Thomas Jefferson Would Be Proud

Town hall meetings are the best example of democracy in action.

The right to speak freely in a public forum is recognized worldwide as a litmus test for any country's, or any organization's, commitment to individual liberty and freedom of expression.

At the IAM, a member's freedom of speech is highly prized. Its exercise is essential for a vibrant and vigorous union. And another chance to exercise that right is right around the corner.

A third round of Blue Ribbon Commission meetings, where IAM members can speak freely and publicly on matters of importance, begins in late March.

Forty meetings will be held in locations across North America. All members are encouraged to attend a meeting in their area and express their hopes and aspirations for this great union.

This is YOUR chance to SPEAK OUT on any topic YOU feel deserves attention.

In 1995 and 1998, thousands of IAM members did so. They provided suggestions, advice, encouragement and constructive criticism. They and their union benefited from this valuable free wheeling exchange.

Next week, the dates, times and locations of the Blue Ribbon Commission meetings will be posted on <u>www.goiam.org</u>. Please make plans to attend a meeting near you and share your thoughts on what your union can do for you and what you can do for your union.

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