



insight

Local Lodge 1746 357 Main Street East Hartford, CT 06108 Tel: 860-568-3000 December 2025 Vol. 25 Issue 8

Seasons' Greetings from Local Lodge 1746!

We're now about two weeks from the holiday break and three weeks until the end of 2025, and it's pretty amazing how quickly time seems to fly in these hectic times. Whether you're planning to take the holiday break off to spend some R&R time with family and friends or coming into the shop to earn a little extra spending money, it's a good time to reflect on where we've come from over the past year and where we want to go in 2026. We've had to say goodbye to some fellow workers who either left the company for whatever reason, retired, or unfortunately passed away. It's kind of strange in a way: we come to work everyday and quite often perform the same routine tasks, yet our workplace is a dynamic setting that constantly changes all about us.

Clearly, the most significant event for Connecticut Operations in 2025 was the strike back in May. We learned a lot about RTX in those 23 days we were out (hard to believe an organization could make us miss UTC), but we also learned a lot about our union brothers and sisters, our solidarity, and our communities. A handful of misguided souls turned their backs on us to polish the apple for management, but that number was far less than what we endured in the 2001 strike, and the strength of our younger generations standing up to the Corporation was a heartening sight for more seasoned workers to behold. Unfortunately, we didn't get everything we wanted, but we sent a message about our unity that will resonate for years to come.

In June, Governor Lamont shocked no one when he vetoed the Unemployment Benefits for Striking Workers for the second time at the behest of his billionaire buddies, but it was a slap in the face of union members who knocked on thousands of doors to help get him elected. Back in November, after months of hemming and hawing, he finally announced he was going to seek a third term for governor. Evidently the polls are telling him he's a shoo-in, but polls can change and polls can be wrong, and time will tell if he somehow manages to get Labor's endorsement or if he can win without it.

The Local held its own elections for three-year Executive Board positions. President **Howard Huestis** was re-elected without opposition, and Vice-President **Geronimo Valdez** was elected after a member who was nominated to run against him chose not to run. **Teesha Grant** was also re-elected as Recording Secretary without opposition, while **Taylor Salman** will take over as Secretary-Treasurer unopposed. (Thanks for your service, Brother Joe Swain!) **John Hanusovsky** will take over as Conductor-Sentinel, while the previous C-S **Steve McLaughlin** will take John's position as Trustee, along with **James Bullock** and **Jackie Taylor**, who also were not opposed. In fact, the only positions that required elections were for Shop Committee, with eight people running for four positions. **The results of last Friday's election named Vinny Perugini, Bob Johnson, Ryan Tyrol, and Jackie Taylor as our next Shop Committee for a three-year term.** Congratulations to all who won, and a special thanks to everyone who ran for office. Elections for CT State Council of Machinists, New England Labor Federation, and Greater Hartford Labor Coalition have been postponed until the January meeting.

On behalf of President Huestis and the Executive Board, *Insight* would like to thank the membership for all the donations of time, money, and goods throughout the year, as well as those who contributed in making this newsletter a success. For those of you retiring at the end of the year, we wish you a long and happy retirement with many endearing memories. For those of you returning in 2026, we extend wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season, and look forward to seeing you in the new year with renewed vigor, for there is much work to be done and many challenges to meet in the months ahead.



Your Generosity Abounds

The coat collection surpassed last year's collection. Those in need in our community are truly fortunate to benefit from all of your kind and generous donations. There were so many amazing coats, hats, socks, gloves, scarves and more. Just saying "thank you" seems like a small response in comparison to how much was given. Blessings to all of you and to those who will be warm this winter because of you. We will be dropping off all the donations in the next few days so pictures will be printed in the next newsletter.

As far as the Worker's Aid Collection, THANK YOU to all who volunteered to brave the excruciating cold and hold buckets and ask for money to help all our coworkers for times of extreme need. We had many new volunteers and some who really got into the spirit of the event. Special thanks to everyone for the generous donations that sustain this fund. You never know when it will be one of us who falls on hard times and it's so wonderful to know our coworkers have our backs.



With thanks and hoping you all have a safe and wonderful holiday season.

In solidarity, Therese Hervieux

LL1746 Appoints New Union Benefits Coordinators

One of the positive developments coming from the new contract was the establishment of Union Benefits Coordinator to help the membership navigate the foggy path of effective benefits selection. These positions will be funded by the company for the duration of the contract. Our Local has decided to split the duties for better availability to our members.



Chelsea Pullen will serve as Benefits Coordinator on Mondays from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Her phone number is 860-620-3924 and her email address is Chelsea.Lomik@prattwhitney.com.

Jackie Taylor will serve as Benefits Coordinator on Fridays from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Her phone number is 959-262-4027 and her email address is jacqueline.taylor@prattwhitney.com.



If you would like to schedule an appointment with Chelsea or Jackie, call, text, or email them to set up an appointment.



Winds of Change
By Joe Durette



I've been part of the Insight newsletter on three different stints, first as a contributor under President Mike Stone and Editor Dave Batchelder in the early 2000's, then as Editor under President Kirby Boyce in the 2016 time frame, and currently under President Huestis. And while I'm glad to see the current Executive Board move forward with relatively few changes, I believe that it's time for me to step aside in 2026, with an exact date TBD. This opens up a great opportunity for a creative member to take the reigns of Insight and lead it forward, as our membership continues to transition to younger generations. I would be more than willing to help a new Editor learn the ins and outs and get up to speed. If you are interested in putting your stamp on the Local's communications efforts, reach out to Insight at 1746news@gmail.com or contact President Huestis at the Hall.





Get Involved: Join a Regional Roundtable Today!



The Connecticut For All coalition was formed five years ago to unite labor, community, and faith groups across Connecticut. Their mission is to create a fighting movement that will shift the balance of political power away from the wealthy few and toward the working-class majority. For our work to continue growing, we must keep coordinating our work at the Capitol and continue to build power in our local communities.

Ahead of the 2026 legislative session, our allies in the CT For All coalition are organizing regional roundtables with local legislators to urge them to raise revenue to protect working people from the cuts at the federal level.

Join a roundtable near you – meetings are being set up from Stamford to Coventry and in cities and towns across Connecticut. The federal administration has given historic tax cuts to the ultra-wealthy while services for working people are being cut. This is on top of the decades of underfunding of our services and communities. The time for our state to intervene is now.

Join a regional roundtable and urge local legislators to support funding and policies that will protect CT families and stop the billionaire agenda.

If you have any questions or wish to join a roundtable (the links below aren't active), please contact Constanza Segovia, Organizing Director for Connecticut For All, at constanza.gsegovia@gmail.com.

DECEMBER 2025

NEW DATE
REGISTER
HERE

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17, 5PM-7PM

Danbury Regional Roundtable
Democratic Headquarters, 161 Main St, Danbury

NEW DATE
REGISTER
HERE

THURSDAY, DEC. 18, 5PM-7PM

Stamford/Norwalk Regional Roundtable
The Marvin, 60 Gregory Blvd, Norwalk, CT

JANUARY 2026

REGISTER
HERE

TUESDAY, JAN. 13, 10AM-12PM

Meriden/Middletown Regional Roundtable
(AM) Venue TBD

REGISTER
HERE

TUESDAY, JAN. 13, 5PM-7PM

Meriden/Middletown Regional Roundtable
(PM) Venue TBD

REGISTER
HERE

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14, 5PM-7PM

Torrington Regional Roundtable
Venue TBD

REGISTER
HERE

THURSDAY, JAN. 15, 11AM-1PM

Waterbury/Ansonia Regional Roundtable
(AM) Venue TBD

REGISTER
HERE

THURSDAY, JAN. 15, 5PM-7PM

Waterbury/Ansonia Regional Roundtable
(PM) Venue TBD

REGISTER
HERE

THURSDAY, JAN. 22, 10AM-12PM

Coventry Regional Roundtable
Venue TBD

REGISTER
HERE

THURSDAY, JAN. 22, 5PM-7PM

Willimantic Regional Roundtable
Venue TBD

REGISTER
HERE

TUESDAY, JAN. 27, 5PM-7PM

Madison Regional Roundtable
Venue TBD

REGISTER
HERE

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28, 5PM-7PM

Manchester/East Hartford Regional Roundtable
Venue TBD

REGISTER
HERE

THURSDAY, JAN. 29, 11AM-1PM

Bridgeport Regional Roundtable
(AM) Venue TBD

REGISTER
HERE

THURSDAY, JAN. 29, 5PM-7PM

Bridgeport Regional Roundtable
(PM) Venue TBD





**No monthly meeting in December
due to Shop Committee elections.
The next monthly meeting
will be held on January 11th
in Grace Baker Hall.**



CONTEST RULES

- ~ MUST BE A CROCKPOT SIZE (Arrive with it ready to be served)
- ~ MUST LIST ALL INGREDIENTS- NO SECRET INGREDIENTS ALLOWED
- ~ ENTRANTS MUST ARRIVE FOR SET UP AT 4PM THE DAY OF THE EVENT
- ~ If you offer extras such as cheese or sour cream, etc. that is at your expense



PRESELLING TICKETS!

THERESE HERVIEUX 860-280-8459 &
CHELSEA PULLEN 860-620-3934

WEAR YOUR FAVORITE FOOTBALL
JERSEY OR TEAM COLORS

EXTRA 50/50 RAFFLE TICKETS
AVAILABLE!!



WEBSITES:

www.iamll1746.org
www.iamdistrict26.org
www.goiam.org
www.ctaflcio.org



October RIDII Winners

April Adams
Cesar Vasquez
Jeanne Wheeler
Kevin Dombrowski
Lindsey Thoren
Nicholas Bednaz
Michael Tyszka
Timothy Arkenberg

*Winners are randomly drawn from
all valid monthly RIDII submissions
and earn \$250 paid for by the
company.*

WHERE: UNION HALL 357 MAIN ST. EAST HARTFORD

WHEN: FRIDAY JANUARY 23RD 2026 FROM 5-9 PM

FRIENDS & FAMILY WELCOME –

MUSIC, GAMES, AND 50/50 RAFFLE

CASH MENU: HOT DOGS & BEVERAGES

CHILI REGISTRATION: \$20 TO REGISTER - WIN A CASH PRIZE

MUST REGISTER BY JANUARY 16TH 2026: LATE ENTRIES NOT ACCEPTED!

PAYMENT AND REGISTRATION FORM MUST BE HANDED IN TOGETHER

TICKETS: \$10 INCLUDES ENTRY AND 50/50 RAFFLE

2026 CHILI COOKOFF REGISTRATION FORM

PRINT ALL ANSWERS CLEARLY!

FULL NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____



Are you a Pratt & Whitney Employee? (Circle answers) Y or N Local 1746 or Local 700

If you're not an employee, what is your relation? _____

(Friend, family, other)

Name or Type of Chili: _____

CATEGORIES BEING JUDGED



HIGHEST IN HEAT



CROWD FAVORITE

LOCAL LODGE EXECUTIVE BOARD

President Howard Huestis

president@iamll1746.org

Vice President Geronimo Valdez

vp@iamll1746.org

Secretary/Treasurer Joe Swain

st@iamll1746.org

Recording Secretary Teesha Grant

rs@iamll1746.org

Conductor/Sentinel Steve McLaughlin

Trustees: James Bullock,

John Hanusovsky, Dave Hall

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Joe Durette, Editor

Therese Hervieux, Co-Editor