Report Confirms: It Pays to be Union!

It pays to be Union is more than a slogan. Union membership translates into higher wages. In 2020, median weekly earnings for union members was $1,144 last year, according to the BLS report, compared to $938 per week for non-union workers. That’s a nearly 20 percent higher pay rate on average for union members.

“This shows Union members earn more money, which means they are better able to support their families and businesses in their communities,” said District 751 President Jon Holden. The $166 a week difference translates into nearly $10,000 a year advantage. Over a 30 year career, the union advantage would mean nearly $300,000 more.

“The additional pay a unionized job provides translates into a significant difference in your ability to provide for your family,” Holden said. “We often say it pays to be union, and this data proves that saying is true.”

The collective power of standing together with your co-workers also translates into better health care and paid leave.

With help from our Union, Chris Cotter’s rights were protected on several contract provisions. Union efforts ensured that when surplussing occurred, Chris moved per his contractual return rights to a previously held Grade 5 job rather than the Grade 4 job Boeing tried to erroneously move him to. Just as important, Chris will be recalled to his Grade 7 job in proper seniority order.

As a Union Steward since 2013, Michael is a vocal advocate for members and worked diligently on each of the issues for Chris – helping create a ticket in Worklife, contacting managers, Labor Relations Reps and Workforce Reps.

Chris first contacted Michael after he received a move memo as part of Boeing surplussing activity to move to a Grade 4 job he had never held. The memo gave him 10 days to sign it; however, Chris thought he should have been moved to a Grade 5 job.

When Michael looked at Chris work history, he recognized that Chris should have been downgraded to the proper seniority order and would not be recalling to his previously held Grade 7 job in the proper seniority order.

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Union Representation Still the Best Path to a Better Future

By JON HOLDEN
IAM District 751 President

During this ongoing global pandemic, having union representation and rights on the job is more important than ever.

First and foremost, when a worker has union representation, they can confront questions decisions by management, raise concerns about safety issues, and ensure processes are being followed. We need to realize how important it is to have rights on the job until your rights have been violated — whether a company ignores downgraded rights you have earned, other contract provisions or you face unjust discipline. Union representation has become even more important with COVID. We come to the forefront and our union has fought to ensure proper personal protective equipment and cleaning protocols are followed, COVID tracing is followed and any members exposed to COVID are quarantined and properly compensated.

In June, nearly every employer where we represent members has experienced layoffs. This means our Union has fought to ensure each bargaining agreement is followed along with all procedures for layoffs and other provisions. Our Union has worked to provide additional resources and a broader safety net by filing for and securing Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) benefits where we can.

Unfortunately, we have two employers that announced they are closing plants where our members work — Cadence Giddens in Everett and Triumph Composites in Spokane.

Members at both of these plants have been important to IAM District 751 and have demonstrated they understand the power of solidarity.

I am proud of our members at Cadence Giddens who stood together and voted overwhelmingly in a mail ballot for union representation in 2015. Since then, we have negotiated two contracts that raised representation in 2015. Since then, we have negotiated two contracts that raised the wage and benefits for these members.

Our members have benefitted from union representation wherever they work. It’s not just a recent study published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) that shows that employees who can secure higher pay, better benefits, higher quality health care at less cost and more paid time off. These national reports are a good reminder of the value of union membership.

Labor unions remain the primary counterweight for workers against corporate power. When working people stand together with strength in numbers, amazing things happen.

Workers at Solid Ground are the newest members of IAM District 751. These talented mechanics voted overwhelmingly in a mail ballot for union representation and a voice in their future. Their election was certified on Feb. 1st by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

These individuals work as technicians, mechanics, and cleaners for the Seattle maintenance facility in Seattle. This group is unified and determined as they take steps to secure a first contract. Since voting to go Union, these workers have selected their negotiating committee, began identifying issues they are putting together contract language for their initial proposal. Business Rep André Trahan, Business Representative, Jason Chan and Organizer Jesse Côté, Petr Perelmaid, Jay Demise, and Ivan Marreno.

Workers at Solid Ground’s Seattle Maintenance facility voted overwhelmingly for IAM Union Representation, I to R: 751 Organizer Jesse Côté, Petr Perelmaid, Jay Demise, and Ivan Marreno.

Corporate America is well aware of these facts and knows the advantages that workers enjoy with union membership in the form of better wages and benefits along with rebalancing and shifting some control back to the workers.

We must make sure that the economy works for working people. Surveys show nearly 60 million Americans—or one in four workers—will vote in a union today if they could. However, current laws make it hard for workers to do just that. Union busters, big business, and politicians who organize and grant hundreds of thousands of workers collective bargaining rights don’t currently have the PRO Act.

The PRO Act is important for all workers in America because as more hurdles derailed workers’ efforts to unionize, we watched union density diminish and the inequality of income and power skyrocket. Passing the PRO Act is one way to help ensure that workers in America seeking rights on the job and representation have the ability to say Union Yes.

Finally, one of the rights of union membership is the ability to select your union leaders. The IAM International Union is holding an election in April that all members can take part in a mailing was sent out in December with information on the nomination and election process. An election for IAM International General President and Vice President will be held on April 24. We are encouraging all members to vote in this election. Members have the option to request and vote by absentee ballot (visit goiam.org to print out your request) if you have safety concerns due to the COVID-19 pandemic or would rather than coming to the IAM Hall (or Spokane, Tri-Cities or Coeur City). Your absentee ballot request must be received by Monday, April 12.

Like a contract vote, participation in our union election is key to your power and vote in the upcoming election for IAM General Secretary-Treasurer. Also many of our monthly meetings are continuing on Zoom, making it easy for members to participate (see page 7 for links to register). Plan to attend and hear from union leaders or raise concerns you may have in your shop. Check the Union bulletin boards or our virtual board (iam751.org) or times and registration link. Increased participation makes us stronger!

District Lodge 751, International Assn. of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

JON HOLDEN
President, Directing Business Representative

MATT HARDY
Vice President

Richard Jackson
Secretary-Treasurer

Mike Hill
Secretary-at-Arms

Steve Warren (Eastern WA)
Dan Swank
Paul Schubert
Spencer Burris
Howard Carlson
Rod Sigworth
Paul Veltkamp
Garth Laup
Patrick Bertucci
Christine Fullerton
Robley A. Evans
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André Truhan
E. Carlen Cottrell
Jeremy Coty

Union Business Representatives

Union Yes for Technicians at Solid Ground

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I AM Family Members Cash in on Free Online College

One of the most unique benefits of IAM union membership is our free online college program— that is not just for IAM members, but for family members, as well. And “family member” extends a long way to include spouse, children, children-in-law, stepchildren, dependents, grandchildren, siblings and in-laws, parents, grandparents, and even nieces and nephews.

Active members, retired members, and laid-off members AND their families are eligible to take advantage of this free program. Currently, more than 500 family members are utilizing the program from IAM 711 who work at more than 17 different employers including Boeing, NAS Whidbey & JBLM contractors, United Trump, Republic Services and ASC. This free college program expanded to include several four-year Bachelors degrees in June 2020 through Central State University in Ohio. More by visiting freecollege.goiam.org.

All who have enrolled are pleasantly surprised the program really is free, easy to access and works around even the busiest of lifestyles.

751 Retired Member Jim Kroger is one of several retirees who have multiple family members using the program. Jim retired from Boeing in 2014 after a long career in Everett. He hired into Boeing in 1988 as a Machinist in interiors, transferred to tooling, took classes and moved to tooling QA. He had one layoff during his career, and laid-off members AND their families are eligible to take advantage of this program. Jim retired in 2003. His daughter, Shannon Miller, along with her son Cameron, both work full time jobs and have been using the program about a year and a half taking one class a quarter.

“They love it and find it helpful. They do their best to keep on track.”

As retired members, Susan and Jim Kroger are excited to have many family members utilizing our Union’s free online college benefit.

Countrywide Training for Better Service

Sharing information and providing training for better representation is a priority for leaders of IAM District 751. With many of our union leaders moving to new positions in 2021, District President Jon Holden has implemented monthly all-day training and information sessions to ensure Business Reps have the needed resources to best represent our membership.

As Boeing continues to revise policies, commit contract violations, step up discipline, search for cost cutting measures, and empowered managers who have little to no knowledge of our contract, it is important for our reps to share information so solutions at one location are shared in case the same violations occur in another building.

Shannon Miller and her son Cameron review an assignment for their online college. Both are utilizing the IAM’s free online college. One of her sisters is also enrolled and several other family members plan to take advantage of this unique program. Her dad retired in 2014 and is thrilled his family can use this valuable benefit. (Their mom was also a 751 member).

To learn more visit: FreeCollege.goiam.org

As retired members, Susan and Jim Kroger are excited to have many family members utilizing our Union’s free online college benefit.

To learn more or enroll visit: FreeCollege.goiam.org

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TAA Benefits Help Member on Path to a New Career

Proactive and persistent are keys to ensuring our laid-off members utilize the extensive benefits available through Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA).

751-member Mary Jane Flores successfully navigated the TAA process with assistance from our IAM-Boeing Joint Programs Career Advisors. Thanks to Mary Jane’s proactive efforts, she is on a path to a new career utilizing TAA to pay for her retraining, along with other benefits TAA provides.

Mary Jane immediately began exploring all the available resources when she received a WARN notice. She researched potential new careers, the training involved and set her sites on utilizing TAA to become an aviation technician. With TAA certification, she is also provided Trade Readjustment Assistance (TRA) benefits, which are similar to unemployment for the duration of her training so she can focus on her training. As a Joint Programs Career Advisor Jodale Brinkley to learn about the various funding options for training and to locate eligible training programs. Jodale provided advice and assistance in navigating the TAA process and helped her apply to Renton Technical College with assistance from the RTC Worker Retraining Counselor.

Mary Jane hired into Boeing as a 4th grade assemblyman in April 2019 for what she hoped would be a career at the aerospace giant. While the layoff was definitely not in her plans, she has utilized the vast resources our union has provided to help her transition after layoff. She has a full load of classes and is scheduled to complete her retraining program in September of 2021. She used the resources available to make the most of a layoff and looks forward to working as a pharmacy technician.

In 2020, TAA state resources were overwhelmed following massive layoffs, which discouraged some members from pursuing TAA certification. However, we encourage laid-off members to push through, get their TAA certification and utilize these benefits. If you have questions or need advice planning for your future, our IAM-Boeing Joint Programs Career Advisors are a great resource. To schedule an appointment with an advisor, call 1-800-235-1457.

Federal Report Confirms: It Pays to Be Union

Continued from Page 1

Union benefits for nonunion workers too, which injects even more dollars into our communities.”

Since Mary Jane wasn’t through the TAA approval process prior to the start of Fall Quarter, she utilized her contractual QTTA Education Assistance (EA) funds to pay tuition and books for the first quarter.

Mary Jane worked closely with her TAA Case Manager to get TAA certified and ensure her Winter Quarter training and future training should be covered through TAA. Even though the TAA process may be cumbersome at times, Mary Jane encourages others to follow through and get their TAA certification and utilize these benefits.

“All of us want the same things for our families,” Holden said. “Today’s economy is out of balance with most economic gains going to the top, forming a union is the only way workers can stand together and demand better wages, working conditions and rights on the job. Who doesn’t want rights? Workers deserve their fair share.”

Our state’s high union density at 17.4 percent helps raise the standard of living for everyone, Holden said. “Higher union density means employers have to more compete for workers, and that raises pay and benefits for nonunion workers too, which injects even more dollars into our communities.”

Steps to Access TAA Benefits:

• Watch for Employment Security Department (ESD) mailing with paperwork to apply for TAA benefits.
• After you have the ESD mailing or if you have misplaced it, call TAA hotline 425-861-3704 and sign up for a TAA orientation where you will complete your TAA paperwork.
• You will be assigned a TAA case manager who will help you obtain specific benefits for your situation. Some TAA benefits have deadlines.
• Your case manager can help you avoid common mistakes that can delay potential benefits.

TAA Benefits include:

• Job Search Assistance
• Out-of-area job search
• Relocation assistance
• Training / tuition support
• Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA) – income support when enrolled in a TAA approved training plan
• Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA) – wage subsidy for workers 50 years and older
• Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC)

Download the 6-page TAA Information Booklet at iam751.org/labor/TTAA_Info.pdf


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TAA for Trade Adjustment Assistance

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Renton HSI Site Committee Provides Additional Safety Support

Rental Programs Offers Free Career Service for IAM Members with a WARN Notice

During one of the mini safety tours in Joint Programs, the Shop Supervisor of the Renton HSI Site Committee found themselves in hot water, literally. As Renton Union Steward and HSI site committee member Richard Curran and Manager Cuong Nguyen were conducting a required safety tour of the site in the 4-71 building, they stopped at the High Temp Flow test facility inspection area.

This area has a small crew of about 15-20 total employees. Due to the nature and types of inspections performed in this area, a crew member must be in a secure access door to ensure only authorized employees can walk into the area. And because one of the crew members works on extremely high flow inspections, having a locked door is another way to control the chance of having heavy foot traffic during the area safety tour the site committee stopped to check out an eye wash station as part of the factory’s required safety items. When they pumped the lever to test the flow they noticed the temperature of the water was a little warm to the touch and not the cold water they were expecting. The water was used for an eye wash station.

After the tour, the team reviewed the water temperature with the shop supervisor, union steward and members to see if the water coming from the eye wash station was an issue. In researching the DOSH Directive 13.00, which governs eye wash stations, the site committee learned eye wash station flushing fluids had an acceptable range of 60-100 degrees F.

This was great research and information discovery for the site committee because no one had ever come across a situation where an eye wash station had anything but cool or warmer temperature with water. The CSHO should cite WAC 296-800-1503 if the washing fluid is above 100 degrees F, but not for fluid temperatures below 60 degrees F.

Once they determined the eye wash station was in compliance, the site committee explained to the manager and area employees the overall function of the site committee safety tours, as well as sharing additional information about IAM/Boeing Joint Programs.

Joint Programs Administrator Tony Curran asked if there were any other safety issues or concerns that he could help address for the employees in this area.

Union Steward Scott Schafer assured the site committee members that employees in the area were aware of the warmer temperature of eye wash water and pointed out the temperature gauge for the eye wash water was intentionally set at 92 degrees with the mixer valve pinned so it can’t be adjusted. This was a great example of a site safety tour not resulting in something different than what is normally expected and ensuring it was in compliance and acceptable per the DOSH standards.

IAM/Boeing Joint Programs during a COVID-19 safety tour

IAM/Boeing Joint Programs Provides Free Career Services for IAM Members with a WARN Notice

IAM/Boeing Joint Programs has an additional service available to IAM members who received an involuntary WARN notice. The Boeing Company has partnered with Lee Hecht Harrison Outplacement Services and HR Consulting (LHH) to offer a new service, free of charge, to IAM members who have received a WARN notice. This service is in addition to the services off members already receive through IAM/Boeing Joint Programs.

LHH will provide IAM members who have received WARN notices and those previously laid off in 2020 and 2021. 90 days of job search assistance, unique job recruiter opportunities, access to online job search tips or training materials and active participation in virtual real-time job fairs.

The new job search / job recruiter service is being made available to all IAM members facing involuntary layoff, as well as IAM members who were previously involuntarily laid off in 2020 and 2021. Accepting or utilizing the services is totally up to the member so it is optional whether they participate or not. It will be fully funded by IAM/Boeing Joint Programs so there will be no charge to those who decide to take advantage of the service.

Active IAM represented employees who receive a WARN notice, will receive a notification letter in the mail from the Boeing Company are permitted from the Boeing Company, and a “red bell” Worklife notification. Each notification will explain how the IAM member can voluntarily sign up for the LHH services by washing the fluid to test the flow before using it the Aero Mechanic.

To find a Joint Programs Advisor at your site who can help you sign up for the LHH services go to the IAM/Boeing Joint Programs website at www.iam-boeing.com and click on the Career Advising icon.

IAM members with a WARN notice and those who were previously laid off in 2020/2021 are eligible to use the LHH services. They must sign up for it to be eligible within 60 days of receiving the notification information in the mail from the Boeing Company. Once the employee signs up for the LHH service they will have access to the services of the joint search/recruitment assistance through LHH. This service is totally voluntary and can be stopped at any time.

For more information about the LHH services contact IAM/Boeing Joint Programs at 1-800-235-3453 to make an appointment with a Joint Programs Career Advisor. Periodically check out the IAM/Boeing Joint Programs website at www.iam-boeing.com for any LHH information updates.

Joint Programs delivered the COVID cleaning kit to the area the same day as it was requested. The kit includes instructions for cleaning, a sign to be posted so employees will know the area has been cleaned and it is safe to return.

IAM/Boeing Joint Programs

New Safety Shoe Vendor

Effective immediately IAM/Boeing Joint Programs has added Grainger Safety Company as an approved safety shoe vendor. Safety shoes purchased at Grainger will be eligible as part of the $75 reimbursement per calendar year benefit that IAM members are allowed per the contract.

Members purchasing safety shoes at Grainger can use the online reimbursement form on the IAM/Boeing Joint Programs website and return the necessary purchase verification information to Joint Programs using the online method and get a confirmation receipt from Joint Programs.

In order to access your Boeing employee discount at Grainger you must create an account on the Grainger website and enter the Boeing Employee Account number in the “account number OPTIONAL” field. After ordering online, Grainger will ship your safety shoes to your home address and not to Boeing. At this time only online shopping at Grainger is available, but plans are in the works to have a Grainger shoe trailer visit Boeing sites in the future.

To log on and shop at Grainger, take the following steps below:

1. Register on Grainger.com
2. Go to the Employee section
3. Log in with your Employee Account number
4. Click on the “account number OPTIONAL” field
5. To shop for shoes type “safety shoes” in the search bar on the home page
6. Select the shoes to help find the right shoe for you

IAM/Boeing Joint Programs offers an additional service to IAM members with a WARN notice. They are able to get free career services through IAM/Boeing Joint Programs Career Advisor for one to three years after their layoff date, depending on length of service. These resumes can be used for building a personal profile when using the LHH services. LHH shares basic contact information and employee resumes to selected job recruiters for job opportunities. The interested recruiters will reach out directly to the IAM member to pursue employment prospects.

IAM/Boeing Joint Programs delivers the COVID cleaning kit to the area for after reading about it in a recent Aero Mechanic. Tony made a few phone calls, located a COVID kit and personally delivered the kit to the area on the same day.

This is just another example of how IAM/Boeing Joint Programs supports safety in the shop with information, services and products each and every day.

IAM/Boeing Joint Programs contact IAM/Boeing Joint Programs at 1-800-235-3453 or go to the IAM/Boeing Joint Programs website at www.iam-boeing.com.
State Senator Karen Keiser is tired of waiting for federal action to lower prescription drug costs. In the 2021 Washington State legislature session, she introduced SB 5020.

The bill looks to penlit companies for unsupported price increases on prescription drugs. The bill targets price increases for drugs that have been in the market for some time, that are not supported by new research, by new clinical trials, by new formulations, and are the same drugs as they were two years ago, but somehow are now twice as expensive. We would impose a penalty on the drug manufacturer for any excessive cost increase in the price of their prescription drugs. The bill also prohibits the manufacturer from withdrawing a drug from the market to avoid paying the penalty.

SB 5020 passed out of the Health & Long Term Care Committee and was referred to the Ways & Means Committee on Feb. 15th. For more information or to ‘have a mouse on our backs,’ said State Senator Karen Keiser, who sponsored this bill to tax price hikes.
Remote but United, It’s ‘Our Time Now’

WSLC’s virtual conference focuses on issues facing Washington’s working families amid COVID

Reprinted from The Stand — Hundreds of union members and leaders from across the state gathered remotely on Feb. 4th for the Washington State Labor Council’s 2021 Virtual Legislative Conference. After hearing from and talking to their state legislators, conference participants emerged more united than ever to call on the Legislature to meet the pressing needs that working families are facing a full year into the COVID-19 pandemic.

WSLC President Larry Brown opened the conference by acknowledging the tremendous loss of life our state and nation have suffered amid the pandemic. Many of us have lost loved ones, friends, neighbors and union sisters, brothers and siblings to COVID-19. Many more are living in fear of losing income because of the economic fallout of the pandemic, he said, and it is for them — and for all workers in Washington — that legislative advocacy is so important right now.

“The reason we are here today — and the reason the theme for this conference is ‘Our Time Now’ — is because of the amazing essential workers of Washington who’ve poured and helped to protect state and nation this storm,” Brown said. “The hospital workers, the grocery store and warehouse employees, the educators, transit workers, the aerospace workers, and the many, many others who have put their health — and their lives — at risk to serve others. They are the reason we are here today. This pandemic has exposed the inequities they face and the unfairness rooted deep in our economy. Our state lawmakers need to understand that, for Washington’s working families, there is a renewed sense of urgency to address these inequities.” (Click here to watch Brown’s full speech here)

A team of labor lobbyists, led by the WSLC’s Legislative Director Sybil Hypolite and Government Affairs Director Joe Kendo, outlined some of the priority issues in the WSLC’s 2021 Workers’ Recovery Agenda. Lindsey Grad of SEIU Healthcare 1199NW described the critical effort to maintain and improve benefits in Washington’s beleaguered unemployment insurance system. Keiser noted that the system has been not only a safety net for the many workers who’ve lost their jobs, but also bolstered the state economy and small businesses by pumping billions of dollars into our communities.

Delegates also heard from the Chairs of the Senate and House labor committees, Sen. Karen Keiser (D-Des Moines) and Rep. Mike Sells (D-Everett), who reminded delegates of the true meaning of the Worker Protection Act (HB 1076) and why it would be vital to Washingtonians. Keiser said: “Safe from sickness, safe from falling behind on rent, safe from prejudice and hate. Facing a triple pandemic of COVID-19, economic insecurity, and the rising tide of white supremacy, it’s no wonder that healing has been on the minds of many these past few months.”

She emphasized both the challenge and importance of labor’s work amid the continuing pandemic.

“We’ve spent time today talking about unity and solidarity,” Sims said. “But we can’t ignore how isolated many of us feel in our own separate corners of Washington. It can seem like the deep divisions we see playing out in our country and in our own bodies, as caring for each other requires us to stay distanced from one another. But when we cannot safely make direct contact to talk with one another, we can still speak with one voice. Uniting to fight for policies that put working people first is a critical way to channel the anxiety, frustration, and uncertainty we feel in our own separate corners of Washington into building power for working people.” (Click here for Sims’ full speech by clicking here or visit www.thestand.org )

“This was my first WSLC Legislative Conference, and I was so impressed with Jon Holden, Shane Van Pelt, and WA members, delegates and staff for ensuring our conference and lobbying.” said Ali England. “I felt confident speaking on the topics and lobbying our elected officials. The Senator and Representative were very happy and that was the highlight of the topics of the day. We discussed 751 leaders were seen and heard in Olympia on issues important to workers.”

WSLC Secretary Treasurer April Sims closed the conference with a moving, heartfelt speech about the healing. She described her and her family’s experience becoming sick with COVID-19, and the perspective their recovery brought to how communities all across Washington are suffering and struggling.

“In crisis, our lives become even more centered around keeping ourselves and our families safe,” Sims said. “Safe from sickness, safe from falling behind on rent, safe from prejudice and hate. Facing a triple pandemic of COVID-19, economic insecurity, and the rising tide of white supremacy, it’s no wonder that healing has been on the minds of many these past few months.

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Peanut Butter Drive for Area Food Banks

Help spread the love and fight hunger during this unprecedented time by partaking in our Union’s annual peanut butter drive, which runs through April. Donations can be brought to any IAM 751 union hall in Puget Sound.

Peanut butter collected at the Auburn, Renton and Seattle union halls will go to the Emergency Food Network, which supports food banks in the greater Tacoma area.

Peanut butter collected at the Everett Union will be donated to Volunteers of America.

Union-made peanut butter brands include Jif or Adams, and whenever possible from unionized grocery stores. However, all donations will be accepted.

Diaper Drive Collections Accepted Through March 31

District 751’s MVP Committee and Women’s Committee are partnering with the group ‘Do The Right Thing’ to collect diapers and baby wipes for families in crisis from around Puget Sound. Through March 31, diapers and wipes can be brought to any IAM 751 union hall. The diapers and wipes will be donated to families in need of diapers as well as organizations that support low-income families in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties through Mary’s Place in Seattle, Multi-Service Center of Federal Way, DAWN Domestic Violence Shelter, Parent Child Assistance Program Tacoma, Two Hearts Pregnancy Aid Snohomish County, and many others.

All of us who are parents know that diapers are essential. But diapers aren’t paid for by any of our social safety net programs. That means families who are living in domestic violence shelters, or in extreme poverty, have to make do as best they can.

Visit https://tinyurl.com/y6953eq9 for details and a link to attend the monthly Zoom meeting.

Monthly Lodge Meetings Continue on Zoom

Be aware our local lodge meetings are continuing on Zoom, which should make it easier for members to participate (however, not during working hours). Your local lodge is determined by the job you perform at Boeing. Following are descriptions of the jobs in each local as well as a link to attend the monthly meeting for that lodge.

Local 751A job classifications include avionics, electronic technicians and flight test. Local 751E meets on Thursday, March 4th at 10:00 a.m. https://tinyurl.com/v5shlg4t and https://tinyurl.com/5x5z2efj

Local 751C job classifications include maintenance technicians and facilities folks.Local 751C will meet Thursday, March 11th at 10:30 a.m. https://tinyurl.com/v953hajq and https://tinyurl.com/v5z4pvgr

Local 751C job classifications include mechanics, painters, sealers, flightline mechanics, forkift operators, factory service, functional test, wire shop, assembler installer, sub assembly.

Local 751-A will meet Thursday, March 10th at 4:00 p.m. https://tinyurl.com/v5shlg4t and https://tinyurl.com/5x5z2efj

Local 751F will meet Wednesday, March 10th at 11 a.m. https://tinyurl.com/v9h6nx6v and 4 p.m. https://tinyurl.com/v4z5x34sa

Local 751G will meet Thurs., March 11th at 6:00 p.m. https://tinyurl.com/v953hajq and https://tinyurl.com/v5z4pvgr

Local 751H will meet Saturday, March 13th at 2:00 p.m. https://tinyurl.com/v4z5x34sa

Local 751I will meet Thursday, March 11th at 10:00 a.m. https://tinyurl.com/v953hajq and https://tinyurl.com/v5z4pvgr

Local 751J will meet Monday, March 15th at 12:00 p.m. https://tinyurl.com/v953hajq and https://tinyurl.com/v5z4pvgr

Local 751K will meet Thursday, March 18th at 10:00 a.m. https://tinyurl.com/v953hajq and https://tinyurl.com/v5z4pvgr

Local 751L will meet Thursday, March 25th at 11:00 a.m. https://tinyurl.com/v953hajq and https://tinyurl.com/v5z4pvgr

Local 751M will meet Thursday, March 25th at 12:00 p.m. https://tinyurl.com/v953hajq and https://tinyurl.com/v5z4pvgr

Local 751N will meet Thursday, March 25th at 1:00 p.m. https://tinyurl.com/v953hajq and https://tinyurl.com/v5z4pvgr

Local 751O will meet Thursday, March 25th at 2:00 p.m. https://tinyurl.com/v953hajq and https://tinyurl.com/v5z4pvgr

Local 751P will meet Thursday, March 25th at 3:00 p.m. https://tinyurl.com/v953hajq and https://tinyurl.com/v5z4pvgr

Local 751Q will meet Thursday, March 25th at 4:00 p.m. https://tinyurl.com/v953hajq and https://tinyurl.com/v5z4pvgr

Local 751R will meet Thursday, March 25th at 5:00 p.m. https://tinyurl.com/v953hajq and https://tinyurl.com/v5z4pvgr

Local 751S will meet Thursday, March 25th at 6:00 p.m. https://tinyurl.com/v953hajq and https://tinyurl.com/v5z4pvgr

Local 751T will meet Thursday, March 25th at 7:00 p.m. https://tinyurl.com/v953hajq and https://tinyurl.com/v5z4pvgr

Local 751U will meet Thursday, March 25th at 8:00 p.m. https://tinyurl.com/v953hajq and https://tinyurl.com/v5z4pvgr

Local 751V will meet Thursday, March 25th at 9:00 p.m. https://tinyurl.com/v953hajq and https://tinyurl.com/v5z4pvgr

Local 751W will meet Thursday, March 25th at 10:00 p.m. https://tinyurl.com/v953hajq and https://tinyurl.com/v5z4pvgr

Local 751X will meet Thursday, March 25th at 11:00 p.m. https://tinyurl.com/v953hajq and https://tinyurl.com/v5z4pvgr

Local 751Y will meet Thursday, March 25th at 12:00 a.m. https://tinyurl.com/v953hajq and https://tinyurl.com/v5z4pvgr
Triumph Composites Systems announced that they have decided to close the Spokane plant, which we believe is the wrong decision. The company has not yet provided details other than they are starting the process of closing the site and believe it will be completed summer of 2022.

While COVID is one of the circumstances that may have led to this decision, Triumph built factories in Mexico where they’ve sent a large portion of our work over the last 7-8 years. At the same time, our members, worked hard to ensure this factory was profitable. Our members learned new skills, adapted to new technology and performed whatever they were asked.

It is disappointing the company has not shown the same loyalty to our members, their other employees, and to the communities that we live in.

Even though we have all been concerned about the future for Triumph in Spokane, we always hoped that we would see more work placed in the factory. The news was tough to hear – especially when you consider they had more than 500 members working there just a few years back.

IAM District 751 President Jon Holden, in a message to the members, noted, “I can’t overstate the importance of you to Local Lodge 86, District 751 and the community there in Spokane. I will always be proud of the work we did together, fighting for a better standard and standing up for our principles. You all have inspired me and I will not forget the example you set for our union and the labor movement.”

We will continue to push for additional information and ensure that Triumph follows all aspects of the contract in regards to layoff and severance benefits. IAM District 751 has already secured a Trade Adjustment Assistance Petition, which provides additional training and unemployment resources for not only our members, but all employees including management, who get laid-off. We will continue working to support our members impacted by this decision. We will keep you updated on these and other issues as they become known.

The contract approved last year included an MOU providing severance and health care on layoff.

Leaders Explore Options to Expand Aerospace Jobs in Spokane Region

After learning Triumph Composites would close their Spokane plant, IAM District 751 President Jon Holden and Eastern Washington Business Rep Steve Warren had a call with Senator Maria Cantwell to discuss ways to attract new aerospace and manufacturing jobs to the Spokane area.

A second Zoom meeting set up by Senator Cantwell brought together a broader group of concerned leaders from the state and region. That meeting included IAM Local 86 President Allen Eveland, District 751 Business Rep Steve Warren, Lisa Distel (Labor Relations & Workforce Reps. at Fairchild AFB, WA Department of Commerce), Robin Toth (Director of Economic Development for the Aerospace Sector), Kevin Brockbank (President, Spokane Community College), Larry Krauter (CEO Spokane Airport System), Todd Woodard (Director of Marketing and Public Affairs, Spokane Airport System), Mark Norton, (Chair, Inland Northwest Aerospace Consortium), and Mark Matke, (CEO, Spokane Area Workforce Development Council).

The group shared their insights on the best path forward to attract and retain aerospace and advanced manufacturing work to the Spokane region.

The discussion included a recent grant won by a doctor at Gonzaga University to build an atomic force microscope that could be used as a composite infrared detection device for defects on composite materials and that could have widespread application in aerospace.

Allen and Steve noted that the Machinists Institute is available to help and is looking to expand manufacturing apprenticeships and training opportunities in Spokane. Our Machinists Institute is currently looking to partner with companies on this endeavor. The Machinists Institute is working with community and technical colleges as well to establish a center for registered apprenticeship, education and support in the Spokane area.

While no plan was decided on at this meeting for going forward, there was good discussion. All are working to ensure aerospace manufacturing continues to be a vital part of the Spokane community and will work to attract and expand that type of work for the region.

Triumph Announces They Will Close Spokane Plant

EASTERN WASHINGTON

Members at DRG are United in Efforts for a New Contract

Machinists Union members working at Delaware Resource Group (DRG) at Fairchild AFB are gearing up for their next contract. The 16 talented mechanics have been identifying issues they want addressed in their next contract.

On Feb. 11th, the group showed their solidarity and determination with an overwhelming vote to grant strike sanction to the negotiating committee. This is an important step in the negotiation process before formal negotiations begin. The strong vote tells management these members are serious about getting a good contract.

The group discussed the steps in negotiation and are staying engaged throughout the process. The contract, which expires on April 1, covers more than just our members at Fairchild AFB and extends to March ARB, Milwaukee ANGB and Hickam AFB.

Business Rep Steve Warren and Steward Gregg Larson will serve on the Union negotiating committee from Fairchild.

Continued from Page 1

position later in 2014 (the position he

Inland Northwest Economic Development

was supposed from). Chris initially created a ticket in Worklife, which resulted in a generic answer that didn’t address or fix his issue. Michael then elevated the issue to both Labor Relations and Workforce Reps. After presenting all the information, the Workforce Rep acknowledged the problem and agreed to follow the contract and move Chris to the Grade 5 job.

“Our members must be proactive. Make sure your work history is correct because you have return rights to jobs previously held during the previous 8 years period for 90 days or more. If you are given a surplus/move memo, make sure it is correct and don’t assume Boeing is following the contract. If Chris hadn’t questioned the move memo, he would not have been placed in the Grade 5 job he had contractual rights to,” said Michael.

“Chris had more seniority in the Grade 5 job than hundreds of others so he should have been offered that job retention,”

Unfortunately, that wasn’t the only contractual issue Chris experienced. When he heard people were being recalled to the Grade 7 job who had less seniority, he again contacted Michael. Thankfully Chris had noted the date he filed his Category A online last year and had the confirmation. However, when he checked the list now, there was no record. Michael again helped Chris get the situation corrected. He is on the Cat A list, and move memos to less senior members were cancelled, with Workforce reporting the move memos will go in proper seniority order for his Grade 7 job. Members should always verify a few days after filing their Category A form that they are indeed on the recall list. Members can call any of the Union halls to verify they are on the recall list and accurately captured the locations they filed for.

Michael also noted that members should be aware of 6.3(d) Rate Retention language. This clause provides members who accept a downgrade rather than layoff retain their previous pay rate for 90 days. For any members in this situation, they should double check and ensure they received proper rate retention after a downgrade. If this did not happen, contact your Union Steward for assistance in getting your pay corrected.

“I appreciate having our Union to protect my rights. Michael did a great job and ensured every issue was corrected and the contract was followed,” said Chris. “I never thought I would need help, but it pays to be Union, to know your rights and have the backing of the Union should an issue occur.”

Leader: Business Rep Steve Warren (center) talks with members Kyle Davis (l) and Dave Saugert (r) about Triumph’s decision to close.

Photo left: Business Rep Steve Warren (center) talks with members Kyle Davis (l) and Dave Saugert (r) about Triumph’s decision to close.