



Fact Sheet: The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers was founded in 1888 and is one of the nation's oldest labor unions.

The IAM is headquartered in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, approximately thirty minutes from our nation's capital, Washington D.C.

The IAM is an affiliate of the 12 million member American Federation of Labor—Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) and IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger is an elected member of the AFL-CIO Executive Council.

With 700,000 members, the IAM is also one of the nation's largest labor unions, and the largest union representing workers in the airline and aerospace industries. In addition to the aerospace and airline industries, the IAM also represents workers in auto repair, law enforcement, municipal and federal employment, as well as workers in a wide range of manufacturing occupations.

IAM members are diverse, including Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, Eskimos, Latinos, Asians, Middle-Easterners as well as African-Americans and Caucasians and more. IAM represents workers in all 50 states in the United States, and 10 provinces and three territories of Canada.

With more than 2000 local unions, the IAM has a long history of member of democracy and is one of only a handful of international unions in which members directly vote for their international officers.

The IAM has been at the forefront of collective bargaining and among the first unions in the country to win the eight-hour day, paid vacations and sick leave, employer-paid health insurance, and defined benefit pension funds.

In recent years, the IAM has been one of the few unions that have attempted to bridge the gap between active employees and the unemployed. Its UCubed program, a grassroots online network, is designed to unify and give voice to the unemployed.