



insight

Local Lodge 1746
357 Main Street
E. Hartford, CT 06108

Tel: 860-568-3000
www.iamll1746.org
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LL1746 Scores Big Community Win

By Therese Hervieux

On August 14th, six members of LL1746 participated in another successful Backpack Rally event at East Hartford Public School. (EHPS) IAM Eastern Territory Chief-of-Staff Chuck Herod joined our District 26 Reps and our own Local members in donating thousands of physical items and monetary donations to help students in our community.



LL1746's Union Women's Committee has partnered with the EHPS for four years doing the backpack supply events. There are three ways we help: gathering donations, volunteering at the events to stuff backpacks and pencil boxes, and manning a vendor booth on the rally day to hand the

backpacks out to the families. Our volunteers distributed thousands of IAM union pencils, pens, rulers, activity books, stickers, and many other items that the children were excited to receive.

This collection and event take many volunteers to make it a success. Thank you to everyone, including Travis Williams from LL 743 for the large EZ up, Sue Carreira & Kathy Williams who did an amazing 2nd shift monetary collection, Tony Walter, Ryan Tyrol, Howie Huestis, Andy Santini, Taylor Salman, Chelsea Pullen, Ileana Juarez and Chris Inzitari who helped make this event a success. Every year volunteers step up and help and we could not do it without you.



Connecticut IAM Locals to Team with State Senators to Combat Substance Use Disorder in the Workplace

By Joe Durette

Last week, State Senator Dr. Saud Anwar (D-3) called on his union friends to join him at the State Capitol to support an announcement of a new initiative he was launching, an effort to declare Substance Use Disorder (SUD) as an Occupational Disease. Members from Locals 700, 743, and 1746, along with staff members of ConnectiCOSH and leaders from the CT AFL-CIO met with Senator Anwar and Senator Hochadel (D-13), both good friends of Labor.



Sister Hervieux addresses reporters at Anwar press conference

Substance Use Disorder is defined as “the repeated use of alcohol or drugs that cause significant impairment in a person’s life”, per the Connecticut Network . Sen. Anwar described how sports injuries is one pathway to Opioid Use Disorder, which accounts for about 11% of all SUDs. Athletes seeking pain control from opioids for long-term or chronic injuries can ultimately fall into the clutches of heroin or fentanyl addiction which often leads to death. Dr. Anwar then drew a straight line between these kinds of tragedies and those that beset Connecticut workers who suffer from Repetitive Strain Injuries. The difference, which he points out, is that athletes have a choice—to quit playing the sport that ails them—but workers often do not have that choice.

Injured workers often start with over-the-counter pain medications such as Tylenol or Advil, or other types of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). But these can cause high blood pressure, gastric ulcers, and other

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5 Reasons Why Every Member Should Attend Steward Classes

By Steven "Stevie Mac" McLaughlin,
2nd Shift Steward and Conductor-Sentinel for Local 1746



In the dynamic landscape of labor relations, staying informed and empowered is essential for union members. This sentiment rings particularly true for members of Local 1746, where the steward class serves as a pivotal forum for learning, engagement, and empowerment.

1. Understanding Local Operations and On-Goings

The steward class offers a unique opportunity to delve into the inner workings of Local 1746. It provides a comprehensive overview of ongoing activities, recent developments, and upcoming initiatives within the union. This knowledge empowers members by keeping them informed about decisions that affect their work lives directly. Whether it's updates on negotiations, changes in policies, or upcoming events, attending the steward class ensures that members are well-versed in the latest developments within their local union.

2. Direct Access to Leadership

An invaluable aspect of the steward class is the opportunity to engage directly with leadership, including the President of local 1746, Howard Huestis, various stewards, and members of our negotiating committee for our next contract with Pratt and Whitney. This direct interaction allows members to voice their concerns, ask questions, and gain insights from those steering the course of the union. President Huestis' presence ensures that discussions are not only informative but also reflective of members' interests and perspectives. Such access fosters transparency and strengthens the bond between union leadership and its members.

3. Educational Opportunities

Beyond updates and discussions, the steward class serves as an educational platform. Members can deepen their understanding of their rights under the collective bargaining agreement, learn effective grievance handling techniques, and grasp the nuances of stewardship roles. This knowledge equips members with the tools necessary to navigate workplace challenges effectively and advocate for their rights with confidence.

4. Preparedness and Engagement

Knowledge is power, particularly in the realm of labor relations. Attending steward classes ensures that members are prepared to handle various scenarios in the workplace. Discussions on when and how to call for a steward equips members with the know-how to effectively navigate situations requiring union representation. This proactive approach not only safeguards members' rights but also strengthens the collective bargaining power of the union as a whole.

5. Building a Stronger Union Community

Lastly, the steward class fosters camaraderie and solidarity among union members. It provides a regular platform for members to connect, share experiences, and support one another. This sense of community is crucial in building a strong and united front against challenges that may arise in the workplace.

In conclusion, the steward class is not merely a meeting but a cornerstone of empowerment for members of Local 1746. By attending these sessions, members gain vital knowledge, access to leadership, and the skills needed to navigate the complexities of labor relations. Moreover, they contribute to a vibrant union community where every member's voice is heard and valued. Therefore, I urge **all members** of Local 1746 to prioritize attending the steward class, every Monday except for the Monday following a monthly membership meeting, first shift meets following work, and second shift meets at 2PM. Make a commitment to staying informed, empowered, and united in the pursuit of fair and just working conditions.

Anwar, continued

side effects. The injured employee may graduate to opioids like oxycontin, which can provide greater relief but which are also highly addictive chemicals. When the opioids are cut off due to cost or terminations of prescription, the worker—who is now addicted to them—will seek other means of pain control such as heroin or fentanyl. Even if they don't die, their ability to perform their job is severely compromised; they may be demoted or fired for substandard performance, and then they are beset with mental anguish as well as the stigma of being a user. It's a vicious cycle that they can rarely break free from on their own, one that will ultimately lead to their destruction.

Dr. Anwar asserts that when someone becomes addicted to opioids due to a workplace injury, it is an Occupational Disease. And it's preventable, because ergonomic interventions—workstation design, body positioning, training and education—can prevent the injury from occurring in the first place. Anwar believes that by recognizing SUDs as Occupational Diseases, we can have more open conversations about the problem, break down stigma, and compel companies to provide more impactful interventions, not only in the ergonomics arena but also in the human services arena, by recognizing when someone has fallen into addiction and treating them humanely by helping them on the path to recovery. We look forward to working with Senators Anwar and Hochadel in the spring of 2025 to help address this vitally important matter at the next legislative session.



Hey, everyone! Shay here. Just wanted to let you know we're having a blowout sale on old-stock T-Shirts at the Hall. 3 for \$10!!! Small, Medium, and lots of 3XL—5 XL. Stop by the Hall and take a look!



LL.1746 Secretary/Treasurer Joe Sawin

Welcome to our new Secretary-Treasurer, **Joe Swain**. Joe has 38 years with the IAMAW and a long history of steadfast activism. Currently, he is a Mechanic/Operator in the X-7 X-8 Test Stands in East Hartford. . However, his Pratt history includes Southington O&R, Cheshire O&R, Middletown, and Willgoos.

Within the union, he has held positions as Recording Secretary in Cheshire, Shop Steward, Hourly Job Rating Plan coordinator, and Delegate to the Connecticut State Council of Machinists for many years. In addition to his new position as ST, he is also Chair for the Lodge House Committee and installs and maintains the IT at the union hall. Joe helps wherever and whenever he can and is a great person to get to know. You can catch him working in the kitchen, doing repairs, and whatever else needs to get done. Thank you, Joe, for all you do, the constant smile and being a great example for all our members. We have no doubt you will excel as our new ST!

Activate Your Inner Activism!

Legislative Update

Labor Day marks 64 days until Election Day, with offices from the President of the United States all the way down to local government on the line. Many Americans have been enjoying their summer at the expense of politics, but that’s probably going to change soon with the first Presidential debate scheduled for September 10th set to launch the roller-coaster downhill toward what is perhaps the most consequential election of our lifetimes.

Labor is not immune to this turmoil, and in some ways it seems like we are in the center of the storm. From a policy standpoint, the pendulum swings wide: the passage of the Pro Act and the legislated right to organize on one side, and Project 2025 with proposals like national Right-to-Work and a pro-business agenda on the other. And make no mistake, whatever the outcome is, it could have a profound effect on our contract negotiations next spring.

If all of this feels unnerving and fretful to you, you’re certainly not alone. But it doesn’t have to be that way. You could take action and be a part of your future. There are labor-friendly candidates all over this state that need someone like you. A couple of hours a week, knocking on doors and “dropping lit”, making phone calls, attending rallies. It’s actually fun, and it feels good to take action and get involved instead of sitting around and worrying about what might happen. The barcode to the right will bring you to some energetic, labor-friendly people who would be grateful for your help. If that feels like a big step, then email me at 1746news@gmail.com and we can talk about it more one-on-one. I can guarantee, you’ll feel a lot less anxious and a lot more empowered if you choose to take an active role in what’s coming down the line.



Early Voting is Here in Connecticut!

14 DAYS

EARLY VOTING
OCTOBER 21 - 31
NOVEMBER 1 - 3

10 am – 6 pm
8 am – 8 pm on October 29 and 31



**VIEW YOUR SAMPLE BALLOT
WHEN IT IS AVAILABLE**
MyVote.CT.gov/sampleballots



**REGISTER TO VOTE OR
UPDATE YOUR REGISTRATION**
MyVote.CT.gov/register

LET'S DO THIS!

Connecticut AFL-CIO

Sept/Oct Labor Walks

Join your fellow union members for energizing canvassing events! We'll knock on union household doors, discuss key issues, and educate members about labor-endorsed candidates. You'll receive training, a prepared script, and a list of households. Pair up with another volunteer and enjoy complimentary coffee, donuts, and bagels to fuel your efforts!

REGISTER AT:

bit.ly/2024LaborWalks



Contact CC Cieniawski at 480-861-9823 or cieniawski@ctaflcio.org with any questions





The next Monthly Meeting will be held
on September 8th
in Grace Baker Hall at 11 a.m.




Remember Our Troops Red-Shirt Fridays!!!

Final Days!
Get your tickets
at the Hall
by Friday 2 p.m.



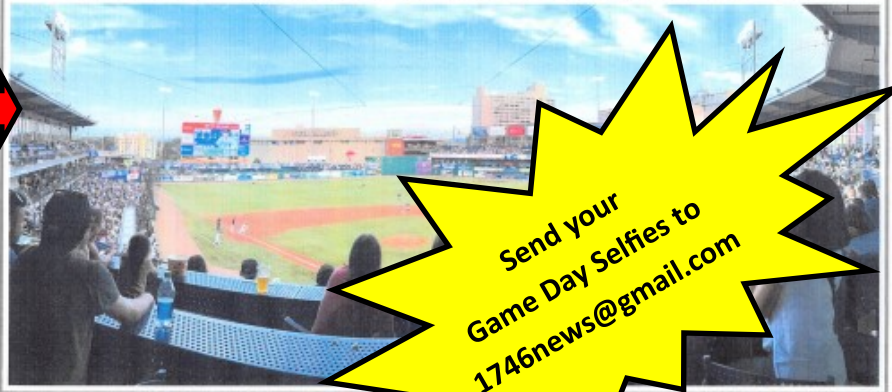
Organized Labor Night 2024

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!



Send your
Game Day Selfies to
1746news@gmail.com

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www.iamdistrict26.org
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Kyle Beauchesne



**The IAM Grand Lodge
Convention is Here!**
Sponsored by the Eastern
Territory in Manhattan.
Look for updates in the
October newsletter!