

A Common Past, A Strong Future



Photo by Bill Burke, Page One Photography

IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger, center, TCU International President Robert A. Scardelletti, right, and TCU International Secretary-Treasurer Howard Randolph, Jr., left, sign the historic affiliation agreement between the IAM and the Transportation Communications Union.

On July 6, the top officers of the Transportation Communications Union signed an agreement affiliating with the IAM as an autonomous entity and moving toward a merger to be completed no later than 2012.

In a short time, TCU—itsself a ‘union of unions’—will become a part of the IAM. Like the many unions that have merged through the years to form TCU, we now join hands to move forward in solidarity and with greater

strength as members of this dynamic Machinists union.

The majority of TCU’s 46,000 active members work in the railroad industry. But our range is extensive and complex and reaches on and off the railroads throughout the transportation industry.

Individually, TCU members are people from very different backgrounds who do many different jobs: as clerks, carmen, computer programmers, skycaps and redcaps, on-board service workers, secretaries, supervisors, truck dri-

vers, accountants, yardmasters, intermodal workers, reservations agents, transit workers and more.

A Union of Unions

Whatever jobs we do, we work together, and together we form a diverse alliance. TCU is one union made of many.

At its core is the union founded December 29, 1899, which became the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks. In 1919, the name was expanded to the Brotherhood of

Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees. By 1967, the word "Airline" had been added and the acronym BRAC was widely used.

In the years after that, the union welcomed into its ranks the members of half a dozen labor unions—among them the Transportation-Communications Employees Union, itself the former Order of Railroad Telegraphers (merged 1969); the Railway Patrolmen's International Union (1969); the United Transport Service Employees, founded in 1937 as the International Brotherhood of Red Caps (merged in 1972); the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (1978); the American Railway and Airway Supervisors Association (1980) the Western Railway Supervisors Association (1983) and the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen (1986).

Birth of the TCU

To reflect the diversity of the union's membership and the growing number of women in the ranks in a meaningful way yet without merely adding job titles to an already lengthy name, delegates to the 1987 Convention voted to become the Transportation Communications International Union.

TCU International President is Robert A. Scardelletti and International Secretary-Treasurer is Howard Randolph, Jr. There are seven

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International Vice Presidents and seven members of the Board of Trustees.

TCU international officers are elected by delegates to the union's conventions which are held every five years. The next convention will take place in the summer of 2009.

A Common Interest

The circumstances of our work lives today bear little

resemblance to conditions that existed when we first started to organize back in 1899. But the fundamental reasons for union action—control over our lives, dignity and justice on the job, prosperous communities and better lives for our children—have remained the same.

Through organizing, winning the right to representation, using the collective bargaining process and uniting for political action, TCU members have shared in building a trade union movement to be proud of.

Now we come to this historic time when joining ranks with the Machinists will make all of us stronger. We share a unity of purpose and vision and look forward to moving into this century as proud members of TCU/IAM.



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TCU International President Robert Scardelletti, left, and IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger celebrate after signing the affiliation agreement that brings together two proud rail unions.