



R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President

Commentary

Choices

Our *Conversation with the Candidates* proved enlightening. For forty-five minutes, each presidential candidate was grilled by CBS correspondent Erin Moriarty.

Gone was the 30-second sound bite. Gone was the *Cliff Notes* version of their stump speech. Instead, these leaders defended their policies and explained their thinking.

This *IAM Journal* captures what Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Mike Huckabee and Dennis Kucinich said. You can see how they handled themselves on www.goiam.org.

Too bad you cannot see how each candidate related to our members after those *Conversations* ended. But I did. I watched Mike Huckabee crack jokes and make each member feel special. And I saw Hillary Clinton chat with some pretty hard-nosed guys and pose for photographs until the entire room emptied.

Both candidates felt completely at home with us. And our brothers and sisters felt totally comfortable approaching them. There was a special chemistry – a level of mutual respect – that impressed me greatly.

Our choices – Senator Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination and Governor Mike Huckabee for the Republican nomination – will be our partners in the months and years ahead. We can take great pride in this historic, dual endorsement.

But now, it's time to roll up our sleeves and help them secure their party's nomination.

Tom

IAM JOURNAL



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