

Key Officers Meet at Winpisinger Center

Eighty-six Presidents, Recording Secretaries and Secretary-Treasurers from airline and railroad local lodges gathered at the William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center for the Transportation Department's annual Principal Officers' Conference.

"Transportation members have gone through major upheavals in the last five years, including bankruptcies, attacks on pensions, stalled negotiations and consolidations," said General Vice President Robert Roach, Jr. "We need your input to collectively develop strategies to respond to the constantly changing air and rail industries."

The participants resolved to increase face-to-face communications with members, craft more specialized training programs, mobilize the membership and strengthen the union through organizing.

International President Tom Buffenbarger and General Secretary-Treasurer Warren Mart also addressed the delegates at the conference. Buffenbarger updated participants on the IAM's new Transportation Merger Team. "We know that every airline is talking to every other airline about consolidation," said Buffen-



International President Tom Buffenbarger discusses issues with key officers from railroad and airline local lodges.

barger. "We've learned from experience that this industry can change overnight. The Merger Team is ready for every scenario."

The recent success winning representational rights for hundreds of former America West Mechanic and Related, Fleet Service and Stock Clerk employees after the merger with US Airways demonstrates the Merger Team's effectiveness.

Discussion also centered on negotiating the IAM National Pension Plan at many troubled airlines.

"Airlines have abused the bankruptcy process to eliminate company-sponsored defined benefit pension plans," said Mart. "Fortunately, our members have the option to replace troubled plans with the secure IAM National Pension Plan."



GVP Robert Roach, Jr. calls for collective action to protect transportation members who have endured bankruptcies, pension attacks, stalled negotiations, consolidations and mergers in the rail and airline industries.

Organizing Campaigns Aim For 20,000 New Members



The IAM's Transportation Department is aggressively organizing in both the rail and air transport sectors. Campaigns that could bring as many as 20,000 new members are underway, including Continental Airlines Customer Service and Reservation Agents, JetBlue Fleet Service workers, Comair Customer Service Agents and Gulfstream Airlines Ramp Service workers. Recent victories include the IAM's successful Gulfstream Flight

Attendant election in July.

"Organizing new members not only benefits the newly-organized employees, it also strengthens the bargaining power of existing IAM members," said GVP Robert Roach, Jr. "When we organize air and rail workers, we improve their wages and benefits, lessening the need for unionized carriers to compete with the artificially low wages of non-union workers. The most effective way to preserve and improve

our members' livelihoods is by raising the wages and benefits of their employer's competitors."

Active organizing campaigns in the rail industry include locomotive machinists at Progress Rail in Waycross, GA and at the Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad. Recent victories include railroad machinists at the Appalachia and Ohio Railroad and fuel truck drivers at Quality Rail Services in Lincoln, NE.

2007 Day of Action: You're Invited

The IAM will hold a Transportation Day of Action on May 17, 2007 on the Mall in Washington, D.C. "We are inviting all workers and labor-friendly organizations who are fed up with how our government is run to join us," said GVP Roach. "Our goal is to send Washington a clear message - ENOUGH IS ENOUGH."

Even before the terrorists struck on September 11, 2001, our nation's transportation sector had been under attack. Layoffs had already started and contract negotiations were drawn out

and difficult. But in the last five years, transportation workers have endured multiple bankruptcies, terminated pensions, corporate take-aways, outsourcing of work to overseas facilities and negotiations that proceeded at a snail's pace under the Railway Labor Act. And yet, America's elected leaders did nothing as this critical segment of the workforce was hammered.

"May 17, 2007, will be our day to fight back and be heard," said GVP Roach. More information about the 2007 Day of Action is available at www.17MAY07.org.



The 2007 Day of Action will give thousands of workers the chance to tell politicians and corporations that "Enough is Enough!"