2013.

The IAM Scholarship Competition is now open.

The IAM Scholarship Competition is now open each year to members of the IAM and their children throughout the United States and Canada.

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/Associate: College: $1,000 per academic year. All awards are renewable each year, until a bachelor’s degree is obtained or for a maximum of four years, whichever occurs first.

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 February 25, 2013

• 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 at least 10 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;

• 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.giam.org/iamscholarship. NOTE: Completed Application Packets must be postmarked no later than February 25, 2013.
New Tri-County Contract Merges with Roosevelt for Added Bargaining Clout

Strength in numbers was the theme when 19 members working at Tri-County Disposal in Goldendale entered into negotiations for a new contract. In the past, they had attempted to get a common master agreement with the 170 workers at Roosevelt Landfill (another division of the same employer, Allied Waste), but the employer had been unwilling to explore that option. This round of talks, the union succeeded in merging the Tri-County contract with the agreement covering members at Roosevelt.

The members at Tri-County overwhelmingly approved the new contract by 82 percent on Aug. 29. With the ratification, members will have stronger bargaining power in the future through an addendum to the landfill agreement while still maintaining separate job classifications.

“We were finally able to merge with the Roosevelt bargaining unit after four unsuccessful attempts. Thanks to Steve Warren and Ken Howard for the hard work in preparation and relationship building with management that made it possible,” said Steward Garry Shane who served on the negotiation committee.

“We gained pay and benefits in difficult economic conditions and streamlined the process for everyone. Mike Elli and I recommended acceptance and the agreement passed with over 80 percent approval,” said Business Rep Warren and Ken Howard for the hard work that was done to secure internal job opportunities. “Because of the tremendous amount of miles we cover every day, we are all self-starters. We rarely see a supervisor and know to just get the job done. Many places on my route don’t even have cell service and are pretty remote. Enjoy the independence and have been doing this for 20 years.”

The skilled members who play a critical role in the state’s agriculture business working as part of the Columbia Basin Project at three separate irrigation districts recently ratified new collective bargaining agreements. On Sept. 20, members working based out of the South Columbia Basin location in Pasco voted to approve their new agreement. The 70 members received wage increases each year of the contract of 3 percent, 2.5 percent and 2.5 percent. The agreement also retained COLA language and in the 4th year of the agreement, COLA has a minimum of 1.5 percent and maximum of 3 percent. In addition, insurance will be 90/10 in the first year, 88/12 in the second year and 85/15 after that.

Members at East Columbia Basin located in Othello voted to approve their new agreement in September, as well. It features wage increases for the first year and 1.5 percent added language on compensatory time as an option instead of overtime.

In August, members at the Quincy Columbia Basin ratified a three-year agreement. Those members received increases of 3 percent, 2 percent and 2 percent, as well as a $500 ratification bonus. In addition, the CPI language in 2015 will have a new minimum of 1.5 percent and a maximum of 3 percent. Insurance contributions for the unit will be 85/15 throughout the contract.

Agreements Ratified at Irrigation Districts

The skilled members who play a critical role in the state’s agriculture business working as part of the Columbia Basin Project at three separate irrigation districts recently ratified new collective bargaining agreements. On Sept. 20, members working based out of the South Columbia Basin location in Pasco voted to approve their new agreement. The 70 members received wage increases each year of the contract of 3 percent, 2.5 percent and 2.5 percent. The agreement also retained COLA language and in the 4th year of the agreement, COLA has a minimum of 1.5 percent and maximum of 3 percent. In addition, insurance will be 90/10 in the first year, 88/12 in the second year and 85/15 after that.

Members at East Columbia Basin located in Othello voted to approve their new agreement in September, as well. It features wage increases for the first year and 1.5 percent added language on compensatory time as an option instead of overtime.

In August, members at the Quincy Columbia Basin ratified a three-year agreement. Those members received increases of 3 percent, 2 percent and 2 percent, as well as a $500 ratification bonus. In addition, the CPI language in 2015 will have a new minimum of 1.5 percent and a maximum of 3 percent. Insurance contributions for the unit will be 85/15 throughout the contract.

While each has a separate bargaining agreement, the three districts work together to keep the intricate irrigation systems flowing through the eastern side of the state. Members working at irrigation districts function as a team and operate under the South Columbia Basin Trades Council, which is comprised of the Machinists Union, Operating Engineers, Teamsters and Laborers’ Union. The four unions also work as a team under one collective bargaining agreement at each location.

Water delivered by the irrigation districts allows billions of dollars worth of crops to be grown annually. They service more than 670,000 irrigated acres in Eastern Washington and maintain more than 5,000 miles of ditches, drains and canals. Jobs at the irrigation districts range from ditch riders and canal maintenance to heavy equipment operators, mechanics, electricians, pump mechanics and drainage technicians. Each job is vital to our state’s multi-billion dollar agriculture industry.