Union Advocacy Helps Protect Workers

Our Union was active and engaged throughout the legislative process to pass the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act and other bills.

District 751 President Jon Holden was in daily contact with our Congressional leaders, as well as with IAM International President Robert Martinez and our IAM Legislative Department in a coordinated effort to provide relief to workers impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. We believe we are more can and should be and will continue working with our elected officials. By working closely with our allies on Capitol Hill, the relief bill was vastly improved from its original form.

Some of the highlights of the legislation members need to be aware of:

- Direct Stimulus Payments (see Q&A page 5).
- Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, which will increase unemployment insurance payments by $600 per week for

Continued on Page 5
Union Working Non-Stop to Address COVID-19 Crisis

By JON HOLDEN
IAM District President

I write my column this month as the impact of COVID-19 unfolds affecting all of our members and their families. I hope that you all are able to stay safe during this unprecedented time. The advice and guidance we are receiving from the experts in the healthcare industry are unprecedented times and uncertainty surrounding us and the world. During this COVID-19 crisis, what remains constant is there are more questions than answers on every front.

Every day we see thousands of workers continuing to provide services to others under great stress, and I imagine concern for their own families. Our membership is no different, as we have hundreds of our co-workers cleaning our factories and performing essential work all across Washington State, Edwards AFB and Victorville, CA during suspended operations at Boeing in Washington State. We are engaging with all of the suppliers, contractors on military bases and other employers where District 751 represents hundreds being impacted by layoffs in the beginning of uncertain times.

Each day our Union leaders strive to address the questions and concerns raised by members at over 450 employers across the state. The situations are different, but our priority is to ensure a safe workplace for those who must go to work including finding economic alternatives for those who believe going to work is unsafe, and economic support through legislation for those who must go to work, providing options and flexibility.

Our priority is to ensure a safe workplace. We have been working closely with state, federal and local officials to secure protections, extended and improved unemployment benefits and subsidized COBRA coverage where necessary.

We provided daily input and supported the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act for many reasons. Most important is the added assistance and protections it provides to our members during this very trying time. But also because our employers needed it. The resources the CARES Act will provide airlines, small, medium and large aerospace suppliers and Boeing will help return the industry to economic security—supporting our jobs in the process.

In addition, we have the additional resources for our employers, we also worked to ensure there were protections against outsourcing and offshoring by aerospace manufacturers who receive the Federal government bailout money, along with protections for pensions in order that plans remain solvent for those counting on their accrued benefits in retirement. The outcomes on these issues remain to be seen, as there have been many legislators

... are being taken, what PPE is provided, and other COVID-19 type precautions. We are encouraging all companies to offer additional options and flexibility, including attendance policies, for our members who may be struggling to keep their families out of work and adhere to this trying time. Our focus is to try our members’ health and economic future during this pandemic. We are working closely with each employer because every situation is different.

Currently, we are in the middle of the 14-day temporary shut down at Boeing. We were able to secure 10 workdays pay during that shutdown. Any members who have encountered issues with getting paid during this shutdown should contact the union so we can work these issues on a case-by-case basis.

While we appreciate this paid two-week Boeing shutdown, we have long-term concerns about the working environment of our members. We will continue to push for requirements to protect our members in the workplace. When production resumes, members should be aware of our Imminent Danger Stop Work clause and use this contractual process to ensure their workplace is safe.

Things are changing fast, often by the hour, and new legislation is being approved each day to help workers and employers. We are working closely with state, federal and local officials to secure protections, extended and improved unemployment benefits and subsidized COBRA coverage where necessary.

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I want to thank our IAM International President Bob Martinez and his Legislative Staff who provided round-the-clock advocacy in both the House and Senate to ensure this violence were heard. We were in constant contact throughout this legislative process speaking with one voice to secure protections for IAM members.

Our staff and reps are currently sorting through the various assistance programs being approved to give our members a roadmap to access this assistance. A critical component we are working through Employment Security is the current rapidly changing situation is different.

Members working at Pexco Aerospace in Yakima – some of whom are already facing layoff – have been provided step-by-step information to expedite the process of filing their unemployment claims. We know for these workers, the additional $600 weekly expanded federal unemployment benefit from the CARES Act will help them weather these uncertain economic times.

We will continue pushing for additional relief for our members and any others who may suddenly find themselves out of work as a result of this global pandemic.

There are still many uncertainties as I write this on March 31st in the middle of suspended operations at Boeing. Current CDC guidance does not recommend wearing masks unless you are caring for someone who is sick. This guidance may be changing as the CDC is now signaling that masks should be worn – supported by the Pentagon, who has requested 10 workdays pay should have encountered issues with getting paid during this shutdown. Any members who have encountered issues with getting paid during this shutdown should contact the union so we can work these issues on a case-by-case basis.

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Union Pushes for Options When Boeing Production Resumes

Throughout the escalating situation with the COVID-19 outbreak, our Union has been continuously working on behalf of our members and speaking with Boeing daily about the situation. On Monday, March 23, Boeing announced a temporary 14-day suspension of Puget Sound and Moses Lake operations. Through our discussions, Boeing committed to pay wages for 10 workdays during that period (March 25-April 7).

Our Union supports this action and hopes the shutdown will reduce the rate of infection within our membership at work and in the community at large. Throughout the temporary Boeing shutdown, our reps and staff are available to answer questions and work through issues members are experiencing. Members can submit questions or issues via email by writing to Machinists@iam751.org.

Boeing asked for volunteers to fill requirements of essential work during the temporary shutdown based on skill requirements and work packages. Anyone interested in volunteering should let their manager know.

For those employees who volunteer for essential work during the shutdown (March 25-April 7), the Company will provide 1 hour of vacation for every hour worked, which will be capped at 80 hours. Members do not have to wait for their anniversary to accrue the vacation. The vacation award will occur within the following pay period of resumed operations.

We continue working various pay issues for members throughout the Suspension of Operations. When production resumes, members should be aware of their options.

1) You have the right to take time off work without fear of an attendance infraction.

The leadership secured that members who are high risk, or who need to care for children that are out of school, or are “concerned with working on site due to Coronavirus,” can take time off from work, and use excess LWOP, without having to exhaust benefits or face discipline. Be sure that you discuss this with your manager and follow your organization’s requirements for reporting daily absences. (We hope to have information very soon on how these individuals may be able to collect unemployment benefits under new emergency rules and CARES Act provisions).

Anyone placed on mandatory quarantine and sent home due to COVID outbreak should be aware of their options.

2) Members have the right to have information very soon on how they can collect unemployment benefits under the temporary shutdown based on the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as any other benefit they may be entitled to receive under their state’s unemployment law.

Business Rep Spencer Burris answers emails to ensure members understand the options available to them when production at Boeing resumes.

Safe Jobs: You’ve Got a Right! Article 16.1 Empowers Members at Boeing to Stop Unsafe Work

Continued from Page 1 the protocol, a response crew was required to be dispatched to the area and perform a deep cleaning of the area where the ill members had worked. There was no communication to members working on the floor that the deep cleaning of the area had taken place. First shift members did not feel safe, and did not want to risk further exposure to the COVID-19 virus so they used their contractual right.

After an investigation, EHS communicated they were unable to prove proper cleaning of the affected area had taken place, which was the huge concern to our members. Throughout the investigation several gaps in the protocol were revealed:

- Lack of communication to shop personnel
- The responsibilities of the deep cleaning facilities crew were unknown
- No clear assignment of production area cleaning
- Lack of information on the chemicals used and the correct PPE to use

As a result of this incident, EHS created a “Safe Distinction Practices for Aircraft Bulletin” that detailed the approved chemicals and PPE that is required for safe sanitization of production areas and the airplane. EHS also issued a bulletin stating the facilities organization is responsible for cleaning non-production areas and that the employees were responsible for cleaning the airplane, tools and support equipment.

At the request of our membership and because the COVID-19 presents new challenges for our members, Business Reps Howard Carlson, André Trahan and Garth Luark, along with IAM/Boeing Joint Programs Administrator Jason Redrup visited the site to ensure the process was working and adapted to this new and serious threat. Our Union leaders reassured our members they are not alone and have the support of our Union. Members appreciated the quick response and face-to-face interaction with union leaders to ensure their concerns were addressed.

“Was a perfect example of our members coming together in solidarity to address and resolve an important issue. They utilized existing contract language to handle a new and threatening situation. I hope other members will continue to use our Imminent Danger clause when they believe a hazard may result in serious injury or illness,” said Business Rep André Trahan.

In Renton, Union Steward Richard Holman invoked 16.1 Imminent Danger after he believed proper personal protective equipment wasn’t provided to members working in the Horizontal Build Line of the 737 wingline. Because of the work in this area, members were required to work within six feet of each other (not proper social distancing); therefore, Richard pulled the red card and demanded better PPE.

After the stoppage and management evaluated the situation because there was no EHS coverage on second shift. As a result of the Imminent Danger clause, cases of masks were released to the manager to provide to our members. When some of our younger members declined the masks saying they just needed to get their bar done and weren’t afraid of the coronavirus, Richard pointed out that behavior could endanger an older member working next to them. To reduce the chance of spreading the virus, he asked all members working in close proximity to wear both gloves and face masks – presenting a barrier that could potentially slow any spread when social distancing is not possible.

In every shop, no member should waive off personal protective equipment. Safety is not optional - especially during these current times when actions of a co-worker (i.e. a sneeze or cough) could wind up infecting the person next to you.

“Richard did a great job ensuring our members are protected in the wingline when their work makes it impossible to practice proper social distancing. Using the extra PPE could reduce the chance members are exposed and contract COVID-19 while working in close quarters,” said Business Rep Rich McCabe.

Imminent danger was also used in a Renton final assembly area. When a Renton second shift crew didn’t feel safe after being ordered to clean an area where someone was sick, but not confirmed with COVID, our members utilized 16.1

Imminent Danger. This stopped the work that night and cordoned off the area. EHS did an assessment and put together training for the crew that included how to spray and wipe down the area properly. In addition, EHS provided PPE to make the members feel as comfortable as possible, including using chemicals designed to kill the virus.

“I’m proud of our members at Boeing for using the Imminent Danger clause. The process worked as designed and members should use this clause when they feel there is imminent danger,” said Business Rep Robley Evans.

We encourage members to continue to utilize 16.1 to deal with safety concerns stemming from the COVID pandemic, as we all strive to keep the workplace safe during these trying times.

Stop If Workplace is Unsafe! 16.1 - Imminent Danger Clause

If Section 16.1 is invoked, the contract specifies what must happen before work can be resumed.

First, inform the immediate supervisor and/or site safety manager or a designee (per contract a contact listing must be available to all employees).

In addition, the employee should contact a Union Steward or HSI Site Committee member for assistance.

Work will not continue until a final decision has been made by the Site Safety Manager (or designee).

Members should offer to do other work, which they consider safe while a decision is being made.

Business Rep Jason Chan answers questions from members.

Business Rep André Trahan talks to members about using Imminent Danger clause in the factory.


Business Rep Spence Burris answers emails to ensure members understand the options available to them when production at Boeing resumes.
Navigating Unemployment with COVID-19 Scenarios

Summary of Federal UI Relief from CARES Act

Unemployment Insurance (UI) provisions in the federal CARES Act now provide an additional $600 per week to UI recipients for up to four months until July 31, 2020, and greatly expand eligibility to non-traditional sectors of the workforce, including those uniquely impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. The federal government will also provide temporary full funding for the first week of regular unemployment insurance for states with no waiting period, which currently includes Washington, and extend UI benefits for an additional 13 weeks through December 31, 2020 after an individual exhausts their state UI benefits.

Q&A Federal UI Relief
How much can I get from Unemployment Insurance? If eligible, the exact amount you can receive through Unemployment Insurance depends on your state and your previous earnings. Washington state’s maximum weekly UI benefit is $790. Washington ESD has a calculator to determine benefits by visiting: https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment/calculate-your-benefit.

Between now and July 31, 2020, an additional $600 per week will be paid to UI recipients. What if I’m not eligible for traditional Unemployment Insurance? The CARES Act temporarily expands unemployment insurance to cover individuals who are not traditionally covered, including the self-employed, gig-workers, independent contractors, and workers with irregular work history. It also expands the list of allowable criteria for claiming unemployment compensation to include many reasons related to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Employment Security Department is the agency that administers unemployment insurance in Washington and will determine an individual’s eligibility based on state laws and enacted emergency rules, including the new CARES Act provisions.

Did the CARES Act provide expanded eligibility criteria for UI benefits related to COVID-19? Yes. The CARES Act expanded eligibility if workers are impacted by COVID-19 and are, for instance: receiving or seeking a diagnosis for COVID-19, experiencing symptoms of the virus, under state-imposed quarantine or self-quarantine, working for a facility that has shut down due to the virus, caring for a family member or a member of the individual’s household who has been diagnosed with the virus, or caring for a dependent child whose school or day care has shut down due to the virus. People who haven’t worked but whose breadwinner in the household has died due to the virus are also eligible.

What if I’ve been out of work because of COVID-19 for several weeks already? If you exhaust the weeks of Unemployment Insurance compensation available to you through your state’s laws, you will be eligible for an additional 13 weeks of benefits until Dec. 31, 2020. Washington offers 26 weeks of standard UI benefits. The additional benefits will be federally-funded, but you will still receive them through your state.

How long will the expanded benefits be in place? Expanded eligibility for Unemployment Insurance and the additional 13 weeks provided by the federal government will be in effect until December 31, 2020. The $600 additional weekly benefit will be added to unemployment compensation until July 31, 2020.

Is there a waiting period? The CARES Act includes incentives


current COVID pandemic so benefits can be received for the week immediately following your layoff or temporary reduction in work. Job searches are also temporarily optional.

When applying, you should choose “laid off” as the primary reason for the separation. If you have a return to work date after a temporary shut down, you should choose “company temporarily closed” as the secondary reason. If you are facing a permanent layoff, you should choose “other reason not listed,” as the secondary reason.

Accessing Unemployment for other COVID-19 related scenarios.

As the AeroMechanic went to print March 31st, the specific step-by-step process on what options to choose had not been outlined. Check the iam751.org website for updates that will include this information.

Below are tips to help you through the process of applying for unemployment benefits.

Gather Information
When applying either online or via phone, you should have required information readily available. For a list of required information, visit: https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment/have-this-information-ready.

If you are interested in receiving benefits via direct deposit, you will be asked for your bank account information, and should have it available to set up direct deposit for your weekly payments.

Instructions to apply online or by phone:
To apply for UI benefits online, visit: https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment/login2. Scroll down to step 2 for more info.

This provides the exact process and is a helpful resource to preview what questions will be asked and next steps.

For new claimants filing by phone (above link has tips so you are prepared for questions), the claims center number at 800-318-6022 will be open Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. as follows:

• Monday: New applications for those with Social Security numbers ending in 0-3.
• Tuesday: New applications for those with Social Security numbers ending in 4-6.
• Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: Everyone (Social Security numbers ending in 7-9) can submit new applications.

There are long wait times to file by phone but it could help ensure your application is correct and benefits are not delayed.

Keep in mind the online application system logs out after 15 minutes of inactivity, so please save frequently. The phone system will also hang up after a short period of inactivity. So be sure you have the information ready before you begin.

The Employment Security Department is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Language assistance services for limited English proficient individuals are available free of charge. Washington Relay Service: 711 (case by case)

Updated: 03.26.20 - 12:00 p.m.
The U.S. Congress enacted a $2 trillion relief package on March 27, called the CARES Act, to help support American individuals and companies financially hurt by the coronavirus. Among many things, it included an expansion of unemployment insurance benefits, stimulus payments to individuals, student loan changes, and different retirement account rules.

The following is information about the stimulus payments, or “recovery rebates,” many Machinists Union families will receive in the coming weeks. It was provided for informational purposes by the U.S. Senate Finance Committee. Official information can also be found at www.IRS.gov/coronavirus.

Q: Who is eligible for a recovery rebate?
A: All U.S. residents or citizens with adjusted gross income under $75,000 ($112,500 for head of household and $150,000 married), who are not the dependent of another taxpayer and do not have a work-eligible Social Security Number, are eligible for the full $1,200 ($2,400 married rebate). They are also eligible for an additional $500 per child.

Q: What about taxpayers with adjusted gross income over $75,000 ($112,500 for head of household and $150,000 married)? Are they eligible to receive any rebate?
A: The rebate amount is reduced by $5 for each $100 that a taxpayer’s income exceeds the phase-out threshold.

Q: When will the payments arrive?
A: The Treasury Department and IRS reported on March 30 that distribution will begin in three weeks and will be distributed automatically, with no action required for most people. However, some seniors and others who typically do not file returns will need to submit a simple tax return to receive the stimulus payment.

Q: If I receive any stimulus check is it taxable?
A: No, it is not taxable. There are other provisions you may want to discuss with your accountant.

Q: Do dependents, other than children under 17, qualify a taxpayer for an additional $500 per dependent?
A: No, the additional $500 per child is limited to children under 17.

Q: Are individuals with little to no income or those on means-tested federal benefits, such as Social Security Income, eligible for a recovery rebate?
A: Yes, there is no qualifying income requirement. People on Social Security are eligible to receive coronavirus relief payment as long as their total income does not exceed the limit. Low or no-income individuals qualify so long as they are not the dependent of another taxpayer and have a work-eligible SSN.

Q: What should I do if I did not file a tax return for 2019 or 2018?
A: The best way to ensure you receive a recovery rebate is to file a 2019 tax return if you have not already done so. The IRS will provide further instruction if you haven’t filed a 2019 or 2018 tax return.

Q: If I have a past due debt to a federal or state agency, or owe back taxes, will my rebate be reduced?
A: In most cases, no. The only offset that will be enforced applies to those who have past due child support payments that the state has reported to the U.S. Treasury Department.

NOTE: Be aware of scams. The federal government won’t ask Americans to confirm personal or banking details by email, phone or text message, or demand a “processing fee” to receive or rush a stimulus payment. People should not click on links in emails or text messages about stimulus checks and avoid providing personal information to anyone who contacts them.

### Summary of Federal UI Relief from CARES Act

Continued from Page 4 for states to waive the waiting week between applying for unemployment compensation and receiving it. Prior to the CARES Act, Washington announced the waiting week will be temporarily waived for state UI recipients.

How do I file for unemployment insurance? You can apply for Unemployment Insurance compensation through the agency in the state where you worked that administers the state’s UI system. In most states, including Washington, you can apply online. More information for applying in Washington can be found at www.esd.wa.gov.

Continued from Page 1 eligible workers lasting up to 4 months ending July 31.

• Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, which expands those eligible for unemployment insurance to include more COVID-related scenarios including, among others, if a worker is: receiving or seeking a diagnosis, experiencing symptoms of the virus, under state-imposed quarantine or self-quarantine, working for a facility that has shut down due to the virus, caring for a family member or a member of the individual’s household who has been diagnosed with the virus, or caring for a dependent child whose school or day care has shut down due to the virus. People who haven’t worked but whose breadwinner in the household has died due to the virus are also eligible.

• An additional 13 weeks of state UI benefits capped at 52 weeks.

• Requires health plans to cover COVID-19 related qualifying services and treatments with no plan participant co-payments.

• Provides options to help businesses keep operating such as loans, loan guarantees and other transactions;

• Safeguards on Corporate Bailouts that include: ban on stock buybacks for the term, plus one year, of the federal government assistance to corporations receiving a government loan from the bill. Median sized businesses (between 500 and 10,000 workers) who receive loans cannot abrogate (or do away with) collective bargaining agreements and must commit to organizing neutrality for the life of the loan. Median sized businesses will not outsource or offshore jobs for the term of the loan and 2 years after completing repayment of the loan.

Families First Coronavirus Response Act offered the following for employers with fewer than 500 employees:

• 80 hours of paid sick time; 

• Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act provides additional paid leave based on a rate of not less than 2/3s of the employee’s regular rate of pay and the number of hours the employee is normally scheduled to work.

Each day our Union officials are talking with local, state and federal officials to provide maximum assistance for our impacted members and help communicate resources that are available to help our members during this very difficult time.
Union Pushes for Options When Boeing Production Resumes

Continued from Page 3

COVID-19 or potential exposure to COVID-19 will be paid up to 14 days (The Company has defined mandatory quarantine as direction from Boeing Health Services or other health care professionals to self-quarantine due to a probable or confirmed COVID-19 infection). However, when a safe and effective vaccine becomes available, Medicare beneficiaries will be able to get it through their Part B coverage at no cost.

• Prescription Refills for More than a Month. The recently passed CARES Act requires Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (Part D) to allow prescriptions and refills for covered drugs for up to 3 months.

• Telehealth. Seniors and others at heightened risk of serious illness from COVID-19 are advised to stay at home and limit travel, including to doctors’ offices where there is an increased risk of exposure to COVID-19. Telehealth services are very important during this time because it is a way to access your doctor and get the care you need without leaving your home. Congress has recently expanded Medicare telehealth options for beneficiaries and providers because of the public health emergency.

• You can use Medicare telehealth whether you have COVID-19 or not.

• Deductibles and coinsurance apply to telehealth visits as they would for an in-person visit.

• Call your primary provider to see how telehealth virtual check-ins and other services would work for you.


Retirement News

751 Retirement Club Legislative Report

By CARL SCHWARTZ Retiree Legislative Chair

Although our Retirement Club meetings for March and April have been cancelled due to the coronavirus social distancing recommendations, the concerns and work of our legislative efforts continues. Before our State Legislature completed its 2020 session, it took the COVID-19 health crisis extremely seriously by appropriating $200 million to fund our state’s response to the coronavirus outbreak, including monitoring, testing and support for local health departments.

Many bills were enacted that concern our members, especially regarding insulin and other prescription drugs. Senator Karen Keiser (D-Des Moines) introduced three bills around drug prices that will impact drug affordability.

SB 6087 will cap out-of-pocket costs to patients for insulin at $100. SB 6088 will establish a prescription drug affordability board that will review prices and support the democratic process that resulted in the IAM endorsing our candidates. SB 6089 will establish a vehicle for the governor to sign. However, this policy was incorporated into the approved budget for use by the state to purchase childhood vaccines, did not pass. However, when a safe and effective vaccine becomes available, Medicare beneficiaries will be able to get it through their Part B coverage at no cost.

• Lab Tests for COVID-19. Medicare and Medicare Advantage must cover lab tests for COVID-19 at no out-of-pocket cost to you.

• Vaccine to Protect Against COVID-19. Currently, there is no vaccine for COVID-19 and no one has immunity to the virus. However, when a safe and effective vaccine becomes available, Medicare beneficiaries will be able to get it through their Part B coverage at no cost.

• Prescription Refills for More than a Month. The recently passed CARES Act requires Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (Part D) to allow prescriptions and refills for covered drugs for up to 3 months.

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• You can use Medicare telehealth whether you have COVID-19 or not.

• Deductibles and coinsurance apply to telehealth visits as they would for an in-person visit.

• Call your primary provider to see how telehealth virtual check-ins and other services would work for you.


751 Retirement Club meetings for April are cancelled. NOTE: With cancellation of March 751 Retirement Club Meeting due to COVID-19 virus, there are no Retirement Club business meeting minutes to print.
Talking Current Issues at Triumph

For members at Triumph Composites in Spokane, their contract expire on May 11, and the end of a four-year agreement ratified after our strike in 2016. Due to the COVID-19 virus, we are looking for options agreeable to both parties in order to meet our bargaining obligation prior to expiration of the contract.

Members have been meeting (prior to Governor’s ban on gatherings) to discuss the issues important to them, ways to maintain solidarity and actions they can take to put themselves in the best position possible to negotiate improvements to their bargaining agreement.

District President Jon Holden and Business Rep Steve Warren spoke candidly and discussed the issues, our members face today at the meetings on March 12th. Members appreciated having top District leadership at the meetings. All attending reinforced that the strength and power of family members taking pride in our solidarity.

Our members at Triumph have weathered the ups and downs of the aerospace industry and with solidarity, we will prevail in the challenges ahead.

Free Online College for IAM Members and Their Family

One of the most unique benefits of IAM union membership is our free two-year online college program—just not for IAM members, but for family members as well. And “family member” extends a long way to include spouse, children, stepchildren, children-in-law, dependents, grandchildren, siblings, parents and grandparents. It is also available to families of retired members.

Our members who have taken advantage of this program are all pleasantly surprised that the classes really are totally free, easy to enroll in, and work around even the busiest of lifestyles.

During these times of self-quarantine and the COVID-19 outbreak, this free online college might be the perfect option for many family members looking to get additional schooling.

Member Link Daukei has been a proud union member since he hired into Boeing in 1997. As a mechanic in Everett, he utilized our rich contractual education benefits earlier in his career and started a side business he still runs in his free time.

When he saw the flyer for free college for IAM family members, he was intrigued. His children were grown and already in established careers. However, his granddaughter, Briana ‘Bri’ Vilmure, lived in Missouri and was in high school with college in her near future. He forwarded the information to her and now she is one of several hundred members who are participating in this program.

Bri Vilmure, granddaughter of 751 member Link Daukei, has utilized the free online college for IAM family members. She lives in Missouri and is completing her two-year program this summer at no cost to her.

“Every week there are a couple discussion boards,” Bri said. “The professor asks questions and you respond to two other classmates and get to hear what they are saying and a different insight into the same topic.”

The format condenses 16-weeks of content into 8-weeks, which keeps the learning fast paced and moving. But there is more to this college than simply online classes. This program also provides free tutoring, counselors to help you determine what you want to study and also sends emails throughout the course to help you stay on track.

For many members or retirees who have children or grandchildren, who just graduated from high school but are unsure what they want to pursue, this free online degree is the perfect transition after high school. A person can try several fields of study or change their focus without worrying about the cost or feeling like they wasted money. It is also good if someone syllabus from a career change or is preparing to return to the workforce, because it is free, you can try several potential fields.

Members from across the state are enrolling their family into this program, including members working at JBLM, NAS Whidbey, UPS in Rentashee, ASC Machine Tools, Big B’s Truck Repair, Triumph Composites and Boeing.

To take advantage of this unique union benefit or to learn more about the program, visit freecollege.goiam.org. The program is now enrolling for summer classes starting June 1st, 2020.

Tell Congress to Support the End Outsourcing Act

The IAM has sent letters to Senators and members of the U.S. House of Representatives urging them to support the End Outsourcing Act (H.R. 6121, S. 3425). Members should ask Senators and House Representative to cosponsor the legislation to support the End Outsourcing Act (visit IAM751.org/takeaction for a link in email).

This important legislation, introduced by Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI) and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), would utilize the tax code as well as federal grants and loan contracting to stop the rampant outsourcing of U.S. jobs to foreign nations and help bring these jobs back on to U.S. soil. Protecting U.S. jobs is an increasingly important issue as the nation weathered the economic impacts of the COVID-19, a pandemic that has already resulted in many job losses.

“For far too long, U.S. businesses have been free to outsource U.S. jobs to low-cost, low-wage nations in search of ever-increasing cost reductions and short-term profits,” said IAM International President Robert Martinez Jr. wrote. “It is estimated, based on Trade Adjustment Assistance certifications, that nearly 200,000 U.S. jobs were outsourced in the first two years of the Trump administration alone.”

In addition to changing the tax code to make outsourcing less attractive, the legislation would punish outsourcing employers and encourage federal contracts, grants and loans by establishing a negative preference of at least 10% for employers who have outsourced in the previous three years.

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Our union offers a Free College Benefit to ALL Machinists Union members, retirees and their families. Currently, this online college allows you and your family members to earn an associate degree free of charge from Eastern Gateway Community College. The two year degree is transferable to a four-year degree.

This free benefit is open to members in good standing, retirees and their families (defined as spouse, children, stepchildren, children-in-law, dependents, grandchildren, parents and even siblings). Potential students’ membership will be verified by the union.


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