

## SUMMARY OF THE 29<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION HELD IN LAS VEGAS JUNE 27 – JULY 1, 2016

### **Day One:**

President Jim Hoffa presented his five year report. In his report, he noted that Teamsters have organized more than 300,000 new workers in the last 10 years. He gave updates regarding the pledge to organize FedEx. Fed Ex Freight is currently at bargaining table. He discussed political fights, right to work battles and reminded all of the importance of voting in the upcoming elections.

Convention Delegates passed a resolution to “build power in the public sector through traditional organizations and affiliations with independent associations/unions.....and...that all Teamster local unions implement plans to engage in on going internal organizing aimed at converting all fair-share payers to full membership.”

Resolution was passed regarding involvement in Teamsters political action - Democrat, Republican and Independent Voter Education (DRIVE) and BLET PAC Fund. Commitment to increase member participation, work with field representatives to increase average contribution, engage officers, agents and stewards and staff in campaigns, negotiate payroll deduction language into every contract and voices to be continually heard in the political arena.

Resolution passed to “commit to protect the jobs of our working families by demanding that any soda tax proposal include measures to address the potential adverse impact upon our members ...and...if the proponents refuse to address the unfair impact upon our member, we are duty bound to oppose and defeat the proposal”.

Convention then paid tribute to fallen members, specifically workers involved in San Bernardino County Department of Public Health terrorist attack.

### **Day Two:**

Nominations for the office of the International Vice Presidents were held.

Workers shared tales of Organizing and growing the union.

IBT General ST Ken Hall reported that in 1999, there was no money in a Strike and Defense Fund. Currently, in 2016, there is \$153 million in our Strike and Defense Fund.

Resolution passed regarding Executive Compensation/Capital Strategies.

Convention Delegates unanimously passed resolutions in support of the IBT’s organizing initiatives in freight, warehouse and port drivers.

### **Day Three:**

Teamsters Drive Up Campaign, which was effort to raise industry standards in school bus industry helped to organize workers and went from 4,000 members to 46,000 bus operators nationwide.

Breaking Barriers – Hope is Alive is a charity to help families struggling with addiction. Founder Travis Bornstein, Local 24 President, lost his son to an overdose in 2014. Bornstein addressed the members and by passing the bucket \$22,000 was raised. Local Delegates rose to the occasion as well and donated additional funding from their Divisions. BLET National President Dennis Pierce spoke and introduced President of Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way, Fred Simpson. BLET President Pierce, “Each of our divisions has polled its Executive Committee. We will each be contributing 10,000, and the Teamster Rail Conference will add another 10 for a total of \$30,000”.

Pension reform was supported by attendees. Teamsters Committed to protect the retirement security of Teamster members and retirees and to engage political leaders to find solutions to strengthen Teamster affiliated funds.

Nominations of office for the IBT Regional Vice Presidents were held.

#### **Day Four:**

Alvin Turner and Baxter Leach were an important part of the 1968 Memphis sanitation strike and were in attendance and each gave their story of the historic 1968 strike.

Resolution passed on Solid Waste, Recycling and Related Industries Division.

Constitution changes were brought forth. A major constitution change that was overwhelmingly approved was to raise the strike benefits from \$100 per week to \$150 per week.

General President Hoffa introduced BLET National President Dennis Pierce, “You know, Teamsters are everywhere; we’ve got over 70,000 members in our Rail Conference with basically our locomotive engineers, trainmen and maintenance of way workers. And here to tell us about the issues important to these members are International Vice President Fred Simpson and President of the Rail Conference Dennis Pierce.

President Pierce and Vice President Simpson spoke on positive train control, PTC. President Pierce, “But we have to be clear on something. The Railroads would have you believe that PTC, if they do have to put it in, should replace crew members: and it does not. There is no replacement for two sets of eyes and ears in every locomotive cab in the Nations freight railroad. “

Resolution for track worker protection and PTC was passed.

Teamster Canada President, Francoise Laporte addressed the Delegates and discussed politics affecting his union in Canada.

Nominations for the General President and General Secretary/Treasurer were held.