



insight

Local Lodge 1746
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The President's Report

Firstly, congratulations to our next Negotiations Committee. As most of you probably know, Taylor Salman, Vinny Perugini, Geronimo Valdez, Jim Bullock, and Ryan Tyrol were elected by all those who came out to vote. 1st Alternate is Thérèse Hervieux and the 2nd alternate is Steve McLaughlin. The union has alternates in case something happens and one of those elected is unable to continue on the negotiating committee, and they need to be ready to step in and be up to speed in order to effectively continue negotiations.

What happens next? Your elected Negotiating Committee will work and train together with Local Lodge 700's elected committee and create a strategic plan. Surveys will go out to the members at both locations in the next few months, so make sure you fill them out. Your comments of what is important to you should be included on the survey. Each and every comment is read and looked at. Based on the surveys, each Local's committees will come up with proposals to be presented to the membership at the proposal meeting.

The Proposal Meeting is a very important meeting, and you all need to attend. The Proposals drafted off the surveys will be read and voted on at this meeting. This is your time to voice concerns, propose changes, etc. If you want a seat at the table, the survey and the proposal meetings are your place to have your voice heard!

In April of 2025, negotiations with the company will begin. There will be a strike sanction during that time, so watch for that date. Communications to the membership will be in various forms: handbills, text blasts and membership meetings. The Ratification vote is on May 4th, 2025 at the Oakdale Music Theater in Wallingford..

Start saving now, so you're prepared. There may be very serious issues which will come across the table and we all need to be prepared! When I walk the shop many members tell me their concerns, and many of these concerns are worth fighting for, so you need to prepare.



Finally, a huge "THANK YOU" to the members who stepped up and volunteered to work the polls from 6AM to 8PM and beyond into the early hours of the morning counting the votes. And of course, thanks to those who volunteered in the kitchen making those fabulous grinders the members have come to love. The convenience of picking up an inexpensive but quality lunch at the polls is just another benefit your union makes available to you. These things don't happen without volunteers, so please think about giving a day to the union during our next vote.

I also want to thank and congratulate Sean Marcil and Kurt Burkhart, who have both accepted positions with the Grand Lodge. Brother Sean will be taking his expertise as an Assistant EAP coordinator to the International. We all know how important that position is and the passion he'll bring to his new role. Brother Kurt is taking on a new role as Grand Lodge Auditor for Region 1. We need to thank Kurt for all the "stuff" he took care of as our local lodge's Secretary-Treasurer. He'll be greatly missed in all the positions he held. Please wish Sean and Kurt the best of luck and thank them for helping our membership and union in their well-deserved new jobs. *Respectfully submitted, President Howard Huestis*

What is Juneteenth?

On "Freedom's Eve," or the eve of January 1, 1863, the first Watch Night services took place. On that night, enslaved and free African Americans gathered in churches and private homes all across the country awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect. At the stroke of midnight, prayers were answered as all enslaved people in Confederate States were declared legally free. Union soldiers, many of whom were black, marched onto plantations and across cities in the south reading small copies of the Emancipation Proclamation spreading the news of freedom in Confederate States. Only through the 13th Amendment did emancipation end slavery throughout the United States.

But not everyone in Confederate territory would immediately be free. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control. As a result, in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas, enslaved people would not be free until much later. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth," by the newly freed people in Texas.



The post-emancipation period known as Reconstruction (1865-1877) marked an era of great hope, uncertainty, and struggle for the nation as a whole. Formerly enslaved people immediately sought to reunify families, establish schools, run for political office, push radical legislation and even sue slaveholders for compensation. Given the 200+ years of enslavement, such changes were nothing short of amazing. Not even a generation out of slavery, African-Americans were inspired and empowered to transform their lives and their country. Juneteenth marks our country's second independence day. Although it has long been celebrated in the African American community, this monumental event remains largely unknown to most Americans.

The historical legacy of Juneteenth shows the value of never giving up hope in uncertain times. The National Museum of African American History and Culture is a community space where this spirit of hope lives on. A place where historical events like Juneteenth are shared and new stories with equal urgency are told.

Reprinted from National Museum of African-American History and Culture, part of the Smithsonian Institute. For more information, visit <https://nmaahc.si.edu/>



Ask Not What Your Union Can Do for You...

By Thomas Johnson

First. I would like to say congratulations to all the union members elected to shop steward and, most recently, to our negotiating committee this year. We have strong representation in all the needed areas, which is wonderful. We should be proud of our election system and how it works because, in all the years I've been here, the voting system was a success and flawless, from where I stand and from

what I hear. These were important elections, and they can help solidify our unity in the shop. Since I started in 2016, I have felt privileged and honored to participate in the contract elections and in the steward elections. I'd never worked for an active union like 1746 lodge before, so it's a pleasure to see all the strong, dedicated union members take part and feel empowered as we journey toward a new contract year.

One thing that puzzled me though was the number of members that came out to vote. 116 voters came to participate in the last steward elections, and less than 600 cast their votes in the Negotiating Committee elections. Out of a shop of over 1,600 members! Talking to members on the shop floor, I feel that there could have been more voters at the ballot box. Okay, some people either don't want to get involved or they just have a bad opinion about the union. I understand that, but to whose expense is this attitude? Simple, ours. Some members want change and new ideas, but sadly, the low vote count doesn't reflect these opinions. Where are you, voters? Where are the voters who talk about what they want and don't get involved?

At least if you don't vote (which you should), at least participate to make a stronger connection with the union. I lost my bid for steward in the last election, but I pulled myself up and called Shay across the street to talk about the different committees available as a dues-paying member. The number is 860-568-3000. Hint Hint: you can do the same!!! If we are passionate for change we have to get involved. We must say to ourselves, "Hey I'm paying for this union service with dues, let me see what I can do to keep it growing and support our members". The opportunities are limitless on where we can go but it's up to us to help ourselves. Be proud of your union because in turn your union brothers and sisters will be proud of you!



I want to start by thanking everyone who reached out to Governor Lamont's office in support of HB 5431, An Act Establishing a Connecticut Families and Workers Account. Getting a bill to the governor's desk is often a sausage-making process, and HB 5431 was morphed out of HB 5164, which would've allowed striking workers the ability to collect unemployment benefits after being out on the picket line for more than two weeks. The new bill doesn't have any of that, it establishes a fund that would be overseen by the state comptroller for the purpose of supporting low-income workers who are out on strike. That's great if you work at Starbucks or you're a low wage nursing assistant, but it doesn't really help the Machinists very much, because we're not low-income workers by any stretch of the imagination. Our attraction to the unemployment benefits was never to go on vacation on the government's dime, it was always about leveling the playing field in negotiations. Still, if HB 5431 becomes law, and it helps out fellow union workers and their families, that's obviously a win, and perhaps it could be a stepping stone for something better down the road.

According to the CT General Assembly website, the bill went to Governor Lamont's desk on May 30th. He has yet to sign it and has threatened to veto it, in spite of its bipartisan support amongst the legislators. This from a governor who benefitted from scores of labor activists knocking on doors and manning phone banks to help put him in office for two terms. Rumor has it that the governor may not be seeking a third term, so maybe that lame-duck status in his mind affords him the liberty to exercise a businessman first, public-servant second mentality for the remaining 2½ years of his term. That would be a bad thing for labor in Connecticut.



Is Ned Sticking It to the Unions?

Rumor also has it that the business community leaned hard on Ned, not just the CBIA lobbyists but state CEOs (including our own?) to kill this legislation. As of the writing of this article, Ned hasn't officially caved yet, but the ground is definitely shaking under his feet. If he does cave, he might as well call it quits in 2026, because getting Labor to rally behind him again would be an impossible sell. It may already be too late regardless of what he does.

Last month, when all of this quivering was first coming to light, I bumped into Brother Kurt Burkhart and a Grand Lodge Auditor named Greg Maszta while I was picking up my egg sandwich from Maddie's. Brother Maszta originally came from LL 700, but now he services Zone 14, including California, Oregon, Hawaii, and Guam. We started talking about HB 5164 and he said they were having the same problem with Governor Newsom in California, because these affluent governors with ties to big business will side with business more often than not when it comes to legislation that threatens their power. It goes back to the leverage issue. Corporations need to hold that power and curtail our ability to fight back so that they can continue to do things for "shareholder value" like pitting states against each other for tax incentives and muscling us out of our pensions. And they get away with this because they are bigger than any one state and any one governor.



So maybe it's time for a different approach, because the current one clearly isn't working. It's been said many times that our current president is the most labor-friendly president in decades. Well, walking on picket lines is a great show of support to unions, but what we really need is legislation. If Joe Biden gets elected to a second term, then maybe we should engage with our labor-friendly U.S. Representatives and Senators to craft legislation to make the spirit of HB 5164 the law of the land, either as an amendment to the PRO Act or as a stand-alone bill. The Federal government has provided similar benefits before, like it did with unemployment extensions during the Great Recession of 2008 and pandemic relief payments during COVID. This would be a drop in the bucket compared to those programs, and it would dramatically level the playing field for Labor. And if the president doesn't get reelected, then unions are going to have a whole lot more to worry about than unemployment benefits for striking workers.



The next Monthly Meeting will be held
on June 9th
in Grace Baker Hall at 11 a.m.
There will be no monthly meetings in July and August,
per the membership.



May RIDII Winners

Lewis Campbell
Steven Duclos
Amy Foxe
Scott Greaney
David Nevue
John Bruni
Richard Fielding
Philip Newsome




Remember Our Troops Red-Shirt Fridays!!!



Organized Labor Night 2024

REID & RIEGE

Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield

Hinge Health

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31ST | 4:30 PM GATES OPEN | GAME STARTS AT 6:10 PM

Join the Hartford Yard Goats for our beloved Organized Labor Night as we look to show our appreciation to all those who work in our country's unions. The Yard Goats would like to celebrate the history and contributions these union workers have made, including building Dunkin' Park!



Tickets Available at the Hall
Get Yours Today ! ➡



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Union Negotiated Wage Rates at Pratt & Whitney Effective May 6, 2024 until November 3, 2024						
Labor Grade	FIRST SHIFT		SECOND SHIFT		THIRD SHIFT	
	Std	Max	Std	Max	Std	Max
11	30.92	34.25	34.012	37.675	30.995	34.325
10	32.04	35.33	35.244	38.863	32.115	35.405
9	33.28	36.79	36.608	40.469	33.355	36.865
8	34.83	38.33	38.313	42.163	34.905	38.405
7	36.53	40.07	40.183	44.077	36.605	40.145
6	38.36	41.94	42.196	46.134	38.435	42.015
5	40.26	43.94	44.286	48.334	40.335	44.015
4	42.47	46.14	46.717	50.754	42.545	46.215
3	44.73	48.48	49.203	53.328	44.805	48.555
2	47.39	51.15	52.129	56.265	47.465	51.225
1	50.11	53.95	55.121	59.345	50.185	54.025
0	52.94	56.81	58.234	62.491	53.015	56.885

After 6 or 12 months on new job, start at "Standard" Rate and progress with 10¢ an hour increase every 16 weeks until "Maximum" Rate