# SIGNAL-777

November 2026

## IMPORTANT DATES

**November 7, 2026**
District 9 Veterans Brunch

**November 11, 2026**
Offices Closed For Veterans Day

**November 12, 2026**
Local 777 Monthly Meeting.

**November 26-27, 2026**
Offices Closed For Thanksgiving

**December 2, 2026**
Shop Steward Christmas Party

**December 23, 2026**
D9 Offices will close at noon

**December 24 & 25, 2026**
D9 Offices closed for the holiday

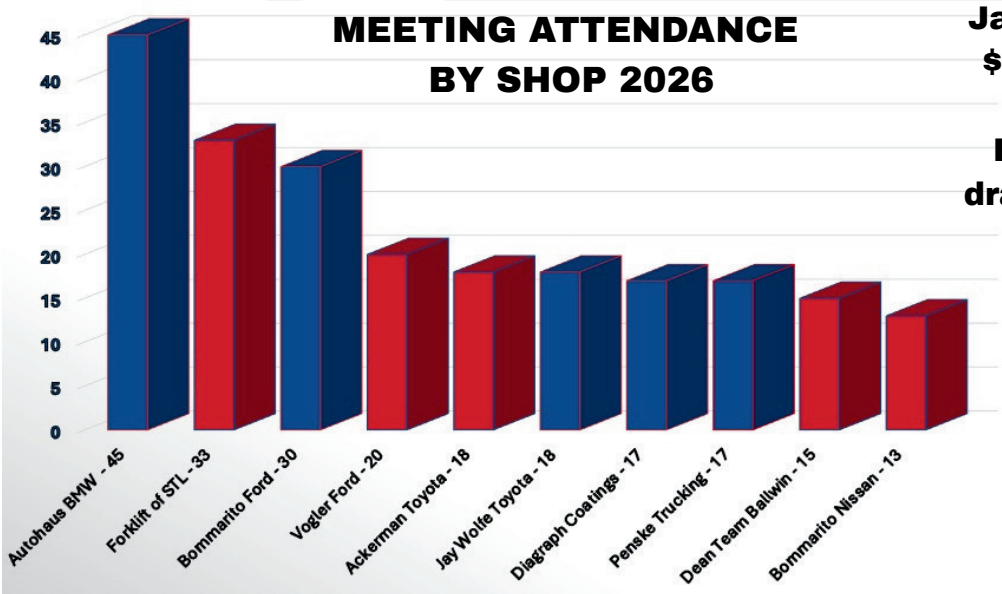
## October 2026 Local 777 Recap



**Local 777 Scholarship Committee Chairman Tim McNamee celebrates one of our 2026 scholarship recipients, Karen Herrera. Karen is in her 4th year at SIU Carbondale, where she serves as an Ambassador for the Automotive Program and President of the Women in Tech and Automotive Committee.**




**At the October meeting, it was announced that the 10th Annual 777/313 Guide Dogs of America Trap Shoot raised an incredible $13,400! None of this would be possible without the generosity, dedication, and support of everyone involved. Thank you to all who contributed, participated, and helped make this event a success.**




**The Monthly Meeting Attendance Jackpot drawing for a prize of up to $551.00.* Ten names were drawn none were present.**
**Reminder: All members are in the drawing but must be present to win**

**Scott Sack - John Peterson - Robert Seeber - Mohamed Aouja - Michael Carnaghi - Jaden Jarvis - Harry T. Lechner - Sergio Villanueva - Cassie Rackhaus - Rex A. Northup**

***Complete jackpot rules available at member meeting sign in table**

# A TALE OF TWO ELECTIONS

## AUGUST 4, 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION

**Amendment 4 was defeated with 80.3% voting NO. The proposal would have required citizen-initiated constitutional amendments to receive majority approval in each of Missouri's eight congressional districts as opposed to a statewide majority.**

**Amendment 5 was defeated with 83.3% voting NO. The proposal would have phased out Missouri's individual income tax while expanding the authority to impose sales and use taxes.**

## NOVEMBER 3, 2026 - MIDTERM ELECTION

**Amendment 6, Respect MO Voters, passed with 60% voting YES. This amendment strengthens Missouri's citizen initiative process, making it substantially more difficult for lawmakers to change or repeal laws approved by voters.**

**Proposition A was defeated with 61.8% voting NO. The proposal sought approval of the congressional redistricting map adopted by the Missouri Legislature in 2025. Voters rejected the map, leaving the previously enacted district boundaries in place.**

**In 2018, Missouri voters overwhelmingly defeated Right to Work. In 2026, With the defeat of Amendment 4 and passage of Amendment 6, future legislative efforts to impose Right to Work face insurmountable new obstacles. The implications extend well beyond Right to Work, strengthening safeguards against legislative overreach and protecting Missouri voters' right to determine their state's future.**

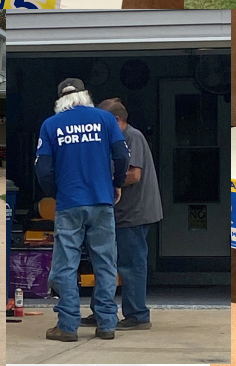
**These victories did not happen on their own. Local 777 sincerely thanks every member, retiree, family member, and volunteer who joined our Local and other labor organizations across Missouri through phone banking, canvassing, placing signs, and conversations with friends, family, and coworkers. Most importantly, thank you to everyone who voted and stood up for working families.**











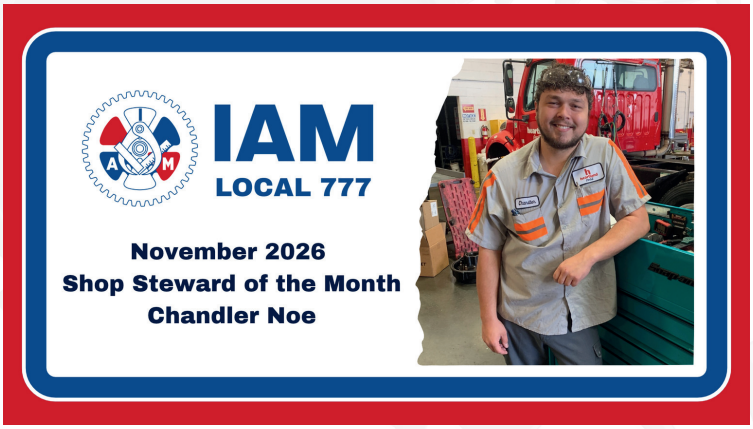






# IAM LOCAL 777 NOVEMBER, 2026

# STEWARD OF THE MONTH CHANDLER NOE




**Congratulations to November 2026 Shop Steward of the Month, Brother Chandler Noe, a four-year Local 777 member and journeyman at Heartland Coca-Cola.**
**When reflecting on how Union membership has affected his career, Chandler points to situations that were complicated to navigate and where the Union provided the support members could stand on. Without the Union and a strong collective bargaining agreement, employees would be left to the whims and decisions of the company. Chandler is quick to point out that the benefits of Union membership extend beyond the individual member. His entire family benefits, and he says everyone in the shop recognizes the value of being Union. When working with newer members, Chandler shares examples of past situations where the value of Local 777 membership was evident. He shows them where those situations were addressed in the contract and why knowing what is in it matters. His message to all members is simple: Read your contract. Know your contract. The responsibility to understand, protect, and uphold the contract falls on the shoulders of every member.**
**Thank you, Brother Chandler, for your commitment to Local 777 and your fellow members.**

# IAM Local 777 Local Legend: Denny Merkt



**IAM Local 777 is proud to spotlight Local Legend Brother Denny Merkt. Denny was originally initiated into the IAM in October 1972 at Weisse Planning and Engineering. During his career, he also worked at AAA Equipment and Clarklift before finishing his working years at Forklift of St. Louis. Denny has accumulated 32 years of Local 777 membership, including his most recent 24 consecutive years. When asked what advice he would give young professionals starting their careers, Denny didn't hesitate: Join a Union! He believes there is no better Union than the Machinists Union, and his message is simple: Join the IAM. He also believes being successful means being both a good employee and a good Union member. You have to show up, do your part, and continue learning and improving in both areas. At 72 years old and 16 years into retirement, Denny says his Union career is still supporting him. These days, he enjoys spending his time with hot rods, Harleys, and having fun, while still making time for his monthly Union meetings.**
**Thanks, Denny, for staying involved and sharing some good advice with the next generation of IAM members!**

**IAM District 9 Organizer**
**Brian Hillstead**
**Bhillstead@district9.org**
**Contact with any questions/info/leads regarding organizing.**

# IAM Local 777 Scholarship

**The application for the 27-28 school year is available now on the Local 777 website and can be filled out digitally and submitted via e-mail.**

**Local 777 had the opportunity to participate in an Info Session hosted by SIUC. Topics included our Local's history, scholarship info, organizing your work place, collective bargaining, women in the trades, career reflections from a retired perspective. Thank you to all who participated.**




## Local 777 E-Board

**President:**
Scott Hargis

**Vice President:**
Jason Quinley

**Secretary Treasurer:**
Ted Schulte

**Recording Secretary:**
Kim Heaney

**Trustee:**
James Pfeifer
Steve Graham
Tom Lanham

**Conductor/Sentinel:**
Bob Fink

**Educator:**
Tim McNamee

**Communicator:**
Jason Quinley

**Newsletter Editor:**
Andrew Shackley

**SAVE THE DATE**

**The Scholarship Music Bingo Fundraising event will be Saturday February 20th. Details to follow.**

Career expos at schools all around our metro area are filling in for 2026 & 2027; members are encouraged to participate.
If interested in participating, please contact Chairman Tim McNamee.
TimMcnamee19@gmail.com

## IAM District 9 Offices

**Hours 9:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday.**
**12365 St. Charles Rock Road**
**Bridgeton, MO 63044**

**IAM District 9 Office / IAM Local 777 Office (314)739-6200**

**IAM District 9 Health and Welfare Office (314)739-6442**

**IAM District 9 Building Corp. (Hall Rental) (314)702-2218**

**LocalLodge777@gmail.com**
**LocalLodge777.com**