

TCU Affiliation Brings 46,000 New IAM Members



Photo by Bill Burke, Page One Photography

IAM President Tom Buffenbarger, center, TCU International President Robert Scardelletti, right, and TCU Secretary-Treasurer Howard Randolph, left, sign the historic affiliation agreement between the two unions.

“This affiliation makes sense on so many levels,” said Buffenbarger. “We have a common heritage as rail unions and we share a century-long legacy of fighting to give our members the best wages, pensions and working conditions possible.”

The TCU membership base hails from nearly every major rail company in North America, including Amtrak, CSX, Norfolk Southern and Canadian National.

Among the unions that joined the TCU over the years are the Order of Railway Telegraphers; the American Railway Supervisors Association; the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

Soon after IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger declared that organizing would be the union’s top priority, the IAM announced an historic

agreement with the Transportation Communications International Union (TCU) that will bring nearly 46,000 new members into the IAM.

A New Day at New Piper

Seven hundred and fifty workers at New Piper Aircraft Company in Vero Beach, FL stood their ground to win their first IAM contract.

They endured a long struggle that included a pair of hurricanes that almost wiped their workplace off the map.

The new contract includes a solid grievance procedure, a two-year freeze on additional employee healthcare

plan contributions and restores other key benefits taken away before workers voted for IAM representation.

“These courageous folks stood together and won the day,” said Southern Territory General Vice President Bob Martinez. “It was a long and hard road, but the employees at New Piper can now begin to reap the rewards of their solidarity.”



Proud Americans, proud Machinists, from left, Chief Negotiator Jim Long; retired New Piper worker Daphne Heath; Grand Lodge Organizer Al Granado; District 166 Business Rep. Jeff Rainey; Negotiator Jim Fink; Aerospace Coordinator Ron Eldridge and Negotiator Ken McGlothlin.



Sixteen IAM members were among 107 graduates from the National Labor College. First row, from left: Luther Williams, Vincent Addeo, Lou Brogna, Morna MacDonald-Rector and Elaine Poland. Second row, from left, IAM President Tom Buffenbarger, Thomas Reina, Edward Delaporte, Patrick Murphy, Thomas Verdi and Winpisinger Center Asst. Director Charlie Micallef. Top row, from left: Robert Wilson, Larry Brown, Darrin Nedrow and Steve Brown (graduates not pictured: Michael Burleigh, Kevin Cummings and Sam Cicinelli).

National Labor College Honors IAM Graduates

Machinists union members who earned Bachelor's degrees from the AFL-CIO's National Labor College (NLC) in Silver Spring, MD were honored at the College's graduation ceremony.

This is the first year that the NLC coordinated their

program with the IAM's William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center, allowing thirteen of the sixteen IAM students to use the Center to complete part of their course work.

"We're proud of these graduates. They worked extremely hard to finish this

program," said IAM President Tom Buffenbarger, who attended the ceremony with Winpisinger Center Assistant Director Charlie Micallef.

For information about earning a college degree through the National Labor College, contact Charlie Micallef at 301-373-3300.