



R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President

Commentary

FOCUS

The American Labor Movement is fast becoming nearsighted; its vision grows blurry.

Maybe it is a function of age. Or perhaps, its myopia is due to the cross pressures confronting unions every single day. But whatever the cause, what matters most gets fuzzier and fuzzier.

Improving the lives of its members is the first imperative of any union. At the IAM, we do that at the bargaining table every single day. And the return on investment – the ROI on the dues IAM members pay – raises their standard of living year after year.

And yet, organized labor's role in creating, maintaining and defending North America's broad middle class goes unrecognized. That must change.

Now is the time to focus on our members. Their courage, their sacrifices, their willingness to fight for their families, their spirit of solidarity has altered this continent for the better, forever.

As the focus shifts to the indispensables of the American Labor Movement – the members themselves – our clout can only grow. As the unorganized see more clearly what our members have won, they will recognize that it pays to belong to a union.

IAM JOURNAL



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS, AFL-CIO

R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President

Warren L. Mart
General Secretary-Treasurer

GENERAL VICE PRESIDENTS:

Lee Pearson, 620 Coolidge Drive, Suite 130,
Folsom, CA 95630

Dave Ritchie, 15 Gervais Drive, Suite 707,
Toronto, ONT M3C 1Y8

Robert Roach, Jr., 9000 Machinists Place,
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-2687

Lynn D. Tucker, Jr., 135 Merchant Street,
Suite 265 Cincinnati, OH 45246-3730

Robert Martinez, Jr., 1111 W. Mockingbird
Lane, Dallas, TX 75247

Richard Michalski, 9000 Machinists Place,
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-2687

Philip J. Gruber, 1733 Park Street, Suite
100, Naperville, IL 60563

The *IAM Journal* (ISSN 1083-0413) is published quarterly by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, 9000 Machinists Place, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-2687. PHONE: 301-967-4520 FAX: 301-967-4586. The *IAM Journal* is mailed to every member in accordance with convention and referendum action. Subscription price \$10 per year. Printed by Kelly Press, 1701 Cabin Branch Road, Cheverly, Maryland. Postmaster: Change of Address Form 3579 should be sent to: *IAM Journal*, 9000 Machinists Place, Upper Marlboro, MD. Periodicals postage paid at Upper Marlboro, MD and additional mailing offices.

IAM WEBSITE: www.goiam.org



Richard S. Sloan, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
Bill Upton, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

EDITORIAL STAFF: Donna Georgallas, Cornel Dunmore,
Frank Larkin, Valana Reid, John Lett, John Carr, Jason Woodward,
Deirdre Kaniewski and Bobbie Sullivan.