125th Anniversary: Machinists Leadership in Troubled Times

IAMAW RETIREES’ CONFERENCE, LAS VEGAS, NV
NOVEMBER 2013
Original Members Could Not Have Imagined!

- Flying to a Retirees’ Conference
- Representing more than the Rail Road Industry
- Diversity of Executive Council
Original Members Could Not Have Imagined!

- The Technology of 2012 Convention
- Long List of Achievements:
  - 8 hr Day
  - Right to Bargain Collectively
  - Pensions
  - On and On
Machinists Presidents

- Tom Talbot 1888 to 1890
- J. J. Creamer 1890 to 1892
- J. O’Day 1892 to 1893
- James O’Connell 1893 to 1911
- W. H. Johnston 1911 to 1926
- A.O. Wharton 1926 to 1939
- Harvey Brown 1939 to 1949
- Al Hayes 1949 to 1965
- P. L. Siemiller 1965 to 1969
- Floyd Smith 1969 to 1977
- Wm. W. Winpisinger 1977 to 1989
- George Kourpias 1989 to 1997
- Tom Buffenbarger 1997 to Present
History Leaders in Troubled Times

- Tom Talbot 1888 - 1890
- W. H. Johnston 1911-1926
- Al Hayes 1949 - 1965
- Wm. W. Winpisinger 1977 - 1989
- George Kourpias 1989 - 1997
- Tom Buffenbarger 1997 - Present
Tom Buffenbarger
1997 to Present

- Will be longest serving IP
- Organizing 110K + Since 9/11
- Propelled IAM Technologically Forward
- Awakened New Political Awareness
- Magnified the Education of Members
- Diversity of the Leadership
Machinists Before the IAM

- Long History of Workers and Struggle
- Machinists and Blacksmiths Union
- The Holy and Noble Knights of Labor
- The “Great Upheaval” of 1877
- Haymarket and Implications to Machinists
Tom Talbot
1888 to 1890

- Christian Socialist
- Grew Union 18 to 4000+
- Led Boomer Organizer
- Strong Conviction to Improve Livelihood of All Machinists
- Murdered
W. H. Johnston
1911 to 1926

- Socialist Born in Nova Scotia, Canada
- Diversified Membership
  - Skilled and Unskilled well beyond RR
  - Women fill ranks
  - Not welcomed among AFL Leadership
- Membership from 58K to 330K by 1919
- 1\textsuperscript{st} Red Scare Era 330K to 122K
- Formed Coalition – New Deal Creation
W. H. Johnston 1911 to 1926

- Membership Plummets 330K to 122K
- Post WWI Right Wing Radicalism
  - Great Steel Strike of 1919—1920
  - Winnipeg General Strike
  - The First Great Red Scare
    - “Palmer Raids”
    - J. Edgar Hoover
W. H. Johnston 1911 to 1926

- Johnson and the Conference of Progressive Political Action – 1922
  - Right to Union and Collective Bargaining
  - Right to Social Insurance
  - Shorter Hours
  - Child Labor Laws
  - Women’s Rights
  - Federal Railway
  - Stop Give Away of Federal Lands
Al Hayes
1949 to 1965

- 1918 Apprentice - on Strike 1922
- Membership grew 518K to 875K
- 2nd Red Scare
  - Post Taft-Hartley
  - McCarthyism
  - Battled National Association of Manufacturers
  - Landrum-Griffin
Al Hayes 1949 to 1965

- Engineered a United Labor Movement
- Communication with Membership
- Air Transport and Aerospace Organizing
- Civil Rights Movement
- Advances Multi-Employer Pension Plans
Wm. W. Winpisinger 1977 to 1989

- Resurgence of Coalition Building
  - Vietnam Aftermath
  - Political Progressives Welcomed
  - Human Rights
- Battled Neo-Conservative Movement
  - Ronald Reagan
  - Global Peace
Wm. W. Winpisinger 1977 to 1989

- Community Services Growth
  - Guide Dogs of America
  - Community Outreach

- Education of Membership
  - Placid Harbor
  - Safety and Health
  - Video Messaging
George Kourpias
1989 to 1997

- Employer Greed
  - Corporate Downsizings
  - Corporate Merger Mania
  - TWA and Eastern Airlines

- Global Trade
  - Economic Free Trade Zones
  - NAFTA Fast Track
George Kourpias
1989 to 1997

- Advances Political Presence
  - Grows Legislative Action
  - Recognized Retirees’ Value
- Membership Outreach
  - Grows Departmental Initiatives
  - New Ribbon Panels
Tom Buffenbarger
1997 to Present

- Will be longest serving IP
  - Previously James O’Connell 1893 to 1911
  - Following notable Leaders

- Organizing 110K + Since 9/11
  - In ‘97 organizing growing until 2001
  - Renewed Organizing Focus/Expansion
  - Funding of Organizing
Tom Buffenbarger
1997 to Present

- Propelled IAM Technologically
  - Tools
  - Strategic Thinking
- Awakened New Political Awareness
- Global Labor Movement
- Magnified the Education of Members
  - Diverse Programs
  - Winpisinger Expansion
Tom Buffenbarger
1997 to Present

- Diversity of the Leadership
IAMAW and the Future: Lessons from the Past

- Politically Progressive In Conservative Era
- Led Coalition Building
- Organizing Model of Membership Participation and Mobilization
- More Encouragement of Self-Sacrificing

“An Injury to One is a Concern of All”