



37th Grand Lodge Convention

Highlights

Thursday, September 11, 2008

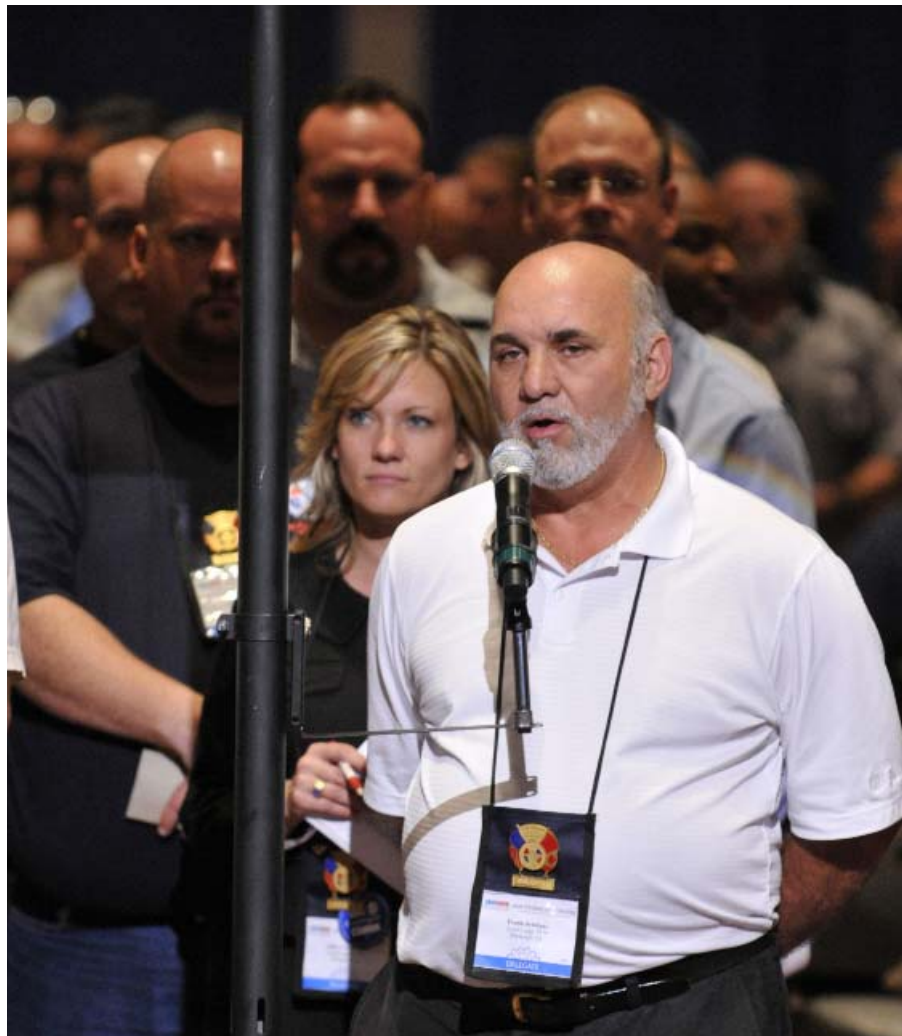
Delegates Approve New Financial Plan

Just as delegates to the IAM Convention in 1976 approved the Program for Progress that saw the union through more than three decades, delegates at the 37th Grand Lodge Convention ensured the IAM has a sound financial base to carry the union into the future with the resources necessary to take on corporations and hostile governments.

A university professor described the IAM at Boeing as “the wrong union to mess with” in the *New York Times* and an aerospace industry analyst called the IAM “one of the last unions with any power in this country.” The action delegates took will ensure the IAM will be described in such terms for years to come.

The new financial plan is the result of a democratic process that included opportunities for delegates to provide input into the final proposal, a thorough review of finances by General Secretary-Treasurer Warren Mart, a spirited floor debate and a democratic vote to approve the new plan.

Delegates lined up at the microphones to express their strong feelings on both sides of the issue, but all expressed their commitment as trade unionists. IAM President Tom Buffenbarger gave an impassioned address on the responsibility all members have to keep the union



Local 1976 Delegate Frank Schifano was among dozens of members who participated in a spirited debate about a new financial plan for the IAM.

strong for the next generation. “My father was at the 1976 Convention, and I know the fathers of many of you in this room were there, too,” declared Buffenbarger. “I want to see a great union for our children

and grandchildren – that’s what we’re here to do today.”

The approved proposal takes into account the needs expressed by delegates and lodges to keep the current method of calculating the Grand

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

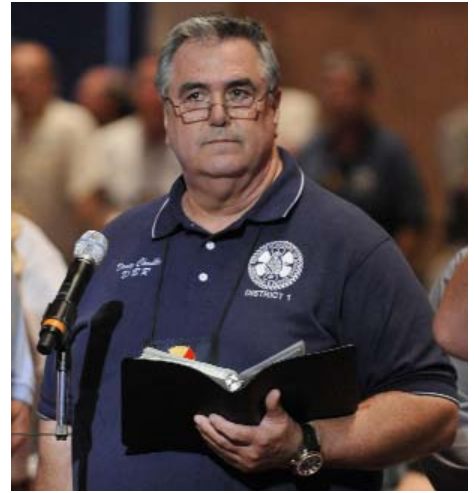
Lodge per capita tax largely intact. To keep the IAM financially strong, delegates approved a one-time increase of \$4.00 in the 2009 Grand Lodge per capita tax. Coupled with the normal weighted average estimated increase of 3.02 percent, or 78 cents, the total increase for 2009 is \$4.78, or the equivalent of just 2.76 cents per hour.

There will be a normal increase of an estimated 80 cents in 2010. In 2011 there will be a one-time increase of \$2.00 in the per capita base rate and then annual increases

will be pegged to the Consumer Price Index.

Local Lodges will have the ability to set their own dues rates and collection methods based on their own needs. Also, provisions remain for the International President to grant special dispensations in certain circumstances.

“It doesn’t matter what position you took, your character and strength were outstanding,” said Buffenbarger. “We are one union of one mind with a common cause of taking care of the brothers and sisters throughout the union.”



Local 1653 Delegate Danny Chmelko participates in the debate to update the IAM's financial structure.

Hero's Welcome for AFSCME President

Gerald W. McEntee, the International President of the 1.4 million-member American Federation of City, State and Municipal Workers (AFSCME), received a sustained ovation from convention delegates in Orlando when he announced a \$100,000 donation to the IAM strike fund to help 27,000 IAM members on strike at Boeing.

“I want you to know that

AFSCME stands in solidarity with all of you and with the 27,000 Aerospace workers in your struggle with Boeing,” said McEntee, who noted the long and productive partnership between the IAM and AFSCME.

“We stand with you. We stand beside you. And let me tell you something, we always put our money where our mouth is. So I have with me to give to your President, a check

for \$100,000 to help you on your strike at Boeing.”

Machinists at Boeing locations in Kansas, Washington, Oregon and California struck the aerospace giant on Sept. 3, after the company refused to include contractual limits on the outsourcing of members’ jobs, despite more than \$13 billion in after-tax profits since 2002.

McEntee also addressed labor’s role in the upcoming elections and the importance of electing labor-friendly representatives. “We have the best grassroots mechanism that the American Labor Movement has ever seen,” declared McEntee. “And let me tell you this, we are going to be the biggest, baddest and boldest supporters of the Obama-Biden ticket.”

In addition to his role as AFSCME president, McEntee also serves as the chairman of the AFL-CIO Political Education Committee.

“Brothers and sisters, it’s going to be a tough election,” said McEntee. “The difference this year will be the House of Labor. We can make a difference in this election like never before. We can make a difference in America, for our kids and grandkids and grandkids to come.”



Gerald McEntee donned the bright orange gear of The November 4th Team (TNT) and announced a \$100,000 donation to the strike fund for IAM members at Boeing.

Tofani Receives Kourpias Award for Journalism

The blatant abuse of human rights in China has been the topic of numerous reports. But it wasn't until *Salt Lake Tribune* reporter Loretta Tofani spent a year living in China visiting 25 factories that a journalist was truly able to report on the horrific abuses of Chinese workers.

Tofani received the IAM's George J. Kourpias Award for Labor Journalism for her series of articles titled *American Imports, Chinese Deaths*. Tofani's series took an in-depth look at the horrific working conditions in Chinese factories where workers routinely lose their health or lives while making products for export to North America.

Tofani talked to the delegates about her series of articles and the human rights abuses she observed during her time in China. "Inside China's factories I saw the jobs that Americans used to have – making clothes, making shoes, making furniture, jewelry and toys," said Tofani. "They made their products in the conditions of the early 20th Century,

without the expensive health protections and engineering controls that were mandated in the U.S. by the 1971 OSHA law."

Exposure to huge quantities of carcinogens such as lead and nickel, as well as working with severely outdated equipment, are having devastating impacts on Chinese workers.

"They are dying of fatal occupational diseases – leukemia, silicosis and renal failure – all while making our products," said Tofani. "They also routinely lose fingers or arms while making American furniture, appliances, car parts and other metal goods."

In 2005, 200 million of China's 700 million workers were routinely exposed to toxic chemicals and life-threatening diseases in factories. She called the occupational disease law passed in 2002 largely cosmetic. "It has not been



Journalist Loretta Tofani, right, receives the IAM George J. Kourpias Award for Labor Journalism from IAM President Tom Buffenbarger, left, for her reporting on labor abuses in Chinese factories.

enforced because China is much more interested in attracting foreign investment and in improving the country's prosperity," said Tofani.

"The entire labor movement is in your debt for providing proof that free trade is not always a win-win for everyone, but often just a fig leaf for abuse, greed and the worst kind of exploitation," said IAM President Tom Buffenbarger. "It is a valuable public service that journalists like Loretta perform – giving us a clear look at the true cost of low prices."

Huckabee Thanks IAM for Historic Endorsement



Former Republican Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee thanked the IAM for its endorsement during the presidential primary race.

Just over a year ago, the IAM made history with a dual endorsement of Republican Mike Huckabee and Democrat Hillary Clinton in the presidential primaries. Former Republican Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee had

the courage to seek the IAM's endorsement during a series of *Conversations With the Candidates* at the IAM National Staff Conference in August, 2007. He went on to win primary races in Iowa and six other states.

Huckabee appeared before delegates to thank them for the IAM's support. "The first invitation was nice, but the even greater honor is being invited back," said Huckabee.

"A couple of my opponents tried to make it out that I ought to be ashamed of it. Not hardly," declared Huckabee. "I was the proudest candidate on stage to say, 'I'm glad to

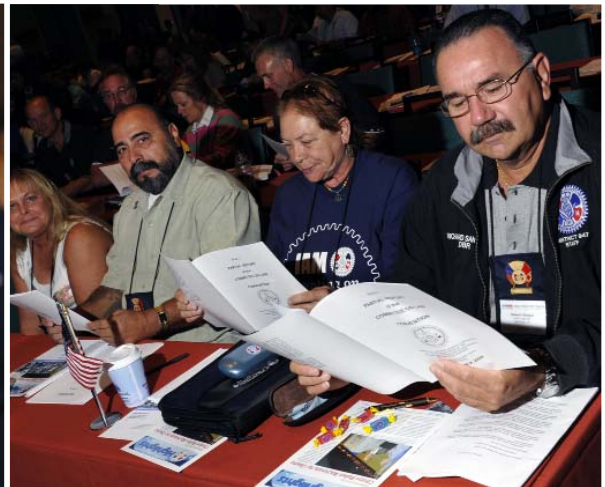
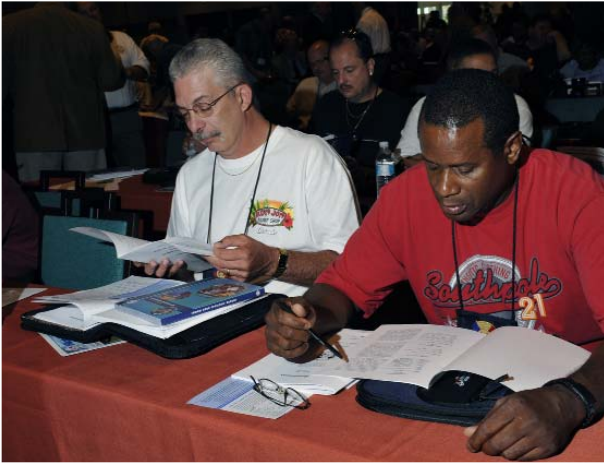
be affiliated with the IAM."

"I'm not going to talk to you about the party politics of left-right, liberal-conservative, Democrat-Republican," said Huckabee. "We have divided far too much on horizontal lines and we need to be dealing with the vertical issues. Are we taking this country up or are we taking it down? And we need to be taking it up."

The maverick GOP candidate pointed out the dangers of letting vital skills leave the country through outsourcing. "The worst thing that has happened to this country in a generation is that we are losing our capacity to manufacture our own weapons of self-defense," said Huckabee.

"The day that we outsource the last manufacturing job is the day that we've outsourced our freedom."

Convention Photo Album



Additional Delegate Action

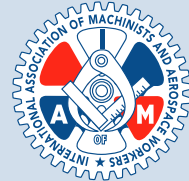
Delegates took action on a number of resolutions yesterday, including a resolution to pressure federal legislators for regulation and control over airline fares and capacity in the United States. They also passed a resolution to push Congress to closely monitor the National Mediation Board to ensure the Railway Labor Act is enforced.

A resolution pledging to publicize the role of shipbuilding as an integral part of a strong domestic economy and undertake actions necessary to protect the Jones Act was also passed.

Delegates also pledged support for the New Democratic Party and the Parti Québécois in Canada and for a national holiday celebrating legendary labor leader Cesar E. Chavez.

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 PRESIDENTS:

Lee Pearson
Western Territory

Robert Martinez, Jr.
Southern Territory

Dave Ritchie
Canada

Richard Michalski
Headquarters

Robert Roach, Jr.
Transportation

Philip Gruber
Midwestern Territory

Lynn D. Tucker, Jr.
Eastern Territory

IAM/TCU PRESIDENT:
Robert Scardelletti

