

Wichita Windfall

Members of Local 839 in Wichita, KS will be decking the halls with a little more jingle than usual this holiday season thanks to a remarkable contract poised to deliver more than \$61,000 for each member.

Four thousand Machinists employed at Spirit AeroSystems in Wichita will divide a total of \$246 million according to terms of a unique Union Equity Program (UEP) negotiated following the sale of Boeing's Wichita operations to Toronto-based Onex Corp., Spirit's parent company.

Despite great uncertainty surrounding the sale of their facility, Local 839 members held out for a new contract that included the UEP as well as rehire and recall provisions for nearly all of their fellow members.

But this was no ordinary contract negotiation and the payout to members is most certainly not a "bonus" as some newspapers have incorrectly labeled it. These members, who endured their industry's downturn, are now reaping a well-deserved share of profits their sacrifices helped create.

The success of their endeavor, less than 18 months after the contract was ratified, is a testament to the solidarity of the IAM members in Wichita and the skill and creativity of the IAM Negotiating Team who helped broker their new agreement.

It is fitting that the entire union should celebrate this hard-won windfall for our sisters and brothers in Wichita. It is just as fitting to acknowledge the value and the importance of IAM membership, without which this achievement would not be possible.

And yes, it does pay to belong to the IAM.

Have you heard?

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