



Retirees & Employee Assistance Program Newsletter

Minnesota State Council of Machinists Retirees Club Picnic



Minnesota State Council of Machinist RETIREES Third annual Picnic and membership drive held at Vet's Camp, Big Marine on St. Croix, MN

More than 50 members attended this year's MN State Council of Machinists Retirees Club Annual Picnic and Membership Drive. Machinist Retiree Club members welcomed honorary guest Minnesota, Secretary of State; Steve Simon (*SOS Simon left-center*). This was his second consecutive year in attendance.

SOS Simon addressed IAM retirees about how much has been achieved to make it easier for all who wish to cast their vote in Minnesota. Simon then pledged to make MN the top voter participation state again.

He explained MN was number four in voter turnout in the last election and appealed to the group to help attain number one status again due to the simplicity of the MN voting provisions. MN allows "same day registration voting" and "mobile voting" by bringing the disabled their ballots directly to them.

Simon continued with the address of senior's issues and commended IAM retirees for their dedication and remaining active upholding the rights of American seniors.

Simon commented on low turnout of younger voters, "*some may say, this is their way of protesting,*" he paraphrased the wording of T-shirt he once saw, "*Abstention of your Vote is not a protest, it an absolute surrender*". In conclusion, he inspired retirees to reach out to younger voters and educate them, "*if younger voters expect to be heard, they must vote.*"

The master chef's made sure the BBQ was going along smooth and steady. The assistance of many retiree club volunteers ensured all other picnic amenities were well placed and ready.

While club members entered the pavilion, Brother Madden rounded up volunteers and new club member applications. There were pontoons rides and drawings for door prizes.

Retired DL 77, DBR Bob DeRoy commented "*the membership drive is an ongoing challenge, but we're doing it.*" Michael Madden, executive chair of the MN-STC-Machinists Retirees, added, "*it sure is, but we are in for the long haul and looking forward to getting out the vote by showing up at the polls this November.*"

September 2016

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Grand Lodge Convention: September 4-10, 2016

Labor Day: September 5, 2016

Autumn Begins: September 22, 2016

We ask all IAM Retirees to remain active and involved in their union.

Please join existing clubs and recruit new retiree members and assist fellow IAM retirees to establish and maintain active IAM Retirees clubs in their Local and District Lodges.

<http://www.goiam.org/index.php/headquarters/departments/retirees-a-employee-assistance-programs>

Do you have a story to share?

Send your activities and photos to us so we can highlight your event and encourage others to do the same.

- Email your stories to us at emanhart@iamaw.org and ccageorgallas@iamaw.org



Oklahoma Machinists at Tinker AFB Strike to Keep Pension

In a move to save their pension plan, more than 240 IAM Local 850 members employed by service contractor Alutiiq Commercial Enterprises at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City, walked off the job Monday morning. Alutiiq is a new contractor at the base.

“The issue is retirement,” said IAM Directing Business Representative Tony Bennett. “The company wants to take the money they contribute to the pension plan and instead put it into a 401(k). The workers know the pension plan will give them a far more secure retirement than the Wall Street risk of a 401(k).”

The workers went on strike after Alutiiq announced that it would not continue

pension plan contributions when it took over the service contract from the base’s previous contractor Tinker Support Services on August 1.

Click [here](#) to read entire article.



Seattle District 751 Raises \$17,500 for GDA

IAM District 751 held their 25th Annual Guide Dogs of America (GDA) golf tournament recently, raising more than \$17,000 for the IAM’s favorite charity. One hundred thirty-two golfers turned out for the yearly golf outing at Willows Run Golf Complex in Redmond, WA.

“We had a great group of golfers, a lot of volunteers and the folks at Willows Run were, as always, really great to work with,” said IAM District 751 member Mark Clark, who was the tournament’s lead organizer. “Everyone worked together so we could have a fun day raising money for a great cause.”

“I’m always proud of the work and effort of District 751 to raise money for Guide Dogs of America,” said IAM Western Territory General Vice President Gary Allen. Their endless dedication to helping others is an inspiration to all.”

Click [here](#) to read entire article.

Voter Suppression Laws Struck Down in Three States



Voters in North Carolina, Wisconsin and Kansas won victories when judges struck down Republican led efforts to restrict voting in those states.

A three-judge panel of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals blocked North

Carolina’s law that had unfair limits on the number of acceptable photo ID’s, eliminated same-day registration and curtailed early voting. In its **published opinion**, the court made it clear that race and political control played a large part in the law’s inception.

“Although the new [law’s] provisions target African Americans with almost surgical precision,” the court stated. “They constitute inapt remedies for... and in fact, impose a cure for problems that did not exist.”

Click [here](#) to read entire article.

AARP Drops ALEC Amidst Pressure Campaign

Amidst coverage of its involvement with American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and pressure from advocacy groups, AARP on Thursday told Politico that it will not renew its membership with the conservative group.

"We will not renew our membership to ALEC. AARP will continue to explore avenues that will enhance our interaction with organizations and elected officials that represent different perspectives in order to further the issues important to Americans 50+ and their families," AARP said in a statement to Politico's Playbook, after the outlet asked if the organization would renew its membership with ALEC.

The decision from AARP follows pressure for the group to nix its association with ALEC, a conservative organization that drafts model legislation. Several companies have ditched their ALEC memberships over the last few years over the group's climate change denial.



A Monday column in the Los Angeles Times noted that AARP was listed as a sponsor of ALEC's 2016 summer meeting in July, citing a report from the Center for Media and Democracy.

Click [here](#) to read entire article.

Survey Says Unwary Consumers at Risk on Public Wi-Fi Networks



WASHINGTON, D.C. –

A new survey from AARP says busy consumers relying on the convenience of public wireless networks to keep up-to-date on email, social networks, shopping and even their finances often put their sensitive personal information at risk.

The AARP Fraud Watch Network today launches a "Watch Your Wi-Fi" campaign to educate Americans about Wi-Fi hazards and how they can protect themselves. As part of the campaign, AARP has also begun encouraging businesses that maintain free wireless networks for their customers to participate in the educational effort.

The results of the new AARP Fraud Watch Network survey show that nearly half of consumers log on to free public Wi-Fi at least once every few months. Of these, 33% have shopped online using their credit card, 37% have conducted online banking, and more than 70% have accessed their email, Facebook and other social media accounts.

Click [here](#) to read entire article.



PBGC to Pay Benefits at Vertellus Specialties Inc.

PBGC will pay retirement benefits for more than 900 current and future retirees of Vertellus Specialties Inc., a manufacturer of specialty chemicals based in Indianapolis, IN.

The company sponsors the Vertellus Specialties Inc. Defined Benefit Retirement Plan.

PBGC is stepping in because Vertellus and 10 affiliates intend to sell the majority of their assets in bankruptcy proceedings and the potential buyer will not continue the pension plan.

The company's plan will end on Sept. 6, 2016. A hearing is slated for Sept. 7, 2016, to approve the sale of assets.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

Please stand up for your rights to ensure the solvency of your Pension, Social Security and Medicare.

**Get out and VOTE
November 8th, 2016**

Supplement Pills That Promise Too Much

Retired attorney Robert Burns, 79, of Crystal River, Fla., was concerned that he was losing short-term memory, and consulted a pharmacist at his local CVS. "You might try this," he recalls the pharmacist saying, pointing to a dietary supplement rich in omega-3 fatty acids. "This is something we produce. It has been clinically tested and should work."

It didn't. "I started getting stomach cramps and headaches," Burns says. After three weeks of unpleasant side effects and no discernible results, Burns thought, Enough is enough. He is now a plaintiff in a federal lawsuit accusing CVS of misleading advertising.

Americans buy \$37 billion worth of nutritional supplements a year, ranging from simple vitamin and mineral pills to sleep aids, muscle powders, memory enhancers and self-proclaimed disease cures. Sales are rising, thanks to the millions of boomers now facing age-related health conditions, including memory loss.

A study published in March by researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago found the proportion of adults between ages 62 and 85 using supplements rose from 51.8 percent in 2005 to 63.7 percent in 2011.



Click [here](#) to read entire article.

The War on Medicare Fraud



WHERE DID ALL THE MONEY GO?

That's what the authorities wondered, even after they searched the house of Jacques Roy. Inside the physician's lake-front home in the Dallas suburb of Rockwall, police found a fake Texas driver's license and Canadian birth certificate—both in the name of Michel Poulin—plus deposit slips from banks in the Cayman Islands and a

guide to registering yachts there. Also found: a book called *Hide Your Assets and Disappear: A Step-by-Step Guide to Vanishing Without a Trace*.

But before he was able to make his escape, investigators from the Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) moved in, tipped off by Roy's astounding billing figures. From 2006 to 2011, prosecutors say Roy's business, Medistat Group Associates, certified over 11,000 Medicare beneficiaries to receive home health care, more than any other doctor in the country.

Click [here](#) to read entire article.



Fighting Against High Drug Costs

Heather Block was managing aid projects for the State Department and the United Nations in Afghanistan when she found a lump in her breast. Following a mastectomy and chemotherapy, she was on the road to recovery. Then, a year after her oncologist pronounced her cured, the cancer returned, this time to her liver. After she underwent a brutal liver resection to remove the cancer, doctors discovered that it had spread to her lungs.

Stage 4 cancer with no cure her oncologist told her that half of women survive two years and only 20 percent last five years. Four and a half years later, Heather now 53 and living in Lewes, Del. appears to be beating the odds, surviving on costly drugs.

But because it is billed through Medicare Part B, which does not have an out-of-pocket maximum, she is responsible for 20 percent of the cost of every cancer drug she takes, more than \$400 a month and the costs keep rising at alarming rates.

Click [here](#) to read entire article.