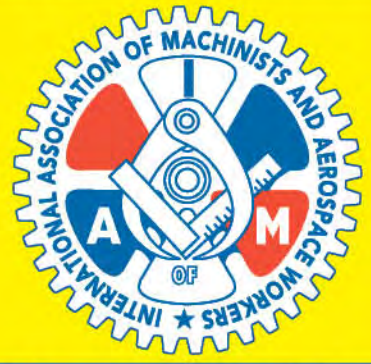


HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, September 14, 2012



IAM Delegates Endorse Obama, Biden

Convention Honors Norman Mineta and Rodney Slater



**Bill Lucy, Jimmy Williams
Address Delegates**



**Speakers, Panels Explore
Ways to Create JOBS Now!**



Delegates Act on Resolutions



Convention Photo Gallery





Delegates at the 38th Grand Lodge Convention voted to endorse Barack Obama for President and Joe Biden for Vice President in the upcoming U.S. elections.

IAM Convention Delegates Endorse Obama, Biden

IAM delegates meeting in Toronto, ON, for the 38th Grand Lodge Convention voted overwhelmingly today to formally endorse Barack Obama and Joe Biden for a second term as President and Vice President of the United States.

Grand Lodge Conventions are scheduled in part to coincide with U.S. presidential elections and to give delegates an opportunity to express support for political incumbents or challengers.

Candidates previously endorsed by IAM Con-



vention delegates include Barack Obama in 2008, John Kerry in 2004, Al Gore in 2000 and Bill Clinton in 1996 and 1992. The delegates' endorsement in Toronto follows a unanimous endorsement in February from the IAM's Non-Partisan Political League (MNPL), which evaluates local and national candidates and makes recommendations for IAM members.

Prior to the vote, IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger urged delegates to carefully consider how a Romney administration would handle the upcoming retirements of at least four, and possibly as many as seven, U.S. Supreme Court justices.

"A seven-to-two Supreme Court will be the darkest, longest running and strangest nightmare any of us will ever have," said Buffenbarger. "Our right to strike, our right to bargain collectively, our right to belong to a union, and even our right to assemble – can be rewritten, refined and reworked out of existence by the Supreme Court."

The next president will likely have the opportunity to nominate replacements for Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, age 79; Antonin Scalia, age 76; Anthony Kennedy, age 76 and Stephen Breyer, age 74. The four senior justices are followed by Clarence Thomas, age 64; Samuel Alito, age 62 and John Roberts, age 57.

"We welcomed President Obama's appointments of Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan to the



Supreme Court,” said Buffenbarger. “Not because they were especially pro-labor, but because they displayed the kind of non-partisan competence most Americans want to see on the Court.”

In contrast, GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney hired rejected Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork to advise him on “judicial matters” and said publicly that he favors conservative justices like Clarence Thomas, Antonin Scalia, John Roberts and Samuel Alito.

“If Romney is elected, we can forget about fairness, forget about the facts, forget about the law and forget about justice being blind,” said Buffenbarger. “The scales of justice will tip in one direction only; the direction that gave us Citizens United, Bush v. Gore and corporate personhood.”

While delegates expressed some reservations about the Obama endorsement prior to the vote, they recognized the pace of change and progress has been effectively blunted by a Republican policy of strict obstructionism.



Convention Honors Norman Mineta and Rodney Slater



Former Transportation Secretaries Rodney Slater, third from left, and Norman Mineta, fourth from left, received honorary IAM memberships for their lifelong support of the Machinists Union. From left, Transportation GVP Sito Pantoja, TCUIAM National President Robert Scardelletti, Slater, Mineta, General Secretary-Treasurer Robert Roach, Jr., retired International President George Kourpias and International President Tom Buffenbarger.

Two former U.S. Transportation Secretaries and good friends of the Machinists Union, Norman Mineta and Rodney Slater, became the newest members of the IAM. General Secretary-Treasurer Robert Roach, Jr. awarded Mineta and Slater honorary IAM memberships for their lifelong efforts on behalf of Machinists Union members.

“These two gentlemen worked closely with the Machinists Union as Secretaries of Transportation,”



said Roach. "They have come from humble beginnings to become two great men and to become two great friends of the Machinists Union.

"On behalf of International President Buffenbarger and our organization, we wish to make both of them honorary members of the IAM for their consistent work helping us overcome the many obstacles during the Bush administration, as well as the many crises that we had after 9/11," said Roach.

Mineta opened his address with a heartfelt thank you to the Convention's host nation, Canada, for their unwavering support during the 9/11 crisis. As Secretary of Transportation on that fateful day, Mineta ordered all flights in the U.S., or bound for the U.S., to land immediately. Many had to land in Canada.

"There were so many aircraft. I remember seeing Halifax airport where they were wingtip-to-wingtip, nose-to-tail at their little airport. The population of Gander jumped from some 5,000 to about 15,000 by the end of the day, and those Canadians took all of these people into their homes, gave them food, shelter, helped them contact their anxious loved ones," said Mineta. "So today, eleven years later, I say thank you, Canada, very, very much for your hospitality."

Mineta described his long association with the Machinists Union, dating back to when he was in local politics in California and walked the picket



line with United Airlines members of Local 1781 in Burlingame; and how, throughout his career, he looked to Machinists Union members as champions of the middle class. He urged delegates to keep fighting on behalf of working families, especially in the upcoming elections in the United States.

“So keep fighting for the middle class, fight for the Democrats and the democratic process in Congress,” declared Mineta. “But, most importantly, fight to reelect President Obama and work your heart out between now and November 6th. It is critical for this country.”

Rodney Slater, Secretary of Transportation under President Bill Clinton, also has a long association with the IAM. Slater echoed Mineta’s call to work hard in the election ahead to make sure the nation keeps moving forward, especially in creating jobs. Slater compared the job creation record of Democratic and Republican presidents since 1961.

ROTATE YOUR DEVICE TO
VIEW FULL SCREEN PHOTOS



3 of 3 in this article



Legendary labor leader and civil rights activist Bill Lucy urged delegates to reelect President Obama and replace lawmakers who have repeatedly blocked legislation to create jobs and help the unemployed.

Bill Lucy, Jimmy Williams Address Delegates

Iconic labor leader Bill Lucy and IUPAT President Jimmy Williams brought messages of labor solidarity and calls for action on the fifth day of the 38th Grand Lodge Convention. IAM National Pension and Benefit Trust Fund Director Steve Sleight and Guide Dogs of America Director Dale Hartford were also among the day's lineup of speakers.

Labor history has many iconic figures but very few have achieved the legendary stature of former AFSCME Secretary-Treasurer and Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) founder William "Bill" Lucy.

A lifelong civil rights and human rights activist,



Lucy described the right wing's voter suppression campaign as "incredibly dangerous" with the potential to discourage or intimidate between five and seven million young people, African-Americans, senior citizens, minorities and even veterans from exercising their right to vote.

Lucy urged delegates to work overtime with local members and affiliated groups to overcome the GOP's suppression campaign. "I want to say to them today that from the community I come from, we're going to vote," declared Lucy. "And I want to say as flatly and bluntly as I can, there are going to be so many African-Americans at the polls it's going to look like midnight."

Acknowledging the differences some members may have with President Obama, Lucy said that he shares some of those concerns. "There's some folks who got problems with the Obama agenda," said Lucy. "I've got some too. But I'm also bright enough to know that that problem is not going to be solved by the other side."

Lucy closed by encouraging delegates to do what Machinists have always done, "step up when the going gets tough, and do what we have to do in order to win this election."

Celebrating a partnership that has grown dramatically in recent years, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) President Jimmy Williams addressed the delegates in Toronto and praised the IAM for its leadership, militancy and political activism.



Williams prefaced his remarks with greetings from his membership and made it clear that he values the bond between the IAM and the IUPAT.

“I want to begin by bringing you greetings from all of the members of the IUPAT throughout the United States and Canada who admire the great work of the Machinists,” said Williams. “I also want to make it real clear; the Machinists are our friends.”

Williams said he firmly believed the IAM should re-affiliate with the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department, an alliance of 13 national and international unions that collectively represent two million skilled-craft professionals in the U.S. and Canada.

The gregarious IUPAT president was equally blunt describing the support IAM members could expect from IUPAT, whether it was in political campaigns, organizing campaigns or anything else: “Wherever you may be, the IUPAT is a friend, and we will have your back 100 percent of the time,” declared Williams.



Jimmy Williams





Steve Sleigh

Former IAM Strategic Resources Director and current National Pension Plan (NPP) Fund Director Steve Sleigh described the multi-employer fund as uniquely structured and a great example of labor management cooperation.

“Pension funds are under attack,” acknowledged Sleigh. “But one great strength of our fund is its diversity. We have high-wage and low-wage workers in nearly every state and in dozens of industries.

“We write 85,000 checks every month,” said Sleigh. “That’s \$50 million every month - a huge accomplishment and you should all be proud of that.”

The NPP currently holds over \$9 billion in assets, with less than that amount in liabilities. “The fund is overfunded and we’re going to be around for a long time,” said Sleigh.

Among the challenges pension funds are facing is the 2006 Pension Protection Act, which Sleigh called the “Pension Destruction Act.” Poorly conceived and badly timed, the legislation’s requirements have combined with a disastrous economy to provide companies with an added excuse for abandoning defined benefit plans.

The IAM’s favorite charity, Guide Dogs of Amer-



ica (GDA), continues to grow in size and popularity, with International President Tom Buffenbarger predicting the program may soon need to expand to accommodate all the requests for trained guide dogs.



Dale Hartford

GDA Director Dale Hartford showed a video and expressed thanks to the IAM for the many fundraisers and incredible outpouring of support that gives GDA the means to operate its breeding and training facility in Sylmar, CA.





“Rerum Novarum in the 21st Century” panelists, from left, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, author of “Failing America’s Faithful;” Reverend J. Cletus Kiley, UNITEHERE; and IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger.

Speakers, Panels Explore Ways to Create JOBS Now!

The theme JOBS Now! was echoed by speakers and panelists on the fifth day of the 38th IAM Grand Lodge Convention. Faith and labor came together with an edifying panel on “Rerum Novarum in the 21st Century.”

Rerum Novarum – Latin for “On the New Things” – is the title of a papal encyclical written by Pope Leo XIII in 1891. In the letter, the Catholic Church leader described the “misery” of 19th century working people. Pope Leo XIII condemned unfettered capitalism – especially child labor – and urged the formation of trade unions, collective bargaining, fair wages, and worker protections.

“Although his letter is 121 years old, its message



still resonates around the world,” said IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger, who’s long felt the church has abandoned its role as an ally to the labor movement. “The Catholic Church has historically supported the labor movement. They were with us on picket lines. They were with us on organizing drives. And when we experienced the difficulties of plant closings or upheavals with layoffs or bad economic conditions, the church was part of the support network we all needed to get through those times. If we’re going to effectively challenge capital and challenge the unjust economic system we have today, we have to get back to those times.”

Buffenbarger had the opportunity to discuss



JOBs Now! Securing Our Future panelists included, from left, Leecia Eve, NY Economic Development; Leo Hindery, Jr., New America Foundation; Richard McCormack, Manufacturing & Technology News; and Dr. Irene Petrick, Penn State University.



his concerns during a private meeting with Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican in the summer of 2011.

The panel discussion included Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, author of "Failing America's Faithful," and Rev. Dr. J. Cletus Kiley, Director of Immigration Policy at UNITE HERE!

A second panel continued the discussion on the plight of the working class with a frank exchange about the jobs crisis and the decline of U.S. manufacturing.

"Manufacturing as we all know is critical to the American economy, yet over the past 12 years, U.S. manufacturers have cut 31 percent of their workforce, or nearly 6 million jobs. And manufacturers' contribution to gross domestic product has fallen to just 12.2 percent, from 22.7 percent in 1970," said Leo Hindery, Jr., Chairman of the Smart Globalization Initiative at the New America Foundation and moderator of today's "JOBS Now! Securing Our Futures" panel.

Hindery, along with panelists Leecia Eve, Deputy Secretary for Economic Development of New York; Dr. Irene Petrick, Penn State University Professor of Practice; and Richard McCormack, Founding Editor and Publisher of Manufacturing and Technology News, discussed the need for a strong U.S. manufacturing policy, a national infrastructure bank, tax reform, fair trade policy and an end to outsourcing.



Rick Sloan, Executive Director of the Union of Unemployed (UCubed), provided delegates with a presentation on UCubed's new BEE MAD @ THE GOP campaign on Facebook.

"On July 27th, we began warning America that the WORKER BEES were coming. They were coming



Rick Sloan

in swarms," said Sloan. "Scientists have proven that elephants are afraid of bees. The buzzing of a swarm can stampede a herd of PAC-a-derms. UCubed – which now has over 120,000 fans and more than 30 million friends of fans – plans to create a similar stampede on November 6th – dozens and dozens of GOP

PAC-a-derms leaving Capitol Hill and state capitals in a bum's rush. Our plan is to hang a sign on the GOP mascot's tail that says: STING ME!"

Sloan shared with delegates a series of unique mini-videos created for the campaign, and encouraged them to SHARE and LIKE the videos on Facebook in order to spread the word and increase voter turnout on election day.

"Our goal is to place our micro-videos and photos in front of 12 million friends of fans each week for the last three weeks of this election," said Sloan. "Let's hand the GOP a stinging defeat in November."

Diane Dettmann, Senior Executive Director of TCU/IAM Training Services Department, provided



delegates an overview on the TCU/IAM Transportation Program, a part of Job Corps, which has been consistently rated the number one Job Corps training program in the country.

“For 41 years we have been training and placing young adults into high-wage, high-growth transportation careers,” said Dettmann. “These students come with one purpose, a desire to better themselves through training and education. They want to contribute to society. The program exists because of their passion, their success, their desire to be somebody. They are the heartbeat of this program.” The TCU/IAM program has placed nearly 10,000 graduates since 1971.



Diane Dettmann

ROTATE YOUR DEVICE TO
VIEW FULL SCREEN PHOTOS



Page 5 of 5 in this article



Delegates debated and voted on several proposed resolutions on the fifth day of the 38th Grand Lodge Convention.

Delegates Act on Resolutions

After taking care of proposed Constitutional Amendments on day four of the Convention, delegates continued their consideration of proposed Resolutions on day five.

Delegates approved Resolutions to support the New Democratic Party and Parti Quebecois in Canada. They also unanimously supported a Resolution to urge President Obama to appoint TCU/IAM National President Robert Scardelletti to the Amtrak Board of Directors.

Delegates soundly rejected a Resolution to sell the IAM-member-built Learjet, with many delegates expressing support for the increased visibility of IAM officers on picket lines and important meetings, made possible by the travelling flexibility provided by use of the jet.

Delegates did not support a Resolution to endorse the sole production of paper one-dollar bills, as two IAM locals make both paper dollar bills and dollar coins.

ROTATE YOUR DEVICE TO
VIEW FULL SCREEN PHOTOS





















