



IAM members at Boeing displayed their determination at a march and rally during the final days of negotiations. They later voted to reject Boeing's last offer and approve a strike. Leading the way, from left, IAM Aerospace Coordinator Mark Blondin, District 70 President/DBR Steve Rooney of Wichita, KS, District 751 President/DBR Tom Wroblewski of Seattle, WA and District 24 DBR Robert Petroff of Portland, OR.

Fighting for Our Future at Boeing

IAM members in Kansas, Oregon, California and Washington state shut down commercial aircraft production at the nation's largest plane maker when they refused to accept a contract that failed to address their number one concern: job security.

The strike at Boeing began despite extraordinary efforts by IAM negotiators to con-

vince company representatives that any offer that did not address outsourcing and the increasing use of vendors was doomed to fail.

"Boeing didn't listen," said Aerospace Coordinator Mark Blondin. "They thought they could divide this membership and win a close vote. But they misread the group badly for the second time in three years and

triggered a strike that is costing them up to \$100 million each day the strike goes on."

IAM members at Boeing are highly attuned to the company's penchant for moving work and jobs to low-wage overseas locations. "We've learned it's not enough to have a good-paying job if that job can disappear at any time," said IAM President Tom Buffenbarger.

Victory at Hawker Beechcraft

Nearly 5,000 Machinists in Kansas returned to work at Hawker Beechcraft after a four-week strike that many observers are calling a "game changer" for aerospace workers nationwide.

"Hawker Beechcraft is a highly successful company with hundreds of aircraft on order," said Southern Territory General Vice President Bob Martinez. "IAM members won a contract that will serve as an industry

benchmark for years to come."

Despite healthy profits for 2007, Hawker proposed take-aways for new workers and attempted to increase health care costs for all employees. Members of Local 733 in Wichita and Local 2328 in Salina voted by an overwhelming 90 percent to reject the offer and took the company on in the first strike since 1984.

"The solidarity of this group was remarkable," said

Aerospace Coordinator Ron Eldridge, who helped guide the strike and subsequent negotiations to a successful conclusion. "They went out as a group, got the contract they wanted and came back stronger than ever."

The new three-year contract freezes health care premiums for the duration of the accord, increases pensions and gives workers a 12 percent pay hike over the life of the agreement.