



Going to the Dogs

To kick off the New Year we'd like offer a new look at the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM). Throughout 2011 we offered brief views of our "core" union functions: collective bargaining, policing contracts and generally improving the lives of our members. Those "Email Blasts" can all be found on our [FAA Round-Up](#) page. Now, we'd like you to take a look at other IAM activities; activities you can be a part of as an IAM member. These activities broadly fall into the category of Community Service. In fact, the IAM's motto is Fairness on the Job and Service in the Community. So here's a fresh perspective.

The IAM's commitment to the community goes back to 1888 when the IAM was founded. Like most railroad unions of the day, the IAM had a long fraternal history before ever calling itself a labor organization. Our early years were spent helping the families of injured railroaders and, when tragedy struck, paying the cost of burials. Today, we are still involved in charities to support our members and their communities. In coming emails we'll take a look at our commitment to education, scholarship, retirees, and how we support communities when natural disasters strikes. But for now, let's look at our charitable centerpiece [Guide Dogs of America](#). (For a video about the organization, [click here](#).)

Guide Dogs of America was founded over 60 years ago by Joseph Jones, Sr. with the help of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. When Mr. Jones became blind, he decided his mobility needs would best be met by using a guide dog. He applied to all the schools, but he was declined because of his "advanced age" although he was only 57 years old.

Mr. Jones was a determined man and "no" was not a word in his vocabulary. He turned to the IAM for help. The IAM Executive Council conducted extensive research, determined there was a growing need for guide dog services, and founded the International Guiding Eyes (IGE) in 1948 which in 1992 became Guide Dogs of America. Today, the IAM continues to be a generous supporter and staunch advocate of the school. We sponsor many fundraising events including our trademark [Hawgs for Dogs](#). These well-attended motorcycle rallies are a double treat for the IAM because they not only support Guide Dogs but showcase one of our important industrial sectors, Harley Davidson motorcycles. Some of our members even serve as "[puppy raisers](#)."

Find out more at [FAA Round-Up](#) on our [GOIAM webpage](#). Click through the videos and [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) and [sign a union card](#) to get the ball rolling. If you have other questions, please send them to organize@iamaw.org.

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