

IAM Members Earn College Degrees



From left: IAM Instructor Charlie Micallef, National Labor College graduates David Brewer, Javier Almazon, Jon Halverson, Ruth Groden, James Core, Rachael Ragno, Robert Huffman, Joseph Tiberi, William Fenaughty, Joseph Appleton, Juan Negron, Eric Kaufman, Dora Cervantes, Gerald Knox, IAM President Tom Buffenbarger, Transportation GVP Robert Roach, Jr., graduate Patricia Payne, and Winpisinger Center Director Chris Wagoner (not pictured: Thomas Rich).

Sixteen IAM members were among more than 100 union members who earned degrees from the AFL-CIO's National Labor College (NLC) in Silver Spring, MD, and were honored at the College's graduation ceremony. The NLC coordinates their degree program with the IAM's William W.

Winpisinger Education and Technology Center, which allows IAM students to use the Winpisinger Center for part of their course work.

Many of the Winpisinger Center programs are now accredited and can be used for college-degree programs. "Earning a college degree is a

great achievement and we're proud that the hard work and dedication shows in this year's IAM graduates," said Winpisinger Center Director Chris Wagoner. For information about earning a college degree through the National Labor College, contact Charlie Micallef at 301-373-3300.

Rebuilding Labor Rights in Iraq

Against a background of unprecedented political and economic turmoil, hundreds of union activists from more than a dozen countries assembled in Erbil, Iraq, recently to press for a restoration of basic union rights. Iraq outlawed public-sector unions in 1985, and it was one of the few laws the Bush administration lobbied to keep after the fall of the Hussein regime.

Among the delegates who traveled to Iraq was IAM Local 700 member Bill Shortell of West Hartford, CT, and Legislative Director for the Eastern States Conference of Machinists. Shortell and five other delegates from the U.S. met with union activists from across Iraq and shared ideas on how workers could rebuild their movement after years of war and repression.



Local 700 member Bill Shortell in Erbil, Iraq, at a meeting of labor activists from around the world who called for restoration of basic labor rights for the people of Iraq.

Workers' Memorial Ceremony Honors Fallen Members

Families, friends and fellow IAM members gathered at the William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center as part of a national observance of Workers' Memorial Day to honor the memory of 21 IAM and Transportation Communications Union

(TCU) members who perished on the job or from work-related diseases.

Fallen brothers and sisters are honored by having their names engraved on bricks that are placed at the Workers' Memorial at the Winpisinger Center.

"We fight hard every day to assure that workers return home from the job safe and sound," said IAM President Tom Buffenbarger. "We don't always win that fight, which inspires us to work even harder so others don't have to endure the pain of losing a loved one."

From left, Mikeal Withrow, her mother Joan Carpenter and Marie Oxley find the bricks marked with white roses honoring Local 656 members Bill Oxley, husband of Marie, and Barry Withrow, husband of Mikeal, who were killed in an explosion at the Bayer CropScience plant in West Virginia.



Vance Strikers Build Lasting Bond

For two weeks in June, members of Local 898 in Enid, OK, walked picket lines in a dispute with contractors at Vance Air Force Base. While negotiators inside hammered out a new agreement, IAM members outside built a lasting relationship with one area family.

Single mom Ronda Stribel allowed the strikers to use her driveway on their picketing route. Stribel's three young daughters built a refreshment stand, and referred

to the strikers as "the neighbors."

Local 898 members showed their appreciation by replacing the Stribel's leaky water heater, repairing the children's trampoline, pruning tree limbs and replacing the family's front door, all for free.

"This was a great example of neighbors helping neighbors," said District 171 DBR Jerry McCune. "No one should ever be surprised to see Machinists repaying a kindness."



Local 898 member Michael Whatley enjoys picket-line refreshments provided by Ronda Stribel and her daughters, from left, Bretta, Brittany and Bryanna who helped IAM members on strike in Enid, OK.