



Local Lodge 1746

# insight

357 Main St.— East Hartford, CT. 06118 – Telephone: 860-568-3000

March 2013 Volume 11 Issue 3

## History of the Machinists Union “Part I”

When I was in high school, I know a long time ago, I loved American History. I thought there was nothing more interesting than learning about our country. But I have learned since coming to work at Pratt and becoming a member of the Machinists Union, I did not learn anything about labor history, unions and health and safety.

Therefore, I thought it might be interesting to our members to provide a small background about our Union. Many of our activists, stewards and officers have had the opportunity to attend Leadership classes in Maryland. This is where we learned about our Union and its proud history.

The International Association of Machinists was founded on May 5, 1888 in Atlanta, Georgia by a small group of men who met secretly in a railroad pit. It was unheard of for workers to band together and it was dangerous. After the Civil War, times were very difficult. People were unemployed, starving to death and babies were abandoned on doorsteps because so many families could not feed their children.

In 1883, the average wage earned by a family was \$400 a year. Many working men started to rebel against their employers. They felt they deserved their fair share in wages for a fair day’s work. Many were being killed on the job due to the extremely poor working conditions. In the coalfields of Pennsylvania, owners brought in strikebreakers to crush unions. A secret society of Irish miners became known as the Molly Maguires’ and fought back against their employers.

In 1877, an uprising of railroad workers was touched off by workers who had 10% of their wages cut, which gave them a weekly income of \$5 for a fifteen-hour day! Workers were shot at and killed as they stuck the railways’ owners. This uprising spread from city to city across the country. It is now referred to as



*Tom Talbot, First President of what is now the IAM*

“The Great Upheaval” which frightened owners. Many were arrested, blacklisted, and killed. But by the time order was established, a new spirit of labor solidarity was forming. Management was forced to recognize their right to bargain collectively.

In the beginning of the machine age, journeymen in metalworkers were extremely well paid and respected. As one of our history books said, “They were trained in the shaping of cold, unformed metal to the precise specifications of the most intricate blueprint.” Thomas W. Talbot was a young man who wanted to earn a decent living for his family. He was born in Chesterfield County, South Carolina in 1849. He lost his father when he was six months old. Talbot worked in a shoe factory to help out when he was only ten years old. By the time he was sixteen, he entered into an apprenticeship in a machine shop at the North Carolina Railroad.

When he entered into the apprenticeship, starting pay was \$3.50 to \$4 a day, which was a decent

*Continued from cover*

wage at that time. After graduating, he moved to Sumter and opened his own machine shop. But it failed, so he went back to Florence and went to work in a machine shop of the Wilmington, Columbia and Augusta Railroad. With many desperate for jobs and willing to work to undercut wages, Talbot tried to organize his fellow workers. He was later discharged for “union activities.”

Talbot went to Atlanta in 1887 to work as a machinist for another railroad company. Now wages were about half as much as what he was previously earning. Times were hard once again, but he remained convinced that machinists needed an order of their own. He felt entitled to his fair share, but was more bothered by the lack of status and respect for his trade.

Talbot knew conditions were ripe for the creation of an organization dedicated to advancing the status and working conditions of journeymen machinists.

In 1859, delegates from unions in some of the larger cities met in Philadelphia to form a National Union of Machinists and Blacksmiths. Because of the war between the North and South, this union split and was wiped out by the depression of 1873. Most of the members then joined the Knights of Labor, but this organization was more of a social club, than a union, accepting just about anyone into the membership with the exception of lawyers and saloon keep-

ers. They were not interested in negotiating for better wages and working conditions.

With a membership of almost 800,000, The Knights of Labor began to decline after Wall Street decided in 1886 that the time had come to put workers back in their place. Their downfall began with a strike against railroads controlled by a robber baron named Jay Gould. He broke the Knights and the strike by hiring working class people to kill the other half. The end occurred with the tragedy that took place at a labor rally at the Haymarket Square in Chicago in 1886. This in itself was a true tragedy.

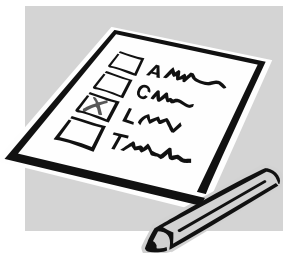
The Knights Union members were blamed for the Haymarket Square tragedy and they quickly faded. Within a few years many joined a more practical and lasting craft union known as the American Federation of Labor.



**"The Pit"**  
Birthplace of the International Association of Machinists, May 5, 1888; Engine pit in old East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia R. R. Shops, Atlanta, GA

## The Ides of March

- ◆ At the next local lodge 1746 membership meeting, on Sunday, March 10, 2013 Elections for the position of shop steward on the AWW all shifts in all areas will be held at the Grace Baker Hall, Machinist Building, 357 Main Street, East Hartford.
- ◆ Polls will be open at 10:00 a.m. and will remain open until 7:00 p.m. Also, in the month of March on Wednesday, March 20, 2013; Elections for the position of shop stewards, in Pratt & Whitney, (East Hartford) and Clear Edge Power will be held at the Grace Baker Hall, Machinist Building, 357 Main Street, East Hartford.
- ◆ Polls will be open at 6:00 am. And will remain open until 8:00 pm.
- ◆ More detail information on the areas and shifts

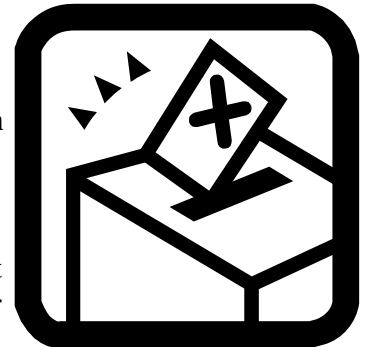


that require elections at any or both places, will be posted through out the shops in other union Bulletins containing names, departments etc...

Local Lodge 1746 will need tellers for both elections; One (1) teller will be needed for the Sunday March 10, 2013 election.

- ◆ Four (4) tellers will be needed for the Wednesday March 20, 2013 election.

- ◆ Please notify the president, ASAP, if you'd like to be a teller at either or both elections via e-mail (e-mail address on last page of flyer).
- ◆ Please remember that if you are running for election you can't serve as a teller.





## Obama's OSHA

*A great Deal for Workers,  
By Deb Belancik*

**Since 2009 OSHA has been led by officials dedicated to workplace safety. It has made a differ-**

**ence to millions of workers.**

**Workers rights:** Strengthened protection of Whistle blowers and workers who file injury reports by adding 25 new investigators and critical training programs.

Updated right to know regarding chemical and other hazardous materials to make info easier to understand..

**Tougher enforcement:** Conducted over 150,000 workplace inspections and issued a record number of significant hazard citations and increased fines to act as a deterrent.

Launched severe violators Enforcement Programs to target serious violators and conduct over 250 inspections.

**Reducing hazards:** Establish new regulations and educational materials on construction cranes, heat stress, fall protection, and other hazards.

Provided assistance to small and medium sized businesses to reduce hazards for 14 million workers.

This, my brothers and sisters is why having President Obama in office was crucial for workers.

Romney and Ryan advocated to de-regulate the economy which would have made OSHA weaker.

**We also have our Union Contract that has strong EH&S language and Union EH&S representatives for each local lodge. They are there for you.**

**Don't be hesitant to ask questions on safety and health issues or to call one when needed.**



## United Way

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

We would like to thank all of you for participating in the United Way 2012 Campaign. The need is greater than ever for people in Connecticut. Your help and generous donations and help for the day of caring events were extremely crucial and were deeply appreciated. The 211 info line was widely used and served us all well. They were very helpful to our members and others that used this service for their families. .

*Thanks once again for all of your help.  
Yours in Solidarity,*

*IAMAW Local Lodge 1746*

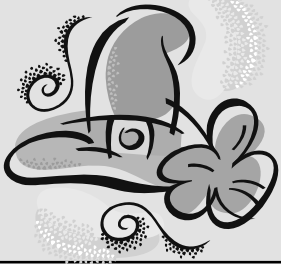
*Community Service Chairperson Jerry Martin*

*IAMAW District Lodge 26*

*United Way Campaign Co-Chairperson  
Deb Belancik*



*Corporate America gives their employees the Red Carpet Treatment.*



## The Next Monthly Meeting is March 10th at 11:00 am



### The MACHINIST CLUB



will offer a  
**Corned Beef &  
Cabbage Dinner**  
for a donation \$ 8.00  
on Friday, March 15,  
from 4:00 pm  
to 8:00 pm

EAT IN or TAKE OUT

Remember to  
call EARLY

to order

860-568-4234

Stay and enjoy the music of  
**OUT THE BOXX** at 9 pm



### EAP Corner

For IAM Local Lodge 1746: P&W in East Hartford  
and UTC Power in South Windsor.

*Please feel free to contact me with any of your issues  
or concerns and know that it will be in  
total confidentiality.*

*Lenny Ward EAP Coordinator*

*LAP-C Certified*

*NAADAC / NCAC Certified*

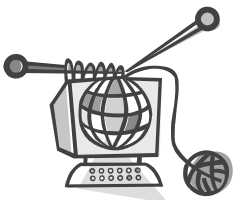
*AFL-CIO Union Peer Counselor*

*SAP (Substance Abuse*

*Professional) Certified.*

*Fax 203-787-4180*

*Cell 203-444-0267*



### **WEBSITES:**

[www.iamLL1746.org](http://www.iamLL1746.org)

[www.iamdistrict26.org](http://www.iamdistrict26.org)

[www.goiam.org](http://www.goiam.org)



**Here** are some of the  
officers email addresses to  
contact with your  
concerns and suggestions.

- \* Juan A. Gelabert  
[prezjuan1746@l1746.comcastbiz.net](mailto:prezjuan1746@l1746.comcastbiz.net)
- \* Rodney Conlogue  
[vp1746@l1746.comcastbiz.net](mailto:vp1746@l1746.comcastbiz.net)
- \* Howie Huestis [rs1746@l1746.comcastbiz.net](mailto:rs1746@l1746.comcastbiz.net)
- \* Nancy Flagg [st1746@l1746.comcastbiz.net](mailto:st1746@l1746.comcastbiz.net)

# Remember Our Troops Red-Shirt Friday's!

### **LOCAL EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

President Juan Gelabert; Vice President Rodney Conlogue; Howie Huestis, Recording Secretary;  
Nancy Flagg, Secretary Treasurer; Eustace Jones, Conductor/Sentinel;  
Trustees: Brad Chase, Pete Gieraltowski, Ron Ouellette

### **NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

Juan Gelabert, Linnea Thrall-Editor, layout and design, Leon Hall-Cartoonist,  
Peter Malliet- web design/communicator, Kirk Rideaux (Educator) and Deb Belancik