



CONTRACT 2021

UNION STRONG

Local 743

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Contract Negotiations Begin



Left to right: LL743 Committee Members: Rec. Sec. Karen Blanchard, LL743 Vice President Travis Williams, Carey St. Martin, District 26 Office Manager, Eleanor Getchell, District 26 DBR, Mike Stone, Chief Negotiator District 26 BR, Jeff Santini, LL743 President Dianna Koch, IAMAW Aerospace Coordinator, Robert Barnwell, LL743 Committee Members: Austin Laporte, Bob Mac Lean, Sec. Treas. Vic Ghidoni.

Contract talks began on Monday September 13th, 2021 at the Springfield Sheraton Monarch Hotel in Springfield MA. In her opening statement, HR Manager and chief negotiator for the company, Andrea Smart expressed her gratitude for all the hard work over the past couple years dealing with all the challenges with the pandemic. She also expressed that our current collective agreement is well seasoned with 80 years of language. She also discussed that our current collective agreement expires on the 30th and there will be no extensions added to our agreement. IAM Chief Negotiator LL743 Business Rep. Jeff Santini expressed the concerns of the membership during the pandemic. He also stated, “the contract once ratified must provide wages, working conditions and a benefits package that rewards our members and their families.” He continued, “Out of these negotiations our members expect their key issues to be met, including stronger job security language than they have today, improvements to their wages, medical coverage, pensions, savings plan, and additional leave.”

We listened to a business overview presentation from Vice President and General Manager of Aftermarket Ryan Hudson. He spoke of the merger with Raytheon and how we now have 4 new business units: Collins, Pratt & Whitney, Raytheon Intelligence & Space, Raytheon Missiles & Defense. The company has about 180,000 employees worldwide and plans for major investments in future work. Raytheon Technologies is the 2nd largest commercial aerospace company in the world and the 2nd largest defense company in the world. They have invested 190.5 million into the Windsor Locks campus between business investments as well as campus investments since 2016.

Your union negotiating committee is ready to battle the company every step of the way to secure a contract that they can recommend to the membership. Collins may have other plans so it is imperative that you are prepared in case Collins proposes an unacceptable last, best and final offer at negotiations. Remain active on the shop floor and remember that **You are the Union!** It is through your unity and solidarity that the negotiating committee will be able to bring forward a contract that you can accept! Wear your Union T-shirts on **Thursdays** and wear your buttons daily! The next meeting is scheduled for September 17th at 10:00AM. We are scheduled to meet every day next week.