

The 2011 second meeting of the Machinists State Council was held in Albuquerque on August 26th & 27th, 2011. The meeting focused on upcoming legislation in New Mexico that would adversely affect Union members as well as coming generations of workers.

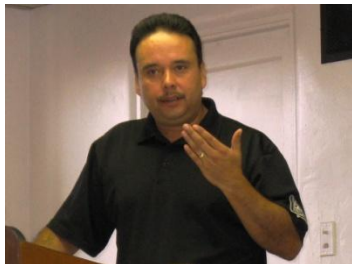
The Delegates were briefed by speakers that brought some very important information to the meeting for us to share with our Brothers and Sisters.

The first speaker was Congressman Ben Ray Lujan. He gave us examples of how the U.S. has gone from a manufacturing nation to just a nation of consumers such as how cell phones were developed and created in this Country, but last year the amount of cell phones made in this Country was exactly zero. Congressman Lujan also told the Delegates about an amendment he offered to open previously off-limits areas to oil drilling provided that the oil would only be refined and sold in the U.S. and how the amendment was voted down in Washington. The Congressman also told us the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter that was supposed to go to Holloman was now going to Arizona. He said that when he made inquiries about the change, no one could give him an explanation as to why. Congressman Lujan informed us about pending Free Trade Agreements with Columbia, Panama and South Korea and how they would further erode the jobs in the U.S. The voting on these trade agreements will be in the September 15th-20th timeframe in Washington.



Congressman Ben Ray Lujan

Our next speaker was our GVP Gary Allen from the Western Territory. Brother Allen briefed the Delegates on many things including the ongoing issue with Boeing moving the 2nd assembly line for the 787 aircraft to South Carolina from Washington State. In retaliation against the Union in Washington, Boeing moved the 2nd line to South Carolina citing “labor problems” as the reason. The IAM filed labor charges against Boeing and won with the Federal Labor Board directing Boeing to move the 2nd line back to Washington.



GVP Gary Allen

California Representative Darrell Issa has now involved himself in the case and threatened to dissolve the NLRB. More information can be found [HERE](#).

John Hendry joined us from NMFL Local 480, and gave the Delegates more information on the attempt in this Country to eliminate decent paying jobs and replace them with low paying jobs with little or no benefits so the corporations can make even more profit from the labor of workers. He also pointed out that the richest 4% of people in this Country own more than 50% of it.



John Hendry

John has also given a helping hand in the ongoing effort to organize close to 1200 workers in the Kirtland AFB area in Albuquerque for the IAM. This is a great example of one Union helping another to improve workers and their families' lives and keeping good jobs in New Mexico.

We thank John Hendry for all his time and work to make this happen.



Don Manning

The Senior Coordinator for the AFL-CIO, Don Manning, briefed us all on the "Help America Vote Act". This is a new program created to make it easier to register people to vote. The program involves a new form that is simply filled out completely and dropped in the mail to the New Mexico Secretary of State. It is much simpler than the old way of people having to attend training

classes and then having to sign out the registration forms. Anyone signing out forms would have to sign unused forms back in and they would not allow any forms to be copied. The new forms are much simpler and can be copied as many times as needed.

GLR Ray Rivera, our Political Liaison for the IAM Western Territory spoke to the Delegates and gave us a description of what is taking shape in America. He told us all of the concentrated effort to attack the workers in the U.S. by taking away pensions and other benefits as well as the orchestrated denial of collective bargaining rights by many Republican Governors in many of the States. He also told of how the IAM worked against NAFTA and how the new proposed trade agreements would do further damage to the American worker. NAFTA has not only lost many jobs for American workers, it has only let corporations move manufacturing to Mexico and bring their products into the U.S. duty free. Ray informed us of how there is currently a push to eliminate retirement for our military personnel and instead give them a 401k. This would not only put Wall Street in control of their pensions, but it would also put more money in the hands of the corporations. Ray summed it all up in one sentence- "Organized Labor is the last true voice the working people have against the corporations and that is why they are trying to destroy the Unions".



GLR Ray Rivera

U.S. Congressman Martin Heinrich took time to come down from D.C. to talk with the Delegates. He told us about how some in Washington have what the Congressman calls a “Full Employment Minimum Wage Plan”. He explained that their idea is that corporations and companies would hire more workers if they only had to pay minimum wage to those workers.



Congressman Martin Heinrich

Presidential candidate Rep. Michelle Bachman has stated publically that we would have no unemployment if corporations could pay only minimum wage. As Congressman Heinrich told us- “Corporations are trying to destroy everything Labor had built in this Country over the last 100 years”. He said that although the Senate has a small majority of Democrats, they are not ‘Labor’ Democrats.

State Representative Eleanor Chavez also spoke to the attendees about upcoming legislation in the State. She told us that although the special session of the New Mexico Legislature is supposed to deal with redistricting in the State, it is anticipated that other bills will be introduced including anti-union legislation. Representative Chavez said what we need is to focus on protecting and creating jobs in New Mexico and in order to do this; people need to get active by getting with their Legislators before the session in order to prevent the jobs situation from getting worse. She also told us how Hewlett Packard wants tax breaks from the State to compensate them for what H.P. calls “high wage jobs”.



Representative Eleanor Chavez

She informed us that there are too many tax breaks for corporations and how Wal-Mart doesn’t pay any taxes on their profits. She also said that the money lost on tax breaks to corporations in this State roughly equals the State deficit. In response to a question from one of the Delegates, Representative Chavez said she would be happy to sponsor a bill for State funding to provide training for Trades training at the community college level.

State Representative Sheryl Williams-Stapleton broke away from her busy schedule to tell the Delegates about how it was clear that the Unions were under attack across the Country. She also confirmed that legislation will be introduced at the State level to eliminate collective bargaining. As she told us- “Make sure a candidate supports you before you support them”.



Representative Sheryl Williams Stapleton

During the regular order of business the Delegates elected Charles “Jay” Jaramillo as 2nd Vice-President.

Committee reports were given by the Delegates for the contracts at their respective Locals.

The next State Council of Machinists was scheduled for January 26th, 27th and 28th 2012 in Santa Fe. Tentatively scheduled are January 26th - registration and call to order of the meeting followed by talking with our Legislators at the Roundhouse. January 27th - possible training by the Western Territory staff. January 28th - guest speakers and regular business.