

# IAM Journal

For Fighting Machinists



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FEATURE STORY

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Bill Burke, Page One Photography

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*The IAM's Machinists Non-Partisan Political League voted to endorse President Barack Obama for a second term. During the same week, President Obama addressed an enthusiastic crowd at Boeing's 787 Dreamliner facility in Everett, WA, and called for a renewed national effort to create manufacturing jobs.*

# Machinists Union Endorses President Barack Obama

The Machinists Non-Partisan Political League (MNPL) has unanimously voted to endorse President Barack Obama for re-election. The endorsement follows a recommendation from members of the IAM's National Planning Committee, the governing body of the MNPL. Formed in 1947, MNPL evaluates candidates at the

state and national level and makes recommendations to IAM members.

"Jobs are the central issue of this campaign, and only President Obama has a plan that would put millions of Americans and thousands of Machinists back to work," said IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger. "We're convinced the

**“Jobs are the central issue of this campaign, and only President Obama has a plan that would put millions of Americans and thousands of Machinists back to work.”**

Tom Buffenbarger  
*IAM International President*

job growth we’re now seeing, particularly in the critical manufacturing sector, is a direct result of President Obama’s policies and leadership, and we want that growth to continue.”

During his recent visit to the Boeing 787 Dreamliner plant in Everett, WA, President Obama complimented Dis-

trict 751 members as “a great example of what American manufacturing can do in a way that nobody else in the world can do it.” He outlined his efforts to revive U.S. manufacturing, reauthorize the U.S Export-Import Bank, combat unfair trade, and revise U.S. corporate tax laws to discourage companies from outsourcing.

“We’ve got to renew the values that have always made this country great: hard work, fair play and shared responsibility,” said President Obama. “These are not Democratic values or Republican values. These are American values.”

“Our policy differences with the White House in the past have dealt with the pace and speed of this recovery,” said Buffenbarger. “IAM members recognize that GOP presidential candidates and Republican Congressional leaders have placed obstacle after obstacle in President Obama’s path. We intend to work overtime to remove those obstacles.”



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# IAM Wins Elections for 17,000 Workers at New United Airlines

A combination of grassroots organizing, legal prowess and sophisticated communication tactics produced an historic organizing victory for nearly 17,000 Passenger Service and Reservation Employees at the new United Airlines.

The election was prompted by the merger of United, Continental and Continental Micronesia. The IAM has represented United Airlines Passenger Service and Reservations employees since 1998. Continental employees were unrepresented and Continental Micronesia employees were represented by another union.

The election victory increases the IAM's membership in all classifications at the new United to 31,500 and marks the third consecutive airline organizing win for the IAM Transportation Department. Previous wins among United Ramp & Stores (14,785) and ExpressJet

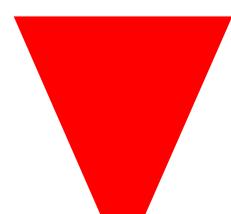


*IAM District 141 members celebrate the Passenger Service and Reservation Employees election win outside the National Mediation Board office in Washington, DC after the votes were counted.*

Flight Attendants (2,200) bring the number of IAM members organized during the past eight months to nearly 34,000.

"This is a great win thanks to the large voter turnout by the Passenger Service and Reservation employees," said IAM Transportation Vice President Sito Pantoja. "We thank our United members and welcome our new members from Continental and Continental Micronesia."

"Our sincere gratitude goes out to everyone who made this win possible,



especially the IAM staff and volunteers at the local and district levels who worked so hard on this campaign,” said Pantoja. “The IAM is extremely fortunate to have some of the most dedicated and innovative organizers in the entire labor movement.”

A key factor in the campaign’s success was the comprehensive effort at the district and local levels to personally contact as many voters as possible from all three pre-merger carriers to explain the election and emphasize the importance of voting. Volunteers spent countless hours tracking down thousands of potential voters in airport and reservations locations across the country and as far away as Puerto Rico and Guam.

The campaign also had to overcome a legal effort by the company to disenfranchise nearly 1,000 voters by requesting their removal from the voter eligibility list. Within days of the initial ruling to remove the employees,

the IAM Legal Department successfully appealed the decision and won a full restoration of the group’s voting rights.

The task of reaching every eligible voter also extended beyond the workplace. There were more than 2,000 eligible voters who were on furlough status. Custom mailings and person-to-person outreach reminded furloughed pre-merger United employees that not only were they eligible to vote, but that their contractually-guaranteed lifetime recall rights depended on a successful election.

“This win would not have been possible without the unequivocal support from International President Tom Buffenbarger and the entire IAM Executive Council,” said Pantoja. “Their willingness to commit significant resources was a testament not only to the importance of this election but to the value we all place on growing this great union.”



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# Congress Extends Unemployment Benefits, GOP Strings Attached

The U.S. Congress extended unemployment benefits until the end of 2012 – but not without additional unshared sacrifices from the jobless and middle class.

Congress passed the extension as part of a larger payroll tax-cut deal, but Republicans forced provisions into the legislation that cut the dura-

tion of benefits from 99 weeks to 73 weeks, required drug testing of the unemployed and funded the extension by increasing pension fund payments for federal workers.

“Federal workers will pay about \$15 billion of the unemployment extension by having their pension contribution raised from 0.8 percent to



Getty Images

*Congress extended unemployment benefits for millions of jobless Americans, but Republicans forced a drug-testing requirement and reduced weeks of eligibility into the final bill.*

1.55 percent,” said Union of Unemployed Executive Director Rick Sloan. “Republican lawmakers have once again succeeded in protecting the rich at the expense of middle-class workers. Their relentless attack on the unemployed and federal workers continues – this time killing two birds with one stone.”

Republican efforts to require the jobless to pass a high school equivalency program, a General Equivalency Diploma (GED), before receiving unemployment benefits failed.

In addition to extending unemployment benefits, Congress extended the current two percent payroll tax holiday through 2012, which saves the average family about \$1,000. They also prevented cuts in Medicare payments to doctors, which protects access to medical care for seniors.

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***Tell Congress to Create Jobs by Enacting a 21st Century Works Progress Administration.***

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***Tell Congress to Repeal Drug Testing for Unemployed, Restore the Benefit Period.***

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International President Tom Buffenbarger, fourth from left, and Diane Babineaux, Chief of Staff to the International President, third from left, led a large delegation of IAM members in Montgomery, AL, to mark the 47th anniversary of the historic civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery. The 1965 march was an important turning point in the fight for voting rights for African-Americans.

# **Thousands Re-Enact Historic Selma-to-Montgomery March**

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**"We are all under assault today. In states all across this nation, they want to take away the rights of workers. We can't let that happen."**

Tom Buffenbarger  
International President

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The 47th anniversary of the momentous 1965 civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, AL, was marked with a five-day re-enactment of the 52-mile journey to call attention to modern-day efforts to roll back voting rights and other gains made during the civil rights era.

To kick off the event, IAM members from around the country joined thousands of other union members and human rights, faith and community activ-

*Tap right to view a video about thousands of activists joining forces to re-enact the iconic 1965 civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, AL, as a way to focus attention on modern-day efforts to pass voter suppression laws.*

ists who walked across the infamous Edmund Pettus Bridge.

In March 1965, a group of civil rights marchers set off on the same bridge to fight for voting rights for African-Americans. They were brutally attacked by state and local law enforcement officials on a day that became known as “Bloody Sunday.”

When they finally reached Montgomery, the state capitol, the movement had grown from 3,200 marchers to 25,000 people and brought national attention to the struggle for voting rights. Within a year, Congress passed and President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which sought to erase barriers to voting across the south.

This year’s March drew national



attention to a modern-day effort in many GOP-controlled states to roll back immigration, workers’ rights and voting rights. The five-day event concluded with a march and rallies in Montgomery. “We are all under assault today. In states all across this nation, they want to take away the rights of workers. We can’t let that happen,” said IAM President Tom Buffenbarger, who was part of a rally in Montgomery. “We can make change. And we can make things happen in this country if we stick together, march forward and don’t look back. We will create the better day of our dreams.”



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## Member Profile

# Teresa Blevins Acquires ‘Liberty’

When former Local Lodge 2003 Educator Teresa Blevins helped celebrate her lodge's first meeting in their new building in Daleville, AL, it was a special celebration. She attended the ceremony with two special guests, her husband, Grand Lodge Representative Tony Blevins, and her devoted companion Liberty, a specially-trained guide dog from the IAM-sponsored charity Guide Dogs of America (GDA).

Teresa lost her sight in 2009. And in 2011, just when her fellow local members were breaking ground on their new building, Blevins and Liberty were celebrating their graduation from the training program at the GDA facility in Sylmar, CA.

Liberty, a Labrador retriever, received training on guiding blind and visually-impaired people; and Teresa learned how to establish a good working relationship with a guide dog. The



*After losing her sight, former Local Lodge 2003 Educator Teresa Blevins now manages daily life with the help of her guide dog “Liberty.” Teresa and Liberty graduated from the IAM-sponsored charity Guide Dogs of America.*

training for Theresa and Liberty were provided at no charge, all thanks to the GDA charity started by IAM member Joseph Jones in 1948.

“I woke up one morning and had no sight,” explains Teresa. She was diagnosed with Diabetic Retinopathy, a condition that causes damage to the blood vessels in the back of the eye. Before she lost her sight, Teresa already knew about Guide Dogs of America

Adam Beasley Photography



*Tap left to view a video about IAM member Teresa Blevins and how she leads an independent life, despite her visual impairment, thanks to Guide Dogs of America.*

consistent fundraisers for GDA.

“Liberty helps me stay mobile and independent,” says Teresa. “When I came back from Guide Dogs of America, we had to thank our local lodge for everything they’ve done and continue to do to raise funds for them.” Liberty is now an honorary member of IAM Local Lodge 2003.



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# TCU Members Ratify Contract at CSX Intermodal

TCU workers on CSX Intermodal have overwhelmingly ratified a new contract by a resounding 96 percent margin.

The new agreement mirrors the recent national freight agreement's economic provisions, providing 20.1 percent in compounded general wage increases over the six-year contract period, January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2015.

In addition to the general wage increases, the agreement provides

for a lump sum payment equal to one percent of straight time earnings for the twelve-month period from November 1, 2010 through October 31, 2011. The one percent will be calculated after the July 1, 2010 and July 1, 2011 general wage increases have been applied.

Over the life of the contract, the agreement will generate on average an additional \$22,178 per member. This figure does not take into account overtime hours.



Bill Burke, Page One Photography

*TCU members at CSX Intermodal ratified an agreement that mirrors the gains made in the recently-ratified national freight rail agreement.*

Full retroactive pay will apply from July 1, 2010. The average retroactive payment and lump sum will be \$2,500. The existing CSX Intermodal health plan will remain unchanged.

“In today’s economy, this contract’s wage gains of 20.1 percent over six years and a one percent bonus, which together produce more than \$22,000 in additional straight time compensation, are truly outstanding,” said TCU/IAM National President Bob Scardelletti. “The resounding membership vote in favor is a testament to their appreciation of the value of TCU representation.”



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# Take Action to Stop Proposed Airline Fee



Getty Images

*Congress is considering a requirement for airlines and general aviation to pay a \$100-per-flight user fee.*

Lawmakers are considering a proposal to require airlines and general aviation to pay a \$100-per-flight user fee as part of President Obama's 2013 budget proposal. The fee could stall the economic recovery in the airline and aerospace industry and threaten IAM members' jobs across the country.

IAM activists are lobbying Congress to derail the proposal. Already, nearly 200 members of Congress signed a letter to President Obama opposing the fee. "Commercial and general avia-

tion, including aviation manufacturing, are vital industries in our nation, providing millions of jobs and making important contributions to our economy," said the letter. "We should work together to support policies that encourage job growth and strengthen U.S. economic activity. Imposing a \$100-per-flight fee on commercial and general aviation is the wrong approach, and we respectfully request you abandon this idea once and for all."

"The proposed user fee is a threat to our members' jobs in both the airline and aerospace industries," said IAM Transportation General Vice President Sito Pantoja. "IAM members should let Congress know that this fee is a bad idea and should be shelved."

Join the campaign to save jobs and stop the fee by tapping the action alert bar below.

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**Tell Congress to Scrap this Job-Killing Proposal.**



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# White House Honors District 751 Community Service Volunteers

When President Barack Obama visited the Everett, WA Boeing facility in February, five of the IAM members in the audience had a special reason to be there.

They received gold-level President's Volunteer Service Awards for giving more than 500 hours of volunteer time in 2011. The awards are given by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

The IAM award-winners who attended the event are George Braun, Rob Curran, Chris Louie, Tom Lindberg and Vennie Murphy. Curran and Murphy are active IAM members working at Boeing. Louie works

for IAM/Boeing Joint Programs and Braun and Lindberg are retired union members.

The volunteers are part of District 751's Machinists Volunteer Program (MVP). Hundreds of District 751 MVPs donated more than 10,000 hours last year, earning District 751 a gold-level presidential award for organizations.

Each year, the MVPs volunteer to help groups like Guide Dogs of America, Northwest Harvest and the Salvation Army. They also volunteer regularly in the kitchens of homeless shelters in Everett and Tacoma, and build wheelchair ramps for those in need.



*Recipients of gold-level President's Volunteer Service Awards were in the audience when President Barack Obama addressed workers at Boeing's Everett facility. From left, IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger, Vennie Murphy, Tom Lindberg, Rob Curran, Chris Louie, George Braun and District 751 President Tom Wroblewski.*