

An Historic Dual Endorsement

Presidential politics is front page news. Campaigns report raising \$9, \$17 even \$32 million in just the last 90 days. In forums, speeches and on the internet, candidates act as if the election were right around the corner.

Why is so much activity taking place so soon? A very early calendar of state primaries and caucuses is why.

Twenty-five states will hold presidential primaries or caucuses between January 14 and February 5, 2008. Another sixteen states will vote by March 4, 2008. The process could produce the Republican and Democratic nominees for President of the United States long before mid-March.

And Machinists Union members must make their votes felt in those early contests.

For the first time in our 119-year history, the IAM will endorse one Republican and one Democratic candidate in the primaries. This historic dual endorsement will come after the candidates - and our members - have had a chance to be heard.

Five Republican and five Democratic candidates were invited to participate in separate "Conversations with the Candidates" at the IAM National Staff Conference in late August. Moderated by Erin Moriarty of CBS News, these conversations will focus on the issues of jobs, school, health care, trade, manufacturing and energy.

In the weeks before the National Staff Conference, IAM leaders in district and local lodges will sound out their membership. IAM members will have a chance to express their preferences for these candidates in online and telephone surveys.

Ultimately two presidential candidates will emerge -- one from each major party -- who will have earned the IAM endorsement in the all-important primary and caucus season. As always, the IAM will endorse a single candidate in the general election who will stand up for working families.

Have you heard?

An Internet Bulletin for IAM Communicators

goiam.org

