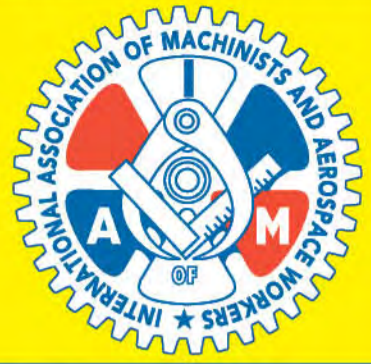


HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, September 13, 2012



Kerry Kennedy Calls for Global Human Rights



James Oberstar Named Honorary Lifetime Member



Jerry Springer Gives Rousing Defense of Workers and Unions

Delegates Consider Amendments and Resolutions



Convention Photo Gallery



Kerry Kennedy Calls for Global Human Rights



Kerry Kennedy, daughter of Senator Robert F. Kennedy and President of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, urges delegates to “Speak Truth to Power” in the fight for labor and human rights.

“Speak Truth to Power” was the charge given to delegates by Kerry Kennedy, daughter of Senator Robert F. Kennedy and President and founder of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights. She is also the author of “Speak Truth to Power: Human Rights Defenders Who Are Changing Our World.”

“As we face the challenges in our world today, we need to muster the belief that each one of us has a role to play in creating change,” said Kennedy. “I’m frequently asked what’s the most pressing human rights violation in the world today. Well, I can tell you, in this election season of the United States, it’s impossible to



ignore the growing threat by certain members of our government – and people who wish they were in our government – to undermine America’s deepest commitment to equality and opportunity for all.

“From statehouses to the U.S. Capitol building, the attacks against American workers have only grown more fierce in this era of recession. And make no mistake – the outcome of these battles will matter. They call into question the very foundation of the labor rights our nation’s incredible industries were built upon.

“As families throughout the United States, Canada and the world continue to struggle in this new era of economic reality, the scraping away of pensions and health care benefits cut even deeper. Faced with this full frontal assault on workers’ empowerment, we must speak truth to power.”

Kennedy spoke about the need to address the issues of children living in poverty, unemployment, and those in power balancing state budgets by pitting teachers against the poor and elderly, while billionaires receive tax credits.

Kennedy thanked the Machinists for their hard work and credited International President Tom Buffenbarger as a true leader and inspiration in the fight for human rights.

“Under President Buffenbarger’s leadership, the IAM has organized workers, protected the integ-



urity of the machinist trade, achieved higher pay, increased hiring and secured better working conditions," said Kennedy. "He has consistently called for social justice, solidarity and



The Health Care - A Universal Right, A Global Blight, An International Fight panelists included, from left, Basil Safi, Dr. Julio Siede, Dr. Ron Denham, and Michael Cloutier.

activism on behalf of hundreds of thousands of machinists and aerospace workers in the United States and Canada. And he has been a champion of the unions across the continent and around the world. As a human rights defender, I am privileged to speak today to all the members of the IAM who care about justice in our own community and indeed around the world."

Kennedy also spoke about her organization's efforts to fight for human rights everywhere around the world, from farmworkers in New York state to people living in South Africa.

Continuing the global focus, delegates heard from a panel of experts earlier in the day on "Health Care – A Universal Right, A Global Blight, An International Fight."



“The impact of the lack of water on health around the world is appalling,” said Dr. Ron Denham, Chair of the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group, who also served as moderator. He stated that “2.5 billion people don’t have access to sanitation. Nobody knows how many people are dying a day. Our media does not do justice to this data.”

Other panelists included Michael Cloutier, President and CEO of the Canadian Diabetes Association; Dr. Julio Siede, Advisor on Social Pro-



Dr. Jacob Hacker

tection and Health Insurance at the Pan American Health Organization, a unit of the World Health Organization; and Basil Safi, Asia Team Leader at the Center for Communication Programs at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

The focus on global action continued with Dr. Jacob Hacker, Yale University professor and author of “Winner-Take-All Politics,” who addressed delegates later in the day on the politics of U.S. social policy.

“We have a debate in this country between a vision of the economy that is based on myths,



misunderstandings and lies,” said Hacker. “We call that vision austerity economics. Over the last generation, we have seen the share of income going to the very top skyrocket. Our policy and politics matter. We need to reconstruct, what I call, the Pillars of Prosperity: growth, security and democracy.”

Hacker called for a rebuilding of American infrastructure, closing the U.S. trade deficit, educational investments, health and retirement security, an absolute guarantee of the right to vote and the right to form or join a union.

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Page 5 of 5 in this article

James Oberstar Named Honorary Lifetime Member

In a ceremony that brought the delegates to their feet, General Secretary-Treasurer Robert Roach, Jr. presented former U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman James Oberstar (D-MN) with honorary lifetime membership for his career-long support of IAM members in the ever-turbulent air and rail industries.

“For decades, you have stood with the Machinists Union,” said Roach. “There’s never been an occasion that you didn’t stand with the Machinists Union. You are truly a member of our great union.”

An internationally-recognized expert in the field of aviation and aviation safety, Oberstar played a lead role in ridding the industry of the reviled Airline Mutual Aid



Honoring James Oberstar with an honorary IAM membership, from left, TCU/IAM National President Robert Scardelletti, IAM Transportation GVP Sito Pantoja, Oberstar, IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger and IAM General Secretary-Treasurer Robert Roach, Jr.



Pact, a program he bluntly referred to as “food stamps for the airlines.”

Oberstar was also a key ally in the IAM’s fight for FAR-145, legislation requiring equal standards and oversight for aircraft repair stations in the U.S. and foreign nations.

In addition to being a strong voice for airline safety and transportation workers’ collective bargaining rights, Oberstar was quick to cite the importance of experienced and trained airline and rail professionals.

Recalling an IAM member whose trained eye and ear identified bogus fan blades in a DC-10 engine, Oberstar said that kind of professionalism is responsible for protecting the lives of millions of travelers every day.

“You have been able to do this and more because of strong leadership,” said Oberstar, whose long career included working partnerships with former IAM Presidents

Winpisinger and Kourpias, as well Transportation General Vice Presidents Peterpaul, Scheri and Roach.

Marion Blakey

A good friend from the aerospace sector also addressed the delegates. Marion Blakey, President and CEO of the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA), the nation’s largest aerospace industry association. Blakey credited collaboration with IAM President Tom Buffenbarger for successfully raising public and political awareness of issues that are critical



Marion Blakey



to the 100,000-member IAM aerospace sector.

“In the long fight for the health and strength of this industry over the last couple of years, I can honestly say there has been no stronger voice, no more-determined advocate and no tougher fighter for the American aerospace worker than Tom Buffenbarger,” said Blakey.

In addition to standing shoulder-to-shoulder in the successful fight to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, the IAM and the AIA are partners in the ongoing fight over sequestration, a battle that could impact as many as a million defense-dependent jobs, many of them belonging to IAM members.

“When Tom and I get up in Washington and tell a nervous member of Congress that labor and companies are on the same side, it’s pretty clear that side is the only place to be,” said Blakey. “When Tom explained that on the issue of defense cuts, there’s – and I quote – ‘no daylight between us’ – well, that got people’s attention.”

Just getting politicians to understand the scope of sequestration’s potential damage can be counted as a success. “We’ve gone from a world where you’d mention sequestration and get a blank stare to today’s broad recognition that sequestration means a calamity for our economic and national security strength,” said Blakey, who declared there is only one responsible path forward, one that takes sequestration off the table and finds a compromise that protects jobs, grows the economy and keeps America the strongest nation on earth.





Former Cincinnati Mayor and television personality Jerry Springer delivered a rousing affirmation of labor unions in North America, calling them vital to the success of the free enterprise system.

Jerry Springer Gives Rousing Defense of Workers and Unions

Internationally-known television personality Jerry Springer left his talk show persona far behind and spoke to delegates in Toronto as an informed and deeply-concerned private citizen.

Introduced by International President Tom Buffenbarger as a friend and long-time supporter of unions and union members, Springer's pre-talk show background includes careers as a journalist, musician and even one term as the Democratic Mayor of Cincinnati.

Outspoken and passionate, Springer ripped into GOP politicians who he said would never individually turn their back on a neighbor in trouble,



but are collectively willing to deny health care to 30 million Americans.

“How can we profess to love America and not love Americans?” asked Springer, who castigated Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney for repeatedly declaring he would repeal the Affordable Care Act on day one if elected president.

“Why do some people check their decency at the door when they enter politics?” wondered Springer.

Springer described the fight over health care as part of a larger assault on the middle class, an assault that threatens the nation as much as any terrorist attack. “There are more than 50 million Americans who are one diagnosis away from bankruptcy.

“I’m angry enough to throw a chair,” said Springer in a semi-serious nod to the theatrics that often accompany his talk show. Springer spoke in earnest when he talked about the importance of unions. “We simply cannot have the survival of the free enterprise system without unions,” said Springer, who argued that a robust collective bargaining relationship is necessary to protect the wages that keep the economy growing.

“Workers today are looking for a shot, not a guarantee, but a shot for a better life,” said Springer, who called unions “the only organization in America...the only institution in America that has as its only agenda improving the life of working class people.”





Fred Myers

Another great friend of the union movement addressed delegates later in the day, Executive Director of the Union Sportsmen's Alliance (USA), Fred Myers. In keeping with Springer's theme on the importance of unions, Myers talked about his organization's goal of continuously providing North Americans with a positive image of what it means to be in a union. "Time after time union members come to our booth and tell us how proud it makes them to turn on the TV and see their union sponsoring the USA's outdoor TV show, or just how much it means to them to see their union supporting an organization with such a worthy conservation mission," said Myers.

"For the first time in the history of the labor movement, union sportsmen have an outdoor organization they can call their own – an organization that believes in the collective process, that hold the values of our union partners and believes that a unionized America is a better America!"





Ellen Arbogast became the first woman in IAM history to give the report of a Grand Lodge Convention Law Committee. Arbogast, a 34-year member of St. Louis, MO Local 1345 and Business Representative for District 9, served as Law Committee Secretary.

Delegates Consider Constitutional Amendments and Resolutions

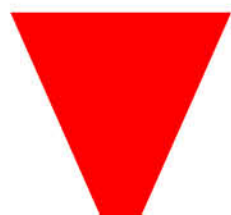
On Day Four of the IAM 38th Grand Lodge Convention, delegates took action on a number of proposals to amend the IAM Constitution. Ellen Arbogast, the first female Law Committee Secretary in IAM history, presented the Committee's report. Under the IAM Constitution, the Law Committee reviews proposed amendments to the Constitution and presents their recommendations to the delegates. Delegates then vote to adopt or reject those recommendations.

After healthy debate, delegates voted on a wide range of proposed amendments. Delegates adopted an amendment to give the Executive Council more options to set Associate Member fees and several propos-

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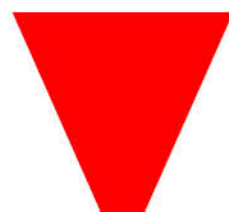
als to update and clarify language in the IAM Constitution.

Delegates did not adopt proposals to change the per-capita-tax structure, with many delegates saying that the system put in place at the 2008 Convention has been working well and should not be changed.

Delegates agreed with the Law Committee's recommendation and voted not to change strike benefits or current eligibility rules to ensure the Strike Fund stays healthy. Proposals to expand the use of absentee ballots were not adopted, delegates cited the need to encourage face-to-face participation in lodge business and felt that past actions to expand absentee ballot provisions are adequate.

Proposals to change the schedule of local lodge elections and electronic fund payments were also turned down by the delegates. The Law Committee pointed out that the Constitution currently allows the General Secretary-Treasurer and the lodges necessary discretion to use that type of payment.

Other proposals rejected by the delegates included: mandatory attendance at the Winpisinger Center for certain newly-elected lodge officers; setting a minimum number of members for lodges to have Business Representatives; and mandating lodge affiliations with respective state or local retiree organizations, with delegates allowing lodges to continue making those decisions at the lodge level.



Resolution Action

Delegates concluded the fourth day of the Convention by endorsing the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee on more than two dozen proposed resolutions, including more than twenty resolutions relating to job creation, training and safety. Delegates also unanimously approved resolutions expressing support for members of the armed services and the Union Veterans Council, as well as resolutions in support for the rights of indigenous residents of the U.S. and Canada.



Delegates debated and voted on proposals to amend the IAM Constitution and resolutions on the fourth day of the 38th Grand Lodge Convention.

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