



R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President

Commentary

Forging the Future

With nearly 600 collective bargaining agreements to be negotiated this year, never a day goes by when the future isn't being forged somewhere in our union. And it is a future being forged by IAM members.

That future includes the fight to protect higher wages, health care coverage, vacation and sick days, pensions, job security and work rules that few Americans will ever enjoy. And almost all envy.

What makes those IAM contracts truly unique is how closely they reflect your dreams, hopes and expectations for a better life for you and your family. A strong IAM contract also reflects what you value most: to have input into the agenda for contract negotiations, to be represented by your negotiating committee, to speak out – for or against – certain provisions, and to have the final say about your future... the right to vote to accept or reject an agreement.

This *IAM Journal* details how IAM members win great contracts in different industries and sectors by tracking the course that Continental Flight Attendants took to achieve their new contract, a contract that will pay them \$52.53 per hour.

Continental Flight Attendants voted twice on their proposed contract, once last November and again in February, to get what they wanted. That is not unusual in the IAM. It happens all the time.

Listening to our members, respecting their opinions and letting democracy rule is what the IAM does best. And the results speak for themselves.

IAM JOURNAL



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