

The Fight

Bill Burke, Page One Photography



The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) began a new chapter in its 121-year history with the installation of new Officers, members of the Law Committee and

Delegates to the AFL-CIO and Canadian Labour Congress in a ceremony at IAM Headquarters in Upper Marlboro, MD.

“Our members nominated and elected a very diverse group this year with more than 300 years of combined

service to the men and women of this union,” said IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger. “They know what it is like to conduct a lodge meeting, handle a grievance, run an organizing campaign, lobby a politician and sit across the table

for Jobs



Former IAM International President George Kourpias administers the oath of office to new IAM Officers, Delegates and members of the Law Committee who will lead the IAM's fight for jobs to restore North America's economy. Front row, from left, General Vice Presidents Richard Michalski, Robert Martinez, Jr., Robert Roach, Jr., General Secretary-Treasurer Warren L. Mart, International President R. Thomas Buffenbarger, General Vice Presidents Dave Ritchie, Lynn D. Tucker, Jr., Philip J. Gruber and Gary Allen; Delegates to the AFL-CIO, second row from left, Shelley Kessler, James Conigliaro and Stephen Gordon and Committee on Law members, second row from far right, James Beno, Ellen Arbogast, Stanley Pickthall, Jeffery Goen and Philip Zannella, Jr. (not in photo: Delegate to the Canadian Labour Congress Angela Schira).

from a company executive. They have done it all."

Now, this combination of seasoned veterans and a younger generation of leaders take office as the largest economic crisis since the Great Depression grips the world economy.

JOBS Now!

"This leadership team knows the toll this mega-recession is taking on working families because they are talking to our members every day," said Buffenbarger. "JOBS Now! is our issue. Our members need jobs — now! Our kids need a brighter

future — now! And our two nations need a clear pathway out of this mega-recession — now!"

"We intend to push for a second economic stimulus, one aimed at the manufacturing and transportation sectors," said Buffenbarger. "Until this mega-recession ends and real, sustained, job-creating growth starts, JOBS Now! will be our primary focus.

"The current economic stimulus plan is not creating jobs fast enough to pull the economy out of recession and get people back to work.

"In this mega-recession, over 30 million Americans are idled to some degree," said Buffenbarger. "According to the



IAM International President R. Thomas Buffenbarger outlined the IAM's fight for JOBS Now! to restore North America's middle class with an ambitious agenda to rebuild manufacturing, invest in transportation, increase skills training and demand a second stimulus program to create jobs more quickly.

U. S. Department of Labor, nearly 14.5 million are unemployed, 9.1 million are working part time involuntarily and 6.6 million want, but cannot find, a job. In Canada, more than 400,000 full-time jobs have been lost since last October. More than 1.5 million Canadians are now unemployed."

Global Hypothermia

The jobs crisis has spread worldwide. As manufacturing and economic output levels plunge, the world's economic engines are going into a deep freeze. "Workers everywhere face a new phenomenon: glob-

al economic hypothermia," said Buffenbarger. "Just as the human body shuts down in stages when exposed to severe cold, the crashing global economy is causing shutdowns in stages that without coordinated government intervention will get progressively worse.

"As this global recession enters its second year, the weakest links in the supply chain will turn off the lights and lock the gates," said Buffenbarger. "Then plants further up the supply chain will close due to the lack of component parts."

As the global economy enters a "metabolic icebox," the answer is to reignite the engines

of economic growth by stopping the systematic shutdown of the economy.

Industrial Policy

"We need a national industrial policy to make North America the global manufacturing powerhouse for the next 50 years," said Buffenbarger. "By making credit available, offering investment tax credits, hiring unemployed workers to renovate older plants, we can stoke the furnaces of our manufacturing capabilities.

"And by giving laid-off workers the chance to upgrade their skills and giving our kids a clear pathway from

high school through community college and apprenticeships, we can raise the buying power of millions of workers.”

“Small manufacturers need enough credit to produce and stockpile enough inventory to keep the supply chain intact,” said Buffenbarger. “And to help our large manufacturers, governments at all levels should institute a ‘Buy North American’ policy to have domestic companies produce the cars, computers, machinery, ships, planes and other products government needs.”

North America’s transportation system of roads, railways and airports acts like a giant circulatory system that is key to restarting the economy. “It’s time to make North America’s transportation sector the envy of the world once again,” said Buffenbarger. “Our arteries of commerce require targeted investments to modernize logistics, build high-volume infrastructure and devise fuel-efficient networks.

“Taken together, these are steps that will enable us to survive and recover from this deep freeze in industrial production,” said Buffenbarger. “It is time for a JOBS Now! agenda, not just for the United States and Canada, but for all nations.

“We must embark upon the duties that we have pledged our sacred honor to do,” said Buffenbarger. “We must lead this great union of ours into the warmth of a jobs-creating economic recovery, mentor a new generation of labor leaders, negotiate the industry-leading contracts that are the hallmark of our great union and fight like hell for our members’ fair share of the wealth created by their labors.”

General Secretary-Treasurer Mart

Machinists Union Ready for Challenges Ahead

“We in the IAM are keepers of a legacy that goes back to a meeting in a locomotive pit more than 121 years ago. We’ve come a long way since then, but we still have a special kinship with those first Machinists,” said IAM General Secretary-Treasurer Warren L. Mart at the Installation of IAM Officers ceremony.

“Four years ago we saw the future as one that was rich in challenges, but also rich in opportunities. Little did anyone realize how historic those challenges would be.

“In spite of all that has happened to our members in every industry since then, I am deeply proud of the effort this union has made to defend the

jobs, the pensions and the rights of IAM members.

“The forces against us were truly enormous. As promised, we fought back with all the strength and resources that only a full-service union could provide.

“Our efforts today are not only aimed at giving the next generation the skills they will need, but also at creating and preserving jobs.

“And, we will continue to keep this union strong. As Secretary-Treasurer, it is my responsibility to protect the financial foundation of this organization.

“In times such as these, that is no small task, but I am confident that together we are equal to any challenge that comes our way.”



Kaveh Sardari, Page One Photography

IAM General Secretary-Treasurer Warren L. Mart pledged to keep the IAM financially strong to lead the fight to create and preserve jobs.