

onal Staff Conference



Local, District and Western Territory members were recognized for their efforts in a campaign for 1,800 Long Beach City workers. Back row, from left, BR Frank Brito, District 947; GLR Ray Rivera; GLR Joel Ochoa; Western Territory GVP Lee Pearson; GLR Steve Cooper; Asst. DBR Linda Amparan and Pres./DBR Richard Sanchez, District 947; SR Kevin Cummings. Front row, from left, BR Jose Lara, District 947; Organizer Joe Young, District 725; BR Janet Wright, District 947; BR Al Lopez, District 190; Organizer Felix Osuna and BR Chris Ward, District 947; and Western AA Gary Allen. (Not in photo, Organizer Mike Bellestri, District 725, BR Gloria Carter, District 947 and GLRs Matt McKinnon and Don Whitaker.)

Organizing Takes Center Stage in Orlando

Organizing took center stage on the opening morning of the 2007 IAM National Staff Conference in Orlando, FL. In 2003, IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger and the Executive Council issued a challenge to all IAM district and unaffiliated local lodges: Do your part in growing the IAM by organizing 250 new members a year.

“At each Staff Conference, we want to honor those who accepted the challenge, met it, and even surpassed it,” said Buffenbarger. “Each of these lodges made a commitment, worked hard and worked together.”

Receiving special honors

for organizing more than 250 new members were: Local 1943, Middletown, OH; District 1, Philadelphia, PA; NFFE/IAM Federal District 1, Washington, DC; District 4, Brunswick, ME; District 96, Savannah, GA; District 140, Richmond, BC; and District 947, Long Beach, CA.

Also receiving special recognition were District 947, District 190, District 725 members and Western Territory staff for their outstanding efforts with the City of Long Beach workers election that brought in 1,800 IAM members.

“As you can see, this was truly a team effort and a great

example of going outside the normal boundaries to bring new members into the IAM – both in regard to the occupations of the workers organized, and in the jurisdiction of the representatives and volunteers who made the campaign successful,” said Buffenbarger.

Organizing Initiatives

The opening session also saw IAM Headquarters GVP Rich Michalski, along with Organizing Director Larry Washam, Automotive Coordinator Boysen Anderson and Grand Lodge Representatives Steve Hantzis, George Myers and Don Barker, give a presentation

about organizing initiatives the IAM is undertaking.

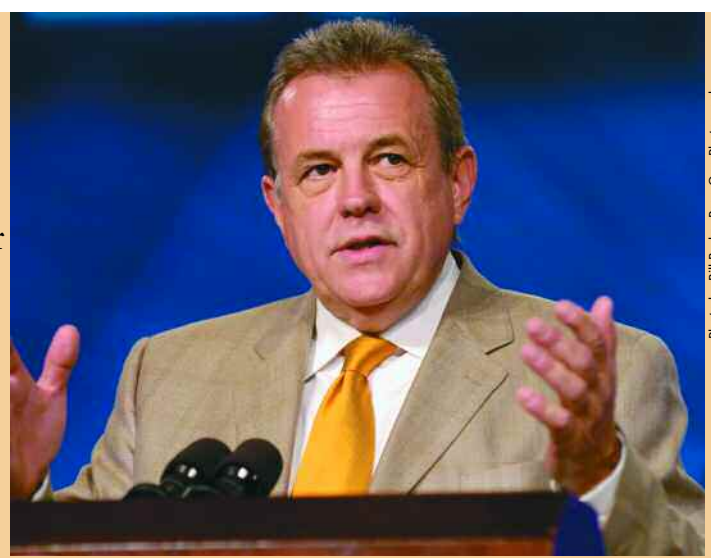
"When it comes to organizing, we must strategically target potential members and run the kind of campaigns that will grow the union and spread the benefits of IAM membership," said Michalski.

"Directly Speaking" is a campaign in which the IAM is utilizing the latest in print and web technology to communicate with IAM members via direct mail and personal websites. In the mailings, members are being asked to volunteer with organizing drives or send in contact information for anyone interested in joining the IAM.

The IAM is also pursuing opportunities to organize 15,000 FedEx Ground drivers in 500 locations and

1,200 Lockheed Martin Flight Service Specialists in 19 locations. For years, FedEx has improperly classified their ground drivers as "independent contractors" rather than employees. Now, recent court decisions coupled with potential rulings in the near future, could lead the way for FedEx drivers to pursue union representation.

Michalski also pointed to new efforts for in-plant organizing, emphasizing teamwork between district and local lodges and the Organizing Department, leading to successful efforts in the public sector



GVP Rich Michalski outlined several IAM organizing initiatives, including FedEx Ground, Lockheed Martin Flight Service Specialists and in-plant organizing in the public sector and right-to-work states.

and in "right-to-work" (for less) states.

"History has come full circle. We now must be like the early railroad 'boomers' who organized more than 100 local lodges in our first two years," IAM Organizing Director Larry Washam told the participants.



District and unaffiliated Local Lodges were recognized for meeting the goal of organizing 250 or more new members in a year. Representing their lodges were, from left, Pres./DBR Rick Brown, NFFE/IAM Federal District 1; BR Rick Compher and DBR Tony Provost, District 4; Eastern GLR Jim Smith; Pres. Dan Lawwill, Local 1943; Eastern AA Dale Hartford; Pres./DBR Tony Wilson, District 96; Organizers Ian Morland and Robert Savoie, District 140; and Pres./DBR Richard Sanchez, District 947.