

A SINCERE AND HEARTFELT THANK YOU

On November 10, 2007, the staff, officers, delegate, members, family and friends to be the person of the year honored me. As most of you know, I am on vacation until January 31, 2008, at which time I will be retiring.

I would like to thank each and every sister and brother for the privilege of serving the District and all of the Local Lodges. I had the best job in the world. I made new friends and I do hope that I made a small difference.

I would also like to thank Herm Hawkins and all of the District officers and delegates who have permitted me to be a part of this great organization, as we have grown over the years.

The shops that I have serviced will not miss a step. Bob Miller, whom DBR Boger appointed to replace me, has all of the tools and qualifications to fill the position. Bob was an excellent choice.

My home Local, Local Lodge 2348, will also be in good hands with Harry Zeznanski as the president. Harry also has a great committee with Norm Barony and Don Johnston to support and work with him.

I know that the shops that I represented and my home Local Lodge 2348 are in the best of hands as I retire.

I would like to thank the secretaries of District 98, Mary Lou Kanonik and Kelly Loucks for all of the support that they have given me. They both will go the extra mile not only for me, but also for the entire staff and officers of District 98.

When I first joined the Staff of District 98 on September 20, 1997, I was introduced to a whole new world, new people and new challenges. To help me adjust to this new world and challenges was the staff at that time which was composed of DBR Tom Boger, Business Representatives Clark Ruppert, Jr., Tom Santone and organizer Bob Myers. I will always be indebted to these friends because over the years they assisted me in my growth as a Business Representative. I do owe a debt of gratitude to all of them. **THANK YOU.**

As the years passed, District 98 grew into what it is today. First, we expanded into the prison systems in Washington, D.C. and New Jersey. With this affiliation, the District 98 Staff expanded by one when Roosevelt Littlejohn became a Business Representative. Since I have met Roosevelt, I have come to have great admiration for him and I consider him a friend. As Roosevelt continues to grow in his skills as a business representative, he also is looking to expanding and growing this District.

Then District 83, which represented the western part of Pennsylvania, affiliated and merged with District 98. As we expanded west, Todd Fichera became a part of this family known as District 98. Todd is a very capable, reliable and an integral part of District 98. Another friend! Into that western part of the State, DBR Boger appointed Tom Fullard as an organizer. Another excellent appointment. Tom came to the District from a stint working in the Grand Lodge. Tom is a very intelligent, aggressive and knowledgeable person and well suited for District 98.

DBR Boger then appointed Tim Buck as an organizer and shortly thereafter, Tim was appointed a business representative servicing northwestern Pennsylvania. Tim along with Bob Miller, the business representative replacing me and Melissa Lyons, yet another excellent appointment by Boger for organizer in the eastern part of Pennsylvania, are what I believe to be the future of District 98 and the IAMAW. They are committed to the IAMAW, the District, the membership of this District, and to the union movement.

I would like to thank Tom Boger for all that he has accomplished for the District and all of the members of the Local Lodges that the District represents. My sincere gratitude goes out to Tom for his support and confidence in me. Before anyone else, Tom had the foresight to see that our complex was the future for the District. That is why I was grateful to be a part of the dedication and the naming of our complex The Thomas E. Boger: District 98 IAMAW: Machinists Union Complex. As our president of the District Herman Hawkins so eloquently put it "There were many individuals, in the past, that played an integral part in the growth of District 98 that need to be honored, and they will be honored in the future, but DBR Boger is the person who led us to this complex and into the 21st century." I wholeheartedly agree with Brother Hawkins. I have tremendous respect for his ability to lead this District. I was extremely proud share November 10, 2007 with Tom, his wife Linda and his family.

Thanks go out to everyone that attended the social and celebrate the dedication of the District 98 Complex and my retirement.

Most of all I was most appreciative that my wife Chris, my mother-in-law, my children, Chris' children, 2 of my grandsons and my brother Max were able to attend and celebrate the night with me. That was truly the greatest gift of all. Thank you and God bless you.

Thanks to all of the staff and secretaries of District 98 for all that you have done for me. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you. I will miss you all: DBR Thomas Boger, Clark Ruppert, Jr., Thomas Santone, Tim Buck, Roosevelt Littlejohn, Todd Fichera, Robert Miller, Melissa Lyons, Tom Fullard, Mary Lou Kanonik and Kelly Loucks.

Again, thanks to all of you so much.

Pete Mathieu