



# insight

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

Tel: 860-568-3000  
[www.iamll1746.org](http://www.iamll1746.org)  
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## A Tale of Three Strikes

By Joe Durette

Last month, over 120 union members from UNITE-HERE Local 217 struck the Omni Hotel in New Haven, seeking better pay and improved working conditions. These workers included housekeepers, servers, front desk agents, bellmen, bartenders, cooks, and other workers who were burdened by heavy workloads and low wages in the face of rising costs of living. They were joined on the picket line at various times by state leaders including Governor Lamont, Lt. Governor Bysiewicz, Senators Blumenthal and Murphy, Rep. DeLauro, and a host of others including New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker.



The beautiful Omni Hotel at Yale, in downtown New Haven, is one of the few unionized hotels in Connecticut, and the CT AFL-CIO responded to their needs by calling on their members to support the picketers. According to John Stanley, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 217, the strike was part of a nationwide effort to bolster the treatment of employees in the service industry, with over 10,000 employees striking in cities across the country. With so much support from state leaders and state unions, Omni management quickly caved and a new contract was ratified after just four days on strike, when employees had been working without a contract since March 31<sup>st</sup>. Workers received access to union pensions and healthcare, a promise for better staffing levels, and a 14.5% wage increase in the first year of the contract. *Source: New Haven Register*

Soon afterward, the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) struck port operators on the east coast from Maine to Texas, threatening to grind the U.S. economy to

a halt just weeks before the 2024 presidential election and the country reeling from the devastation of Hurricane Helene. With his political adversaries licking their chops at the implications of the impending chaos, President Biden delivered his own October surprise, deflecting the blame from the dockworkers and framing the dispute as a greedy ploy by six billionaires who control all of the east coast and gulf coast docks, earning massive profits since the pandemic.

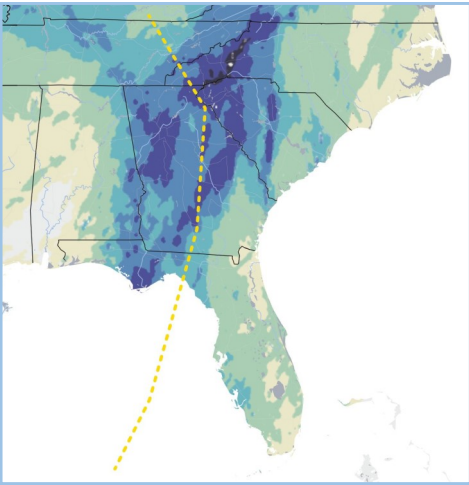
Senior Biden Administration Officials leaned hard on the U.S. Maritime Alliance (USMX), a non-profit organization that represents 40 different companies along the eastern seaboard and gulf coast at the bargaining table. They pressured the companies to raise their offer of a 50% wage increase to 62% over six years, meaning a dock worker earning \$39/hour today would be earning \$63/hour at the end of the contract. Armed with the new offer, Biden officials then appealed to the patriotism of the ILA, who were seeking a 77% increase, and convinced them to accept the USMX offer, suspending their strike until January 15<sup>th</sup> so that the two sides could hammer out the rest of the contract details without bringing the nation to its knees. Crisis averted. *Sources: Wall Street Journal, Yahoo! News,*



Finally, we turn our attention to our Machinist Brothers and Sisters of District 751 in Washington state, now in the fourth week of their strike against Boeing Corporation. Striking workers are no longer receiving paychecks or health care from Boeing, and according to Bloomberg News, they have reverted back to their original demands of a 40% wage increase and reinstatement of a defined benefit pension

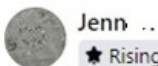
## Hurricanes Take Aim at Pratt Facilities

Two weeks ago, Hurricane Helene made landfall on Florida's Big Bend coastline as a Category 4 hurricane with 140 mph winds, an epic storm surge up to 15 feet in some areas, and over a foot of rain in some areas. At least 227 people lost their lives in the massive storm that wreaked havoc across the south, including Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and many other states. Asheville, North Carolina, where Pratt & Whitney has its newest facility, was hit particularly hard, with nearly 14 inches of rain falling between September 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. The facility itself reportedly withstood the storm, but many of its employees were affected by flooding, power outages, roadway washouts, and damage to their homes.



Helene left a wide swath of torrential rain across the southern Appalachians

Employees at Pratt's Middletown and East Hartford plants were asked to show their goodwill by donating necessities to the Asheville employees, and they came through in a big way, sending a truckful of aide a week after the storm hit. If you donated to this cause, your generosity was well received, and affected Asheville employees were truly grateful. Thank you!



Jenn ..

★ Rising contributor · 3 days ago · 🗨️

I would just like to say that if any of the other plant employees are on this page, YOU GUYS ARE ROCKSTARS! We in Asheville have food, diapers, water, showers, and a laundry truck being brought in made possible by donations from you guys and the management here, and we appreciate it from the bottom of our hearts ❤️ THANK YOU 🙏

Unfortunately, not everyone is sharing their goodwill, some are using the hurricane to spread misinformation directed at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Rumors persist that FEMA is capping aid at \$750, that they will require recipients to pay the money back down the road, and that they are seizing property. None of this is true. One ex-President went so far as to say that government employees are stealing money from FEMA and funneling it to illegal aliens to help them vote, which is completely absurd. These lies only hurt affected residents even more, causing suspicion and a

reluctance to apply for much needed financial aid when they need it most.

Disaster responders don't have any time to catch their breaths, as Hurricane Milton bears down on central Florida just two weeks after Helene struck. Many of our IAM Brothers and Sisters at the West Palm Beach Pratt & Whitney facility are possibly in the direct path of this powerful Category 5 storm, and by the time *Insight* goes to print it's likely to have already made landfall. It used to be that the majority of hurricanes started off the coast of Africa and took many days to grow and threaten the U.S., but now we're seeing them pop up in the warm bathtub that the Gulf of Mexico has become and intensify rapidly with nowhere to go but the southern states, with little time to prepare. Milton intensified from a Category 1 storm to a Category 5 storm in less than 24 hours, and it's naïve to think that climate change has nothing to do with it. Our thoughts and well wishes go out to the workers at West Palm Beach and everyone else in the path of this monster; hopefully Floridians are taking heed of the warnings and getting out of its path to safety.

### **Strikes**, continued

plan. They have already rejected an earlier offer endorsed by the IAMAW by 96% of the membership, as well an offer by the company of a 30% wage increase that circumvented the Union by appealing directly to the workforce. That move blew up in the company's face, emboldening the membership to stand even stronger in solidarity against such brashness and arrogance.

Things haven't been going well for Boeing Corp of late. Following the 737 Max debacle, the in-flight blowout of a 787 Dreamliner emergency door, and the huge golden parachutes of not one but two Boeing CEOs, the company is now hemorrhaging \$100 million a day in lost sales during the strike. The ineptitude of Boeing Management would be laughable except for the fact that the company is one of the few commercial aircraft manufacturer companies on the planet, as well as a major customer of Pratt & Whitney engines. *Insight* reiterates its position that a strong Pratt needs a strong Boeing for all of our sakes, but we recognize that the pension issue is one our members also must address in our upcoming 2025 negotiations, and we watch with keen interest how this strike will ultimately be resolved. It's also important to note, in light of the support of Connecticut lawmakers in the Omni Hotel strike and the Federal government in the Longshoremen's strike, that we could also have the winds at our backs with labor-friendly officials calling the balls and strikes.



## Why Does the IAM Have a Convention Every Four Years?

By Therese Hervieux

This year, the 41<sup>st</sup> IAM Grand Lodge Convention was held at the Midtown Hilton Hotel in New York City. The theme of the convention was “Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future”. Every four years, one of the IAM territories hosts and plans the convention. This year, it was the Eastern Territory—the “Beasts of the East”—that hosted the Convention.



So what’s it all about? Representatives from all Local Lodges across the United States and Canada are elected by their members to represent them as a whole and conduct the business of the IAM. The business at hand is about updating and making changes to our constitution, to help and clarify language for Union Members in both countries. Also, resolutions are created to help define the work of the Union over the next four years. Resolutions give the IAM direction to support and promote important issues to Union Members. The individual IAM committees meet and vote on the directions and goals they wish to promote. For example, the Education Committee voted on five recommendations for our Winpisinger training center to improve and work on.

All of the recommended committee reports and changes are presented to the entire assembly of delegates and voted upon individually. Discussions are held on everything and any member can voice an opinion of concurrence or non-concurrence to these reports and recommended changes. Many were accepted, but some were sent back to committee for discussion and review as they were not accepted as presented. Some are even voted down by the delegates. It can be tedious and it literally takes a week to get through all of the Union’s business, but it’s a very democratic process that allows all delegates to have their voices heard and votes taken. All in all, the convention is an important way to get the business of the Union accomplished. Your delegates thank you for sending us as your trusted representatives in this important business.

The next Convention will be in 2028 and hosted by the Southern Territory.

Want to play a part in the future of your Union? It starts with attending Local monthly meetings and gaining the trust of your fellow Union Members. Then you too can play a role in how the IAM works!



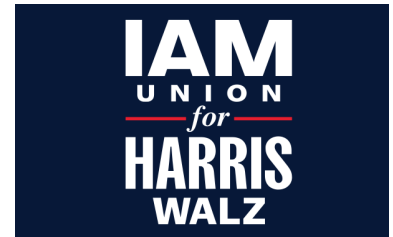
## President Bryant Announces IAM Presidential Endorsement

Brian Bryant, International President of the 600,000-member IAMAW releases a statement announcing the IAM Union’s full-scale political mobilization in battleground states ahead of the 2024 election:

“As the nation’s largest aerospace, airline, transportation, and defense labor union, the IAM Union will join the National AFL-CIO political program, where Union volunteers will engage voters at worksites, door-to-door, and by phone daily between now and Nov. 5.

“Our Union is committed to electing pro-labor, worker-supportive candidates. This is vital to protecting working families—ensuring good jobs, pensions, Social Security, the right to organize, and workplace safety. In this critical election, IAM members will stand alongside our allies, reaching out to voters to ensure our voices are heard.

“Helping elect Vice President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz for President and Vice President of the United States is vital to our Union. Vice President Harris has proven herself a tireless advocate for working families, leading efforts like the American Rescue Plan and the CHIPS Act—legislation that saved IAM jobs and paved the way for a strong, Union-centered economy. Gov. Walz, a former Union Member, has an impeccable record of passing pro-worker laws in Minnesota, making him the ideal running mate.



“The American people, especially working families, face a clear choice. We need experienced leadership to continue the Biden Administration’s progress in closing the gap between rich and poor, addressing retirement insecurity, and confronting growing domestic and global challenges. Future Supreme Court appointments will play a decisive role in protecting collective bargaining rights and defending unions from attacks.

“We are facing an urgent moment. If Donald Trump returns to the White House, our progress over generations is at risk. He has broken countless promises to our members, leading to the closure of at least 48 IAM-represented facilities and the loss of tens of thousands of IAM jobs. His failure to protect workers during the COVID-19 crisis and government shutdown had devastating consequences.

“Our Union will activate our members through phone banks and labor walks in coordination with local and state AFL-CIO activities and other grassroots efforts to elect Harris, Walz, and other pro-labor candidates in key battleground states. This election is about rejecting fear, division, and exclusion. With our members’ commitment, we will continue to fight for a more just and equitable future for working people across this country. *Originally printed in iMail, Oct 3, 2024*



The next Monthly Meeting will be held  
on October 13th  
in Grace Baker Hall at 11 a.m.



  
**Remember Our Troops Red-Shirt Fridays!!**

**August RIDII Winners**

Robert Denin  
Richard DePalma  
Kyle Moule  
James Higgins  
Adam Narkon  
Matthew Viera  
Mark Walter  
Angelo Fusxo

**Sept RIDII Winners**

Daniel Palozie  
Adam English  
Steve Read  
Lindsay Thoren  
Gerardo Rodriguez  
Josephine Lee  
Thomas Tassmer  
St. Clair Griffith



**DON'T JUST SIT THERE AND WORRY....**

**GET ACTIVE!!!**



**WEBSITES:**

[www.iamll1746.org](http://www.iamll1746.org)  
[www.iamdistrict26.org](http://www.iamdistrict26.org)  
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president1746@ll1746.comcastbiz.net  
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**NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

Joe Durette, Editor  
Therese Hervieux, Co-Editor  
[1746news@gmail.com](mailto:1746news@gmail.com)

**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](http://bit.ly/2024LaborWalks)



Contact CC Cieniawski at 480-861-9823 or [ccieniawski@ctaflcio.org](mailto:ccieniawski@ctaflcio.org) with any questions



**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](http://MyVote.CT.gov/sampleballots)



**REGISTER TO VOTE OR**  
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Visit <https://betterinaunion.org/candidate-comparison> or <https://ctaflcio.org/2024-endorsements> for more information on candidates.