New faces, same fight

Buffenbarger: 125 years after founding, IAM still battles for worker dignity

The Machinists Union was founded 125 years ago this month, and while the people and the industries they work in have changed, the core issues are very much the same, International President Tom Buffenbarger said.

The union’s founders were “19 men who were fighting for the same basic dignity we fight for today, and realized they couldn’t do it by themselves,” Buffenbarger said. “They left us a wonderfully overwhelming legacy to maintain.”

Buffenbarger spoke April 11 at the IAM’s biennial Aerospace Conference, which was held in Seattle. More than 250 union leaders and delegates from aerospace machinists union local lodges across the United States and Canada attended.

It was an opportunity “to share our wisdom, share opportunities and knowledge, and give us a better chance of fighting the challenges ahead of us,” said IAM Aerospace Territory GVP Mark Blondin.

The delegates attended workshops on health care, pensions and communicating with both members and their communities. Union negotiators – including District 751 Business Rep Steve Warren -- shared successful bargaining strategies.

Warren told the conference about the gain-share program at Triumph in Spokane, which has paid Local 86 Machinists at the company between $830 and $2,400 a year in incentive pay since adopted in 2005.

Buffenbarger, the keynote speaker, told the conference delegates that they as Machinists have a lot to celebrate.

“Our founders wouldn’t recognize this union today,” he said. “It’s the largest union for railroad workers in North America, and the largest union for aerospace workers in the world, he said. Continued on Page 5

Moonshine team improves quality, productivity and safety

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Auburn team improves quality, productivity and safety

Machinists working in Boeing’s Moonshine Shop in Auburn have developed and built new tools that are increasing productivity and quality while also cutting the risks of certain injuries.

The tools have different functions and are used for different parts, but they have a couple things in common:

• Each allows for parts that are more-precisely fabricated or finished than Machinists could do using old processes;

• Each is more efficient, in terms of the amount of room they require within Auburn’s buildings;

• Each eliminates a lot of repetitive motion that was leading to injuries; and

• Each was brought to life by the engineers and Machinists on the Moonshine team working together to combine new technology with right-size equipment.

“These guys work on it every day and they’ve got great ideas,” said Dan Cooper, one of the Moonshine mechanicians. “We find easier ways to do stuff.”

The biggest project to date is a giant pressure washer the Moonshine team created inside the Auburn plant to wash off residue from newly fabricated large parts.

Before it was installed, a couple Machinists would haul big parts outside the building to wash them with handheld pressure washers.

“Can you imagine doing that for eight hours a day?” Cooper asked.

The new tool cleans the parts faster and better. The Moonshine team was so proud of it, they signed their names to it.

“It really turned out good,” Cooper said.

Another one of the new tools – a giant sander – puts more-precise finishes on aircraft skins.

In the old days, teams of Machinists would hand-finish the metal surfaces. The quality of finish would vary greatly, because it’s just impossible for humans to apply the exact same amount of pressure every time they apply a finishing tool to the metal surface.

“You do it by hand, it’s really hard,” Cooper said.

And while the results were inconsistent, the work itself could be hazardous on a Machinists’ health, because it would kick up metallic dust that would float in the air around their work stations.

The new tool – designed and built by the Moonshiners – mechanizes the process, so that a machine applies the finishing inside an enclosed booth.

Jobs that used to take eight people up to 15 hours to do, now are accomplished by one machine operator in two hours, Cooper said.

A third important tool built by the Moonshiners has automated the process of drilling holes in 737 brackets. Boeing’s assembling 38 737s a month in Renton. It’s just not possible to hand-drill all the holes in all the stringers before the shop floor is up to that rate, said Harold Willis, an Auburn Machinist.

Continued on Page 5

Playing it safe

Auburn team improves safety by 55 percent by changing the way members think

Marathon Man

Local 86 member finishes Boston Marathon an hour before the bombs went off

Talks start at Triumph Composites

Contract for Machinists in Spokane expires May 10

Formal negotiations between the Machinists Union and Triumph Composites Systems began April 22.

Union representatives at the table include District 751 President Tom Woobleski, IAM Aerospace Coordinator Mark Johnson, Business Rep Steve Warren, Staff Assistant Ken Howard and shop floor Rep Jerry Womble.

The contract covers nearly 500 union members and expires at midnight May 10.

The union presented a comprehensive proposal on non-economic areas of the contract that reflected the issues identified by union members. Negotiators also spent extensive time explaining concerns the membership raised with existing contract language.

On April 24, union negotiators talked to first- and second-shift members at the plant to hear their issues and concerns.

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MNPL an important tool for every Machinist to use

By TOM WROBLEWSKI
District 751 President

In the weeks ahead, your union stewards will be talking with workers about a vitally important topic – MNPL, the Machinists Non-partisan Political League.

In order to unfamiliar with it, MNPL is the political arm of our union. Through MNPL, your union lobbies elected officials on issues that affect working families.

With money donated to MNPL, we can encourage our members and their families to get registered and vote, and inform our members about the issues that directly affect them.

MNPL is not tied to any one political party, but it strongly supports all candidates who support the things we support – good jobs, secure retirement and fair work rules.

And MNPL is completely voluntary. Our union doesn’t give one dollar of your dues money to political candidates.

Every penny contributed to a candidate is given voluntarily. All the money comes from union members like you who want to make a difference in the political process.

Ordinary union members also have a big say in how MNPL dollars are spent. All political contributions start with recommendations from our District Legislative Committee, which is made up of representatives from each local lodge who are shop-floor members just like you. Their recommendations are then voted on by our union’s District Council, which also is made up of people like you, who work at Boeing or one of the other employers that our union represents.

We’ve got a very good record of putting MNPL dollars to work here in our state.

Because of our union’s political strength and activism, we were able to win federal Trade Adjustment Act Assistance during the last recession, which provided up to $142 million for retraining and other support to laid-off aerospace workers.

We also helped secure a $20 million federal grant for aerospace workforce training, plus another $15 million in state funding, which is giving the young people in our communities the skills they need to fill aerospace industry jobs.

We played a lead role in pulling together $135 million to build a new bridge in Seattle’s South Park neighborhood. That bridge will be used by Boeing to move parts between plants, and it will be used by thousands of residents of Seattle, Burien and Tukwila as they go to work each day.

And – above all – thanks to our members’ support of MNPL, over many long years, District 751 was one of the leading advocates for Boeing to receive the U.S. Air Force tanker contract in 2011. Even Boeing CEO Jim McNerney had to admit that the role our union played was “a big deal.”

Without MNPL, our union would not have been equipped with the tools needed to win the tanker contract.

But because of the contributions made by you and Machinists like you – some donations as small as $1 a month – we’ve been able to win contracts, create jobs and make lives better for tens of thousands of Washington residents.

Still, we face an uncertain future. In the past year, we’ve seen conservatives in Congress – backed by billionaire donors – take aim at some of the fundamental rules that govern working life in America, like the 40-hour work week and time-and-a-half pay for overtime.

We’re also seeing unprecedented attacks on our social safety net. Proposals have been approved by the U.S. House of Representatives that would seriously weakened Social Security and Medicare.

These things have been a fact of life for working-class Americans for generations, but there’s a very real chance we could see them taken away with a stroke of a pen, if the politicians who don’t support workers have their way.

How do we fight back against this? Well, if you’re a billionaire too, you can write a couple big checks. But if you’re an average working person, your vote can make a difference is to come together with people who want the same thing you do and pool your resources.

When we pool our MNPL dollars, like we pool our strength in collective bargaining, we are strong.

MNPL is the tool we use to ensure laws remain in place that keep our pension plans strong for our retirees, and to secure the funds needed for our schools and community colleges to train the next generation of aerospace workers.

As I look ahead to the next year, I see some important goals for our union to work toward.

We want to make sure Washington is by far and away the best choice for future Boeing airplane programs; and we want to protect Social Security and Medicare for future generations of retired Americans.

To do this, our union must be able to influence public policy. And to do that, we need your support to help us do this important work.

I encourage every one of you to talk about this in your shops. When your union steward asks, give a little bit to help us do this important work.

District Lodge 751, International Assn. of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

Tom Wroblewski
President, Directing Business Representative

Wilson ‘Fergie’ Ferguson
Vice President

Susan Palmer
Secretary-Treasurer

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Tommy Wilson
Heather Barstow
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Toll free to Seattle from: Nationwide 1-800-765-1301
Toll free to Spokane from: 1-800-378-8510

Web site: www.iam751.org

IAM volunteers needed for Letter Carriers’ food drive

Remember to leave out a food donation at your mail box. This is an easy way to help laid-off workers and other utilizing area food banks. Simply set out your canned or non-perishable foods at your mailbox on Saturday, between the hours of 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

But because of the contributions...
Inslee vows to land Boeing’s 777-X

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee thanked Machinists Union leaders for all they’ve done to keep aerospace jobs in his state, and said he’s personally committed to doing all he can to ensure Boeing builds its next new jet — the 777-X — here.

Inslee said his uncle retired from Boeing and several of his cousins and childhood friends work for the company now.

“This jobs put food on the tables of people I care about,” the governor said. “I’m in it on making sure the 777-X is made right here in my state.”

Inslee was one of the keynote speakers at the 2013 International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers’ biennial Aerospace Conference, held in Seattle.

Inslee told the union members that their IAM leadership “knows how to get things done.”

Examples of that are the fact that Boeing in April will have a tanker contract — after a decade of lobbying by the Machinists Union and others — “is a win for taxpayers, a win for jobs and good for the U.S. Air Force,” Inslee said.

And Inslee thanked the Machinists Union leaders and their members for negotiating and ratifying the four-year contract extension that ensured Boeing will keep building the latest version of its best-selling airliner around Puget Sound.

“The agreement you negotiated means thousands of aerospace jobs here in my state,” Inslee said. “Every aerospace job is a win for every family in my state.”

Inslee said what Boeing has achieved in Renton with the 737 program — nearly “doubling production rates over the past decade without expanding the factory — happened ‘because of the team, and the great talent of your personnel, squeezing more efficiencies out of that line.”

Washington’s highly skilled aerospace workers are the “single most important competitive advantage we have,” Inslee said.

“The state will have to compete to ensure the aerospace industry is successful here, he added.

“This is a competition every single day,” Inslee said: “We can’t wake up and say ‘ Gee, it’s great Bill Boeing did well here in 1916.’

To do that, Inslee said he proposes:

• Adding room for 500 new students a year in aerospace manufacturing training programs at Washington’s community and technical colleges;

• Establishing a “return to industry” training program for community college instructors to ensure they are briefed on the latest manufacturing techniques;

• Doubling the number of high school students studying aerospace manufacturing at vocational schools centers around the state;

• Establishing testing programs so that graduates can earn national industry certificates;

• Increasing emphasis on science, technology and mathematics education in Washington’s schools, in part to ensure that high school graduates have the math skills they need to become CNC machine operators.

Washington also needs to take immediate steps to improve its transportation system, to make it easier for companies like Boeing to move people and airplane parts between plants, Inslee said.

“I want to make sure Boeing management can’t come to us in a few years and say ‘We can’t build airplanes here because you’ve got traffic congestion,’” he said.

Inslee asked the Machinists Union members from Washington to “light a fire” under their legislators by telling them “my job is dependent on you doing your job.”

“We’ll continue to work with your leadership,” Inslee told the Machinists, “to ensure that aerospace stays No. 1 in this state and the United States.”

Aerospace industry jobs “put food on the tables of people I care about,” Gov. Jay Inslee told the IAM Aerospace Conference. He said he’s personally committed to ensuring Boeing builds the 777-X in Washington.

‘Big government’ talk doesn’t tell the whole truth

By DAVID GROVES

Washington State Labor Council

Amid the debate over economy-stifling job-killing government austerity, one myth continues to ring loudly among the American public: that despite all the budget cuts, government is still growing. It’s not just right-wing politicians and think tanks that are perpetuating this myth, it’s also the business lobbying groups. Yes, the same folks who bemoan the state’s freight mobilization problems and its lack of skilled and educated workers -- among other things -- also regularly deliver the conservative clarion call against “big government.”

“As government grows ever larger in an attempt to provide more benefits to more people, it saps trillions of dollars from the private economy and ultimately deters job creation,” writes Association of Washington Business President Don Brunell in his latest newspaper column.

It is exactly this type of rhetoric -- sustained for nearly a generation now -- that fuels anti-government public sentiment. It elevates the likes of Tim Eyman, a combative tax crank who once would have been marginalized as a clearly self-interested hillbilly man, into a voice of the oppressed taxpayer. It turns some Democrats into fiscal neoconservatives who congratulate themselves on all-cuts budgets that starve public services at a pace just gradual enough not to be detected in the short term. And it makes it very hard -- near impossible, in fact -- to have a reasonable debate about the need for more revenue for roads and bridges, essential public services, and public schools so underfunded that the state faces a court order to do better.

And, oh yeah, it’s not true. Your government, both the state and federal, faces a court order to do better.

Conservative politicians have launched a coordinated nationwide attack on basic principles like the 40-hour work week and minimum wages.

That’s why it’s essential for unions to be involved in politics, said District 751 Legislative Director Larry Brown.

“We’ve argued against a lot of proposed legislation over the years that was bad for working people,” Brown said. “But in 2013, we’ve seen bills that go after some of our rights.”

Last year, the Legislative Exchange Council, a group funded by conservative billionaires and corporate lobbying groups that seeks to cripple unions and roll back labor protections, was “a win for tax-cutters,” Brunell wrote.

“It is exactly this type of rhetoric -- sustained for nearly a generation now -- that fuels anti-government public sentiment. It elevates the likes of Tim Eyman, a combative tax crank who once would have been marginalized as a clearly self-interested hillbilly man, into a voice of the oppressed taxpayer. It turns some Democrats into fiscal neoconservatives who congratulate themselves on all-cuts budgets that starve public services at a pace just gradual enough not to be detected in the short term. And it makes it very hard -- near impossible, in fact -- to have a reasonable debate about the need for more revenue for roads and bridges, essential public services, and public schools so underfunded that the state faces a court order to do better. And, oh yeah, it’s not true. Your government, both the state and federal, faces a court order to do better.

Legislative Director Larry Brown briefs Everett union stewards on plans for this month’s drive to benefit the Machinists Non-partisan Political League.

In May, District 751 union stewards will be out in full force as they ask union members to contribute to the Machinists Non-partisan Political League. They’ll be asking members to sign up to contribute at least $1 a month to MNPL.

MNPL is the fund the Machinists Union uses to support political candidates who support working people at the national, state and local levels.

The contributions are essential, Brown said, because the Machinists Union does not use dues money to support candidates. “All the money we give to the candidates we support is money given voluntarily by members of our union who want to make a difference.”

The past year has shown how important it is for unions to be involved in the political process, Brown said.


In April, House Republicans followed that up with a proposal that would allow companies to do away with overtime pay altogether, by allowing them to force workers to work overtime, sometimes earningfed’s minimum wage law by creating a so-called “training wage.”

Under this scheme, companies would be allowed to pay new workers 25 percent less than the minimum wage -- $6.89 an hour -- for their first 680 hours on the job. That’s 17 weeks.

Many of the anti-worker bills in Olympia and other state capitols nationwide were drafted by lawyers for the American Leg- islative Exchange Council, a group funded by conservative billionaires and corporations that seek to cripple unions and roll back labor protections.

“Corporate conservatives are spending a lot of money to take away the rights of working people, one state at a time,” Brown wrote. “We need to protect our investment. Through MNPL, Machinists Union members can invest in their own future, by helping to elect politicians who will put our needs first.”

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Awareness and involvement bring change in safety culture

Second shift safety teams have made a real difference in Auburn at the Integrated AeroStructures facility. There, IAM members are changing the culture and making it a safer work environment each and every day.

The momentum and ideas grow each week as this dynamic group is truly breaking down barriers that often make individuals hesitate to point out safety issues.

Their weekly meeting is an energized sharing of information that is truly contagious. The safety focal designed fluorescent yellow shirts that scream safety throughout the shop. The ‘glow’ of the shirts starts conversations in each area. The message on the shirts is concise: “Ask for help now. I am your safety focal. You won’t need help later.”

In the year since the group began meeting, their safety numbers have improved by more than 55 percent.

Union Steward Jared Moschkau, who chairs the weekly meetings, is excited by what he has seen. “This kind of improvement is huge. All of us have a deep vested interest in making sure safety improves. These people have stepped forward to get safety going in the right direction, and it just keeps growing.”

Early on the group decided to be more proactive rather than reactive when a safety problem or accident occurs. When asked what triggered the huge improvement, almost unanimously they agree it has been a mind shift, attitude adjustment and literally a change in the culture. These are buzz words we often hear, but very few times do we see it in action.

Workers at IAS now think differently about safety before they start work. If they see something they believe is unsafe, they speak up. It might be as simple as stopping someone who is seen walking and texting to point out the dangers (even if it is a supervisor) because everyone must be concerned with safety.

One of the keys has been sharing information so everyone is on the same page and gets all the information. The safety team is diverse in age, seniority and work location so no demographic group is left out. Safety focals recruited additional folks to join the weekly meetings and dubbed them “safety ambassadors” to expand the sharing of information.

In stand-up crew meetings, people ask questions, make suggestions and have regular conversations about safety. No idea is ignored, everyone is asked for ideas and follow through is automatic.

It is working. People who never gave much thought to safety seek out safety foci and start discussions. Others are talking about safety at home with friends and family. It is about raising awareness and thinking about situations differently.

When they learned there were only three firemen on site for more than 1200 second shift employees, members stepped forward to take first aid training so there are more trained responders in the event an emergency occurs.

Other changes that initiated with the group include “retraining” individuals to only cross in designated crosswalks; and only wearing one ear bud so you can hear a coworker and know what is going on in the area.

Dallas Anderson, who hired into Boeing last October, noted, “I like working with people interested in being safe. I came from the construction industry where being productive was the top priority. It is nice that people really care here.”

Business Rep Brett Cott applauded the effort and said: “You are really impressed. No one is involved simply to see a higher payout on the AMPP. You are here because you care about seeing workers in a safe environment. You stepped up to take a leadership role and are making it happen. I see a real commitment and a good start to changing safety culture at IAS.”

“The group is influencing people in a positive way each day. People are more receptive, engaged and giving feedback,” Moschkau added. “It is this grassroots approach that has really caught fire. Everyone is proactive and doing something positive to point out safety to coworkers and friends. It reflects our change in attitude and morale.”

It is evident this group is making an impression on every worker in the facility. After a year the enthusiasm and participation continues to grow, and that other groups should embrace.

Second shift’s proactive approach to safety at Integrated AeroStructures in Auburn has made a difference and is changing the culture at home and at work. In a year, the group has improved their safety record by more than 55 percent.

‘Big government’ talk doesn’t tell the whole truth

Continued from Page 3

and federal levels, is shrinking at an unprecedented rate. More and more economists now agree that government cuts are doing the exact opposite of what Mr. Brunell contends; all cuts austerity and harm the private sector.

In February, for the 31st consecutive month, the number of federal government jobs was less than it had been a year earlier. That surpasses the previous record of 30 straight months that occurred following World War II. This week, thanks to Congressional sequester cuts, tens of thousands of federal employees across the nation will start experiencing what Washington’s state employees have experienced: unpaid furloughs that cut their wages and hamper public services.

Set aside that image of paper-pushing bureaucrats in the other Washington. Instead, picture the tens of thousands of civilian defense workers right here at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, thousands of workers at Hanford nuclear reservation and many, many more who provide critical services like safeguarding our environment and providing homeland security. These are middle-class working families in Washington state who will suffer as a result, as will the businesses in their communities.

Meanwhile, the headcount of Washington state employees has dropped for five consecutive years from 66,883 to 58,635, according to state workforce data, even as the state population they serve has grown by another 1 million people.

It is that growing population that creates the illusion of government growth. Even without additional revenue, our biennial budget will grow by more than $1 billion because there are more taxpayers paying for more students, more prisoners, more sick and disabled people, etc. But not higher taxes, mind you. In fact, you are paying less money to the state government as a percentage of your personal income than at any other time since the Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council started recording it.

So, the next time you hear a business lobbyist complain that taxes are too high and that government is too big, remember their motives. They are not paid to make Washington a better place to live and work, nor are they paid to make sure public services are effective and properly funded. They are paid by corporations to keep their taxes low and to protect special-interest tax loopholes. That’s why, above all their legitimate concerns about underfunded transportation and higher education systems, they will continue to bang the Tea Party’s drum against “big government” and ignore all evidence to the contrary.
New faces but same fight, Buffenbarger tells conference

Continued from Page 1

Today’s generation of Machinists Union leaders is forward thinking and willing to think outside the box for solutions that benefit both union members and the companies they work for, Buffenbarger said.

The 2011 contract extension with Boeing is a prime example, he said. “It’s a partnership,” said Buffenbarger. “Let’s keep this company moving forward, making money and creating good jobs.”

Buffenbarger was sharply critical, however, of conservatives in Congress and the corporate titans who back them, saying they’ve got a “myopic” vision of unions and their place in America.

“We know these guys, and they’re evil,” he said.

Sequestration – the automatic spending cuts that came because Congressional conservatives wouldn’t agree to President Obama’s budget compromise – is hitting the Defense Department hard, and jeopardizing the safety of American soldiers, he said.

Meanwhile, conservative attacks on federal labor law would take the country back to a time when unions had no rights – but also no limits, Buffenbarger said.

Today’s laws block unions from doing secondary boycotts and coordinated strikes that could shut down entire industries.

“If that’s what the Republicans want, let’s do it,” he said.

Working class Americans also are enduring an “assault” on what’s left of pension plans. Buffenbarger said.

“The pension is very sacred to all of us,” he said. “We strike for them.”

Corporate executives feel entitled to lavish retirement packages, Buffenbarger reminded the Machinists. In fact, he quipped, “When a CEO gets fired, they give them a lot of money to make them go away. I like that model!”

The Machinists Union also is fighting in Washington D.C. against proposals to lower future Social Security payments, and fighting in several states against proposed anti-union laws, Buffenbarger said.

“We’ve got a lot on our plates, brothers and sisters,” he said. “We can let it go, by indifference … or we can care about it, try new things and fight for it.”

And – just like 125 years ago – the battles Machinists fight today will have an impact for generations to come.

“When we all retire, and our kids who came behind us are planning for their kids coming behind them, then we’ll know we did our jobs,” Buffenbarger said.

Moonshine team improves quality, productivity, safety

Continued from Page 1

“You’d have to have 100 people drilling holes,” he said. “There’s just not enough room.”

Over the years, Boeing had added two precision hole-drilling machines in Auburn. To meet the latest rate increases, the company considered buying a third one.

But the Moonshine team in Auburn designed and built one for 20 percent less than what Boeing would have paid an outside vendor to supply it, said Keith Elliott, an Auburn union steward.

The new tool is laser guided and numeric controlled, so it drills the holes far more precisely — and quickly.

The fourth important tool built by the Auburn Moonshiners was a robot saw that cuts bevels into 737 components.

For decades, Auburn Machinists did the work using hand-operated chop saws that weren’t much different from the tools the original Boeing mechanics used in the old Red Barn in the 1930s.

There were two problems with that, said Local C President Ron Coen, who works in Auburn.

For starters, the saws would launch metal shards all over the work area, creating a persistent problem.

And saws sharp enough to chop through metal could easily chop through human flesh as well, Coen said. “We had lacerations, finger cuts, everything.”

The new robot saw booth that the Moonshiners built is enclosed. It keeps debris inside and human hands away from the saw while it’s cutting, and it’s more precise.

With the new tools has come a reorganization of work stations and work flow, Cooper added.

That, “cuts down the travel time,” he said. “It cuts down the wear and tear on the MPRFs too, hauling parts all around the factory.”

In the old days, “we’d have 100 jobs scattered all through the factory,” he said. Now, “we’re getting jobs through in a day or two.”

The Moonshine mechanics are making an important contribution to improving productivity, quality and safety with their new tooling, Coty said.

Management in Auburn did the right thing by turning them loose to solve these problems, he said.

“It’s really refreshing when they listen to the expertise that our members have,” Coty said. “They’re letting our members, who have knowledge and expertise, build things instead of going outside, and we’re saving them money.”
**Community Service**

Helping others is ‘greatest feeling,’ woman tells stewards

Tania Finlayson didn’t plan on taking part in the 2012 Flight for Sight Fun Run, District 751’s annual fundraiser for Guide Dogs of America. It was her husband, Ken – an information technology tech for the union – who had been training for months to run the 10-kilometer portion of the race. Tania was only going along to cheer him on.

“I thought I would catch some sun and have time to get acquainted with some puppies from Guide Dogs of America,” she told union stewards in April, speaking through a computer system that allows Finlayson – who has cerebral palsy – to communicate with the world.

But as they drove from their home in Kirkland to the race site in Everett, Ken suggested that Tania should take part in the race, in her electric wheelchair.

“I just laughed, and looked at him like he was insane,” she recounted. “But before I could blink, I was at the starting line, waiting for the gun to fire.”

What happened next set her on a path to attempt a 300-mile wheelchair ride from Seattle to Spokane, and to raise $42,000 for people who she says aren’t as lucky as her.

“Tania’s a pretty inspiring woman,” said District 751 President Tom Wroblewski. “Especially when you consider the physical challenges that she herself faces, and how she wants to help other people overcome their limitations.”

The Finlaysons – along with their son, Michael – spoke at local lodge meetings in April to explain their plans for the 300-mile run. Tania’s calling the “Spokane Dash for Puppy Cash,” and to ask for help collecting donations.

Vennie Murphy walkathon raises $9,000 for Tacoma mission

The first-ever Vennie Murphy 5K Walkathon to benefit The Rescue Mission in Tacoma raised more than $9,000 for the community-service agency.

The event drew more than 150 people who ran or walked at least 5 kilometers around the track at Federal Way High School on April 6.

“We had live music and food, and we had a really good time raising money for a great organization,” said Robley Evans, the chairman of the Machinists Volunteer Program, which helped to organize the event.

The money will go toward funding the mission’s work helping people struggling with addiction, homelessness and other life challenges.

MVP Committee members Rob Curran and George Braun deserve a lot of credit for sharing her glee at the fact she beat Ken to the finish line at last year’s Flight for Sight.

“As I was doing the race, I thought of how it would be if I was blind,” she told the stewards. Trying to drive a wheelchair without her vision “would be pretty scary,” she said.

Vennie’s been an example and inspiration for a lot of us at the union,” said Evans. “He’s also a great friend.”

“Not to mention, it would put limits on my independence, and that would be something that I would just hate,” Finlayson said. “My independence is something that I treasure and value every day.”

Finlayson said she considers herself “fortunate, because I am able to help others, despite my physical challenges.”

She asked the union stewards to do all they can to help raise money for her effort, and vowed to do her part.

“No matter how long it takes me, I will reach my destination on my own steam,” Finlayson said.

Union stewards and members at the meeting were moved by Finlayson’s words. First shift Local A stewards – about 100 of them – gave her a spontaneous standing ovation.

Local C stewards at the second shift meeting passed the hat at their second shift meeting and collected more than $700, which was added to the $300 Local C officers had already voted to donate.

All proceeds are going to Guide Dogs of America, she said, and if she reaches her goal of $42,000, that will pay for one guide dog to help a blind or visually impaired person live a more-independent life.

“Would really appreciate anything that people would be able to give,” Finlayson said. “Together, we will be making a positive difference in someone’s life, and to me, that is the greatest feeling in the world.”


MVPs make a difference in Everett

Volunteers from District 751 continued doing their part to build better communities in April.

In Everett, volunteers served Sunday breakfast at the Everett Gospel Mission, and also went out to clean up along Fourth Avenue West, which is the MVPs’ “adopt-a-road” location in Snohomish County.

For more information on volunteer opportunities in Everett, go online at www.IAM751.org and click the “calendar” tab.
Volunteers honored for making a difference

On Saturday, April 20, the Machinists Volunteer Program held its annual potluck banquet as a thank you to the members and their families that step forward and participate in these important community projects.

Unless you have been there helping out with the projects, it’s hard to imagine what a difference union members and their families have made in our community over the last year. District 751 volunteers put in 10,529 hours on 356 community service projects in 2012. If you add in Guide Dog fundraisers, which brought in nearly $299,000 for the charity, it is more than one event per day in 2012.

While everyone was applauded for their volunteer efforts, awards were given to the top three volunteers in the member, steward, officer, retiree and family category. (See chart at left.) In addition to the top awards, District President Tom Wrobleski also recognized the members who earned Presidential awards for their community service efforts in 2012 -- Gold Level: George Braun, Rob Curran, Tom Lindberg and Chris Louie; Silver Level: Yvonne Murphy and Hazel Powers; and Bronze Level: Brenda Braummer, Bill Brown, Nancy Jo Brown, Robley Evans, Clark Fromong, Jim Hutchins, Jim Kakuschke, Terri Myette, Jacob Powers and Paul Schubert.

The highlight was the presentation of the “Bill Johnson True Trade Unionist Award” to Connie Kelliher. The award is given to an individual who goes above and beyond the call of duty as a union member or volunteer and gives up what little time they have for the benefit of others.

The committee also thanked Kay Michlik for her organizational work and coordination in setting up the projects, tracking volunteer hours, and working with the various projects to communicate what is needed. However, union leaders weren’t the only ones congratulating our volunteers. Several others spoke to acknowledge the tremendous impact those volunteer hours have on our community. Leaders from United Way in King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties praised our MVPs. The Salvation Army and The Rescue Mission also applauded our efforts.

Northwest Harvest thanked the Machinists for the ongoing effort to fight hunger and recognized members who have been impressive volunteers throughout the year.

Wrobleski summed it up, “Webster’s Dictionary defines a volunteer as someone who freely chooses to give without being asked or obliged. You have both gone above and beyond that definition. Each of you sacrificed your most valuable commodity — your time — and many residents have a better life because of that.”

Fence project helps Machinist injured at Boeing last year

District 751 volunteers came out in a pouring rain April 7 to help a union brother who’d nearly died in an accident at Boeing last year.

Eighteen Machinists and a few volunteers from Snohomish County United Way built a fence around the home of Stan Sprague in Lake Stevens, and put up a front gate.

“With the accident, I haven’t been able to do it and I can’t afford to fix it,” Sprague said. Given that, the support from the volunteers and United Way was “amazing.” he said. “I’m so thankful for this.”

Sprague was injured in March 2012 when he got caught in the flaps of a 747 on Boeing’s Everett flight line. He sustained severe lung damage and his heart stopped for four minutes before Boeing firefighters revived him. He also had serious nerve damage in his right arm and shoulder.

It took eight long months of rehabilitation before he recovered enough to resume normal life tasks, he said. During that time, “I could never play catch with the dogs because my arm was so bad.” But the dogs needed more attention than that. Sprague was still recovering when he and his wife realized they’d need to install fencing around their property after their dogs ran out into the street and one of them ran into a passing car.

The Spragues hired a contractor to do the work, but he took off with the $700 they paid him up front, plus some of the building materials.

Union stewards in Everett heard about the situation, and contacted Business Rep Jason Redrup, who sits on the United Way’s Labor Advisory Committee in Snohomish County.

“We thought this was a good project for us to come and help out with,” Redrup said. The United Way agreed to put up money for materials, while members of the Machinists Volunteer Program agreed to provide the labor.

On a rain-soaked April Sunday, the MVPs installed 400 feet of wire field fencing in back of the house, and installed a cedar-faced gate in a side yard facing the street.

Sprague had worked for Boeing for one year before the accident, after spending nine years as an airline flight line mechanic. He said he was touched by the show of support from his fellow District 751 Machinists – most of whom he didn’t know.

“It was great to meet them,” he said, adding that as soon as his health allows, he wants to join the MVPs to help out someone else in need.

“We’re part of the community,” Redrup said. “We help our brothers and sisters in the union, and our fellow citizens in the community.”
Enter to win 4 tickets to the United Way Celebrity Softball game to benefit homeless youth

On June 15, Edgar Martinez is headed back to Safeco Field. SuperSonic Gary Payton, Pearl Jam’s Jeff Ament and other big names will join him, including District 751 President Tom Webbowski. It’s United Way’s All-Star Softball Classic for Homeless Youth.

District 751 is helping to sponsor the event and wants you to have a chance to see it for free. Simply fill out this form, for your chance to win 4 tickets to the event. Drop the completed form by any union hall or mail it in by May 31 to: 751 Celebrity Softball Tickets, District 751, 9125 15th Pl. S., Seattle, WA 98108. A drawing will be held June 3. Winners will be mailed four tickets for a day of fun at Safeco Field.

Family and friends struck up a good time at the annual Local F Unity Bowl on April 28. The Machinists Non-Partisan Political League was rolling in the money bringing in more than $6,400 and more money was still coming in. MNPL is the political arm of the Machinists Union (since dues money is not spent for political candidates).

Nearly every bowler took home a prize. Trophies were given to the top two teams. The team of Rick Quintana, Paul Marcello, Paul Craig, Willis Roth and Nelson Apostol captured first place while the team of Danilo Lobo, Gregory Lobo, Charles Hammargren, Chris Bary (see photos below). Paul Marcello took men’s high game with an impressive 278 and high series with 771 while Kenda McKinzezy took women’s high series with 500 and Brownyn Hall took women’s high game with 187. Clark Fromong won the 50/50 drawing. “We Tried” trophies went to Stephanie Lloyd-Agnew, Adrian Carmez, Paul Schubert, Oscar Front and Theresa Langlois.

Adding to the excitement, participants got the chance to bowl a strike when their name was drawn to win gift cards. Thanks to Mitchell Christian and Paul Velkamp who organized the event and to all the sponsors and volunteers who ensured it was a day of fun.

L to R: Local F President Dwayne Johnson congratulates the first place team: Paul Marcello, Rick Quintana, Nelson Apostol, Paul Craig and Willis Roth.

Your Chance to Win 4 Tickets to Celebrity Softball June 15, 2013 at Safeco Field - Enter Today!

Enter my name to win 4 tickets to the celebrity softball game

Name:__________________________________________

BEMSID or last 4 of SS#_________________________________

Contact Phone:_____________________________________

Mailing Address:___________________________________________

Email:___________________________________________

Mail entry to: 751 Celebrity Softball Tickets, 9125 15th Pl. S., Seattle, WA 98108. Drawing to be held June 3 or enter by emailing above contact information to: 751softball@iam751.org be sure to put Ticket Entry on the email subject line.

Entries must be received by May 31 to be entered!
**April Retired Club business meeting minutes**

by RUTH RENDER  
Retired Club Secretary

The meeting was called to order on April 8 by Vice President Helen Lowe.  
Vice President Helen Lowe then led the attendees in the Lord’s Prayer followed by the flag salute and the singing of God Bless America.

**Roll Call of Officers:** All officers were present except for President T.J. Seibert who was excused.

**Minutes:** It was M/S/P to accept the March meeting minutes as written.

**Financial Report:** The March expense report was read by Treasurer Betty Nes.  
Communications: None

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IAM 751 Retiree Club  
**May Meetings**

All meetings are held on Mondays at the Seattle Union Hall (9135 15th Pl. S.) at 11 a.m. and include:

- **May 6** Bingo and cards  
- **May 13** Business Meeting  
- **May 20** Socialize  
- **May 27** Holiday - No meeting

Come to the meetings and learn about our casino trips and other events.

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**Workshop: Fighting to Make the American Dream Real**

This two-hour interactive economic justice workshop is presented by Mark McDermott on Monday, June 17 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Seattle Union Hall.  
Space is limited to the first 40 to RSVP. Reserve your spot by calling Kay at 1-800-763-1301, ext. 3335 or 206-764-0335 or email at kaym@iam751.org.

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**Dargitz impact still felt today**

District 751 lost a long-time union activist with the passing of Jerry Dargitz on April 7. Dargitz spent decades improving the lives of workers and their families. His union leadership was instrumental in securing key contract language changes that still have a huge impact on the membership today.

He hired into Boeing in 1956 and almost immediately became active in the union and was elected Recording Secretary for Local F in 1964.  
“Jerry was a hard worker, good organizer, and a solid union man. He will be missed,” said Carl Schwarz, retiree who worked with Jerry over the years and served as Local Lodge President when Dargitz was Recording Secretary. “Jerry and I were early supporters of leadership training, and we also served as lead picket captains together in the 1965 strike.”

In 1966, Jerry was appointed to a full-time position as Staff Assistant. In the 1968 negotiations, he helped reduce the hourly job titles at Boeing from 1,600 down to 800. During those same negotiations, he was also instrumental in changing seniority so it was Puget Sound Wide. Previously it was seniority by plant so if you were at the top of seniority at Plant II, but got transferred to Renton, you might be the first to get laid-off.  
During the late 1960’s, Jerry made numerous trips to testify before Congress for the union and Boeing - testifying in favor of the Supersonic Transport and in support of funding for the Export-Import Bank, which finances Boeing airplane sales. In addition, he was instrumental in helping District 751 secure and run six low-income apartment buildings. The union still owns five of the properties and provides low-income housing to several hundred families.

Dargitz served two terms as District 751 Secretary-Treasurer before moving on to the IAM International where he served for 15 years as a Grand Lodge Rep/Organizer.  
“Jerry was a champion for workers and always tried to share his knowledge with up and coming union leaders,” recalls Secretary-Treasurer Susan Palmer. “Over the years when I would see him at retiree events or rallies, he always made a point of providing historical guidance and sharing his experience.”

Members can see Jerry recall highlights of his union career on the District 751 website at www.IAM751.org/laborhistory/ oralhistory.htm.
# World Fair Trade Day

2017 FORCED F250 4WD high bid. Thousands of $ in receipts from Honest Performance for work done on 400 c.i.d. V8. Low miles on truck. In family since new, $5,000. 253-797-2915

1993 BMW $5001, automatic, sunroof, well maintained driver, 175,000 busy miles and well maintained by BMW enthusiast. $7900. All reasonable offers will be considered. 360-593-6201

1986 VOLVO GOLDS, 740, 4 dr, new A/C, new tires, fresh tune-up, well maintained, belonged to German consulate, very clean, runs great. $1,895 obo. 206-783-1111

1977 CORVETTE (Shoreline Wai), 3 spd, auto trans, original paint, new tires, $4,200 obo. 206-459-3444

1956 BUTCH 4 dr HT, new paint, new tires, $18,000. Call for details. 509-623-7204 or email for pics, sheet metal runs great.

1957 CHEVY 2 DOOR HARD-TOP, very rare model, no motor or tranny. $5,000 obo. 253-320-6719

NISSAN ZRO ROADSTER, 2004 touring model with electric blue clearcoat exterior, crimson leather interior, 20" wheels, euro lights, loaded less navigation. 80,900 miles $12,325.

253-519-5693 or

WANTED: FIBERGLASS CANOE to fit large box. Chevy pickup. Prefer hi-bay, cab high is ok. Must be in good condition, any color. 253-205-6308

FOR

MEMBERS ONLY

WANT ADS

FREE

AD RULES

Each single ad must be 25 words or less. Use a separate piece of paper or ad blank for each ad, as they are pre-classified physically. Ads are free only to members - active, laid-off, or retired. For best response, include phone number. Members and "cottage industries" will be ok in ads, but no commercial ads. When using paper or ad blank, include information required on regular ad blank.

Deadline For Next Issue

WANTED

COLOR TRANSLATION SERVICES, 100% accuracy. For best response, include a community member. Connect to educate and activate yourself as an eater, a conscious shopper, a worker, an activist. Contact: jr@everettagent.com (1900 E Madison, Seattle)

Alliance for Global Justice, Philippine-Labor Council, Sierra Club, Community Environment pursuits nonprofit, single issue, none of $ in receipts from Honest Performance for work done on 400 c.i.d. V8. Low miles on truck. In family since new, $5,000. 253-797-2915

2009 May 13

Page 10 751 Aero Mechanic
Guide Dogs fundraisers: Good times for a great cause

District 751 – the leading fundraiser for Guide Dogs of America across the United States and Canada – has announced dates for a series of fundraising events.

Each promises to be a good time, while also raising money for a great cause.

Flight for Sight

The 12th annual Flight for Sight fun run will be Saturday, June 8, at the Boeing Everett Activity Center. The event is sponsored by the District 751 Women’s Committee.

The Flight for Sight includes two timed races – 5K and 10K runs – on a USA Track & Field-certified course. There also will be a non-competitive 1-mile walk.

Race check-in will be from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Boeing Everett Activity Center, which is at 6098 36th Ave. W. in Everett. The races begin at 9 a.m. Registration costs $30 in advance, or $35 on race day. Runners will get a t-shirt. Registration forms are available at all District 751 union halls in Puget Sound, or you can go online at www.flightforsight.com and follow the links to the online registration form.

Last year’s event attracted nearly 140 runners and raised about $12,000 for Guide Dogs of America. Since it was started in 2001, the Flight for Sight fun run has raised more than $119,000 for the charity.

Puppy Putt

The 11th annual Puppy Putt motorcycle ride to benefit Guide Dogs of America will be July 13 at locations around Puget Sound.

This year, riders will leave between 8 and 10 a.m. that Saturday from Sound Harley-Davidson at 16212 Smokey Point Blvd. in Marysville and from Northwest Harley-Davidson at 8000 Freedom Lane in Lacey.

The separate groups will meet at District 751’s Seattle Union Hall – 9135 15th Place S. – for an afternoon of food, music and fun.

Puget Sound Harley-Davidson dealers are primary sponsors, but organizers suggest that Puppy Putt is an “all breed” event for bike owners of all motorcyle makes and models. Advanced registration is $15 for a rider, and $5 for passengers. Registration will cost $20 for a rider after July 6. Registration forms are available at all District 751 union halls in Puget Sound or online at www.PuppyPutt.com.

Each rider will receive an event t-shirt, a commemorative patch and a Guide Dogs of America pin. Passengers will receive t-shirts.

For details, go online at www.PuppyPutt.com or call the Everett Union Hall at (425) 355-8821.

Last year’s Puppy Putt raised more than $15,000.

Guide Dogs Golf Tourney

The 22nd annual Guide Dogs of America Golf Tournament will be Sunday, July 21, at the Willows Run Golf Course. The tournament will be a scramble format with a shotgun start at 8 a.m.

The cost is $90, which covers greens fees, cart rental, tournament t-shirts, prizes and a buffet at the end of play. The field is limited to 280 players.

Entry forms are available at all District 751 union halls in Puget Sound. Entries are due by July 5. Information also is available by calling the Everett Union Hall at (425) 355-8821.

Local E Shoes for Puppies

Local E’s 10th annual Shoes for Puppies Horseshoe Tournament will be at noon, Saturday, Aug. 10 at the Red Dog Saloon, 18606 Renton-Maple Valley Road SE in Renton.

The entry fee is $50 per person. Registration forms are available at all District 751 union halls in Puget Sound.

Dog Days Drag Racing

District 751 is teaming up once again with Pacific Raceways for a joint fund-raising event.

This year’s Flight for Sight fun run will start at 9:30 a.m. June 8 at the Boeing Everett Activity Center, 6098 36th Ave. W.

The union is selling $5 discount tickets for drag racing on Aug. 15-18 at the track, which is at 31001 144th Ave. SE. in Kent.

The tickets are on sale at all District 751 union halls in Puget Sound. They are good for entry on any one day of the event. Children under 6 get in free.

Racing starts at 9 a.m. each day, and will feature racing in the top alcohol and sportsman classes and the Screamin’ Eagle Harley-Davidson series.

This will be the eighth year that District 751 and Pacific Raceways have teamed up for the event. The previous seven race weekends have raised nearly $43,000 for Guide Dogs.

Local F Karting Challenge

Local F plans its first go-kart challenge fundraiser for Guide Dogs from 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, at Pacific Raceways in Kent.

The challenge will be a go-kart race, with teams of four drivers racing for two hours around a track at PGP Motorsports Park at Pacific Raceways. Prizes will go to the teams that complete the most overall laps in the time allowed.

The cost is $100 per person. For details, contact Local F Vice President Robley Evans at (253) 350-6725.

MayWorks to celebrate labor’s contributions in Washington

MayWorks, the annual month-long celebration of workers’ culture and history first organized in 2012 by Washington’s labor movement, is here and you should mark your calendars to attend the many great events, including those at the Seattle Labor History Walking Tour on May 18.

MayWorks has a new website — MayWorksWA.org — that includes events, labor folklore videos, films and bricklayers, then learn about wages and work in the Pacific Northwest, “Serving With a Smile” by representatives of UNITE HERE and UFCW, the work and history of the IBEW, women in non-traditional occupations and more.

Other Events – A special film screening of “Brothers on the Line” at 7 p.m. May 10 at Seattle’s Keystone Church (80th Place N.E.) and a Tacoma Labor History Walking Tour on May 18.

For more information, check out the MayWorks Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mayworksa.

DO A GOOD DEED!

If you know of a non-union worker anywhere who needs the IAM’s help, then fill out this coupon now!

To the IAM Organizing Department:

This person works for a non-union company and needs our help! Please contact him/her as soon as possible to explain the benefits of union membership.

NAME: __________________________________________ PHONE: ____________________________

CITY: __________________________ STATE: ______________ ZIP: ________________________

Please contact me if additional information is needed:

NAME: __________________________________________ PHONE: ____________________________

CITY: __________________________ STATE: ______________ ZIP: ________________________
Marek runs memorable marathon in Boston

Local 86 member Joe Marek is a dedicated individual who understands how to focus on a goal and make it happen. He has worked diligently as a mechanic for Durham School Services since 2003, maintaining the buses to ensure Spokane area children get a safe ride to school each day, but he has been a passionate runner for far longer.

Since high school, he has been a year-round runner—jogging to and from work for years. While Joe has run numerous marathons over the years, his sights were set on the Boston Marathon. He missed qualifying by just seconds a couple of different years, but continued to train. His perseverance and determination allowed him to not just qualify for the 2013 Boston Marathon, but finish in the top 5 percent of the more than 26,000 runners in the race. Even with such an impressive finish, he did not reach his personal goal for time at the event.

He was able to compete in a 26.2 mile race in less than 3 hours, more than just physical endurance, it takes a certain frame of mind. Marathon runners will tell you the most challenging aspect of running a 26-mile race is the battle between their ears. You must build mental toughness to create the proper mindset. Joe's thing to be motivated to start training and quite another to stay motivated every day. After he qualified last fall for Boston, Joe put his endurance to the test by running 100 miles in a fundraiser to help pay for the trip and its expenses (Local 86 came through with a $350 donation to help in his journey).

To not only complete this marathon, but to finish in the top 5 percent is a testament to Joe's unwavering drive. It also means he has learned to face adversity head-on with the attitude that the hill in front of you won't go away, but it's easy enough to put it behind you if you just press on. For Joe, it took nine years to qualify for this elite race.

The Boston Marathon held each April is one of the most prestigious marathons in the world. It attracts many world-class marathoners among the thousands who compete each year. Originally called the American Marathon and first held in 1897, the race is the oldest annual marathon in the country and is held on Patriots' Day, a state holiday. This year a total of 26,839 runners took part, along with 54 wheelchair participants and 21 hand cycles. Runners came from 74 countries and from all 50 states.

Yet Joe didn't simply qualify; he finished 1239 out of 26,839, which put him in the top 5 percent of participants. Even more important, his quick finish ensured that he and his wife had left the finish line prior to the tragic bombings that made headlines around the world.

For Joe and his wife, Mandy, what was intended to be a day of celebration quickly became a day in which running a marathon was of little importance. Mandy arrived near the finish line at 8:30 a.m.--hours before the race started--to stake out a place to get good photos. Little did she know that the place she stood for hours was right across from where the second bomb exploded. When Joe and his friend, Cody, had finished the race, they decided it was time to head back to their hotel. That proved to be a great decision since they ended up being on one of the last trains to leave prior to the explosions. Within minutes of boarding the train, their phones lit up with concerned friends wanting to confirm they were okay.

On their blog about the marathon, Joe and Mandy wrote: “Runners are tough. We endure long distances that tax our bodies, we endure outsiders that shun us for being ‘crazy,’ and we will endure this. We are runners, and we see the good in the aftermath of tragedy. We know there’s a finish line at the end of a long race.

This will not detour us from going to other events including running in or watching races. We will happily run the Windermere Marathon in a few weeks in Spokane and later the Portland Marathon in October. Wishing all those touched by the Boston Marathon the best.”

One thing is sure about this exhilarating, exhausting trip that fulfilled a long-time goal, it will be a lasting memory for so many reasons.

Spokane Solidarity

With 24 contracts expiring this year in Eastern Washington, solidarity is alive and well and was evident at the Local 86 picnic on Sunday, April 28. Despite cold and windy weather, more than 300 Machinists Union members and guests attended the event in a show of unity.

Members working at various employers attended including Triumph Composites, B&K Trucking, Central Pre-Mix, ASC Machine Tool, UPS, Penske, Pacific Power Products and URM. District 751 President Tom Wrublewski, Secretary-Treasurer Susan Palmer, Business Rep Steve Warren and Staff Assistant Ken Howard were on hand to talk with the members, as well as IAM Aerospace Coordinator Mark Johnson.

Members from Triumph appreciated talking to union negotiators since formal contract talks began on April 22 for their contract which expires on May 10. Members from ASC are also stepping up to get involved and communicate on their contract which expires in July.

Local 86 member Darrin Truitt brought his band “On Tap” to provide live music while Local 1951 member Lawrence Jittu served as the caterer with his business “Lawrence is Cooking.” His wife, Leslie, and their helpers Rachel and Jesse ensured food was kept stocked and warm.

Joe Marek finished in the top 5 percent of the 26,839 runners in the 2013 Boston Marathon. His quick finish allowed him to be heading back to his hotel when the explosions occurred.