

IAM Journal

For Fighting Machinists



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IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger opened the 38th Grand Lodge Convention in Toronto, Ontario, and reaffirmed the IAM's commitment to international solidarity to improve the lives of workers across the globe.

2012 Grand Lodge Convention Sets Course for Global Action

IAM delegates returned home from the 38th Grand Lodge Convention in Toronto, ON with the message that union members' rights at home can best be protected by supporting workers' struggles around the world.

From its earliest days as a secret society to its current status as one of the most influential trade unions in North America, the IAM has continually urged its members to support human rights struggles at home and abroad.

While the IAM's historic and international legacy was on full display throughout the Convention, the speakers, panel discussions and debates dur-

ing the five-day event were more about the future than the past.

“Never before has this union spent so much time focused on the future – the threats that lie over the horizon, the plight of our brothers and sisters across the globe, the actions we must take and will take to make our promise of Hope for All Who Toil a reality,” said International President Tom Buffenbarger in his address.

Taken from the second verse of Canada's national anthem, the Convention's theme, Hope for All Who Toil, provided both the message and mission for the nearly 1,000 members from 388 local



lodges across the U.S. and Canada who were elected to serve as delegates. More than 400 delegates took part in their first-ever Convention.

The 2012 Convention was notable for its focus on global events, its use of wireless technology to conduct Convention business, as well as its emphasis on preparing young Machinists for leadership roles.

“This great union of ours is and must remain a meritocracy – the best and the brightest, the strongest and the toughest, the hardest-working and the shrewdest negotiators, the savviest politicians and the straightest shooters – all must have a fair shot at moving up the leadership ladder,” said Buffenbarger.

Among the actions taken by Convention delegates in Toronto was a resolution to secure the financial future of the William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center at Placid Harbor, Maryland.

Delegates lined up at the microphones to express their heartfelt support for the resolution and the Winpisinger Center, which has provided instruction and inspi-



Tap above to view a video about Young Machinists at the 38th Grand Lodge Convention.

ration for more than 74,000 students since opening in 1981.

The Convention also provided the IAM an opportunity for a raucous and near-unanimous endorsement of Barack Obama and Joe Biden to be re-elected President and Vice President of the United States.

Prior to the vote, IAM International President Buffenbarger urged delegates to carefully consider how a Romney administration would handle the upcoming retirements of at least four, and possibly as many as seven, U.S. Supreme Court justices.

“Our right to strike, our right to bargain collectively, our right to belong to a union, and even our right to assemble – can be rewritten, refined and reworked out of existence by the Supreme Court,” warned Buffenbarger. “If Romney is elected, we can forget about fairness, forget about

Convention delegates took action to secure funding for the IAM’s premiere training facility, the William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center, where more than 74,000 IAM members have attended classes.



Delegates at the 38th Grand Lodge Convention voted to endorse Barack Obama for President and Joe Biden for Vice President in the upcoming U.S. elections.

facts, forget about the law and forget about justice being blind. The scales of justice will tip in one direction only; the direction that gave us Citizens United, Bush v. Gore and corporate personhood.”

In addition to the Obama/Biden endorsement and resolution in support of the Winpisinger Center, delegates adopted an amendment to give the Executive Council more options to set Associate Member fees, while rejecting proposals to change the per capita tax structure. Many delegates said the per capita structure put in place at the 2008 Grand Lodge Convention was working well and should not be changed. The delegates also acted on more than two



dozen resolutions, including more than 20 related to job creation, training and safety.

The 2012 Convention was also notable as the first to be held in Toronto in more than 100 years and the first since the Transportation Communications Union (TCU) and the IAM completed their historic affiliation, bringing more than 30,000 new members into the IAM. Click [here](#) to watch video of the Convention and read the Daily Highlights.

Tap below to view convention photo gallery



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Battle for the U.S. Senate: **Democrats in Danger**



On November 6, 2012, millions of Americans will journey to a nearby library, school or other polling place armed with a constitutional right granted to them by those who've come before – the right to vote. They will cast ballots that will change the course of American history.

Most prominent is the highly-funded, highly-publicized presidential election between Democratic President Barack Obama and his Republican challenger, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney.

Many of those voters will also de-

cide the race to control the U.S. Senate. At stake is a current Democratic 51-47 seat majority (two seats are currently held by Independents). A four-seat shift to the right would mean a GOP majority and Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) as Senate Majority Leader.

That notion, coupled with an already Republican-controlled House of Representatives and a Republican president, would make for a corporate coup d'état – a complete government takeover by far-right corporate interests, says IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger.



“For our jobs and our families, we cannot afford to sit out this fight,” said Buffenbarger. “On November 7, we could wake up to find Mitt Romney is the next President of the United States. John Roberts swings hard right as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Mitch McConnell becomes Senate Majority Leader with fifty-two votes. John Boehner, as Speaker of the House, can count on 245 GOP votes. And Republican governors hold power in 32 states.

“‘Of the people, by the people and for the people’ goes up in smoke. Far-fetched? Not at all. Are we – the Fighting Machinists – really going to sit home

and twiddle our thumbs while corporate money conquers the country?” said Buffenbarger.

Democrats will be defending nearly two dozen Senate seats this election cycle – twice as many as Republicans. The Cook Political Report, an independent newsletter that analyzes elections and campaigns, estimates that as many as six Democratic seats could go either way. Three Republican seats are also considered toss-ups.

Many of these tight races are taking place in presidential battleground states where an Obama or Romney win could influence races down the ballot.

Ohio

Longtime Machinists’ friend Sen. Sherrod Brown (D) is up for reelection against state Treasurer Josh Mandel (R). Brown believes our nation’s economic strength and national security are drawn from a strong manufacturing base. As Senator, he’s led the fight to revitalize American manufacturing through the TRADE Act, legislation to renegotiate failed free trade agreements, stop the outsourcing of U.S. jobs and level the playing field in free trade. Brown has also introduced legislation to create an infrastructure bank and workforce



Sherrod Brown (D)

Josh Mandel (R)

training initiatives. Mandel stands with companies that outsource U.S. jobs and opposes making China pay tariffs for breaking trade rules.



Virginia

Former Governor Tim Kaine (D), a strong supporter of working families, is up against former Governor George Allen (R). As Governor during the worst national recession in 70 years, Kaine ensured Virginia had one of the nation's lowest unemployment rates and highest median incomes. A key issue for many residents of the Commonwealth is the looming across-the-board federal budget cuts, or sequestration. Sequestration could cost Virginia between 100,000 and 200,000 jobs if Congress doesn't strike a deal to avoid the cuts. Kaine has pushed his budget plan – ending a portion of the Bush tax cuts, negotiating prescription drug costs and ending Big Oil subsidies – as a start to avoiding the so-called “fiscal cliff.”



Tim Kaine (D)



George Allen (R)

Instead of promising to compromise and find a balanced solution that protects our national security and the middle class, Allen is staying true to his record of divisive partisanship and casting his lot with a House Republican plan that would make devastating cuts to investments in middle class and low-income families.

Florida

Sen. Bill Nelson (D) is defending his seat against Rep. Connie Mack (R). Nelson is a leader in the fight to bring good jobs to Florida, including up to 24,000 high-speed rail jobs. This, despite a governor who inexplicably gave Florida's federal rail funding to other states. But in the face of political posturing, Nelson continues to work with federal transportation officials to make high-speed rail a reality. Mack, on the other hand, has no real jobs plan.



Bill Nelson (D)



Connie Mack (R)



Wisconsin

Democratic Rep. Tammy Baldwin is going up against Tommy Thompson, a former Republican governor and former Bush administration Secretary of Health and Human Services. Baldwin has a reputation for taking on powerful, corporate special interests, fighting for Wisconsin's middle class, standing up against unfair trade and strengthening the U.S. manufacturing base. After leaving Bush's Cabinet, Thompson made millions working on behalf of drug companies, financial firms and other interests at taxpayers' expense. He also supports massive tax cuts for corporations that ship Wisconsin jobs overseas.



Tammy Baldwin (D)



Tommy Thompson (R)

Pennsylvania

Incumbent Democratic Senator Bob Casey, Jr., is running for re-election against Republican nominee Tom Smith. Senator Casey was one of the first senators to propose a tax credit to encourage employers to hire workers. A similar proposal, the HIRE Act tax credit, was eventually signed into law. Casey has also been a strong critic of unfair trade policies that put American manufacturing at a disadvantage. Pennsylvania has lost more than 100,000 jobs because of unfair trade. Tom Smith's Tea Party policies and support for unfair trade agreements will send more Pennsylvania jobs overseas. Smith has also proposed ending Medicare and privatizing Social Security.



Tom Smith (R)



Bob Casey (D)

Massachusetts

Consumer advocate Elizabeth Warren is up against Republican Sen. Scott Brown. Warren, whom TIME magazine dubbed the “New Sheriff of Wall Street,” has taken on big banks and financial institutions to win historic financial protections for the middle class. While Brown repeatedly highlights his “tie-breaking vote” on Wall Street Reform, he neglects to mention how he worked to weaken the Dodd-Frank financial reform bill, delay its implementation, and leverage his vote for campaign contributions from Wall Street and the financial industry.



Elizabeth Warren (D)



Scott Brown (R)

Connecticut

Democratic Rep. Chris Murphy is looking to take down Republican Linda McMahon, co-founder of World Wrestling Entertainment. While Murphy believes in promoting and strengthening American manufacturing and reinvesting in our transportation infrastructure to better the future of the middle class, McMahon’s policies are in lockstep with the Republican agenda to cut taxes for wealthy Americans like her, while increasing taxes on the middle class. She’s even suggested a sunset provision on the law that created Social Security.



Linda McMahon (R)



Chris Murphy (D)

Indiana

Democratic Rep. Joe Donnelly is vying against state Treasurer Richard Mourdock. Donnelly’s common-sense agenda includes creating and preserving jobs, reducing the debt and deficit, and fighting for our veterans. Tea Party favorite Mourdock is still trying to figure out his agenda as he attempts to move his ultra-conservative platform more to the left in a last-minute appeal to moderate voters.



Joe Donnelly (D)



Richard Mourdock (R)



Hawaii

Democratic Rep. Mazie Hirono is up against former Republican Governor Linda Lingle. Hirono, the first Asian immigrant woman to be sworn into Congressional office, opposes extending the Bush tax cuts for the rich and supported legislation to invest in infrastructure, education and health care. Lingle, an advocate for the national Republican agenda, believes the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy should be made permanent. She supports Republican Vice Presidential candidate Paul Ryan's budget to end Medicare as we know it and slash vital education, training, employment and social programs.



Linda Lingle (R)



Mazie Keiko Hirono (D)



Claire McCaskill (D)



Todd Akin (R)

Missouri

GOP challenger Todd Akin is trying to unseat incumbent Sen. Claire McCaskill (D). McCaskill knows the issues of unemployment, diminishing pensions, and the rising costs of living are serious threats to Missourians. As Senator, she's secured billions of dollars to rebuild and repair Amer-

ican roads and bridges and to help ensure a safe water supply, cut federal red tape for manufacturers and employers, suspended payroll taxes for businesses who hire previously unemployed workers, extended the Highway Trust Fund to ensure billions of dollars of additional infrastructure investment and to save one million jobs, and expanded the Build America Bonds program allowing local governments to easily borrow for new infrastructure projects. Todd Akin, who refused his own party's pleas to leave the race due to a not-so "legitimate" comment about female rape victims, is the typical corporate-pandering conservative. While in Congress, he voted to increase his own pay seven times, but voted against benefits promised to veterans. Akin is also vehemently opposed to minimum wage and equal pay laws.

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More than two million people have viewed 'Bee Mad @ The GOP' videos as the innovative get-out-the-vote campaign shifts into high gear in the weeks before the election.

'Bee Mad @ The GOP' Shifts into High Gear

The Union of Unemployed has kicked into high gear in the weeks leading up to election day as its revolutionary BEE MAD @ THE GOP social media campaign focuses on increasing voter turnout at the polls.

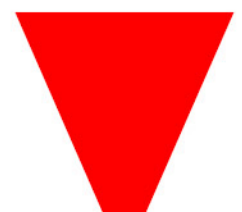
The BEE MAD @ THE GOP campaign is already having a huge impact: more than two million people have viewed the campaign's edgy micro-videos on Facebook.

"This is an incredible and unbelievable accomplishment for a get-out-the-vote (GOTV) effort never done before," said UCubed Executive Director Rick Sloan. "Unlike traditional GOTV cam-

paigns consisting of door-to-door canvassing and phone banking, BEE MAD @ THE GOP encourages jobless voters to use micro-videos uploaded to its Facebook page as a campaigning tool. These UCubed videos explain why worker bees should BEE MAD @ THE GOP, urge them to swarm to the polls and then work together to hand the GOP a stinging defeat."

UCubed's target audience is the 128,406 jobless Americans who have "liked" the UCubed Facebook page and their 34 million friends.

Since the start of the drive on July 27, 2012, the campaign's Facebook ads have



“Each time a UCubed fan likes or shares a BEE MAD @ THE GOP video, it appears, on average, on 265 additional Facebook pages.”

Rick Sloan
UCubed Executive Director

reached 29.8 million people and made 147.6 million impressions. UCubed fans have shared 1.1 million stories and created 1.9 million stories of their own.

“What’s creating this buzz? BEES! Worker BEES!” says Sloan. “We began warning America that the WORKER BEES were coming. They were coming in swarms. They were angry, very an-

gry, angry enough to sting the greedy PAC-a-derms – in this case, elephants – the GOP mascot.”

UCubed encourages its Facebook fans to share and like its BEE MAD @ THE GOP posts. “Each time a UCubed fan likes or shares a BEE MAD @ THE GOP video, it appears, on average, on 265 additional Facebook pages,” said Sloan. “Those are personal endorsements of our message.

“So the game here is to share and like posts. It’s not the number of UCubed fans that count. It is the number of ‘friends of fans’ that really count. UCubed has 34 million of them. With that many ‘friends of fans,’ we can be a big pain in a PAC-a-derm’s posterior.”



tap here

to see the *BEE MAD @ THE GOP* videos
www.Facebook.com/UCubed



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Member Profile

Bob Turner, Union Man for Life

He's a barber. A teacher. A photographer. A politician. A veteran. A Senior Olympics Hall of Famer. Citizen of the Year. A no-doubt Renaissance man. But when Bob Turner looks back on his 80 years of life there's one accomplishment, in particular, that comes to mind: his 49 years as an AK Steel union man.

"My first day, I spent eight hours taking a brick from one fellow and handing it to another fellow," said Turner, a retired IAM Local Lodge 1943 member in Middletown, Ohio. "And I was so thankful when the eight hours were up. I didn't know about doubles back then. They came around and asked me if I would work a double. So I spent 16 hours on my first day on the job."

A self-proclaimed workaholic, Turner worked almost every job in the Ohio plant while serving as an active member of his local.

"A union like the Machinists, when they speak, somebody listens," said Turner. "I never ran for office in the union, but I've been attending meetings ever since I started working. When you talk about pay scales and collective bargaining and so



Eighty-year old IAM Local Lodge 1943 member Bob Turner has spent 49 years as an active union member, teacher and mentor to fellow members at AK Steel in Middletown, OH.

forth, I think very few companies would provide the wages we have out of the goodness of their heart."

But out of his many years on the shop floor, Turner says it was the three decades he spent teaching maintenance school that meant the most. His goal was to share his skills and bring the importance of the union to everyone who came behind him.

"I've seen young guys start and older guys finish," said Turner. "I hope the young people come up to appreciate what the union has done for them."

TCU

The Election Is a Clear Choice for TCU Members

This November, U.S. railroad workers, retirees and their families will face one of the clearest choices for president in history. And the stakes have never been higher. Amtrak, commuter rail, Railroad Retirement, Medicare, Social Security all hang in the balance!

On one side stands President Barack Obama, who has championed Amtrak, commuter rail, the expansion of high-speed rail, as well as the protection of Railroad Retirement, Medicare, and Social Security.

President Obama appointed a Presidential Emergency Board, that recommended record wage gains for our freight railroad members. Can you imagine what a Mitt Romney Presidential Emergency Board, stacked with his corporate cronies, would have done after hearing the railroads testify that rail workers were 80 percent overpaid?

President Obama has appointed friends of labor to every federal agency. OSHA has leveled unprecedented fines against railroads and reinstated employees who were wrongfully dismissed for reporting injuries and unsafe working conditions. The Federal Railroad Ad-



TCU delegates enthusiastically joined fellow IAM delegates at the 38th Grand Lodge Convention to endorse Barack Obama and Joe Biden for second terms as President and Vice President of the United States.

ministration no longer turns a blind eye to rail safety concerns.

On the other side are Romney and Paul Ryan, who are on record attacking every regulation, law and benefit on which rail workers and retirees depend.

Romney has vowed to end Amtrak. Twenty-thousand union brothers and sisters would lose their jobs. The effect on Railroad Retirement would be catastrophic.

Romney fully supports the Ryan Budget, which would also have devastating

effects on Railroad Retirement. Ryan wants to conform Railroad Retirement benefits to Social Security. That means eliminating “60/30” retirement, getting rid of occupational disability, and increasing the minimum age for spousal annuities with a reduction in benefits.

Romney and Ryan would eliminate Medicare as we know it, raising the qualifying age and replacing its guaranteed benefits with vouchers. Insurance companies would get a windfall, and retirees would get the shaft. Their promise to grandfather current retirees is hollow. It is unrealistic to expect a majority of Americans to support a more costly system for current retirees when future retirees will get greatly reduced benefits.

The *L.A. Times* calls Romney “the presidential candidate most hostile to Social Security since 1964.” In his 2010 book, “No Apology,” Romney labels Social Security “out-of-control,” a “terrible ... burden” on future generations, and effectively a fraud. He and Ryan both support an ever-increasing rise in the retirement age, the effect of which would be to bankrupt Railroad Retirement.

Romney and Ryan both support privatization of Social Security. Despite two stock market crashes in a decade, they advocate replacing all or part of the current guaranteed benefit with pri-

Your vote may very well decide whether:

- **Amtrak continues to exist**
- **Railroad Retirement survives as we know it**
- **Funding for commuter railroads is slashed, leading to cuts in jobs, wages and benefits**
- **Medicare continues to provide adequate medical coverage for all seniors**
- **The retirement age for all American workers, including railroaders, is raised to 69 or older**

This election is now in your hands. You, your families and friends can make the difference.

vate accounts that would be a bonanza for Wall Street but a disaster for retirees. In 2004, Ryan sponsored a bill in Congress that was so reliant on private accounts and so extreme that even the Bush White House rejected it.

Romney and Ryan both support deep cuts to transportation spending, which would have dire consequences for commuter systems, increasing the pressure to cut jobs, wages and benefits.

The choice has never been clearer. Vote like your job, health care and pension depend on it - they do!



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Transportation

ITF Sponsors Young Transport Workers Conference

Just a week after IAM delegates at the 38th Grand Lodge Convention wrapped up their week in Toronto, Ontario with a call for global action and mentoring the next generation of IAM activists, the International Transport Workers' Federation's (ITF) Youth Conference was held in Montreal, Quebec. The

conference for young transport workers included youth activists from 54 ITF affiliate unions from 28 countries, including IAM transportation members. The IAM is one of the largest affiliates in the ITF.

Delegates explored strategies to build and mobilize international solidarity in



The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) Organizing Globally Coordinator Ingo Marowsky, second from right, helped lead an ITF Youth Conference that brought together young transport workers from around the world.





Delegates at the ITF Youth Conference shared experiences and discussed issues such as climate change, the global economic crisis and the prospects of insecure employment for their generation.

the global transport sector. Youth activists also grappled with complex issues such as the global economic crisis, climate change and the persistent problem of insecure employment.

“In addition to being involved locally, it is vital that we also engage young IAM members and access their incredible energy and knowledge in the

global arena,” said Sito Pantoja, IAM Transportation GVP and Chairman of the ITF’s Civil Aviation Section Committee. “We must cultivate our Young Machinists to be the labor leaders of tomorrow.”

For more information, visit the [ITF](#) and [IAM](#) websites.

Aerospace

Help Stop Looming Defense Budget Cuts





IAM President Tom Buffenbarger, right, appeared with Aerospace Industries Association President and CEO Marion C. Blakey, left, at a press conference on the potential loss of one million jobs if automatic budget cuts in defense spending occur in 2013.

“Sequestration will result in two indisputable outcomes – more unemployment and a country that is less secure.”

Tom Buffenbarger
International President


The Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) and the IAM are working together to stop one of the biggest threats to the aerospace industry, the massive automatic budget cuts known as sequestration that take effect in 2013 unless Congress acts to stop them. The IAM works closely with the AIA to promote a strong aerospace industry.

Each week Congress delays action brings the nation closer to a fiscal doomsday. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta claims the cuts could



raise national unemployment by one percent. Just the threat of sequestration is already costing jobs and hurting our economy.

IAM President Tom Buffenbarger warns that “sequestration will result in two indisputable outcomes – more unemployment and a country that is less secure.” Studies at the University of Maryland and George Mason University also confirm that the cuts could destroy between one million and 1.5 million American jobs.



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to join the AIA’s Second to None Campaign to stop sequestration and protect jobs.



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