



A New Era

The IAM ushered in a new era of organizing and militancy with the installation of new officers in a ceremony at IAM headquarters in Upper Marlboro, MD.

Former IAM President George Kourpias administered the oath of office for IAM International President, General Secretary-Treasurer, seven General Vice Presidents, the Law Committee, Delegates to the AFL-CIO and the Canadian Labour Congress.

“This new Executive Council will aggressively push organizing. Every day, every way we can,” said IAM

President R. Thomas Buffenbarger. “At all of our Local Lodges, we will spark new campaigns to organize the unorganized. At every District Lodge, we will expect constant pressure to grow, to expand our membership. At the Grand Lodge, we will redirect resources — people and programs, money and manpower — to the goal of real and sustained growth.

“But growth is not an end in and of itself. Growing the IAM is a means to an end. Bigger numbers lead to more power. And more power leads to winning an even better life

for our members,” said Buffenbarger.

Buffenbarger called on IAM members to continue the traditions of the Fighting Machinists, using the high-tech tools of the IAM’s redesigned website, GoIAM.org and the IAM’s old-fashioned willingness to take on all challenges.

“From the negotiating table to the halls of Congress, from the picket lines to in-plant organizing committees, from precincts to the governor’s mansions and the White House, from every point on the compass the Fighting



Photo by Bill Burke, Page One Photography

A new era begins as former IAM President George Kourpias, far left, administers the oath of office to the new Executive Council, from left, General Vice Presidents Robert Roach, Jr., Robert V. Thayer, Dave Ritchie, Lee Pearson, General Secretary-Treasurer Warren L. Mart, International President R. Thomas Buffenbarger, General Vice Presidents Lynn D. Tucker, Jr., Robert Martinez, Jr. and James E. Brown.

Machinists will be seen, heard and felt,” said Buffenbarger.

“A new generation of Machinists must earn the right to call themselves Fighting Machinists. And they will. They will earn that right by organizing the unorganized and doing what’s right when the time is ripe. They will do what’s right when management tries to steal their dreams, or governments try to steal their jobs with shady trade deals,” said Buffenbarger.

“Our commitment to you, to each of you who are Fighting Machinists, is this: a new era starts here today,”

Buffenbarger declared. “And that new era will be one of growth and militancy.”

Also sworn in at the ceremony were Law Committee members Philip Zannella, Jr., Jean Leo Cote, Mark A.

Blondin, Roger Poole and Randy Canale; Delegates to the AFL-CIO Shelley Kessler, S. E. ‘Gene’ Cobbin, and James Conigliaro and Delegate to the Canadian Labour Congress Angela Schira.

“A new era starts here today. And that new era will be one of growth and militancy.”



R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President



Photo by Earl Dotter

Warren L. Mart
General Secretary-Treasurer

Mart Pledges to Keep IAM a Strong Union

“I’d like to thank our members for the confidence they’ve placed in me as the IAM’s 10th Secretary-Treasurer. Every action I take will make this union stronger,” said General Secretary-Treasurer Warren Mart.

“Like so many times in the past, it is our members who rise to the occasion and provide us with the means to lead in troubled times. The delegates’ actions at the 2004 Grand Lodge Convention will keep this union strong.

“By authorizing a new Organizing Fund, we will be able to organize with the resources and the energy required in these difficult times.

“By endorsing the expansion of the Centralized Accounting System (CAS), we’re already seeing in our Local and District Lodges the benefits of a more efficient accounting system.

“These changes show what we can do when we’re faced with difficult choices,” said Mart. “I’m confident we can meet the great challenges that are before us.”

IAM Vice Presidents **Challeng**



Photo by Earl Dotter

Lee Pearson
*General Vice President
Western Territory*

“These are exciting times with big challenges,” said GVP Lee Pearson. “Scarce resources are affecting too many of our members’ jobs in the West. The energy crisis still isn’t resolved and scarce water supplies could make the energy crisis look small by comparison.

“In organizing we have a lot of activity going on in our Districts, particularly in Washington, Arizona, Nevada and Northern California.

“But our real challenge is in Southern California. Machinists have a huge presence there, so we intend to do a great job in Southern California, too.”

“In Canada, everything important to us is affected by legislation,” said GVP Dave Ritchie. “We need unemployment insurance reform, health-care reform, stronger worker safety laws and help with education.

“In organizing we plan to add apprentice organizers and every District will have a plan to organize 250 new members per year.

“We all have a responsibility to keep this union strong. We need to remind our families, friends and neighbors that unions are responsible for the standard of living that we have today.”



Photo by Earl Dotter

Dave Ritchie
*General Vice President
Canada*

Discuss Issues Ahead



Robert V. Thayer
General Vice President
Headquarters

“Keeping the pressure on Washington, D.C. and winning in the 2006 and 2008 elections are our top priorities” said GVP Robert Thayer.

“Woodworkers are affected by trade laws. Government workers’ jobs are being contracted out and their rights are in jeopardy from the National Security Personnel System. Our

Aerospace jobs are threatened by fewer defense firms and more outsourcing.

“We must fight harder at the bargaining table, stay involved in politics and make organizing a priority. In every fight we face, the full resources of IAM Headquarters will be there to ensure our members stay part of North America’s middle class.”



Robert Roach, Jr.
General Vice President
Transportation

“Our biggest challenge is negotiating collective bargaining agreements in today’s environment: an anti-labor National Mediation Board and four airlines in bankruptcy,” said GVP Robert Roach, Jr. “We are using innovative ways, including the IAM National Pension Plan, to overcome these challenges.

“To boost organizing, we will redeploy Grand Lodge Representatives,

have a full-time organizer in each District Lodge and encourage every Local Lodge to have an aggressive organizing program.

“As times get better, we will succeed.”



Lynn D. Tucker, Jr.
General Vice President
Eastern Territory

“The loss of jobs, especially manufacturing jobs, is our biggest challenge,” said GVP Lynn D. Tucker, Jr. “We need an economic policy that keeps factories in the U.S., not gives incentives to move offshore.

“To provide more support for organizing and servicing, we’ve consolidated and restructured our resources. Now almost every District in our territory has one or two organizers and we’re doing really well.

“Everybody is working together. We’re focusing on our goals and objectives, we’re going to do great work over the next four years.”

“We must make Congress understand what every working family is going through,” said GVP Robert Martinez, Jr. “We need a solution for healthcare. We must repeal Right-to-Work (for less) laws and free trade agreements like NAFTA and CAFTA. Sending jobs overseas and devastating our members and their communities has got to stop.



Photo by Earl Dotter

Robert Martinez, Jr.
General Vice President
Southern Territory

“Organizing is a top priority. We have to get back to the grassroots and get out into our communities and organize.

“It will be the Southern Territory’s honor and privilege to host the 37th Grand Lodge Convention. We hope everyone joins us in Orlando, FL in 2008.”

“Our biggest challenges are unfair trade agreements that export America’s jobs and rising healthcare costs,” said GVP James E. Brown. “We’re going to do our part to take back the House and Senate in 2006.



Photo by Earl Dotter

James E. Brown
General Vice President
Midwest Territory

“For organizing, we are setting up teams of Grand Lodge Representatives and members from the District and Local Lodges.

“There are millions of people who want to belong to a union. The workers of this country are still the majority of the people. We’ve got to be positive, go forward and change the world. We can do it.”

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