



Local Lodge 1746  
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[www.iamll1746.org](http://www.iamll1746.org)  
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Vol. 25 Issue 1

## President's Report: Furlough Update

By Howie Huestis

Brothers & Sisters, so where we are at with the furloughs? I have filed three union grievances:

**1) Violation of Article 8, Section 9**, which states temporary layoffs due to lack of work. Everyone who has eyes can see there is work as far as we can see. I have requested from all effected areas all the parts in house, all parts at a vendor base regardless of covered work or not, and all overtime records before and after the furloughs to prove that we were working massive amounts of overtime.

**2) The company is in violation of Article 30** of our current agreement as most of the bargaining unit was furloughed for two days, Thursday and Friday, whereas AWW members in fact lost three days (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) totaling 40 hours of pay. I'm pretty sure that puts them at a disadvantage. On the lighter side, I was able to convince HSMC South to cancel the three days AWW to make the punishment fair. However I'm also hearing that it was poorly communicated to the membership, as not all were told they could work, so I will grieve that as soon as I get more info.

**3) The last grievance is that salary was performing bargaining unit work** while the bargaining unit was out on furlough. Yes, Brothers and Sisters, the company had the audacity to run our machines while we were forced out. I walked the shop 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> shift on both days and found engineers running machines. There was not many but in my eyes one is too many. Remedies to all these grievances are to make ALL effected employees whole for any and all losses.

**Important reminder to all: Sunday, February 9 at 11:00 is the proposal meeting at the Union Hall.** At this meeting, we will go over the proposals that both negotiation teams have agreed upon based on your surveys. **This is an important meeting.** The Strike Survival Guide will be handed out. This is the time to ask any and all questions regarding the proposals. Please plan to be there.



## Senate Bill 8 Takes Another Crack at Unemployment Insurance for Striking Workers: CT AFL-CIO

### SB 8 RESTORES BALANCE TO BARGAINING

Rather than negotiate in good faith, some employers make unreasonable demands to force employees to strike, attempting to "starve them out." Some employers strategically weaponize the economic instability of their employees to suppress wages and working conditions. *The law allows employers to leverage the threat of evictions, foreclosures and repossessions because striking workers cannot access unemployment benefits.*

When workers vote to strike, they risk everything - their jobs, their healthcare, and their futures. But sometimes there is no other way to negotiate a fair contract with large and powerful employers. **It's never a choice.**

*Elected Officials can do more to help striking workers than join them on a picket line.* They can take action to restore balance to the bargaining process by doing what NY and NJ have done - allow workers to access Unemployment Insurance (UI) after they have been on strike for two weeks. The NLRA allows workers to withhold their labor to improve working conditions, but workers are at a significant disadvantage if they cannot afford to exercise that right. SB 8 allows them

*See SB 8, page 3*

# IAM Rolls Up Its Sleeves to Fight Climate Change

By John Harranty

Climate change is definitely having a big impact on the world these days. The almost unstoppable California wildfires and the pounding being taken by the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic from winter storms have been wildly worsened by climate change. Blast furnace winds out west and moisture-saturated storm cells dumping snow on the central and southern states have crippled large swathes of the country and will cost billions to recover from.



That's why it's good that the Machinists Union has the most advanced union program in the country for preparing to confront the looming climate crisis. Cornell University, together with IAM representatives, have just finished a landmark study of all jobs and workplaces in our Union to determine what jobs and locations are the most and least likely to survive the effects of severe changes in weather around the world.

This year, the Machinist Union will be rolling out that report within the Labor movement and beyond, so that workers are not left behind as they were during Hurricane Katrina. Thanks to an IAM resolution passed at the 2024 Grand Lodge convention last September, the Union will be appointing climate coordinators and convening Local and District Climate Committees to address the impact of climate change on our workforce.

It is uncertain how destructive climate change will ultimately be. But it is certain the earth, including Connecticut and western Massachusetts, will face major new disruptions due to increasingly adverse weather. We will not be able to stop this until we convert to renewable energy and reduce the effects of carbon emissions from fossil fuels. That will be a big job, but we have no choice.



Members of IAM Local 1746 should take great pride in the historic steps forward the IAM is taking that originated in resolutions from our Local. A member of our Local also helped found the Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs, a growing force in the battle for climate resolution. LL1746 continued to play a role in keeping our members and our families safe from climate disaster.



## IAM DISASTER RELIEF FUND



The IAM Disaster Relief Fund provides assistance in situations where our members and their families endure hardships due to natural disasters. The IAM reacts quickly to these needs before other sources of assistance are able. This is not possible without the support of those who have committed to keeping the IAM Disaster Relief Fund vibrant and healthy. Go to [www.goiam.org](http://www.goiam.org) and follow this path if you want to help. Thank you for your contribution.

[Home](#) » [Departments](#) » [Headquarters](#) » [Community Services](#) » [IAM Disaster Relief](#)

## VA Disability Claim Help



### Do you need help filing a service-connected disability claim?

Your Union is bringing our VA Claims Officer to help assist you in filing and fighting for the benefits you deserve. This is at **no additional cost** to the veteran members, let your dues money work for you. Richard Evans has successfully helped IAM members and family receive over \$2 million dollars in backpay. He himself is a Navy Veteran and a proud member of Local 4 out of Lexington Park, Maryland.

If you want to sit down and discuss your options while navigating the complex VA claims system, this is a great opportunity to speak with someone who is going to fight for you.

**Monday January 27, 2025 Local 1746 East Hartford, CT 9am to 5 pm**

**Tuesday January 28, 2025 Local 1871 Groton, CT 9am to 5 pm**

**Wednesday January 29, 2025 Local 700 Middletown, CT 9am to 5 pm**

Please email [district26sec.t@gmail.com](mailto:district26sec.t@gmail.com) or call 860-554-3003 and ask to speak with Taylor Salman to set up a time for you to sit down and work with him.

**IAM PRATT & WHITNEY LOCAL LODGES**  
UNION 700 & 1746

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PW.iamforms.org



**Contract 2025**

These cards are available through your Shop Steward. Fill one out and return it to him or her. Or scan the QR Code on the reverse side and fill the form out online.



## Long-Time Members Awarded by Local

Pres. Huestis was privileged to present 50-year Life Membership Gold Cards to two of our Local Lodge members this year. Brothers Jim Bullock and Mike Stone each proudly received them at our monthly membership meeting. As you can imagine, after 50 years of being an activist, both have quite a list of achievements within the Union.

Brother Bullock, who received his card in September 2024, was initiated in LL 707 in North Haven, has been on seven Contract Negotiating Committees, an E-board member for 20 years, a Shop Steward and so much more. He served in several Connecticut Locals including our own as a past VP. We thank Jim for all the incredible time he has given to making the Union stronger and his workplace better for other members.



Brother Stone was initiated into LL1746 in December of 1974. Of his many accomplishments through his career, Brother Stone was President of the Local for many terms. He led us through the strike in 2001, the first one in East Hartford in over 40 years. He prosecuted scabs through small-claims court and fined monies that scabs made during the strike. He filed an injunction on the company when they decided to close Overhaul and Repair (EHRO) and won; all that work was returned to East Hartford and it is still going strong to this day. Mike furthered his career as a Machinist as a Business Agent, then to ADBR and ended his career as District 26 Directing Business Agent where he retired but never stopped paying full dues.

Please congratulate them when you see them.

By Therese Hervieux

### SB 8, continued

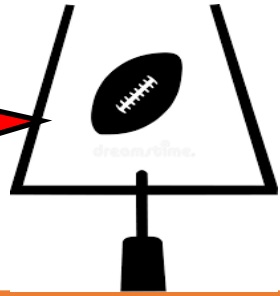
to do that, levelling the playing field and encouraging employers to remain at the bargaining table. *SB 8 will encourage good faith negotiations and avoid strikes.*

**SB 8 WOULD HAVE A NEUTRAL EFFECT ON THE UI TRUST FUND:** As striking workers access UI, it would result in a cost, but subsequent employer experience rating increases would add revenue to the UI Trust Fund. Furthermore, strikes are rare. Just 7.7% of the state's private sector workforce belongs to a Union and has the legal right to strike. Since 2021, there have been 21 strikes but only 5 have lasted longer than 2 weeks. If SB 8 had been law, striking worker claims would have amounted to one-tenth of one percent of total claims.

**SB 8 DOES NOT ENCOURAGE WORKERS TO STRIKE:** The maximum duration of UI is 26 weeks. Connecticut's largest and longest strike in 2023 lasted 23 days (3.29 weeks). Had workers been able to access UI after two weeks through the end of the strike, they would have received benefits for 9 days (1.29 weeks), a 90% shorter period than all other 2023 claimants. Workers making up to \$74,984 receive 50% of their wages, up to a weekly maximum of \$721. Workers exceeding \$74,984 in wages receive a lower percentage of their earnings. It's cynical to suggest workers would go and remain on strike without any income for two weeks, so they could collect just 50% of their wages.



The next Monthly Meeting  
will be held  
on February 9th  
in Grace Baker Hall  
at 11 a.m.



# Remember Our Troops Red-Shirt Fridays!!!

## December RIDII Winners

Tammy Abbruzzese  
Brendan McGuiness  
Daniel Palozie  
Kevin Pham  
Bryan Canfield  
Marco Portella  
Richard Otfinoski  
Bryan Omicioli



2025  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Happy New Year from *Insight*  
and LL 1746!!

## 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)



## LOCAL LODGE EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Trustees: James Bullock,  
John Hanusovsky, Dave Hall

## NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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

## Upcoming Events

### at the Machinist Club

Friday February 7<sup>th</sup> 4pm- 8pm

Fish & Chips Dinner with Live Band

\$10.00 Donation



Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm- 1am



Free Food (During the game While supplies lasts)