



Local Lodge 1746

insight

357 Main Street East Hartford, CT. 06118 – Telephone: 860-568-3000

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Some Sunny Day

Last month, the local lodge Executive Board took action to cancel the July monthly meeting. Notices were posted on the union bulletin boards throughout the shop, and hopefully you got the memo. The cancellation came on the heels of a June monthly meeting that was also cancelled because it failed to reach a quorum. The local's by-laws require a minimum of 25 members to be present for an official meeting, and 21 showed up. That's well below 2% of the hourly workforce population here in East Hartford, and it played a role in the July decision.

We get it. It's summertime. There's camping and cook-outs and boating and hiking and a million other better things to do than drive down to the union hall on some sunny Sunday morning in June. And it's not like the Union is going to dry up and blow away if you don't go, right? There's at least 21 people willing to go, and if another four people go there the union has its quorum and everyone's happy.

Times are good at Pratt & Whitney these days. Lots of work, buildings popping up, new machines coming into the shop. There's plenty of new faces, too, and the company is looking to hiring more. Last time the company was hiring like this was the late 1970's. There was a pretty decent hiring spree in the late 80's and early 90's when the company was making an effort to maintain a stable hourly workforce, but due to a myriad of reasons—fluctuating markets, globalization, corporate greed, mismanagement, whatever—a lot of those workers were laid off, some as recently as 2012. Even PW President Bob LeDuc has publicly acknowledged that, with its projected ramp-up, the company should've been hiring instead of laying people off. That's small consolation for anyone who was out of a job, however.

So, do the math. The last great wave of a continuously-employed workforce came on board around 1979. If they were hired off the street at age 18, they would be 57 years old now with 38 years of seniority. By the end of our 5½-year contract, the youngest of that group will be approaching retirement age. The company knows this and is anxious to achieve an adequate transfer of knowledge to maintain the ramp into the mid 2020's and beyond. That's the obvious reason for the unusual

length of the contract. They didn't want an interruption of work at a crucial point in the ramp that a 3-year contract would've presented, and they were willing to give up one of their valued poker chips—the December ratification date—to get that assurance.

But there's a side effect of that, too. Many of our strongest union activists fall into that 1979 category. Five years from now, who will the new leaders be? What will our prospects be in 2022 if we can't even get 2% of our membership to take an active interest in our local's affairs? There's more to union activism than marching through the shop beating an empty water jug with a PVC pipe every three to five years. Solidarity is vitally important, but so is participation if we want to be as strong as we can be.

Look at your wage card. Most new hires come in as Grades 5, 6, or 7. Current standard rates for those grades range between \$29-\$32/hour, which is probably \$5-\$10/hour more than a non-union shop would start a new hire. Add in a good benefits package and it's no mystery why most people are excited to come work at Pratt. They know that they can do more than eke out a living here, they can prosper and provide their families with a home and a good way of life. Those things didn't come from the overwhelming generosity of the company, they came through hard negotiations at the bargaining table by activists over the course of more than 60 years. The strength of our position has always had a direct correlation to the strength of our activism and solidarity. And if you believe in the rhetoric that unions have become obsolete, think again. There are forces everywhere—in politics, in business, in lobbyist efforts—that would love to see unions crushed, and they are working on that goal every day of the week. The wolf is always at the door.

Is it the end of the world that we didn't have a Sunday meeting the past two months? No. People have lives, and situations come up. We get it. But before you point your finger at "those union guys" when things go wrong, consider this: The word Union begins with U. And if U don't take care of your union, if U think the other guy is always going to pick up the slack, then U might just wake up some sunny day and find out that something really important was lost. It truly is in our hands.

The President's Report

by Kirby Boyce



Clarke King, 1946 — 2017

The Hartford labor movement area lost a great leader last month when Clarke King, former president of AFSCME Council 4 Local 1716, died on his birthday at the age of 71. King was a valiant advocate and relentless activist who carried the fight for the downtrodden and less fortunate to his dying day. Anyone who served as a delegate for the Greater Hartford Labor Council will not forget his gruff voice and infectious laugh. Those who knew him described him as a “bulldog” who never let go, but also a gentle man of real principle. Mayor Luke Bronin called him a “strong and passionate advocate” for the community. A sorrowful community labor leaders and activists must now carry his torch forward while keeping his memory in their hearts.

Source: Hartford Courant

LL1746 hope's that everyone is having a great summer. Last month we had our first multi Union sponsored Picnic at High Meadows in Granby Ct. The event was very well attended and I have yet to receive any negative feedback. The weather was about as perfect as it could be, and everyone had their fill of great food, ice cream, steamed clams, cotton candy, and more. It's very fulfilling when you can see your brothers and sisters sitting together with their families in harmony and serenity. Hopefully we can build on this and make the picnic an annual event.

Last week there was a lot of dialog amongst our members, management, and myself about the intent of Article 19. I will state that Article 19 is very straightforward and it reads that employees are to receive the 18 Minute Lunch and rest period if they are working more than 2 hours of overtime. I just want to clear up any miscommunication that may have happened between management and members.

I'd like to recognize two new Stewards that came on board last month. Brian Carr, who took over the vacated Steward Area 1 first-shift position due to Jeff Baglin's retirement. And thanks also go out to Adam Organek for stepping up into the Shop Steward position for all of third shift. It has been quite some time since we have had a shop steward to cover third shift. Here are their pictures.



Our Local is going through a phase of attrition. Longtime Stewards, Health and Safety Reps, Executive Board members and members of our last Negotiating Committee will be set to retire in the near future. Even though going home after an 8+ hour day feels easier than committing a few extra hours a month to help your Union grow and prosper, the commitment is very necessary. We have different committees here at the local that members can be involved in. These committees include: Community Service and Recreation, Human Rights, Organizing, Education, Legislative, Newsletter, and By-Law committee. Some of our committees have the correct amount of people on them, but others still need help. Remember something very important, this is YOUR UNION. It is very hard to function when we only have a few that exhibit the commitment needed to have the local run like a well-oiled machine.

MNPL 2017 Dinner

By Shirley Dickes

It has been a few years since a MNPL Dinner has been held. Originally called the District 91 Club, members contributed \$9.10 a month to the IAM's Machinists Non-Partisan Political League (MNPL). MNPL is the political arm of our Union and only IAM members may contribute to it.

It is your choice to contribute and it is not mandatory you join. However, many IAM members have contributed to MNPL since 1947, when it was first started. This was to help those candidates who have the best interest in IAM members' issues.

The District 91 Club would hold an annual dinner for those members who contributed \$9.10 a month as a thank you to them. In recent years, the dinner has not been held. But this year is different!

The annual District 91 Club dinner will be held on Saturday, September 23rd at East Hartford Local Lodge 1746. More information will be coming out soon as to the time and food menu. We will also be inviting some of our political friends to come in and speak. We will be mailing out invitations to members of the Club as the date draws closer. Please keep an eye out in your mail.

Four New Safety Reps Appointed

LL1746 Congratulates our four new 2nd Shift Safety Reps: **T.J. Gamble**, **Al Lagasse**, **Angel Martinez**, and **Scott Martin**. All have been recognized in their roles by the company and are working hard to learn a great deal of information to be effective advocates of safety in the shop. Welcome to the team, brothers!

**7th Annual MACHINIST CLUB OPEN
Golf Tournament to Benefit
FOODSHARE and ULA**

Join us **Friday, September 15, 2017** at
TWIN HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
Route 31 in Coventry CT
Registration 10 AM, 11 AM tee time

**PRIZES
& RAFFLES**

LAST CALL !



Proceeds from this tournament will benefit
FOODSHARE and the United Labor Agency.

Get your foursome together, \$110.00 per person
Lunch will be provided. Following play, return to
the Machinist Club @ 357 Main Street, East Hart-
ford for dinner, raffles and prize awards.

Thank you to the **Connecticut State Council
of Machinists** for your generous donation of
\$1,000
to this event!

CONTACTS:

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FORMAT

**FOUR PERSON SCRAMBLE
MAKE YOUR OWN FOURSOMES**

Entry fees to be PAID no later than Sept. 8th along with Hole Sponsor donations

REGISTRATION

Team: 1. _____ 3. _____
2. _____ 4. _____

Holes Sponsored at \$ 100.00 each _____

SIGN WORDING _____

Send payment to 1746 Machinist Club, 357 Main Street,
East Hartford, CT 06118



The Next Monthly Meeting is
August 13, 2017 at 11:00 am



Remember Our Troops Red-Shirt Friday's!

Insight welcomes your opinion!*

- Do you have an idea for a story?
- Want to submit an article?
- Got news you want to share with the membership?
- Want to share an opinion?

Send your feedback to
1746news@gmail.com !



*We'd love to
hear from you!*

* Insight reserves the right to edit all submissions for content prior to publication.



WEBSITES:
www.iamLL1746.org
www.iamdistrict26.org
www.goiam.org
www.shopunionmade.org

In memory of

Sister Elnora Hicks
1951 — 2017

Brother Art Richardson
1952 — 2017



Here are some of the
officers email addresses to
contact with your
concerns and suggestions.

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