

The Union Voice

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International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers
Local Lodge 733, District Lodge 70
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Time To Step Up and Union Up

By Tim Franta President LL733

Union Brothers and Sisters, once again summer is upon us. I hope everyone is enjoying the warm summer weather and getting outside having a little fun. But I also hope you are remembering that we are only a little over one year away from voting on our next contract. This is a very serious moment in our Union's history here at this company, a pivotal turning point if you will.

I hope everyone has started holding back savings for this cause, and if you haven't, I stress to please consider doing so now. If you start saving \$30.00 a week, you will accumulate over \$1500.00 by the time the contract vote rolls around. That will be money you can use to pay your bills or feed your family if this company forces us to strike again. Given the current economic situation and evolution of the global manufacturing market, chances of a strike couldn't be higher.

We can hope for the best, but we need to be prepared and ready for the worst. Let's face it, it's no secret the company is intensifying their efforts to outsource our jobs to Mexico. We must come together as one and take this company on. If we don't do it now, we may never get this chance again. We must intensify our organizing efforts. Building a stronger Union within this company leads to a better chance of livelihood for your family, and it also ensures your right to power within the workplace. If we fail to pull together for this contract, none of these things may matter. We may not have any jobs to return to. It could just be a matter of time before most of our jobs are gone for good.

Folks tend to overlook our benefits, much like some people overlook the reason to join the union. We all enjoy Union negotiated wages and benefits.

We all need to support the organization directly tied to those good wages and benefits, and that is our LL733 Union. This is something we must make sure all of the hourly workers understand. We need to get the message out that if you enjoy what you have now, step up to the plate and help support it, before we all lose it. Now is the time for ALL OF US to UNITE. We all know that the upcoming negotiations will be tough. We all know the company will try and make changes we can not accept or absolutely will not accept. If someone you know isn't in the union, gently but firmly vocalize these matter to them. Let them know we've got to fight and that we need their help. Sure, they may want to keep their money and not pay union dues, but they won't have any money to keep if the company continues down the path they are on, and we need to get them thinking about that. If they don't join the union and help us fight, sooner rather than later, they will be wishing they would have paid in and helped support the only outfit that might be able to save our jobs. People cry for equality all the time. Start with being equals in the work place. It goes something like this... I pay, you pay, we are powerful and we all benefit. I pay, you don't, the Union is perceived as weak and none of us have jobs in the very near future.

So, once again, and with great emphasis, NOW is the time for us to come together to organize the unorganized and MAKE THIS UNION STRONGER. It is easy to say that the union doesn't do anything for me, or I don't need the union. What the people who say that don't see is that behind the scenes the union is continually working for you, trying to protect your jobs, and we need everyone's help. Now is the time to STEP UP and UNION UP. Spread the word and remind everyone about the advantages



of Union membership. Especially remind them about being fortunate enough to even have a job to come in to every day, because that's what this next contract is all about.

I hope the message of this article is clear. We need to sign up more members. We need to set our goals high and then surpass those goals. We need to send a powerful message to the company. If we start today, we might still be able to protect our future for tomorrow. Remember, each and every member makes the union stronger. **YOU ARE THE UNION! WE ARE THE UNION! WICHITA WORKERS MADE THIS COMPANY WHAT IT IS, NOT MEXICO! ARE YOU READY TO FIGHT FOR**

IMPORTANT UNION NOTICE

Your IAM Leadership met Wednesday morning, July 14th with HBC Management concerning the future of business and employment in the Wichita area. We are committed to keeping our membership informed concerning these very important talks.

Stay informed on what is going on by logging on to your LL website at <http://www.ll733iam.com/> to not only get the latest news. But to also follow us by clicking on the twitter link and signing up for twitter to receive SMS text messages via your phone or e-mail.

Visit us on the Web!

www.ll733iam.com

PLANT CHAIR REPORTS

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Shaun Junkins 1st Shift Plant Chair

In the month of June our grievances have dropped to an all time low. Our stewards have been doing a great job getting out there and investigating the issues and getting positive results for the membership. Great Job!!

The plant is heating up not only from the hot temperatures, but also from the Company insourcing and outsourcing our work. The Arbitration Case is scheduled for the last week of July. Rita, Steve, Stewards and the Plant Chairs have all been gathering information and putting it all together for this hearing. Rita has been working long hours in the library at the district reviewing other cases and putting this together and consulting with our Attorneys.

Again we are fighting the fight that Machinist's do best, fighting for our members rights. If there was no Union we would not be able to even talk about this. This is our right and a privilege to be part of an origination that fights for the employee's rights. We will be posting any news and updates we get to the membership as we go through this Arbitration.

Remember that we are 12 months away from our next contract vote. Make sure your savings account is ready and full of money.

In Solidarity,
Shaun Junkins

Joe Kniep 2nd Shift Plant Chair

Hi everyone! It has been a long month of June. I hope everyone came back from shutdown and the 4th of July in one piece!

On 2nd shift we, as always, are dealing the same issues. The grievance on my log that is referred to arbitration is, as most know, the grievance related to the outsourcing/insourcing of the material clerks, material handlers and the truckers within the entire company. This grievance is scheduled to be arbitrated the last week of this month, July. I know Rita has been preparing quite a bit for this case to be presented to the arbiter.

Once the arbitration is held we will communicate this with the membership and of course when we receive the answer from the arbiter we will also communicate that as well. It should be known to all that once the actual hearing is held the language in the current agreement states this in Article 8 section 8.09.01:

“The arbitrator shall render a written decision as expeditiously as practical, and the same shall be final and binding upon both parties.”

This means there isn't any real time constraints that we must receive the answer by. But as stated when we receive the answer we will communicate the decision to the membership.

We also conducted two Step 3 hearings on 2nd shift in June. One was for the holiday pay for employees that were laid off after performing work during the week of the holiday and the other was for an employee that has a hire date prior to August 5, 1996 and has been forced to an alternative 4x10 shift due to a reduction in force and bump. We are currently awaiting those 2 answers. In addition we are dealing with other reduction and bump issues.

I hope everyone has a good remainder of the month of July and will see everyone in August!

In Solidarity
Joe Kniep

Corporate America Goes Socialist!

by Jim Hightower

In the category of “Big news that has gotten little coverage,” consider this stunner: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has openly embraced socialism!

Not for you and me, of course, but for one of the world's largest and wealthiest corporations: BP. On May 27th, the Chamber's president, Tom Donohue, came out of his Leninist closet to assert his communitarian affinity for corporate socialism: “Everybody is going to contribute to this clean up,” Donohue declared. “We are all going to have to do it. We are going to have to get the money from the government and from the companies, and we will figure out a way to do that.”

What a hoot! The guy who earlier this year was screeching in horror against government health care coverage for ordinary Americans, has now flipped over to the compassionate side, demanding that those same ordinary Americans simply must “contribute” their tax dollars to clean up the disaster caused by the greed of a foreign oil corporation. Hypocrisy, thy name is Donohue! Even “Saturday Night Live” wouldn't air a skit this crude.

BP might be a British outfit, but it's also a member and major funder of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which in turn has been a major backer of deregulating Big Oil's offshore drilling schemes. Thus, it's really no surprise that Donohue's inner flower child would bloom in the midst of BP's oozing oil disaster. And don't you love his “kumbaya” sensitivity, his we're-all-in-this-together social sensibility?

Let's all sing along with Tom's heart-tugging song: “We are going to have to get the money from the government/ We will figure out a way to do that/ Kumbaya, Lord, Kumbaya.”

Adding to the hilarity, Donohue later tried to retract his socialist stand, but he only came off as a rhetorical contortionist, still leaving taxpayers on the hook for BP's mess.

—Jim Hightower is a nationally syndicated radio commentator and the bestselling author of *Swim Against the Current: Even a Dead Fish Can Go With the Flow*. For more information visit www.jimhightower.com

Be Safe and Remember Why We Celebrate the 4th of July

Well this is your sister coming at you again from the safety committee. We meet every second Wednesday of each month at 4:00 pm in the old first aid room at plant two. Come join us and give us your input on safety. How we can be safe at home as well as at work.

July, what comes to mind is fire works, the lake and sadly to say right now are the beaches which may be out of the question for some time to come. I hope and pray that the oil leak in the gulf doesn't permanently damage the coast lines of our southern states. I hope and pray it returns back to the way it was for all to enjoy. It's not just the fun in the sand but also people's livelihoods. For the fishermen or should I say fisher persons, because our brothers and sisters they need to work every day just like the rest of us. They are losing more and more money every day so let's all pray for them.

Now back to something that is not so serious and we're talking about something that is fun like pool parties and fireworks. Which can cause problems if everyone is not careful?

First get out the sunscreen if you are going to be outdoors. Please as I've said before fireworks can be great if safety comes first and of course bad things can happen for you or your family if you're not handling fireworks safely and properly.

I saw on the news there's a small town right here in Kansas which had a historical bridge that was burned down because of fire works and that's sad. Luckily one good thing was that nobody was hurt. It could as easily have been someone's house or maybe a barn if the bridge was near a farm.

Safety doesn't mean you can't have fun. Just have fun and be safe doing it. Safety means you can have more days to have fun, to be in one piece at the end of each day with all your fingers, toes and above all your eye sight. Safety also means your family and friends go home every day with all

their fingers, toes and eye sight.

Use the proper tools to light your fire works. Don't use a lighter, or if you smoke don't use your cigarette to light the fireworks. Don't use the lighter that you use to start the grill. You might be surprised at what people do in order to keep the party going at any cost.

Talking about the grill make sure the gas is off and all attachments are secured before trying to light the grill. With the meat, make sure there is no blood left on the counter and make sure the meat is fresh. A lot of people have found out that food poisoning is no fun. When lighting your grill don't wear any loose clothing that might come to close to the grill and catch on fire.

If you're at the lake or around the pool make sure the little ones have a life jacket on. Adults you should have yours on too. Even the most experienced swimmers can drown if surprised or even in some kind of freak accident. Beer and other alcoholic beverages, remember water and drinking don't mix. So if you swim respect the water. It can be fun for you, your friends and family but it only takes a split second to change fun to heart-ache.

So let's have a fun time and be safe over the Fourth of July and all during the summer so we can reflect and remember all the good times and not have any sad memories.

Most of all don't forget what our forefathers did to make us free to be able to celebrate this time. Have a Happy and Safe Fourth! God bless America! With all solidarity your sister, Linda Ligons God is good all the time all the time He is good.

OSHA Chief Urges Jailtime

The head of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) told a convention of safety engineers that monetary penalties aren't enough to make some employers show proper concern for the health and safety of their employees.

"It's an unfortunate fact that monetary penalties just aren't enough," said

Dr. David

Michaels. "We be-

lieve that nothing focuses the mind like the threat of doing time in prison, which is why we need criminal penalties for employers who are determined to gamble with their workers' lives and consider it merely a cost of doing business when a worker dies on the job."

Michaels was speaking before the American Society of Safety Engineers in Baltimore.

New Hershey Contract Comes With Job Cuts

Union workers at the Hershey Co. bit a chocolate-covered bullet in June and ratified a seven-year contract with the company that will reduce the workforce by some 400 jobs, but commits the candy maker to building a new, \$200 million facility near the Pennsylvania community.

The company said it is closing its original factory in Hershey, where 1,052 people work, but will continue operating an existing plant nearby that employs 437. The new facility will open by the end of next year, and when all is said and done the final job count will be around 1,100, according to the union.

Members of Chocolate Workers Local 464, an affiliate of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers, and Grain Millers, approved the new contract by a vote of 1,317 to 95.

The deal contains severance pay for the workers who will lose their jobs. Janitors and other workers in low-skill jobs will take a pay cut when the new facility opens; pay rates will vary for all workers depending on which facility they're working in.

Goals

Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.

—John Elliott

There is a time to let things happen and a time to make things happen. —Hugh Prather

The Assault on Public Employees

By Gerald W. McEntee

For more than a generation, America's working families have been under a constant assault from the CEO's and extraordinarily wealthy members of our society. While median incomes in the U.S. have stagnated since the mid-1970's, incomes for those in the top five percent have more than doubled. Since the beginning of our new century – and aided by record-breaking tax cuts — incomes for the top 1 percent have tripled, while working families scrape by, working harder and longer and taking home less than they deserve in pay and benefits.

The very rich once again attacked the middle-class recently, this time in U.S. News and World Report magazine. Billionaire publisher Mort Zuckerman decided to use his magazine to publish a rabid attack on public employees, the men and women who provide the services that keep our communities safe, teach our children, keep our streets paved and our water clean.

In his piece, Zuckerman would have us believe that the hunt is over and we have found the culprits who trashed America's financial health. It was our nation's librarians, corrections officers, teachers, cops and firemen who drove our economy off the cliff. Wall Street and a compliant Federal Reserve had nothing to do with it. There's really nothing more to see here; it's time to move on. Zuckerman's short-sighted assault on public employees appealed to the editors of Rupert Murdoch's Wall Street Journal, who decided to republish it on their op-ed page. The billionaires are happy to amplify their anti-worker screeds in each other's media empires.

Mort Zuckerman is one of the world's wealthiest men. While never once mentioning the reprehensible behavior of the investment and bank-

ing community in causing an economic collapse that wiped out half a generation of retirement savings (including the home equity that many had counted on), nor acknowledging that wealthy Americans pay less in taxes than they did 60 years ago, Zuckerman launches a rant against public employee unions and the "extraordinary benefits" paid to workers that is long on hyperbole and short on facts.

AFSCME's non-teaching public employee members earn, on average, \$45,000 a year to protect the public and the most vulnerable members of our society. After a career of service, our members retire with modest pensions of about \$19,000 per year. And, unlike most private sector workers, our members typically contribute towards this pension benefit. In fact, of the final pension benefit, taxpayers contribute just 25 per cent of the cost. The fact that public employees have decent health benefits and pensions, now scarce in the private sector, is genuine cause for alarm. Zuckerman's solution is for these benefits to be taken away from public employees.

Zuckerman claims the benefits earned by public employees are "galling" to private sector workers. How would he know? What is truly galling for private sector employees is the outright refusal of our political and economic elites to recognize and deal with stagnant wages and eroding retirement and health security. Our nation's problem is not that public service workers have decent pensions, it is that so many other employees don't.

The cause of our fiscal problems is declining revenues, pure and simple. The fact that state governments have cut almost half a trillion in spending over the last three budget cycles is ample evidence of this. Moreover, Zuckerman misrepresents the facts about public pension funds. The primary cause of our pension funding challenges is the failure of state gov-

ernments to contribute required payments over many years. For example, the political leaders in New Jersey deliberately failed to make required contributions over a period of more than ten years. Of course, employees have been paying in full, year after year.

We have a genuine retirement security crisis in this nation — the average 401(k) balance is just \$35,000 — yet we see nothing from Zuckerman or his billionaire buddies like Rupert Murdoch that would even remotely address the problem. Vilification of public employees may fit their anti-working-class agenda, but it won't create good jobs in our economy.

—The writer is President of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)



Chuck Norris recently wrote a little bit about the protests we've seen. He thinks

they rock (naturally), but he thinks he's got a good idea about visual aids other than tragically misinformed and misspelled signs.

I suggest you fly some revolutionary flag in lieu of your 50-star flag over the next year. Post the 13-star Betsy Ross flag, Navy Jack or Gadsden flag ("Don't Tread on Me") or any representation that tells the story of Old Glory and makes a stand for our Founders' vision of America.

Of course, patriots know that the 50-star flag truly represents one nation under God and our Founders' republic, but modernists simply don't get it. So what do you say we make a statement by flying a different flag and educate our neighbors when they ask us, "Why are you flying that flag instead of the contemporary Stars and Stripes?" (If you insist on posting a modern USA flag, too, then get one that is tea-stained to show your solidarity with our Founders.)

{See Norris Continued on Page 6}

Month	Shaun Junkins		Sam Humble		Juice Bruner	
	May 10	June 10	May 10	June 10	May 10	June 10
Verbal	4	1	8	6	7	6
Step I	1	1	4	2	2	2
Step II	1	1	4	1	0	0
Step III	2	2	3	2	1	2
Arbitration	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Active	8	5	19	11	10	10
Closed	10	5	0	8	0	3

SECOND & THIRD SHIFTS				
Month	Joe Kniep		Donovan Walker	
	May 10	June 10	May 10	June 10
Verbal	6	3	0	0
Step I	0	0	1	0
Step II	2	1	1	1
Step III	2	4	0	0
Arbitration	1	1	0	0
Total Active	11	9	2	1
Closed	6	7	2	0

TOTALS	
May 10	June 10
25	16
8	5
8	4
8	10
1	1
50	36
18	23

Appeals Court Rules For Machinists, Against Pratt Moving Jobs

By ERIC GERSHON Hartford Current Newspaper

A federal appeals court upheld a decision barring Pratt & Whitney from closing its Cheshire plant and a smaller East Hartford unit, preserving hundreds of Connecticut jobs at least through early December.

The 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals in New York said U.S. District Court Judge Janet Hall properly found that Pratt violated its existing contract with the Machinists union by failing to make "every reasonable effort" to keep the two plants open.

"We are not left with 'the definite and firm conviction that a mistake was ... committed by the district court's ruling," the three-member appeals court panel wrote in its decision,

which was issued Thursday morning. "Quite the contrary. The district court could easily infer from the facts ... that Pratt, in developing and seeking to implement the Closure Plan, was not pursuing in good faith the goal of preserving the work within the bargaining unit."

Pratt and its parent company, United Technologies Corp., now face the prospect of negotiating a new labor contract with more than 600 Cheshire Machinists. The parties are scheduled to begin talks in October. The current contract expires Dec. 5.

"The only way they can succeed in their plan is at the negotiating table," said Wayne McCarthy, president of the Machinists' local lodge in Cheshire, "and we're not going to let 'em."

Pratt, which had previously indicated that it would close Cheshire and the East Hartford unit after Dec. 5,

said Thursday that "no decisions have been made."

"As we approach that time, we will examine market conditions, customer decisions and the performance of our facilities," the company said in a statement. "The process will include negotiations with the IAM as part of the discussions for the new contract."

Pratt said it disagrees with the latest court ruling and that "the court misinterpreted the contract and our intent."

"While we will abide by the ruling, we do not agree with the decision," the company said. "We believe we acted in good faith and genuinely made every reasonable effort to keep the work performed at the Cheshire Engine Center and CARO [Connecticut Airfoils Repair Operations] in Connecticut."

Last September, Pratt said it would close the Cheshire and East Hartford

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Appeals

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units by mid 2011 and move the work to plants in Columbus, Ga., and Asia, laying off more than 1,000 Connecticut workers. The Machinists promptly sued in federal court, alleging that Pratt failed to negotiate an alternative in good faith, in violation of the labor contract.

On Feb. 5, after a five-day trial in Bridgeport, Hall, the district court judge, agreed. She found that Pratt merely sought to create "the appearance of making 'every reasonable effort.' "

The union, which wants another three-year labor contract, is likely to fight to keep the "every reasonable effort" clause in its contract, while the company has a strong incentive to remove or dilute it.

"That's the only thing protecting the work," said Jim Parent, the union's chief negotiator in Connecticut.

This is the second time that the 2nd Circuit has upheld a ruling by Hall in a labor dispute between Pratt and the

Machinists. The last time was in 2000.

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, who joined the Machinists suit against Pratt on behalf of the state, which offered Pratt money to keep the plants open, urged the company "to abandon further efforts to overturn this decision and instead seek common ground with workers and the state in keeping jobs in Connecticut."

Pratt could seek a further appeal to the entire 2nd Circuit, but that could take many months and offers no greater likelihood of success.

In her own statement, Gov. M. Jodi Rell said she was "pleased with the outcome" because "keeping these high-paying jobs has been a top priority for my administration."

"We must continue to improve Connecticut's business climate and we must continue to make our state more attractive for investment and job creation," Rell said.

The state offered Pratt \$20 million a year over five years to keep the plants in Connecticut. Pratt valued the offer at about \$5 million a year.

Norris

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You probably know what Betsy Ross's circle-star flag looks like, but here's the "Don't Tread on Me" <http://bit.ly/axY02c> version for reference. Tell me THAT wouldn't change some minds. Nothing makes me more anti-government than...dead snakes! *Chuck Norris*



"I do so know how to have fun. Just this morning, I eliminated 700 jobs and gave myself a bonus!"



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Larry Wilson - Recording Secretary

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Dave Dunnavent - Conductor/Sentinel

Linda Callen - Trustee

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Organizing - Sam Humble
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Insurance - Kurt Holtz
Safety & Health - Kevin Rogers
MNPL - Shaun Junkins
Christmas - Paul Garrett
Bylaws- Kelly Cleaton
Applications - Darren Holland

We are the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. We belong to Local Lodge 733 of District Lodge 70 in Wichita Kansas. We represent the workers of Hawker Beechcraft. We strive to give our members a voice on the job. Feel free to visit our website at www.l733iam.com. It is jam packed with information to help you. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact us. We have provided the numbers above.