



insight

357 Main Street, East Hartford, CT Tel 860-568-3000
Local Lodge 1746 March 2023 Volume 23 Issue 1

We're Putting the Band Back Together!

By Joe Durette, *Insight* Editor

Greetings, fellow Union Brothers and Sisters! It's great to be back at the helm of *Insight* after such a long and frustrating hiatus. It's been a little over three years since the old newsletter committee published its last edition for the membership in February, and so much has transpired since then. The global pandemic. The UTC—Raytheon merge. The presidential and mid-term elections. A new Local leadership team. These things and more have had significant impacts on how we do our jobs and how our union functions in a hyper-hybrid society. So many times over the past three years we wished we could've reached out to the membership like we had in the past, to disseminate important information, but sometimes when you aren't treated with respect and dignity by those in charge with alternate agendas, your only choice is to step back and let things run their course. And so here we are.

I first want to thank President Huestis and the LL1746 Executive Board for putting their trust in me to serve as the editor of *Insight* again, and I'm thrilled to be joined by the old newsletter committee! **Therese Hervieux** has been appointed co-editor and will be contributing some great articles on union history, not just from a national perspective but right here at our own Local. We're thankful that Sister Hervieux found the strength to contribute to the newsletter during the rocky period, and as the chair of the Women's Committee we want to help her team continue to build the strength of the Local's all-important female membership in the shop.

Chief Health & Safety Rep **John Hanusovsky** is back, and he'll continue to provide us with important information about safety issues that impact our lives, our families, and our employment at Pratt & Whitney. John continues to serve the Local as a Trustee on the executive board, and every month at the membership

meeting he submits a Health & Safety Report with some important information, but the audience is limited to the 30 or so members who attend (we need to work on that too.) Getting John back on the newsletter committee is a benefit to all of the membership, as it gives us a much broader platform to put out important information and updates critical to your health and well-being. Likewise, **Sean Marcil** will be contributing as the Local EAP Coordinator, giving us support and resources for the stresses of daily life that we all face in our lives. And Secretary/Treasurer **Kurt Burkhart** will also be contributing, bringing us information about bulletins, special events, and apparel for sale, and anything else related to the day-to-day functions of the Hall.

It really does feel like we're putting the band back together! But we've also got some new members on the team—**Taylor Salman**, **Chelsea Pullen**, and **Nicholas Grandon**—and we're excited to see in what direction their contributions might steer us.

For my part, I'll be contributing on the legislative arena, reporting on bills that affect our union, endorsements from the IAM and the CT AFL-CIO, and communications with local representatives and officials. My goal is to support the legislative agenda of the International, from

President Robert Martinez and General Vice President David Sullivan right on down the line, because Solidarity is crucial in making unions stronger when there are so many forces out there seeking to destroy us. But the IAM strives to be a democratic institution, too, so if you have a difference of opinion with us, by all means send us feedback to 1746news@gmail.com.

We welcome articles from members outside the newsletter committee, but there are some guidelines that need to be followed—I'll post those in an upcoming edition in the near future. For now, let's roll up our sleeves and get to work, because there's an awful lot that needs to get done!



Celebrating Women's History Month

LL1746 Welcomes New Leadership!

"The Union Maid Who Was Never Afraid"

By Therese Hervieux

What better way to celebrate Women's History Month than learning about a woman from our very own Local Lodge 1746. I was given a suggestion a while back to look up why or when we named our large hall the Grace Baker Hall. So far, I cannot find all those answers but I found an article in the November 1979 issue of the IAM Shoptalk about Sister Baker just after she passed away.

Grace Baker was a fighter. She fought the company for the rights of workers, she fought for women's rights before it was popular, and she fought with the same passion and spirit against the cancer that eventually took her life. Fight until you can't fight anymore.

She held many positions throughout her 29 years. Fondly called the "Permanent Recording Secretary", she was also a Shop Steward, Officer, Shop Committee member, Counselor, Delegate, Town Committee member and even a Justice of the Peace. She was the Recording Secretary during the "Wildcat Strike" back in the early 60's, having to keep track of thousands of workers without a computer or a cell phone. She cared about people and people cared about her. She fought for equal rights, job security and dignity on the job. And she did all this in the 60's and 70's when a woman holding positions wasn't a popular concept.

So, while I don't know exactly when or why the hall was dedicated to her, I can certainly guess that it was in the early 1980's and that it was most likely because her presence made an impact on a lot of her brothers and sisters. She was an influencer in the fight for wage hikes and benefits and getting people involved. The article referenced her as the "Union Maid who was never afraid" and I can only be grateful for her courage, strength and "grace."



Sisters and Brothers, I would like to thank the membership for the opportunity to lead our Local for the next 3 years. I would also like to thank Joe Durette and the Newsletter Committee for getting this newsletter back up and going.

With that being said, it's definitely NOT business as usual. Make no bones about it, with over 300 grievances at Step 2, four terminations, indefinite suspensions and many investigations going on, we have our work cut out for us. The good news is that your new Shop Committee is energized, ready and dedicated to representing the membership in getting quick and fair dispositions.

Don't forget to get out and vote for your Health and Safety Rep on **AWW March 12th**, 5 a.m. to 1 p.m.. Polls close for 4 hours, then reopen from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Votes for **1st & 2nd Shift** Shop Stewards and Health & Safety Reps will be held on **Wednesday, March 15th**. Polls open at 6 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. Check the bulletin boards in the Shop for a list of candidates.

—President Howard Huestis

S.T.E.A.M. NIGHT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Calling all Members: Tuesday March 21st, from 5-7 p.m., we are partnering with the East Hartford Public Schools (EHPS) to bring activities developed here in the shop for the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) night. We need several more volunteers to assist at the activity tables, helping kids assemble or perform activities. Contact Thérèse Hervieux for more information at theresehervieux711@gmail.com.

Thanks for your commitment to helping our community and the goal of showing kids that they have so many options after high school, including good Union machinist and trades jobs.

Beware the Angry Safety Birds!

By John Hanusovsky, Chief Health & Safety Rep.

Health and Safety has been welcomed back to the Insight. We've been away for a few years, and since then we've had many new hires. We missed out on a valuable opportunity to communicate with our members. The plan will be to use your Union Flier as a tool for providing general hints on staying safe and, if an injury happens, what to do next.

We will explain what we like in Safety: Improving the work place...attempting to prevent injuries ... providing assistance and protection to the Union Members.

We'll also be sharing what we don't like in Safety: Cardinal Rules...discipline... terminations...Blame the Worker...production first, people second...a frustrating Workers' Comp system. Just to name a few.

What's important to me is hearing from you, the Union Members. Please trust your Union to help address issues. Talk to your Union Safety Representative, shoot us a text, submit a RIDII. We are here to help.

If you see something that might be a Cardinal Rule violation, please talk to us first! Don't submit a RIDII about it in writing. We will do everything we can to address the issue without jeopardizing someone's employment. Remember, good Union members DON'T turn in other Union members.

We want to learn why a behavior happened and address the conditions that caused someone to do what they do. When a person is terminated, all learning on that condition stops—*nothing is improved*—and the condition may continue and even lead to a repeat action, potentially resulting in yet another needless termination. The Cardinal Rules system is a pretty vicious and unproductive cycle that often devolves into nothing more than “gotcha” safety management that all too often is applied unfairly and inequitably to our members.



WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY SCHOLARSHIP

ESSAY CONTEST IS UNDERWAY

Each year in April, we gather together for Workers Memorial Day to honor the memory of those workers who have lost their lives on the job. During the ceremonies, we speak of the sacrifices made by these workers and of the families left behind, and we are inspired to work harder on behalf of all workers.

This year, the Connecticut AFL-CIO Health and Safety Committee is again offering a scholarship essay contest to inspire high school seniors to think about the importance of workplace health and safety.

In this scholarship essay contest, CT high school seniors are asked to respond in 1,000 words or less to one of the scenarios below with serious thought, research and most importantly, awareness of the true cost of workplace hazards on the lives of workers. Entries will be judged anonymously on content, originality and clarity of vision.

The essay topics this year include the impact on safety when workers are unionized, vaccine mandates, and how work-related accidents are reduced on



infrastructure projects when workers have a union. Students are asked to seriously think about the importance of workplace health and safety, and the consequences that arise when workers are forced to toil in unsafe working conditions.

First prize is a scholarship for \$1,500; second prize is for \$1,000; and third prize is for \$500.

Details and entry form can be found here: ctafICIO.org/news/workers-memorial-day-scholarship-essay-contest-3

Email the completed essay and the application to pamela@ctcosh.org no later than **April 1, 2022**.

We are excited about this project that we believe will inspire a greater awareness of the importance of workplace health and safety among young workers. The scholarship awardees will be invited to speak at our virtual Workers Memorial Day ceremony and we look forward to their thoughts.

(reposted from CT AFL-CIO)



The Next Monthly meeting is
March 12th at 11:00 am

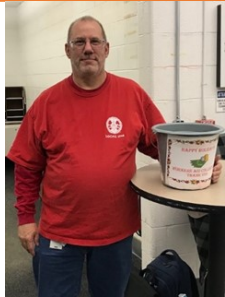


Remember Our Troops Red-Shirt Fridays!



WEBSITES:

- www.iam1746.org
- www.iamdistrict26.org
- www.goiam.org
- www.ctaflcio.org



Thanks to all our Brothers and Sisters who volunteered and to employees who generously gave to help ALL Pratt & Whitney employees who may experience hardships in the coming year. We collected **\$5818.52** through your generosity!!!



SHOP ELECTIONS ARE AROUND THE CORNER!!!

Election for AWW Shop Steward and Health & Safety Reps will be held Sunday, March 12th, from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Hall.

Elections for all other shifts will be held on Wednesday, March 15th from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Hall. Check the bulletin boards in the Shop for details. Not all shifts have elections for all positions.

January RIDII Winners

- Tom Bieback
- John Bess
- Brian Carr
- Mike Lester
- Thomas Tassmer
- Angelo Fusco
- Kevin Miller
- James Higgins

February RIDII Winners

- Angelo Fusco
- David Elliott
- James Chaleun-Aloun
- Ger Vang
- Debra Possardt
- Thomas McKay
- Kris Cote
- Steven Read



LOCAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

President Howard Huestis; Vice President; Geronimo Valdez; Secretary/Treasurer Kurt Burkhart; Recording Secretary Teesha Grant; Conductor/Sentinel Steve McLaughlin; Trustees: James Bullock, John Hanusovsky, Dave Hall

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

**Joe Durette, Editor; Therese Hervieux, Co-Editor.
March Contributors: John Hanusovsky, Howie Huestis**