



R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President

Commentary

Organize!

At the Organizing Summit in Chicago, in a room packed to overflowing, 959 organizing activists worked to turn the IAM into a high performance organizing machine.

The energy and intensity level was palpable. Local and District presidents and organizing committee chairpersons brainstormed how to overcome apathy, involve the larger community and create action plans. They learned how to develop organizing leads and turn those leads into winning campaigns. And this new generation of IAM leaders decided

to kick start an historic organizing effort.

Backed by the Grand Lodge's multi-million dollar commitment to organizing – the 2004 IAM Convention set aside \$30 million from the strike fund ... the Grand Lodge announced pension holidays for district and local lodges ... the Executive Council declared a one-year moratorium on per capita payments to the Grand Lodge for every newly organized member, all meant to stimulate more organizing activity across the union – these organizing activists began to meet the challenge.

The challenge is this: Every district lodge will organize at least 250 new members every year. Every local lodge will have a functioning organizing committee that aggressively works to grow this union. And every IAM member will be asked to help grow this great union.

You, too, can be part of this high performance organizing machine. Just ask a friend or neighbor if they have a union contract at work. If their answer is “no,” then explain what an IAM contract means to you and your family. It's the first step towards a better life for them, a strong union for you.

Tom

IAM JOURNAL



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The *IAM Journal* (ISSN 1083-0413) is published quarterly by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, 9000 Machinists Place, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-2687. PHONE: 301-967-4520 FAX: 301-967-4586. The *IAM Journal* is mailed to every member in accordance with convention and referendum action. Subscription price \$10 per year. Printed by Kelly Press, 1701 Cabin Branch Road, Cheverly, Maryland. Postmaster: Change of Address Form 3579 should be sent to: *IAM Journal*, 9000 Machinists Place, Upper Marlboro, MD. Periodicals postage paid at Upper Marlboro, MD and additional mailing offices.

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