

# insight



Local Lodge 1746  
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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Rest Up and Come Back Ready!

By Howie Huestis



#### Sisters and Brothers:

While your Negotiating Committee was hard at work preparing for our upcoming negotiations, Pratt management implemented an unscheduled shutdown in the shop with less than a month's notice to the membership. This shut down will start on Thursday January 2<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup> and then Saturday July 5<sup>th</sup> through Friday July 11<sup>th</sup>.

This doesn't make any sense. The company wants us to work lots of overtime up until the beginning of the year and then they reward us for our sacrifice with days without pay? Is this lack of respect what we can expect going forward? What's next? Will the company need us to then work OT when we get back on January 6<sup>th</sup>? These forced days off will be a huge burden for all our sisters and brothers and their families, especially those on the AWW shift because they will be losing a full week's pay. We should be working, not being punished for going the extra mile!

I have requested information from the company for the CT Shared Work Program outlined in Letter 24 of our contract. If the company's going to force us out, we should be able to utilize this program instead of using your vacation time and sick days. **Just because they can't manage their business**, they shouldn't expect us to ping pong at their whim. Our contract negotiations are starting very soon and this is a terrible way to start the year. Hopefully management doesn't follow Boeing's thoughtless decision-making process in April during negotiations.

Last week, your elected negotiating committee from East Hartford and Middletown met for a week at William W Winpisinger Education Center (W3), the IAM's Union's training center in Hollywood, MD, for our upcoming contract negotiations in April. During the week we read every single survey that was turned in, created a strategic plan and drafted proposals. We set dates for the strike sanction vote, proposal meeting, the final week of negotiations and ratification vote. We also prepared the Negotiation Survival Handbook which will be available soon. Stay tuned.

*So, as we are getting prepared for whatever happens at the table, so should you. If you haven't already started, you need to create a savings account in the event we go on strike. We have Contract and Strike Prep committees that need volunteers to fill them. We need you all to help ensure we can negotiate the best contract you deserve. IT'S OUR FIGHT!* Contracts are won in the workplace. Please update your contact information at the local to receive important information on the contract and sign up for these committees.



## An important Message from Shay...

If you are going to apply for a dues refund.... **Please submit this application NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS FROM THE START OF YOUR ABSENCE in accordance with the I.A.M. Constitution (Pg. 124). Failure to do so will result in the refund request being denied.**

The unemployment option works as follows: Members who are unemployed for the **major portion** of any month (the major portion of any month shall depend on the major portion of the regular working days in the month, Monday through Friday), and who suffer a total or proportional loss of earnings, **due to separation from employment such as layoff, furlough, sickness, or disability, (but not vacation)**, are entitled to unemployment stamps for that month (at the cost of \$2.00 per month) and are thereby excused from the payment of regular dues. If you worked a major portion of the month, you must pay full dues.

A lot of people coming in saying they just found out about unemployment stamps and they were out 6 months ago or last year... that is beyond the approved timeframe. Members need to let us know **within 60 days** of being out and then they need to let us know when they return to work. If they don't adhere to the constitution then unfortunately their request will be denied.



## Winter Coat Collection

By Therese Hervieux

Thank you to all who generously donated coats and winter accessories for those in need. There were so many brand-new items that it was quite heartwarming. The organization was overwhelmed and extremely grateful for such a large donation. The coats filled the back of a truck and took many trips and many people to bring all the bags into the shelter. Clayton House is part of Intercommunity here in East Hartford, although the actual house is located in Glastonbury.



On Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Local 700 and Local 1746 will be holding a **Solidarity Rally** at the Middletown Plant. The purpose of this rally is to express to the company our anger over their idiotic decision to force us to take unpaid "furlough days". What to expect:

The rally will begin at 12:30 PM at **1 Aircraft Road, Middletown, CT**. Hamburgers and Hot Dogs will be served.

At 1:00, we will be introducing your elected Negotiating teams from East Hartford and Middletown.

We will discuss our going forward plan as we head into negotiations with Pratt and Whitney.

The committee will be there to listen to and address your most important issues and concerns as we prepare for negotiations.

We will be gathering to demonstrate to the company that we are united and focused on negotiating a strong contract in May. **We need a contract that we can all be proud of.** We will not be taking a back seat to anyone in RTX in wages or retirement security.

The company currently has over \$100 Billion in back orders. Yet, they believe that this is a good time to lock us out?

Pratt should be careful of what they wish for! Come May 2025, if we are unable to achieve our goals, then January 3<sup>rd</sup> will go down as training day!!

# Your 2025 Negotiating Team



## GATE COLLECTION

Activists and volunteers spent a cold but inspiring day collecting donations for our annual Worker's Aid Fund. Many of you have never experienced extreme hardship that required you to ask for help, and it is certainly hoped you never do. Those who have not been as fortunate know that this fund has helped many members, hourly & salary, over the years. In times of extreme need, this local has funded and built a handicap ramp for a permanently disabled employee, helped a member who experienced a house fire, and helped a member whose pay was significantly reduced while out on short term disability, just to name a few.

If you did not get a chance to donate on Friday, December 6, you can still use the Venmo code and note Worker's Aid Fund. Please consider that this fund helps co-workers specifically so please give generously this season. You never know who in the shop you might be helping. Totals for Friday were \$4,482.13.

Thank you to our volunteers who helped on Friday. Pictures were not taken of everyone but here are a few to enjoy. Your Union appreciates you!



Come Join Us for the



## Machinist Club

## Christmas Party

Friday December 20th

3 pm - 1:30 am

357 Main Street, East Hartford, CT 06108

**DRINK SPECIALS**

**FREE BUFFET**

**\*\*While supplies Last\*\***

**Merry Christmas**

The New Year is almost upon us and with it comes new Local Lodge committee assignments. Now more than ever we need you to take an active role in many of the functions our Local partakes in to service our membership and the greater community. The following committees are open in January for annual enrollment, and are generally open to any member in good standing

- ◆ **Community Services/Recreation Committee**— Geronimo Valdez, chair, Chelsea Pullen, co-chair
- ◆ **Newsletter Committee**— Joe Durette, chair, Therese Hervieux, co-chair
- ◆ **Organizing Committee**— Ryan Tyrol, chair
- ◆ **Legislative Committee**— Joe Durette, chair, Kirby Boyce, co-chair
- ◆ **Women's Committee**— Therese Hervieux, chair, Taylor Salman, co-chair
- ◆ **Human Rights Committee**— Geronimo Valdez, chair
- ◆ **Education Committee**— Howie Huestis, Chair, Therese Hervieux, co-chair
- ◆ **By-laws Committee**— Howie Huestis, chair

If you want to -get involved (and we hope you do), reach out the chair or co-chair listed above, or call the Hall at 860-568-3000, or email [1746news@gmail.com](mailto:1746news@gmail.com) and we'll be sure someone gets back to you about it. Or better yet, come to the next Membership meeting on January 12th at the Hall and sign up in person! Remember, our Union is only as strong as U and I, and it's high time to get off the sidelines and into the game! You can make a difference!



The next Monthly Meeting will be held  
on January 12th  
in Grace Baker Hall at 11 a.m.



# Remember Our Troops Red-Shirt Fridays!!!



## November RIDII Winners

Cassandra Freeman  
Nichola Hardy  
Barrington Palmer  
Scott Greaney  
Brandan Kauffman  
Glyn Liburd  
Richard Lapointe  
Christopher Cholko



### WEBSITES:

[www.iamll1746.org](http://www.iamll1746.org)  
[www.iamdistrict26.org](http://www.iamdistrict26.org)  
[www.goiam.org](http://www.goiam.org)  
[www.ctaflcio.org](http://www.ctaflcio.org)

Visit this website for a comprehensive list of union-made gift ideas, and choose union shippers like USPS or UPS for your shipping option!

<https://aflcio.org/MadeInAmerica/holiday-gifts>

### LOCAL LODGE EXECUTIVE BOARD

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**John Hanusovsky, Dave Hall**

### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

**Joe Durette, Editor**  
**Therese Hervieux, Co-Editor**  
1746news@gmail.com

*Union-Made*  
**HOLIDAY GAMES AND TOYS**

- Barrel of Monkeys
- Battleship
- Candy Land
- Chutes and Ladders
- Clue
- Connect 4
- The Game of Life
- Hasbro Board Games and Toys
- Hi Ho! Cherry-O
- Magic the Gathering
- Monopoly
- Mouse Trap
- Noble Knight Games
- Operation
- Pathfinder and Starfinder Role-Playing Games by Paizo
- Pictionary
- Play-Doh
- Risk
- Scrabble
- Sorry!
- Taboo
- Twister
- Woodplay or ChildLife Play Equipment
- Yahtzee

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