

Greetings!

Welcome to the 2005 Edition of the District 98 Social. I am proud to announce that we have not one but two guest speakers, who are exceptional motivational speakers, on the agenda for tonight's Social. Our first speaker is Jim Lautar, the Grand Lodge Representative assigned by the Eastern Territory to service District 98. More than the Servicing Grand Lodge Representative, Jim is a close & personal friend to me and to District 98. Our second speaker tonight is also a friend to me and to District 98. He is Bill George, the President of Pennsylvania AFL-CIO. The members of District 98 are proud and honored to have Bill here tonight. You are in for a treat to hear from both Jim Lautar and Bill George.

It is with great pleasure to announce that tonight we are honoring Brother Jim Elnyczky as Person of the Year for District 98. Jim is accompanied here tonight by his wife of 46 years, Alice. He is also accompanied by his sons, Gregory and Jeffrey, and his Granddaughter Hannah.

In January of 2001, Jim retired as the Directing Business Representative of the former District 83, which encompassed the section of Pennsylvania from west of Johnstown to the Ohio border and from Erie to the southern border of Pennsylvania. Jim was a Business Representative for the Machinists Union when he was elected in December of 1965. Jim then became Directing Business Representative in 1968.

Jim was born on March 15, 1938. He served in the United States Marines from December 1953 to December 1956.

Jim first joined the IAM in 1960 in the Automotive Lodge 1060. He worked as a diesel mechanic at Eazor Express and also at Schreiber Trucking Company in Pittsburgh. While he was an employee at Eazor Express he served as Shop Steward and District Delegate.

Jim relates one of his experiences was with a company called Universal Lubricating Systems, whose employees decertified from the Mineworkers and in 1974 voted to be represented by the IAM. The company was not happy with the employees' choice and when negotiations began, the Union was forced to strike. After four weeks of the strike, the members had not yet received strike benefits. The company told the members that the IAM was not going to pay strike benefits and that they had better accept the company's last, best offer or they were going to close the plant. Some members were threatening Jim with bodily harm. But, the members stuck together and continued the job action.

Jim received a phone call from the CEO of the parent company and was asked if he was willing to negotiate. Jim informed the CEO that they were willing to sit and negotiate. The union and the company then reached an agreement. The President of the company was gone from the company about a week later and everything went well after that.

After retiring in 2001, Jim did not go into hibernation; he remained active in the labor movement. He served as the Secretary Treasurer of Local Lodge 1060. Jim also served on

the Board of Directors of Delta Dental of PA and was Chairman of the Tool and Die Conference at the Grand Lodge Convention in 1992.

Brother Elnyczky continues to be active in the labor movement today, serving as the President of Local Lodge 1060 and Executive Vice President of the Pennsylvania State Council of Machinists.

So, please join me tonight in honoring our friend and Brother and a true Union activist from Local Lodge 1060 as District 98's Person of the Year. Sisters and Brothers, friends and guests, I give you Jim Elnyczky – District 98's Person of the Year.

Congratulations, Jim!