

IAM Journal

For Fighting Machinists



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Working Families Win on Election Day



Lame Duck Congress Faces Critical Deadlines



Member Profile:

Rainey Rohrmeier IAM Local Lodge 912

IAM President Names Babineaux, Cervantes to Executive Council Team



Diane Babineaux



Dora Cervantes

IAM Members Ratify Agreement at Bombardier Learjet

Delta Flight Attendants Seek IAM Representation

TCU/IAM Training Center Gets Railcar for Students



Working Families Win on Election Day

Working families brought home the vote from the top of the ticket to the bottom on election day. As expected, the road to maintaining the White House and Senate majority went right through key battleground states like Ohio and Virginia, where Machinists and dozens of other labor groups spent months reaching out to union workers.

“On behalf of the IAM Executive Council, I wish to extend our deepest appreciation for all of your efforts as our nation went to the polls and expressed a collective desire to move our country forward, despite the billions of dollars spent by those who attempted to suppress voters and subjugate the working people of America,” said IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger.

“IAM members everywhere made the critical difference in securing electoral victories in all states, most notably in the battleground states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Virginia and Florida,” continued Buffenbarger. “The active participation of IAM members in the political process serves as the best example to our elected representatives that as citizens and union members we



President Barack Obama won a second term thanks to strong voter turnout from working families.

will not tolerate retreat from the principles and values a progressive society cherishes. All IAM members should feel a deep sense of pride and satisfaction in knowing we all played a meaningful role in the struggle to ensure economic fairness and social justice.”

“I want to thank every American who participated in this election,” said President Barack Obama in his victory speech. “Whether you voted for the very first time or waited in line for a very long

Tap right to view a video featuring International President Tom Buffenbarger discussing the November election victory.



time. Whether you pounded the pavement or picked up the phone. Whether you held an Obama sign or a Romney sign, you made your voice heard and you made a difference.”

In addition to the presidency, working families’ hard work also paid off in huge dividends in retaining the Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate. Democratic wins included Sen. Sherrod Brown, Ohio; former Governor Tim Kaine, Virginia; Sen. Bill Nelson, Florida; Rep. Tammy Baldwin, Wisconsin; Sen. Bob Casey, Jr., Pennsylvania; Elizabeth Warren, Massachusetts; Rep. Chris Murphy, Connecticut; Rep. Joe Donnelly, Indiana; Sen. Claire McCaskill, Missouri and Rep. Mazie Hirono, Hawaii.

“Voters sent a clear message to the GOP,” said Buffenbarger. “Their days of partisan obstructionism are up. The American people want results. They

want a stronger middle class. They want shared prosperity for all.”

President Obama agrees. “Tonight you voted for action, not politics as usual,” said the president. “You elected us to focus on your jobs, not ours. And in the coming weeks and months, I am looking forward to reaching out and working with leaders of both parties to meet the challenges we can only solve together: reducing our deficit, reforming our tax code, fixing our immigration system, freeing ourselves from foreign oil. We’ve got more work to do.

“Whether I earned your vote or not, I have listened to you. I have learned from you. And you’ve made me a better president. And with your stories and your struggles, I return to the White House more determined and more inspired than ever about the work there is to do and the future that lies ahead.”

Lame Duck Congress Faces Critical Deadlines

The time after the election and before the swearing-in of a new Congress and President is normally a time to take care of minor issues and get ready for the next year. But this Congress has to tackle some of the biggest issues in the history of lame duck sessions, and they must do so by the end of the year.

On the clock are December 31 deadlines to end or extend Bush tax cuts for the wealthy, end or extend the payroll tax cut for middle-class workers, and end or extend federal unemployment insurance benefits. Just as critical is the January 2 deadline for the mandatory spending cuts, known as sequestration, and the looming debt-ceiling fight.

The GOP plan for addressing these issues: austerity – deep, swift budget cuts to social programs like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. The Democratic plan: prosperity.

“Sequestration could send the country back into a recession with the loss of more than one million jobs in the defense sector and its dependent industries alone,” said IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger. “Lawmakers must find a way to avoid this fiscal cliff



With just weeks left in its term, the lame duck 112th Congress must deal with looming issues of sequestration, extending unemployment benefits and the expiring Bush tax cuts.

– but not on the backs of working families while Wall Street and the wealthy get off scot-free. The middle-class safety net – Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid – must be taken off the table.”

Experts warn that deep budget cuts



on the heels of an historic recession could replicate the economic turmoil seen in European countries like Greece, Ireland and Spain. “Countries that have most ruthlessly cut their budgets – Greece, especially – have seen their overall debt loads increase as a share of the economy,” reads “The Austerity Trap,” an editorial published in *The New York Times*. “The data provide objective support for what has been clear to just about everyone except pro-austerity Ger-

man officials and deficit-crazed Republican politicians. Namely, deep government budget cuts at a time of economic weakness are counterproductive, complicating, if not ruining, the chances for economic growth.”

Congress can avoid the so-called fiscal cliff by continuing to support the middle class through extending the payroll tax cut and unemployment benefits, and letting the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy expire, using those savings to cancel sequestration.



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to tell Congress to remember working families during lame duck negotiations



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IAM President Names Babineaux, Cervantes to Executive Council Team



Diane Babineaux



Dora Cervantes

IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger announced that Chief of Staff to the International President Diane Babineaux and Assistant Secretary Dora Cervantes will be added to the Executive Council team. If nominated and elected, they will become the first women in IAM history to serve on the IAM Executive Council.

“The skills and experience of Sisters Babineaux and Cervantes will be invaluable to the Council and will provide real benefits to the membership in the years to

come,” said Buffenbarger, who made the announcement at the William W. Winpisinger Charity Banquet in Las Vegas, NV. “As we continue to modernize our union, our leadership must reflect the members we currently represent and the members we expect to represent in the future.”

Babineaux will fill the General Vice President (GVP) vacancy that will occur when current Headquarters GVP Richard Michalski retires effective June 30, 2013. Cervantes will fill a dormant GVP position that was created when the Great



Lakes Territory was dissolved and the GVP position was not filled.

The announcement was greeted by an enthusiastic ovation from more than 1,000 IAM members, representatives and guests in attendance at the annual charity event to benefit Guide Dogs of America.

Currently serving as Chief of Staff to the International President, Diane Babineaux began her career with the IAM in the Legislative and Political Action Department. In 1996, while working in the IAM Research Department, Babineaux was appointed Special Assistant to the International President. In 2000, she was chosen to serve as President Buffenbarger's Executive Assistant, the position since renamed Chief of Staff to the IP.

In addition to her role as Chief of Staff, Babineaux manages and directs the Human Rights Department, Women's Department and the Young Machinists Program, while working closely with IndustriALL and other international trade union secretariats with which the IAM is affiliated.

"I look forward to this new opportunity to serve the IAM and its members," said Babineaux. "I believe the relationships we have developed in the civil rights, human rights and labor rights communities will pay significant organizing dividends in the years ahead. I hope to continue my

work in each of these areas."

Dora Cervantes currently serves as the Assistant Secretary to General Secretary-Treasurer Robert Roach, Jr. Before joining the GST Department, Cervantes held many positions in the Transportation sector of the IAM. She initiated into Local 2198 in Houston, TX in 1989 as a Reservations Agent for Southwest Airlines.

In addition to serving as an Organizer, Shop Steward, Recording Secretary and Vice President of her Local, Cervantes was also an Apprentice Organizer for District 142 before becoming a District General Chairperson in 2000. She was appointed to the Grand Lodge staff in the Transportation Department as a Special Representative in 2005, and later promoted to a Grand Lodge Representative.

"Working as a Union Rep in the fast-moving airline industry, I learned early on about the value of having members who were informed, enthusiastic and willing to stand up for their rights," said Cervantes. "That spirit exists in every sector of our union and gives us a singular advantage in organizing, bargaining and servicing. I'm deeply grateful for this opportunity. I hope that I can add to the strength of this amazing team of IAM leaders and will be able to carry forward the important work of this great union."

Member Profile

Rainey Rohrmeier: Making a Difference

Rainey Rohrmeier of IAM Local 912 in Cincinnati, OH is one of many Machinists Union members across the country who helped get the word out to fellow union members about the important issues in the 2012 elections. Volunteers like Rohrmeier are the heart of the labor movement's education and get-out-the-vote efforts that give working families a loud voice in U.S. elections.

As she has done for the last 12 years, Rohrmeier devoted many hours in the critical battleground state of Ohio. Led by the Cincinnati AFL-CIO and working out of IBEW Local 212, Rohrmeier and fellow union members did many labor walks and manned phone banks for the 2012 elections.

"Politics has something to do with every single facet of our lives," said Rohrmeier. The laws politicians pass



Ohio Local 912 member Rainey Rohrmeier is one of thousands of IAM members who volunteer their time to support candidates who will stand up for working families.

affect "our working conditions, the services we have, the treatment of our water, the air we breathe, everything is involved with politicians making decisions."

With so much at stake, Rohrmeier believes union members need to get involved. "We need to carve out a little bit of our lives to take care of this issue, because if we don't have good jobs, if we don't have good-paying jobs, we can't do anything else. That's important, and that's why people need

to be involved,” said Rohrmeier.

After 27 years working at General Electric, Rohrmeier hopes to retire in a few years. But she wants to make sure the next generation of workers carry on the tradition of educating fellow members and getting out the vote. “Young people need to get involved because it’s their future, their working conditions, their pension plans, their benefits and their safety that they’re going to be dealing with for the next 20, 30 years of their working careers.”



Tap above to view a video of Rainey making a difference in the 2012 elections.



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TCU

TCU/IAM Training Center Gets Railcar for Students

Trailer Train Company (TTX) has donated a railcar to the TCU/IAM Training Services Center in San Marcos, Texas. The railcar will enable students to get true, hands-on training in the Carmen program, and will be a first for any Carmen training program in the country that's not on-the-job.

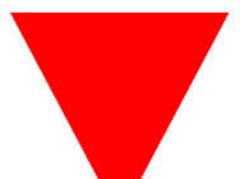
Trainees will be able to perform brake testing and installation, gaug-

ing and inspection of the entire brake system of the railcar. They will learn the American Association of Railroads (AAR) and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) condemning limits to determine what parts need replacing or repairing and the differences in the two standards.

Train coupler assembly and repair will be taught on the railcar, and every



Instructors and students from the TCU/IAM Training Services Center in San Marcos, Texas with the newly-installed TTX railcar.



student will be able to tear down and re-install the undercarriage. Students will also inspect and gain a working knowledge of the “end of cushioning” device on both ends. Instructors will be able to simulate defects and repair needs on the railcar for students to learn how to identify and repair, which provides invaluable real-world experience students could not get from study alone.

“We want to thank Carman General President and TCU National Vice President Richard Johnson and the Carmen Division for their support,” said TCU/IAM Training Services Director Diane Dettmann. “TTX ran a first-class operation in managing this on-site project. We want to thank them for the donation of this railcar and for arranging the labor support and workforce in getting it set up.”



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Transportation

Delta Flight Attendants Seek IAM Representation



The IAM announced its support of a formal organizing drive with Flight Attendants at Delta Air Lines who have been conducting a strong grassroots campaign for IAM representation.

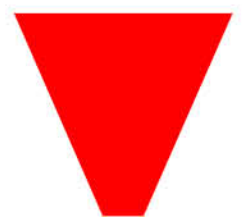
A grassroots effort among Flight Attendants at Delta Air Lines to gain IAM representation is taking off. The campaign at the carrier started when Delta Flight Attendants, working on their own initiative, gathered thousands of authorization cards requesting a representation election for the IAM.

Their enthusiasm resulted in the launch of an IAM organizing campaign in partnership with the Delta Flight Attendants.

“We fully support the efforts of your

activist leaders and are proud to announce the official launch of an IAM organizing campaign,” said Transportation General Vice President Sito Pantolja in a letter to Delta Flight Attendants. “We look forward to showing you how the IAM can improve your quality of life and your career at Delta Air Lines. I urge you to talk to your flying partners about the benefits of IAM representation.”

There are approximately 20,000 Flight Attendants at the carrier who are unrepresented. After the 2008 merger



“We are proud to support the workers at Delta and look forward to the day when all groups at the carrier have the opportunity for representation once again.”

Sito Pantoja
Transportation General Vice President

between Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines triggered a series of union representation elections, Delta management conducted a vicious anti-union campaign that left all major work groups, except the pilots, without representation.

The Flight Attendant effort to gather authorization cards mirrors a similar effort to collect cards among ground employees, including former Northwest members who were IAM-represented.

“We are proud to support the workers at Delta and look forward to the day when all groups at the carrier have the opportunity for representation once again,” said Pantoja.

For information about the Delta Flight Attendant campaign for the IAM, visit <http://iamdelta.net>.

To learn more about the Delta Ground Workers campaign, visit www.takingbackourfamily.com.



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Aerospace

IAM Members Ratify Agreement at Bombardier Learjet, Strike Ends

Members of IAM Local 639 in Wichita, KS, ratified an improved agreement with Bombardier Learjet that ended a strike at the Wichita facility that began on October 8.

The new five-year deal is an improvement over a proposal previously rejected by the membership and was reached with the help of Mediator John Doern of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services.

Key improvements to the initial company proposal were related to health care. The employee share of premiums, which is taken as a bi-weekly payroll deduction, was reduced from

30 percent to 20 percent of the total premium. The company also proposed an extra five percent savings for employees who participate in a wellness program. With these improvements, an employee with single coverage will see a \$700 per year reduction in health insurance payroll deductions, while employees with family coverage will see a \$2,300 annual savings compared to the company's pre-strike offer.

The revised contract received the unanimous endorsement of the IAM Negotiating Committee.

For more information, visit www.639iam.org.



IAM Local 639 members voted to accept an improved contract with Bombardier Learjet in Wichita, KS, which ended their strike that began on October 8, 2012.