



Convention *News*

28th INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION • LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Tuesday, June 28, 2011



Hoffa Delivers Five-Year Report

Details Union's Successes Since Last Convention

Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa welcomed the thousands of Teamster delegates, guests and union officers to the 28th International Convention yesterday.

"We've all heard the saying, 'Whatever happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas.' Well, I don't agree with that," Hoffa said. "We want the world to know what happens here this week. I want you to leave here and let the world know that the Teamsters are stronger than ever."

In his five-year report, Hoffa thanked his partner, General Secretary-Treasurer Tom Keegel, before he talked about the challenges facing the union in the years to come and how far the union has come since the 27th International Convention in 2006.

"When we work together, we show workers what a union is," Hoffa said. "We are the ones, all of us in this room, that have to deliver hope to the middle class. The greatest social program in the world is a Teamster contract."

In the last five years, the Teamsters Union has organized 135,000 new members. Hoffa mentioned the 30,000 new First Student Teamsters, organizing victories in Teamsters Canada, all the new airline units organized, many new members in public services, and organizing victories in right-to-work states. Hoffa also spoke about bad trade deals, the ugly reemergence of the Mexican trucks issue and the ongoing war on workers.

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Roy Lincoln Opens Afternoon Session

First-Ever Rank-and-File to Chair Convention

Roy Lincoln, a 44-year Yellow driver from Local 673 in West Chicago, was the first rank-and-file member to ever chair a Teamster Convention in its 108-year history. Yesterday, he opened the afternoon session and introduced musician Tom Morello.

"It's an unbelievable honor," Lincoln said of his Convention experience. "My father was a former Teamster before he passed away and he always told me to be a Teamster. I couldn't have asked for a better union for me and my family."

This year, Lincoln reached 4-million safe-driving miles—the equivalent of eight round trips to the moon. That's an extraordinary achievement considering most American passenger vehicles log about 12,000 miles a year. This is Lincoln's first Convention and he's looking forward to a week of solidarity with his Teamster brothers and sisters.



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TEAMSTERS VOW TO STOP THE WAR ON WORKERS

Union Opens Convention with Resolve to Rebuild Middle Class

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters opened their 28th Convention yesterday with plenty of noise and a new resolve to stand up for the American dream. The opening ceremonies featured an energetic drum line, a throng of protesters waving “Stop the War on Workers” signs and a dozen motorcycles roaring through the Convention hall at the Paris Hotel.

Teamsters General Secretary-Treasurer Tom Keegel set the tone early in the day with a vow: “There’s no way they’re going to bust us or take us down because it ain’t gonna happen.”

Delegates from the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico passed resolutions to support public workers, to oppose job-killing trade deals, to keep the border closed to dangerous Mexican trucks, to fight against right-to-work bills and to stop the war on workers.

Teamster delegates unanimously resolved to “take the opportunity of this 28th International Convention to strengthen the unity and solidarity within our ranks and with all those who are committed to fighting and defeating the War on Workers as the only effective way to victory.”

The Teamsters, their families and guests heard from some of the central players in the battleground states over the past six months. Indiana Assembly Minority Leader Patrick Bauer thanked the Teamsters for



organizing five weeks of protests in Indianapolis. Retired Teamster Dave Hansen, fighting for his state Senate seat in Wisconsin, said in a video greeting that the war against workers wasn’t just about unions. “This is truly about the middle class,” Hansen said.

Charlie Andrew, PAC chairman for Local 407 in Cleveland, pledged that Teamsters would kill SB5, a new state law stripping government workers of their collective bargaining rights, in a referendum this November. “The public understands that the unions are the only shot the middle class

has,” Andrew said.

Musician Tom Morello, who played at protests in Wisconsin and Los Angeles, also performed. “It’s up to us to turn the tide, not just to stop a few bad pieces of legislation,” Morello said.

Turning the tide means fighting against trade deals that allow unfair competition from workers in countries where wages and standards are lower, delegates were told. It means supporting public workers, stopping legislation to destroy unions and keeping the border closed to dangerous Mexican trucks.



Organizing Victory Announced in Vegas

Yesterday, General President Jim Hoffa told Teamster delegates the best way to stand up against the war on workers: “This is how we fight back—we organize,” Hoffa said.

Just a few hours later, Hoffa announced the Teamsters Union won the representation election more than 3,100 pilots employed by Indianapolis-based Republic Airways Holdings by a 2-to-1 margin.

Hoffa Delivers Five-Year Report

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“They are trying to villanize teachers and nurses and police officers. They tell us not to worry, that they’re not after Teamsters. But Teamsters are nurses, police officers, sanitation workers, road workers, corrections officers,” Hoffa said. “The Teamsters represent 250,000 public workers. Teamsters know an injury to one is an injury to all and we’ll stand with our public service workers.”

Hoffa talked about the nationwide mobilization of Teamsters fighting back in one of the most critical battles the labor movement has ever seen.

“They want to destroy what took us a century to build,” Hoffa said of the new crop of anti-union governors, politicians and legislatures nationwide. “But they kicked a bee’s nest... When we’re done with Scott Walker in Wisconsin and John Kasich in Ohio and Chris Christie in New Jersey, they won’t be able to get elected dogcatcher!”

“Vision, Solidarity, Action. That is the theme of our Convention. That’s how we will stop the war on workers and win the war for the middle class,” Hoffa said.



In the SPOTLIGHT

What is the most pressing issue facing the Teamsters today?



“I’m concerned about workers’ rights. Government is trying to bust unions and take from public employees, which affects all workers.”
 –Jim MacLean, Local 542, San Diego

“Communication with our younger workers is an important issue. I don’t think it’s that young people don’t care, they just don’t know enough about unions. We need to get through to them.”

–Karen Matthews, Local 391, Greensboro, N.C.



“We need to get more member involvement in the union, especially with our younger members.”
 –Larry Phillips, BMWED Allied Federation, Hendersonville, Tenn.

“Politicians attacking working people.”
 –Floyd Griffin, Local 117, Tukwila, Wash.



“Organizing! It’s important to mobilize people to help organize. And we need to deal with companies manipulating workers not to organize.”
 –Angelo Wilson, Local 570, Baltimore

TUESDAY

Agenda Highlights

All Times and Events are Subject to Change

- 8 a.m. Exhibit Hall Opens
- 9 a.m. Convention Convenes
- 9:20 a.m. Election Supervisor Richard Mark
- 9:25 a.m. Nominations for At-Large Vice Presidents
- 10:20 a.m. Nominations for Trustees
- 10:50 a.m. Report of the General Secretary-Treasurer
- 11:40 a.m. Newark Mayor Cory Booker
- 11:50 a.m. ITF President Paddy Crumlin
- 12:20 p.m. Lunch Recess
- 2 p.m. Call to Order
- 2:05 p.m. SEIU President Mary Kay Henry
- 3:15 p.m. Ohio Rep. Steven LaTourette
- 4 p.m. Steve Turner, Unite/UK
- 4:30 p.m. UPS Freight Report
- 4:40 p.m. Recess for Nomination Vote
- 8 p.m. Announcement of Voting Results



Wherever there's a fight and the livelihood of the working class is at stake, The Nightwatchman is there. Yesterday, musician Tom Morello, who records under the name The Nightwatchman, rallied the delegates and guests at the 28th International Convention.

Morello grew up in a union home and has been a dedicated workers' rights activist his entire professional career, which spanned time with the bands Rage Against the Machine and Audioslave.

He united the pro-union crowds in Madison in the thick of the protests, and he stood strong with the Teamsters Union at the L.A. rally and march for workers' rights. After joining hundreds of thousands marching in the streets in Wisconsin, Morello dedicated himself to writing songs to support the cause.

"The next day I decided I was going to record an album of unapologetically pro-labor, pro-working class, pro-union songs and donate 100 percent of the proceeds to the union struggles across the nation," Morello said.

Morello's three-song set included his "Union Song" and the more radical, original version of Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land." He invited Teamsters to join him on stage for his last song and led the crowd in a sing-along in solidarity with workers everywhere.

