



CONTRACT 2016

DISTRICT LODGE 26 AND ITS AFFILIATED LOCAL LODGES 700 & 1746



Here We Go



Contract Talks Begin; Strike Sanction Vote Friday

“Do not underestimate the resolve of our members.” Those were the words of IAM International President Bob Martinez. Brother Martinez came to Connecticut to deliver a strong message to company negotiators at the opening of contract talks.

“We are always ready to partner with companies, but not companies that make huge profits and then turn on us, going after members’ benefits,” Brother Martinez told Pratt’s management team. “I congratulate Pratt on the volume of orders and the success of the products. Our members are a part of that success and want to share in it. One thing they are not interested in is going backward – on pensions, healthcare or anything else.”

The session had started with chief IAM negotiator Mike Stone inviting the company to make their opening remarks on the contract talks. Management went out of their way to praise the Connecticut Pratt workers for your skill, hard work and dedication to getting the job done. They said that Connecticut is a “special place” where they were committed to staying.

Management said that training would be particularly important as new workers come into the shop. They stated that the workforce would grow, but “cost issues need to be addressed.” Translation: we will be coming after your benefits.

IAM chief negotiator Mike Stone provided a “reality check” in his remarks to the management. “You have the worst healthcare benefits,” Stone stated. “If you want to hire more people, you will have to address that.” Brother Stone said that attracting new workers required management to enhance Economic Security and Job Security. “We should not have to take you to court to enforce Letter 22 – our Jobs Security protections. But we’ve had to do it twice – and won both times.”

Stone spoke for the full elected Negotiating Committee in committing to “put in whatever hours are necessary to get this done. Let’s negotiate a good contract.”

STRIKE SANCTION VOTE THIS FRIDAY AT THE UNION HALL 6AM – 8PM