

Wednesday, June 29, 2011

## IN THE BLACK

### Keegel Details Union's Strong Financial Position

A union needs strong financial footing to effectively fight back against the myriad forces conspiring to bring down the American labor movement. While corporations have nearly unlimited funds to thwart labor, unions must rely on a strong membership and secure finances.

With that in mind, General Secretary-Treasurer Tom Keegel detailed the monetary situation of the union at yesterday's session of the 28th International Convention.

"I reported at the last Convention that in 1999, the International Union reported net assets of approximately \$8.6 million," Keegel said, adding that net assets increased to \$126.1 million at the end of 2010. "This increase has been achieved in spite of the worst economic environment in generations... We have succeeded in this adverse environment by going on the offensive instead of just playing defense."

In his last five-year report as General Secretary-Treasurer, Keegel proudly reported that the Teamsters Union is in much better shape financially than

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### New Members Address Convention

### Rank-and-File Teamsters Take Center Stage

Some of the newest members of the Teamster family are attending the 28th International Convention and yesterday, many of them addressed their new union brothers and sisters.

"In 2008, Cook County, Ill. employees voted to join Teamsters Local 700 and we haven't looked back since," said Paula Webber, a court clerk. "We needed a union we could trust; a union with dedicated leadership and a strong reputation; a union that would stand behind its members 100 percent. We found that and so much more in the Teamsters."

On a day when so many newly organized Teamsters addressed the Convention, International Vice President and Package Division Director Ken Hall announced a new card-check agreement with UPS Freight for clerks employed there. A few months ago, Local 63 in Los Angeles struck for recognition at UPS Freight when 12 clerks wanted to become Teamsters. Shortly thereafter, Locals 754,

385 and 41 also organized clerks, and Hall told how they leveraged those victories into the card-check agreement.

"Thanks so much for your support during our short strike," said Erika Chavez, one of the new Local 63 Teamster clerks at UPS Freight. "I am so happy other clerks will have the opportunity to organize without going through the struggles we did."

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## International Solidarity Overseas Allies Attend, Address Convention

As Bob Bouvier, International Vice President and President of Teamsters Canada, said on Monday, it isn't just America's working families under attack. Worldwide, union members are facing hostile lawmakers looking for scapegoats for their economic troubles.

International solidarity is essential if the labor movement is going to successfully challenge the global race to the bottom for wages and benefits. Many Teamster allies from overseas attended the 28th International Convention, including labor leaders from Australia, China, Great Britain, India and Mexico.

"We come here committed to forging an even stronger alliance and friendship in fighting with you across the globe to stop the war on workers," said Paddy Crumlin, President of the International

Transport Workers Federation and Maritime Union of Australia, at yesterday's session.

"We are here because we are angry about what is being done to workers and because we want to do something about it," Crumlin said. "Together, brothers and sisters of the Teamsters, we are the difference for working people and their future."



ITF President Paddy Crumlin

It was international union solidarity that freed Mansour Osanloo, president of the bus workers' union in Tehran, from an Iranian prison recently, and delegates passed a resolution making him an honorary member of the Teamsters Union yesterday. The delegates also adopted a resolution on global solidarity.

Steve Turner, a national officer with the UK's biggest trade union, Unite, also spoke yesterday. Unite has been a key partner in the Teamsters Union's Driving Up Standards campaign on behalf of bus workers and our two unions have worked together on many issues.

"Real global solidarity is not easy," Turner said. "When working people rise up, anything is possible."



Steve Turner, Unite

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when he took office 12 years ago. One of the most important aspects of his successful tenure has been the revitalization of the Strike and Defense Fund, something that was practically nonexistent before he took office.

"We have to have a strong Strike and Defense Fund to defend the collective bargaining process," he said. "We now have a Strike and Defense Fund with approxi-

mately \$94 million of assets available to pay out-of-work benefits and to defend the collective bargaining process."

Keegel discussed some of the other ways he improved the economic situation of the union, including allocating money for organizing, forming the Teamster Trustee Education Program, establishing the Benefits Department and reviving the Finance Committee.

"I am serious about making sure our assets are utilized in the best interests of the membership," Keegel said. "I have been a proud Teamster for more than 50 years. I am incredibly proud of the work our members do. I am just as proud of the work you, as delegates, are doing this week. It has been a privilege to have had the opportunity to serve with you."



**Rep. Steven LaTourette (R-OH) Addresses Delegates**

## New Members Address Convention

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New members from diverse backgrounds, various employers and from all over North America talked about the struggles they faced and how the Teamsters Union has made their lives better.

“Before becoming a Teamster, I worked in a nonunion shop where there was no respect and no job security,” said Frank Martinez, a member of Local 572 in Carson, Calif. who works in the grocery industry. “I look at our contract and I look at my Teamster brothers and sisters and I feel so proud to be standing here today...I’ve been in this industry for 20 years and in the time I’ve been a Teamster, this union has never let me, my co-workers or my family down.”

Geoff Maloney, an aviation mechanic at Atlantic Southeast Airlines and member of Local 528 in Atlanta, is part of the bargaining unit that was the first to vote for union representation under the new rules set forth by the National Mediation Board (NMB).

“In 2010, the NMB announced it was changing a 70-year-old rule that stacked cards against workers like myself,” he said. “The NMB’s decision to change the rules and base the outcome of elections on majority support was a direct result of Teamster intervention.”

Marcus Oladell, a First Student bus driver with Local 671 in Bloomfield, Conn., talked about how organizing is the best way to fight the political winds blowing against the labor movement. “Our answer to the war on workers is a 91-percent ‘yes’ vote for a national contract with First Student, uniting 35,000-plus drivers,” Oladell said

## In the SPOTLIGHT

**Since joining the Teamsters, how has your life changed?**

“I make more money and have better medical benefits than I ever did. I’m proud to walk around and say, ‘Yeah, I’m a Teamster.’”

–Tim Revels,  
Local 14, Las Vegas



“My life has changed only for the better. I came up through the rank and file and am now the Vice President of Local 688. Real opportunity exists in the Teamsters.”

–Roland Lewis,  
Local 688, St. Louis

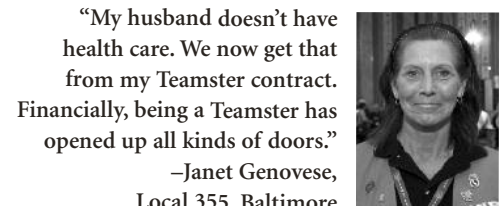
“Overall, my quality of life has drastically improved due to the contract pay scale and as far as time off, overtime and other benefits.”

–David Deal,  
Local 320, Minneapolis



“Being a Teamster has elevated my mind. I’ve met great people. It has strengthened me, given me a voice, allowed me to take care of my family better. I can also work toward making life better for everyone else around me.”

–Darnell Holman,  
Local 541, Kansas City

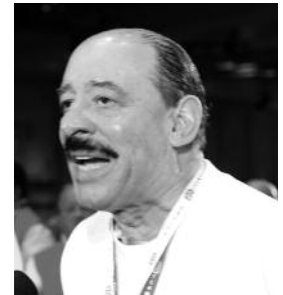


“My husband doesn’t have health care. We now get that from my Teamster contract. Financially, being a Teamster has opened up all kinds of doors.”

–Janet Genovese,  
Local 355, Baltimore



## TUESDAY'S NOMINATION SPOTLIGHT



## WEDNESDAY Agenda Highlights

*All Times and Events are Subject to Change*

- 8 a.m. Exhibit Hall Opens
- 9 a.m. Convention Convenes
- 9:40 a.m. Nominations for Regional Vice Presidents
- 11:50 a.m. Committee Reports
- Noon DRIVE Awards
- 12:10 p.m. Missouri State Treasurer Clint Zweifel
- 12:25 p.m. Lunch Recess
- 2 p.m. Call to Order  
Athletes David Silk and Jack O'Callahan
- 3 p.m. UAW President Bob King
- 3:30 p.m. YRCW Testimonial
- 3:50 p.m. Committee Reports
- 4:45 p.m. Recess for Nomination Vote
- 8 p.m. Announcement of Voting Results

## Announcement of Results of Ballot Nomination Voting for IBT Vice Presidents At-Large and Trustees

### *The Rules for the 2010-2011*

IBT International Union Delegate and Officer Election provide that candidates for IBT Vice President At-Large and International Trustee must receive at least 5 percent of the delegate votes cast in order to be nominated for the ballot.

The results of the secret ballot vote for candidates for IBT Vice President At-Large and International Trustee are as follows:

Total Votes Cast: 1629  
5-percent threshold: 82

### **Vice Presidents At-Large**

Rome A. Aloise	1,398
Al Mixon	1,373
George L. Miranda	1,369
George Tedeschi	1,327
Fred Potter	1,312
Freddie Simpson	1,283
Ferline Buie	1,261
Henry Perry	243
Floyd F. Prusinski	187
Kelly Cassidy	177
Margaret Marie Sik	171
John Farwell III	158
Mike Philbeck	154
Marc R. Dreves	144

### **Trustees**

Ron Herrera	1,385
Jim Kabell	1,333
Kevin D. Moore	1,283
Tom Bennett	221
Beth Kirchman	186
Durie Downey	170