



# Convention *News*

28th INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION • LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Thursday, June 30, 2011



## Mobilizing Members

Teamsters Fight Back Against Political Foes

Fighting back against escalating attacks by extremist, corporate-backed politicians was the focus of day three of the 28th International Convention. Some of the Teamsters' most politically active leaders emphasized that it's essential to raise money to counter the vast resources of anti-worker billionaires and Wall Street CEOs.

General President Jim Hoffa presented awards to the local unions that raised the most money for the Teamsters DRIVE



UAW President Bob King

fund, the union's political action committee. Two of the winning locals are based in Los Angeles; Local 63 and Local 396. Houston-based Local 988 and Local 769 in Miami were also winners.

Jim Kabell, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 245 in Springfield, Mo., described how Teamsters mobilized this year against a newly elected Legislature with an extremist agenda. Missouri lawmakers tried to pass a right-to-work law to destroy unions, repeal child labor laws, undermine

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## Bargaining Together

Teamsters Sing Praises of Coordinated Bargaining

Multinational corporations have more money at their disposal than unions ever will, but labor unions have tools of their own. Teamsters at the 28th International Convention spoke yesterday on how coordinated bargaining is one of the ways the union stands up to greedy employers on behalf of members.

The Teamsters have lifted tens of thousands of parking employees into the middle class by organizing them and negotiating and defending strong contracts for them. Today, the National Parking Council represents nearly 30,000 Teamsters. Coordination between locals that represent these workers is essential because a handful of national parking companies dominate the industry.

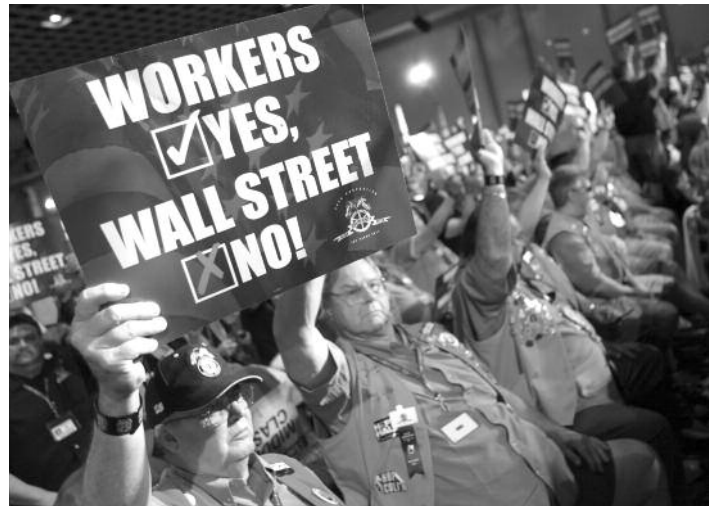
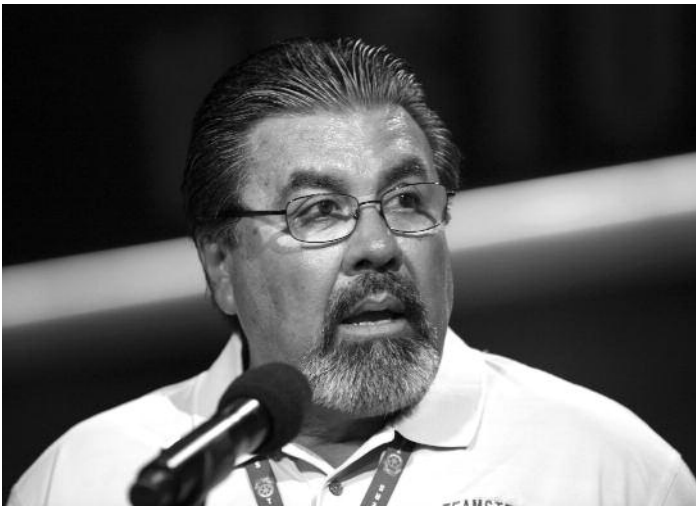
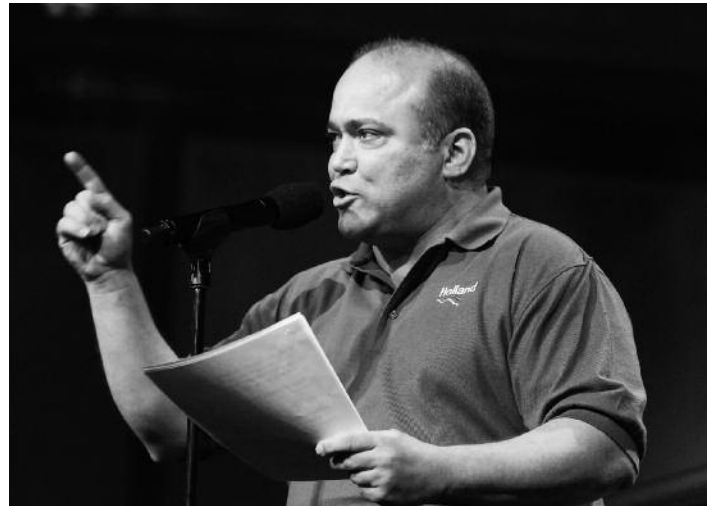
"Parking jobs are jobs that corporate America cannot move overseas," said Ernie Yates, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 665 in Daly City, Calif., adding that the National Parking Council has coordinated with Teamster affiliates nationwide to bargain successfully for Teamster parking workers.

"We have strong contracts in our conference because we communicate with one another," said David Laughton, Director of the Brewery and Soft Drink Workers Conference. "Since the last Convention we fought for and won a strong contract with Anheuser-Busch. The contract was a historic one because even though they were being swallowed up by the international conglomerate InBev, we still struck a deal which promised that all 12 breweries in the U.S. would stay open for the length of the contract."

Teamsters also told of using coordinated bargaining strategies to great success against Teamster employers like Coca-Cola, U.S. Foodservice, KAG West and others. A resolution was also passed supporting coordinated bargaining and organizing.

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prevailing wage protections and weaken unions through a paycheck deception law.

"Those things are wrong," Kabell said. He then described how 1,500 shop stewards in Missouri were trained and then made thousands of visits and phone calls and sent hundreds of thousands postcards. In the end, they beat back those efforts to shrink the middle class.

Steve Vairma, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 455 in Denver, said the Teamsters must hold elected officials in both parties accountable. "You need to stop hiding in the halls of Congress," he said. "You better be

damn proud to say the word 'union.'"

"We need to build on the outrage of what happened in Wisconsin, Ohio, in Indiana and the other states," Vairma said.

Ed Slater, Vice President of Local 107 in Philadelphia, told the gathering about the Teamsters' effort to win Pennsylvania, a battleground state, for President Barack Obama. "We had to get the job done after eight discouraging years with George Bush," he said.

Slater had a message for any politician who wants to take away collective bargaining rights: "Be prepared not for

a fight, but for a war."

UAW President Bob King reiterated the need for political action and said labor cannot be complacent. He fired up the crowd talking about common goals of our unions.

"We went home, we sat on our couches, we let the Koch brothers create a phony Tea Party that was more activist than you are," King said. "We can win in 2012, but then we've got to keep alive a social justice movement that will march on Washington if the Democrats don't do what they're supposed to do," he said to a huge ovation from the audience.

## Remembering Fallen Teamsters



### Delegates Honor Slain Teamsters and Victims of Natural Disasters

“When tragedy strikes one of our own, we all feel the loss,” said Jim Hoffa, Teamsters General President, at the beginning of yesterday’s session. “This was the case in January of this year when corrections officer and Local 117 member Jayme Biendl was killed on the job.”

Biendl’s murder shined a national spotlight on the dangerous conditions corrections officers face on the job, and reminded Teamsters everywhere just how important on-the-job safety measures are. The moment of silence for Biendl preceded a somber remembrance of recently fallen Teamsters.

On August 3, 2010, eight people lost their lives in a senseless workplace shooting at Hartford Distributors in Manchester, Conn. “Seven of our brothers from Local 1035 were among those killed,” Hoffa said.

“In a time of need, we put aside our differences, we put aside our politics and we take care of each other,” said Chris Roos, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 1035 in South Windsor, Conn., standing on stage with Patti Cirigliano, widow of Bryan Cirigliano, the President of Local 1035 who was killed in the tragedy.

Gordon Sweeton, International Vice President, addressed the 28th International Convention yesterday and talked about his hometown of Joplin, Mo., which was ravaged by a tornado on May 22. Of the 159 people who lost their lives, a Local 823 member, Heather Leigh Terry, was also killed. Terry worked at LaBarge, an electronics manufacturing plant.

“Teamsters are the most caring people in the world when it comes to helping others,” Sweeton said. “No matter how tough you are, though, never be afraid or ashamed to give your kids or grandkids or family a hug and tell them how much you love them.”

A collection from the assembled delegates and guests was taken up and Teamsters gave generously \$24,168.69 was raised.

## In the SPOTLIGHT

### What does TEAMSTER POWER mean to you?

“Solidarity. The ability to bargain. In my case, Teamster Power is a strong sisterhood. It is overall better working conditions and accountability.”  
 —Vivian Garcia, Local 986, South El Monte, Calif.



“Teamster Power means a right to collectively bargain. It means just-cause. Teamster Power is unity. It is about all of us.”  
 —Dewey Darr, Local 631, Las Vegas, Nev.

“Teamster Power is unity. We take care of each other. It means we have a good living wage.”  
 —Kevin Logan, Local 705, Chicago



“Teamster Power means when you have a grievance, your employer knows they are in for a tough fight.”  
 —Norman Baker, BLET Local 490, Concord, N.H.

“Teamster Power is unity. It’s us coming together, like we are this week. It’s about empowering people.”  
 —Ramon Castillo, Local 853, San Leandro, Calif.





## Teamsters Give Back

John P. Murphy, a Local 25 Teamster who served in Afghanistan, addresses the Convention, and members dig deep to help fallen Teamsters.

## THURSDAY Agenda Highlights

*All Times and Events are Subject to Change*

- 8 a.m. Exhibit Hall Opens
- 9 a.m. Convention Convenes
- 9:25 a.m. Nominations for General President and General Secretary-Treasurer
- 10:45 a.m. NAACP President Benjamin Jealous
- 11 a.m. Presentation on 100-Year-Old Joint Councils
- 11:45 a.m. General Secretary-Treasurer Tom Keegel's Farewell Speech
- Noon Lunch Recess
- 2 p.m. Call to Order  
Danny DeVito
- 2:40 p.m. UFCW President Joe Hansen
- 2:55 p.m. Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-NV)
- 3:10 p.m. UPS and FedEx Testimonials and Presentations
- 3:50 p.m. Montana Attorney General Steve Bullock
- 4:30 p.m. Boxer "Irish" Micky Ward
- 4:40 p.m. Aesthetic Realism Performance
- 5 p.m. Recess for Nomination Vote
- 8 p.m. Announcement of Voting Results

## Announcement of Results of Ballot Nomination Voting for IBT Regional Vice Presidents

*The Rules* for the 2010-2011 IBT International Union Delegate and Officer Election ("Rules") provide that candidates for Regional Vice President 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 Regional Vice President (by region) are as follows:

### Eastern Region Vice President

Total Votes Cast: 463  
5-Percent Threshold: 24

Sean M. O'Brien	397
John F. Murphy	380
Daniel Kane Sr.	379
William Hamilton	372
Robert Ryder	52
John D. Farrish	49
Rick E. Bauer	40
James Anderson	38

### Western Region Vice President

Total Votes Cast: 407  
5-Percent Threshold: 21

Randy Cammack	378
Steven Vairma	375
Rick Middleton	370
Richard Galvan	15
Kevin Hardison	11
Vickie Jackson	9

### Southern Region Vice President

Total Votes Cast: 141  
5-Percent Threshold: 8

Kenneth "Ken" Wood	132
Tyson Johnson	125
Aaron Belk	11
John Haley	4

### Central Region Vice President

Total Votes Cast: 480  
5-Percent Threshold: 24

John T. Coli	344
Gordon Sweeton	336
Brian R. Buhle	328
Stephen E. Poczowski	300
Fred Zuckerman	130
Jerry Conner	123
Tony Jones	120
Brad Slawson Sr.	114



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28th International Convention  
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