



CONVENTION *News*

29TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ■ LAS VEGAS, NEVADA ■ FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2016

LIVING HISTORY

Waste Worker Testimonial Spans Generations

History came to life yesterday at the Teamsters 29th International Convention. Two figures from the historic 1968 Memphis sanitation strike told their tale of determination to a rapt audience.

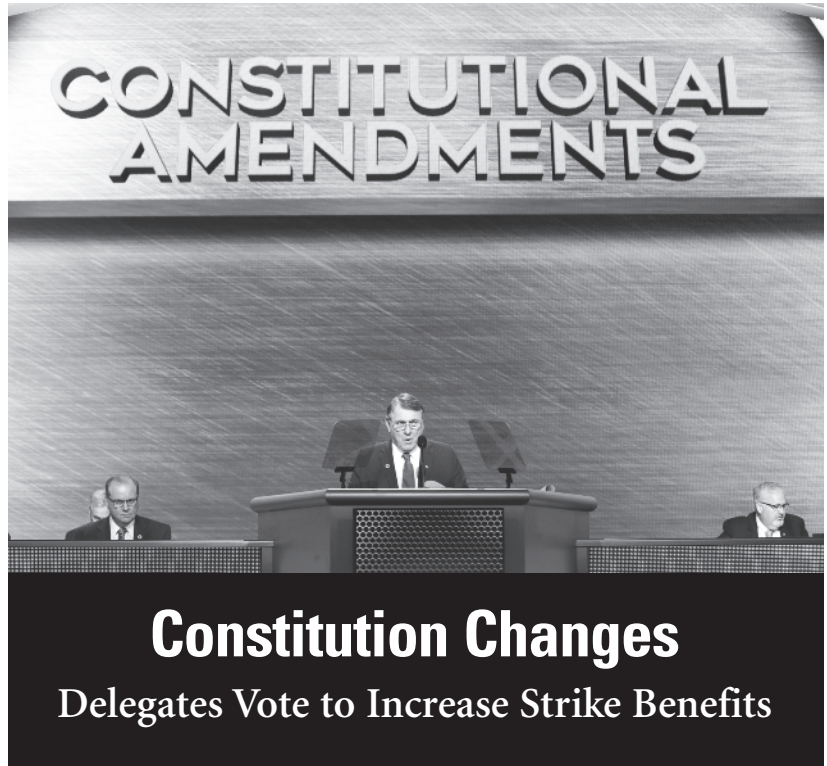
Alvin Turner and Baxter Leach didn't stop their union activism after the 1968 strike. In fact, they are still doing all they can today on behalf of workers in the industry. They have participated in Teamster organizing campaigns.

"The word 'hero' is thrown around way too easy. These two men are heroes and they are unbelievable," said Chuck Stiles, Vice President of Local 728 in Atlanta, while introducing them. "They are a wealth of knowledge and they never, ever stop. The reason these guys fight so hard is they know what unions did for them, how the power of the union lifted them up."

"You all make me feel good. You all have shown me nothing but love and I thank you. If ever you need me, I'm available," Turner said to a standing ovation. The audience held up signs that read, "I Am A Man," modeled after the signs carried in the 1968 strike.

Ron Collins, a Waste Management Teamster in Memphis, spoke after Leach and Turner and told how far the union has brought waste workers since 1968.

Ron Herrera, Director of the Teamsters Solid Waste and Recycling Division, also talked about how far the waste campaign has come in recent years and the challenges still facing workers in the industry. He impressed upon the audience the importance of unions working together in a coordinated fashion, and the importance of looking to the past for inspiration.



At the Teamsters Convention, delegates meet to engage in the work of the union. One of the most important aspects of the Convention is amending the union's Constitution.

General President Jim Hoffa and General Secretary-Treasurer Ken Hall are co-chairs of the Constitution Committee, which met in the days leading up to the Convention to propose, debate and vote on whether amendments come to the floor of the Convention for a vote.

These amendments cover a diverse range of issues, from general house-keeping such as deleting outdated language, to much more important issues facing the union and its members.

The most significant change to the Constitution was a striker security package that increased strike benefits. Benefits went from four to five times a member's monthly dues. Strike benefits are now a minimum of \$150 per week up from \$100 per week.

Members overwhelmingly approved the new language, with several delegates speaking forcefully in favor of it.

Denis Taylor, President of Baltimore's Local 355, rose in support of the amendment. "When you assumed leadership,

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Keep on Truckin'

A convoy of Teamster trucks rolled down Las Vegas Boulevard yesterday in a show of Teamster power, electrifying thousands of Teamsters and other spectators.



— Ariz. Lawmaker Touts Teamsters' Role in Crafting Policy —



Unions like the Teamsters are seeing their popularity grow with the public and have a real opportunity to shape the national agenda in the years to come, an Arizona congressman said yesterday during

the Teamsters 29th International Convention.

Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.) told thousands of attendees the Teamsters play an essential role in making sure policy concerns for everyday Americans are heard and considered on Capitol Hill. And that's needed, he added, as many are content with the status quo.

Unions, he said, have continually provided a pathway for workers to earn fair wages and benefits.

"We should be looking at labor to build a true middle class," the freshman lawmaker said. "They are taking people who want to do the right thing and training them for real middle-class jobs."

But to maximize those opportunities,

Congress needs to reject things like the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Gallego stood tall in the unsuccessful effort to stop fast track, which will allow a quick up-or-down vote on the 12-nation Pacific Rim trade deal.

"It has never made sense to me why we keep stacking the deck against America workers, and it never will," he said. And he promised similar resolve in the effort to defeat TPP.

Gallego also called for an increased focus on pro-collective bargaining policies, as well as education as a way to lift up the fortunes of younger people.

"My message to you is to think bold and act bolder," he said.



Teamsters Canada President Speaks

François Laporte, President of Teamsters Canada, addressed delegates yesterday and touched on how politics has affected his union in Canada and how they have gotten involved.

“Since Monday, we’ve been hearing about the tough times facing the American middle class, and how you’re facing regressive legislation voted by right-wing politicians controlled by corporations,” Laporte said. “In Canada, over the last decade, we faced a similar situation.”

Teamsters Canada, along with the Canadian labor movement, worked hard to elect a new government last October—and they succeeded.

“Today I want you to know that there is hope,” he said. “We now have a government that listens to us. A government that invests in future generations, a government that takes care of the middle class by adapting our social safety net to the needs of the workers rather than corporate greed... When we fight for what is right and when we work together, we can achieve progress that we would have thought impossible only a few years ago.”

Constitution Changes

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we had no strike fund,” Taylor said from the floor to Hoffa. “Today it stands at \$150 million... Increasing strike benefits sends a strong message to employers that Teamsters are ready to strike and win.”

“The companies we fight on a day-to-day basis have the resources to have a long, protracted fight” in the event of a strike, said Keith Gleason, President of Local 627 in Peoria, Ill. “It’s in our members’ best interest that this resolution be passed that we raise these strike benefits.”

Other changes included language reflecting the end of the Consent Decree and eliminating retroactive dues increases.

All changes to the Constitution were accepted unanimously, while an amendment to an amendment on the striker protection package, proposed by Local 89 President Fred Zuckerman, was defeated.

In the SPOTLIGHT

What has been your favorite part of the Convention?



“Learning, educating, participating and continuing the fight for what we do.” –Jr. Savusa, Local 996, Honolulu



“The port testimonial, Tom Morello, the Exhibition Hall, networking... I can’t pick a favorite.” –Dave Hernandez, Local 30, Youngwood, Pa.



“The parade march in of the delegates to the Convention Hall.” –Claudia Pettit, Local 90, Des Moines, Iowa



“When locals lined up to donate to the Bornstein family’s charity.” –Anarudh Prasa, Local 117, Seattle



“Getting to see my Teamster brothers and sisters from around the country.” –Walter Howard, Local 385, Orlando, Fla.

FRIDAY'S NOMINATION SPOTLIGHT



FRIDAY AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

All Times and Events are Subject To Change

- 9:15 a.m. Convention Convenes
- 9:35 a.m. Election Supervisor
Richard Mark
- 9:40 a.m. Acceptance Speeches of
General President and
General Secretary-Treasurer
Candidates
- 10:20 a.m. Resolutions Omnibus
- 10:25 a.m. Closing Video
- 10:35 a.m. Retirement of Color Guard
- 10:45 a.m. Solidarity Forever
- 10:50 a.m. Convention Adjourns

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Announcement of Results of Ballot Nomination Voting for General President and General Secretary-Treasurer

The Rules for the 2015-2016 IBT International Union Delegate and Officer Election ("Rules") provide that candidates for General President and General Secretary-Treasurer nominated from the floor must receive at least 5 percent of the delegate votes cast by delegates from local unions within their geographic region.

The results of the secret ballot vote for General President and General Secretary-Treasurer (by region) are as follows:

Total Votes Cast: 1583
5-Percent Threshold: 80

GENERAL PRESIDENT

Jim Hoffa	1424
Fred Zuckerman	134

GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

Ken Hall	1450
Tim Sylvester	112

