



insight

Local Lodge 1746
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April 2023 Volume 23 Issue 2

Larson, Pratt Execs Praise Machinists Union on F-135 Deal

U.S. Congressman John Larson (CT-01) addressed a gathering of union activists and company officials on March 16th to celebrate a new \$5.2 billion contract with the Pentagon for the development of Lots 15-17 of the F-35 Lightning II fighter jet, with exercised options worth up to \$8 billion. The contract cements Pratt & Whitney as the sole source provider for the F-135 engines for the foreseeable future, and is great news for jobs here in the state.

LL1746 President Howard Huestis kicked off the celebration by calling the announcement “a major win for Machinists in Connecticut” while thanking Congressman Larson for continuing to deliver good paying Union jobs to the state now and for the future as well. Larson spoke fondly of his East Hartford roots, his parents both having been employed at Pratt & Whitney at one time. He was joined by Pratt CEO Shane Eddy and VP of Military Engines, Jill Albertelli, both of whom addressed the Machinists at the gathering.



Congressman Larson addresses President Huestis and IAM activists.

CEO Eddy spoke of the challenges of developing and producing a 5th-generation engine with three variants: “There’s only one country and one company that can produce it at scale and at rate and in many cases that is as difficult or it can be more difficult at times than the initial design and test. Doing it once is interesting, being to be able to do it *at rate* is really what allows us to say that’s we’re achieving our mission of supporting the war fighter and defending freedom. And there’s a lot of women and men who are working through difficult circumstances, including through COVID, and never missing a beat, to deliver what we needed to deliver, not only for the United States, but for our allies.”

Said VP Albertelli: “This engine performs better than any engine in the history of engines. The work that all of you are doing... highly sophisticated, highly technical work. Whether it’s coatings, machining, assembly, testing...incredible.” Albertini praised the entire IAM and spoke of the 58,000 people across this nation who work on this engine in support of the mission of the war. She added, “That’s what protects peace in our country and the 35 countries around the world that we help to protect, which is 43% of the world’s population.”

Larson spoke China’s global domination plan with a goal of implementation by 2040, just 17 years away from today, but he said “this win [the F-135 contract] again, demonstrates who’s dominant of industries of the future, especially as it relates to aerospace.” He commended the joint effort between Pratt & Whitney and the IAM to lobby the Biden Administration and convince them that modification to the 5th-generation fighter jet was the proper way to go.



CEO Eddy and Rep. Larson share an iconic moment with a model F-135 engine and the IAM logo.

And that’s a great lesson for all of us. Often we get so far in the weeds of labor—management relations that we lose focus on what really matters: the safety and security of the free world. Many times we allow the resentments of the past to cloud our vision of the present and the future, and some of these animosities date back more than 60 years, on both sides of the table. Think of what this company and its workforce could accomplish if stronger labor relations were the norm, rather than something to highlight in the *Insight* newsletter. People around the globe are counting on the one company and the union that is its heartbeat to stave off the aggressors in this world who would seek to destroy our liberty and freedom. *source: Reuters.com



“You guys are the trailblazers. You’re the ones who got it done. Thank you.”
— Rep. John Larson

Check Out Our New Bling Store!

Shay created a Local 1746 Store—come check it out! 7:30am- 3pm, Mon-Fri. If you can't come over during regular office hours, call Shay at (860) 568- 3000, and she would be more than happy to schedule a time that works for you.

T-shirts are on sale now for \$10 each. There are still “old stock” shirts left that are \$5 each, six of the ladies Rosie shirts in size 3XL and 3 in size 4XL. The quicker we can sell this current stock, the quicker Shay can order new shirts! She also has a running list on the door looking for ideas of items that YOU would want to buy from our store.



Shay's Magical Mystery Door



There are a few winter hats left, regular trucker-style hats, lanyards, stickers, patches, decks of playing cards, belt buckles, vanity license plates, one ladies watch and one men's watch, as well as iron-on patches. Stop by the hall or call Shay today!

Legislative Update -- Good Stuff!!

It's mid-April, and that means the CT state legislature is in the thick of the 2023 spring session right about now. The CT State Council of Machinists, the political arm of IAM District 26, is focusing on two Senate bills and one House bill that are currently making their way through the process. They are:

SB 1179 -- An Act Amending CT Paid Family Medical Leave, sponsored by Senator Julie Kushner. Many of us thought that passing Paid Family Medical Leave in CT would be a good thing. Leave it to the Corporate bean counters to find a way to add millions to the companies' coffers. The way the law stands now, an employee taking time away from work for illness or injury/surgery must first exhaust paid FMLA benefits from the state before their Short Term Disability plans kick in. Think there's a cost savings for the corporations there? SB 1179 provides language to rectify that aberration by prohibiting employers from offsetting disability plans and allowing employees to receive compensation from both plans up to their regular rate of compensation. The bill also includes language for tribal and transit enterprises, and it is currently up before the Labor and Public Employees committee. This is a very complex issue and things are rapidly changing. Stay tuned...

SB 938 -- An Act Concerning Unemployment Benefits for Striking Workers. Imagine your union is negotiating a new contract with the company, but the company isn't really bargaining in good faith. The strike date is coming up fast, and you're worrying about the things that everyone worries about in times like this: paying the bills and putting food on the table for your family. It's worrisome, right? Lots of anxiety? Now imagine you're in the same situation, but you know that if your union strikes and the strike lasts more than two weeks, you can collect unemployment benefits from the State of Connecticut. You can feel that anxiety just melt away, right? That's what SB 938 will do. It will help to level the playing field when unions exercise their right to strike, and get them out from over the barrel that companies like to hold them over, knowing we have a cushion to fall back on instead of the daggers of financial ruin. It's not pie-in-the sky, either. Our Brothers and Sisters in New York and New Jersey already have this protit even makes the prospect of scabbing less lucrative and less likely for some people. Not that you would scab. Ever. (Continued on Page 3)

Special Olympics Scores a Goal

by Chelsea Pullen

The P&W Hangar served as the host site for the Special Olympics Unified Floor Hockey event. The snow couldn't damper the spirits of these players as they squared off in the day-long competition! Thanks to all of our members who braved the weather to support this special event and help out wherever they were needed to make it a special day for the kids.



After speaking with our members I'm not sure if it's fair to say we volunteered. We did, we showed up, offered our time, did any tasks given to us, but we had SO much fun. We definitely want to do this hockey event annually but in the meantime



we are looking into summer/fall games because we don't want to wait another year! No matter what assistance we provided we all had the same feelings; we didn't do enough! These athletes were truly inspiring with their bravery, courage, effort, strength—the list goes on. This may have been a first time experience for some of us but definitely not our last!



Teamwork Makes the STEAM Work

by Therese Hervieux

Our local's Women's Committee partnered with the East Hartford Public Schools to establish a fun-filled STEAM event for kids age 6-11. (STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics.) The volunteers were amazingly awesome and we can't thank them enough for all they did! Our message to kids is that there *are* alternatives to college with good UNION machinist jobs, but that these jobs also require a strong education. Over 200 people from 70 families attended the event to partake in a plethora of STEAM activities—it was a huge success!

Our members talents shined with the projects they created and presented. There was Mario Sierra with his Bird Feeder activity, Wes Rockhill with his the Bolt Identification activity and Kyle Heinig running dual activities, the F22 Circuit activity and the Ultrasonic Distance Activity. A huge thanks to them, and a big shout out to Pratt & Whitney's Chelsea Benzie and the WISE group for their Paper Circuit Activity that donated supplies and six volunteers. Thank you to LL1746 for their donation of support and Eastern Territory COS Chuck Herod for the IAM stickers. Last but not least, thanks to LL 743 President Travis Williams from Collins Aerospace for securing a loan of their mini spacesuit to use at the event. It was a big hit!



(Spacesuit + kids = Home Run!!!)

Legislative Update

(Continued from Previous Page)

HB 6205 — *An Act Concerning the Development of an Aerospace Advance Manufacturing High School*, introduced by Rep. Linehan and Sen. Hochadel. The concept of an "Aviation High School" in Connecticut is still in an exploratory phase, but this bill would establish a working committee to establish the feasibility of creating such a program in our state. This program would give high school students an opportunity to focus on skills that would make them more attractive to companies like Pratt & Whitney at an earlier age, and provide a pipeline of talent for the aerospace industry in Connecticut to draw upon. LL 700 Legislative Chair Mark Nati has already traveled with Sen Hochadel to an Aviation High School in New York City to see for themselves how the school operates. According to Nati, Pratt & Whitney supports HB 6205, and why not? It sounds like a win-win for everyone if the finances can be worked out. The bill is currently under review in the Education committee.

More to come on these bills in future newsletters. In the meantime, mark May 10th on your calendar for Manufacturing Day at the State Capital building — Details on Page 4 !!!

Also big kudos to all the volunteers who participated including; Local President Huestis and VP Geronimo Valdez, Taylor Salman, Chelsea Pullen, Ryan Tyrol, Kirt Ciantar, Sue Carreira, Jackie Bilyeau, Krystal Vargas, Elyse Rossignol, Patty Kelly, Mario Sierra, Austin Badera, Chris D Warga, Wes Rockhill, and Linda Buth. An extra thanks to those who helped with prep; Dan Yeschick, Eric Heine, & Jordan Lacasse.





**The Next Monthly meeting is
April 16th at 11:00 am**



Remember Our Troops Red-Shirt Fridays!



WEBSITES:

www.iam1746.org
www.iamdistrict26.org
www.goiam.org
www.ctaficio.org

**STUDENTS → MANUFACTURER
CONNECTION FAIR**

SPONSORED BY STATE REPRESENTATIVES LIZ LINEHAN & KARA ROCHELLE
AND STATE SENATOR JOAN HARTLEY

**CONNECTICUT STATE CAPITOL LOBBY
MAY 10, 2023 | 9AM-3PM**

CONNECTICUT STUDENTS ARE EXCITED TO CONNECT WITH LOCAL
MANUFACTURERS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS WHO WILL HAVE BOOTHS
AND HANDS-ON EXHIBITS SET UP THROUGHOUT THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE
STATE CAPITOL.

THEY'LL EXPERIENCE FUN, HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES LIKE A VIRTUAL
WELDING SIMULATOR, ROBOTICS, AND MORE DESIGNED TO INTRODUCE
KIDS TO THE HIGH-TECH WORLD OF MANUFACTURING AND ENGINEERING.
IT IS A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY FOR MANUFACTURERS TO MAKE
CONNECTIONS WITH THE NEXT GENERATION OF INNOVATORS.

THE EVENT IS **FREE** FOR BOTH STUDENTS AND MANUFACTURERS. WE HAVE
OVER 500 STUDENTS AND 30 VENDORS EACH YEAR, AND THIS YEAR
PROMISES TO BE THE BEST YET!



RESERVE YOUR SLOT HERE:

HOUSEDEMS.CT.GOV/FAIRREG23/MANUFACTURER

EMAIL JULIANNA.GOLDFLUSS@CGA.CT.GOV

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE MORE INFO

Save the date!!!

**Hartford Yard Goats
Organized Labor Night
Sat., Sept 2, 2023
Details to come!!!**



**Check out our
New & Improved Website!!!
www.iam11746.org**



**APRIL
SHOWERS**

**DONATIONS
NEEDED**



Please help the
Women's Committee in
donating ALL personal
hygiene products to a
local shelter for women
and children

Boxes will be at the
shop entrances &
Union Hall 357 Main
Street East Hartford
3/31 - 4/28

Items include but are not limited to:



Laundry Detergent – Baby Wipes – Diaper
Cream – Diapers Sizes 4/5/6 – Pull-ups –
Toilet Paper – Paper Towels – Hand Soap –
Dish Soap – Toilet Bowl Cleaner & Brushes –
Men's & Women's Underwear – Children's
Underwear – Feminine Hygiene Products –
Dental Products – Nail & Hair Care Products

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

B-I-N-G-O

FRIDAY MAY 12, 2023 4-9 PM	FREE ENTRY BRING YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS INCLUDES 2 FREE GAMES	UNION HALL 357 MAIN STREET EAST HARTFORD
50/50 RAFFLE & OTHER PRIZES		TACO BAR \$5 GAMES \$1 BEVERAGES AVAILABLE
CALL THE HALL WITH ANY QUESTIONS 860-568-3000	CAN'T MAKE IT & STILL WANT TO DONATE? VENMO "BINGO"	

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS

LOCAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President Howard Huestis; Vice President; Geronimo Valdez;
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March RIDII Winners

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Taylor Barthell
Daniel Elliott
Angelo Fusco
Nicholas Wright
Chris Erdman**

