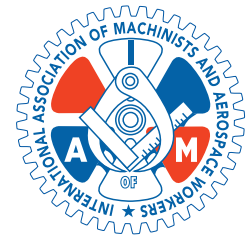
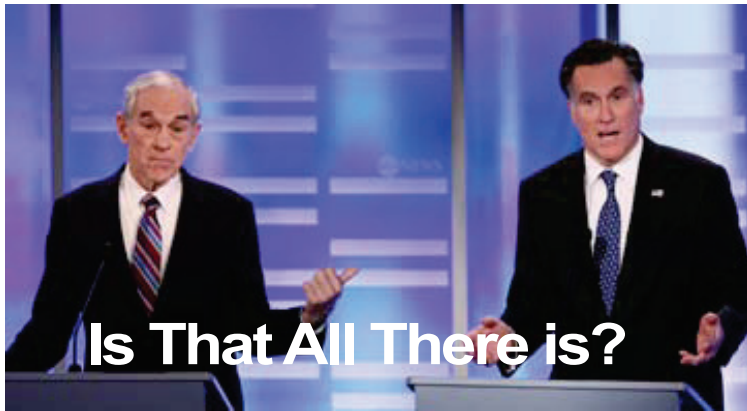


# IAM Journal

For Fighting Machinists



VOLUME 17 NO. 1 JANUARY 2012



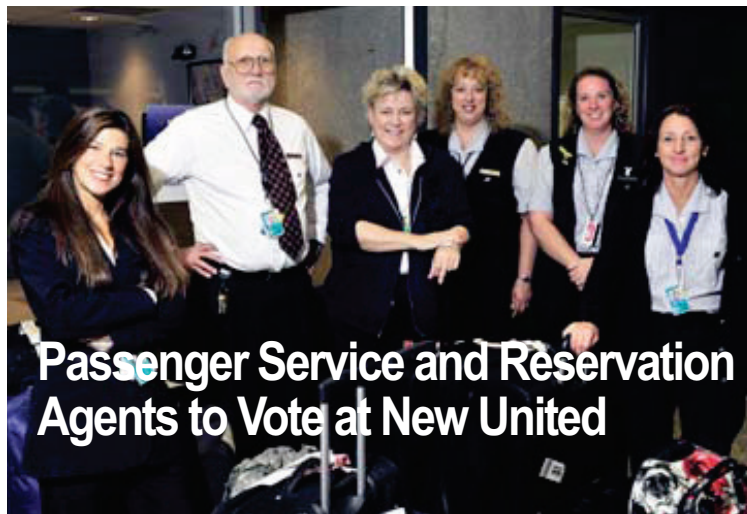
## Is That All There is?

Getty Images

## Super Committee Failure Threatens Jobs



AP / World Wide Photo



## Passenger Service and Reservation Agents to Vote at New United

## UCubed Celebrates Second Anniversary



## 2012 Opens with New IAM Leaders, New Aerospace Territory



Photo by Bill Burke, Page One Photography



Photo by Bill Burke, Page One Photography



Meet **BONNIE POLSTER**  
Union Activist,  
Student and  
Volunteer Firefighter



## Labor Hall of Fame Honors Working Americans

AP / World Wide Photo





*The crowded field of GOP candidates is rapidly narrowing following the Iowa and New Hampshire primaries, leaving many voters to wonder, “Is that all there is?” The narrowed field includes front-runner Mitt Romney, right, and Ron Paul, left.*

# Is That All There Is?

In Iowa and New Hampshire, Republicans ended the suspense. Their field of ten presidential candidates started shrinking to two finalists – Mitt Romney and Ron Paul.

But what a whack-a-mole year 2011 proved to be. Former Massachusetts’ Governor Mitt Romney saw his front-runner status challenged first by Minnesota Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, then Texas Congressman Ron

Paul and, in quick succession, Texas Governor Rick Perry, Georgia businessman Herman Cain, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum.

Each suffered the same fate. As the GOP presidential candidates rose in the polls, the media and opposing campaigns hammered them mercilessly. Not surprisingly, when they dropped back into single digits, their fundraising dried



up, their organizing efforts withered, and even their debate performances suffered.

Four former GOP governors – New Mexico’s Gary Johnson, Utah’s Jon Huntsman, Louisiana’s Buddy Roemer and Minnesota’s Tim Pawlenty – threw

---

## **Their policies for ending the JOBS crisis lacked much force or any sense of urgency.**

---

their hats in the ring and three were never heard from again. All but Huntsman were excluded from the twenty debates held last year.

In reality, those televised debates masked deep divisions within the Republican Party. Who set its agenda – the Tea Party or the Establishment? Who held the real power – grassroots activists or Wall Street wise guys?

The answer came in early December. Surveying the field, the Gallup Organization described the contest as “one of the most topsy-turvy for the Republicans” since Barry Goldwater in 1964. Gallup reported that “Gingrich’s strength among Tea Party supporters and conservative activists suggests he

may have a turnout advantage in early caucus and primary states.”

Gallup was dead wrong. Gingrich fell to a surging Rick Santorum who lost to Romney by eight votes in Iowa and then came in fifth in New Hampshire. Gingrich, with help from a casino magnate, sought revenge for the attack ads that destroyed his candidacy. His friends’ super PAC started hitting Romney where it hurts: his days of buying up companies and laying off workers.

So now the Romney-Gingrich-Santorum grudge match heads to South Carolina on January 21st, Florida on January 31st and Super Tuesday on March 6th when eleven states hold primaries or caucuses. Ron Paul, who topped 22 percent in New Hampshire with a quirky coalition of libertarians and independents, will be “nipping at [Romney’s] heels.”

As the losing candidates head home, working families ask, “Is that all there is?”

Fortunately, the answer is “yes.” Their policies for ending the JOBS crisis lacked force or any sense of urgency and never connected with working families.

Even as the Republican candidates delivered their best applause lines, working families responded with one



ROTATE YOUR IPAD TO VIEW  
FULL SCREEN PHOTOS

hand clapping. They knew intuitively their messages were not aimed at them.

Mitt Romney kept saying, “I’m going to get rid of ObamaCare. It’s killing jobs. And it’s keeping our kids from having the bright prospects they deserve.” But working-class voters scratched their heads in disbelief at his 59-point, 160-page plan. Volume is no virtue when foreclosure looms around the corner.

“Creating jobs and getting back to four percent unemployment is the most important step to a balanced budget,” was Newt Gingrich’s message. But his Jobs and Prosperity Plan focused on stopping the 2013 tax increases, moving towards an optional 15 percent flat tax, strengthening the dollar and balancing the budget. To union members, macroeconomics never trumps microeconomics.

With 29 million Americans unemployed or under-employed, another

---

## **In reality, those televised debates masked deep divisions within the Republican Party. Who set its agenda – the Tea Party or the Establishment?**

---

seven million having left the workforce entirely, and a domestic economy incapable of creating more than 200,000 jobs each month, the goal of full employment seemed an even more distant mirage.

The specter of a Eurozone default or a new round of defense cuts that trigger more layoffs remains a recurring nightmare for working families. And their search for a leader to match these perilous times continues.

# 2012 Opens with New IAM Leaders, New Aerospace Territory



Photo by Bill Burke, Page One Photography

**Robert Roach, Jr.**

Photo by Bill Burke, Page One Photography

**Sito Pantoja****Mark Blondin**

The IAM entered 2012 with three key leadership changes and a new Aerospace Territory that will help guide the union through the toughest economy in a generation. Robert Roach, Jr., is the new General Secretary-Treasurer, Sito Pantoja is the new General Vice President for Transportation and Mark Blondin is the General Vice President for the newly-created Aerospace Territory.

“These new leaders will further strengthen the IAM Executive Council and prepare our union for the challenges ahead,” said IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger. “The new Aero-

space Territory will focus the power of the almost 25 percent of IAM members who work in the Aerospace industry in North America. With Mark Blondin’s



*Click above to view a video interview with new IAM General Secretary-Treasurer Robert Roach, Jr. and new Transportation General Vice President Sito Pantoja.*



years of experience, the new Aerospace Territory will better coordinate contract negotiations and representation duties that are now spread across multiple territories.”

Blondin has been an Aerospace Coordinator since 2007, with the primary responsibility of negotiating agreements between the IAM and Boeing throughout the United States and Canada.

“It is an honor to lead this new Aerospace Territory,” said Blondin. “The aerospace industry will experience unprecedented challenges in the years ahead. Organizing our aerospace members under one banner will help

keep North America the leader in high-tech manufacturing, the world’s best producer of aerospace products and the creator of solid, middle-class jobs.”

Before serving as Aerospace Coordinator, Blondin was the President and Directing Business Representative for IAM District 751 in Seattle, WA, Boeing’s largest commercial airplane location. Blondin was the chief negotiator for the 2002, 2005 and 2008 Boeing contracts.

Blondin’s IAM career started in 1978 while working at an IAM-represented machine shop in Seattle, WA. He hired on at Boeing in 1979 and worked in the tooling department at the Renton, WA, plant. As a member of Local 751C, Blondin held numerous local lodge positions and in 1996, he became a Business Representative for District 751 and President and Directing Business Representative in 2000. Blondin was also a member of the IAM Law Committee during the 2004 Grand Lodge Convention.



*Click above to view a video interview with new Aerospace Territory General Vice President Mark Blondin.*



ROTATE YOUR  
IPAD TO VIEW FULL  
SCREEN PHOTO

share >

# Super Committee Failure Threatens Jobs

Across-the-board cuts in defense and domestic spending by 2013 could come in the wake of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, known as the “Super Committee,” failing to propose a deficit-reduction plan by last year’s November 23 deadline.

The Pentagon plans to cut \$450 billion in spending during the next decade. Waiting in the wings is a possible additional \$500 billion in cuts to comply with a sequestration mandate put in place by last summer’s debt ceiling agreement.

Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta described the Super Committee’s failure as a severe setback, saying never

before has he been more concerned about Congress’ ability to “forge common-sense solutions to the nation’s pressing problems.”

IAM President Tom Buffenbarger agreed, citing the devastating impact the impending cuts will have on jobs and the economy. “Cutting a trillion dollars from defense spending will kill over one million jobs,” said Buffenbarger. “The loss of those jobs means billions in lost tax revenues for federal, state and local governments and higher costs for unemployment benefits, food stamps, Medicaid and job re-training.”

Also on the chopping block: a two



AP / World Wide Photo

*The Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction’s failure to reach an agreement on lowering the deficit, largely because of GOP members’ refusal to compromise, could mean billions in automatic spending cuts and threaten more than a million jobs.*





*Click left to view a video about important working family programs that are threatened by the looming budget cuts in the wake of the Super Committee's failure to agree on deficit reduction.*

**“Cutting a trillion dollars from defense spending will kill over one million jobs.”**

***Tom Buffenbarger  
International President***

percent reduction to Medicare providers, \$590 million from Head Start, and over \$2 billion in Title I funds for educationally-disadvantaged children and students with disabilities.

To avoid these draconian cuts, Congress must act before January 2013.

“Congress must repeal the sequestration requirement and rebuild our economy by creating jobs,” said Buffenbarger. “Working families don’t need cuts. They need work.”

take action:

tap here to

***Tell Congress to Focus on Jobs, Not More Cuts to Working Families***

share >



# UCubed Celebrates Second Anniversary



Union of the Unemployed (UCubed) rang in the New Year with 903 cubes... 4,632 activists... and 53,282 Facebook fans. The online grassroots organization, which celebrated its second anniversary on January 15th, now has over 60,000 leaders and hopes to triple that number by Election Day.

As UCubed grows, so does its voice. Over the next ten months, members will be taking part in an aggressive two-part campaign to get folks back to work and change the direction of the country. The first initiative calls for a modern-day version of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's 1935 Works Progress Administration (WPA), a public works

program enacted during the Great Depression.

"At a total cost of \$10.5 billion – the equivalent of \$130.9 billion today – the WPA rescued a nation from the Great Depression and saved 8.6 million Americans from the pangs of poverty and destitution," said UCubed Executive Director Rick Sloan. "We did it once. Let's do it now!"

The second initiative is a register-to-vote partnership with "Rock the Vote" to ensure those unemployed voters who recently graduated from college, have been forced to move or lost their home to foreclosure can update their voting address and avoid potential challenges at the polls on November 6, 2012.

"In the 2012 presidential and congressional elections, an estimated 40 million voters will come from households where someone has been unemployed in the last four years," said Sloan. "America's jobless will change the direction of this country in 2012."

ROTATE YOUR  
IPAD TO VIEW FULL  
SCREEN PHOTO



Like UCubed on Facebook  
and learn more about the  
WPA and Rock the Vote  
campaigns.

share >



*Local 1759 members at Dulles Airport are among thousands of Passenger Service and Reservation Agents at the new United Airlines who will have the opportunity to vote to keep their IAM representation in the upcoming election. From left, Susan Aquino, John Williams, Susan Walters, Jami Szymanowicz, Laura Rifae and Carol Cresanti.*

## Passenger Service and Reservation Agents to Vote at New United

In one of the largest elections spurred by the creation of the new United Airlines, the National Mediation Board (NMB) announced a five-week election that starts on January 17, 2012. An IAM win will establish the Machinists Union as the collective bargaining representative for almost

18,000 Passenger Service and Reservation employees at the new United, the carrier formed by the merger of United Airlines, Continental Airlines and Continental Micronesia.

“Passenger Service and Reservation employees deserve the same protection of a union contract as every other



major employee group at United Airlines,” said IAM Transportation General Vice President Sito Pantoja. “The IAM has the experience, resources and bargaining power to deliver a contract with the pay, benefits and job security that is appropriate for employees of the world’s largest airline.”

The NMB will mail Voting Instructions to eligible employees on January 17, 2012. Election results will be announced following a tally at 2 p.m. ET on February 21, 2012. The election will be conducted by Telephone Electronic Voting and Internet Voting.

“We are pleased that the long-awaited election for Passenger Service and Reservation employees at the new United Airlines will finally take place,” said IAM District 141 President Rich Delaney. “Our current and future members have been anxiously waiting for the opportunity to cast their vote for the Machinists Union.”

The IAM represents approximately

---

**“ The IAM has the experience, resources and bargaining power to deliver a contract with the pay, benefits and job security that is appropriate for employees of the world’s largest airline.”**

Sito Pantoja  
*IAM Transportation  
General Vice President*

---

9,900 United Passenger Service and Reservation employees. Continental’s 7,800 Passenger Service and Reservation employees are unrepresented, and Continental Micronesia’s 230 employees are currently represented by another union.

## *Stay informed:*

tap here for voting and other  
election information  
**WWW.VOTEIAM.COM**

 ROTATE YOUR IPAD TO VIEW FULL  
SCREEN PHOTOS

share 

# TCU Carmen and Clerks Ratify National Contract

TCU Carmen and Clerical members have ratified contracts with the national freight carriers by resounding margins.

Eighty-six percent of Carmen voted in favor of the contract.

Ninety-three percent of Clerical members voted in favor of the contract.

“I am gratified by these record votes,” said TCU President Robert Scardelletti. “It was a hard fight to

achieve a contract with wages and benefits worthy of our members’ ratification. And we did fight, all the way to a Presidential Emergency Board. The results speak for themselves. This agreement delivers excellent increases in compensation while holding the line on employee health care costs.

“I am proud of all the work that was performed at every level to achieve this contract, with a very important thank you to the membership who supported us all the way and then voted in such record numbers. Thank you.”

The ballots were mailed out November 28, 2011 and had to be returned by December 22, 2011 to be counted. A large percentage of members responded and sent back a valid ballot.

The carriers have been notified of the results, and they have 60 days to issue retroactive checks, and 90 days to pay the bonus. TCU will work with the carriers to expedite the implementation of the wage increases, and the handling of the retroactive and bonus checks.



AP / World Wide Photo

*TCU members overwhelmingly ratified new agreements with major freight rail carriers including Union Pacific, Norfolk Southern, CSX, BNSF and others.*



WHEN SHE'S NOT BUSY AS A UNION ACTIVIST AND ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTOR WITH THE IAM SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM, LOCAL 1260 MEMBER BONNIE POLSTER SERVES AS A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER IN THE ADA, WI, FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Union Activist, Student and Firefighter

Local 1260 member Bonnie Polster never shies away from a challenge. That spirit made her a natural as a union activist. “I don’t like to see corporations walk all over employees,” said Polster. “I want everyone to be treated fairly in the workplace. I like to share my knowldege with others, so they know what is right and wrong with company policies. What good is my education if I can’t teach others and use it to make workplaces and lives better?”

Polster, who works at Amerequip Corporation in



Kiel, WI, is the Vice President of her local lodge and Shop Committee Chairperson. She also does other work for her local, as well as for District 10 in Milwaukee and the Wisconsin labor community.

Polster has a strong interest in safety on the job. She is an Associate Instructor with the IAM's C.R.E.S.T. safety training program. "I want to educate our members to perform tasks safely, avoid danger and make them aware that safety doesn't end when the shift ends," said Polster. "I want to take what the union has given me in education and give it back to the membership by teaching and sharing my knowledge."

When not busy with union activities, Polster serves as a volunteer firefighter for the Ada, WI, Fire Department where she is President and Safety Officer. She is also completing a double major for a Bachelor of Arts degree at the National Labor College.



**Bonnie Polster**

# Labor Hall of Fame Honors Working Americans



*The Department of Labor's Hall of Fame honors men and women who fought for the rights of average Americans. Click above to view a video about the Labor Hall of Fame.*

History focuses on the big names, but not the hard-working heroes who make life better for average families, except at the Labor Hall of Fame.

Tucked away in the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) building in Washington, D.C., the Labor Hall of Fame honors the men and women who changed the lives of working

people forever, giving visitors the chance to learn United States history through the eyes of the American worker.

“To learn from history, you have to know the full story. Labor history is a story that isn't told often enough,” said DOL spokesperson Carl Fillichio. “The Labor Hall of Fame tries

ROTATE YOUR  
IPAD TO VIEW FULL  
SCREEN PHOTO



to tell that story.”

Hall of Fame honorees include Frances Perkins, the first female Secretary of Labor. Perkins played a key role in pushing the Roosevelt administration to establish Social Security, the minimum wage and job safety standards.

The legendary Cesar Chavez, who fought for the rights of farm workers, and A. Philip Randolph,

leader of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, are also honored.

“While they were alive and while they were doing their day-to-day work, [they] had no idea that years later, decades later, a century later, their work is still important,” said Fillichio. “They are the reason why we are here. They are the reason we are who we are.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION, TAP HERE TO VISIT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR HALL OF FAME

share >

---