

IAM Journal

For Fighting Machinists



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IAM Members Unhappy with Political Choices

As the 2012 political season heated up, Fingert Granados Opinion Research conducted a telephone poll of IAM members and retirees. The survey left no doubt how they felt about the presidential campaign.

In an overwhelmingly Democratic union, President Barack Obama faces a skeptical and unenthusiastic membership. Only 20 percent of Machinists would enthusiastically support his reelection. Another 19 percent would support him as probably the best



With visits to manufacturing plants such as Master Lock Company in Wisconsin, President Obama is trying to overcome voter dissatisfaction with his record on job creation, mirrored in a recent survey of IAM members.

Democrat we can get. But 21 percent felt the IAM should just sit it out. And, most striking, 28 percent felt that because his policies have hurt thousands of IAM members, we should get behind some strong, worker-friendly candidate or movement.

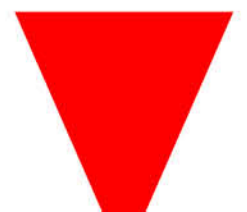
Less than a quarter of IAM members would support a Republican candidate such as Romney or Santorum.



Mitt Romney



Rick Santorum



What drives the disenchantment? Over 59 percent of respondents considered themselves Democrats or Independents that leaned Democratic. Only 19 percent said they were Republican or Independents who leaned Republican.

And 63 percent said they voted for Barack Obama in 2008 as opposed to the 24 percent who reported voting for John McCain.

While partisan politics played some role, what seemed to drive the numbers were President Obama's job approval ratings. They were all in negative territory. His overall job approval numbers were 37 percent positive and 57 percent negative, much lower than reported in other national surveys.

And when the impact of his administration's policies on IAM members

Only half of IAM members would vote for the President if the election was today.

was tested, his job approval numbers tanked. Doing all he could to prevent job loss among IAM members came in at 33 percent positive to 67 percent

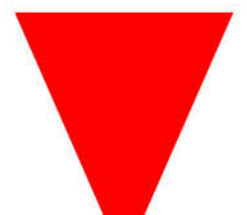


Tap above to view a video about the labor movement and a group of democratic governors teaming up to change the odds for American workers.

negative. Reducing unemployment drew 34 percent positive and 60 percent negative. Being concerned about the well-being of IAM members came in slightly higher at 36 percent positive versus 55 percent negative.

If the election were held today, only half of IAM members would support President Barack Obama – a drop of 13 percent from four years ago. Either former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney or ex-Speaker Newt Gingrich would get 21 or 22 percent. Former Senator Rick Santorum barely registered in the IAM survey but now challenges the GOP frontrunner Mitt Romney. Eight percent would not vote and the rest were undecided.

The Fingerhut survey held addi-





Tap left to view a video about Florida Space Coast workers who, like Americans across the country, want and need JOBS Now!

tional surprises. IAM members strongly believed that there were millions of people who were suffering economically in America who could be persuaded to oppose both political parties. Nearly two-thirds (63 percent) strongly support the idea of an “independent third force” in American politics. And an equal number supported the idea of the IAM taking an aggressive lead in starting a third party if that’s what it took to get things moving in the right direction.

While less than a quarter (23 percent) of those surveyed had heard of Americans Elect

– an online effort to nominate a bi-partisan ticket and place them on the ballot in all 50 states – about half (49 percent) thought the IAM should encourage its members to become delegates to its online convention.

And, when it came to endorsing a candidate, 62 percent of IAM members would support a no-endorsement stance. But whatever the Machinists decide to do, 71 percent felt that to have any political strength at all, we must all get behind the ultimate decision, a decision to be made by the delegates to the 38th Grand Lodge Convention in September 2012.



IAM members were among tens of thousands of Indiana working families who flooded the statehouse and lined the Indianapolis city streets for weeks chanting, “United we stand, divided we fall” in protest of the state’s new right-to-work (for less) law.

Indiana Workers Protest GOP Right-to-Work Legislation

The gloves are off in Indiana as working families rally their communities, friends and neighbors to take back the state from right-wing politicians and their corporate cronies who recently rammed through new right-to-work (for less) legislation in the Republican-led statehouse.

The Indiana General Assembly passed the anti-union bill earlier this year, despite the cries of thousands of protestors who packed the statehouse and lined the Indianapolis city streets chanting, “United we stand, divided we fall.” Governor Mitch Daniels (R), now in his last year of his second term,



signed the bill on February 1, 2012.

If war is what Gov. Daniels wants, says Indiana State AFL-CIO President Nancy Guyott, than war is what he will get. “In 2006, Governor Daniels predicted a ‘civil war’ if this legislation was brought forth,” said Guyott shortly after the vote. “Yet, on his way out of office, he launched this divisive attack anyway.

“But he was wrong; this is not a battle of brother against brother. It is a battle of Hoosier neighbors against corporate special interests from fields afar. And while it is not a war of our choosing, over the days ahead, citizen by

citizen, block by block, community by community, legislative seat by legislative seat, we will wage this ‘war’ to take back our government,” said Guyott.

Right-to-work laws adversely affect workers and their families – despite right-wing claims of economic boosts. According to the Economic Policy Institute, so-called right-to-work bills actually reduce wages by \$1,500 a year for both union and nonunion workers, lower the likelihood that union and nonunion employees get health care or pensions, and have no impact on job growth.

tap here

to read the Economic Policy Institute study
“Working hard to make Indiana look bad.”



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Toronto to Host 38th Grand Lodge Convention



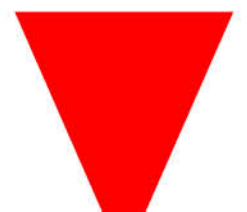
The 38th Grand Lodge Convention of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) will convene September 9-15, 2012 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Grand Lodge Convention delegates, elected every four years from IAM local lodges throughout North America, set the policies and procedures for the IAM to follow. In compliance with the IAM Constitution, each local lodge in good standing and free from delinquency is entitled to be represented.

“Official Circular 839, the Official Call, has been issued. It outlines the formula for determining local union representation and the procedures for nominating and electing Convention delegates,” advised

“Delegates will focus on the future to ensure our great union remains a vibrant force that fights for North America’s working families.”

Tom Buffenbarger
International President



IAM General Secretary-Treasurer Robert Roach, Jr.

“Because of the bold actions delegates took at the 2008 Convention in Orlando, Florida, our union has weathered the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression,” said International President Tom Buffenbarger. “In 2012, as at every Convention, delegates will focus on the future to ensure our great union remains a vibrant force that fights for North America’s working families.”

U.S. citizens planning to attend the Convention will need a valid U.S. passport to enter Canada. If you do not have a current passport, you should apply for, or update, your passport as soon as possible.

Cell phone users should check with their phone carriers about potential extra charges for international calls, texts and data usage. Most major phone companies have temporary service plans that allow you to make international calls.



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***to go to the U.S. State Department Passport website
for the application form and further instructions.***

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IAM members, led by Diane Babineaux, Chief of Staff to the International President, first row, far right, joined activists from other unions to restore a house that will be used for low-income housing as part of the 2012 AFL-CIO Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration in Detroit, MI.

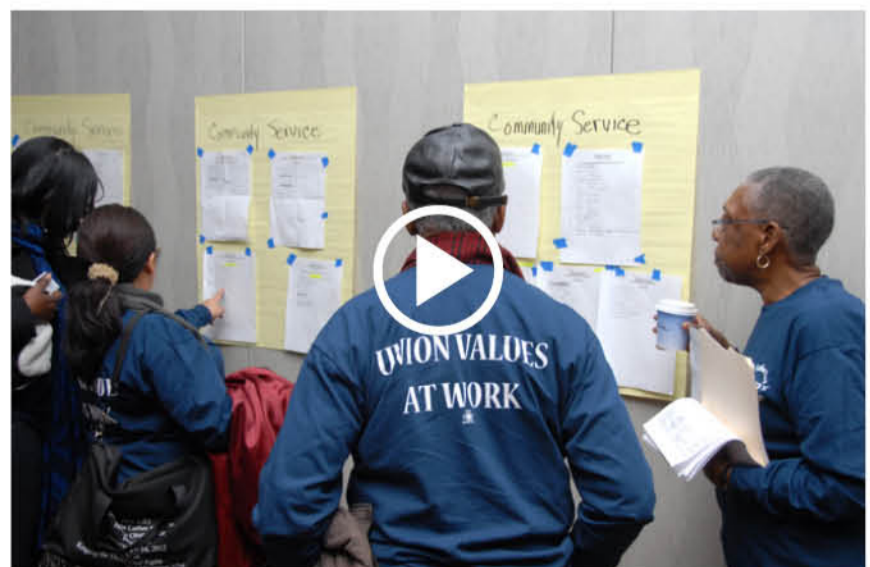
Motor City Hosts 2012 MLK Observance

IAM members were among the hundreds of union volunteers who fanned out across metropolitan Detroit for the community service activities that have become a hallmark of the annual AFL-CIO Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration. Armed with shovels, paint, tools and goodwill, the army of volunteers brought much-needed help to families and communities that continue to suffer

Tap right to view a video about IAM and other union members giving back to the community during the 2012 AFL-CIO Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance in Detroit, MI.

in the depths of the ongoing recession.

Among the projects undertaken by union members this year were readying homes for low-income residents, cleaning equipment and facilities used by





special-needs and developmentally-disabled children and refurbishing a facility used for homeless teen mothers and their children.

The choice of Detroit for this year's gathering of the labor and civil rights communities extends beyond the current, and frequently dire, economic needs of its largely African-American population. In addition to being the historic destination for tens of thousands who found work in the city's auto factories in the 1960s, Dr. King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech was

drafted and first delivered in the Motor City.

This year's holiday observance featured energized presentations from local and national civil rights activists, including U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, radio talk-show host Joe Madison and long-time Michigan Democratic Representative John Conyers, who was presented with the AFL-CIO's Peace, Justice and Freedom Award, who then recalled the long road to create a national holiday honoring Dr. King.

IAM Freight Rail Members Win New Contract



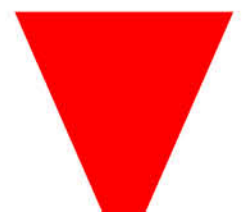
IAM members at the nation's major freight railroads, including BNSF, Union Pacific, Norfolk Southern, CSX and others, ratified a new agreement that includes raises and holds the line on health care costs.

IAM members at the nation's freight rail carriers ratified a new contract that is worth at least \$30,000 in increased pay over the life of the agreement, according to District 19 President and Directing General Chairman Joe Duncan. The IAM represents nearly 8,500 workers at the nation's major rail carriers.

“The agreement provides 20.1 per-

cent in compounded general wage increases, which will generate about \$30,000 for the average Machinist working straight time, with only those working overtime receiving more over the life of the agreement,” said Duncan.

The six-year agreement also contains a lump-sum ratification payment and reduces members' monthly health





***Our members
were not intimidated
by the carriers or the
threat of a Presidential
Emergency Board.”***

Sito Pantoja
*IAM Transportation
General Vice President*

and welfare contribution from \$229 per month to \$200 per month.

“Our members were not intimidated by the carriers or the threat of a Presidential Emergency Board,” said IAM Transportation General Vice President Sito Pantoja. “They stood their ground, refused to give in and won a solid agreement.”

The agreement, which was unanimously endorsed by the District 19 Bargaining Committee, includes recommendations from the Presidential Emergency Board appointed by President Obama to help resolve the long-running contract dispute.



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Congress Passes Union-Busting FAA Bill

The FAA Reauthorization Bill that recently passed Congress is headed to the President for approval. With the deadline looming for FAA funding, the President could sign the bill into law by February 17th. TCU and the IAM, along with a number of other unions have sent letters to the President requesting that he veto the bill.

Included in the bill are union-busting changes to the Railway Labor Act (RLA) that were bitterly opposed by TCU, the IAM and 17 other unions. TCU and the IAM were signatory to two statements urging the removal of the Railway Labor Act changes from the FAA Reauthorization Bill, one by ten transportation unions and an identical one signed by 19 unions from various industries.

TCU President Bob Scardelletti, IAM President Tom Buffenbarger and IAM Transportation General Vice President Sito Pantoja sent a joint letter to every member of the House and Senate urging that the RLA changes be stripped from the bill, but both the House and Senate passed the bill.

“In developing this greatly-flawed proposal, there was no consultation

with rail labor or management, the two groups who worked with Congress to write the Railway Labor Act more than 75 years ago,” said TCU President Bob Scardelletti. “It makes no sense to tie changes to the Railway Labor Act to an aviation safety bill.”

“While I would expect this from the Republicans, I am greatly disappointed in the Democratic leadership of the Senate for tossing aside the rights of railroad and airline workers,” said Scardelletti. “TCU and the IAM will never stop fighting for the rights of our members.”



Bill Burke, Page One Photography

House Republicans inserted union-busting changes to the Railway Labor Act as part of an FAA Reauthorization bill passed by Congress. The changes restrict airline and railroad workers' voting rights in union representation elections that are administered by the National Mediation Board.



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MEMBER PROFILE: *Andrea Gorman*

Advocate for Social Security

IAM members are always doing something extra to help their communities, from volunteering their time to help those in need to helping fight for a good cause. Local Lodge 1584 member Andrea Gorman of Oakland, CA, has a cause that benefits millions and is close to her heart; Social Security. And with the growing pressure to dismantle the program, her story is a compelling reason to pro-

tect Social Security for all Americans.

When Andrea was just three years old, her dad died, leaving her mom to raise eight children alone. Andrea's mother struggled to stay afloat, but her teacher's salary wasn't enough. Her four oldest children were placed in separate foster homes, and the four youngest, including Andrea, went to an orphanage.

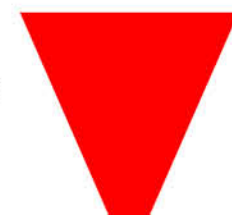
"I remember pulling up and it was a big building. When we went in, we realized something was wrong," she recalled. "They took us into a room. Our mom was going back out, and we started screaming and crying for her."

Thankfully, the story doesn't end there. The children qualified for Social Security Survivor Benefits, giving the family enough income to reunite within a few years. That was Andrea's first experience with Social Security.

Her second encounter was 45 years later. Injured on the job and



Local Lodge 1584 member Andrea Gorman is one of millions of Americans who benefits from the Social Security system. Andrea is a strong advocate for protecting the program for future generations.



unable to work, Andrea qualified for Social Security Disability Benefits. “Again,” she says, “Social Security was there for me when I needed it.”

When Andrea officially retired, Social Security was there again. In addition to her IAM-negotiated pension, Andrea’s working career earned her a Social Security retirement check each month.

“I knew when they deducted for Social Security each week that it would be the best investment of my life,” says Gorman. “My own experience shows how important this program is. The attempt to restructure the way it’s funded and allocated frightens me. It puts at risk the best program America has for every age group. We need to save Social Security for future generations.”

Though retired, Andrea still serves as Trustee for Local 1584, a position she’s held for 20 years. She is the Lodge Communicator and Secretary-Treasurer of the Local’s Retirees Club. She also serves as

a Peer Counselor for members in need.

“The IAM has been so good to me,” said Andrea. “I’ve received much encouragement and support from my IAM sisters and brothers, and I’ve been fortunate to attend many classes at the Winpisinger Center. The IAM has taught me so much. I volunteer to give back just some of what the IAM has given me. But I still receive way more out of helping others than I give.”



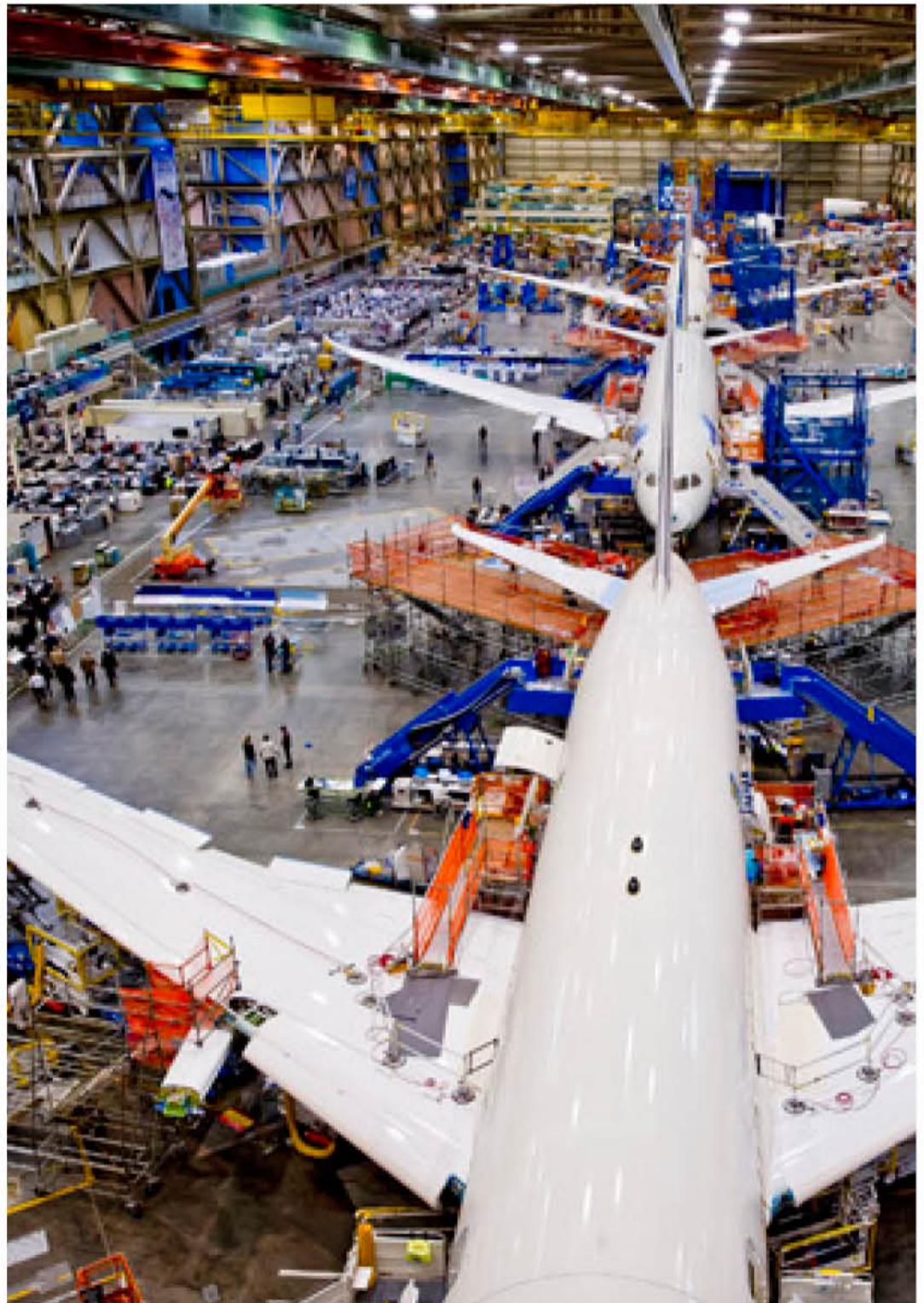
Tap above to view a video about IAM member Andrea Gorman, left, who shares her life story filled first with heartbreak, and later with joy, all thanks to Social Security.

Boeing Jobs Depend on U.S. Export Bank

Speaking in Everett, WA against a backdrop of an American-made Boeing 787 and surrounded by more than 1,000 IAM members, President Barack Obama announced a series of moves to help support the work of the U.S. Export-Import Bank. Among the most significant changes would be to allow the Bank to extend loan guarantees to cover domestic sales of U.S. products. The President also announced a program to extend the Bank's lending authority to small businesses and called for Congress to quickly reauthorize the Bank.

The Bank has a long history of supporting American exports and American jobs.

In 1934, with the American economy in the depths of the

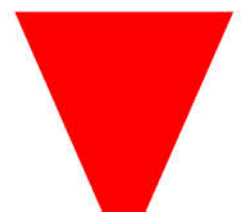


Loans financed by the U.S. Export-Import Bank support thousands of American jobs. Opponents of the Bank, including Delta CEO Richard Anderson, are trying to block loans for Air India to buy Boeing airplanes.

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swipe bottom to top to move to page 2 of 2 in this article



Great Depression, Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed an executive order creating the U.S. Export-Import Bank. The Bank proved to be a major New Deal success, providing loan guarantees to foreign companies who pledged to purchase U.S.-made products and services.

For nearly 80 years, the Ex-Im Bank helped create and support millions of U.S. jobs in the aerospace, auto, heavy equipment and manufacturing sectors. The Bank remains relevant today, facilitating large-scale export transactions at no cost to U.S. taxpayers.

Despite a decades-long record of success, some groups are seeking to stifle the Bank's ability to provide loan guarantees, arguing that a government agency should not be in the business of supporting exports and that the so-called "free market" should alone deter-

mine winners and losers.

Among those seeking to cripple the Bank's effectiveness is the ultra-conservative Club for Growth and Delta Air Line's CEO Richard Anderson.

In addition to backing a lobbying effort in Congress to block reauthorization of the Bank's funding authority, Anderson filed a lawsuit in federal district court seeking to block the Bank's support for the sale of U.S.-made Boeing aircraft to Air India.

"The Boeing sale is desperately needed to support thousands of manufacturing and service jobs here at home," said IAM President Tom Buffenbarger.

"We must not let these jobs disappear while opening the door for European aerospace companies to win valuable manufacturing contracts because they have access to financing options that we do not."

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***to Tell Congress to Reauthorize the
U.S. Export-Import Bank.***

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