

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM-AW) was founded in 1888 in Atlanta, Georgia by 19 machinists led by Thomas W. Talbot. Originally created to address low wages, long hours, and unsafe working conditions, the IAM-AW rapidly grew into one of North America's most influential labor unions. Its purpose is to advocate for dignity, justice, and fairness in the workplace by empowering workers to negotiate strong labor contracts, improve safety, and secure benefits. Over the decades, the IAM-AW has expanded to represent workers across a wide range of industries including aerospace, railroads, federal government, manufacturing, and automotive/trucking. Milestones include the successful organization of Boeing workers, expansion into Canada, and advocacy for labor rights legislation. Today, the IAMAW continues to fight for economic and social justice, emphasizing worker empowerment, education, and political action.

IAM Local 777 was chartered on April 3, 1920, and has been a pillar of labor advocacy in the St. Louis area for over 105 years. Currently representing over 3,300 workers, Local 777 primarily supports professionals in the automotive, trucking, heavy equipment, and collision/refinish industries. Recently, the local has broadened its reach to include production workers, showcasing its commitment to growing worker representation and adapting to the changing labor landscape.

Local 777 has been at the forefront of securing industry-leading contracts that have set a high bar for labor standards. These contracts include competitive wages, fully company-paid medical insurance for members and their families, robust retirement plans including defined pensions and 401(k)s, and tool allowances. Moreover, the local has championed strong workplace safety standards and countless other benefits and protections enshrined in collectively bargained agreements.

These significant achievements are not incidental but are the result of the tireless organizing efforts, deep dedication, and accumulated knowledge and experience of business representatives. The strength and solidarity of its membership have been essential in these victories, demonstrating the power of unity and sustained effort. Local 777 continues to advocate for its members with integrity and strength, honoring its legacy while building toward a more equitable future for all workers it represents.