

IAM Journal

For Fighting Machinists



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Solidarity at the South Pole





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IAM staff members flooded the steps of the Georgia State Capitol to mark the 125th anniversary of the union's founding.

IAM Comes Home to Atlanta to Celebrate 125th Anniversary

The 2013 IAM National Staff Conference brought Machinists back to Atlanta, where the union was founded 125 years ago. Speakers commemorated the progress of a union that has grown from 19 machinists secretly meeting in an Atlanta locomotive pit in 1888 to an international organization of nearly 700,000 active and retired members today.

“Collectively, our founders had faith they could change everything. And change everything they did,” said IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger in his keynote address. “Confident in their skills, they pledged loyalty to one another and launched a new

force for solidarity. It would become one of the largest, strongest and most militant organizations North America had ever seen.”

After establishing “Lodge No. 1” in Atlanta, the IAM grew quickly, adding 34 local lodges in one year and increasing membership from 19 to 1,500. The eight-hour day, a living wage and respect for skilled trades were among their earliest goals. In his speech, Buffenbarger called for a renewed energy to organizing future IAM members and spreading the benefits of union membership to new demographics.

“Those 19 founding members enabled the millions who came afterward





to find a better life,” said Buffenbarger. “They made their world a better place. And they used a union to do it.”

Speakers at the conference included Rep. John Lewis (D-GA), Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, Georgia State AFL-CIO President and Machinist member Charlie Flemming and IAM leaders who spoke about the importance of organizing, health care reform and the preservation of labor history.

Lewis, who in his youth organized civil rights marches in the South, called on the IAM and the labor movement to stand up to anti-union sentiment and “get in a little trouble.”

“They want you to hide. They don’t want you to organize,” said Lewis. “If organized labor was not around, I don’t know where we’d be as a nation. Too many of your Brothers and Sisters worked very hard in the past 125 years. Not just for you, but for generations yet unborn and their children. Stand up, speak up, speak out.”

Mayor Reed presented Buffenbarger with the city’s highest honor, the Phoenix Award – a symbol of Atlanta rising again

IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger delivers a speech at the statue of IAM founder Tom Talbot in Atlanta’s historic Grant Park.

after being completely destroyed by General Sherman’s army during the Civil War.

“The city of Atlanta will be at the tip of the spear for future labor growth as long as I am mayor,” said Reed. “Until we have strong labor all throughout the state of Georgia and the South, our people will not have the kind of benefits that come with being associated with an organization like the IAM.”

Southern Territory General Vice President Robert Martinez Jr., said that despite attacks on labor from Republican politicians, especially in the South, the IAM would continue to fight for working Americans in the region where it was born.

Buffenbarger called on 83-year-old actor and labor activist Ed Asner to portray Tom Talbot, the IAM’s first President, in a monologue before a march to the Georgia State Capitol. Asner is one of a handful of honorary lifetime members of the IAM.

Led by the beat of bagpipes and drums and bearing signs that proclaimed the IAM as “Atlanta’s Hometown Union,” staff members paraded to the steps of the State Capitol.

Georgia Democratic State Rep. Gloria Frazier told the crowd she will never let her colleagues in the State Assembly forget how important it is to support working families.



Hundreds of IAM staff members marched to the Georgia State Capitol to commemorate the union's 125th anniversary in its birthplace of Atlanta.



Photo by Bill Burke, Page One Photography

“The first thing they told me when I got my first job at the age of 18 was to not join the union,” said Frazier, who co-sponsored a resolution commemorating the IAM’s 125th anniversary and its Atlanta roots. “So what was the first thing I did? I joined the union.”

The Georgia State Senate passed a similar resolution, praising the IAM for continuing to represent “hundreds of thousands of working men and women across the United States and Canada in the same spirit that led sons of Georgia to establish it more than a century ago.” A proclamation from the Atlanta City Council declared May 5, 2013, “International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers’ Day” in the city.

Also speaking at the State Capitol, U.S. Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA), criticized Republican state and national

lawmakers for continuously bowing to the interests of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a special interest group that has drafted anti-worker legislation for Republican legislatures all around the country to rubber-stamp into law.

“They are doing the work of corporate bosses,” said Johnson. “We are fighting for jobs, benefits and fair wages.”

At Atlanta’s Grant Park, Buffenbarger and General Secretary-Treasurer Robert Roach, Jr., unveiled a 125th anniversary plaque to be affixed on the statue of Machinists Union founder Tom Talbot.

“The 1948 Grand Lodge Convention saw fit to place this statue of Tom Talbot here in this park,” Buffenbarger told the crowd. “It gives me great honor to rededicate it to the founder of our great union.”

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Supreme Court Strikes Down Key Provision of 1965 Voting Rights Act



Left, a circa 1960 photo of African Americans marching for equal voting rights. The Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965. Right, a 2013 rally in front of the U.S. Supreme Court where, with a 5-to-4 vote, the Court's conservative majority gutted a key provision of the landmark law.

The U.S. Supreme Court has struck down a key section of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965.


In a 5-to-4 ruling, the Court's conservative majority said Section 4 of the Act, which outlines the formula for determining which states require federal oversight of elections, used "decades-old data relevant to decades-old problems." The decision, authored by Chief Justice John Roberts and joined by Justices Antonin Scalia, Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito, states that Congress "may draft another formula based on current conditions."

The court did not strike down Section

5 of the law, the part which requires all or parts of certain states – mainly those in the South with a history of racial discrimination – to receive federal approval before making changes to voting laws and procedures. However, thanks to the ruling, Section 5 no longer has any actual effect.

"We need the Voting Rights Act now more than ever," said Diane Babineaux, Chief of Staff to the IAM International President. "In his decision, Justice Roberts said times have changed and he's right. The tactics used in 1965 to disenfranchise minority voters may no longer exist as they did then but the problem has hardly disappeared. A new, more sophisticated bag of





tricks has emerged to take their place – repressive voter ID laws, unfair redistricting, long lines and voter misinformation campaigns. For the Supreme Court to leave minority voters unprotected is a major blow to our democracy.”

The high court’s decision comes just two months before the nation celebrates the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, the setting of Dr. Martin Luther King,

Jr.’s “*I Have a Dream*” speech on jobs, voting rights and segregation.

“We built a monument to Dr. King and part of – at least half of – what Dr. King’s dream was about was voter rights,” said National Action Network President Rev. Al Sharpton. “They just revoked that. They just canceled the dream and the children of the dream are not going to sit by and allow that to happen.”



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IAM 2013 Scholarship Winners Announced

The 2013 IAM Scholarship competition has concluded and the winners have been announced. The IAM has always placed a high value on education, from funding scholarships for IAM members and their families to advocating for a national investment in skills training. The IAM has awarded scholarships to members and children of members throughout the U.S. and Canada since 1960.

An impartial committee of educators selected 16 recipients for this year's awards. Twelve college and two vocational school scholarships were awarded to children of members, and two scholarships went to IAM members.

Each year, the IAM also awards a special scholarship named after Roman Mayfield, a 55-year member of Seattle IAM District 751 and legendary trade unionist who passed away in 2002. The Mayfield Scholarship goes to the recipient who best represents the spirit of volunteerism and service to his or her community, which was a hallmark of Brother Mayfield. Kameron Mongold, son of Enid, OK Local Lodge 898 member



Amanda Bailey
Parent: Khristopher Bailey
LL 1189 – Sheffield, AL



Anthony R. Ferrentino
Parent: Anthony F. Ferrentino
LL 447 – New York, NY



Varnun Garg
Parent: Sarita Garg
LL 2210 – San Antonio, TX



Shauna T. Goodman
IAM MEMBER
LL 2765 – San Diego, CA



William Grant
Parent: William Grant, Sr.
LL S76 – Glassboro, NJ



Ian Hollander
Parent: Marsha Moore-Hettick
LL FL1241 – Big Fort, MT



Alice X. Huang
Parent: Hong Li
LL 751F – Seattle, WA



Allison Jussila
Parent: Robert Jussila
LL 692 – Vancouver, BC,
Canada



Victor Kang
Parent: Irena I. Stefanova
LL 16 – Richmond, BC,
Canada





Nicole Katchur
Parent: John Katchur
LL 1776 – Philadelphia, PA



Maria Marin
Parent: Ovidiu Marin
LL 1432 – Portland, OR



Stephanie Marshall
IAM MEMBER –
LL 2202 – Seattle, WA



Kameron Mongold
Parent: Tony D. Mongold
LL 898 – Enid, OK
[Roman Mayfield Winner]



Madison Porter
Parent: Harold Porter
LL 1821 – Bucksport, ME



Rachael Tumlos
Parent: Jose Tumlos
LL 48 – Chicago, IL



Brittany Swanson
Parent: Steve Swanson
LL W536 – Longview, WA

Tony D. Mongold, was awarded the 2013 Mayfield Scholarship.

“We congratulate the winners and thank all those who participated in the 2013 competition,” said IAM Safety and Health, Apprenticeship and Scholarship Department Director Mike Flynn, whose department administers the popular program. “The IAM Scholarship program is possible because of the generosity of IAM locals, districts and other donors who contribute to the Scholarship Fund, and we thank them for their support.”

The three-person panel that

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Nadia Drissi El Bouzaidi
Parent: Bouzid Drissi
LL 764 – Vancouver, BC, Canada

Jackie Hong
Parent: Joe Hong
LL 1584 – Oakland, CA

Amy Campbell
IAM Member:
LL 480 – Oakridge, TN

Courtney B. Mullins
Parent: Larry T. Mullins
LL 1943 – Middletown, OH

Lindsey M. Connery
Parent: Dawn Derlin Connery
LL 2339H – Houston, TX

Ross J. Schultz
Parent: Suzanne L. Schultz
LL 2073 – Appleton, WI

Payton L. Edberg
Parent: James H. Cotter
LL 2003 – Daleville, AL

William R. Sliwinski
Parent: Dominic Sliwinski
LL 701 – Chicago, IL

selected the winners included Michael J. O’Leary, the Vice President for Enrollment Management at Goucher College in Baltimore; Denise Simmons Graves, a psychology professor and counselor at Montgomery College in Rockville, MD; and Julie Weismantel, who is the chair of the committee and works at the Canadian Embassy.

Application packets for the 2014 competition, with information on eligibility requirements, will be mailed to all local and district lodges later this summer and will be available to download at www.goiam.org/scholarship.



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Solidarity at the South Pole



IAM Local Lodge 99 member Spencer Smirl, left, holds the IAM flag with another participant of the Fiennes Antarctic crossing expedition. The six-month journey will go from Crown Bay on the continent's east shore to the South Pole and then to Ross Island on the continent's south shore.

Machinists Union members have proudly taken the IAM flag to the ends of the Earth throughout the union's 125-year history.

In September 2010, it reached new heights when District Lodge 140 General Chairperson Michel Pelot displayed the Quebec Machinists flag at the summit of the world's fourth-highest moun-

tain, Mount Kilimanjaro. Retired Local Lodge 1781 member Bob Hoffman has even taken the IAM logo to the top of Mount Everest.

Now, Local Lodge 99 member Spencer Smirl of Calgary, Alberta, Canada is taking the flag to the southernmost point of the Earth's axis – the South Pole.



At 28, Smirl is the youngest member of the “The Coldest Journey,” a more than 2,000-mile-long coast-to-coast crossing of Antarctica that aims to raise \$10 million for the fight against avoidable blindness. The trip is being made during the Antarctic winter, when the sun almost never rises and temperatures can dip to a life-threatening -90 degrees Celsius. It’s a feat that’s never been done before.

Smirl is one of two mechanics on a journey that will last more than six months, including 273 days on the ice. The expedition, which left its base at Crown Bay on March 21, 2013, is using two CAT D6N track-type tractors to pull an “ice train” – two cabooses that contain accommodations, storage and sci-

entific lab units. The CAT D6N’s were donated by Finning International and extensively modified for the expedition. Smirl and fellow mechanic Richmond Dykes are responsible for maintaining the tractors during the historic trek.

Smirl has been working at the Ekati Diamond Mine facility near the Arctic Circle since 2011, so he’s used to working in isolation and braving sub-zero temperatures in near-total darkness. Two days out of Crown Bay, he took time to pose with the Machinists Flag when the temperature was -67 degrees Celsius.

Click [here](#) to visit the “The Coldest Journey” website, which includes a live map and blog updates on the expedition.



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TCU

Call Goes Out to Honor Recent TCU Members of the Military

The 34th Regular Convention of the Transportation Communications Union/IAM will start on July 22, 2014, with the Carmen Division Convention taking place the day before, on July 21, 2014. The Convention will be held at the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas, NV. The Official Call will be issued in November 2013. However, preparations have already begun.

In keeping with past traditions, the 2014 Convention will pay tribute to those among us who are or have been in the military recently – members, including their spouses, children and grandchildren, who are now serving or who have been in military service since the last Convention in 2009.

TCU/IAM members are being asked to send information about themselves and/or family members who have served our great nation.

The information should be sent via email to giffordk@tcunion.org and should include the following:

- ◆ The individual's name
- ◆ His/her rank and branch of the



The 2014 Transportation Communications Union (TCU/IAM) will feature a tribute to TCU/IAM members who have been in military service since the last TCU Convention in 2009.

military (Army, Navy, Air Force, etc.) and the place where he/she is or was assigned to duty

- ◆ The relationship of the person in the military to the TCU/IAM member
- ◆ A high-resolution digital photo, if at all possible

These brave men and women deserve our highest respect, admiration



and gratitude and to know how proud we are of their courage. Please help TCU/IAM tell the world about the special people among us and let them know they are a part of a TCU/IAM family that cares about each of them, thanks them, honors them and prays for their swift and safe return.



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Transportation

Joint Air Transport Conference Focuses on Safety



Participants in IAM's Joint Air Transport Safety Committee meeting at the William Winpisinger Education Center develop ways to improve safety in the airline industry.

The IAM's Joint Air Transport Safety Committee (JATSC) last week held its annual Ground Safety Conference at the Winpisinger Center. Attendees included workers from classifications at IAM-represented airlines, Transport Workers Union (TWU) Mechanic and Fleet Service guests, District Lodge 140, 141 and 142 representatives, Grand Lodge staff and airline manage-

ment representatives.

“The information discussed in this year's conference is vital for the safety of all IAM members,” said District 141 Ground Safety Director and United Airlines Ram Serviceman Bill Salo. “From the dangers of lightning to accident investigation, all participants received top-notch instructions.”

The conference was intensive and



“The conference was a huge success and demonstrated how collaboration from all stakeholders benefits IAM Members”

Ron Miller
*JATSC Chairman and
US Airways Mechanic*

topics ranged from threat and error management, distracted driver, OSHA, hearing conservation and other critical safety topics. Instructors from diverse organizations such as OSHA, the National Safety Council and Honeywell Safety Products

offered important insights to participants.

“The conference was a huge success and demonstrated how collaboration from all stakeholders benefits IAM members,” said JATSC Chairman and US Airways Lead Mechanic Ron Miller. “The safety of IAM members is the focus of the JATSC and this conference ensures that local safety representatives are equipped with the knowledge to make IAM members safer on the job.”

The JATSC includes members from all IAM-represented airlines who together develop and implement safety-related programs so that IAM members can remain safe on the job.



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IAM Helps Launch CT Manufacturing Initiative

Goodwin College President Mark Scheinberg, left, and Congressman John Larson (D-CT), center, present IAM Headquarters General Vice President Rich Michalski, right, with a certificate commemorating the new Richard P. Michalski Scholarship program.



Classes are underway for a new certification program, crafted with the help of IAM Headquarters General Vice President Rich Michalski, designed to help sustain and protect well-paying manufacturing jobs throughout the state of Connecticut.

Michalski joined U.S. Rep. John Larson (D-CT), Gov. Dan Malloy and Goodwin College President Mark Scheinberg in launching the Goodwin Certified Production Technician (CPT) program.

“These programs are a win-win for everyone in the community and Connecticut,” said Michalski. “In the future, when employers say, ‘Should I be here or


shouldn’t I be here in Connecticut?’ The answer is going to be a loud and resounding, ‘I want to be in Connecticut because we have the best, the most efficient, the most quality-conscious workers in the country. That’s our goal.’”

The CPT program has already begun with a pilot class of students that includes instruction by industry veterans.

Machinists from IAM Local Lodge 743 have already taken the class and become certified. They are now eligible to become adjunct instructors in the future.

“People say that manufacturing is dying in Connecticut,” said IAM District 26 Directing Business Representative Everett





Corey. “We’re taking the initiative to make sure that doesn’t happen. District 26 is striving to keep jobs here and encouraging new employment in manufacturing.”

“It’s not about reinventing the wheel, because there are training programs everywhere,” said Michalski. “This is about polishing the diamond. The diamond is Connecticut. The diamond is the citizens of Connecticut and we want to be associated with that.”

During a press conference announcing the program’s launch, participants honored Michalski for his commitment to creating jobs with a Certificate of Special Congres-

sional Recognition and the establishment of the new Richard P. Michalski Scholarship program.

The CPT is the first of two manufacturing initiatives recently launched in Connecticut. The second, headed by newly-elected U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT) and Gov. Malloy, involves the convening of a panel to discuss ways the federal government can help sustain Connecticut’s manufacturing sector. President of the Connecticut State Council of Machinists and Director of GrowJobsCT, John Harrity, has been instrumental in that initiative.



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