

IAM Journal

For Fighting Machinists



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Activists Spotlight ALEC's Extreme Agenda



After operating for years in relative secrecy, the corrosive influence of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is being revealed by a broad spectrum of progressive activists.

After decades of operating below the public's radar, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is finally being seen for the right-wing, anti-middle-class, pro-corporate organization it really is.

So what is ALEC? "Despite claims that it's nonpartisan, (ALEC) is very much a movement-conservative organization, funded by the usual suspects: the Kochs, Exxon Mobil, and so on," explains NY Times columnist Paul Krugman. "Unlike other such groups, however, it doesn't just influence laws, it literally writes them, supplying fully-drafted bills to state legislators. In Vir-

ginia, for example, more than 50 ALEC-written bills have been introduced, many almost word for word. And these bills often become law."

A new website "ALEC Exposed" by the Center for Media and Democracy and a special panel about ALEC's activities at the recent Netroots Nation Conference in Providence, Rhode Island, are generating heat. And it's working. More than 20 major corporations, 55 legislators and four non-profit organizations have cut ties with the extremist group.

ALEC's so-called "model bills" reach into almost every area of American life, aggressively promoting a con-



servative agenda to destroy unions, undermine environmental protection laws, give tax breaks to corporations and the wealthy, and make it hard for minorities and working-class Americans to vote.

Its agenda includes proposals that would tilt the tax code in favor of wealthy corporations, privatize Medicare and Social Security, lower wages for middle-class families, eliminate collective bargaining rights, ship American jobs overseas and remove protections for U.S. consumers.

“The IAM has known about ALEC’s backdoor dealings in the halls of our state and national capitals for years,” says IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger. “They are a political liability and an affront to our democracy. Legislators ought to pay attention to their constituents, not carry water for a cabal of corporate lobbyists.”

For a closer look at ALEC, visit the Center for Media and Democracy’s website www.ALECExposed.org and click [here](#) for the entire Netroots Nation symposium on ALEC.



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The Trans-Pacific Partnership:

The Next Big Free Trade Mistake

The IAM joined hundreds of union members and activists at the Hilton Bayfront Hotel in San Diego to protest a secret meeting of negotiators working on what could be the biggest free trade mistake since NAFTA, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

Protesters, banging pots and pans, marched to the hotel to deliver a stack of petitions with nearly 90,000 signatures demanding a trade deal that works for America. Assistant U.S. Trade Representative Carol Guthrie accepted the petitions on behalf of negotiators.

IAM Legislative Department Director Matt McKinnon spoke with Guthrie and reiterated the need for fair trade in the TPP agreement. “The TPP has the potential to negatively impact



At a protest against another flawed trade agreement, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, IAM Legislative Director Matt McKinnon, speaking, and other IAM members helped deliver more than 90,000 petition signatures calling for fair trade, not flawed free trade.

hundreds of thousands of U.S. jobs,” says McKinnon. “We’re demanding trade policy that creates jobs here at home, not overseas; trade policy that improves working conditions and strengthens workers’ rights; a trade

“The American people deserve to know how this trade agreement could potentially change their lives forever.”

Tom Buffenbarger
IAM International President



policy that upholds and strengthens Buy American laws, protects the rights of sovereign governments to make policies in the public interests, and transparency throughout the entire negotiation process.”

Negotiations thus far are being conducted in unprecedented secrecy. Access to TPP draft language is limited almost exclusively to a handful of gov-

ernment negotiators and deep-pocketed corporate advisers.

“If corporations have been granted a seat at the table, so should the American public,” says IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger. “The American people will be the ones most impacted by the final language. They deserve to know how this trade agreement could potentially change their lives forever.”

tap here

***to tell President Obama to Make Trade Fair
for American Workers.***

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tell Congress Fair Trade, Not Free Trade, in the TPP.



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IAM Wins Award for IKEA-Swedwood Organizing Campaign

The American Rights at Work organization awarded IAM Woodworkers Department Chief of Staff Bill Street and Per-Olof Sjöo, President of GS, the Swedish union of forestry, wood and graphical workers, its 2012 Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award.

The award is for individuals who have helped champion workers' rights and human rights. Street and Sjöo were honored for their innovative work and dedication in the long battle to organize more than 300 workers at Swedwood in Danville, VA last summer. Swedwood is a manufacturing subsidiary of Swedish furniture giant IKEA. The workers voted 221-69 to join the IAM.

Street handled a sophisticated campaign at the Danville facility that combined strong in-house support from the employees with a cutting-edge media campaign that included a segment on the Daley Show.

Sjöo helped organize global pressure on Swedwood's parent company, IKEA, which prided itself on its progressive image.

"Eleanor Roosevelt clearly understood that human rights and union rights were indivisible and unalienable," said Street. "This award goes to those 318 people in Danville who took on and prevailed against Swedwood, one of the world's largest users



The American Rights at Work organization awarded IAM Woodworkers Department Chief of Staff Bill Street, left, and Per-Olof Sjöo, President of GS, the Swedish union of forestry, wood and graphical workers, the 2012 Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award for their innovative organizing campaign at Swedwood in Danville, VA.



Tap above to view a video about the 2012 American Rights at Work Award for the IAM organizing campaign at Swedwood in Danville, VA.

of wood fiber, and IKEA, one of the largest retail corporations in the world.”

“The fight we had in Danville was a success for international trade union work,” said Sjöo. “International solidarity for workers’ rights will now have increased importance in our globalized economy. I hope this award will inspire trade union leaders to work even harder together in the future.”

Other honorees included DeMaurice Smith, Executive Director of the National Football League Players Association, for his savvy representation of the players during the 2011 NFL lockout, and for his vocal, ongoing commitment to lifting up the value of unions for workers everywhere.

Wilma Liebman, Former Chair of the National Labor Relations Board, served as a special guest and featured speaker.

tap here
**for more information about the 2012 American Rights
at Work Awards.**



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Canada Welcomes 38th Grand Lodge Convention



Toronto, Ontario, will be the proud host of the IAM's 38th Grand Lodge Convention, which will convene Sunday, September 9, 2012.

Delegates to the Convention are elected at the local lodge level every four years. Those delegates set the policies that build on past Convention actions and keep the IAM a vibrant, progressive union.

"As we approach the IAM's 125th anniversary, we can look back and be

proud of what generations of Fighting Machinists have accomplished," said IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger. "And now we must look forward to a much different world. In the corporate-fueled race to the bottom, there are no winners. We must build even stronger bonds of solidarity with workers and unions across the globe to truly provide 'Hope for All Who Toil.'"

The theme for the 38th Conven-



Toronto will be the host city for the IAM's 38th Grand Lodge Convention which will open on September 9, 2012.



tion, “Hope for All Who Toil,” fittingly comes from a line in a poem that is the basis for Canada’s national anthem, “O, Canada.” And it is Canada’s proud tradition of progressive labor laws, universal health care, respect for human rights and women’s rights that gives nations around the world an example to follow.

The 38th Grand Lodge Convention will feature the stories of workers who are far less fortunate than those in North America; workers whose daily life is a struggle for life’s basic necessities – clean water, clean air, nutritious food,

medical care and a decent job.

“By extending our hands to exploited workers across the globe, we are helping protect all workers from exploitation, including our own members,” said Buffenbarger. “By promoting their rights, we promote all workers’ rights. And by raising their living standards, we protect all workers’ living standards. Our pledge of ‘Justice on the Job’ and ‘Service to the Community’ must know no national boundaries.”

Click [here](#) for more information about the 2012 Grand Lodge Convention.



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Member Profile: Tom McCormack

Machinists Make a Difference



Retired IAM Local 1976 member Tom McCormack and fellow volunteers are making a difference in the lives of poor people in Panama by providing medical supplies donated from the United States.

Make a difference. That's the motto of retired IAM member Tom McCormack and his fellow retirees from Local Lodge 1976 in Pittsburgh, PA.

"You have to ask yourself," says McCormack. "Am I making a difference in anyone's life? If you're not, do something different."

McCormack's journey to "making a difference" started in 1994 during a trip to Chiriqui, Panama. There, the former US Airways Aircraft Mechanic and Inspector met a woman who walked around each day trying to hide the cavity she was left with after a mastectomy.

"I thought to myself, that's sad that there's no program in Panama for breast prosthesis," says McCormack. "It's not available. Women either walk around like that or hardly ever leave the house."

Upon returning to the U.S., McCormack resolved to create Panama's first and only breast prosthesis program. Volunteers helped collect hundreds of prostheses and wigs, which were delivered to women in Panama who had suffered from breast cancer.

"All the stuff comes from donations and contacts like nursing homes and





hospitals,” he says.

McCormack soon realized the country’s needs were far greater. “I watched people come out of the hospital with a cast on their leg with either their family carrying them or hopping on the other leg,” he explains. “The hospital did not have crutches.”

With the help of his Local 1976 retired brothers and sisters, his one act of kindness became much more. Today, this dedicated crew of Machinists spends six months in the U.S collecting medical equipment, both through donations and scavenging, and McCormack spends six

months in Panama delivering the equipment free-of-charge to those in need.

“All I have to do is put the call out,” says McCormack, “and my IAM brothers and sisters will be here every time.”

“There’s nothing we won’t collect: hospital beds, wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches,” says retired Local 1976 member Herbert Firth. “It makes me feel like I’m contributing something to humanity.”

“I had a 70-year-old lady and her 50-year-old son come to me,” said McCormack. “When he saw his mother get up and walk on her new leg with a walker, he had to walk away wiping the tears from his eyes. He never thought he would see his mother walk again.”

For more on his program, visit www.panamamccormackfoundation.com



Tap left to view a video about retired IAM Local 1976 member Tom McCormack and fellow volunteers who are making a difference in the lives of poor people in Panama.



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TCU News

OSHA Cites Norfolk Southern For Illegally Retaliating Against Injured Workers

President Obama's worker-friendly Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recently ruled that Norfolk Southern (NS) violated employee whistleblower protection rights in three separate cases. NS was ordered to reinstate the fired workers and pay punitive and compensatory damages amounting to more than \$800,000.

OSHA's whistleblower protection program provides an avenue of redress for workers punished for suffering or

reporting injuries. OSHA has pursued similar enforcement actions against Union Pacific, Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Metro North Commuter Railroad.

OSHA is aggressively enforcing the whistleblower protection amendments to the Federal Railroad Safety Act (FRSA) passed in 2007 and 2008. The FRSA was amended in 2007 to transfer authority for railroad worker whistleblower protections to OSHA. The FRSA was again amended in 2008 by the Rail Safety Improvement Act, which specifically prohibited discipline of employees for requesting medical treatment.

OSHA is part of the Department of

Under the Obama administration, federal agencies such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) are stepping up enforcement actions on behalf of workers. OSHA recently ruled that Norfolk Southern Railway illegally retaliated against workers who reported injuries on the job.



Labor (DOL). These enforcement efforts by OSHA reflect the sea change at the DOL since the election of President Obama and his appointment of TCU's long-time friend Hilda Solis as Secretary of Labor.

Where the DOL under President Bush's Secretary of Labor Elaine

The whistleblower protection efforts by OSHA are just one example of the pro-worker, pro-union culture at the DOL.

Bob Scardelletti
TCU/IAM National President

Chao considered its main mission to harass and audit unions, President Obama's DOL has restored the agency to its historic purpose: to protect workers' interests, and to empower unions to protect those interests.

The whistleblower protection efforts by OSHA are just one example of the pro-worker, pro-union culture at the DOL.

During the Bush administration, OSHA was a laughingstock. The political appointees who ran the agency "ordered the withdrawal of dozens of

workplace health regulations, slow-rolled others, and altered the reach of its warnings and rules in response to industry pressure," according to a detailed report published in 2008.

"The legacy of the Bush administration was one of dismal inaction," according to a leader of the American Public Health Association.

This all changed with the election of President Obama.

"For years we have fought against railroads that punish employees for reporting injuries," says TCU President Bob Scardelletti. "Now we have an ally in the Obama administration. OSHA's aggressive efforts to assess punitive damages against offending railroads will help us put a stop to this despicable practice.

"Keeping OSHA strong and effective is just one more reason for every worker to vote for the reelection of President Obama," adds Scardelletti. "There is no doubt that if Romney wins, he will return OSHA to the 'see no evil, hear no evil' days of the Bush administration, just as he would eliminate 60/30 retirement and occupational disability. The stakes in the coming election could not be higher."

Transportation

Winpisinger Center Hosts Transportation District Educators

The IAM's recent organizing victories in the transportation sector, encompassing 34,000 members in the last year, have created an increased demand for the training of lodge officers, grievance representatives, communicators and educators.

To help meet that demand, Educators from the Transportation Districts attended a week-long symposium at

the IAM's William W. Winpisinger Education Center. District Educators carry out numerous field trainings to assist local lodges and they often help instruct transportation programs at the Winpisinger Center.

The special Educator Symposium covered a wide range of topics, including local lodge governance and parliamentary procedure, the rights



IAM Deputy General Counsel Carla Siegel, far left, goes over some of the many legal issues that arise under the Railway Labor Act during the Transportation District Educator Symposium at the IAM's Winpisinger Education Center. From top left, Deena Pena, District 141; Jessica LaForce, District 142; John Bidoglio, District 142; Mark Schmidt, District 19; Nancy Sweeney and Terry Stansbury, District 141 (not in photo, Sean Ryan and Ian Anderman, District 142).

and roles of stewards, politics and legislation and labor law. Denise Hedges, Senior Mediator from the National Mediation Board, also taught a special section about Lyceum, a resource that provides information about the agency and its daily activities.

“Educating IAM representatives is one of the highest goals in our organization,” said Transportation General Vice President Sito Pantoja. “It is what sets us apart from the rest. Our educators and facilities are world-class, giving our representatives the necessary training to be successful in the field.”

“Our educators and facilities are world-class, giving our representatives the necessary training to be successful in the field.”

Sito Pantoja

Transportation General Vice President



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Aerospace

Farnborough: Global Industry Meets Global Union



The Farnborough Air Show in England is one of the largest gatherings of aerospace manufacturers and suppliers in the world, such as U.S.-based Pratt & Whitney. The IAM and other aerospace members of the global union IndustriALL attended the show to ensure highly-skilled aerospace workers' interests were represented.

Nowhere on earth is there a greater concentration of IAM-made products than at the international air shows held alternately each year in Farnborough, UK, and Paris, France. Lined up, wing tip to wing tip are the latest commercial and military offerings from Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Bombardier, General Electric, Pratt & Whitney, Spirit AeroSystems and others. Also lined up is an extraordinary traffic jam of Bentleys, Rolls Royces and BMWs used to transport well-heeled buyers from around the world.

In addition to the gleaming displays of new aircraft are stadium-sized exhibition halls filled with hundreds of vendors and

suppliers to the world's aerospace industry. It is here where buyers and sellers of everything from the smallest metal castings to the largest avionics systems will haggle, deal and ultimately provide the industry with billions in new revenue.

A relatively new addition to this bazaar-like atmosphere is the gaggle of governmental representatives from Asia, South America, Eastern Europe and Africa. Ostensibly there to promote their own relatively new aerospace industries, they also seek to persuade existing aerospace companies to relocate manufacturing from near and far with promises of tax incentives, start-up assistance and invariably, in-



expensive labor costs.

Not to be outdone, individual U.S. states have joined the fray, with South Carolina aggressively promoting its status as a right-to-work state where workers' rights are fewer and workers' wages are lower.

IAM representatives from the union's aerospace sector were also at Farnborough to monitor this dubious marketplace of manpower and material, to meet with employers and to make sure buyers and sellers know that without the highly-skilled contributions of aerospace workers around the world, there would be no aerospace industry.

"It's time to give proper credit to the men and women at aerospace companies and vendors who consistently produce the world's most technically-advanced products with a degree of skill that is unmatched anywhere in the world," said IAM Interna-

tional President Tom Buffenbarger, who met with representatives from vendors and suppliers as well as primary manufacturers. Adding to the union presence at this year's exhibition were leaders of IndustriALL, the newly-formed global industrial trade union representing 50 million workers in 350 unions around the world. The delegates, representing the world's largest aerospace companies, pledged to coordinate their organizing and bargaining activities to a greater degree than ever before.

"We can no longer allow a global corporation to move work from one state to another, or from one country to another and then pit its workers against one another," declared Buffenbarger, who also serves as one of three IndustriALL vice presidents. "We are union brothers and sisters, no matter where we live, and we will not allow our family to be harmed in that way."



IAM President Tom Buffenbarger, who also serves as a vice president of the new global union IndustriALL, addresses an international gathering of aerospace trade unionists held in conjunction with the Farnborough Air Show.



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