



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES

Clean Sweep! Des Moines Workers Vote to Remain as Members of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades

*In six regional elections, workers have voted six times to reject raiding attempts
by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters*

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Des Moines, Iowa ---- Early this morning, 46 men and women, all members of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT), gathered in Des Moines and voted to remain with the IUPAT, outright denying the attempts by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters (UBC) to compel them into switching union representation.

In an election mandated by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), the Des Moines workers voted 42 to 4 against the UBC. This is the sixth such election, and the sixth IUPAT victory, since June of this year.

“Once again, union solidarity has emerged as the clear winner over another union’s divisive tactics,” said James A. Williams, general president of the IUPAT, upon hearing the news. “I would hope that the vote totals in the last six elections make it extremely clear to the leadership of the UBC that the good, hard working men and women in the labor movement do not agree with the way it conducts its business.”

The dispute over workers who perform interior drywall finishing, a recognized jurisdiction of the IUPAT since the late 1950’s, began in February of 2004 as IUPAT contracts with local employers neared expiration and renewal talks were in preliminary stages. In an attempt to increase their own membership ranks, the UBC used tactics universally condemned by labor leaders. The quarrel led to the six elections overseen by the NLRB in Omaha and Des Moines. The combined vote in those elections was 143 to 19 against the UBC.

The International Union of Painters and Allied Trades represents over 140,000 working men and women in a wide variety of trades, including painting, glazing, dry wall finishing and floor covering. Its membership spans both the United States and Canada.