



CONVENTION REPORTER

A DAILY REPORT FOR DELEGATES TO THE FLORIDA AFL-CIO BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Tuesday, October 02, 2007

President Cindy Hall called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Credentials Committee

Dan Reynolds, President, Federation of Public Employees and Co-Chair of the committee, reported that **43 Pre-registered credentials** that were received **prior** to the September 10th on-time deadline were reviewed and found to be in good order; **12 Pre-registered credentials** that were received **after** the September 10th deadline were reviewed and found to be in good order and **12 on-site credentials** were reviewed and found to be in good order. **3 guests** also registered.

The committee moved that **60 voting delegates** be seated. **Doug Sellars, IBEW 824** seconded the motion. The motion carried by a voice vote of the delegates. **There are currently 183 delegates.**

President Hall that yesterday's effort to raise funds to help the brothers and sisters of IAM 2061 still on strike at NASA yielded **\$1,849.00**.

President Hall convinced **Brother Tom Brown, IBEW 433** to report on action taken by his local union the previous evening. He reported that IBEW 433 voted to send a **\$500** contribution to IAM 2061. President Hall encouraged all local unions to follow their example.

President Hall announced several caucus meetings and room changes for committee meetings later in the day.

Ellen Freidin, Campaign Chair, FairDistrictsFlorida.org – Ellen Friedin gave a short presentation about Florida's overly gerrymandered congressional and legislative districts and updated the delegates on the campaign to fix the current system with two proposed constitutional amendments. She said, "This is the kind of group who cares deeply about fair redistricting and fair elections. This collection of organizations been at the forefront of all major attempts to improve our government and now we have a tremendous opportunity to correct and injustice and brings fairness to a broken political system." She discussed how new computer technologies have enabled politicians to create a redistricting system that amounts to little more than an incumbency protection program and

that the politicians can now choose their voters rather than the voters choosing their leaders. She shared several maps showing the true extent of some of the worst gerrymandered districts. She stated that this is the time to fix the system because Florida should gain 2 new seats in Congress in 2010 and if redistricting is conducted under the standards set out in the constitutional amendment that 5 Congressional seats could be made competitive. She announced that the petitions are just about ready to begin circulating and that the campaign would need 611,000 signatures to make it to the ballot. She urged the delegates to contribute money to the campaign, talk to their international leaders about making the campaign a national priority and to conduct volunteer drives to get the required signatures. She also asked the members if they knew of any office space in the Miami area.

John Degner, Campaign Coordinator for FairDistrictsFlorida.org – John spoke to the delegates about the current volunteer effort. He greeted old friends from his recent days as the State Director for the Alliance for Retired Americans. He urged the delegates to make petition gathering an integral part of Labor 2008 and our member to member outreach.

Ellen then had a question and answer session with the delegates.

Brother Ed Hill, President, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Brother Ed Hill gave an incredible speech about the importance of our labor movement and the need for us to move forward unified in purpose. He spoke about the unfortunate nature of the Change to Win unions decisions to leave the AFL-CIO but that the movement would eventually come back together and that these unions will come home. He spoke about the importance of working together to defeat the upcoming property tax amendment because if it passed it would open the door to unprecedented privatization of critical services and the elimination of services that are vital to all working people. He spoke about the need for the labor movement to come together and participate in a meaningful way in the current immigration debate. He spoke about Labor's history of accepting all people, regardless of their race, ethnicity or background and how this spirit should guide us as we work to find a solution to the immigration problem that protects U.S. workers and those seeking to come to this country to build a better life. Brother Hill's remarks were informative, inspiring, uplifting and entertaining. His genuine regard for Florida's workers was apparent and he did an incredible service for this convention.

Committee Reports

Elections Committee

Walt Crosson, IBEW 759, co-chair of the committee delivered the report. He reported that the members present at the October 1st meeting were present: Joanne Adams, Susan Clancy, Cheryl Comeau, Karen Koehnien, Saul Lucio,

Patrick Russell and Karen Houston. The meeting was called to order at 1:40 PM in the Jasmine room. The committee reviewed the Rules Governing AFL-CIO State Central Bodies and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Florida AFL-CIO Articles and Sections that pertain to the election of the Executive Board of the Florida AFL-CIO. He reported that there would not be an election for the two principal officers at this convention, only for the Executive Board positions. He reviewed the nomination and elections procedure outlined in the Florida AFL-CIO Constitution and Bylaws and Rules Governing State Central Bodies. He then took several questions from delegates about how the balloting would be handled. He moved that the committee report be accepted as well as the procedures for the nominations and elections. Dan Reynolds, Federation of Public Employees, seconded the motion which carried with a voice vote.

President Cindy Hall opened nominations for District Vice Presidents and the following nominations were made.

District Vice Presidents

- South Florida AFL-CIO – Vivienne Dixon-Shim, Ellis Canty, Mike Nagle, Luis Meurice
- West Central Florida AFL-CIO – Floyd Suggs, Doug Sellars, Lynne Webb
- Central Florida AFL-CIO – Debra Booth, Jennifer Kenny, Chris Stewart
- Broward County AFL-CIO – Walter Crosson, Patrick Santeramo
- North Florida CLC – Andy Bell, Karen Hazlett
- Northwest Florida Federation of Labor – Robert Wood, William Pitts
- Palm Beach/Treasure Coast CLC – Pat Emmert, William Sauers
- North Central Florida CLC – Jean Robinson
- Space Coast AFL-CIO – Claudie Pouncey

President Cindy Hall opened nominations for Union Vice Presidents and the following nominations were made.

Union Vice Presidents

- AFT (13) Andy Ford, Clara Cook, Theo Harris, Joanne McCall, Andrew Spar, Sheryl Daniels, Ken Carter, Terrie Brady, Roy Weatherford, Victoria Rodriguez, David Pittman, Luiz Perez, Fedrick Ingram
- AFSCME – Jeanette Wynn & Janice Coakley
- IBEW – J B Clark & Steve Williams
- IAMAW – Frank Ortis
- AFGE – Mathew Marsh & Lorraine Tuliano
- CWA – Gail Marie Perry
- MEBA/FOPE – Dan Reynolds
- *APWU – Martha Shunn-King (omitted in error from original report)*

President Cindy Hall opened nominations for Constituency Group Vice Presidents and the following nominations were made.

Constituency Group Vice Presidents

- APRI – Charles Spencer
- CBTU – Jakelin Chapman & Mike Payne
- FLARA – Tony Fransetta
- LACLAA – Gerardo Becerra

President Cindy Hall opened nominations for Vice Presidents-at-Large and the following nominations were made.

Vice Presidents-at-Large

Mike Williams, Kimberly Bowles, Tim Maitland, Martha Stevens, Kenneth Moore

President Hall closed nominations. Walt Crosson announced that the committee would meet to review the nominees to see if they were in good standing and eligible to hold the office.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Jean Robinson, North Central Florida Federation of Labor, Co-chair of the committee delivered the report. She reported that the committee had one item of business, Resolution 8 relating to a bylaws amendment that would require two signatures on all checks, including those under \$2,500, in line with the benchmarks and standards of the New Alliance. She reported that the original proposal was as follows.

RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO Constitution & By-Laws be amended as follows:

Delete all strike-through words; insert underlined words

Article VIII, Section 2(d) Pay all expenditures of ~~\$2500 or less by check signed by either of the executive officers and all expenditures over \$2500~~ by check signed by with live signatures of both of the executive officers.

She reported that Dwayne Sealy expressed issues and concerns to the committee regarding the lack of a contingency plan in cases where two officers of the AFL-CIO were not readily-accessible for signing all checks. She reported that the committee then discussed how best to resolve the issue and address the issues and concerns raised by Brother Sealy. After a brief discussion, substitute language was offered.

RESOLVED, that the issue be referred to the Executive Board for consideration of the issue and the making of recommendations for a more workable resolution of the issue.

Sister Robinson moved that the delegates concur with the committee's recommendation. Mike Williams, President, Florida Building Trades seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote.

Legislative Committee

Brother J.B. Clark, Florida Electrical Workers Association and co-chair of the committee delivered the following report on several resolutions considered by the committee.

Resolution #1 – Prohibition of Public Construction Project Labor Agreements. Motion made to approve as written. Motion was seconded and passed.

Resolution #3 – Journeyman Craftsman Certification and Enforcement. Motion made to approve as written. Motion was seconded and passed.

Resolution #4 – Best Value Contracting. Motion made to approve as written. Motion was seconded and passed.

Resolution #2 – Apprenticeship Education and Funding. Motion made to amend as follows: Strike the word “scheme” and insert “formula”. Motion to approve as amended was seconded and passed.

Resolution #5 – Unemployment Compensation. Motion made to amend as follows: In first resolve, after the word “support” insert “alternate base”. Motion made to approve as amended. Seconded and passed.

Resolution #6 – Aerospace Workforce Challenge Fund. Motion made to approve as written. Motion was seconded and passed.

Resolution #20 – Modernizing the Unemployment Insurance Program. Motion made to approve as written. Motion seconded and passed.

Resolution #7 – Dedicated Transit Funding. Motion made to approve as written. Motion seconded and passed.

Resolution #12 – Protecting Citizen Access to the Constitution. Motion made to approve as written. Motion was seconded and passed.

Resolution #13 – Single Payer Healthcare *and* Resolution #22 – National Healthcare Reform. Motion made to combine resolutions 13 and 22 and approve as written. Motion seconded and passed.

Resolution #18 – Taxation and Budget Reform. Motion made to amend as follows: In the resolve fourth bullet, first line: strike the word “are” and insert “can be”. In same sentence, after the last word “communities”, add “while respecting human and civil rights”. In same bullet, last sentence, strike “kept to a minimum” and insert “fully funded by the legislature. Fifth and last bullet, insert after the last word “and privatization of these programs. Motion made to approve as amended. Motion seconded and passed.

Brother Clark thanked the efforts of the committee especially his co-chair, Eric Riley of the Florida Education Association. The report carried a motion to approve the committee's recommendations on the amendments. The motion was seconded by Greg Kasper, IATSE #477. The motion carried with a voice vote.

Constituency & Coalition Groups Committee

Sister Elsa Lopez, Co-chair of the committee delivered the report. The committee discussed the constituency groups available, such as LCLAA, APRI, CBTU, CLUW, PAW and ALAPA and ways to encourage more union members to get involved. The committee considered Resolution # 10 relating to diversity in the labor movement which and the National AFL-CIO Resolution #2. The committee recommended passage of the resolution. Alma Gonzalez, AFSCME and Leonard Joseph, Florida Democratic Party spoke on the DNC delegate selection process in Florida. It was stressed that presidential candidates and the DNC were working to meet affirmative action representation of delegates. They spoke on the importance of voting on January 29, 2008 for delegates to the DNC convention. There was a question and answer period. Karen See, National Organizer from CLUW, spoke on the membership drive in Florida and encouraged participation. The committee report included a motion to adopt. The motion was seconded by Luis Meurice, ILA 1922-1. The motion carried with a voice vote.

The Florida AFL-CIO 2007 Biennial Convention stands in recess until Wednesday morning.