



**Local Lodge S6  
Leadership Connection  
Proudly Serving  
Our Membership  
3/8/24**



**General Membership Meeting: 3/16/24**

Bath Area Senior Center - 45 Floral Street, Bath ME, 04530 - Meeting Start: 9:30 AM  
All members are welcome. This is the membership's opportunity to participate in Union Business.

**Raffle for Sea Dogs Opening Day Tickets**

All Local S6 members who attend the General Membership Meeting this month will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win four (4) tickets to the Sea Dogs Opening Day game on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Raffle tickets will be distributed at the door and drawn at the end of the meeting.

**AFL-CIO Labor Lobby Day**

We are sending nine (9) representatives to the Annual Labor Lobby Day held by the Maine AFL-CIO. Labor Lobby Day is an opportunity for unions around the state to get together and lobby our legislators for pro-labor bills. Connecting with our union siblings on the issues that impact us all amplifies our voices to have change brought about. We cannot stand by and allow politicians, who do not understand our struggles as workers, to decide how the working class will flourish. As individuals, we may not agree on every political viewpoint, but as Union Members, we need to band together to ensure all workers are afforded fair treatment and an opportunity to prosper.

**Labor History:**

March 13th, 1830: The term "Rat," referring to a worker who betrays fellow workers, first appears in print in the New York Daily Sentinel. The newspaper was quoting a typesetter who was referring to replacement workers who had agreed to work for two-thirds of the going rate.

March 18th, 1970: The Post Office's first mass work stoppage in 195 years begins in Brooklyn and Manhattan and spreads to 210,000 of the nation's 750,000 postal employees. Mail service is virtually paralyzed in several cities and President Nixon declares a state of emergency. A settlement comes after two weeks.

***In Solidarity, Local S6 Leadership***

***All updates can be viewed on the LS6 Website: <https://iams6.org>***

***All updates can be viewed on the Official LS6 Facebook Page: Local-S6***

<i>Chris Williams</i> President	<i>Ray Orff</i> Vice President	<i>Tim Suitter</i> Chief Steward Bath/EBMF	<i>Scott McFadden</i> Chief Steward Hardings/CW/Bissons	<i>Ryan Ryder</i> Recording Secretary	<i>Stephen Stewart</i> Secretary-Treasurer
<i>Marc Lindvall</i> Trustee	<i>Clayton Reid</i> Trustee	<i>Josh Johnstone</i> Trustee	<i>David Clukey</i> Conductor-Sentinel	<i>Devin Ragnar</i> Communicator	<i>Brad Farrell</i> Educator



**Local Lodge S6  
Leadership Connection  
Proudly Serving  
Our Membership  
3/8/24**



**Labor Friendly Bills Moving through the State House**

A couple of noteworthy bills are making their way through the capitol building that could change the way the Maine Department of Labor holds employers accountable when they break the law.

LD 372 will allow the MDOL to order employers to pay back wages when they violate wage and hour laws. Currently, companies breaking wage laws are only subject to fines from the Department of Labor. The only way to compel them to pay back wages is to get the Attorney General’s office to file a lawsuit. Dishonest companies who are stealing from their employees will think twice if the immediate threat of being held accountable is on the table.

LD 2184 is another bill focused on deterring violations like wage theft and worker misclassification by increasing the penalties for those found to be breaking the law. Currently, fines for these offenses are so low that the average amount collected per violation is \$3.80. Such insignificant repercussions do nothing to deter greedy employers from stealing from their workers. The new rule would also account for employer size, track record, and the gravity of violations when calculating the fine.

Wage theft may not seem like a significant issue, but U.S. workers are estimated to have over \$50 billion in wages stolen from them every year. That is greater than all burglaries, robberies, and vehicle thefts combined. An employer willfully breaking labor law is no better than a common pickpocket. Without appropriate laws to protect workers, companies will continue to take what their employees have rightfully earned.

**Workers United and Starbucks Begin Bargaining Process**

The members of Starbucks Workers United have finally broken the coffee chain to the point where they are willing to begin the process of negotiating collective bargaining agreements with their organized shops. The company has been fighting unionizing efforts for 2 1/2 years and has accumulated 500 pending cases with the NLRB for unfair labor practices. The pressure from workers, students, and even their own stockholders has finally brought them around to see that working with the union is the right path forward. The company made an unexpected move by committing to negotiate a national master contract that can be augmented to fit the needs of any particular shop. Additionally, in a show of good faith, the company has finally given raises and benefits to the unionized employees that were previously only given to non-unionized employees, with back pay. This is a big win for Starbucks Workers United organizers, but with the last few years of harassment and intimidation only just behind them, they are proceeding cautiously toward a better future.

***In Solidarity, Local S6 Leadership***

*All updates can be viewed on the LS6 Website: <https://iams6.org>*

*All updates can be viewed on the Official LS6 Facebook Page: [Local-S6](#)*

<i>Chris Williams</i> President	<i>Ray Orff</i> Vice President	<i>Tim Switter</i> Chief Steward Bath/EBMF	<i>Scott McFadden</i> Chief Steward Hardings/CW/Bissons	<i>Ryan Ryder</i> Recording Secretary	<i>Stephen Stewart</i> Secretary-Treasurer
<i>Marc Lindvall</i> Trustee	<i>Clayton Reid</i> Trustee	<i>Josh Johnstone</i> Trustee	<i>David Clukey</i> Conductor-Sentinel	<i>Devin Ragnar</i> Communicator	<i>Brad Farrell</i> Educator