



37th Grand Lodge Convention

# Highlights

Friday, September 12, 2008

## Buffenbarger Rallies Delegates for Obama

On the eve of a live video satellite address by Democratic Presidential candidate Barack Obama, International President Tom Buffenbarger called on delegates to do their part to take back the White House this November.

“We are going to win the White House and we are going to work hard to expand the Democratic margins in the House of Representatives and secure a filibuster-proof Senate,” said Buffenbarger. “I want every last member of this union to know that the IAM is fully on board and supporting the Obama-Biden ticket.”

Buffenbarger unveiled the IAM’s campaign slogan: the TNT – The November 4th Team. “As the November 4th Team, we are an explosive force,” said Buffenbarger. “There is nothing more important that you could possibly do on November 4th than get your brothers and sisters out to vote for Barack Obama.”



*IAM Delegates voted to endorse Barack Obama for President.*



*IAM President Tom Buffenbarger wrapped up Thursday’s session with an impassioned address urging IAM members to join “The November 4th Team” and unite behind the candidacy of Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama.*

“In every Local Lodge, we have members who have not registered to vote,” said Buffenbarger. “These are IAM members we must hunt down and get registered.”

Buffenbarger also asked delegates to return home and educate their fellow members on the economic issues that will impact their daily lives.

“This is an America where nothing – not the color of one’s skin, not the mere chance of one’s birth, not the state or region you grow up in, not the religion you practice, not the schools you went to – where nothing prevents you from serving your country at the very highest levels – or from reaching your dreams,” said Buffenbarger. “It is that promise –

the promise of America – that we are fighting for in this election.

“What is at stake is nothing less than the opportunity that every one of our children, and our grandchildren, and our great grandchildren must have to achieve their own dreams,” said Buffenbarger. “When we win the White House on November 4th, we have fulfilled the promise of America.”

Following a rallying cry from Sen. Hillary Clinton for unity, delegates on Monday endorsed Barack Obama for president. To support the Obama candidacy, the IAM is preparing a massive education campaign among IAM members and extensive publicity in union publications and worksites nationwide.

# Acheson, Kourpias Address Delegates

In 1952, Secretary of State Dean Acheson made a special address to the 1952 IAM Convention that was broadcast on national radio – the equivalent of prime time television at the time. Acheson’s appearance was a testament to the esteem the Truman administration held for the Machinists union.

Fifty-six years later to the day, Dean Acheson’s son, David Acheson, spoke to delegates at the 2008 Convention. His theme was similar to his father’s historic address: the exercise of responsibility in conducting foreign relations.

“We’re in an eight-year winter of U.S. foreign relations,” said Acheson, author of *Among Friends: The Personal Letters of Dean Acheson*. “The pattern of the Bush/Cheney record has been a pattern of reckless things, a pattern of irresponsibility.

“Your union has supported a tradition of responsibility in foreign relations that the Bush/Cheney regime has sought to trash,” said Acheson.

Acheson didn’t restrict his criticism of the Bush administration to foreign affairs, however, taking aim at their economic policies as well.

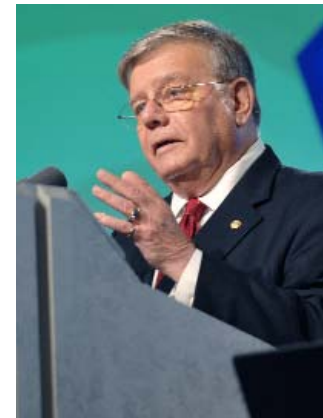
“America’s most pressing national challenges today are in fiscal, economic and environmental areas and the gross imbalances of trade and related job losses, problems that have snowballed through neglect,” said Acheson.

Former IAM International President, and current Alliance for Retired Americans President George Kourpias, also addressed delegates, emphasizing the importance of getting retirees involved in the upcoming elections.

“If you don’t have a retiree club, go back and get one set up for your retirees,” said Kourpias. “Thousands want to help, and they can be there



**David Acheson**  
Author



**George Kourpias**  
Alliance for Retired Americans

for your organizing drives, for your community service programs, for your political and legislative action programs.”

Kourpias praised Obama’s efforts on behalf of seniors and his 100 percent voting record on health care and Social Security issues.

“The most important thing facing seniors today and the tremendous job that we have to do, is the job of going out and telling the truth about both of these two candidates,” said Kourpias.

# Convention Honors Spanish Leadership Working Group



*The Spanish Working Group includes, from left: Javier Almazan, District Lodge 166; Armando Arreola, Local Lodge 701; Macario Camorlinga, Organizing Department GLR; Dora Cervantes, Transportation SR; Claudio Figueroa, Western Territory GLR; Al Granado, Organizing Department GLR; Al Lopez, District 190 BR; Juan Negron, District Lodge 15; Joel Ochoa, Western Territory GLR; Maria Pozo, District Lodge 78; Monica Silbas, Transportation Educational Rep. and Anne Wiberg, Winpisinger Center Educational Rep. (Not pictured: Jorge Saenz, Midwest Territory SR and Carlos San Miguel, Southern Territory SR.)*

Recognizing the growing diversity in our ranks, the Spanish Leadership Working Group has been preparing Spanish versions of the popular Leadership series at the IAM’s Winpisinger Education and

Technology Center. “The work this group did was truly amazing,” said IAM President Tom Buffenbarger. “They translated all existing Leadership I materials, guided the development of new materials and

delivered the first ever Spanish Leadership I Program in 2006.” The Group also launched a pilot Leadership II class in June, 2008. The Group was honored with the first IAM pin engraved with “Si Se Puede!”

# Panel Tackles Issue of Religion and Politics

No matter the religious sect or creed, union brothers and sisters stand together. A diverse group of distinguished guests talked to delegates yesterday about the state of religion and politics in today's cultures. Panelists overwhelmingly agreed on the ability to practice their religion freely, as well as the need to avoid making religion a divisive issue. Moderating the panel was Mark Talisman, from the Council of Jewish Federations.

"What I learned from my family is a faith that says we are all here on this earth together," said Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, author of *Failing America's Faithful*. "The Republican party and the Christian right have focused on just three issues – abortion, gay rights and stem cell research. These are all difficult,

tough and problematic questions, but it didn't seem to me that religion and faith only focused on those questions."

"Whether we are members of a specific faith, or no specific faith, and even those who choose not to believe, there is enough room for all of those people and I believe that God wants all of us," said Imam Yahya Hendi, Muslim Chaplain at Georgetown University. The privilege of freedom of



Panelists discuss freedom of religion in today's culture. From left, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend; Mark Lilla; Mark Talisman and Imam Yahya Hendi.

religion is one North Americans shouldn't take for granted, according to the panelists, who sounded a call to ensure that liberty isn't lost.

## Winpisinger Bio Debuts at Convention

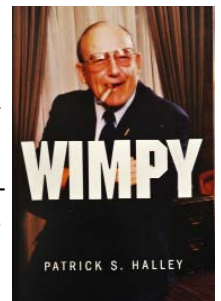
Delegates got a look at a new biography of former IAM International President William W. Winpisinger, the colorful and legendary IAM leader affectionately known as 'Wimpy.'

"William W. Winpisinger proved to be a fascinating subject for a biography. I really enjoyed the chance to get to know more about him, his times and this union he so dearly loved," said

author Patrick S. Halley. "He dedicated himself to advancing the IAM from its railroad roots in the 1880's to a cutting-edge union of the twentieth century that could survive and thrive into the 21st century."

"Wimpy put the IAM on the front lines of the battle for social justice, shoulder-to-shoulder with groups outside the labor movement," said Halley.

"He opened the door of opportunity to women and minorities. He mentored two entire generations of leaders. He invested heavily in training and established the education and technology center that today bears his name. But most of all he loved, honored and respected his membership."



## Unique Machinists Quilts Crafted for Raffle



A pair of special Machinist-themed quilts were crafted by Wichita, KS, Local 839 member Stan Chapman and his wife Monica as part of the Southern Territory Host Committee's fundraising effort for the Convention.

"We didn't skimp when we made these quilts," said Chapman.

"There are hundreds of hours and hundreds of dollars of high-quality material in these quilts and none of it came from Wal-Mart."

The lucky winners were Local 774 member Brian Alexander of Wichita, KS, and Local 620 member Howard Rothenbach of Los Angeles, CA.

Southern Territory GVP Bob Martinez, Jr., right, with quilters Stan Chapman of Wichita, KS, Local 839, left, and his wife Monica Chapman.

# Convention Photo Album



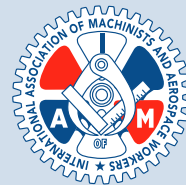
## Additional Delegate Action

Delegates yesterday passed a resolution reaffirming the IAM's commitment to ensuring the new President and Congress sign the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA). The resolution set a goal of getting a minimum of 10 percent of members to sign up in support of EFCA.

They also passed resolutions reaffirming the IAM's commitment to women's rights, human rights and assisting members who have been dislocated, as well as to secure the adoption of a comprehensive, national public policy that ensures every person has access to technical skills training. Delegates also passed a resolution forge a coordinated campaign to protect Social Security and Medicare.

International Association of Machinists  
and Aerospace Workers

## 37<sup>TH</sup> 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

