

**UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL**

**LOCAL 971**

# SHOP NOISE



**January, 2025**

**Volume XXXIV, No.01**

 **13**  
DIXIE PRINTING West Palm Beach

## **Connecticut Locals 700 and 1746, Allies Rally Against Furloughs as Pratt & Whitney Contract Negotiations Near**

In a show of solidarity and determination, hundreds of IAM Local 700 and 1746 members rallied outside Pratt & Whitney's Connecticut facilities this week to protest recent furloughs. According to members of Local 700 in Middletown and 1746 in East Hartford, the move by the company sends a bad message with just three months until negotiations begin.

Pratt & Whitney, a subsidiary of RTX Corporation, announced the furloughs citing cost saving measures to maintain their competitive cost structure while meeting customer demands. The decision affects hundreds of machinists in the region, many of whom are critical to the company's operations in manufacturing jet engines for both commercial and military applications.

### **A Unified Front**

Over a loudspeaker at the rally, union leadership expressed unhappiness across a wide spectrum of employees and customers including the U.S. government, considering a nearly \$100 billion of back-owed work, the timing doesn't make sense.

In October alone, Pratt and Whitney secured a \$1.3 billion contract for F-135 engine upgrades from the U.S. government.

Friday's rally drew hundreds of union members and elected leaders. Many held signs with slogans such as "Protect Our

Jobs" and "No Furloughs, Fair Contracts." Speakers emphasized the impact of the furloughs on workers' families and the local economy, while also urging the company to approach upcoming negotiations with fairness and respect.

"Our members are amongst the highest-skilled in the industry and it's no small task building these aircraft engines," said IAM Eastern Territory General Vice President David Sullivan. "They should be in those facilities continuing work that ensures Pratt & Whitney can deliver on their commitments."

### **Key Issues in Upcoming Talks**

While wages, healthcare and retirement remain a priority at the table, an agreement on job security between IAM and Pratt & Whitney and ensuring work remains vibrant in Connecticut for many generations will most likely be a key issue.

IAM members at Pratt & Whitney have long advocated and challenged the company over production work leaving the state. Any such work leaving is widely unpopular.

Pratt & Whitney pours millions into the state each year through wages alone and moving work elsewhere would cripple the region in a time where the cost of living is becoming more unattainable.

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## ***Optician Services Available on Campus***

Optical Services are located in the Manufacturing Building on A aisle across from the NEXT Lounge and is open every Tuesday, 8:00am – 4:00pm. Appointments are required. Call 561-796-2020. Bring in your current prescription.

### **No need to go off campus!**

#### **Available Services at Competitive Prices:**

- Prescription & Non-Prescription Safety Glasses
- Prescription Glasses for personal use
- Prescription sunglasses
- Your vision benefits welcomed including payment thru HSA



## ***International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers Local Lodge 971***



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***IAM Local Lodge 971***

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## **Annual Union Sporting Clay Competition**

Join your Union brothers and sisters for a fun and competitive day at this sporting day event! Let's come together, show our skills, and enjoy some camaraderie. Don't miss out.. bring your best aim and let's make it a great day!



### **Quail Creek Sporting Ranch**

12399 Northeast 224th St  
Okeechobee, FL 34972

Sunday, March 9th 8am-1pm

Voucher sales start Jan. 27th– Feb. 7th  
(price per person TBD, will be cash only)

Voucher includes: golf cart, ammo, and gun rental if needed (*one per team*)

Contact Ryan Murphy at 772-932-1521  
or [Ryan.murphy@prattwhitney.com](mailto:Ryan.murphy@prattwhitney.com)

Limited availability.

More details to come!

Committee:  
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Making such moves would be detrimental to local communities.

Pratt & Whitney has shed 27,000 jobs in the region since the 1980's, when the company employed nearly 38,000 workers – currently the entire workforce stands at around 11,000. With the company investing millions out of state for new manufacturing facilities, the IAM continues to fight to keep work in Connecticut.

### **Broader Implications**

The rally and impending negotiations come at a time of heightened labor activity across various industries in the United States. Workers are increasingly pushing back against corporate cost-cutting measures and advocating for stronger protections and benefits. The outcome of the Pratt & Whitney talks could have ripple effects, influencing labor relations in the aerospace sector and beyond.

### **Looking Ahead**

With the rally underscoring the machinists' resolve, all eyes will now turn to the bargaining table. For IAM members, the message is clear: they are prepared to stand together to secure a contract that reflects their contributions to Pratt & Whitney's success.

Officials at RTX gave a different assessment than the union of the situation at the plants in Middletown and East Hartford.. Their official statement—"In planning for supply chain gaps and lighter production, as standard practice, Pratt & Whitney will take the appropriate steps to maximize efficiency and cost-savings during two brief windows in 2025. Select sites will see a limited number of employees using paid or unpaid leave aligned to predictably slower, holiday-adjacent workdays.

We are taking these and related steps across our business to ensure peak production to meet historic customer demand."

Workers' discontent over the furloughs raises the stakes of upcoming contract negotiations for the IAMAW members who work in Middletown and East Hartford. Their current three-year agreement expires on May 5th.

### **IAM Organizing Department Secures Victory at GE Healthcare in Ohio**

The IAM Organizing Department recently achieved a hard-earned victory, successfully organizing 130 workers at GE Healthcare's facility in Aurora, Ohio, an important player in the global medical technology industry. The workers at this facility, who create coils for MRI machines that transmit critical imaging signals, wanted to join a union that would allow them to negotiate a binding contract with better pay, secure benefits, and predictable wage increases, similar to what their unionized counterparts enjoy at other GE Healthcare facilities.

"We're proud to add these 130 workers to our growing IAM family," said IAM International President Brian Bryant. "This victory not only strengthens our union but also sends a clear message to employers across the nation: workers have the power to change their working conditions and improve their lives through solidarity and collective action."

The IAM already represents GE Healthcare workers in Waukesha, Wisc., and Warrensville Heights, Ohio. This marks the first union organizing victory at GE Healthcare in over four decades, and the IAM has a proven experience that could lead workers to success.

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“The courage shown by these workers is what drives the IAM and the labor movement,” said IAM International Representative Ali Rhodes. “They knew they deserved more than what the company was offering and were determined to make their voices heard.” The organizing drive was far from easy, as the company launched a vigorous anti-union campaign.

Despite these challenges, the workers remained resolute in their fight for fairness and a voice at the bargaining table.

“What excites me most about having a union is the solidarity we now have and the voice that can’t be ignored,” said GE Healthcare Electromechanical Assembler Marlon Reed. “I understand that a union isn’t going to fix everything overnight, but it gives us protection and power in numbers.”

“This victory is the result of a unified effort,” said IAM Organizing Director Mike Evans. “I deeply appreciate the leadership of International Representative Ali Rhodes, Associate Organizer Lisa Ferm, and the entire Organizing Department for their invaluable contributions that have brought these workers one step closer to securing a union contract that will give them a real voice on the job.”

The newly organized unit includes Quality Assurance Technicians, Production Associates, and Logistics and Manufacturing Technicians.

“We warmly welcome our newest IAM members at GE Healthcare,” said IAM Assistant Organizing Director Juan Eldridge. “Their fight for dignity and justice is a powerful reminder of the change that unions can bring, and we look forward to supporting them as they secure a better tomorrow for themselves and their families.”

“The courage and determination of these workers will inspire others in the industry who are looking for a better, more secure future,” said IAM Eastern Territory General Vice President David Sullivan.

GE Healthcare, which employs over 60,000 people worldwide, has more than 20,000 union-represented workers across the U.S.

## Union Meeting

**January 19th**

**7:00pm**

***Executive Board Meeting at 6:30***

**Old Town Hall,**

**1000 Town Hall Ave., Jupiter**

**We will be discussing our Union Dues  
and it's pending increase**

