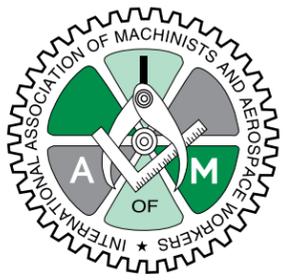


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EVERGREEN LEADER

The Voice of I.A.M. & A.W. District 160 in Western Washington and Alaska

Vol. No. 56



March 2017

DIRECTING BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

We Need to Bring Back Not Just Jobs, But *Union* Jobs

Recently, President Trump addressed a joint session of Congress and the nation. It would be a very small minority of people who would agree with everything the President said in his address. I am sure you like most could easily find an area where you disagree with the President. I hope you can also find some subjects where you agree with the President.



Dan Morgan

President Trump has made his position clear regarding trade issues and his goal of returning jobs to the United States from overseas. I find myself in agreement with these goals; however, the President stopped short by not stating these jobs that left the USA were, in large part, union jobs that provided middleclass wages and lifestyles. It was unions that provided the collective strength to lift these jobs from providing a mere existence to a middle class living wage.

Unions are about a simple proposition: By joining together, working women and men gain strength in numbers so they can have a voice at work. They negotiate a contract with their employer for things like a fair and safe workplace, better wages, a secure retirement and family-friendly policies such as paid sick leave and scheduling hours. They have a voice in how their jobs get done, creating a more stable, productive workforce that provides better services and products. Always adapting to the challenges of our nation's evolving workforce, unions are meeting the needs of workers in today's flexible and nontraditional work environments. Because no matter what type of job workers are in, by building power in unions, they can speak out for fairness for all working people in their communities and create better standards and a strong middle class across the country.

More than 79 percent of union workers have jobs that provide health insurance benefits, but less than half of nonunion workers do. Unions help employers create a more stable, productive workforce—where workers have a say in improving their jobs.

Collective bargaining is the process in which working people, through their unions, negotiate contracts with their employers to determine their terms of employment, including pay, benefits, hours, leave, job health and safety policies, ways to balance work and family and more. Collective bargaining is a way to solve workplace problems.

The United States has long lagged behind other industrialized nations in collective bargaining coverage for public and private sector workers. Yet the right to collectively bargain is essential so that working men and women have the strength to improve their living standards, provide for their families and build a strong middle class.

Training programs and apprenticeships are at the heart of unions' efforts to ensure that working men and women have a voice in our country's ever-changing economy. Every year, the labor movement trains more than 450,000 workers. Through union apprenticeship programs, individuals gain life-changing skills to do high-quality work and get solid, middle-class jobs—often in new industries with cutting-edge green technology. We also harness public workforce resources to help working people gain access to training opportunities and overcome the challenges of losing a job. And along with employers who are willing to work together to share the benefits as well as the costs, we spearhead partnerships that lead to improved job satisfaction for workers, high productivity for employers and a top-notch, skilled workforce.

IAM District 160 Shop Steward Training Seminar June 3rd – Sign Up Now!

District 160 will be holding a Shop Steward training seminar at the Seattle Union Hall (ground floor), 9135 15th Place South, on Saturday, June 3rd, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

This seminar is free and all interested parties are encouraged to attend this valuable training. You do not need to be a shop steward to attend.

The training seminar will go from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Coffee and donuts will be served in the morning, and lunch will be provided.

You must RSVP by Friday, May 19th to attend this seminar.

Contact Ginger (ginger@iam160.com) to reserve your spot. Be sure to include:

- Your name and phone number
 - Shop where you are working
- See you there!



Shop Steward Training
When: Saturday, June 3, 2017
Where: District 160 Union Hall
9135 15th Place S., Seattle
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Register by: Friday, May 19th

A past District 160 shop steward training seminar. You don't have to be a shop steward to attend.



Pictured receiving his Certificate of Completion is (left) Brendan Hirtle from his employer (right) Dick Boehm, MARCO Global.

Apprentice Completes Machinists Joint Apprenticeship Program

MARCO Global's Dick Boehm who is also a member of the Seattle Machinists Joint Apprenticeship Committee recently presented Brendan Hirtle his Certificate of Completion as a journey-level Machinist.

Brendan completed his apprenticeship of 7,424 hours in accordance with the standards of the trade as approved by the Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council and completed the required hours of related supplemental instruction.

"We are all very proud of the accomplishments and work ethic Brendan has shown while working through this program."

19th Annual Run For The Dogs

Saturday, July 22, 2017

Motorcycle Poker Run & Classic Car Show

- \$750 Grand Prize
- \$250 2nd Prize
- \$25 suggested registration

For information, flyer or registration/waiver forms, visit www.iam160.org/2017runforthedogs.html or email ron@iam160.com

Sponsored in part by IAM District 160

LOCAL LODGE 79 NOTIFICATION

Hope Lodge 79 members will be voting on a bylaw change at their April General Membership meeting:

Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: Union Hall (ground floor)

9135 15th Place S.

Seattle, WA 98108

Please make every effort to attend this important meeting!

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LOCAL LODGE MEETING NOTICES

LODGE 79 - SEATTLE

Regular Lodge Meeting – 5 p.m., 3rd Wednesday, 751 Meeting Hall, 9135 15th Place South, Seattle.

Executive Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m., the Monday preceding the regular lodge meeting (3rd Wednesday). District 160 Conference Room, 9135 – 15th Place South, Seattle.

LODGE 130 - EVERETT

Regular Lodge Meeting – 7 p.m., 2nd Thursday, Labor Temple, 2810 Lombard, Everett.

LODGE 282 - BREMERTON

Regular Lodge Meeting – 5:00 p.m., 3rd Wednesday, 822 Park Avenue, Bremerton.

Executive Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m., 3rd Tuesday, 822 Park Avenue, Bremerton

Local 282 Whidbey Island – 4:45 p.m., 2nd Wednesday, NAS Whidbey Island.

LODGE 289 - SEATTLE

Regular Lodge Meeting – 6:30 p.m., 1st Wednesday, 751 Meeting Hall, 9135 15th Place South, Seattle.

Shop Stewards' Meeting – 6:00 p.m., 3rd Thursday, District 160 Conference Room, 9135 15th Place South, Seattle.

Executive Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m., 1st Wednesday, District 160 Conference Room, 9135 15th Place South, Seattle.

LODGE 297 - TACOMA

Regular Lodge Meeting – 6:00 p.m., 1st Thursday, Firefighters Hall, 1109 South 50th Street, Tacoma.

Executive Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m., Tuesday preceding the Regular Lodge Meeting (1st Thursday), 2121 70th Ave. W., Suite A, University Place, WA.

Retirees' Club Meeting – All Local 297 retirees are invited to attend meetings the 3rd Tuesday of month, 9 a.m. at Tower Inn & Lanes Bowling Center, 6323 – 6th Ave., Tacoma. Breakfast followed by meeting. Occasional bus trips and potlucks. Join us!

LODGE 695 - OLYMPIA

Regular Lodge Meeting – 7 p.m., 2nd Wednesday, Labor Temple, 1191/2 North Capitol Way, Olympia.

LODGE 1690 - ANCHORAGE

Regular Lodge Meeting – 5:30 p.m., 2nd Wednesday at the Union Hall, 701 W. 41st, Suite 202, Anchorage.

LODGE 2379

Regular Lodge Meeting – 7:00 p.m., 1st Thursday, Lodge office, 2064 Vista Dr., Ferndale.

Executive Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m., first Thursday, Lodge office, 2064 Vista Dr., Ferndale.

DISTRICT 160 RETIREES CLUB

10:00 a.m., 1st Tuesday, 751 Meeting Hall, 9135 15th Pl. S., Seattle

EVERGREEN LEADER

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Directed by D.B.R. Dan Morgan

ORGANIZING REPORT

By Alfredo Silva

As we begin the winter thaw and transition into spring, I would like to inform you of some of the latest news from organizing and other related news. 2016 was a good year for organizing in District 160, as companies continue to profit and continue to treat their employees as commodities and not people, people will continue to seek us out to provide justice on the job.

Overall numbers of newly organized members was over 130, which gave the District third place in organizing in the Western Territory.

Also there was a new report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics for 2016. Below is some of that report.

Union members in 2016 earned 25 percent higher wages than their non-union counterparts, new data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows.

The same report also showed that union membership in Washington State grew again in 2016, and is up by 10 percent over the past two years.

An estimated 539,000 Washington state residents belonged to labor unions in 2016, a new report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows, and an increase of 39,000 from the previous year. Although union membership levels dropped nationally as Republican state lawmakers passed more union-busting “right-to-work” laws, union membership rose in many free-bargaining states like Washington, where the union membership level increased from to 16.8 percent in 2015 to 17.4 percent last year.

With its 17.4 percent union membership rate, Washington is now the 5th most unionized state in the nation, behind New York (23.6), Hawaii (19.9), Alaska (18.5), and Connecticut (17.5). But the national membership rate is now just 10.7 percent, driven down by so-called “right-to-work” states like South Carolina (1.6), North Carolina (3.0), Arkansas (3.9), and Louisiana (4.2).

Right-to-work laws ban unions and employers from agreeing to union-security clauses that require everyone covered by the contract to pay a fair-share representation fee. These laws, which have racist origins, promote “free riders” who pay nothing

but still require the union to represent everyone, regardless of whether they pay a fee. (It's like allowing people to opt out of paying taxes but still getting to benefit from government services.) Right-to-work laws weaken unions financially, make it much harder to organize workplaces and negotiate contracts, and result in those states having lower wages.

In addition to earning higher wages, another federal report recently showed that union members are far more likely to have employer-provided retirement and health care benefits than their nonunion counterparts.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics found:

– 95 percent of union workers had the option of an employer-sponsored health care plan, compared to 69 percent of non-union workers;

– 94 percent of union workers had the option of an employer-sponsored retirement plan, compared to 65 percent of nonunion workers; and

– 93 percent of union workers had the option of an employee-sponsored prescription drug insurance, compared to 67 percent of nonunion workers.

In addition, the quality of the benefits provided to union workers typically was better, the data showed. For example, workers were expected to contribute 19 percent toward the cost of the family's health care under union-negotiated benefits plans, while nonunion workers were forced to shell out 35 percent of the cost, which represents an 84 percent increase in out-of-pocket costs.

As union members we know and appreciate the rights that we have and we try to expand them every negotiation, shouldn't we also want this for our families, friends and neighbors, no one should have to work in fear. We as union members can make a difference in others people's lives, helping them organize their workplace and helping them to succeed as other have done for us, helping to educate our communities in the value of working with the protections of a contract.

So if you have any leads or if you know anyone that needs a better workplace, better benefits, please refer them to me and we will help them achieve it.



DISTRICT 160 OFFICERS & STAFF

President
Tom Burke

Vice President
John Gehringer

Secretary-Treasurer
John Decker

Sgt. at Arms
Jeff Eberle

Trustees
Bruce Baillie
Agustin Galindo
Don Zeth

Directing Business Representative
Dan Morgan

Assistant Directing Business Representative
Greg Heidal

Business Representatives

Melody Coffman
Glenn Farmer
Greg Heidal

Brandon Hemming
Paul Miller

Bobby Joe Murray
Bob Westbrook

Organizer
Alfredo Silva

RETIREES

Local Lodge 282

Rowland, Mark Murray Motors 12/31/2016

Local Lodge 289

Anglin, Michael SSA Terminals 12/31/2016

Baily, Steven SSA Terminals 12/31/2016

Bills, Lane City of Seattle 12/31/2016

Cook, William SSA Terminals 12/31/2016

Hanson, Theodore SSA Terminals 12/31/2016

Modestowicz, William Kenworth Truck Co. 12/31/2016

Local Lodge 297

Coons, Christopher Milam Oldsmobile 1/31/2017

Johnson, Richard City of Tacoma 11/30/2016

Local Lodge 695

Vizena, James Vaughan Company 12/31/2016

Local Lodge 2379

Arballo, Charles Alcoa Intalco Works 12/31/2016

Assink, Larry Alcoa Intalco Works 1/31/2017

Engler, Larry Alcoa Intalco Works 1/31/2017

Erickson, Greg Alcoa Intalco Works 1/31/2017

Maas, Wilfred Alcoa Intalco Works 1/31/2017

Paxton, Steve Alcoa Intalco Works 12/31/2016

IN MEMORIAM

Local Lodge 79

Mauk, William 2/17/2017

Miller, Sr., Dave 1/29/2017

Local Lodge 130

Andersson, Erik 4/15/2016

McCourt, Michael 2/12/2017

Local Lodge 282

Rudolph, Eric 1/11/2017

Local Lodge 289

Bowd, Kevin 2/8/2017

Decalso, Eric 12/21/2016

Krall, Vincent 12/18/2016

Otten, Joseph 2/9/2017

Rogers, Robert V. 10/29/2016

Local Lodge 297

Eckhart, Ronald 1/20/2017

Goldade, Frank 1/21/2017

Local Lodge 695

Edwards, Ernie 2/6/2017

Huff, Kenneth 1/29/2017

Local Lodge 2379

Maas, Wilfred 2/17/2017

DISTRICT 160 RETIREE NEWS

By Art Boulton

Since the election in November, I believe that we have seen a record number of protest marches around the United States from New York to San Francisco, Los Angeles to Miami to Seattle, with many cities and towns in between. It is not just a few large marches but many large and small marches all over the country protesting a variety of issues.

The protests during the Congressional recess at the end of February, 2017 were more focused on healthcare. Those Senators and members of Congress who favor rolling back the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, and Medicare benefits were faced with fierce protests in their home districts. Some politicians have claimed the protestors were disgruntled people, paid protestors or "whatever!" If they discount these protestors, however, they may be putting their political career in jeopardy. The number one

priority for politicians is to get reelected.

I believe these protests will continue as spring is just around the corner and the weather is warmer. These issues are too important to many Americans. In a news release by the Alliance for Retired Americans, it quotes House Speaker Paul Ryan recently saying that "legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act as well as cut Medicare and Medicaid will be introduced as soon as Congress returns to Washington.

Another way to influence your Senators or Congresspersons is by writing them a letter or sending them an email advocating no cuts to Affordable Care Act, Medicare or Medicaid. These communications carry weight with the Senators and Congresspersons!

The meetings of the District 160 Retiree's Club are on the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. in a hall on the ground level of the Machinists building, 9135 15th Place South, Seattle. Come and bring your spouse or a friend.

Rallying Against Right-to-Work



Union members rally against "Right-To-Work" in Olympia on February 8th. (L to R): Dan Suafoa (LL 2202), Larry Thompson, Alfredo Silva, Ron Harrell (District 160) and Kaleb Rosa (LL 2202).

Washington workers in Olympia: HANDS OFF OUR UNIONS!

In the end, more than 1,100 people signed in opposed to SB 5692. Just one person supported it.

More than 1,000 union members and supporters, most of them members of building and construction trades unions from around the state, swarmed the State Capitol to voice their objection to SB 5692, legislation to make Washington a "Right-to-Work" state.

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

By Greg Heidal, ADBR

Negotiations with Vigor Shipyard have become interesting to the point of frustration. The company claims they cannot continue until they have had an opportunity to meet with the pension trustees to see if they can get some sort of relief due to the withdraw liability driven by the market correction of 2008. I happen to sit on the Automotive Pension Trust and so I have an understanding of what the trustees' responsibilities are.

First, the trustees' responsibilities are to make sure the Trust is following all the applicable rules, regulations and laws. We hire the best investment consultant we can to give direction on the managers we hire to invest the Trust's assets. We work with an actuarial firm to verify the returns and that the rehabilitation plan is on track. We also employ legal counsel to keep us on the straight and narrow.

That brings me to the fact that we cannot take a single employer and adjust any part of the Trust to accommodate their particular needs or concerns. That being said,

it has been incredibly difficult negotiations ever since the pension plans adopted the rehabilitation schedules that they have. So we will continue with these negotiations until completed.

We are negotiating with Puglia Engineering at this time and hope to have a new contract completed in March. Crown Cork and Seal's contract is up in March also. We have completed local negotiations and will negotiate the master contract the week of March 20th. Next up is Pacific Ship Repair, followed by Foss Maritime.

We continue to work on several terminations at multiple companies. For some reason we continue to have grievances filed at several companies that have had changes to management, and there is always a learning curve on both sides as we move forward.

I have attached some interesting statistics from the AFL-CIO website for your information:

States with Right-to-Work Laws Have Lower Wages and Incomes

- On average, workers in states with right-

to-work laws make \$6,109 a year (12.1%) less annually than workers in other states.

- Median household income in states with these laws is \$8,174 (13.9%) less than in other states (\$50,712 vs. \$58,886).

- 29.6 percent of jobs in right to work states were in low-wage occupations, compared with 22.8% of jobs in other states.

States with Right to Work Laws Have Lower Rates of Health Insurance Coverage

- People under the age of 65 in states with right to work laws are more likely to be uninsured (13.0%, compared with 9.4% in free-bargaining states).

- Only 47% of private-sector employers in states with these laws offer insurance coverage to their employees, compared with 52.2% in other states. That difference is even more pronounced among employers with fewer than 50 workers: only 30.1% offer health insurance compared with 38.1% of small employers in other states.

- Workers in right to work states also pay a larger share of their health insurance

premiums, on average, than those in free-bargaining states (28.5% of the premium compared with 25.4% in free-bargaining states).

States with Right-to-Work Laws Have Higher Poverty and Infant Mortality Rates

- Poverty rates are higher in states with right to work laws (15.3% overall and 21.4% for children), compared with poverty rates of 12.8% overall and 18.0% for children in states without these laws.

- The infant mortality rate is 12.4% higher in states with right to work laws.

States with Right to Work Laws Invest Less in Education

- States with right-to-work laws spend 32.5% less per pupil on elementary and secondary education than other states.

States with Right to Work Laws Have Higher Workplace Fatality Rates

The rate of workplace deaths is 49% higher in states with right to work laws, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



By Bob Westbrook

It is good to see winter coming to an end but uncertainty hangs in the air as we continue into 2017 with a White House that seems unpredictable. Predictability or unpredictability shouldn't stop us from enjoining others to keep up the fight to ensure fair wages and benefits and safety on the job even as the 115th Congress will most likely pass a National Right-to-Work Act. It is very probable that President Trump will sign the act into the law of the land. Since 1947 the Taft-Hartley act allowed individual

states to pass Right-to-Work (RTW) legislation thus weakening Union density in the country over time as more and states have become RTW. A National RTW law would further weaken Union power if passed. The result will be lessened ability of Unions to represent the interests of the working class.

H.R. 785 (National Right-to-Work Act) was referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on February 1, 2017. The bill itself would amend the

National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 157) and the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. 152). This would create a similar situation that exists in the Federal sector under the Federal Labor Relations Act. Those trusty souls who work hard to represent Federal employees know how difficult it is to

represent workers who want the privilege of being represented by a Union without supporting the Union economically. Numbers of dues-paying members also mean something significant to company management when the Union negotiates collective bargaining agreements. If those numbers drop significantly there is less leverage and power at the table and that gets mirrored in weak collective bargaining agreements, lower wages and lower benefits.

The effect of RTW, according to the Economic Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank, is that workers in RTW states have lower wages and are less likely to have employer-sponsored insurance and pension plans. One way to know whether something is good or bad for working people is to look



at the types of individuals or organizations backing the effort for a RTW law. So, who's behind RTW? ALEC for one. ALEC is a conservative group backed by corporate special interests that has become very influential with state legislatures. The irony is that while they are proponents of giving corporations a voice and a vote they work to rob workers of theirs. ALEC's leadership and membership includes executives from corporations like Walmart that are notorious for their low wages and anti-worker practices.

Other supporters of RTW are the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, which is the nation's most powerful lobbying group that has made RTW its top priority. They, with their state affiliates, issue misleading reports to advance RTW legislation across the nation. I've heard of a ploy that if you asked to join the Chamber of Commerce but tell them you don't want to pay their dues they would laugh in your face. Paying dues comes with any organization that represents a special interest and when you join you pay as you go. Unfortunately, they don't represent the special interest of the working

class. In addition to the Chamber of Commerce corporations are behind RTW as well as supporters of Citizens United that allows them to funnel millions of dollars to influence elections and policy without disclosure. Donors to organizations that support RTW enjoy anonymity as they overspend the combined contributions of union members to thwart any progress of the working class as a result of Citizens United.

I hate to end an article with such a negative outlook but what we face has been coming for decades as union membership has declined through RTW legislation. We are now in a pitiable state with a billionaire President who has surrounded himself with a cabinet of billionaires and a Congress that has been put in place by billionaires (Koch brothers for one) who have bought their representation at the expense of the American people. If there is a silver lining maybe it is that voters wake up, get behind politicians who support our cause of fairness in the workplace and, ultimately, in public life and join and support Unions in spite of RTW legislation. The latter would speak volumes. UNITE!

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

By Bobby Joe Murray

Organizing is the lifeblood of any organization and ours is no exception. Our International has preached that organizing is priority 1 for as long as I can remember. This has never been more important than right now. Although union membership levels dropped nationally as Republican state lawmakers passed more union-busting "right-to-work" laws, union membership rose in many free-bargaining states like Washington, where the union membership level increased from 16.8 percent in 2015 to 17.4 percent last year. A new report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows an estimated 539,000 Washington state residents belonged to labor unions in 2016, an increase of 39,000 from the previous year.

"Union growth in Washington State is good for everyone," said Jeff Johnson, President of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO. "Union members earn more, spend more in their communities, and lift working standards for all of us. Polls and surveys show that people want to join unions. These numbers demonstrate that, unless they are hindered by outdated or hostile labor laws, people will stand together and form unions."

Right-to-work laws ban unions and employers from agreeing to union-security clauses that require everyone covered by the contract to pay a fair-share representation fee. These laws, which have racist origins, promote "free rid-



ers" who pay nothing but still require the union to represent everyone, regardless of whether they pay a fee. (It's like allowing people to opt out of paying taxes but still getting to benefit from government services.)

We have been fortunate here in this state that while a right-to-work bill is introduced seemingly every legislative session, there have not been the votes to pass it into law. This could change in the future if we are not cognizant of who is voted in. Already we see this same thing happening at the Federal level. As this new regime takes control of our government one of the first things to take place was a National Right-to-Work bill being introduced in Congress. With both the Senate and the House controlled by the Republicans and a President who seems to have no control this is a serious threat to working men and women. We know that Business would like nothing better than to render the Labor movement extinct and with their lackeys in charge, this is their opportunity.

My hope is that as they destroy our American way of life and push their corporate agenda, that more and more working people will find the strength to stand up and demand a voice. So educate yourself, your family, your co-worker, your neighbor. Remind them that America was at its best when Unions were at their strongest. Let's build our strength by building our membership. Hey, I have an idea: Let's co-opt the slogan so many have bought into and "Make Unions Great Again!"

By Paul Miller

I hit this year running and had a couple of good contract tentative agreements right out of the gate. The first was the City of Tacoma on January 5th. We were only 5 days past expiration when we reached agreement. Any of you in the public sector know it's uncommon to get City and County contracts done before they expire. Sometimes it can take 2 years or more after expiration to get them wrapped up. We did start a little over a year early which obviously helped. I set a new personal record with this contract. We started negotiations on January 4th at 10:00 a.m. and continued through until 2:30 a.m. on January 5th. Unfortunately we didn't quite get there so we came back at noon on the 5th and negotiated for another 5 hours or so before we were done. This was the first time I ever negotiated into the next day. It was a very good experience but both sides were definitely getting tired when we got past midnight. The second tentative agreement was with Con Global. The Union worked very diligently to complete the new agreement before it expired. Unfortunately the company wasn't as motivated as we were so it wasn't until the 17th of January when we reached agreement. Both of these contracts have been ratified by our membership.

Last summer I was appointed as a trustee for the Automotive Machinist Pension plan. I have a few training conferences lined up for this year. I've al-



ready learned a lot but I'm very excited about this upcoming training. I take this appointment very seriously and I will do everything I can to protect the future of the plan participants. I will work to schedule some informational meetings at a few of our local lodge meetings a bit later this year after the pension update comes out.

I continue working on the machinist apprenticeship committee. A little over a year ago we moved our related training classes from Renton Technical College to South Seattle College. The move has been a good one.

There are obviously going to be a few hiccups with moving a program. However, South Seattle College staff has been great to work with and very responsive when these issues come up. It also appears we have been accepted to the American Apprenticeship Initiative (AAI) grant. This grant will help the program draw more training agents, increase our numbers and assist apprentices with their needs. I'm looking forward to the opportunities that come with this grant. For our apprentices, keep up the good work and remember, the committee is here to help you if you need us.

I have quite a few contracts coming up for negotiations this year. It's definitely not as many as last year so I will have a bit more time to visit with you in your shops. If you want to schedule a shop visit with me so I can be there at a time when the most members will be there please contact me and we'll get it set up. Otherwise, I'll just stop by. Until the next edition, I wish you all the best!

By Brandon Hemming

At this point all labor unionists should be acquainted with the deceptive phrase, "Right-to-Work." Simply put, right-to-work laws give workers the option to stop supporting unions while still enjoying the benefits of representation. Under US labor law, a union must represent all the employees in a workplace it has organized, even the individuals that don't want to be in the union or otherwise abstain from union participation.

We as union activists argue that it is only fair that all employees who benefit from representation should contribute money to help cover the cost of providing those benefits. Whether from a general wage increase guaranteed by a collective bargaining agreement or individual representation provided by a union rep in a disciplinary hearing, union action often takes considerable amounts of time and resources in preparation and execution.

Right-to-work laws essentially make our model of paying "your fair share" illegal, allowing workers to opt out of paying fees to the union that will have to represent them anyway. Supporters of these ludicrous laws argue that no employee should be required to support a union, even if it bargains on their behalf. It should be blatantly obvious that this is a tactic not to give workers more rights, but to strip power away from them by dismantling their unions. If you look, you will find that historically society's support for labor ebbs and flows in a cyclical pattern. When perception dictates that labor, as a movement, has too much power because of positive strides made in the realms of worker



safety, living wages, and pro-worker legislation, there is an immediate swell that rises to take it away. Usually led by Republican lawmakers who are funded by business groups, this wave continues to build until society is satisfied with the punishment that labor has suffered and finally removes its foot from our necks, allowing us once again to rebuild.

There is no better example of this swell than the current push for national right-to-work legislation. While Trump pretends to play nice by posing for pictures with the leadership of certain unions, he doesn't hesitate to show his support for right-to-work.

"I love right-to-work," he commented "it's better for the people. You are not paying the big fees to the unions."

Twenty-seven states are now right-to-work states. Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, West Virginia and Kentucky have all become right-to-work since 2012, with Missouri and New Hampshire soon to follow. With the union-dense coastal states not likely to pass their own right-to-work laws, the passage of a national right-to-work bill would make it law for all states.

Where many have said that a national right-to-work bill would not be the final nail in labor's coffin, it would certainly be a decisive blow diminishing the resources of the few who support the many. Fighting right-to-work legislation should be seen as an imperative to all labor activists. Once again a politician is operating with the support of society to strip the benefits of those who work hard to create so many things that have and will continue to make our country great. FIGHT!

By Glenn Farmer

Recently I attended a demonstration at the USA/CND border in response to the failed immigration ban. Ill thought and clumsily administered as it was, it spawned an incredible response throughout the US and in many parts of the world. I'm sure we all responded to this in our own way filtered through our own fears (or lack of them), our history, our education, our experience. But the message was clear..... this is not who we are.

Immigration is good. Immigration from all cultures and countries is good. From the waves of Italian, African, Irish, German, Mexican, etc. we have gained valuable contributions. It has enriched our country. My own family arrived in New England in the early 1600's. Lodowick and his wife had twelve children. We were an industrious bunch and spread to Texas, Illinois, Ohio, and the various Southern states.

In the days following the demonstration at Peace Arch Park, I had four separate and notable interactions with immigrants, some very recent, some more long term. There is an immigration office in the same building as one of my shops. On one visit, a lady from Germany asked me where the office was to which I responded, follow me. She looked me right in the eye and said "I won't follow you, I will walk with you"



in a heavy German accented English. At first taken back, I smiled and said fair enough, and we walked into the building.

Visiting the Cabela's knife counter a few days later, I had a discussion with a young lady who had emigrated from the Ukraine five years ago. She described her new life raising a family and expressed great gratitude for being in the United States.

In Everett I talked with my server at a Thai Restaurant. She has been here over ten years and is starting a second restaurant.

Back in Blaine the next week, and heading into my shop, I passed a couple was on their way to the Immigration Attorney's Office. The man dropped some papers. The skies were heavily clouded threatening another storm, and the wind blew hard. As I helped him gather the papers, I complained a bit about the weather. He looked into the sky and raised his hands exclaiming how wonderful it was to be here, and the weather did not matter. As his wife looked on, a little embarrassed about his enthusiasm, he expressed his gratitude for being in this country. He had worked long and hard to get here.

I could not have choreographed these messages any better. I'm glad they're here. I hope they bring their friends and family and join us. And you know, they might need some representation in the workplace. I'd be glad to help with that....