

**IAM&AW Disaster Relief Fund comes to the aid of  
Roadway Mechanic David Tidwell,  
Member of Local Lodge 643 and District Lodge 19**



In August of 2017, BNSF Traveling Mechanic David Tidwell, of Local Lodge 643, fell victim to flooding. He had over 2 feet of water in his house. Brother Tidwell and his family suffered a total loss of furniture, beds, kitchen cabinets, table and chairs, washer and dryer, stove, refrigerator, 2 deep freezers and all carpet and flooring. Brother Tidwell had to replace 4 feet of sheet rock all around his home, plus the insulation. He also had a total loss of his car. Unfortunately his home owners insurance did not cover flooding. As we all well know, insurance companies frown upon providing flood insurance, and those that do, charge a premium price for it. Brother Tidwell reached out to FEMA, but they was no help to him at all.

Brother Tidwell was not aware that the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers offered Disaster Relief. Upon learning this he applied for and requested assistance for his losses. Brother Tidwell was extremely grateful when he had learned that his request for relief was granted, even though his loss and request for relief was a year ago. He couldn't put into words how much it meant to him.

"It was extremely gratifying to me when I presented this check to Brother Tidwell", said General Chairman John Denny. Brother Denny also said, "This is a perfect example of members helping members in a time of need". General Chairman Heath Jacobs and Kyle Loos accompanied General Chairman Denny when he presented Brother Tidwell his check.

The funds used to help Members such as Brother Tidwell in time of a loss because of a flood, fire, weather or other disaster came from donated funds by the membership of the Machinists Union. Making a regular monetary donation to the Disaster Relief Fund is a great way for you to be there for a Brother or Sister and their families in a time of need. District Lodge 19 would like to thank all who donates to this fund.

Pictured is Machinist Brother David Tidwell receiving his relief check from General Chairman John Denny.

If you would like to know more about Disaster Relief please visit the Grand Lodge Website under the Community Service Department: <https://www.goiam.org/departments/headquarters/community-services/>