

Richard Michalski
Director, Legislative & Political Action

In 1968, Rich was initiated into IAM Local Lodge 1916 and worked as a welder at General Electric in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He held several positions in his local lodge, including steward, chairman of the bargaining committee, and president.

Rich has always been politically involved at the grass roots level, volunteering many hours campaigning for candidates promoting workers' issues. He was the Democratic committeeman for his precinct for 12 years, and elected delegate to the 1980 and 1984 Democratic National Conventions. He has been affiliated with a myriad of organizations dedicated to providing a better quality of life for the poor and low income enabling them to get funds to provide low cost home improvement loans, crime watch programs, etc.

Rich became the IAM's Director of Legislative and Political Action Department in 1992. In this capacity, he is involved on a daily basis with legislation that affects working men and women together with the AFL-CIO and its affiliates, interfacing with Members of Congress in Washington, pushing back the extremist agenda. Rich is also Director of Political Action for the Machinists Non-Partisan Political League (MNPL), one of the top 10 political action committees in the country. As such, he coordinates fundraising across the country and together with IAM local membership holds politicians accountable not only in Washington but also in their home states.