



37th Grand Lodge Convention

# Highlights

Sunday, September 7, 2008

## Orlando Welcomes Delegates to the 37th Grand Lodge Convention



Some of the nearly 1,500 delegates arrive in Orlando, FL, for the opening of the historic 37th Grand Lodge Convention.

The 37th Grand Lodge Convention in Orlando, FL, is certain to be among the most closely watched IAM events since the Grand Lodge Convention in 1976, when delegates approved a sweeping financial restructuring plan known as the ‘Program for Progress.’

“This year’s convention will determine what kind of union the Machinists will be in the next two years, the next ten years and even the next thirty years,” said International President Tom Buffenbarger. “It is the responsibility of every delegate at every convention to set the course for the future, but never in our history has that decision been more important.”

Among the special guests at this

year’s event will be New York Democratic Sen. Hillary Clinton and former Arkansas Republican Governor Mike Huckabee, who both received an historic dual endorsement following last year’s *Conversations with the Candidates*.

In addition to a full roster of guest speakers, delegates will also hear a keynote speech from International President Buffenbarger on the opening day and a full financial report from General Secretary-Treasurer Warren Mart on the following day. This year’s convention will also celebrate the vision of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, whose “Four Freedoms” speech rings as true now as it did in 1941.

Each day’s agenda will highlight one of the Four Freedoms – Freedom from Fear, Freedom of Speech, Freedom from Want and Freedom of Religion – and provide a worthy reminder of the legacy, as well as the unfinished business of our nation, our union and one of our greatest presidents.

Unlike the 1976 Convention, where closed circuit televisions were needed to give all 2,345 delegates a clear view of the speakers and debates, this year’s event will feature live streaming video feeds at [www.goiam.org](http://www.goiam.org) that will make selected portions of the proceedings available to members across North America.



*The IAM Law Committee reviews proposed amendments to the IAM Constitution that delegates will consider at the Grand Lodge Convention. From left, IAM General Counsel Allison Beck, Stan Pickthall, LL 692; Roger Poole, LL 313; Phil Zannella, Jr., LL 1363; Randy Canale, LL 1776; Jim Beno of LL 2182 and IAM Special Assistant Mike Winpisinger (Winpisinger and Beck act as advisors to the Law Committee).*

## Law Committee Dedicated to 120-Year Democratic Tradition

Delegates to the 37th Grand Lodge Convention are part of a 120-year tradition of democracy in action. They will follow past generations of IAM delegates to consider, debate and act on proposed amendments to the IAM Constitution.

Those changes will become the IAM's policies and programs for the years ahead. To assist the Convention through this historic task is the IAM Law Committee. The Law Committee

is elected every four years at the same time as the Executive Council and its members are from both the United States and Canada.

In accordance with Article XIX of the IAM Constitution, the Law Committee reviews every proposed amendment and considers its effect on the IAM and its members. After completing their review, the Law Committee may combine similar proposals and make recommendations to

the delegates, who then vote to accept or reject proposed amendments.

"Serving on the Law Committee is a big responsibility because what we do affects all of the members of this great union," said Chairperson Phil Zannella, Jr., of Local 1363. "I'm proud to serve with this dedicated group. They do an outstanding job."

Zannella is joined by Randy Canale of Local Lodge 1776, who serves as the Secretary and presents the Committee's recommendations to the delegates; Roger Poole of Local 313; Jim Beno of Local Lodge 2182 and Stan Pickthall of Local Lodge 692. IAM General Counsel Allison Beck and IAM Special Assistant Mike Winpisinger act as advisors to the Committee to ensure proposals conform to applicable laws and IAM policies.

## Diverse Delegate Group Arrives in Orlando

A very diverse cross section of almost 1,500 IAM members from IAM local lodges arrived in Orlando this weekend ready to make history as delegates to the IAM's 37th Grand Lodge Convention.

The list of elected delegates includes 86-year old Richard E. Harden of Local 1414 in San Mateo, CA, the oldest member serving as a delegate. Also attending is 21-year old Alexander Miner of Local 2705, in Westerly, Rhode Island, the youngest member here this week.

At 51, the average age of the delegation is actually two years younger

than it was at the 2004 Grand Lodge Convention in Cincinnati, OH. More than half of the members attending this convention are first-time delegates. The year's delegation also includes 193 women, three retired members and 18 apprentices serving as elected delegates. Delegates extend from Canada to the U.S. and Guam, with every IAM Territory included.

There are 217 elected delegates from the Southern Territory; 301 from the Midwest Territory; 134 from Canada; 252 from the Eastern Territory; 39 from the Headquarters Territory, which includes Woodworkers and

NFFE/IAM locals; 217 from the Western Territory and 304 delegates from Transportation.



*A diverse group from the United States and Canada make up nearly 1,500 delegates at the 2008 Convention.*

# 2008 Convention: Four Years in the Making



*Opening Day of the 2008 Convention is the culmination of years of preparation to take care of the thousands of details to ensure delegates have a successful week.*

From the minute the 36th Grand Lodge Convention in Cincinnati, OH, came to a close four years ago, hundreds of IAM member volunteers, ven-

dors and IAM staff have put in countless hours to ensure every detail of the 37th Grand Lodge Convention in Orlando goes off without a hitch.

“We’ve been working tirelessly to ensure everything runs smoothly this week,” said Southern Territory GVP Bob Martinez. “With almost 1,500 delegates, it takes the closely coordinated effort of hundreds of people to have things ready for opening day.”

The work that goes into the Grand Lodge Convention is staggering: materials for nearly 1,500 delegates must be produced; the stage, lights and sound systems designed; videos made; speakers invited and thousands of details worked out. The host committee has also been fundraising, registering delegates, planning receptions, corralling gifts and much more.

“Delegates joining us this week are witnessing the result of years of preparation,” said International President Tom Buffenbarger. “The professionalism and dedication of everyone in our union who make this event a success is to be commended.”

## Grand Lodge Convention 2008 Host Committee

### Co-Chairpersons:

Leon Blocker .....District W2  
 Stephen Gordon .....District 143  
 Johnny Walker .....District 166

### Members:

Benny Adair .....District 154  
 Karen Asuncion .....District 141  
 Debbie Aven .....District 142  
 Bunny Baker .....District 112  
 Gerry Bernson .....District 143  
 Ronald Fink .....District 19  
 John Gall .....District 166  
 Jane Gallozzi .....District 142  
 Jeff Goen .....Local Lodge 709  
 Steve Hernandez .....District 112  
 Murray Hill .....District 166



Tony Klinakis .....District 142  
 Mark Love .....District 70  
 George Mays .....District 711  
 Frank Ortis .....District 142  
 Judy Pierce .....District 70  
 Dave Porter .....District 166  
 Steve Pridgen .....District 75  
 James Rodehorst .....District 70  
 Russell Wade .....Local Lodge 10  
 Alan Williams .....District 131

# Convention Photo Album



## Committee and Subcommittee MEETING ROOMS

Aerospace .....	Coronado F
Appeals and Grievances .....	Toluca B
Communications .....	Yucatan 3
Community Services/Retirees/EAP .....	Coronado B
Energy and Natural Resources .....	Monterrey 2
<i>Energy, Research and Development</i>	
<i>Paper, Pulp and Sulfite Industry</i>	
<i>Petroleum Industry and Woodworkers</i>	
Health and Safety .....	Yucatan 1
Industries .....	Coronado D
<i>Automotive</i>	
<i>Brewery</i>	
<i>Electronics</i>	
<i>Health Services</i>	
<i>Machine, Manufacturing &amp; Shipbuilding</i>	
<i>Machine Tool, Tool and Die</i>	
Law .....	Baja
Organizing .....	Yucatan 2
Public & Government Employees .....	Monterrey 3
Resolutions .....	Cancun
Rules .....	Coronado G
Transportation.....	Fiesta 3
<i>Airlines</i>	
<i>Railroad</i>	
Women's and Human Rights .....	Coronado E
WWW Center Strategic Education .....	Fiesta 1
<b>OTHER MEETINGS:</b>	
Alternative Lifestyle .....	Fiesta 4

International Association of Machinists  
and Aerospace Workers

### 37TH Grand Lodge Convention Highlights



**R. Thomas Buffenbarger**  
*International President*

**Warren L. Mart**  
*General Secretary-Treasurer*

#### GENERAL VICE PRESIDENT

**Lee Pearson**  
*Western Territory*

**Robert Martinez, Jr.**  
*Southern Territory*

**Dave Ritchie**  
*Canada*

**Richard Michalski**  
*Headquarters*

**Robert Roach, Jr.**  
*Transportation*

**Philip Gruber**  
*Midwest Territory*

**Lynn D. Tucker, Jr.**  
*Eastern Territory*