In the beginning there was a lot of talk at IAM Local Lodge 1976 about exploring the possibilities of forming a retiree club to help retired IAM members address issues they faced after leaving the workforce. Surveys were distributed and completed. The results revealed sufficient interest. The members sincerity and commitment to forming a club were evident. The Local Lodge Executive Board met, discussed and fully supported the new idea and the lodge members approved support for starting the club.

Originally there were approximately 35 IAM retirees meeting to organize the structure and recruit retirees to activate the club. It wasn’t long as the word was spread out to retired IAM members. IAMAW, Potomac Air Lodge 1976 Retirees’ Club was officially established in 1995. The club grew from 35 to 703 IAM Retiree members during the highest point in the clubs’ history. Today the club remains with 537 active members. Many of the clubs members are U.S. military Veterans. The clubs’ president Bill Hollowood commented, “This was a light meeting today”, we usually have 120 to 135 on average, and closer to 200, when we have guest speakers.”

The IAMAW, Potomac Air Lodge 1976 Retirees’ Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 11:00 AM, at the VFW hall in Hopewell, PA. Throughout the year the club invites guest speakers to attend as many meetings as possible to cover subjects such as, but not limited to, Veterans Administration benefits, financial planning for seniors, elder care, medical, dental, eye care benefits, legal help and American Airlines pass privileges benefits. The club also hosts an annual Summer picnic and Christmas dinner dance.

“We have a great club, it has the full support of its members. It’s a very popular place for retirees and their spouses to socialize and catch up on the latest” said President Bill Hollowood.

NOTE: (Of the ninety-two (92) in attendance, sixty-two (62) were U.S. military Veterans.)
Dave Meinell is the current President of the DL 9 Retirees club and President of Alliance for Retired Americans Missouri chapter. The District 9 meeting is held every fourth Wednesday of the month. Dave, a retired Business Representative of DL 9 remains very active in the labor movement. He works throughout the state of Missouri to maintain the fight for labor and seniors rights.

At this recent meeting several U.S. military Veterans, IAM retirees were honored for their service to our country.

2016 is a critical year for Missouri, the anti-labor agenda has released an onslaught of “right-to-work” legislation in another all out attack on the union movement. Anti-labor legislators have set their sights on seniors as well.

“Right to work for less” has been introduced several times in previous State Legislative Sessions and duly defeated. In spite of the anti-labor and anti-senior sentiments of the right-wing agenda the retirees tirelessly fight back.

“The club members are always ready when we need action. This group has undying spirit and will to continue on into the never ending battle of maintaining the rights of workers and seniors. We cannot and shall not allow anti-labor politicians to think they can keep taking away benefits we were promised and rightfully earned” said Dave. He also added, “the efforts to stop the radical anti-labor mindset must continue especially in Missouri, the (Show Me state), we have to show them again, right to work is a rip-off.”

**National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

**2016 Theme Announced**

WASHINGTON – To reflect the important role disability plays in workforce diversity, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy today announced that the theme of 2016’s official National Disability Employment Awareness Month is “#InclusionWorks.”

“By fostering a culture that embraces individual differences, including disabilities, businesses profit by having a wider variety of tools to confront challenges,” said Jennifer Sheehy, deputy assistant secretary of labor for disability employment policy. “Our nation’s most successful companies proudly make inclusion a core value. They know that inclusion works. It works for workers, it works for employers, it works for opportunity, and it works for innovation.”

ODEP created this year’s theme with input from a wide variety of its partner organizations, including those representing employers, people with disabilities and their families, and federal, state and local agencies.

Click here to read entire article.
Machinists Hit Capitol Hill to Talk Working Family Issues

Hundreds of IAM members are on Capitol Hill this week lobbying Congress on the issues that matter to working families. The annual IAM Legislative Conference draws member activists from all corners of the country to Washington, DC to meet with members of Congress to discuss trade, health care, retirement security, workers’ rights and more.

A top priority is fighting the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a NAFTA-style trade deal that threatens to offshore even more U.S. and Canadian manufacturing jobs, this time to Asian countries with rock-bottom wages and few workers’ rights. Congress could vote on the TPP as soon as the lame-duck session, the period between the November elections and when the new Congress takes office in January 2017.

The time to put the pressure on legislators who might be on the fence is now, said IAM International President Bob Martinez.

“We’ve seen what happens to towns that lose their main industry,” Martinez said in the conference’s keynote address.

“More people compete for fewer jobs, creating a glut that drives down wages. Families that lived in the same area for generations are torn apart as young people have no choice but to leave.”

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), a consistent ally against bad trade deals, told delegates the TPP is “all about corporate handouts and worker sellouts.”

Delegates are also pressuring legislators on a host of other issues affecting the IAM and its membership. “Anything we do for our members at the negotiating table can be undone in Washington with the stroke of a pen,” warned IAM Legislative Director Hasan Solomon.

Right-to-work laws are spreading throughout the country, but not without a fight. Efforts by the IAM and other labor groups beat back recent attempts at right-to-work in New Mexico and Missouri. A suit brought by IAM District 10 in Wisconsin is currently blocking the Badger State from implementing its own right-to-work law. But, “if Trump is elected, you can bet one of the first things he pushes is a national right-to-work law,” said Martinez.

Click here to read entire article.
Treasury Rejects Retiree Pension Cuts, But Fight Far From Over

In its first ruling since a 2014 Republican-led Congress changed pension law, the U.S. Treasury Department refused to allow the Teamsters’ Central States Pension Fund to cut benefits to retired participants.

“This is an important victory for retirees, but the battle is far from over,” said IAM General Vice President Jim Conigliaro. “Cutting the benefits retirees have already earned is the wrong solution to the pension crisis. The IAM is going to keep up the fight to overturn the dangerous law Republicans passed behind our backs.”

In 2014, just days before the December holiday, congressional Republicans quietly passed the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act (MPRA), which permits pension cuts to current retirees in certain financially-troubled multiemployer pension plans. The legislation, which was brokered behind closed doors and slyly attached to a massive omnibus spending bill, took effect without the opportunity for hearings or public comment.

Retirees to Congress and Treasury Department Don’t Cut our Pensions!

Last Thursday, more than 2,000 retirees from around the country visited Washington, D.C., to tell Congress and policymakers one thing: Don’t cut our pensions. These retired truck drivers, warehouse workers, dock workers, widows, spouses and other retired Teamsters attended a rally held at the U.S. Capitol to protest devastating pension cuts that could affect more than 270,000 people. The cuts, proposed by the Central States Pension Fund, are the result of the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act (MPRA), a law that allows certain severely underfunded multiemployer plans to cut retiree pensions today – eviscerating one of ERISA’S most critical protections.

The rally, organized by retiree activists Bob Amsden, Mike Walden and retiree leaders from around the country, was held to urge Congress to repeal the MPRA cuts and to urge the Treasury Department to reject the devastating cuts proposed by the Central States Pension Fund. Many of the people who attended the rally are facing pension cuts between 40 and 70 percent.

Click here to read entire article.

House Votes to Repeal U.S. Retirement Rule, Obama Threatens Veto

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. House of Representatives voted on Thursday to repeal a Labor Department rule aimed at protecting retirement savers from profit-hungry brokers, a largely symbolic move that President Barack Obama has threatened to veto.

Obama's administration earlier in April released the rule setting a fiduciary standard for financial brokers who sell retirement products, requiring them to put clients’ best interests ahead of their bottom lines.

Republican political leaders and some in the financial industry responded by trying to override it through legislation, saying complying with it would be expensive for brokers which would result in higher costs for retirement advice that many Americans could not afford. They also say that the rule does not take into account other laws and regulations on financial advice.

Click here to read entire article.