

All Hands on Deck

IUPAT Government Affairs Team Joins the Crusade to Create New Jobs for Members

Ask just about any International Union of Painters and Allied Trades member what the IUPAT Government Affairs Department does on a daily basis, and the image of black-and-gold t-shirts and signs at rallies will most likely come to mind. However, the mission of the Government Affairs Department goes far deeper than being seen and heard on the campaign trail (or bus trail—see story, next page). The department is also a key resource for potential job and market share growth within the IUPAT and the construction industry.

MINING OPPORTUNITY IN THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

In February 2009, President Barack Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This landmark legislation made \$787 billion available to bolster segments of our failing economy. The act includes federal tax cuts; expansion of unemployment benefits and other social welfare provisions; and domestic spending in education, health care, and infrastructure, including the energy sector.

What does that mean for IUPAT members? Job opportunities. *Engineering News Record* (ENR) recently reported that ARRA has “preserved or created 640,329 jobs so far, including more than 80,000 in construction.” Our Government Affairs Department is determined to make certain that IUPAT members get their share of those new and preserved jobs. In fact, it’s a top priority.

“Times like these are exactly the reason why we work so hard to elect pro-working-family candidates,” said Government Affairs Director Chris

Sloan. “Not only are we able to get a chance to meet with leadership, but those whom we’re meeting with genuinely listen and understand our concerns. They may not agree with everything we say, but at least we’ve got a seat at the table to make our case.”

The hard work of the IUPAT Government Affairs team is starting to bring results for members: IUPAT signatory contractors in Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania have already won work under the ARRA.

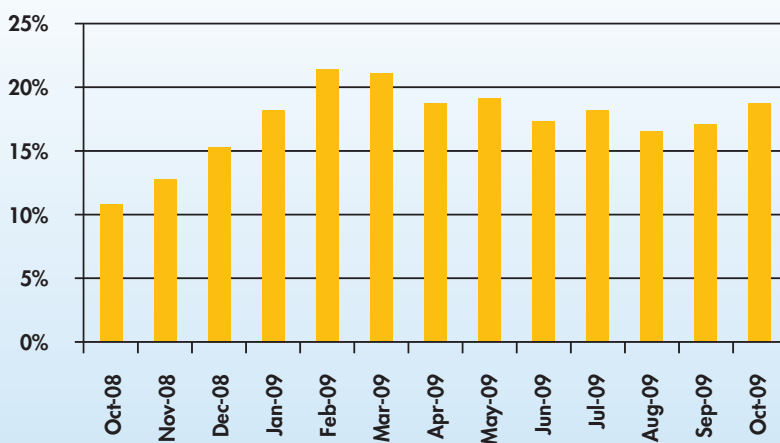
Furthermore, thanks to IUPAT and fellow trade union lobbying, we were able to secure Davis Bacon rules on all the construction money in ARRA. This includes areas where we have not won it before: clean water projects, energy efficiency, Title 17 loan guarantees (nuclear, large powerhouses).

“It goes to prove something that I’ve been saying for a long time,”

said IUPAT General President James Williams. “Each department of the IUPAT plays an essential role in the overall success of our union in its efforts to effectively serve the membership. Years ago, Government Affairs might not have been the first department our members think of when we talk job creation, but it’s become very clear in this economy that a strong voice in Washington, DC, can make a powerful, positive difference in the lives of our members.”

Sloan was quick to stress that ARRA is by no means a quick or easy fix for our membership’s unemployment problems. It is a slow, tedious, bureaucratic process to win work under the funds provided by the act and jobs are slow to generate. However, this unprecedented economic stimulus is a lifeline that this union is grabbing for the benefit of its members. More to come.

Construction Unemployment Rate



Grim employment numbers have prevailed over the course of the past year. That’s why the IUPAT Government Affairs Department is doing its part to try to reverse the negative trend.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

In coordination with our brothers and sisters in the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers and the Operative Plasterers' & Cement Masons' International Association, IUPAT General President James Williams dispatched its Government Affairs Department to assist and coordinate with District Council 711 (New Jersey) and District Council 51 (Washington, DC;

Maryland, and Virginia) efforts to win their respective gubernatorial and state house races.

Unfortunately, we didn't see very many victories on election night, but we definitely made an impression on Virginia and New Jersey voters with our customized campaign buses. There is no doubt that the men and women of the IUPAT give it their all when we support our candidates.



IUPAT buses take to the road in the Mid-Atlantic region.

SLOAN APPOINTED NEW IUPAT DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Effective immediately, Chris Sloan is the new director of the IUPAT Government Affairs Department. Sloan, a recent grad of Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, was hired as the lobbyist for the department in January 2008. Since then, he has not only successfully lobbied on behalf of numerous IUPAT member interests, he spearheaded the triumphant Obama/Biden bus tour in Florida in the last presidential election.

"Chris's talent for generating spirit and activism among our members in the field, along with his remarkable grasp of the issues important for working families on Capitol Hill, make him an invaluable member of the IUPAT team in the International," said IUPAT General President James Williams. "We look forward to



Chris Sloan

seeing great things continuing to develop in one of the most dynamic and important IUPAT departments."

"It is a great honor and privilege to serve the men and women of the IUPAT in this new capacity," said Sloan. "I look forward to working in cooperation with our affiliates to elect candidates who serve on behalf of working people, and to ensuring that legislation that is passed by elected officials serves the interest of IUPAT members and families."

Tim Stricker, former director of the department, will now devote his full attention to being the executive assistant to the general president and overseeing the successful implementation of all of the general president's initiatives for the union.