

# The Leading Edge



News for Boeing  
South Carolina Employees



Volume 1, Number 5

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## Coast to Coast: IAM Members Have Your Back



*Strength in Numbers: The IAM and organized labor are fighting to lift up all working families.*

### *To the employees of Boeing South Carolina:*

IAM members at Boeing in Seattle have your back.

IAM members at Lockheed Martin in Marietta, GA have your back.

IAM members with Army Fleet Support at Fort Rucker in Alabama have your back.

Across the U.S. and Canada, IAM members are supporting Boeing South Carolina workers' efforts to unionize. Pratt & Whitney Machinists; Spirit Machinists; Raytheon Machinists: they're all supporting your efforts.

That's because they know the same thing that those managers looking to squeeze every last penny out of their workers know: Union representation raises living standards for everyone.

When more and more workers join Unions in South Carolina and across the country, wages and benefits will improve for everyone. This is how it has gone in the past and this is how it will go in the future.

Union members, on average, earn \$200 more than their non-union counterparts every week. In states more likely to have Union households, median household income is roughly \$6,000 higher.

And as we get closer to filing for an election with the National Labor Relations Board, you'll find that many of the folks who visit you at your home will be volunteer organizers offering their time to help grow the Union.

And it's not just IAM members who are coming out to support Boeing South Carolina workers. In South Carolina, the Longshoremens Union, Steelworkers Union, and Electrical Workers Union have all voiced their support for Boeing South Carolina workers seeking to join the IAM.

"They need to be here, more unions need to come here," said Kenneth Riley, president of the Charleston chapter of the Longshoremens Union. "In a union environment, you do have a chance to fight for your job."

Families and communities across South Carolina stand to benefit tremendously from a Unionized Boeing South Carolina. That's because those Union wages you could be earning would go right back into the local economy. Small businesses, churches and more would all get a boost.

And THAT is why you've seen so many in the community come out to support your efforts.

## IAM Open House

### **Saturday October 18th & Saturday October 25th**

Join us on either date between 6:00 am and 9:00 am for donuts and coffee or between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm for light refreshments. IAM representatives will be available to answer any questions you might have and discuss the importance of making an educated decision. Our office is located at:

**7025 Dorchester Rd  
N Charleston, SC 29418**

# Thanks For Your Hospitality at the Doors

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Over the past few weeks, we've had the pleasure of meeting many of you. When we've come to visit, you have been courteous and polite – even if you had no interest in sparking up a conversation with us. We can assure you that the hospitality you have shown us is appreciated and will be reciprocated. You can rest assured that any IAM organizers and volunteers who meet you at your home will not be pushy, overbearing or rude. Our organizers are visiting Boeing South Carolina workers to hear from you.

Hopefully we can answer any questions you might have about the IAM or Union representation. We are also gauging the support of you and your co-workers. If the overwhelming majority of you feel things are fine just the way they are, we certainly don't want to waste your time or ours. However, if a large number of you express interest we will certainly do all we can to get a Union contract into Boeing South Carolina.

Again, our IAM organizers and volunteers are here to listen to concerns, provide information and gauge support. Nothing more.



## Check Us Out on Facebook

The IAM has launched a Facebook page dedicated to providing information and fostering constructive discussion among the working men and women at Boeing South Carolina who have questions or thoughts about joining a Union. The page is administrated by IAMAW staff in South Carolina and our goal is to ensure workers also have the facts and can make an educated decision for what is best for their working career in the area of, wages, hours, and working conditions. Visit the page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/boeingworkers>

## Links

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**Boeing Workers:** [www.boeingworkers.com](http://www.boeingworkers.com)

**Employee Rights:** [http://www.dol.gov/olms/regs/compliance/EmployeeRightsPoster11x17\\_Final.pdf](http://www.dol.gov/olms/regs/compliance/EmployeeRightsPoster11x17_Final.pdf)

**Boeing SC Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/boeingworkers>

**GoIAM:** [www.goiam.org](http://www.goiam.org)

**Machinists Union Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/MachinistsUnion>

**SC AFL-CIO:** <http://sc.aflcio.org/5041/>

## Contact Us

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**Machinists Union**  
7025 Dorchester Rd  
N Charleston, SC 29418  
**Office Hours: Monday—Friday,**  
9:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Phone:** 843-640-3106  
**Email:** [mevans@iamaw.org](mailto:mevans@iamaw.org)



## Unions 101: Authorization Cards

Some Boeing SC workers have expressed concern regarding the confidentiality of signing an authorization card. Given the steady stream of rumors making their way through the shop, we can understand why some might have reservations.

However, the legality of authorization cards is very cut and dry. And the bottom line is: **Neither the IAM or the NLRB is going to show Boeing management signed authorization cards.**

By signing authorization cards, workers demonstrate their interest in having a union. Under the law, once 30% or more of the workforce has signed cards, the IAM can use them to file with the NLRB for a secret ballot election.

Here's the key point: The Government takes and keeps the authorization cards, not letting the company see the authorization cards.

According to the NLRB, authorization cards are an administrative process to determine interest and the Union (not the NLRB) technically always maintains authority over the cards. Anything to the contrary is a blatant infringement on that employee's federal protected right to form a union.

We encourage Boeing workers harbouring concerns to contact the Region 10 NLRB Office in Winston-Salem, NC. You can call between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm at (336) 631-5201. Ask for the Information Officer on duty.