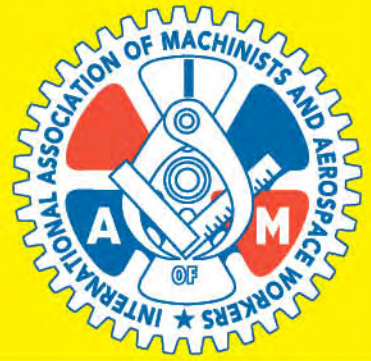


HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday, September 11, 2012



Financial Report Focuses on Secure Future for the IAM



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Convention Photo Gallery



Financial Report Focuses on Union's Future



IAM General Secretary-Treasurer Robert Roach, Jr., and members of his staff provided a comprehensive review of the IAM's finances during some of the toughest economic times in IAM history and outlined the Union's path to a healthy financial future.

In a financial report that began and ended with an unequivocal promise to preserve the IAM's historic role as one of North America's strongest and most financially-sound unions, General Secretary-Treasurer Robert Roach, Jr., reviewed the IAM's finances after surviving the worst recession in a generation and some of the biggest corporate battles any union has ever faced.

Roach credited foresight by delegates at the 2008 Grand Lodge Convention in Orlando, FL, for giving the IAM the resources to survive the global



economic meltdown, which began in earnest within weeks after delegates returned home from Orlando. "During the last four years the money generated as a result of their action was spent on fighting carriers, Congress, and all those who opposed the Machinists Union," said Roach.

"Boeing spent \$4.5 billion to try to destroy us," said Roach. "Our members were under attack at Caterpillar, Lockheed, United and Continental, Delta and Northwest, Express Jet and many other fronts.

"We fought back at every carrier and every enemy. Being the most viable labor organization in North America means something," said Roach. "It means when carriers and Congress want to fight us, they understand they are up against a formidable foe. Somebody who has the finances to fight back, not only as we have done in the last four years but since our inception."

As the IAM weathered the financial meltdown of 2008 and many fights to protect its members, keeping the IAM a financially-strong organization was always a top priority. "As we are stabilizing this organization, we are planning for growth," said Roach. "We want to organize. We want to fight. We want to do what's necessary to grow."

Among the initiatives critical to the IAM's future is the Young Machinists program. Created to



inform and encourage younger members to assume leadership roles in the IAM, the program has proved popular and vital to keeping the union strong in the years ahead.

Also critical to the mission of keeping the IAM financially strong are the dedicated GST staff members. "Our controllers, accountants, grand lodge auditors – the entire General Secretary's staff – is first rate, and that's what our union deserves," said Roach. IAM Controller David Cramer and Assistant Controller Linda Fisher provided delegates with a detailed review of the IAM Pension Fund, Strike Fund, Organizing Fund, Scholarship Fund and General Fund.

"As we look at our finances, as we develop these programs and we continue to do our work, leave here with one idea," said Roach. "Recognize that we need one another. Recognize that we can't do it as aerospace workers alone. We can't do it as airline workers or railway workers alone. We must do it as Machinists."

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IndustriALL Draws Praise from Global Labor Leaders



Mexican Mine and Metal Workers Union General Secretary Napoleón Gómez Urrutia (left) joins IAM President and fellow IndustriALL executive committee member Tom Buffenbarger to acknowledge a standing ovation from delegates at the 38th Grand Lodge Convention in Toronto, ON.

Founded in June 2012 with strong IAM support, IndustriALL is a global union that brings together three former federations and represents 50 million workers in 140 countries.

Led by General Secretary Jyrki Raina, the new organization hopes to achieve what has eluded earlier alliances: coordinated organizing drives and the establishment of framework agreements that go beyond national borders and traditionally-defined bargaining units.



Jyrki Raina



"In this new world, we have to join with workers from all continents to fight back," said Raina, who cited successes in India and Indonesia, where a coordinated campaign produced laws that guarantee pensions and health insurance for all 214 million workers in Indonesia.

Raina drew applause from delegates when he cited another target for coordinated organizing and bargaining: the massive global supply chain that supports the booming aerospace industry.

Delegates also heard from General Secretary of the Mexican Mine and Metal Workers Union Napoleón Gómez Urrutia, who knows first-hand about the physical dangers that can accompany speaking up for workers' rights. After an explosion killed 65 miners at the Grupo Mexico's Pasta de Conchos mine in 2006, Gómez accused the government of "industrial homicide" and was promptly targeted for retaliation.

In the months that followed, four members of his union were murdered, the Mexican government froze the union's bank accounts and criminal charges were filed against Gómez.

"For six years we have lived under attack," said Gómez. "We have faced persecution that included death threats against myself, my wife and my children. The only crime we committed is to fight for workers' rights."

Despite the bloody campaign of repression, Gómez continues to fight for Mexican mine workers with support from IndustriALL, where he serves on the Executive Committee with IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger.



“Global solidarity does not have a better friend than Napoleón Gómez Urrutia,” said Buffenbarger. “Even before his union became the target of such intense oppression, he stood shoulder-to-shoulder and walked picket lines with IAM members on strike at the ASARCO copper mine in Arizona.”

To be successful, the reach of international solidarity must equal the global sprawl of trans-national conglomerates. While workers in Australia may not suffer the extreme conditions of miners in Mexico or ship-breakers in Pakistan, the goal of workers in each country is the same.

“There is a war being waged against workers,” declared International Transport Workers’ Federation President Paddy Crumlin, who also serves as National Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia.



Paddy Crumlin

Crumlin called for increased militancy to preserve jobs and greater coordination in organizing campaigns. “We have the capacity to reach out, to communicate, to discuss,” said Crumlin. “We are truly at a critical junction for the global labor movement.”

Long-time President of IF Metall and chairman of the Swedish Social Democratic Workers’ Party, Stefan Löfven addressed delegates by video and called for in-



creased coordination in global organizing and collective bargaining.

If Löfven succeeds in becoming the next prime minister of Sweden, he will be the first head of state to have graduated from Leadership 1 class at the IAM's Winpisinger Education Center. "The world needs more heads of state that come from trade unions," said Buffenbarger.

The president of the Japanese Metal, Machinery and Manufacturing Workers (JAM), Yukio Manaka, spoke to the delegates through an interpreter and



Yukio Manaka

thanked IAM members for their financial support following the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan's main island in March 2011 killing 16,000 people, with 3,300 still unaccounted for.

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all Japanese who felt the warmth of your heart," said Manaka, who expressed a desire to further strengthen ties with the IAM. "Only one letter separates IAM and JAM, and I would like to keep our relationship that close for many years to come."

Echoing the sentiments expressed by fellow labor leaders, Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI) General Secretary Ambet Yuson pledged support from his federation representing 12 million members in 130 countries.





Ambet Yuson

“We are connected as workers and as global citizens,” declared Yuson, who noted the impact of global solidarity in the campaign at Swedwood. “You showed IKEA the power of workers, the strength of workers to unite and the real power of global solidarity.”

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Making the Case for Universal Solidarity panelists included, from left, Ingo Marowsky, ITF; Owen Herrnstadt, IAM; Valter Sanches, CNM/CUT and Javier Urbina, MCA-UGT.

Making the Case for Global Solidarity

Global solidarity was on full display at the IAM's 38th Grand Lodge Convention in Toronto, ON, with a Day Two agenda featuring presentations from prominent labor leaders from Brazil, England and Spain.

"It is not always easy to see how aligned we are with workers in faraway places, particularly when multinational corporations are determined to keep us in a state of constant competition," said IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger. "But workers in Poland, Russia and China want and deserve the same things as workers in the U.S. and Canada: a decent job, safe working conditions and the freedom to choose union representation."

The importance of maintaining strong ties



Local Lodges and International Challenges panelists, from left, Joe Kear, District W-24; David Chartrand, District 11; Kevin Murch, District 5; Bill Street, IAM Woodworkers Dept. and Owen Herrnstadt, IAM Trade and Globalization Dept.



with overseas allies was highlighted during a pair of panel discussions. The first, moderated by IAM Trade and Globalization Department Director Owen Herrnstadt, featured panelists Javier Urbina, International Secretary of the Metal, Construction and Allied Workers' Federation (MCA-UGT); Valter Sanches, General Secretary of the National Confederation of Metalworkers (CNM/CUT); and Ingo Marowsky, the Organising Globally Coordinator for the International Transport Workers' Federation.

"For unionists, not acting together in solidarity is not an option if we want to unite across borders and fight the power of transnational corporations," said Valter Sanches. "And, it's not enough to just work together with other unions. We must also develop political strategies."

The second panel, moderated by District 5 Organizing Coordinator Kevin Murch, featured IAM representatives who credited international solidarity for recent victories that directly benefited IAM members in North America. Among the most vis-



ible examples was the IAM's organizing campaign at Swedwood in Danville, VA. A major supplier to Sweden-based IKEA, Swedwood launched a fierce anti-union campaign that included threats, harassment and the use of union-avoidance law firms.

"It's unlikely we would have been successful without the strong support from our allies at the Geneva, Switzerland-based global union federation, Builders and Wood Workers International (BWI)," said IAM Woodworkers Department Chief of Staff Bill Street, who coordinated the IAM campaign that drew support from numerous unions, affiliated organizations and international union federations.

District W-24 Business Representative Joe Kear described the collaboration between the IAM and German industrial trade union federation IG Metall to successfully negotiate a new contract that kept Daimler's truck plant in Portland, OR, from shutting down. District Lodge 11 President and DBR Dave Chartrand discussed the fear companies like Bombardier have when they realize unions from across borders, who share the same employer, talk to each other.





TCU National President Robert Scardelletti addressed the delegates and praised the full merger of TCU and the IAM, which became effective January 1, 2012.

Convention Welcomes TCU Delegates

The 2012 Convention marks a milestone in the affiliation and January 1, 2012 full merger of two great unions, the Transportation Communications Union (TCU) and the IAM. For the first time, TCU lodges have 100 members serving as full Grand Lodge Convention delegates.

“While this may be our first Convention, we have stood tall as Machinists from day one of our affiliation,” said TCU National President Robert Scardelletti to Convention delegates. “There is no question that TCU and the IAM are stronger as a result of our merger, stronger in the labor movement, stronger

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on Capitol Hill and stronger at the bargaining table.”

TCU and the IAM share a common background—the railroads. And both unions were founded in the 1880s. Today, more than 50,000 TCU members work in numerous crafts in the freight and commuter railroads and Amtrak.

That combined strength in the transportation industry has led to more effective bargaining and lobbying efforts on behalf of rail members, resulting in better contracts in less time for freight rail and Amtrak members.

Scardelletti also pledged TCU’s support to ensure anti-labor candidates are not elected in November. “The November elections in the U.S. pose the greatest risk to the labor movement I have



More than 100 delegates from TCU lodges are attending the Convention for the first time as full members of the IAM.



ever seen,” said Scardelletti. “If Republicans win the presidency and both houses of Congress, we will see an all-out assault on every labor law that protects workers and we will have no one to stop them.”

Scardelletti noted Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney’s pledge to end Amtrak. Romney called Paul Ryan’s budget plan to severely cut Railroad Retirement, Medicare and Social Security “marvelous.” Scardelletti called it “shameful.”

Scardelletti acknowledged the success of the TCU/IAM merger and expressed his deep commitment to the labor movement. “Brothers and Sisters, I am proud to be a part of this great union. I love our labor movement. I have devoted my life to the work of the union, and I’m so very proud of the accomplishments made by all of us.”

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