



International Leaders Call For Strong Global Action

Building international ties to strengthen basic freedoms and build a global economy were strong themes echoed by a distinguished lineup of trade union leaders.

“We can’t let any politician ignore the needs of working people anymore, it’s too important,” said Canadian Labour Congress President Ken Georgetti. “Look at what has happened to our economy since we got the Free Trade Agreement and NAFTA. George Bush and Stephen Harper are just waving jobs good-bye. Free trade is a free ride – for corporate greed to profit.

“How do we make governments and politicians listen to working people instead of big business? Two words – political action,” said Georgetti. “Only when we organize and build our collective strength can we improve workers’ lives and protect our gains.”



Canadian Labour Congress President Ken Georgetti was one of many international labor leaders who urged delegates to build global trade union solidarity.

Georgetti pointed to the gains labor made in Canada even with a hostile government, such as electing 600 labor-endorsed candidates at the local level. At the federal level, they won stronger protections for workers whose companies go bankrupt.

“The only thing stopping complete corporate power over government and our society is the labor movement,” said Georgetti. “We can win on both sides of the border when we work together, act together and speak in one voice the language of workers – the language of solidarity.”

For nearly 120 years, the IAM has been an active member of the

International Metalworkers Federation (IMF), which represents roughly 25 million workers throughout the world.

“In 1893, IAM members travelled across the ocean to Switzerland for the first meeting of the Metalworkers Federation. They understood the need to join together, regardless of where in the world they were, to challenge the power of companies and governments,” said Marcello Malentacchi, IMF General Secretary. “Trade union rights are violated every day in many countries. We need strong international organizations to defend ourselves. Today, as thousands of people at Boeing are again on the picket lines



Marcello Malentacchi

*General Secretary
International Metalworkers' Federation*

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to defend their right to decent jobs and working conditions, we stand by our brothers and sisters everywhere Boeing has facilities to support them in this very important struggle.”

Lucie Studnicna, International Secretary of the Metalworkers Union of the Czech Republic (OS KOVO), spoke of the difficulties that all women face trying to balance work and family. Inspired by her

mother who became politically active after the sweeping changes in Eastern Europe in the 1990's, Studnicna broke through many barriers to join the ranks of the executive board of OS KOVO. “What I hope my children will understand about my job as a trade unionist and why I put in so many hours is that we're trying to create a better world with the values of dignity, respect, tolerance and solidarity. And if I can do that, I know I'm on the right track.”



Lucie Studnicna
International Secretary
OS KOVO

Meeting the Challenges of Globalization

Labor leaders representing 45 million workers throughout the world joined delegates to discuss the challenges globalization poses for trade unionists in the 21st century. In a panel moderated by the IAM's Trade and Globalization Department Director Owen Herrstadt, participants stressed the importance of strong global solidarity.

“We need to make sure in times of

Federation. “If you mess with one union, you mess with the whole alliance.”

“We cannot stop globalization, but we must stop the bad side, the globalization that creates unemployment, the globalization that actually decreases wages and decreases conditions,” said Stefan Lofven, President of IF Metall.

“That's what we need to start working on, is the full social impact of corporate decisions and their impact on com-

whole community.”

International guests also echoed the calls of earlier Convention speakers to avoid a third Republican administration.

“On behalf of workers worldwide – it's not just the American workers – please make sure we get this White House sorted out,” said Marowsky. “We cannot go on like this.”

International guests also stated their strong support of IAM members at Boeing who are on strike. “To the brothers and sisters that are on strike right now at Boeing, I'm going to let you know that you have the full, unwavering support of my union,” said Howes.

Throughout the discussion, Herrstadt emphasized the importance of strong global ties. “While our differences make our global labor movement strong and vibrant, we must never forget that our similarities far outweigh our differences, similarities like the fervent belief that the freedom to join a union and the freedom to strike are as fundamental of a human right as the right to breathe,” said Herrstadt.

Also participating in the panel was Mari-Ann Krantz, President of UNIONEN and Peter Scherrer, General Secretary of the European Metalworkers' Federation.

Convention delegates reinforced their commitment to strengthening international ties on Monday, overwhelmingly passing a resolution to work with trade unionists worldwide to develop meaningful and effective methods for engaging in international collective bargaining and organizing on a global scale.



The International panel on meeting the challenges of globalization included, from left, Mari-Ann Krantz of UNIONEN; Paul Howes of the Australian Workers' Union; Owen Herrstadt, moderator; Peter Scherrer of the European Metalworkers' Federation, Ingo Marowsky of the ITF and Stefan Lofven of IF Metall.

globalization, companies know there's not just a national labor movement, there's an international labor movement,” said Ingo Marowsky, Regional & Industrial Coordinator of the International Transport Workers'

communities,” said Paul Howes, National Secretary of the Australian Workers' Union. “We need to make sure the shareholders and boards of directors understand that when you're affecting workers, you're actually affecting the

Panelists Discuss Threats to Freedom Of Speech

With the rapid growth of the Internet, the ability to communicate information is faster and more accessible than ever. A group of distinguished panelists discussed the expansion of the Internet and whether freedom of speech and expression is currently improving or under threat and in decline.

The free flow of accurate information has also been compromised by the media's ownership by a few powerful conglomerates, according to the panelists.

"There's a double-edge sword with information on the Internet," said Elisa Bermudez of Reporters Without Borders. "It has allowed citizens to participate in the flow of information and do it rather easily. At the same time, other entities are trying to control and manipulate the free flow of information."

"I think free speech on the Internet is on the decline rather quickly," said Ian Lurie, President of Portent Interactive. "You have foreign



Panelists discuss attempts to muzzle freedom of speech during the Internet age. From left, Kal Kallauger, Elisa Bermudez, moderator David Woolner and Ian Lurie.

governments like China bringing pressure on Yahoo to provide information or censor information that they feel may be damaging to their regime."

"We live in a climate where the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which was created in the New Deal, no longer attempts to maintain

balance and diversity of the media marketplace and where the FCC has allowed the media to be owned by a handful of huge corporations," said David Woolner, Executive Director of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute.

Kevin Kallauger, an editorial cartoonist for *The Economist*, stressed the privilege of freedom of speech and how fragile it can be. "In two-thirds of the world, we couldn't have this meeting today," said Kallauger. "If we don't continue to fight for our freedom of expression, it will disappear."

Panelists also took shots at the federal government for their inability to guarantee a free press. "There needs to be more specific legislation that guarantees a free press," said Bermudez. "It's imperative to protect reporter-source confidentiality."

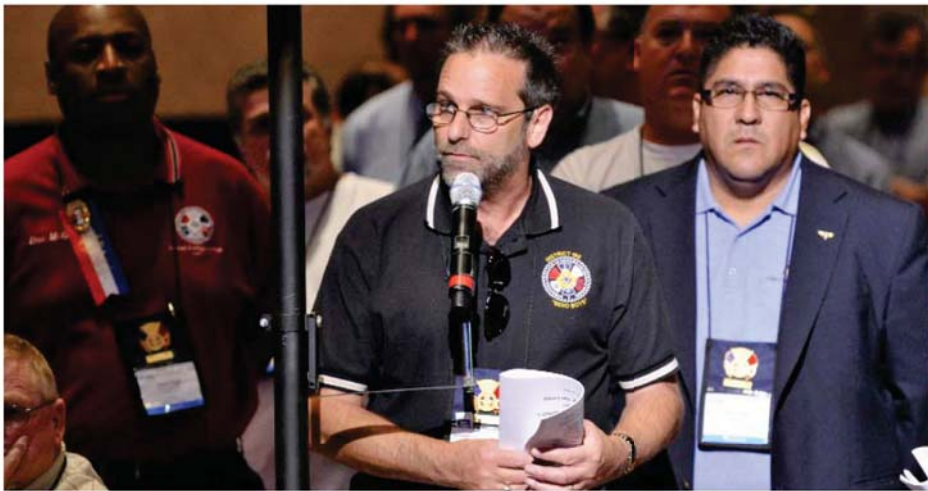
Lurie spoke at length about efforts to eliminate net neutrality, which ensures everyone, everywhere has equal access to free flow of information on the internet.

Organizing Successes Recognized



District lodges and unaffiliated locals who met the goal of organizing more than 250 new members per year received special recognition at the convention. Receiving the awards for their lodges, from left, DBR Don Hursey of District 160 in Seattle, WA, IAM President Tom Buffenbarger; DBR Gary Hynes, District Lodge 78 in Toronto, ON and ST Don Long of Local Lodge 778 in Kansas City, MO. District 160 received an additional award for organizing 250 members per year five years in a row.

Convention Photo Album



Convention Delegates Take Action

After extensive debate and discussion, Convention delegates voted to have the Law Committee reconsider proposed amendments regarding altering the IAM dues structure.

In other Convention action, delegates did not accept proposals to change long-standing provisions in

the IAM Constitution that govern the method of voting for the required number of candidates in an election.

Delegates also voted to keep the requirement that all local lodges affiliate with their AFL-CIO state organizations and did not accept a proposal to require affiliation with central labor councils.

International Association of Machinists
and Aerospace Workers

37TH Grand Lodge Convention Highlights



R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President

Warren L. Mart
General Secretary-Treasurer

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Robert Martinez, Jr.
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