

## 'Bolder' Future for TCU with Machinists, Scardelletti Tells Convention Delegates

A delegation from TCU was warmly welcomed at the Machinists Union's 37th Grand Lodge Convention in Orlando, FL. TCU President

try in the late 1800s. Next year will be our 110th anniversary. We in rail labor are a proud group, among the first within the labor move-

Labor Relations Act. A perfect example is right here in Disney World where we have 2,000 members.

"We reached the point where our membership was trending downward. We realized that as our membership dropped below 50,000, the ability to maintain the type of representation we believed our members deserve from their union could be in jeopardy.

"Our delegates had the foresight to recognize this at our 2004 Convention. I was charged with the responsibility of seeking out and finding a union that would meet our objectives.

"The long relationship with the IAM was instrumental at the very beginning of our talks, as there was a pre-existing respect for each other. We chose the Fighting Machinists because you are a union that brings pride to American workers.

"You fight like TCU fights, every day, day in, day out. Now, TCU, together with the IAM, is the largest rail union in the U.S. And I foresee using that combined strength to achieve even better contracts in the future. With the IAM, TCU's future is bolder than ever before."



Kaveh Sardari, Page One Photography

*"The IAM is a union that brings pride to American workers," said TCU International President Robert Scardelletti at the IAM Convention in Orlando, FL.*

Scardelletti addressed the Convention delegates, describing TCU's membership, its goals, and the steps that brought TCU to its affiliation toward merger with the Machinists. Here are excerpts from that speech:

"Like many unions, including the IAM, we were founded in the railroad indus-

ment. We played a major role building this country."

### Proud Past

"TCU is a strong, effective union with a proud past. We represent clerks, carmen, yardmasters and supervisors on every major railroad across this nation. We also have members under the National

“Of course, how well we do in the immediate future will be greatly influenced by who will be elected this November as the next President of the United States.

“We also endorsed Hillary Clinton in the Democratic primary. What a difference between eight years of President Clinton and eight years of President Bush who literally hates unions and everything we stand for. He and his corporate cronies would have us working in servitude.

## Elect Obama

“Barack Obama has been elected the Democratic presidential candidate. Senator McCain is the American worker’s worst nightmare. He is no friend to our veterans, nor is he a friend to our senior citizens. He must be defeated.

“America can do better



Barack Obama



Bill Burke, Page One Photography

TCU staffers Ann Turley left, and Susan Dunton, right, helped introduce TCU to the more than 1,400 delegates at the IAM Convention.

than John McCain. We can do better with Barack Obama! Barack Obama needs the fighting Machinists. We need him. And America needs Barack Obama.”

## Proud Machinist

“I am proud to call Tom Buffenbarger my friend, and I am proud to be a Fighting Machinist.

“Brothers and sisters, years ago when I began working nights in the Cleveland rail yards I learned quickly that I could not rely on the company. We are merely a means to their profit, to be discarded at their whim.

“I believed then, as I do now, that it is the union that gives us the strength to live

with dignity and respect on and off the job. Everything we have on our job comes from the union; much of what we have at home comes from our paycheck—a product of the union contract.

“I know how tough your job is every day, on the front-line, at the work site. I was there. I walked in your shoes. I started out as a yard clerk in Cleveland, OH, with the New York Central Railroad in 1967. Four years later I was elected Local Chairman and from that point forward I have devoted my entire life to the union.

“The union is the last line of defense for the American worker. Brothers and sisters, I salute you.”