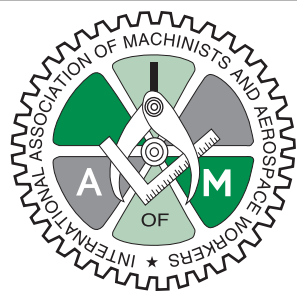


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EVERGREEN LEADER

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

Vol. No. 59

June 2020

DIRECTING BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

From COVID-19 to BR Retirements, Lots Happening at District 160 These Days

By Paul Miller



Paul Miller

Brothers and Sisters,
Quite a lot has happened since our last edition. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a tragic loss of life and caused significant damage to our economy. Most of the District 160 membership ended up on the essential worker list and have been able to keep working.

The Health and Welfare Trust and the Dental trust both put in provisions to cover plan participants who were laid off for up to 3 months so they wouldn't have to worry about healthcare coverage.

Business Representatives were busier than they ever have been during my time on staff in the early stages of the pandemic. Things changed so rapidly that by the time employers adjusted to the regulations, new regulations came out and everyone had to start over.

I want to thank all the Business Representatives, office staff, shop stewards, and members for working diligently to get through this tough time. The safety of our membership is our top priority. As this pandemic drags on, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Business Representative if you have any safety concerns in your shop.

In addition to the pandemic, Alcoa/Intalco in Ferndale has announced their plans to curtail operations. This will impact 600 of our members and another 100 unrepresented employees at the plant. The IAM pulled in all available resources in an attempt to stop this curtailment.

I couldn't be prouder to be a part of this great Union and the effort put forth to stop this. Everyone from the members on the floor up to our International President Martinez has been involved in this and we won't stop until Alcoa remains open or is brought back from curtailment. Going through a plant closure is tragic to the employees, their families and the community. I'm very impressed with how well our membership and the community have all pulled together. To those being laid off, the IAM and District 160 will continue this fight and we are here to help in any way we can.

Business Representative Glenn Farmer had planned to retire on April 30th of this year. Glenn worked at Alcoa before becoming a Business Representative and has represented Alcoa while on staff for more than a decade. Glenn postponed his retirement when Alcoa announced the curtailment so he could fight to keep the plant open. I want to thank Glenn for postponing his well-deserved retirement to assist throughout this process. His new retirement date is July 31st and we wish him all the best when his big day finally comes.

Business Representative Bob Westbrook retired on April 30th. Bob also spent over a decade on staff representing the members of our District. Bob worked with our members in all the sectors we represent but spent the most time working on our federal and Service Contract Act (SCA) contracts. He had a real passion for helping the membership and regularly went above and beyond. He was also a very good friend to everyone on staff. Bob will be greatly missed, and we wish him all the best in his retirement years.

Finally, this is a presidential election year. Get educated and get out and vote! As always, I appreciate all of you and the opportunity to serve you. If there is anything we can do better please don't hesitate to reach out to me at paul@iam160.com.

A Peaceful Protest in Poulsbo

On June 2, Business Representative Rusty Grable participated in a peaceful protest in Poulsbo, WA.

He stood in solidarity with those who have experienced racial inequities which have more often disproportionately affected African American males.

There was no ruffraff out and about destroying public property or local



Rusty Grable and Jackson Grable.

businesses. It was an energetic and passionate protest with many smiling faces.

BR Grable said, "There's a good feeling when you exercise your First Amendment rights to join with fellow citizens and assemble in a peaceful protest. I'm sure the members of our community who chose to protest the "stay at home order," and those who also protested concerning their Second Amendment rights at the Capital several weeks ago, shared this same feeling."

In conclusion, he commended the law enforcement officers who uphold their oath of office and carry out their



The Grable family joins the protest. Left to right: Megan Grable, Jackson Grable, and Rusty Grable.

duties in a professional manner on a daily basis.

Robert C. Westbrook Retires After 21 Years of Service

On April 30, 2020, Business Representative Robert C. Westbrook retired from District 160, Local Lodge 282 after 21 years of membership.

During his 21 years, he spent 11 years as a Business Representative.

Bob was always thankful to be a Business Representative to District 160 and to serve the members of Local Lodges under District 160.

For Bob, it was always a rewarding job as he went about assisting brothers and sisters of District 160.

His previous professional experience combined with his military service, made him

the perfect person to handle the Federal sectors of Local Lodges under District 160.

Bob was highly regarded and respected at all levels of

the Federal sector, to include members and management.

Due to COVID-19, District 160 honored Bob in a Zoom retirement party on May 1, 2020. All in attendance, shared

memorable experiences while working with Bob. In closing, we want to thank Bob for his many years of hard work and dedicated service and we want to wish him nothing but the best in his retirement.



District 160 Picnic Has Been Canceled

Unfortunately, the second annual District 160 picnic for all Local Lodge members and their families benefiting Guide Dogs of America scheduled for July 25th has been canceled.

We are planning an event for later in the year. We will provide details in the near future.

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

Friday, July 3rd – All offices will be closed for Independence Day

Monday, September 7th – All offices will be closed for Labor Day

LOCAL LODGE NOTICES

LOCAL LODGE 79

Membership Meetings Cancelled

Local Lodge 79 will not have General Membership Meetings in the months of July or August. We are hoping by September we will be getting back to a somewhat normal routine and to be able to have our lodge meetings once again.

If King County goes to Phase 3 by September, then we can have our General membership meeting with some safety policies in place. You may call the hall just to make sure after September 9th. We have been having our E-board meetings virtually with some hiccups but we are managing.

Until we can all meet together again, the Executive Board of Local Lodge 79 hopes that everyone is staying safe and doing the social distancing. Have a safe and fun summer.

LOCAL LODGE 289

The E-Board of Local Lodge 289 has suspended the nomination process for Delegates and Alternates from going forward due to the Grand Lodge Convention being postponed until 2021.

All regular meetings will be suspended until further notice. However, the E-Board will have a virtual meeting on July 1, 2020.

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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 – 5:00 p.m., 1st Thursday. Meeting location: Tacoma Firefighters Hall, 1109 S. 50th Street, Tacoma 98408.

Executive Board Meeting – 5:00 p.m., Tuesday preceding the Regular Lodge Meeting (1st Thursday), IBEW Hall, 3049 S. 36th ST #101, Tacoma, WA 98409.

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 – 6:30 p.m., 2nd Wednesday, Labor Temple, 119-1/2 North Capitol Way, Olympia.

LODGE 1690 - ANCHORAGE

Regular Lodge Meeting – Meetings are suspended during July and August.

LODGE 2379 - FERNDALE

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

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DISTRICT 160 RETIREE NEWS

COVID-19 and Its Effect on Older Workers

By Art Boulton

In a recent issue of the Alliance for Retired Americans, "Friday Alert", a study by the Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis found the recession caused by COVID-19 will have a greater effect on older workers than the 2008 financial crisis. In 2008, we were dealing with a recession, but in 2020 we are dealing with a recession and a pandemic. The pandemic could push 3.1 million workers into poverty in retirement; forcing retirees to choose between health care plans or income in retirement.

"The pandemic has reminded us how broken the retirement systems is," said Robert Roach, Jr., Alliance President. "Retirees are often forced to depend on low or modest levels of Social Security and their own savings, since fewer and fewer are collecting a pension. We have to redouble our efforts and make sure that everyone can afford to retire in dignity after a lifetime of hard work."

The high cost of the coronavirus is forcing states to deal with smaller budgets. Smaller budgets may force states to cut

expenditures. Millions of Americans are unemployed and may need Medicaid if they become sick. As a result of smaller budgets and higher use, states may resort to cutting Medicaid unless the states receive federal help.

The US Congress recently passed economic recovery legislation known as the HEROS Act or HR 6800. This bill responds to the COVID-19 outbreak, and its impact on the economy, public health, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments. The bill also modifies or expands a wide range of programs and policies that will help millions of Americans who are unemployed because of COVID-19.

It is now up to the US Senate to take up HR 6800 and pass it into law!

"This is not a red state or blue state crisis. This is a red, white and blue pandemic. The coronavirus is apolitical. It does not attack Democrats or Republicans. It attacks Americans." (The Hill Publishing)

Call Senator Patty Murray (206) 533.5545 and Senator Maria Cantwell (206) 220.6400 and ask them to strongly request that Senate Leader Mitch McConnell bring HR 6800 to a vote of the Senate.

DISTRICT 160 OFFICERS & STAFF

President
Tom Burke

Vice President
John Gehringer

Secretary-Treasurer
John Decker

Sgt. at Arms
Jeff Eberle

Trustees
Bruce Baillie
Ted Taft
Don Zeth

Directing Business Representative
Paul Miller

Assistant Directing Business Representative
Brandon Hemming

Business Representatives
Glenn Farmer
Rusty Grable
Greg Heidal
Tommy Hunt
Steve Miller
Bonnie Moeller

RETIREES

Local Lodge 79

Fairbanks, James	Seattle School District	4/30/2020
Haas, Lisa	Ball Corporation	3/31/2020
McLeod, Zachery	Vigor Shipyard	5/31/2020
Stafford, David	Kenworth Truck	3/31/2020

Local Lodge 282

Harreus, Mark	CNRNW (NAVAL)	3/31/2020
Westbrook, Robert	District 160	5/31/2020
Armstrong, Nicolas	Cleanscapes	3/31/2020
Carlos, Michael	Rabanco Recycling Company	4/30/2020
Coppess, Michael	Pepsi-Cola/Seven-Up Bottling	3/31/2020
Fazio, Karlyne	American President Lines	4/30/2020
Shong, Paul	Republic Services	4/30/2020
Ventoza, Jeff	American President Lines	5/1/2020

Local Lodge 297

Sader, John	Puyallup School District	3/31/2020
Skarpona, Emil	Marine Industries Northwest	5/31/2020
Ulrich, Andy	Cadence Aerospace	4/30/2020

IN MEMORIAM

Local Lodge 289

Ekren, Kenneth.....	3/6/2020	Pinorini, Paul.....	3/4/2020
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America – and Unions – Are Under Siege by the Current Administration

By John Gehringer

Vice President, District Lodge 160

Brothers and Sisters of District 160, we are witnessing the downfall of the leadership of America under this current administration and our Congress. America is under siege by politicians only looking out for themselves. Working men and women of this great nation have been hurt by this broken system and are continuing to be further hurt by what is going on today.

Starting with the undermining of rules governing employment law and labor unions, the Trump administration and his cronies have tried to force unions and organizing out through his underhanded legislation and executive orders. He has given

big business tax breaks and incentives that should have helped the working people of America, but rather just enriched those "one percenters" who need it the least.

Then along comes the Covid-19 Pandemic, to which our President responded by calling it a political hoax, then tries to back pedal on what he says, lays the blame on someone else and refuses to be the leader he was elected to be. This is not the only problem, he refuses to listen to well-regarded scientists, doctors, and other experts in the public health field regarding this pandemic and play doctor himself, for which he has no degree. Over 100,000 people have died already due to the lack of leadership and refusal to follow the guidance of the experts.

And finally we have what we have today, a senseless death of a man of color, by someone who was paid to protect and serve him. This is causing outrage amongst our communities throughout the country. These have become inflamed demonstrations due to the fact we have this supposed leader who furthers the hatred through his beliefs, actions, words and his cowardly ways by refusing to be a leader, but who'd rather cower in the bunker of the Whitehouse and remove protesters through the use of rubber bullets, tear gas and the National Guard, just to have a photo opportunity political stunt in front of a church he has attended twice in three and a half years.

Brothers and Sisters, think about this

when it comes time in November to vote. Do you want leaders who look out for you, those who look out for your brothers and sisters, your friends, families, and those who may be less fortunate than you, or do you want someone who just feeds big business, sends your jobs overseas, continues to support racists and spews hatred towards minority groups? It's not a red or blue issue; it's who supports our issues, family living wages and values! Get out and VOTE for change and get active in your community as well as your Union

Please also think about those among you in need, lend the helping hand. We are all Brothers and Sisters of the labor movement and we look out for one another as well those around us.

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Union Representation During COVID-19

By Bonnie Moeller

You may have heard the old saying, "May you live in interesting times." And although, in English, the expression is often used as a blessing, the original translation from Chinese is actually thought to be meant as a curse. Well my friends, we definitely live in interesting times - and it's easy to recognize that COVID-19 is a curse. Beyond the daily inconveniences of mandated self-isolation, this virus has separated families, caused layoffs and furloughs, caused reductions in benefits for workers, and even taken the lives of some of our dear friends and Union family members. My heart goes out to all families that have been affected by this virus. It has stricken fear into this country - and the world. It seems that all forms of news and media are now solely utilized to remind us, daily, of this pandemic. So, although I recognize and appreciate the seriousness of this COVID-19, I'm not going to perpetuate more bad news. Let me instead tell you what your Union is doing right now during these uncertain times.

Almost instantaneously, when the gravity of the virus became known, District 160 began preparing for COVID-19 related bargaining with employers. Although the impact of the virus could not have been predicted - the changes in working con-

ditions caused by the virus are a mandatory subject of bargaining. The IAM, and the business representatives at District 160 have been working diligently to ensure safe working conditions for those who have had the ability to continue to report to work, as well as negotiating terms for layoffs, furloughs, and site closures as necessary.

We're also utilizing new tools to conduct business. Flexibility and innovation have been key components while serving our membership during this pandemic - when the country shut down, we kept working - harder than ever, to make sure our members were safe. In order to do that, we've had to recruit new methods for shop visits, negotiations, contract voting, and even local lodge business. Video conferencing, teleconferencing, and even good old snail mail have really saved the day.



Virtual shop visit with IAM members employed by Pulau Corporation to maintain equipment under the Army Training Aids, Devices, Simulators and Simulations Maintenance (TADSS) Maintenance Program (ATMP) on Fort Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska. Top row, left to right: Gwuana Thomas, Bonnie Moeller. Bottom row, left to right: LJ Miller, Min Chung.

(And since I mentioned snail mail - have you called your Senator and asked them to help save the USPS? Go to USMailNotForSale.org for more info).

I think we've been pretty creative thus far and we've managed to push forward in the midst of this crisis. As guidelines and mandates continue to change, we will also

be changing our methods of representing our membership. Although the coronavirus has changed the way we do business - one thing remains the same; we are here for you. For assistance on COVID-19 related issues, check out the resources available on goiam.org or contact your shop steward or Business Representative.

By Glenn Farmer

On April 23 at 1pm I was asked to join a meeting with Alcoa management where I was notified of the impending curtailment of the Ferndale Alcoa facility, potentially putting upwards of 700 people out of work. We've faced closure several times in the past, the first being in 2001 where because of electrical power prices the facility was curtailed for over ten months. The work was brought back by a monumental effort of the IAM & AW, rank and file members, political representatives, and the community. There were other threats including a near shut down in 2016, also fended off by grass roots activism.

Immediately, the Union representatives and workers at the plant went to work forming a dynamic response. I contacted District 160 and we solicited the help of the best in the IAM & AW from the Western Territory and International Headquarters. The response was swift, powerful, and is ongoing. We've engaged on multiple fronts... appeals to Alcoa, petitions to the President and Governor, Local, State and National news and more.

There is no sugar coating this crisis. As of this writing, the first wave of layoffs is set to occur on Friday June 5th for around sixty-five members of the bargaining unit, with more to follow in the coming weeks. We've solicited support from WorkSource and filed for the Trade Agreements Act (TAA) in order to make the transition as easy as possible. While attempts to stop the curtailment con-

tinue, we are painfully aware this is the most difficult challenge we've faced. The problem is much bigger than just Intalco. Global forces at play appear to be spelling the death of aluminum manufacturing in the United States. It will take nothing less than a National response to stop it.

As tragic as the Alcoa curtailment is, we are not alone. With unemployment at depression era highs and a pandemic in full swing, there is no shortage of challenges. Add to this the movement created with the tragic death of George Floyd, a readily apparent vacuum in National leadership and a fast-approaching National Election, we have a witch's brew capable of being our undoing. This is where we find out if the better angels of our collective being are capable and willing to rise to the challenge.

As I near my retirement date (3rd try), I can reflect on over 50 years of work and say without hesitation, work is good. Food, water, shelter, work. Work is intrinsic to our wellbeing. Work gives meaning to our existence and provides for the other needs. The loss of a job hits us in our deepest being. The loss of security and the ensuing damage can be one of the most devastating experiences any of us can experience. We have a lot of Brothers and Sisters hurting out there. What we do in the next few months will determine our survival as a Labor

Movement, as a Country, and perhaps as a Species. We also have an opportunity, but I mean We... none of us can do it alone.

I wish you all the best. Time for me to go home.



By Steve Miller

We are all in this together- that is the phrase that we have all heard during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a saying that is meant to unite us for one cause. However, that is something that those of us that are Union members believe all the time. It is only with strong union membership that we can make a difference that is needed.

While it seems that the world is turned upside down, the Union Representatives at District 160 have been hard at work and went to action demanding to bargain over changes that COVID-19 had on companies and to ensure that protective measures were taken to help keep employees safe.

While this virus has dominated the news and has affected every aspect of our lives, there still has been the normal work that as Business Representatives we are required to do to ensure that other aspects of our members are taken care of.

For my part, we have started negotiations with Foss shipyard and have several contracts to negotiate this summer.

As far as grievances, it seems like wrongfully terminated employees is the latest trend. At Western Pneumatics, we have finally come to a settlement agreement for a wrongfully terminated employee who will receive a little more than seven months back-pay. We are currently working on another wrongful termination at Western Pneumatic. I will keep you posted on this outcome.

At Pulau, a service contract at

Joint Base Lewis McChord, there was another wrongfully terminated employee who was returned to work as a result of a grievance settlement. I am currently working on yet another similar case at Vigor Shipyard.

I have also been working with Federal employees at Joint Base Lewis McChord with the dental assistants and staff at DENTAC Dental clinics (yes, the IAM does health care) and also at Network Enterprise Center, NEC which is public works. I want to give a big shout out to both these groups as they have realized that only by banding together can they make a difference.

For those of you who do not know, federal employment is an open shop so if employees do not want to join a union they do not have to and yet they get the same benefits and representation as members. Both these groups but especially the employees at DENTAC, realized that while they tried to get much needed changes, it just wasn't working. They decided to join the IAM and by banding together those much-needed changes are beginning to happen. Federal managers have taken notice that union membership is up and while it will still be a battle, these employees are now starting to get the respect that they deserve.

In the coming months, it will be a challenge in dealing with the changes caused by COVID-19 but the one constant that remains is the fact that unions are only as strong as its members, and that only when members band together can they make change happen.

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

By Tommy Hunt

Hello Brothers and Sisters! I hope you all are well and healthy! I'm looking forward to some warm Summer months! I'd like to put out some COVID-19 resources in case any of you need to take advantage of them. First up is the IAM Grand Lodge's website (<https://www.goiam.org/news/iam-coronavirus-covid-19-resource-center/>) where there is a collection of updates and resources available. Next up is the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans. Their COVID-19 resource page (<https://www.ifebp.org/news/featuredtopics/coronavirus-resources/Pages/default.aspx>) is vast and extensive. It covers all the new federal laws that have been passed to help those in need, as well as many FAQ documents that have been put out by Dept of Labor. Also please check out the Union Plus website (<https://www.unionplus.org/>). Union Plus offers all kinds of hardship assistance. From layoffs to financial planning to mortgage assistance,



they can help in many ways for many different situations. Finally, don't forget to get in touch with our EAP department (<https://www.goiam.org/departments/headquarters/retirees-employee-assistance-programs/employee-assistance-program/>) for any reason if you are struggling. They are there for you! While I hope that you will not need any of these additional services or benefits, if you do need them, these resource pages can help you along the way.

I also want to point out again the Machinist Union's Free College Program. Here's the web address: <https://freecollege.goiam.org/> You can earn an Associate of Arts degree online, completely free. Perhaps there has been no better time than now for you to get that degree!



By Greg Heidal

First I want to start out congratulating Bob Westbrook on his well-deserved retirement. Bob has been the back bone of operations on the Federal side of the house and is a true Journeyman. It has been an honor and privilege to work with him. Thank you Bob for all you have given to our Union and enjoy your well-earned retirement.

COVID-19 has certainly changed our way of life and the way we do the Union's work. I have been attending meetings Via Zoom, WebEx and several other video conferencing platforms for negotiations and grievance meetings. Not a huge fan of not being in the room when we are having those discussions, as you just cannot get a good read of people. It is working but it will be nice to return to our old way of doing business.

We did get Crown, Cork, and Seal ne-

gotiated and ratified using the Blue Jeans video platform and got a decent contract that was ratified. The ratification (vote) was done 10 members at a time, keeping everything sanitized and it took 2 days but went pretty well considering the circum-



stances. We negotiated and ratified a contract with Puglia Engineering that is now Harborland LLC 2. We got a great contract but unfortunately it is a one year agreement so we will be back at the table next year. We are in negotiations with Mason Transit, Harbor Machine, and Pacific Power Products at this time.

I want to take this time to ask all to be safe and help your families and neighbors during these extraordinary times we are living through. We will get through this standing together as one and helping one another. Solidarity is as important in our daily lives as it is in our work place. We are all in this together.

By Brandon Hemming

There are several traits that you must adopt as part of your core values if you hope to be successful in your endeavors to better the lives of your Sisters and Brothers as a true Unionist. Many of these traits aren't specific to the Union movement but easily transfer to any community of interest. One that I feel is the basis for all others to be built is known as



“solidarity”. Solidarity is an agreement of feeling or action amongst individuals with common interest. Without this “agreement of feeling”, the strength that comes from it; the uniting of individuals to effect change, the protection of the weak against the strong, and so on, our ability to build real progress becomes exponentially more difficult. Without the many acting as one, we are left as individuals who must fend for ourselves

with our potential greatly diminished. As we have witnessed in the past and continue to see today, divisiveness favors few while many suffer from its designs. When we allow ourselves to become self-important and ignore the plight of others, we are blind to the damage that we are causing to ourselves and often find that we are looking to the left or right to place the blame, again furthering the divide.

As is most often the case in times like these, we see the true resilience of the human spirit and witness the strength of

By Rusty Grable

Union Brothers and Sisters, It's hard to believe that I have been on staff at District 160 for over a year now. At the end of my last Evergreen Leader Article I talked a bit about patriots. Speaking on the topic, I hope everyone had an opportunity over the Memorial Day weekend to take some time to reflect on those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms that we enjoy today. I am hoping you remembered those who selflessly put themselves in harm's way to secure a better future for all of us. In essence, I believe this is a characteristic of good old-fashioned American Spirit and reflects one of the core values of the Fighting Machinists! I am forever beholden to those who we honor each and every Memorial Day.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, I want to give special thanks to the essential workforce. A large percentage of workers in our Union are in fact essential workers. We are the ones who go to work every day on the front lines and ensure the wheels of our economy keep on turning. Thank you for everything you do and you deserve to be recognized for what you do.

Let's talk about organizing. Being immersed back in the Federal Sector has reminded me other multiple disadvantages we face. I have heard time and time again, why pay if we get it for free? The answer is you get what you pay for.

One of the Federal Contracts I represent wants the Union to pay approximately 10,000 per month for office space. It's pretty simple math that this is not feasible if only 5-10% of the bargaining unit is actually paying dues. It's interesting that the recent executive orders call for “Reasonable and Efficient Taxpayer-funded Union Time Usage” but there is no talk about reducing the amount of administrative support staff that is paid to represent management.



If you believe all the benefits federal employees receive were handed out by the government from the kindness of their heart, you are mistaken. These are benefits that were fought for and won through collective action. If you work for the Federal Government, please consider talking to your friends and coworkers about enrolling in the Union. In recent weeks, I have seen membership numbers increasing under certain Federal Contracts. Those of you know who you are and I

believe we can prove what can be accomplished when we stand in solidarity as workers and the positive impact it will have on the working environment, productivity, and accomplishment of the mission.

Employees are empowered when their voices are heard and at the very least, acknowledged and taken into consideration. More often than not Federal employees will not stand up and speak out for fear of reprisal. It's not the Union verses Management; it's about speaking and standing up for our lawful rights. In my opinion, there's nothing more American than standing up for our Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

“We take great pride in this Union and its accomplishments...However, it didn't come easy. Please remember, that Unionism is not a heritage, but rather must be continually protected and fought for by men and women – real men and women.”

I.A.M. Hope Lodge 79

During these difficult times let's not forget to treat others the way we want to be treated. Let's work to build stronger communities who care for one another as human beings. Let's build our communities from the ground up and not tear them down. If we want to change something, let's get involved and do so peacefully.

I have been staying plenty busy and I hope to get out on the highway soon and visit some shops.

Local Lodge 79 Grand Lodge Convention Delegates and Alternates Selected

In April, Local Lodge 79 began to follow the regular procedures and normal timelines as outlined in Official Circular 874 for nomination of delegates and alternate delegates to the 40th Grand Lodge Convention.

Nominations from the membership of Local Lodge 79 were due back by May 15, 2020.

Local Lodge 79 then prepared the ballot based on nominations received. All ballots received by June 8th were counted and tallied for delegates and alternate delegates to the 40th Grand Lodge Convention by tellers appointed by Local Lodge 79.

The results of the election were recorded by Josephine Ulrich, Recording Secretary to Local Lodge 79 and were forwarded to the General Secretary-Treasurer at the Grand Lodge.



LL 79 tellers counting ballots for delegates to the 40th Grand Lodge convention. From left to right: Rob Lambert, Cliff Acosta and Tom Schweiss

Grand Lodge Convention Postponed Until 2021

The 40th IAM Grand Lodge Convention which had been set for September 6 -11, 2020 has been postponed.

Please be advised the convention is rescheduled for September 12 – 17, 2021, in San Diego, at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel.