

The IUPAT Stimulus Package

From the Desk of the IUPAT General President

When I took office over seven years ago, I made the financial security of this union my top priority. The market was still suffering from the attacks of 9/11 and there was a presidential administration in place that made it clear on day-one that unions would be under fire. Suffice to say, the deck was stacked against us. Therefore, I knew that if we were going to grow as an organization, we first had to have a solid financial foundation to build upon.

The first thing we did at the International was make certain that our own house was in order. We made cuts in staff, reduced our professional fees (i.e. lawyers, consultants and accountants), streamlined vendors and adopted a fiscally responsible spending policy. As a result, we were able to grow the General Fund of the International from \$5 million in 2002 to just over \$50 million in 2008.

Once we had the International on the right financial course, we set out to bring our affiliates along as well. As you can see in this chart, the International has supplied over \$51 million in financial support to our affiliates in one form or another since 2005. In return, we've demanded strict financial planning and oversight on their part. I'm happy to report that our joint efforts were successful. We were well prepared as a union to weather this economic storm we're in now.

Yet, we still have to face the fact that you, the member, will no doubt have to endure this down economy for some time to come. I know that many of you are struggling to find work, and many more of you fear that you'll soon lose the job you have. Not a day goes by that I don't hear from at least one of our members who's scared to death about what lies ahead of us all. Believe me, your leadership hears you and is working every day to keep our employers working so that you stay working.

These hard days, like all others, will come to an end. Our markets will recover and our jobs will come back. We have to be ready for those better days ahead and that's why the International will continue to support our affiliates. Your district council must remain ready and able to represent your rights in the workplace and keep your skills sharp. In the meantime, we must be good union members and take care of each other in this time of need. It's no accident that at our union meetings we address fellow members as 'brother' or 'sister.' We do so because the day you joined this union, you became part of a family.

IUPAT General President James A. Williams

If you have any questions for me about what this union is doing for you, the member, fill out the enclosed card or go to our web site at www.IUPAT.org and click on 'Ask the GP.' Otherwise, I hope to see you at your

local union meeting in the months ahead. I'm always ready to answer any questions you have and willing to listen to any of your concerns or frustrations. Remember, we are ONE UNION. We're in this together.



International Union to Affiliates

Overall Financial Assistance 2005-2009

\$51,163,703

