

# Local Lodge S6 Leadership Connection **Proudly Serving** Our Membership 2/23/24



#### **Improper Use of Step Ladders**

Step ladders should never be used to access units. If you need to utilize a ladder to ingress or egress a unit, then you should contact your Supervisor to get Stagebuilders to set up an access point for you. Using a step ladder is a dangerous shortcut that can lead to serious injury. In 2022, 700 workers died due to falls to a lower level, making it the third leading cause of workplace fatalities. Workers fought and died to have the right to a safe workplace. We must preserve this right by working safely and holding the Company accountable for its safety policies.

### 480V Plug/Unplug

Only properly trained mechanics in the appropriate trades are permitted to plug and unplug 480V equipment that has already been set up. This includes heaters. 480V equipment presents a serious work hazard that should not be taken lightly. Anyone without the appropriate training should never be asked by management to do this work. If you are, please ask your supervisor for an M21: Electrical Maintenance.

### March 8th Gate Collection: Edward Nappe

Edward Nappe is a Local S6 member in the Tinshop who was diagnosed with Stage 4 Cancer. He has missed a significant amount of work due to his illness and could use our help. Please remember to carry cash with you on Fridays. A small amount from each of us goes a long way for our brothers, sisters, and communities.

## **Large Corporations Seek to Sue NLRB**

Amazon, SpaceX, and Trader Joe's have all filed similar lawsuits against the National Labor Relations Board claiming the agency's enforcement proceedings violate the U.S. Constitution. These lawsuits threaten the very existence of the greatest asset that working-class people have to defend their rights as workers. Each of these three companies has recently fought their employee's attempts to organize and has had unfair labor practices filed against them. Instead of doing the right thing and ending the exploitative practices, they are attacking the organization that is designed to hold them accountable. The NLRB has existed for 80 years without a challenge like this, but with a Supreme Court that has ruled against the rights of workers in recent history, there is concern over the uncertainty of the outcome. It seems the owners of these companies will go to any length to avoid treating their employees with the dignity and respect that all people deserve.

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Chris Williams President Marc Lindvall Trustee

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### Labor History - A. Philip Randolph

A. Philip Randolph (1889-1979) was a labor and civil rights leader whose life's work was to break down racial barriers within the labor movement and connect the fight for racial equality to the fight for economic equality. From 1925 to 1937 he helped organize Black train porters in Chicago facing long hours and harsh working conditions. The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Workers became the first predominantly Black labor union in the nation and played a critical role in the success of the Civil Rights movement. Randolph's contributions to the fight for equality led to the banning of racial discrimination in the defense industry and the ending of racial segregation in the armed services. He was also a major organizer of the March on Washington, where Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "I Have a Dream" speech. He is considered one of the most influential political strategists of the twentieth century and his legacy continues to this day through the A. Philip Randolph Institute, a constituency group of the AFL-CIO.

The Maine Chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute is having a Celebration Dinner on March 9th at the Maine Irish Heritage Center. There will be speakers and a workshop after the dinner. Anyone is welcome to join and celebrate the ongoing work of this organization. Reach out to the hall with any questions about the event.

"Freedom is never granted: It is won. Justice is never given: It is exacted. Freedom and justice must be struggled for by the oppressed of all lands and races." - A. Philip Randolph

## **New Tooling and Equipment**

Any new tooling or equipment that the Company acquires for employees to utilize needs to be reviewed by the Safety and Health Steering Committee. This joint committee of Union and Company representatives' purpose is to continually work toward making the yard a safer place to work. Anyone using a new tool or piece of equipment that the Company has provided should be sure to ask if it has been approved by the steering committee. Our Union safety representatives have been finding new equipment being used in the yard that they never had a chance to give input on. Though new tools can often be very useful, it is important that union representatives have the opportunity to express any concerns about their application. The perspective of mechanics is critical for evaluating the safe use of any new tool or equipment. Everyone's safety is more important than the apparent usefulness of a new tool.

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