



PROCEEDINGS



59TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
of the
THE AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION

PARIS LAS VEGAS
SEPTEMBER 23 - 27, 2019
LAS VEGAS, NV

PROCEEDINGS



DAY ONE

Monday Morning Session
September 23, 2019

*The 59th International Convention of the Amalgamated
Transit Union convened Monday, September 23, 2019,
at 8:41 a.m.*

*Clark High School Marching Band Performance.
(Applause)*

CONVENTION OPENS

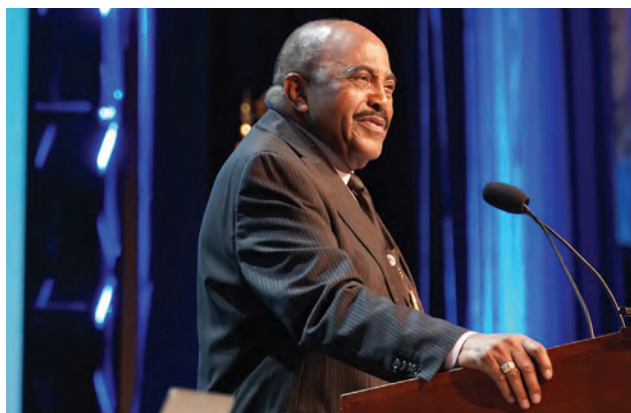
TEMPORARY CHAIR OSCAR OWENS: Good morning, Brothers and Sisters.

DELEGATES: *"Good morning."*

OWENS: We could do better than that!

DELEGATES: *"Good Morning!"*

OWENS: Thank you, Brothers and Sisters. Sisters and



International Secretary-Treasurer Oscar Owens

Brothers, it is an honor and a pleasure to welcome you to the 59th International Convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

I would like to thank the Clark High School Marching Band for their great music. *(Applause)*

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

OWENS: Please rise for the presenting of the colors by the award-winning Clark High School Naval Junior ROTC Color Guard.

Color Guard marches to the front of the hall



Clark High School Naval Junior ROTC Color Guard

OWENS: I would now like to introduce vocalist Michelle Johnson who will perform both of our national anthems. *(Applause)*

*"Star Spangled Banner" and "O Canada" performed
(Applause)*

OWENS: Thank you, Michelle. The Honor Guard is now dismissed.



International Vice President Marcellus Barnes

MARCELLUS BARNES,

International Vice President

OWENS: At this time, I would like to introduce International Vice President Marcellus Barnes to give us the invocation to start this Convention. Brother Barnes has provided many inspirational invocations at ATU events. And rest assured, he will do so again today. I now present to you Brother Marcellus Barnes. *(Applause)*

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT MARCELLUS BARNES: Thank you so much. Good morning.

DELEGATES: *“Good morning.”*

Invocation

BARNES: Grace and peace to you all! To our Muslim brothers and sisters: “As-salamu alaykum” to you!

Let me start by saying, we walk by faith. Those of you assembled here in this room this morning are special because God has chosen you to be the leader of the people.

‘We never gave up’

We are protected people. Over the years we faced a Richard Nixon, and some way and, somehow, we saw our way through.

Then we faced a Gerald Ford, but we didn’t give up – we kept on fighting.

And then came the Bushes. We never gave up.

And with our current president, let me remind you that no weapon formed against the labor movement will prosper. *(Applause)*

God is my witness. And, as He walked with us every day, we fear no politician, we fear no president of the United States, we fear no U.S. congressman or U.S. senator. We are going to continue to march, we are going to continue to demand the rights of the working people, and God will continue to bless us. *(Applause)*

As you stand, let us say a special prayer for our leader, President Costa. We ask that the Lord guide him, that the Lord stand on his right side and his left side throughout this Convention; that at the end it will be another success, and I know God will answer that prayer.

Do you agree with me? *(Cheers)*

Amen.

And now, there are some of us that have gone through a season of illness, but some way or somehow, God saw the way. There’re some cancer survivors in the room, and if the Lord is working with you, you need to make some noise for the Lord, Hallelujah! *(Applause)*

Thank you, God.

‘See us through this day’

Now, as I give you the invocation, let us say: Oh, Lord, see us through this day. Lord, see us through this week.

We know that You are still in the healing business. We ask that You walk with each and every delegate, every guest, everyone assembled in this room, that you continue to bless them.

We ask for a special blessing for our retirees. God keep them in good health, continue to walk with them, continue to bless this ATU, a strong Union in Your name, let us all say, “Amen.”

DELEGATES: *“Amen.”*

BARNES: God bless you. *(Applause)*

OWENS: Will everyone take their seats. Thank you very much, Brother Barnes, for those words of inspiration to kick off the week ahead. Now please turn your attention to the screen for a special video presentation:

LAWRENCE HANLEY MEMORIAL VIDEO

Standing Ovation

DELEGATES: “Hanley!”

Whereupon, bagpipes were played.

(Applause)

WELCOME FROM HOST LOCAL

OWENS: I’d now like to introduce our host Local 1637-Las Vegas, NV *(Applause)* President and Business Agent John Foster *(Applause)*, and Financial Secretary Carolyn Higgins to offer some welcome remarks. *(Applause)*

LOCAL PRESIDENT JOHN FOSTER, 1637-Las Vegas, NV: Good morning, ATU!



Delegate John Foster, 1637-Las Vegas, NV

DELEGATES: “Good morning.”

FOSTER: You can do better than that. Good Morning, ATU!

DELEGATES: “Good Morning!”

FOSTER: To President Costa, Executive Vice President Javier Perez, International Secretary-Treasurer Oscar Owens, to the General Executive Board on behalf of ATU Local 1637, we welcome you to our wonderful city of Las Vegas. *(Applause)* We hope you enjoy your stay, enjoy the Convention, have fun, remember the slogan: What happens in Vegas ...

DELEGATES: “Stays in Vegas!”

FOSTER: You got it. *(Laughter)*

LOCAL FINANCIAL SECRETARY CAROLYN HIGGINS, 1637-Las Vegas, NV: Good morning, Sisters and Brothers.



Delegate Carolyn Higgins, 1637-Las Vegas, NV

DELEGATES: “Good morning.”

HIGGINS: Welcome. Enjoy. Have a good one. *(Applause)*

OWENS: John and Carolyn, thank you for those kind words and it is a pleasure again to be in Las Vegas for our Convention. Please turn your attention to the screen for a video on the Convention this week and the rules and procedures for our election and floor debate:

CONVENTION PROCEDURES VIDEO

WELCOME TO THE 59TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

*Oscar Owens, Temporary Chair,
International Secretary-Treasurer*

OWENS: Delegates, trade unionists and guests, that was a great opening for what promises to be an inspirational 59th International Convention.

Before I move forward, Mr. President, I’m going to ask for a moment of extra privilege. At this time, I’d like to introduce some of the people who have been and are

by my side day after day to help me through the difficult times. Let me start with some of the people in the office because I have two right hands. Let me start with Nancy Trumbull (ATU Controller) who is by my side all the time. And the next person is my assistant, Doreen Price. *(Applause)*

The next person is my wife, Betty, who has been with me through the good and the bad. Betty, will you please stand? *(Applause)* And, of course, the offspring, my son Damon and his lovely wife Shantell *(Applause)*, my daughter Shuron *(Applause)*, and my son, the baby boy – Oscar DeShawn Owens. *(Applause)*

Thank you very much. Mr. President, as International Secretary-Treasurer, I am honored to serve as the Temporary Chairman for this Convention and to open these proceedings. We trust that you enjoyed the Rock and Soul Food party last night. *(Applause)* I had a great time singing and reminiscing with all of my friends in the Union. But I know there is one friend that we all miss.

‘A tragic loss’

It was just a little over four months ago that our Union and the entire labor movement suffered a tragic loss with the sudden death of our International President, Larry Hanley. I had the honor and privilege to serve as your International Secretary-Treasurer for all of Larry’s presidency.

Larry was a one-of-a-kind visionary leader who shaped our Union into one of the most innovative in the labor movement. Larry was proud of our Union and our locals and the fights that they waged for the betterment of our members and all working people.

Larry lived for the ATU. The Union was his life’s work and his family. That is why as we gather as a union family for this special week in Las Vegas, the best thing we can do is work to build on Larry’s legacy.

This is the fourth time that we have held our International Convention in Las Vegas. Our first Convention here was held in 1971.

First African American IVP

At that Convention, our delegates voted to create a tenth

international vice president position with the intention of electing our first African American IVP.

Bruce Foster was elected to that position.

We now have seven African American members on our General Executive Board (GEB), and I have proudly served as International Secretary-Treasurer since 2001. *(Applause)* We also have four Latino members on our GEB, and four women. *(Applause)*

‘More diverse, stronger than ever’

We have come a long way. We are more diverse, and we are stronger than ever. In 1971, we had around 130,000 members. Today, we have more than 200,000 members! *(Applause)*

We should be proud of that growth, especially in the face of so many challenges. The U.S. Supreme Court decision on *Janus*; the continuous threats of privatization; constant attacks on our pensions, wages and benefits; and the destruction of living standards that we have spent decades fighting for. Through it all, we as the ATU, have remained united and strong.

And now, as delegates representing your locals, you will have a special responsibility of charting the future for our great Union.

‘Highest authority in the ATU’

The Convention is the highest authority in the ATU. The officers and board members we elect this week will carry out the vision that you – the delegates – determine here at this Convention.

As ATU has done at every Convention in over more than 125 years, I have every confidence that we will meet the challenges we face. Our Union will not only fight back, but thrive, in the future.

As leaders in your locals, I know that you fight for a living wage, strong benefits, a secure retirement and the rights and dignity of your members. And I know that the reason you are here as delegates at this Convention is that you believe we must unite to fight the anti-union forces and greedy bosses who want to bring us down.

I am confident that you, as delegates, recognize the

importance of being present for all of the proceedings and giving your serious and undivided attention to the important issues we will consider here at this Convention.

‘Make them proud’

Always remember that you are among the few chosen by your members to represent them. Make them proud this week. I commend each of you for your commitment, dedication, and hard work as leaders in this great Union. I look forward to working with you during this week.

Welcome, again, to the 59th Convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union. And remember, “Together We Fight!” *(Applause)*

PRESENTATION OF THE GAVEL

OWENS: It is now my duty and my honor to present this gavel to International President John Costa, who took this office at a very difficult time for our Union. I have known John for a long time, and I knew he was the person to lead our Union forward.

He joined New Jersey Transit as a cleaner in 1981, and then rose up through the ranks to serve as shop steward of Local 819-Newark, NJ. *(Applause)* Then as president and business agent of his Local; then as chair of the New Jersey State Council; then he was elected as an international vice president at the 2010 Convention; and finally – international president.

Throughout his career nobody has worked harder than John. And he will without a doubt lead our great International into the future with the same passion, dedication and integrity that he has displayed his entire career.

So far, he has exceeded all expectations in the short time he has been our president. Our Union has become more proactive, more transparent and more effective as advocates for our members, our riders, and all workers throughout North America.

It is now my privilege and my honor to turn over the



gavel to my friend, my union brother, and our international president: John Costa. *(Applause)*

DELEGATES: “Costa!”

OPENING ADDRESS

*John A. Costa, Chair,
International President*

COSTA: Thank you, Oscar, for the kind words.

DELEGATES: “I know a guy!”

COSTA: – “I know a guy.” Thank you, Oscar, for that great speech. Did we get fired up?

DELEGATES: “Fired up!” *(Applause)*

COSTA: Brothers and Sisters, how you doing? It’s my honor to serve as your international president.

As we open our 59th International Convention, we meet this morning in the wake of a tragedy. The loss of



International President John A. Costa

International President Larry Hanley, which came as a shock to us all – a shock that we are still recovering from. So, it's up to us to pick up the torch of our former leader and begin anew. (*Applause*)

Like all of you, I owe a great deal to this Union. When I started as a cleaner at New Jersey Transit, it was the ATU contract that made it possible for me to advance to where I am today, standing before you as your international president. (*Applause*)

DELEGATES: “*Johnny!*”

COSTA: Since being elected just four months ago, I have been inspired by the work of so many of you – fighting for the betterment of our members and their families.

Another tragedy

The day after assuming my position as international president, another tragedy occurred – the senseless murder of a fallen brother, Thomas Dunn, from Local 1593-Tampa – which has also come in the wake of a fallen brother, Jubal Fraser, from Local 1505-Winnipeg. These senseless murders of our fallen brothers have made our resolve even stronger to rally support for the passage of the *Transit Worker and Pedestrian Protection Act*. (*Applause*)

Yes, this legislation will bring protection to all our U.S. members, and the accountability of our agencies in safeguarding the lives of our workers, our riders and the public at large.

We've had many contract victories, which you will hear about later – including:

- DASH (*Applause*)
- Martha's Vineyard (*Applause*)
- Challenger (*Applause*), and most recently, the agreement in
- Local 1505-Winnipeg, MB. (*Applause*)

I had the opportunity to see firsthand the great work of Local 265-San Jose, CA. Give yourself a hand. (*Applause*) This apprenticeship program we view as a model to be expanded across the United States and Canada.

Brothers and Sisters, we have had “*Janus training*” across Canada to prepare for the potential right-to-work laws which could be coming north of the border. We were successful in the United States, and we will not settle for anything less in Canada. (*Applause*)

Sisters and Brothers, the theme of this Convention says it all: Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: “*Together We Win!*”

COSTA: What has amazed me since I took office is the hard work, the loyalty, and commitment of so many people who have devoted their lives to the betterment of our members and of our Union. Together our future will require that we must educate, we must motivate, and, yes, Brothers and Sisters, we must activate. So, say it with me: Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: “*Together We Fight!*”

COSTA: Say it again: Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: “*Together We Fight!*”

COSTA: For increased funding, Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: “*Together We Fight!*”

COSTA: For health care and safety, Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: “*Together We Fight!*”

COSTA: For our riders, Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: “*Together We Fight!*”

COSTA: For keeping public transit public, Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: “*Together We Fight!*”



COSTA: For pensions and retirement, Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: *“Together We Fight!”*

COSTA: For bathroom breaks, Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: *“Together We Fight!”*

COSTA: For job security, Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: *“Together We Fight!”*

COSTA: For good health care, Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: *“Together We Fight!”*

COSTA: For good wages and benefits, Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: *“Together We Fight!”*

COSTA: So, Brothers and Sisters, these are the things that we fight for. These are the reasons we have gathered here because today, today, Together We Fight, and Together We Win!

Standing Ovation

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

COSTA: Brothers and Sisters, at this time we will appoint the Credentials Committee:

PERRY (*announcer*):

Credentials Committee

- Eric Tuck, 107, Chair
- Jeffrey Richardson, 1342, Secretary
- Pino D’Armiento, 113
- Anthony Wallace, 113
- Stephen Scanlan, 279
- Mark Weems, 308
- Michael Shea, 587
- Jerry Merritt, 638
- Derrick Mallard, 689

- Printus Dates, 689
- Sharyn Vitello, 824
- Kevin P. Marx, 842
- Richard Steitz, 1027
- Gladys McDaniel, 1056
- Richard Adams, 1181
- Cory Ernst, 1192
- Alphonso Burns, 1208
- William Howard, 1267
- Errol Frazier, 1277
- Jeffrey Rice, 1300
- Donald Brooks, Sr. 1321
- Carlos Westley, 1535
- Charles Ryan, III, 1548
- Oscar Rodriguez, 1555
- Karen Miller, 1700
- Janis Borchardt, International Vice President
- Katherine Andrews, Staff
- Rich Otzel, Staff

COSTA: Thank you. Committee members, can you report to the Champagne Room around the corner now, please. Everybody that was called – all names – please report around the corner to the Champagne Room.

As your names are announced, please report to your rooms after they are announced. Go ahead, Shawn.

Shawn will introduce the Laws, and Rules and Order Committees.

PERRY: Okay:

Laws Committee

- Raymond Greaves, NJ State Council, Chair
- Yvonne Williams, 192, Secretary
- Ken Kephart, 22
- Stephen Palonis, 85
- Carlos Santos, 113
- Eric Carvalho, 174

- Keith Hill, 241
- Kenneth Franklin, 308
- Rodney Dunn, 382
- Ronald Cox, 416
- Richard Gardner, 448
- Ken Wilson, 508
- Mark Tettersington, 569
- Ken Price, 587
- Kevin Lucier, 588
- James Evers, Jr., 589
- Thomas Cute, 618
- Raymond Jackson, 689
- Daniel Cassella, 726
- Shirley Block, 757
- Reginald Howard, Sr., 788
- Tiran Billups, 819
- Retheena Goodwin, 825
- Lillian Shavers, 842
- Julio Rivera, 1001
- Ryan Timlin, 1005
- Antone Sousa, 1037
- Mark Henry, 1056
- Bennie Caughman, 1179
- Michael Cordiello, 1181
- Kathryn Smith, 1212
- Arturo Aguilar, 1277
- Jonothan P. Walker, Sr., 1287
- Kenneth Day, 1338
- Robert Bean, 1433
- Aleem Chaudhary, 1505
- Valerie Jefferson, 1560
- Pennie Johnson, 1733
- Jamie Larkin, 1760
- Yvette Trujillo, International Vice President
- Manny Sforza, International Vice President
- Ken Kirk, International Vice President
- John Di Nino, President, ATU Canada

- Robert Molofsky, General Counsel
- Dan Smith, Staff

Rules and Order Committee

- John E. Foster, 1637, Chair
- Thomas Mason, 726, Secretary
- Glenn R. Tolbert, 26
- Frank Malta, 113
- Ryan Rajmoolie, 113
- Michelle Townsend, 241
- Deborah Lane, 308
- Rocky Perkins, 398
- Kenneth W. Rice, Sr., 540
- Elayne Young, 589
- Jerry Ballard, 662
- Juan Amaya, 694
- Brenda A. Mule, 717
- Isaac O. Tate, 758
- Luis Gomez, 822
- Patrick Lynch, 836
- Steve Redman, 996
- James Macon, 998
- Katie Kelley, 1039
- Roy C. Luster, Jr., 1070
- Andrew Cleary, 1189
- Dwayne Russell, 1197
- Douglas Behr, 1267
- Michael A. Walters, 1279
- Robin Ward, 1300
- Donnie Jolly, 1338
- Gil Mendonca, 1363
- Shirley Williams, 1493
- John W. Troxell, Jr., 1547
- Eduardo Cortez, 1774
- Paul Bowen, International Vice President
- Dan Smith, Staff

COSTA: Delegates and members wishing to speak before the Laws Committee to present their views or proposed resolutions should come to the Paris Champagne Room 3 – and that would be 3 and 4 – at 3:00 p.m. today. Okay?

And the Rules Committee should go in the back to meet immediately and we'll get a room number for you.

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT JAVIER M. PEREZ, JR: Good morning, Brothers and Sisters. I'd ask you to stand and join me in a moment of silence.

If life we live every day, life, passes by us each day and I'm sad – heartfelt sad – to report to you this morning that the son of President and Business Agent April Williams of ATU Local 1591-Fort Lauderdale, FL, passed away last night.

April is here at the Paris Hotel. Please join me in a moment of silence and prayerful reflection for the soul of her son and the health of her family and for all of ATU.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PEREZ: Thank you each very, very much.

COSTA: Now please join me in recognizing the achievements of our past officers by first honoring the widows of those who served this Union for so many years.

PERRY: Mrs. Teresa Baker, Mrs. Doris Reynolds, Mrs. Eva Chatman

COSTA: At this time – give them a hand. Come on! *(Applause)*

At this time, it's my privilege and honor to introduce our former international officers in attendance today. They served our great Union with dignity:

Retired International Representatives:

- Dan Sundquist *(Applause)*
- Tony Withington *(Applause)*

Retired International Vice Presidents:

- Bob Hykaway *(Applause)*
- Bill McLean *(Applause)*
- Chuck Cook *(Applause)*
- Rodney Richmond *(Applause)*
- Wilford Spears *(Applause)*
- Robert Saarinen *(Applause)*
- Don Hansen *(Applause)*
- James Daley *(Applause)*

Retired International Executive Vice Presidents

- Retired International Executive Vice President



Ellis Franklin – and I believe it’s Ellis’ anniversary, right? Seventy-one years married to his beautiful wife. Give him a hand. *(Applause)*

- Retired International Executive Vice President Randy Graham *(Applause)*

Retired International President:

- Retired International President Jim La Sala

Standing Ovation

COSTA: It is now my distinct honor to introduce the current members of our International Executive Board and our ATU Canada teams. I know you have worked closely with many of them over the years, starting with

International Representatives:

- “Stay-Out-of-the-Way” Mike Harms. Stay out of Harms’ way! *(Applause)*
- Marilyn Williams *(Applause)*

COSTA: Please come up when your name is called:

- Sesil Rubain *(Applause)*
- Antonette Bryant *(Applause)*
- Steve MacDougall *(Applause)*
- Dennis Antonellis *(Applause)*

President, ATU Canada:

- John Di Nino *(Applause)*

International Vice Presidents:

- Anthony Garland *(Applause)*
- Natalie Cruz *(Applause)*
- Curtis Howard *(Applause)*
- John Callahan *(Applause)*
- Manny Sforza *(Applause)*, and
- “I-Know-a-Guy” Big Jim Lindsay *(Applause)*
- Michelle Sommers *(Applause)*
- Bruce Hamilton *(Applause)*
- Charles Watson *(Applause)*
- Gary Johnson *(Applause)*
- Yvette – *I always mess this up* – Trujillo *(Applause)*
- Ray Rivera *(Applause)*
- Marcellus Barnes *(Applause)*

- Kenneth Kirk *(Applause)*
- Paul Bowen *(Applause)*
- Janis Borchardt *(Applause)*, and
- “No. 1,” Ritchie Murphy *(Applause)*

International Executive Vice President:

- Javier M. Perez, Jr. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Let’s give them a hand. *(Applause)*

At this time, I’d like you to take a look at the video on your screens for the opening video –

Disruption from the Floor

COSTA: Oh, I’m sorry. I’m sorry, and, International Vice President:

- Robin West *(Applause)*

COSTA: Sorry, Robin. *(Applause)*

OPENING CONVENTION VIDEO

(Applause)

COSTA: Can I get a motion to approve the Credential Committee appointments?

DELEGATE: “So, *moved.*”

COSTA: Moved by Ray Greaves. Second?

DELEGATES: Chorus of “*Seconds.*”

COSTA: All in favor say, “aye.”

DELEGATES: Chorus of “*ayes.*”

COSTA: Opposed? *(No Response)*

“Ayes” have it. *(Gavel Knock)*

The first time I used the hammer. There you go.

CAROLYN GOODMAN

Mayor of Las Vegas, NV

COSTA: Okay, now let’s give a warm ATU welcome to Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman. She has arrived.

Standing Ovation

“Viva Las Vegas” was played.

MAYOR CAROLYN GOODMAN: What a greeting! I just love it. My husband walks around with show girls and I’ll tell you for the ladies that may be here – these guys look pretty darn good!

And how nice that you stood up. What great manners. Raised four kids and that’s all I keep screaming. Now they are adults and the grandchildren, when a lady walks into the room, stand up. *(Applause)*

Anyway, we thank you, Mr. Costa. Our own Mr. Foster, are you down here somewhere? Where are you? And Ms. Higgins? They are in a committee working while we’re playing here?

Are you feeding everybody? *(Laughter)* I’m big on this. This is the Paris Hotel, and this is Las Vegas. How many of you have been here before? *(Applause)*

‘We count on you’

Well, all I can tell you is we count on you. As mayor of this city – my husband was mayor for 12 years from 1999 to 2011. In ’99, as we all know, the economy was great, and all of the money was coming out of the sky, and Las Vegas was building in a boom. And then 2008 hit us all. Las Vegas led the country in foreclosures, and it was a really, really tough time.

I know your organization has great representation in Canada. We lost an awful lot of our employees moving to Canada to find work to give them a sense of themselves and the dignity to be able to support their families. And in 2011, still in the depths of the recession, I got to be mayor. *(Applause)*

And I just love it. Nobody loves it more than I do – except maybe my husband thinks he did, but after 57 years of marriage I know the truth. *(Laughter)*

My parents told me – don’t marry him. It’ll never work.

So, sometimes we as adults when we talk to our kids, we don’t know what we’re talking about or else they are very stubborn, and they do their own thing.

‘We pulled together in harmony’

But it is a great city and we are so proud of how we



Carolyn Goodman, Mayor of Las Vegas

pulled together. We are as diverse an area as you can find in the biggest cities around the world and we pulled together in harmony.

You know, we had the tragedy of “1 October.” It will be two years come 10 days from now – less than that. But we certainly saw and felt how our community pulled together in that awful massacre.

And when I speak to a conference of mayors. There are 1,800 mayors of cities of 30,000 or more. I said it’s not if – it’s *when*. And unfortunately, it’s usually one crazed person that does this to us.

But you’re here today, and you are in our city, and we love it. There is so much going on. You can have such a good time if the boss lets you have fun. Yes? *(Laughter)*

COSTA: Why not?

GOODMAN: Why not. *(Laughter)*

So, don’t forget, aside from this Strip, downtown is booming. We have the neon boneyard, all the old neon signs from Las Vegas. The Mob Museum, which is part of our history and so much more, new hotels, new Fremont Street Experience, and shoulder-to-shoulder restaurants, and wonderful things to do.

But what I’m proudest about is the fact of this community. My job is mayor and, as I said, now I’m into my third and final term.

Safety

First and foremost, and for all of you, no matter where you live, it’s *safety* today. And nobody is going to live,

raise a family, invest, or do anything in a city that's not safe or a community that is not safe. That is our first priority and what I have been focused on since I took office in '11.

Healthcare

My second priority has been healthcare. We all know how we need quality *healthcare* no matter where we live.

Transportation

But the third, you – *transportation*. Our city here in Las Vegas and any community around the country, and certainly in Canada, is about taking care of how do we move people, how do we keep them safe, and how do we keep them in an environment that they want to come back to? How do we move freight? How do we move produce? How do we move it from the West Coast and the docks, and going back East?

And I sit on – I am a member and have been for these past several years – the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC). And it's a different time today. I don't know what your agenda is going to be and what you are speaking about – but knowing our public transportation and even the private cab companies; how Uber and Lyft and other companies have affected public transportation.

Our Strip transportation used to be “number one” in the country, but now it is affected by different private companies. We also are looking at, which concerns me greatly, it's all innovative and it's all fabulous because we look forward to what is coming in the future, which is unknown. But I worry about our drivers. With automated and autonomous vehicles coming in, where do you all find a job?

Technology

And so while there are wonderful things about *technology* and how quickly we can get information; and if you've had an accident and you are in a remote area where the surgeon doesn't know what to do with you, now all he has to do is pull it up on his laptop or his cell phone.

So, the advantages are great, but every time we have a meeting at the RTC, I address this because it's of great concern.

We have such fabulous, fabulous people in our transportation body. And, of course, since 2011, the recession, we have had to cut back on the pathways where our public transportation goes. But we have devoted employees who love what they do and know that what they do is so critical to every child, and parent, and employee, or visitor that comes to town.

And it's not my morning, but I just want to give you a few items, and if it's all right with you, they may have passed out here because you aren't feeding them.
(*Laughter*)

'Hang tough'

But for those of you – hang tough.

First of all, when my husband and I came here from the East Coast in 1964, there were less than 100,000 people here. We are now, as you know, about 2.3 million and our tourist base is inching up to 43 million visitors.

Moving everyone with our conventions, we've had 26 years being [number] one in the convention business, and we are expanding our convention facilities. But, again, it's all about moving people to the hotels, around the convention center, to the convention centers of all of these great hotels.

And what is amazing to me, unlike any other city, our airport, our international airport, is about 15 – depending on traffic – 15 to 20 minutes from 150,000 hotel rooms, which is incredible. You go to New York, you go to Chicago, you go to Denver, you are in the car forever driving or in vehicles taking you, but here it's very different.

We have over 220 direct international flights coming in, direct from abroad. Our No. 1 carriers go to Canada; No. 2, Mexico; and 3, Great Britain; but we have direct flights coming in from around the world that we keep working on. And, again, when they land here, it's *transportation* – it's vehicular ways to get around.

And so, the most important thing that I would say to you, first of all, is thank you for having me here. Thank you for holding your Convention here in Las Vegas. And just know all of us, just normal lay people – and I am nothing more than a resident here who happened to be lucky enough to be mayor – we rely on you.



‘You are the heart and soul of our country’

You are the heart and soul of our country because you make it possible for us to get from one place to another, whether it’s in an unsafe situation or whether it’s about business and fun because, you know, Las Vegas now has become a major league sports center.

So, we are looking forward to more travel and how they are going to figure all of that out. I wanted them downtown. They are out here.

So, all I can say is, have a wonderful, wonderful time. Learn a lot. Look to the future and plan how we are going to handle this together. Very important, because we know that everybody needs to be able to have a good job, decent pay, great health benefits, and be able to do something that gives you the feeling of satisfaction and integrity.

So, Mr. Costa, you got a great group here. I know you know it. Next time when you come back, I want to see the menu. *(Applause)*

COSTA: We got a little gift for the mayor here. I want to say thank you, Mayor, for coming out.

GOODMAN: Oh, am I lucky!

COSTA: She wants to know what’s in it – *“something nice.” (Laughter)*

GOODMAN: Thank you all, and I’m going to give everybody up here, if my marshal has enough on him, when Oscar came, as some of you may know, he’s a bit crazy, and that is why I love him. And he decided he didn’t want a business card like everybody else has, so

he took a \$100 poker chip and made it his business card. *(Laughter)*

And when he was termed out, my kids came to me and said, “Mom, you have to run. Everyone has a huge ego. They are going to take his name off of everything and anything.” And I said, I’ll run and if I win, I don’t want a \$100 chip, I want a \$1,000 chip. *(Applause)*

So, any of you that want one, call the mayor’s office, we’ll send it to you. You said – when you call, I mean it, we will send it to you. I’m going to give them to all of these wonderful people here that I have enough for. But if you want one, you call the mayor’s office in Las Vegas and say, “the mayor said, and I’m part of this great group.”

So, thank you again. Thank you for whatever is in the gift. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Mayor. Thank you, Mayor.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

COSTA: At this time, we’d like to officially appoint the Sergeants-at-Arms:

Sergeants-at-Arms

- Budh Dhillon, 107
- Mark Bertoia, 113
- Paul Callaghan, 113
- Frank Grimaldi, 113
- Wayne Bender, 268
- William Nix, 268
- Roy Larkin, 279
- Dale Anderson, 519
- Esker C. Bilger, Jr., 689
- Anthony Fuqua, 689
- Courtney Williams, 689
- David Benavides, 694
- Juan Fernandez, 694

- Ruben Silva, 694
- Joseph Gaudette, 714
- Sellers Davis III, 726
- Keith Sellers, 726
- Lamont Watson, 726
- Steven Laino, 726
- Millicent Johnson, 788
- James A. Williams, 819
- Thomas Stocks, 819
- Etrulai Simms, 819
- William Daniels, 819
- Louis Castro, 820
- Richard C. Stark, 825
- Robert Llord, 846
- Rudy Trujillo, Sr., 1001
- Gary Pires, 1037
- Willie Moorner, 1056
- Kenneth Haanraads, 1179
- George Ann Jackson, 1287
- William C. Howard, 1287
- Mark Gerling, 1321
- Elias “Babe” Amash, 1321
- Donnie K Small, Sr., 1535
- William Montgomery, 1592
- Denny Crisostomo Nunez, 1593
- Tunisia Jordan, 1593
- Wayne Crabtree, 1760
- Dan Sundquist, retired International Representative

COSTA: Let’s give them a hand, and I’d like to thank the Sergeants-at-Arms for doing the work that they have been doing this week, getting up early and helping everybody out. Great job. Thank you.

And also, I would like to take this time to recognize our staff here at the ATU and the great work they have done at registration and along with the parties. Give them a hand. Thank you. We appreciate it. (*Applause*) We are now going to appoint the rest of the committees. Please bear with us as we go through these lists. Shawn?

PERRY:

Appeals Committee

- Jacques Chapman, 282, Chair
- Amanda Malone, 1177, Secretary
- Naresh Sachithanandan, 134
- Woodrow Eiland, 241
- Ralph Buccitti, 281
- Artan Martinaj, 425
- John Rugama, 441
- Johnny Haggith, 685
- Carroll F. Thomas, Jr., 689
- George Botts, 726
- Andre Fournier, 741
- Pablo Gonzalez, 820
- Dana Burgess, 823
- RiChard Jackson, 836
- Steven Oss, 883
- Brent Payne, 1091
- Peter Schiraldi, 1145
- Grant Logan, 1182
- Jaroslaw Pizunski, 1209
- John Habanec, 1241
- Mustafa Salahuddin, 1336
- Stephen Simon, 1464
- Katharine Crawford, 1602
- Marcellus Barnes, International Vice President
- Michelle Sommers, International Vice President
- Rich Otzel, Staff

Balloting Committee

- Dwight Mattingly, 1577, Chair
- Karima Howard, 85, Secretary
- George Borja, 19
- Kevin Odom, 22
- Robert L. Yoders, 103
- Peter De Angelis, 113
- Jacques Racine, 279
- Pennie McCray-McCoach, 308
- Annette Pingel, 312

- Sandra Sands, 580
- Brian B. Bradt, 582
- Rick Ratcliff, 583
- John Clancy, 589
- Steve Sousa, 618
- Troy Barnes, 689
- Ronald Shelton, 689
- Tracey Britt, 689
- Jennifer Chase, 689
- Edward Knutson, 714
- John Fattorusso, 726
- David Kyser, 765
- Darrell Lampley, 819
- Carlos Gonzalez, 820
- Denise L. Briggs, 822
- DeCarlo Greer, 900
- Scott Szabadka, 946
- Cassandra Cobb, 998
- Eric Stubblefield, 1001
- Vincent Casella, 1027
- Troy Hanson, 1168
- Edward Franke, 1179
- Janel Williams, 1225
- Michael Winningham, 1249
- Oscar Velasco, 1277
- Jeff Shaffer, 1277
- Leroy K. Carpenter, 1300
- Alisia Brown, 1336
- John Doerrman, 1345
- Efren Mazas, 1360
- Jim Beresten, 1415
- Denis Bosc, 1505
- Margaret Gilbert, 1582
- Mario Ferrante, 1587
- Denyse Mitchell, 1724
- Robin West, International Vice President
- Dan Smith, Staff

General Executive Board Committee

- Calvin Kennedy, 1324, Chair
- Luis Alzate, 1056, Secretary
- Rick Fox, 113
- Fritz Titus, 113
- John Remias, 272
- James Brooks, 308
- Darlene Malayko, 569
- Jody Trotman, 583
- Gloria A. Fulton, 610
- Jim Yakubowski, 615
- Michael Majette, 732
- Lakisha Ewell, 819
- Michael Brown, 998
- Teresa Moore, 1015
- John DiRito, 1277
- Christine Davis, 1356
- April Williams, 1591
- Michelle Gray, 1605
- Donald Turner, 1701
- Mark Beeching, 1724
- Dennis Champagne, 1767
- Gary Johnson, International Vice President
- Jeff Rosenberg, Staff

International President's Report Committee

- Michael McMillan, 1300, Chair
- Jackie Boily, 1760, Secretary
- Rick Rideout, 113
- Diane Allen, 128
- Paul Jason, 164
- Al Barnes, 281
- Corey Carr, 308
- Harry Lew, 583
- Romoan Bruce, 689

- Tolbert Furr, 819
- Earl Hardy, Jr., 821
- Chris Simmons, 847
- Joseph A. Cherry, 857
- Joseph Romeo, 880
- Albert Garcia, 1225
- Charles E. Schroeder, 1293
- Lydia M. Moore, 1342
- Frank Marsh, 1415
- Paul Churchill, 1462
- Percival Patterson, 1493
- Troy Covington, 1517
- Christine Broeze, 1587
- Scott Penvose, 1749
- Christopher Lake, 1761
- Richard Murphy, International Vice President
- Jeff Rosenberg, Staff

International Secretary-Treasurer's Report Committee

- Sabatino DiNardo, 85, Chair
- Joyce Willis, 192, Secretary
- Paul Doucette, 107
- Kevin Morton, 113
- Toi Bowers, 241
- Corina De La Torre, 256
- John Courtney, 265
- Norman Blessant, 382
- Daryll Miller, 569
- Zul Vira, 583
- Patrick Brady, 587
- Kevin Cole, 618
- Keith M. Bullock, 689
- Amalio L. Soto, 694
- Mary Longoria, 757
- Deborah Brown, 758
- David Greaves, 819
- Corey Gallman, 880

- Michael Harvey, 1001
- Tommy Bellfield, 1005
- Aminatu El-Mohammed, 1028
- Lawrence Prosser, 1091
- JeanClaude Calixte, 1181
- Robert Roach, 1287
- Christopher Todd, 1309
- Thomas Hutchinson, 1338
- Diona Williams, 1447
- John Sainz, 1576
- Catherine Borrens, 1587
- Oscar Owens, International Secretary-Treasurer
- Chuck Watson, International Vice President
- Nancy Trumbull, Staff

ATU COPE Committee

- Troy Miller, 627, Chair
- Marcy Longstreet, 1333, Secretary
- Kennard Plummer, 192
- Paul Tolson, 241
- John Pospishek, 265
- Reginald McCall, 308
- Patsy Breazeale, 587
- Leslie Evans-Pina, 589
- Wilbur Lucas, 689
- George Botts, 726
- Nuccio Stuto, 726
- Antoian Johnson, 788
- Chris Berger, 1001
- Robert France, 1056
- Earl L. Cox, 1093
- Brunot Fleuriot, 1181
- Chantel Daniels, 1197
- Louis Durant, III, 1300
- Charles Sikora, 1342
- Shane Weinstein, 1575

- Herman Green, 1700
- Leonard Weaver, 1700
- Ronnie Davis, 1704
- David Sayre, 1742
- Anthony Garland, International Vice President
- Jeff Rosenberg, Staff

Environmental/Occupational Health and Safety Committee

- Jack Jackson, 1572, Chair
- Martin Heraghty, 824, Secretary
- Perri M. Lile-Barrett, 26
- Roland Beaudet, 113
- Eric Darby, 192
- LaTrina Meredith, 192
- Roger Love, 241
- Joe Kang, 279
- Dawn Metcalf, 282
- Douglas Underwood, 382
- Calvin Henry, 425
- Veronica Chavers, 443
- Kevin Meyer, 568
- Tzur Wilfand, 587
- Harold Batson, 587
- Jennie Gill, 587
- Cheryl Rowe, 587
- Richard Lee, 589
- Lee Creech, 589
- Tracy Smith, 689
- Dion Baker, 689
- Diron Jackson, 689
- Christopher Waymer, 726
- James Atkins, 732
- Anthony Forrester, 757
- Khris Alexander, 757
- Nancy Spence, 823
- Angela Williams, 1001

- Chris Morales, 1001
- David Gosha, 1005
- Edward Cusano, 1181
- Fred Andreani, 1181
- Steven Moquin, 1321
- Gerald Duncan, 1385
- Michael Lowery, 1395
- Lionel Randolph, 1436
- Mathias Hamilton, 1447
- Sandra Surgeon-Jones, 1464
- Sam Aquino, 1587
- Donald Campbell, 1592
- Maria I. Carrera, 1596
- Sammie Howard, Jr., 1700
- Jerry Nunez, 1704
- Bruce Hamilton, International Vice President
- Ed Watt, Staff

Gender Equity and Inclusion Committee

- Lisa Fair, 1309, Chair
- Scott Lovell, 1722, Secretary
- LaNette Mitchell, 85
- Tracey Brown, 113
- Angie Clark, 113
- Kelvin Gilkey, 241
- Donna Murphy, 308
- Jeannie Garbett, 508
- Martha Martinez, 569
- Karen Maxwell, 589
- Ozzie Andrews, 689
- Karen Thomas, 819
- Doris West, 819
- Cherida Smith, 998
- Felix Avila, 1056
- Laura Santiago, 1181
- James Vangerwen, 1505

- Rachel Miranda, 1555
- Beverly Glenn, 1596
- Michael Cornelius, Madelin Burt-D'Agnillo, Katherine Andrews, and Alyssa Tufano, Staff

Maintenance Committee

- Orlando Riley, 819, Chair
- Jonathan Hunt, 757, Secretary
- Jeff DiPerna, 85
- Scott Gordon, 113
- Marqueal Williams, 241
- Jason Kilby, 279
- Jose Hernandez, 569
- Bill Johnson, 583
- Derrick Gray, 689
- Greg Bowen, 689
- Anthony Rogers, 732
- Michael Francois, 757
- Antonio Floyd, 788
- Michael Young, 880
- Christopher Bourke, 993
- Kurt J. Anderson, 1005
- Frank Myers, 1056
- James Berry, 1179
- Monica Carney-Haynes, 1277
- Aaron Williams, 1277
- Loni M. Petrowski, 1505
- Jim Lindsay, International Vice President
- Brian Sherlock and Elias Alsbergas, Staff

New Technology, Apprenticeships and Jobs Committee

- Carly Allen, 697, Chair
- Jamaine Gibson, 265, Secretary
- Kevin Barrett, 85
- Mike D'Agostino, 113

- Phil Horgan, 113
- Demarcus Roberson, 558
- Harminder "Raj" Brar, 569
- Marcus Taylor, 589
- Darcy Pederson, 615
- Damion Cannon, 689
- David Ward, 732
- Joe Ruffin, 757
- Thomas Leighty, 1015
- Joseph Branch, 1056
- Dean Boykin, 1277
- Ferraro Jacobs, 1464
- Everett Rudolph, 1505
- Robert Goudie, 1573
- Miguel Navarro, Jr., 1574
- Carolyn Higgins, 1637
- John Callahan, International Vice President
- Michael McCall-Delgado, Ed Watt, and Katherine Andrews, Staff

Next Generation Committee

- Travis Oberg, 987, Chair
- Tamieko Cook, 587, Secretary
- Ross Nicotero, 85
- Aleem Tharani, 113
- Hernan Saulle, 113
- Veronica Harry, 113
- Furquaan Abdullah, 241
- Nitin Datta, 279
- Michael Overstreet, 308
- Jennifer Ewanchuk, 569
- Rahul Patel, 588
- Katharine Mullen, 589
- Armani Marsman, 589
- Leah Anderson, 689
- Barry Wilson, 689

- Shareka Cook, 732
- Jami Lyles, 880
- Thomas Erdman, 1056
- Arcadio Fret, 1181
- Mauro Varela, 1277
- Natalie Cruz, International Vice President
- Rich Otzel, Russell Bateman, and Ed Watt, Staff

Organizing/Collective Bargaining, and Strategies Committee

- Patrick Green, 1235, Chair
- Antoine Maiben, 770, Secretary
- Marvin Alfred, 113
- Enrico Signore, 113
- Crystal McGee-Lee, 256
- Hariqbal Bal, 279
- John Blocchi, 282
- Eric Dixon, 308
- Karin Gill, 583
- James Bradley, 589
- Inga McGlothin, 627
- John Boland, 628
- John Gaines, 689
- James Curran, 726
- Mikesha Walker, 732
- Jeffrey Evans, 825
- Doni S. Jones, 1005
- Brenda Moore, 1091
- Renee Jean-Louis, 1181
- Nicholas Hedge, 1181
- Victor Rodriguez, 1277
- Richard Swain, 1338
- Tassy Saylor, 1474
- Andrew Woods, 1512
- Chris Moore, 1633
- John Lyons, Todd Brogan, John Ertl,
and Chris Townsend, Staff

Resolutions Committee

- Clint Crabtree, 279, Chair
- Kathleen Custer, 1576, Secretary
- Manjit “Max” Matharu, 113
- Tiant Gatewood, 241
- Tanno Muhammad, 241
- Ralph Niz, 256
- Chuck Fitzpatrick, 279
- Harvey Woo, 583
- Joseph Cole, 618
- Ernest Johnson, 682
- Brenda Thomas, 689
- Quincey Jones, 689
- Carl Beecham, 704
- Manuel Colon, 820
- Geraldo Arroyo, 822
- Steve Beaudry, 846
- Nanette Ruffin, 859
- Ken Koza, 966
- Deborah Altgilbers, 1108
- Joe Greer, 1164
- Colando Stokes, 1179
- Woodrow Terrill Perry, 1285
- Zefnia Durham, III, 1579
- Will Delgado, 1596
- Curtis Howard, International Vice President
- Jeff Rosenberg and Justin Panos, Staff

School Bus/Paratransit Committee

- Anthony Cordiello, 1181, Chair
- Diane Stambaugh, 1743, Secretary
- Caesarie Montgomery, 241
- David Tancrati, 448
- Gary Strayhorn, 627
- Debra Carter, 689
- Gregory Roddy, 725

- Ayana DunlapBell, 732
- Catina Wilson, 788
- Tomas Fret, 1181
- Ernest Maione, 1181
- Albert Dirla, 1338
- Dwayne Session, 1433
- John Q. Adams, 1563
- Kevin Colon, 1564
- Donna Meanor, 1595
- Tracey Tredway, 1614
- Oswaldo Chin, 1622
- Nancy McCurdy, 1733
- Justin R. Priest, 1754
- LaWanda Epps, 1763
- Cris Laffin, 1775
- Ray Rivera, International Vice President
- David Heller & Chris Townsend Staff

PERRY: Committee members are urged to check the ATU app to find out the time and place of their committee meetings throughout this week.

COSTA: Thank you. Also, a reminder, Delegates, please fill out your attendance cards for the raffles. We are going to be pulling cards out, and there are some really nice gifts that will be given out, so don't forget to fill out your attendance cards.

And as Shawn said, the schedules are on your apps. If you go on your app here, the times of the committees and the place to meet are all there. I think we are going to do a video. Are we ready for it?

PHIL MURPHY

Governor of New Jersey

VIDEO MESSAGE

BROTHER MARTIN HERAGHTY, 824-New Brunswick, NJ: Hello, John Costa, Ray Greaves, and all the Brothers and Sisters of the ATU, Amalgamated Transit Union – *"Together We Fight!"*

Governor Murphy would like to say a couple of words to say hello at the Convention:



*Governor Phil Murphy, NJ, and Delegate Martin Heraghty,
Local 824-New Brunswick, NJ*

GOVERNOR PHIL MURPHY: Hey, John and Ray, God bless you guys and to all of the Brothers and Sisters of ATU. Thank you so much for everything you do day-in and day-out to move New Jersey and to keep us as strong as we are. And I also want to thank you for your personal support and friendship. I wish you a great Convention. As my late mother would say, "You are known by the company you keep."

I'm keeping good ATU company. Thanks, Folks.

HERAGHTY: *"Together We Fight!"*

MURPHY: *"Together We Fight!"*

COSTA: Thank you, Marty, for getting that. Eight years with Chris Christie in New Jersey was horrible for us, so it was nice that the new governor recognized the ATU and the hard work that we did to get him elected, and he's been delivering every day for us. So, thank you. *(Applause)*

That was nice and tell the governor all of us from the ATU are with him, and hopefully, he gets the rest of the governors out here to do the same and follow his path – that supporting transit issues is a good way to get elected.

Listen, we are just kind of stalling for time here. We need the committees – the Credentials Committee, the committee to come back for us to do work on the other committees. So, what we are going to do is, we are going to recess for lunch early, so at this time we are recessed for lunch. Oh, hold on. Hold on. Hold on ten minutes.

I'm just getting word that they are coming back in about ten minutes, so we are going to do the raffle.

Raffle Drawing

COSTA: Winner – Joe Greer, 1164-Knoxville, TN. *(Applause)*

I also have a note here to please ask that the Michigan locals meet at the stage at break. All right.

And there was also another – on the Laws Committee, we missed a name, I'm being told, hold on: Gena Alexander from Local 1555, Laws Committee. Her name was not read, but you are assigned to that committee. Okay?

The raffle gift is up here.

DELEGATES: *"What's in it?"*

COSTA: *"Something nice."* *(Laughter)*

We got any videos to show? *(Laughter)*

I'm being asked to wait for five minutes, so we can get the Credentials done, so we can move on with the rest of the committees. We have to get them in to move a motion for the rest of the committees.

PERRY: Brothers and Sisters, you are reminded to wear your white shirt on Tuesday, that's tomorrow, for the panoramic photo.

COSTA: Yes. The white shirts that were given out. We are going to do a group shot tomorrow, so tomorrow, put the shirts on. If you don't have the shirt on, you can't get into the picture. Okay. We have a video coming:

ATU HEROES VIDEO

Also, another announcement. We have the "Wow Show" tonight at 5:00 p.m. The buses will be starting to go over, so the buses will start loading at 5:00 p.m. at the north side entrance at Paris. So, we'll be there. So, remember to bring your tickets too. Bring your tickets.

Anything on the Credentials? We have another video:

ATU DISASTER RELIEF FUND VIDEO

We have a couple tables outside for (ATU) Disaster Relief, also for ATU COPE, so please stop by. It's

important that we donate and help out our members in these crises. Me being from Jersey, dealing with (Hurricane) Sandy, and then most recently Houston, dealing with these floods, are very, very stressful for anybody.

All right. The committee is about to come in with the report. Okay. I'm getting reports that they are ready to come in.

Okay. So, how did everybody enjoy your package at registration? *(Applause)* Good, good. Very good. How about the chips with – we recognized our president, Larry Hanley – in memory? *(Applause)*

Let me tell you, I still don't feel that this is my Convention. I still feel it's Larry Hanley's Convention, to be honest with you, and we tried to do him proud and also our members that are all here proud, so I hope. And how was the reception last night? *(Applause)*

Sorry. I was working on this last night, so I arrived kind of late, but I understand the food was pretty good. I really didn't get a chance to eat. But so far, so good. I didn't get many complaints. Being a union guy like us, or girl like us, and leaders, when you don't get complaints, you are kind not used to that, right? *(Laughter)* So, it's a little awkward.

We are going to read the times and the locations where the committees are reporting for you. Go ahead, Shawn:

PERRY:

- For the Appeals Committee – it will meet in Paris Versailles 3 and 4, on Tuesday, September 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Balloting to be announced.
- The ATU COPE Committee will meet in Paris Concourse C, on Tuesday at 7:30 a.m., and again, on Tuesday at 4:00 p.m.
- The Credentials Committee will meet in Champagne No. 2, Monday, September 23rd at 7:30 a.m., and again at 9:30 a.m. on Monday and Tuesday at 7:00 a.m., and Wednesday at 7:00 a.m.
- The GEB Report Committee will meet in Paris Champagne 4, Wednesday, September 25th at 7:30 a.m., and Friday on September 27th at 7:30 a.m.
- The International President's Report Committee will meet at Paris Versailles 1, Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., and Wednesday at 7:30 a.m.

- The International Secretary-Treasurer's Report Committee will meet in Paris Champagne 1, on Monday at 3:00 p.m., and Tuesday at 7:30 a.m.
- The Laws Committee will meet in Paris Champagne 3 and 4, on Monday, 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, 8:30 a.m., and Wednesday, 7:30 a.m.
- The Resolutions Committee will meet in Bally's Las Vegas 1, Monday from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., Thursday at 7:30 a.m., and Friday at 7:30 a.m.
- The Rules and Order Committee will meet in Paris Champagne 3 and 4, on Monday at 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- The Organizing/Collective Bargaining and Strategies Committee will meet in Bally's Las Vegas 7, on Tuesday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., and Thursday at 7:30.
- The Next Generation Committee will meet at Bally's Jubilee 1, Wednesday, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- The School Bus/Paratransit Committee will meet at Bally's Skyview 3, Wednesday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- The Gender Equity and Inclusion Committee will meet in Bally's Las Vegas 5, on Wednesday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- The Environmental/Occupational Health and Safety Committee will meet in Bally's Skyview 4, Wednesday 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- The Maintenance Committee will meet in Bally's Skyview 5, Wednesday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.; and
- The New Technologies, Apprenticeship and Jobs Committee will meet in Bally's Las Vegas 4, on Wednesday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

COSTA: Thank you, Shawn.

At this time – are the Credentials here yet? Why don't we do a lifestyle break for 10 minutes, okay, and reconvene. Thank you.

Whereupon, a recess was taken.

PERRY: Brothers and Sisters, please take your seats. The Convention is about to reconvene.

INITIAL CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

COSTA: The Credentials Committee is ready for their report. Okay. I call up Eric Tuck, chair, and Jeff Richardson, secretary.

COMMITTEE CHAIR ERIC TUCK, 107-Hamilton, ON: Mr. Chairman. Delegates to this 59th Convention, this is the initial report of the Committee on Credentials.



Delegate Eric Tuck, 107-Hamilton, ON

This is only a partial report following consideration of those credentials which were deemed unsatisfactory upon their initial presentation during the registration process who presented other satisfactory identification to the committee or have been found to be eligible for participation in the election of international officers and AFL-CIO convention delegates before the committee.

In short order this committee will assess the circumstances of other potential delegates who have already joined us. To that end, immediately following adoption of this report, we will announce the names of those individuals from whom the committee would like to hear further. The committee asks that those individuals whose names are called to please come to the Champagne Room 2, near the passage to Bally's immediately following this report to meet with the committee.

Subject to amendment

Additionally, this report is subject to amendment upon the subsequent arrival of any additional delegates

to this Convention. The committee has reviewed and found to be in order the credentials for 612 delegates. Of this number, 612 are voting delegates eligible to participate in the election of international officers and delegates and alternate delegates to the AFL-CIO convention.

There are also two non-voting delegates from ATU Canada and the New Jersey State Council, as well as 21 international officers.

Mr. Chairman, the 59th Convention delegates gathered here were sent by 193 ATU local unions, one joint bargaining council, and ATU Canada to represent the interest of transit workers throughout Canada and the United States.

Therefore, I move that this Convention adopt this initial report of the committee on credentials seating a total of 612 voting delegates and two non-voting delegates. Thank you.

COSTA: Thank you, Brother Tuck. The motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: *"Seconds."*

COSTA: I hear a second.

Any questions? *(No Response)*

Hearing none, all in favor say "aye."

DELEGATES: Chorus of *"ayes."*

COSTA: Opposed? *(No Response)*

(Gavel Knock) The "ayes" have it.

TUCK: I will now introduce the secretary of the Credentials Committee to read out the list of members who must appear before the committee immediately following hearing their names read out. Jeff: *(Applause)*

COMMITTEE SECRETARY JEFF RICHARDSON, 1342-Buffalo, NY:

- Mark Gifford, 168,
- Naresh Sachithanandan, 134
- Jose Rosado, 587
- Ken Price, 587
- Johnny Haggith, 685



Delegate Jeff Richardson, 1324-Buffalo, NY

- Laurie Wysk, 690
- Ricardo Vega, 956
- Brandyee Brothers, 1028
- Richard Davis, 1498
- Efren Mazas, 1360
- Pierre Lacroix, 1557
- David Herrera, 1575
- Angelo Navarro, 1779

COSTA: Thank you, Brother Richardson. I appreciate the work that's been done. Let's give them a hand. *(Applause)*

Okay. At this time, I'm going to ask to approve all of the committees.

DELEGATES: *"Seconds."*

COSTA: I want to substitute on ATU-COPE, Sindy Vasquez, 1700-Chicago, IL, for Leonard Weaver from 1700, so we're going to do a switch along with this approval. Okay?

So, a motion was made. Second?

DELEGATES: *"Seconded."*

COSTA: Any questions? *(No Response)*

Hearing none. All in favor say "aye."

DELEGATES: Chorus of *"ayes"*

COSTA: Opposed? *(No Response)*

Approved. Thank you.

PEREZ: There is a correction to our scroll earlier today. The scroll inaccurately listed Cris Laffin as a member of 1774. She has pointed out very proudly that she has no animosity to 1774, but she is a proud member of 1775. *(Applause)*

RULES AND ORDER COMMITTEE REPORT

COSTA: Okay. We have the Rules Committee and we are ready to do a report. Are they here? Yes, they are.

COMMITTEE CHAIR JOHN FOSTER, 1637-Las Vegas, NV: This is a report of the Rules Committee. We will have the committee members' names read by the secretary, Brother Mason.



Delegate John Foster, 1637-Las Vegas, NV

COMMITTEE SECRETARY THOMAS MASON, 726-Staten Island, NY: Report of the Rules Committee. I would like to thank each member of the Rules Committee for their work ensuring that we have a set of rules for this 59th Convention, which is an important foundation to our best traditions of union democracy and will allow this assembly to complete the business the members of this great Union sent us to Las Vegas to undertake.

Because I would be remiss if I did not do so, on behalf of the entire committee, I thank International Vice President Paul Bowen for his assistance in carrying out the important work for the Rules Committee.

To the Officers and Delegates of the 59th Convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union, we, your Committee



Delegate Thomas Mason, 726-Staten Island, NY

on Rules and Order, submit the rules to govern the course of this 59th Convention:

Convention Rules

Rule No. 1. The Convention will be called to order at 8:30 a.m. each day and will remain in session until concluded at the discretion of the international president, except that the meeting on Friday, September 27, 2019, shall commence and adjourn at the discretion of the international president.

Rule No. 2. Any delegate desiring to enter the floor of the convention hall must present properly accredited credentials to a Sergeant-at-Arms placed at the door, except as otherwise provided by Rule 17. No one except accredited delegates to this Convention shall be seated on the floor.

A nondelegate appellant who has properly appealed a ruling to the Convention and his or her counsel who is a member of the ATU, shall be allowed to enter the convention hall to speak on her or his appeal subject to the restrictions in Rules 3 and 4 governing delegates while the appeal is being discussed and voted on.

Rule No. 3. When any delegate is about to engage in debate or otherwise address the Chair or delegates, such delegate shall arise from his or her seat, proceed to the microphone, turn on the light and respectfully address the Chair.

Once duly recognized by the Chair, the delegate shall first state his or her name together with the

number of his or her local union, or as the case may be, the name of the joint bargaining council he or she represents. The delegate shall confine his or her remarks to the subject introduced or under debate and avoid personalities.

The delegates shall conduct themselves with appropriate decorum while the convention proceedings are in session. In the event a delegate disrupts or otherwise interferes with the orderly process of the convention business or fails to comply with the direction of the Chair or with the rules governing the Convention, the Chair may instruct the Sergeants-at-Arms to remove the delegate from the convention floor and bar the delegate's reentry for the duration of the day's session or the duration of the Convention.

Any delegate who engages in any altercation of a physical nature will be removed from the Convention and may be referred to the appropriate authorities, if necessary.

Rule No. 4. Any delegate to the Convention shall be entitled to the privilege of speaking on all questions limited to five minutes, and no delegate will be allowed to speak more than once on any subject until all delegates who wish to speak on the subject have been heard. Provided that limitation has been satisfied, a delegate may have the privilege of speaking a second time again to the five minute rule. Any further privilege of speech shall be afforded only by majority consent of the assembly.

A speaking delegate will use a microphone accompanied by a lighting system. The purpose of the lighting system is to indicate when the speaker's allotted time expires. At the beginning of the speaker's remarks, a green light will be shown, will turn yellow upon the one-minute mark from the conclusion of their allotted speaking time. At the expiration of the allotted speaking time, the light will turn red, the speaker shall conclude his or her remarks.

Rule No. 5. No delegate may conclude his or her remarks by moving to close the debate. If a motion to close debate carries, debate shall be closed except that any delegate who was standing in line

at a microphone at the time of the making of the motion shall be given the opportunity to speak on the issue.

Rule No. 6. When a delegate is recognized by the Chair to address the assembly, no other delegate shall leave his or her chair to engage in conversation.

Rule No. 7. When the Chair is putting a question, or when a vote is taken, no accredited delegate shall leave the hall.

Rule No. 8. All cellular telephones and other electronic devices shall be silenced in convention hall. No delegate or guest shall be permitted to engage in oral communication by means of any cellular or wireless device within the bounds of the convention hall.

Rule No. 9. When the Convention is about to adjourn, delegates shall keep their seats until the Chair announces the adjournment.

Rule No. 10. Any resolution received by the international president after August 1, 2019, shall not be considered by the Convention except by two-thirds vote of the delegates present. However, provided that any resolution received by the international president after the Convention recesses for the day on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, shall not be considered except by the consent of the delegates present.

Rule No. 11. The Chair shall refer any properly received resolution, which is contemplative of the amendments to the *Constitution and General Laws* of the IU (International Union) to the Laws Committee. The Laws Committee shall consider all such resolutions referred to it, and report on such resolutions prior to the Convention taking action on such resolutions.

Rule No. 12. The Chair shall refer any properly received resolution which is not contemplative of amendments to the *Constitution and General Laws* of the International Union to the Resolutions Committee. The Resolutions Committee shall consider all resolutions referred to it, and report on all resolutions prior to the Convention taking action on such resolutions.

Rule No. 13. The Convention shall consider an appeal only if it is timely filed with the international president pursuant to the *Constitution and General Laws*, Section 23, Appeals, and only if it's an appeal of a decision of the General Executive Board which was issued by August 1, 2019.

Rule No. 14. The Chair shall refer to the Appeals Committee all properly filed appeals of decisions of the General Executive Board, which were received by the international president on August 1, 2019.

Rule No. 15. The Appeals Committee shall consider all appeals referred to it, and report on such appeals prior to the Convention taking action on such appeals.

Rule No. 16. Every accredited voting delegate present shall vote on all questions unless excused by the Chair. Prior to the reading of the reports of the Laws Committee, the Resolutions Committee, and the Appeals Committee, all delegates meeting in committees will be given notice that a vote is to be taken and provided adequate time to return to the convention hall.

Rule No. 17. Nonvoting delegates seated by the majority action of the accredited delegates in the convention hall shall be entitled to the privilege of speaking on all questions put before the Convention or its committees, subject to Rule No. 4.

When about to engage in debate, a nonvoting delegate shall rise from his or her seat and respectfully address the Chair. Once duly recognized by the Chair, the delegate shall state his or her name, together with the name of his or her local union, or, as the case may be, the name of the joint bargaining council he or she represents, and otherwise indicate that he or she is a nonvoting delegate.

In accordance with Rule No. 3, the delegate shall confine his or her remarks to the subject under debate and avoid personalities.

The Chair should ensure that nonvoting delegates do not participate in any votes or the election process. If the Chair so instructs, all nonvoting delegates shall leave the floor when a vote is being taken except otherwise provided herein.

Nonvoting delegates shall not be entitled to any privilege vested in accredited delegates.

Rule No. 18. The nomination and elections of all international officers and delegates and alternates to the AFL-CIO convention shall take place in regular order of business of the Convention at such time on Thursday, September 26, 2019, as the Chair may provide, and shall be conducted in accordance with the following specifications:

(a) during the Convention there will be no campaigning or distribution of any campaign literature or materials at any location within the convention hall or during the election, inside of the polling room, or within 60 feet of the entrance doorways to the polling room except that:

- (1) campaign materials of standard legal size – 8.5 by 14 inches or smaller – may be distributed on the delegate tables on the convention floor prior to each day's opening of the proceedings and during breaks and recesses; and
- (2) the delegates and guests may wear campaign buttons and campaign related shirts, but they may not wear such items while on the podium.

Nominations shall be called for each officer separately and in the following order:

- International President
- International Executive Vice President
- International Secretary-Treasurer
- International Vice President positions
- Delegates to the AFL-CIO convention positions
- Alternates to the AFL-CIO convention positions

Nominations and voting shall be called for each office before proceeding to the next office.

All nominations shall be made from the floor and may be made by any accredited voting delegate.

No person may be a candidate for more than one office. Nomination speeches shall be limited to four minutes in duration. No second shall be necessary to a nomination and, except as otherwise specified immediately hereinafter, any seconds shall be limited to two and shall not exceed one minute in duration.

Those nominated shall accept or decline their nominations prior to the close of nominations. Nominees who have accepted their nominations shall be candidates. If a candidate withdraws his or her nomination after the close of nominations, nominations for that office or the delegate or alternate position shall be reopened.

The withdrawing candidate shall be ineligible to be a candidate for that or any other office, or if the withdrawing of the candidate was a candidate for a delegate or alternate position, the withdrawing candidate shall be ineligible to be a candidate for that or any other delegate or alternate position. Nominees shall not be permitted to make acceptance or declination speeches.

(b) In the case of election contests, where there is more than one candidate for the same office, the voting shall be by secret ballot. Where there is only one candidate, no secret ballot shall be necessary, and the Chair shall instruct the International Secretary-Treasurer to cast the unanimous vote.

(c) Only an accredited delegate to the Convention who has been elected a delegate by secret ballot vote among the membership of his or her local union, or joint bargaining council, and whose name appears on the list of delegates certified by the Credentials Committee as eligible to vote, shall be allowed to vote in the elections.

(d) Each delegate on the voting eligibility list shall be entitled to one vote in each election. No proxy vote shall be permitted.

(e) The names on ballots shall be ordered alphabetically by last name, and then by first name. No write-in candidates shall be permitted.

(f) It shall require a plurality of all votes cast

to constitute an election. In the event of a tie, where no candidate receives a plurality of the ballots cast, there shall be a runoff among the candidates receiving a tie vote in the runoff. The candidate receiving the highest number of the votes shall be declared elected.

(g) The Balloting Committee shall receive and count the votes. Upon presentation of the credentials by each accredited delegate registering to vote, a member of the Balloting Committee shall require the delegate to sign next to his or her name on the voter eligibility list and provide a ballot to the delegate. All eligible voters shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to vote. Only members of the Balloting Committee, official observers, representatives of the international Legal and Controller's Departments, and accredited delegates in the process of voting shall be permitted access to the polling location.

(h) Each candidate whose name is to appear on the ballot shall have the right to designate and have present at each polling location and at the count, up to two official observers of his or her own choosing. This right encompasses the right to be present at every phase and level of the voting process, including the presentation of credentials and registration of eligible voters, the observation of each polling location, the counting of ballots, and certification of tally. Any candidate wishing to have an observer at the polling place must submit in writing the name of the observer to the International Secretary-Treasurer prior to the commencement of the voting for the contested office.

(i) The International Secretary-Treasurer shall have official custody of, and the duty to preserve for one year, the credentials of delegates and all minutes and other records pertaining to the elections.

Rule No. 19. These Rules of this Convention, once adopted, shall be suspended or modified only by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present.

Rule No. 20. When the foregoing Rules of this Convention or the *Constitution and General Laws*

do not otherwise govern, “Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised (11th Edition)” shall determine any point in question.

FOSTER: I call on Brother Mason to read the names of the members of the committee. Thank you.

COSTA: The motion was moved.

DELEGATES: “*Seconds.*”

COSTA: Second. Questions? (*No Response*)

All in favor, say “aye.”

DELEGATES: Chorus of “*ayes.*”

COSTA: Opposed. (*No Response*)

The “ayes” have it.

Thank you, John. I picked the right guy to read all of those rules, huh? Hold on. We have Tommy coming up. Come on, Tom.

MASON: I would like to announce the members of the committee:

- Glenn Tolbert, 26
- Frank Malta, 113
- Ryan Rajmoolie, 113
- Michelle Townsend, 241
- Deborah Lane, 308
- Rocky Perkins, 398
- Kenneth Rice, Sr., 540
- Elayne Young, 589
- Jerry Ballard, 662
- Juan Amaya, 694
- Brenda Mule, 717
- Isaac Tate, 758
- Luis Gomez, 822
- Patrick Lynch, 836
- Steve Redman, 996

- James Macon, 998
- Katie Kelley, 1039
- Roy Luster, Jr., 1070
- Andrew Cleary, 1189
- Dwayne Russell, 1197
- Douglas Behr, 1267
- Michael Walters, 1279
- Robin Ward, 1300
- Donnie Jolly, 1338
- Gil Mendonca, 1363
- Shirley Williams, 1493
- John Troxell, Jr., 1547
- Eduardo Cortez, 1774

MASON: Thank you. (*Applause*)

COSTA: Thank you, Tommy. Thank you, committee. Great work. Appreciate it.

All right. So, at this time we are going to recess for lunch, and we’ll be back at 1 o’clock. Thank you.

Whereupon, the 59th Amalgamated Transit Union International Convention was recessed until Monday, September 23, 2019, at 1:00 p.m.

DAY ONE

Monday Afternoon Session
September 23, 2019

*The Amalgamated Transit Union International
Convention reconvened on Monday, September 23, 2019,
at 1:15 p.m.*

CHAIR and INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT JOHN COSTA: Sergeants-at-Arms want to get everybody seated? Back in session. Go ahead:

MADELINE JANIS

Executive Director of
'Jobs to Move America'

Video Introduction

PERRY (*announcer*): Sisters and Brothers, please welcome the Executive Director of "Jobs to Move America," Madeline Janis. (*Applause*)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MADELINE JANIS: Hello.

DELEGATES: "*Hello.*"

So, excited to be in the house of a fighting union! (*Applause*)

So, I am going to talk about some competing visions for our future, the ATU vision, and the vision that might be called the "Elon Musk" or the "Google Vision" of America.



Madeline Janis, Executive Director, Jobs to Move America

But before I get to talking about these competing visions of America, and what we can do to fight together and shape the future of workers in this country, I want to thank, first of all, President Costa, and ATU for inviting me to this amazing event. I am so honored to be here with the people who are making our cities, our lives, our neighborhoods, the places that they are, where we can get to work, where we can have public spaces. Thanks, so much for the work you do every day to make my life better as a public transit user, my family's life better, and the rest of this country.

So, as I mentioned I'm going to talk about two competing visions for America because right now, right here, we are at the front line of the one competing vision which has got to be the vision for the future of this country.

YOYO

So, we have – on one hand – we have people like Elon Musk of Tesla. We have Google. We have corporate America or global corporations. They take billions and billions of tax dollars and put them in their pockets and at the same time they claim that basically the future is driverless vehicles, no public spaces, minimal number of workers, basically what we might call YOYO.

And I didn't make up this phrase. It was made up by an economist, Jared Bernstein. But, basically, what does YOYO mean? – "You are On Your Own."

That's it. And that's the vision of these corporations that take so much public money to then privatize everything.

So, we have that. We're in the middle of that. We are facing that vision.

And then there is the vision of ATU's America and that's the vision I believe in where public transit is at the center of a responsible and equitable and modern country, where we are in it together, which we are in this together. That's the future of America that I believe in – where workers are valued, where they're nimble, talented; and public money – *public* money is all about public good.

So, my organization, “Jobs to Move America,” we are a national organization. We were actually created by a coalition of unions and community groups who were starting to think about, and who have started to think about, what the role of government can be in shaping our future.

‘What is government’s power?’

And first of all, most importantly, what is – what is government’s power? Government buys things. Government purchases things. Government spends money – and spends a lot of money. And we believe that we can be the force that shapes the way that money is spent; the way that things are bought in order to create a better future for all of us.

Now I’m going to talk about our vision and a four-point plan and tell you a story about how we can fight and win together. But, first, I want to put out some numbers. Because we can talk a lot of words, but I think sometimes numbers can be powerful.

So, the first number I want to tell you about is about \$2 trillion. So, keep that number in mind – \$2 trillion.

The second number I want to talk about is \$71 billion – *\$71 billion*.

And the third number is 70 percent. Okay?

So, what does the \$2 trillion number mean? \$2 trillion is the conservative estimate of the amount of money local, state, and federal governments spend every year on buying things. \$2 trillion – that’s 12 percent of the gross domestic product for this country.

So, \$2 trillion. We’re buying manufactured goods. We’re spending it on infrastructure. We are buying services. And why aren’t we asking the question here: What are we getting for the money? How can we get the best value for that money?

The second number is \$71 billion. That’s the amount of money that all of your employers together spend on public transit every year – \$71 billion.

And 70 percent – that’s the percentage number I gave you. So, of 100 percent of that \$71 billion, 30 percent

goes to support you and your colleagues and the operations and functioning of public transit agencies in this country. Seventy percent goes out the door to private companies. Seventy percent of our public transit dollar goes to big companies that provide – some of them provide equipment, some of them provide services, some of them provide infrastructure – but, it’s out the door.

So, I want to talk about how we can think about how to take that 100 percent and figure out how we shape the expenditure of that money to create future for ourselves, for our children, for our grandchildren, for our country. How can we make sure that it’s 100 percent for the common good?

Purchasing for the common good

We now have a powerful coalition – private sector unions, public sector unions, environmentalists, civil rights groups, community groups – who are starting to come together around this idea of purchasing for the common good. Thinking about every single job from the person who makes the screws that go into the buses, to the janitor who cleans the buses, to those who operate and those who maintain the buses.

And what we want to propose, what we are proposing, is a four-point program. And I’m going to go through those four points with the full belief that we can, working together, achieve these things, and then I want to tell you a story about how we are fighting and winning.

Safe, good service for all

So, the fourpoint program. First of all, of course, the thing that ATU has stood for, has fought for, all of you have fought for in your cities, is a well planned, safe and good service for all people. Fairness in the service, making sure that those communities that are transit deserts actually have service, making sure that our agencies are not just spending the money because they are cutting the backroom deals with those big corporations who want those contracts, but they are thinking about everybody. So, this is something that

you all have been at the forefront of, and fighting with, and leading the charge for.

Good jobs for all

The second point – and I believe that we cannot give an inch on this point and if we give an inch on this point, we’ve lost the battle – and that is good jobs for all. Every single person involved in the public transit system should have a good job. *(Applause)*

And, again, I’m talking about those people that are in, for example, Alabama making the screws, making the buses, making the equipment, to those people who are cleaning the buildings, cleaning the systems, to those of you who are fighting every day to provide great service through driving, through maintaining, through keeping things going with the spit and glue that you use every day.

Training

The third thing is – we all hear every day, right? – we all hear – here comes new technology. There is nothing we can do. We are part of the old school. You know, we’re obsolete. We’re not really valuable anymore. Forget about it!

We need our public agencies to procure for training. We need our agencies to prioritize training, valuing the current work force that is right now, and that we’ll be turning over to our children and our grandchildren. We believe that we need to get your employers to fight and to insist that every time they are contracting for a new piece of technology, whatever that might be – a safety system, a communication system, a new bus, clean, electric vehicles, whatever it is – they need to build in the training of the existing work force into that request for proposals. So, that’s part three: Procuring for training.

Democracy

And, fourth, democracy, because when we’re talking about public transit, we’re talking about cities and states. We’re talking about our taxpayer money. It needs to be open. It needs to be available. It needs to be public.

And right now – and I’m going to tell you a story about this – the companies, the 70 percent of that money that goes to private companies – those companies are trying to block everyone from getting access to that information, and I would say some of your employers are also not helping in terms of getting access to that information. So, we need democracy and transparency. No backroom deals. No secrecy. We need it to be open and available to the public.

So, I want to talk now about a national campaign we’re doing around bus manufacturers to make sure that as we transition into clean buses, into electric buses, as we transition, whatever that transition may be, we want every single one of those jobs along that whole pipeline and every community that’s impacted by those jobs are good jobs, are fair and equitable to all. So, we have been organizing around all of the bus manufacturers that you all work with every day.

‘U.S. Employment Plan’

And one of the companies that we are organizing around is probably a company you know quite well, New Flyer Industries, a Canadian multinational, multibillion dollar company. And I’m going to talk to you about a fight we’re having right now, a fight we are winning, and that we are going to win for the benefit of everyone. *(Applause)*

So, here is the story. So, we have been fighting for the last seven or eight years around something that we call U.S. Employment Plan. Basically, the idea is that when your agencies, when your cities are buying equipment, that the workers who build that equipment should be located in the United States and they should be given good jobs and there should be opportunity for all in those jobs. So, we call that the “U.S. Employment Plan.”

So, some of your agencies – and we’ll talk right now about the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Agency. Do we have some LA Metro leaders here in the house, mechanics, bus drivers, and the like?

So, you may know that we in 2013, got LA Metro to include this U.S. Employment Plan in their half billion dollar purchase of new buses for the LA system. So, there was a big bidding war, and New Flyer came out on top. And part of that contract required that they create

good jobs in the Southern California area and that they pay certain wages and benefits and create opportunity for those jobs.

‘Are you complying?’

So, guess what happens? They win this half a billion dollar contract, and the next year my organization starts asking for the documentation. What did you promise to pay the workers? What did you promise to pay in benefits? And then, “Are you complying?”

And so, we take a year, two years. We are still fighting. Finally, LA Metro says to us, Okay. We are going to give you the documents.

Guess what? New Flyer says, “No way, we can’t let this happen.” So, they sue LA Metro to stop us from getting the documents about whether these jobs are created or not and how much the workers were paid. So, we had to go in there and fight tooth and nail for a year-and-a-half.

Finally, in the end, we won. We won. *(Applause)*

We got the documents, and we got \$171,000 in attorney’s fees, which was really sweet to get that check, you know, deposited in the bank from that global company based in Canada. *(Applause)*

All right. So, we get the documents, and we go through the documents. Now, by this time, most of the workers no longer have jobs, so we have to go hunt down the workers to find out, okay, New Flyer says they paid their workers \$11.75 an hour in benefits. Now, we know for workers making \$16 an hour, \$11.75 in benefits, \$2,000 a month in benefits, that’s a pretty rich deal. We had our doubts about whether these workers were actually making \$2,000 a month in benefits.

So, we went out and we tracked down Thomas Fewleather, and we tracked down those workers, those laid-off workers. And fortunately, some of those workers who had previously tried and had not been successful in organizing a union but had kept really good records. And what we found is that New Flyer had told approximately 500 lies in the documentation saying that they had paid these benefits and these wages.

So, what did we do? We first went to LA Metro. We

asked – we suggested that they follow up. They did not want to do that.

So, we recently filed a fraud lawsuit against New Flyer in California. We are going to get that money back for those workers who were cheated and our taxpayers who were cheated, whatever it takes. *(Applause)*

Now, we also are working with communities in Alabama who are organizing and workers at their big factory in Alabama, and they have other factories and we are going to be bringing delegations of Alabama workers to upcoming conferences. And we are going to make sure that when public agencies and private companies commit to paying good wages and providing good jobs, and providing training and opportunity, that they actually do it.

‘An enormous amount of power’

So, when we move forward together, we are really excited about the opportunity to connect the dots. Right? Because if we have our four-point plan, we say good service, we say good jobs for all, we say the current workers need to be trained and retrained and valued, and we need democracy and we need an end to secrecy, all together, coming together all of us in all of your cities have an enormous amount of power.

In fact, you have the greatest resource of anyone and anything, greater than any corporation, because you have *you* – your members. You have a fighting union. And I am so excited on behalf of our organization and on behalf of all of our coalitions to work together to make sure that when we are spending our taxpayer dollars, we are making sure that we are in it together and that we are fighting for the common good.

Thank you so much for having me here today. I am so excited about working together with you and your amazing new leadership. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Madeline. We have a gift of our appreciation for you coming out. On behalf of the ATU, thank you.

JANIS: Thank you so much.

COSTA: Thank you. Let’s give her a hand. *(Applause)*
Thank you.

KAFUI ATTOH

Author, 'Rights in Transit'

COSTA: Okay. Is our next speaker available?

PERRY: Kafui Attoh is the author of the book "*Rights in Transit*." The book looks at how public transportation is the right of all citizens and is a lifeline to work, food, and public life – especially for those who lack other modes of transportation.

Attoh is an assistant professor of Urban Studies at the Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies at CUNY School of Professional Studies. His writing has appeared in numerous publications, including *Progress in Human Geography*, *New Labor Forum*, the *Journal of Cultural Geography*, the *Geographical Bulletin* and others.

Please give Kafui Attoh a warm ATU welcome. (*Applause*)

PROFESSOR KAFUI ATTOH: First, let me say what an honor it is to be here and to address the members, delegates, leaders, men and women of the mighty ATU. (*Applause*)



Kafui Attoh, Author, "Rights in Transit"

Thank you to John Costa for having me. It was a pleasure to meet you last night. I bring greetings from the City University of New York, School of Labor and Urban Studies. A school dedicated to advancing the labor movement and grassroots community activism, and a school that believes that by doing both of those things together we can move toward a more democratic and a more just society. (*Applause*)

'The bonds I saw'

Just as an aside, last night I had the chance to meet any number of you, to introduce myself or at least to shake hands and to see with my own eyes the strength of the bonds that unite ATU's finest. The bonds I saw, you don't fake those, and you can't because they are bonds that have been forged in something deeper – a shared history of collective struggle and a shared history of throwing down for your fellow workers even if they drive you crazy sometimes. (*Laughter*)

But that's family. So, thanks for inviting me to your family reunion.

And for Ed Watt especially for doing the rounds, bringing me here, pitching my book. I'm in your debt, wherever you are. (*Applause*)

So, first, I'm especially honored to be here because of this, the book, "*Rights in Transit*." This is a book I published earlier this year and that was based on research that I conducted in Oakland, CA, in 2010. If you – (*Applause*)

ATTOH: *Okay, Local 192!*

If you recall, 2010 was a rough year in the transit world. According to a report from APTA, 84 percent of all transit agencies in the U.S. either raised fares, cut services, and more likely than not, set their sights on attacking the hard-won rights of transit workers in the name of austerity.

In 2010, the banks had been bailed out, but cities had not. And, as always, the burdens were falling on the backs of working people, both working people behind the wheel and working people riding the bus, itself.

So, if you crack this book open – and I encourage you to do so – what will you see? Well, you'll see some familiar names: Claudia Hudson (*Applause*), Tony Withington (*Applause*), Larry Hanley (*Applause*), Titus Warren. (*Applause*), Anthony Rogers (*Applause*), and Yvonne Williams (*Applause*).

You'll even find reference to William Mahon (first ATU international president), early on.

You'll also find in this book a brief history of Local 192. So, just to whet your appetite, on page 62, you can read about the signing of the union's first official contract in 1906, and the controversy both over raising hourly

pay to 27.5 cents an hour, and the union's demand for capping straight runs to 12 hours, max.

On page 64, you can read about the seven day strike following the "Red Summer" of 1919, and the street brawls between striking workers and scabs brought by the company all the way from Chicago and Seattle.

On page 67 – and this is – I would really encourage you to check this out – you can read about Carman Al Brown who is credited as giving the spark to the Oakland general strike of 1946, when he abandoned his streetcar at the corner of 17th and Broadway because he refused to cross the picket line of striking department store workers and he stood in solidarity with workers across the city. (*Applause*)

The book traces these struggles and the ways that they reflect the union's ongoing commitment to not only improving the working conditions of drivers and mechanics, but, working people and working class people more generally. This commitment is captured perfectly in a quote on page 64. So, let me set the stage for this quote:

We hate something, we love something

So, it's close to midnight on May 28, 1906. Greer Hall in Oakland is packed. The union is about to take a strike vote to demand a first contract. James Bowling, the Secretary of the State Labor Federation, stands and states what everyone in the room knows: "Trade unions not only stand between capital and slavery, but we belong to them for a clear reason. We belong to a union because we hate something and because we love something. We hate oppression and love liberty. Let us continue to show them we intend to uproot the former and demand the other." (*Applause*)

In 1906, of course, "them" meant something specific. It meant traction barons, railway magnets, and urban industrialists. Today is slightly different. Rather than traction barons, we have Koch Industries. Rather than railway magnets, we have *Janus* apologists, and right-to-work lackeys. (*Applause*)

Rather than industrialists, we have urban elites pushing privatization under the guise of economic

competitiveness and austerity. But they are the same, in that they have every intention of sinking the knife further into the chest of a labor movement already in decline or declining.

Dangers and opportunities

There are new dangers on the horizon, and they appear every time a clever city administrator proposes Uber or Lyft as some quasi-replacement for mass transit or paratransit.

Of course, there are also new opportunities for Labor and especially transportation labor, given the climate issue. The Green New Deal and a new crop of legislators saying the right things, at least now, on the environment and inequality are promising. Dangers and opportunities. We live in interesting times.

If you read beyond Chapter 3, which is the labor chapter, you'll find that all of this talk about Labor and unions is part of a much larger argument about rights. Our human right to transportation and the fundamental role that organized labor can play in making that right a reality.

Transportation is a promise

The book gets pretty philosophical, so fair warning, but it's worth it and the argument can be put in even clearer terms. When we say that transportation is a right, all we are saying is that transportation is a promise. That promise says that if you are too old, too young, or you don't have the money, that you will still be able to get around.

Part of this book suggests that keeping this promise means thinking about another promise, and that is the promise we make to the workers that make all of this possible. And that promise is to make the work safe, dignified, and just.

Of course, we live in a world where promises are broken all the time and where promises don't mean a damn thing unless they are fought for. And here the union and community allies are central. The fight for transportation as a human right is, if it is to be anything of anything, a fight to keep our promises.

Both our promises to transit workers and a world where they can walk in the sun with their head up high and chest out, and our promise to those who depend on the service, and that's the argument. *(Applause)*

The fights you're engaged in is the fight to keep our promises to our fellow workers, whether they're behind the wheel or whether you're carrying them on the bus.

And so, to end, I would like to quote James Bowling again: "We belong to a union because we hate something and because we love something. We hate oppression and we love liberty. Let us uproot the former and demand the other."

In short, together we fight, and fight together we must. *(Applause)* Thank you.

Standing Ovation

COSTA: Thank you very much. Kafui, we have a gift for you.

Okay. Our other speaker today, Mayor Andrew Gillum, he is not feeling well, from Tallahassee, and he had to cancel today. So, at this time, we're going to recess the Convention until tomorrow at 8:30. But before you leave, 5:00 o'clock is the "Wow Show," once again the buses.

And don't forget to wear white shirts tomorrow. We have the picture-taking, so it's white shirts tomorrow. All right. Let's *all* say it: White shirts tomorrow. –

DELEGATES: *"White shirts tomorrow."*

COSTA: All right – *enjoy!*

*Whereupon, the 59th Amalgamated Transit Union
International Convention recessed until Tuesday,
September 24, 2019, at 8:30 a.m.*

DAY TWO

Tuesday Session

September 24, 2019

The 59th International Convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union reconvened on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, at 8:38 a.m.

COSTA: Sergeants-at-Arms have a seat, please. Good morning.

DELEGATES: *"Good morning."*

COSTA: So, everybody back from the – how was the "Wow Show?" *(Applause)*

Is this a *union* meeting? – How was the "Wow Show?" *(Cheers)*

I need to wake up, too. Good, I'm glad everybody enjoyed themselves.

We got a lot of work to do here today. We got some committees I think we cleaned up from yesterday. So, unfortunately, we are going to be working pretty hard because we need to get out of here for – the excursions are today. So, the buses are going to start moving around 12:00.

So, we're trying to get this picture done by 11:00, so we are going to move the picture to 11:00. If you don't have your shirts, remember today was whiteshirt day, you have some time to get up there to your room and put the them on, that's fine.

REV. GERRY GRUPCZYNSKI

Pastor, Our Lady of Las Vegas,
Las Vegas, NV

Invocation

COSTA: But at is this time, I'd like to bring up Father Gerry to bless the house. Father Gerry. *(Applause)*

REV. GERRY GRUPCZYNSKI: Thank you, everyone. Good morning. Let us pause for a moment in prayer.

Lord God of all creation, we give You praise for we are



*Gerry Grupczynski, Pastor,
Our Lady of Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV*

wonderfully and masterfully made. You have endowed us with the many gifts to develop the resources of this world and You have given us the ingenuity, the imagination, and the innovation and the skills to build and create. But in order to do all of this, we must be able to communicate with one another and to be able to move about.

We thank You, Lord, for giving us the technology to make use of the land, the sea, and the air as a means of expedient communication and for enabling us to design and build the many vehicles we use for travel and transport.

We especially thank You, Lord, for the people who drive and operate these vehicles each day. Help them to always be focused and to realize the important role they undertake.

Keep within Your care those who have faithfully served in the past and those who will continue to serve in the future, and may Your protection and Your blessing be upon them always. Amen.

DELEGATES: *Amen. (Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Father Gerry.

Okay. At this time, there's some of the committees are going to meet, so if you are not – the IST (International Secretary-Treasurer Report) Committee will meet and the committee members – if you are not in the back, come on up here and come on up on the stage when they're ready.

So, we are looking for anybody that's with the ATU

COPE Committee or the Resolutions Committee, IST, and Credentials.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

COSTA: At this time, I understand the Credentials are ready to report. Please come up:

COMMITTEE CHAIR ERIC TUCK, 107-Hamilton, ON: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, this is the Supplementary Report of the Committee on Credentials:

Since the presentation to the Convention of our initial report of the Committee on Credentials, 20 additional delegates have appeared before the committee and the committee has found their credentials to be in order. These delegates are eligible to participate in the election of international officers and AFL-CIO delegates and alternates.

Two other members appeared before the committee. A member of Local 1765 appeared before the committee and the committee determined he was ineligible to be a delegate. The committee heard from the member on Monday afternoon and decided to table the decision until receipt of further information. The committee confirmed that, that local union had a per capita arrearage as of May. For that reason, the committee found the member was ineligible for participation in the election of international officers and the AFL-CIO convention delegates and alternates.

A member of Local 732 also appeared before the committee. However, following the recess of the committee on Monday, the member informed the chairman and secretary of the committee that he wished to withdraw his appearance and maintain his guest status.

Additionally, the Committee on Credentials recommended Brother Jose Rosado of Local 587 be found eligible as a delegate. As Local 587 already registered its full complement of delegates, the committee recommends that the delegates rescind the credential of Sister Michelle Penny of Local 587, based on the tally of the Local 587 delegate elections.

The committee recommends that all 20 individuals be seated, and that Sister Penny be moved to guest status.

The Committee on Credentials also recommends that Olivier Lachance, Vice President of Local 1557, who is acting as the translator for Local 1557 Delegate Pierre Lacroix, be permitted free access on the floor to translate for Brother Lacroix. I so move this entire report, Mr. Chairman.

COSTA: Thank you, Brother. The motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: *"Seconded."*

COSTA: Second. Any questions? *(No Response)*

Hearing none. All in favor say "aye."

DELEGATES: Chorus of *"ayes."*

COSTA: Opposed? *(No Response)*

The "ayes" have it. *(Gavel Knock)*

COMMITTEE SECRETARY JEFF RICHARDSON, 1342-Buffalo, NY: Good morning.

DELEGATES: *"Good morning."*

RICHARDSON: Mr. Chairman, for the information of the Chair and the delegates, I note for the record that 633 delegates and nonvoting delegates have been seated for this 59th Convention, and that 631 of those delegates have been found to be eligible for participation in the election of international officers and AFL-CIO convention delegates and alternates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

COSTA: Thank you.

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY'S COMMITTEE REPORT

COSTA: Okay. Next, we're going to have come up the IST Committee. International IST Committee members can please come up. Sammy brings a crowd, so we had to wait a little bit. *(Laughter)* All right, Sammy. *(Applause)*

COMMITTEE CHAIR SABATINO DiNARDO, 85-Pittsburgh, PA: Mr. Chairman, Executive Vice



Delegate Sabatino DiNardo, 85-Pittsburgh, PA

President Perez, Secretary-Treasurer Owens, Delegates: We, the Committee on the International Secretary-Treasurer's Report submit the following report:

The committee examined and reviewed the Report of the International Secretary-Treasurer to this 59th Convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union. The audit reports prepared by Calibre CPA Group PLLC, Certified Public Accountants, Bethesda, MD, selected by the General Executive Board to make the audits and to inspect the books and financial records covering the period of July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2019, were available to the committee for inspection.

The committee also had available to it the internal ATU general ledger detail reports upon which the audit reports were based. All of the questions raised by the committee were discussed, and satisfactory answers were found to the same.

The committee found that, in accordance with Section 37 of the International *Constitution and General Laws*, the reports of the accountants were published, and copies of the published reports were forwarded to each local union except the report for the six-month period ending June 30, 2019, which will be forwarded to each local next month.

The committee also found that the "Labor Organization Bonds," the consolidated form, were obtained and issued to each local union and joint bargaining council, as prescribed, under Section 36 of the International *Constitution and General Laws*. The premiums for these bonds were prepaid by the Bonding and Indemnity Fund, the cost of which were subsequently reimbursed to the fund over the ensuing three years.

'Sound financial condition'

The committee noted that the allocations are periodically made from the General Fund to the Convention Fund to ensure that sufficient funds would be available to pay for the cost associated with our Conventions. The committee believes that this allocation provides for a sound method of accounting for future costs.

Finally, the committee found the Union to be in a sound financial condition. In conclusion, the committee would like to commend the work of International Secretary-Treasurer Oscar Owens and to – (*Applause*) – and to express its appreciation to him for appearing before the committee.

We also wish to thank International Controller Nancy Trumbull, for her appearance – (*Applause*) – for her appearance before this committee and for their assistance to the financial secretary-treasurers of the local unions.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to personally thank the members of the Secretary-Treasurer Report Committee for their hard work and otherwise express all of our appreciation for the thoughtful assistance of our esteemed International Vice President, Chuck Watson (*Applause*), and Sister Joyce Willis for her assistance as secretary of this committee to bring this report to a conclusion.

Mr. Chairman, the committee moves that the report be accepted by the delegates in attendance at the Convention.

COSTA: Thank you, committee members. The motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: "*Seconds.*"

COSTA: Second. Any questions? (*No Response*)

Hearing none. All in favor, say "aye."

DELEGATES: Chorus of "*ayes.*"

COSTA: Opposed? (*No Response*)

(*Gavel Knock*) The "ayes" have it. Thank you. (*Applause*)

DiNARDO: I would like to call on Sister Willis to read the names of the members of the committee and thank you. (*Applause*)



Delegate Joyce Willis, 192-Oakland, CA

JOYCE WILLIS, 192-Oakland, CA:

- Sabatino DiNardo, 85, Chair
- Myself, Joyce Willis, 192, Secretary
- Paul Doucette, 107
- Kevin Morton, 113
- Toi Bowers, 241
- Corina De La Torre, 256
- John Courtney, 265
- Norman Blessant, 382
- Daryll Miller, 569
- Zul Vira, 583
- Patrick Brady, 587
- Kevin Cole, 618
- Keith Bullock, 689
- Amalio L. Soto, 694
- Mary Longoria, 757
- Deborah Brown, 758
- David Greaves, 819
- Corey Gallman, 880
- Michael Harvey, 1001
- Tommy Bellfield, 1005
- Aminatu El-Mohammed, 1028

- Lawrence Prosser, 1091
- JeanClaude Calixte, 1181
- Robert Roach, 1287
- Christopher Todd, 1309
- Thomas Hutchinson, 1338
- Diona Williams, 1447
- John Sainz, 1576
- Catherine Borrens, 1587

WILLIS: Thank you.

COSTA: Thank you, committee. Thank you for the hard work. Next up, we are going to – before we call the next committee – the ATU COPE Committee is going to be meeting, too.

If there's any COPE committee members out in the audience, please report to the back to come up on stage with your committee, and once we have some room up here, next will be – the Resolutions Committee will be next.

Resolutions Committee Report

COMMITTEE CHAIR CLINT CRABTREE, 279-Ottawa, ON: Good morning. How is everybody feeling this morning? *(Cheers)* Oh, yeah – a little rough.



Delegate Clint Crabtree, 279-Ottawa, ON

Mr. Chairman and Delegates to the 59th Convention, your Committee on Resolutions is pleased to submit

to you its report. The committee met and gave ample consideration and full discussion to each of the resolutions submitted to the committee. A total of 19 resolutions were considered:

- **Constitutional Resolutions 1 to 5**, as well as the one resolution on dual unionism, proposed by the International, proposed changes to our *Constitution and General Laws* and were therefore referred to the *Committee on Laws*.
- **General Resolutions A, F, N, and O** were referred to the *Environmental/Occupational Health and Safety Committee*.
- Resolution **C** was referred to the *Committee on ATU-COPE*.
- Resolutions **K** and **L** were referred to the *Committee on Gender Equity and Inclusion*.
- Resolutions **H** and **I** were referred to the *Committee on Maintenance*.
- Resolutions **E** and **R** were referred to the *Committee on New Technology, Apprenticeships, and Jobs*.
- Resolution **Q** was referred to the *Next Generation Committee*.
- Resolutions **J** and **P** were referred to the *Committee on Organizing/Collective Bargaining, and Strategies*.
- Resolutions **G** and **S** were referred to the *School Bus/Paratransit Committee*.

The remaining resolutions were addressed by this committee.

In an effort to expedite this report covering three remaining resolutions, the committee determined that instead of reading all of the clauses in each resolution, the body and intent of each resolution starting with the “therefore, be it be resolved” clause would be read. At this time, I would therefore move that we go to the “resolved” clause of the resolutions and allow me to read them in an effort to expedite the consideration of these important matters. The resolutions in their entirety will appear in the official proceedings [Full resolution text provided below]:

Resolution B: Reauthorizing the FAST Act

Submitted by Amalgamated Transit Union

WHEREAS, the federal surface transportation bill in the U.S. known as the FAST Act stands as one of the ATU’s greatest legislative victories in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the FAST Act will boost transit spending by 18% by 2020; and

WHEREAS, transit worker labor protections provided under Section 13(c) of the *Federal Transit Act*, which have protected the job rights and collective bargaining rights of transit workers since 1964, were reauthorized in the legislation; and

WHEREAS, language included in the bill requiring the U.S. Department of Transportation to enact a rulemaking to address bus driver assaults has yet to be implemented; and

WHEREAS, the FAST Act expires in 2020; and

WHEREAS, ATU has several legislative priorities involving transportation, including measures dealing with intercity bus driver fatigue, privatization, transit worker restroom access, blind spots on buses, workforce development and training, paratransit improvements, and transit worker safety, that need to be addressed;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU shall lead coalitions including unions, transit rider groups, and others in support of a new, robust surface transportation bill which includes the Union’s legislative priorities.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: “Seconds.”

COSTA: Second. Any questions? (*No Response*)

Hearing none, all in favor, say “aye.”

DELEGATES: Chorus of “ayes.”

COSTA: Opposed? (*No Response*)

The “ayes” have it. (*Gavel Knock*)

Resolution D: Supporting Medicare for All

Submitted by Amalgamated Transit Union

WHEREAS, the U.S. healthcare system is broken, and working families are suffering; and

WHEREAS, transit, intercity bus, and school bus workers know all too well from battles at the bargaining table that health insurance premiums have skyrocketed; and

WHEREAS, although the majority of ATU members do have insurance, in some cases, they wind up giving back much of their take-home pay through deductibles and copays; and

WHEREAS, as a result, some transit workers rely on public assistance to make ends meet; and

WHEREAS, even in areas where wages are in line with the cost of living, healthcare costs cause our members to make very painful choices which have a real impact on their families' lives; and

WHEREAS, some transit workers report to work when they are ill, driving and maintaining massive vehicles while taking responsibility for passengers' lives; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. pays the highest healthcare costs per capita of any high-income country; and

WHEREAS, a more humane, comprehensive health system based on patient care and need, rather than ability to pay, is possible; and

WHEREAS, the *Medicare for All Act of 2019*, would improve and expand the existing Medicare program so that every person living in the U.S. has guaranteed healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the bill improves Medicare so that all comprehensive health services are covered and require no out-of-pocket costs for patients for any services; and

WHEREAS, it would give all patients the freedom to choose their own doctors and hospitals; and

WHEREAS, by taking healthcare off the bargaining table, public transportation systems would be

empowered to divert precious resources to their primary mission – providing essential mobility options to the millions of Americans who rely on transit; and

WHEREAS, the bill has gained momentum in the U.S. Congress, with more than 100 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives, and it has generated serious discussion at the presidential debates;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU shall support and play a leading role in the coalition advocating to pass the *Medicare for All Act of 2019*.

CRABTREE: The committee recommends *concurrency* with this proposal, and I so move, Mr. Chairman.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: “*Seconds.*”

COSTA: Second. Any questions? (*No Response*)

Hearing none, all in favor, say “aye.”

DELEGATES: Chorus of “*ayes.*”

COSTA: Opposed? (*No Response*)

(*Gavel Knock*) The “ayes” have it. Thank you.

Resolution M: Electing a Pro-Labor, Pro-Transit Administration

Submitted by Amalgamated Transit Union

WHEREAS, the labor and transportation policies carried out by the current U.S. Administration have hurt ATU members and working families; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has canceled a modest 2.1% pay increase for federal government workers; and

WHEREAS, the Administration abandoned an Obama administration effort to increase overtime pay for workers; and

WHEREAS, the Administration killed a rule requiring companies to keep multiyear records of workplace injuries; and

WHEREAS, the Administration rolled back the “fiduciary rule,” which required investment advisers to do what is in their clients’ best interests, potentially threatening workers’ retirement savings; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has appointed anti-labor representatives to the National Labor Relations Board; and

WHEREAS, the Administration supported right-to-work laws that make it harder for workers to organize; and

WHEREAS, the Administration urged the Supreme Court to allow employers to bar employees from banding together to sue over mistreatment; and

WHEREAS, the Administration appointed a long list of judges eager to enhance the privileges of corporations and restrict the rights of workers; and

WHEREAS, the Administration supported lawsuits whose goal is to destroy public employee unions; and

WHEREAS, the Administration tried to take health coverage away from millions of Americans; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) killed a rulemaking intended to protect bus operators from assault, saying such a move was “unnecessary;” and

WHEREAS, DOT has refused to put forth an infrastructure package despite bipartisan calls to invest in the United States’ crumbling road and rail systems;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU will actively work to elect a new Administration in 2020, which supports workers and transportation investment.

CRABTREE: The committee recommends *concurrence* with this proposal and I so move, Mr. Chairman.

COSTA: The motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: “*Seconds.*”

COSTA: Second. All in favor – oh, sorry. Questions? (*No Response*) All in favor, say “aye.”

DELEGATES: Chorus of “*ayes.*”

COSTA: Opposed? (*No Response*)

(*Gavel Knock*) Resolution approved. Thank you.

CRABTREE: Mr. Chairman, that concludes the report of the Resolutions Committee. On behalf of all the members of the committee, I’d like to thank you for the opportunity to play a leading role in the crafting of our Union’s policies over the next three years. Thank you very much.

I’m going to ask Quincy Jones, 689-Washington, DC, to come and read the members of the committee. (*Applause*)

COMMITTEE SECRETARY QUINCY JONES, 689-Washington, DC: Good morning.



Delegate Quincy Jones, 689-Washington, DC

DELEGATES: “*Good morning.*”

JONES: These are the names of the Resolutions Committee:

- Clint Crabtree, 279, Chair
- Quincey Jones, 689, Secretary
- Manjit Matharu, 113
- Tiant Gatewood, 241
- Tanno Muhammad, 241
- Ralph Niz, 256
- Chuck Fitzpatrick, 279
- Harvey Woo, 583

- Joseph Cole, 618
- Ernest Johnson, 682
- Brenda Thomas, 689
- Carl Beecham, 704
- Manuel Colon, 820
- Geraldo Arroyo, 822
- Steve Beaudry, 846
- Nanette Ruffin, 859
- Deborah Altgilbers, 1108
- Joe Greer, 1164
- Colando Stokes, 1179
- Woodrow Terrill Perry, 1285
- Kathleen Custer, 1576
- Zefnia Durham, III, 1579
- Will Delgado, 1596

JONES: Thank you. (*Applause*)

COSTA: Thank you, committee for the great work. Thank you very much.

ATU COPE COMMITTEE REPORT

COSTA: Next up we have the ATU COPE Committee, and, like I said, any members of the COPE Committee that are in the audience, come up to the stage. Mic. 4:

DWIGHT MATTINGLY, 1577-West Palm Beach, FL: Point of clarification from the previous report and what we passed on Resolution D – I believe it is “*Medicare for All*.” The passage said, “for 2019.” So, for clarification, does that mean that in 2020, if there is a new bill, that will be determined whether or not we support?

COSTA: The bill carries into 2020, Dwight.

MATTINGLY: So, it’s just the current bill as it has been written; is that correct?

COSTA: Yeah. It’s the same piece of legislation that will carry into 2020.

MATTINGLY: Thank you.

COSTA: Thank you. Okay, Troy:

COMMITTEE CHAIR TROY MILLER, 627-Cincinnati, OH: Good morning. This is the report from the ATU COPE Committee.



Delegate Troy Miller, 627-Cincinnati, OH

Officers and Delegates of the 59th Convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union:

We, your Committee on ATU COPE submit the following for your consideration and approval. The committee met and discussed the current status of the ATU COPE program:

The committee also gave ample consideration and full discussion to Resolution C, which was referred to us by the Resolutions Committee. I’ll read the resolution in its entirety:

Resolution C: Reinvigorating ATU COPE

Submitted by Amalgamated Transit Union

WHEREAS, ATU COPE, the Union’s political action committee, has opened doors for ATU members in Congress and all levels of government in the U.S. for more than 30 years; and

WHEREAS, the people we elect to public office make a real difference in our daily lives as they consider legislation on a broad horizon of issues that

affect our collective bargaining and job protection rights, workplace safety and retirement security, and transit funding; and

WHEREAS, voluntary member contributions to ATU COPE are used to help elect pro-labor, pro-transit candidates for local, state, and federal office; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that the ATU increase the number of ATU COPE contributors; and

WHEREAS, expanding the number of U.S. locals and their officers' contribution to ATU COPE is vital to the success of the program; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the ATU reach out to the more than 100,000 active U.S. members who do not contribute to COPE; and

WHEREAS, the top 10 locals contribute more than 60% of all ATU COPE dollars; and

WHEREAS, many new ATU members would likely give to COPE if they were asked to do so and provided with information about the importance of the program to their future; and

WHEREAS, ATU recently set up a new program which allows members to easily contribute to COPE on a one time or recurring basis through credit or debit cards;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU shall renew efforts to build COPE, providing legal, legislative, and political support to each local to facilitate the negotiation of ATU COPE checkoff as part of their collective bargaining agreements; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU shall set a goal of signing up each U.S. member to contribute at least one dollar per week to COPE.

MILLER: The committee recommends *concurrency* with the proposal and I so move. Mr. Chairman, this concludes the report of the ATU COPE Committee.

COSTA: Thank you. The motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: "*Seconded.*"

COSTA: Second. Any questions? (*No Response*)

Hearing none. All in favor say, "aye."

DELEGATES: Chorus of "*ayes.*"

COSTA: Opposed? (*No Response*)

(*Gavel Knock*) The "ayes" have it.

Approved.

MILLER: And now Secretary Marcy Longstreet will read the names of the committee: (*Applause*)

COMMITTEE SECRETARY MARCY LONGSTREET, 1333-Rockford, IL:



Delegate Marcy Longstreet, 1333-Rockford, IL

- Anthony Garland, International Vice President
- Troy Miller, 627, Chair
- Marcy Longstreet, 1333, Secretary
- Kennard Plummer, 192
- Paul Tolson, 241
- John Pospishek, 265
- Reginald McCall, 308
- Patsy Breazeale, 587
- Leslie EvansPina, 589
- Wilbur Lucas, 689
- George Botts, 726
- Nuccio Stuto, 726
- Antoian Johnson, 788
- Chris Berger, 1001
- Robert France, 1056

- Earl L. Cox, 1093
- Brunot Fleuriot, 1181
- Chantel Daniels, 1197
- Louis Durant, III, 1300
- Charles Sikora, 1342
- Shane Weinstein, 1575
- Herman Green, 1700.
- Sindy Vasquez, 1700
- Ronnie Davis, 1704
- David Sayre, 1742
- Jeff Rosenberg, Staff

MILLER: Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, committee. Great work. Thank you very much. Okay. At this time, we missed out on a raffle yesterday, I was told, so we're going to do two today. So, at this time, I'd like to pull the raffle. Javier?

Raffle Drawing

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT JAVIER PEREZ, JR: Kevin Wilson, Halifax. *(Applause)* Is Kevin Wilson here?

PEREZ: All right. We will hold "something nice" for Kevin. Thank you. *(Applause)*

Raffle Drawing

PEREZ: Dennis Jorgenson, 1603-Bethlehem, PA. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The IP Committee please report at 10:00 to the Paris, Room 1.

RUSTY MCCALLISTER

Executive Secretary-Treasurer,
Nevada State AFL-CIO

COSTA: Okay. At this time, we're going to take a look at the video screens and we're going to roll a video right now:

Video Introduction

(Applause)

PERRY (*announcer*): Our first speaker is Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Nevada State AFL-CIO Rusty McCallister. Rusty worked for Las Vegas Fire and Rescue for over 32 years before retiring in September 2016. He served as a fire fighter, a paramedic, and for his final 24 years as a fire captain. He is still an active member of Fire Fighters Local 1285 right here in Las Vegas.

Rusty was also involved statewide with the International Association of Fire Fighters. He was elected as a district vice president with the Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada in 1996.

He rose to the position of president in 2004, and served until 2017, when he was elected to his current position. Rusty also served as the legislative representative for the Fire Fighters in Nevada from 1999 until 2017 and continues in that role today for the entire Nevada State AFL-CIO. Please welcome a good friend to the ATU, Brother Rusty McAllister: *(Applause)*

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER NEVADA STATE AFL-CIO RUSTY McALLISTER: Good morning, Brothers and Sisters.



Rusty McAllister, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Nevada AFL-CIO

DELEGATES: "Good morning."

McALLISTER: It is still morning? I know some of you are probably wishing morning didn't come this early.

I would first like to welcome you to Las Vegas. Thank you for coming to one of the best union cities in

America. Las Vegas has a great union density here and we are happy to have you.

To President Costa, Secretary-Treasurer Owens and – he left – Vice President Perez, thank you for inviting me to come and talk to your group.

A special shout out to a friend of mine. I don't know. He's somewhere here in the audience, I'm assuming. One of your international vice presidents is a classmate of mine from the Harvard Trade Union program, Ken Kirk out of Dallas. Ken, are you here? There you are. Why are you all the way in the back? You're a vice president. *(Applause)*

So, they asked me to come and welcome you guys. I thought I'd give you a kind of "where we're at in Nevada and how we got here." You know, we are an early caucus state and so things have been kind of building here over the last couple of election cycles.

I guess the message that I would give to all of you is, you know, elections have consequences. Here in Nevada we know that very well. Across the country, we know that very well right now. But here in Nevada when I say elections have consequences, they can be both good and also, they can be bad.

'We got lackadaisical'

So, in 2015 – got to take you back and tell you the story a little bit. In 2015, we got lackadaisical here in Nevada. Things didn't go well. Just like across the country – actually, it was the 2014 election, but before the 2015 legislative session.

In the 2014 election, we didn't turn out the vote. I mean, our members just didn't turn out the vote. We didn't do what we needed to do to win and we lost.

We lost both houses of the legislature and we lost all six constitutional officers here in the state of Nevada. For the first time in 75 years, the Republicans controlled both houses and the governor's office. And so, they figured since it was the first time in 75 years – "we might not get to do this again, we better cause as much damage as we possibly can." And they did.

They took away – or they reduced the prevailing wages here in the state for the building trades. They increased the thresholds for prevailing wage projects.

They changed our state pension system. They took away collective bargaining – parts of the collective bargaining for public employees. They jacked up our workers' compensation. Everything they could possibly think of they had their hands in. They made life miserable.

'Never again'

From that point Labor finally woke up and the mantra became "never again." Never again will we sit on the sidelines and let this take place. Never again will we get our butts kicked like we did.

So, you fast forward to the 2016 election, Labor went out and does – did what Labor does. They went out and busted a hump. I mean, we kicked butt.

We held a U.S. senate seat that the majority leader, Harry Reed, had retired from. We put the first Latina U.S. senator in the United States Senate. *(Applause)* We took three out of four congressional seats and we took back both houses of the state legislature. *(Applause)*

And we did some really great things at the legislature. We passed all kinds of bills out of the legislature to try and reverse all of the things that they did to us in 2015.

One problem. It has to get past the governor. The governor vetoed 42 bills that session. Twenty-one of those bills were our bills. They were labor bills. He vetoed every labor bill that we put before him.

And I met with him, like, the day before the session ended. And he said, "Listen, I just want to tell you, I'm not anti-union. I'm not anti-worker. I'm not anti-Labor." I said, "Oh, geez, I'll really glad because if you were, I don't even know what we would do."

He said, "I just made some promises to some of these legislators that I wouldn't reverse anything that they did last session." I said, "Well, I guess I would think less of you if you went back on your word!"

The next step

But it gave us the next step for us, and that is: you go to

the 2018 election. The first time we have the, you know, an opportunity to elect a Democratic governor again for the first time in four years.

Labor went out and did, again, what Labor does to an even greater extent than last time. We hit probably – at the height of the “Labor 2018” campaign here in Nevada – we had over 500 full-time relief staff from all of the different unions here in the state of Nevada. *(Applause)*

Of course, the “big dog” in the state of Nevada is the culinary union – UNITE HERE, Local 226. Their members are here, if you get a chance to say thank you to all of them. That’s your housekeepers, your bartenders, your porters, your cocktail waitresses, housekeeping *(Applause)* – everybody.

Those are all Culinary-226 members. They have 60,000 members here in Las Vegas. So, they are the big dog and they put off over 350 people fulltime reliefs. They pay them to go out and knock doors every day. We hit over 700,000 doors here in the state of Nevada, which in some states might not seem much, but there are only three million people in Nevada. You hit 700,000 doors; you have touched a lot of doors. *(Applause)*

I mean, we went out and “humped it.” Not only that – not just from Nevada – but, you know, I owe a big debt to California. *(Cheers)*

California, the last probably five to six weeks – four to five weeks of the election cycle – they were loading up buses in Los Angeles and either the Bay Area in San Francisco, or Sacramento, bussing them over to Reno and bussing them up to Las Vegas. They would hop on – they’d rent three buses a weekend in both places – at least three – and they would roll in. They would load up early, early in the morning, roll up to Vegas.

We’d feed them, train them and they’re out on doors by 1:00 in the afternoon. They knocked doors all afternoon into the early evening, do whatever they do at night – it’s Vegas.

And then the next morning they’d drag in and all day long they would canvass, hop on the buses late in the afternoon and head back to L.A. to be ready to go back to work Monday morning. I can’t thank them

enough for all of the work that they did to help us. *(Applause)*

‘What happened?’

So, what did that equate to? What happened? The proof is in the pudding. If you put in the work, if you do what you are supposed to do, you win. Put a U.S. senator – another U.S. senator – in. Took out the – the only incumbent Republican that was taken out was here in Nevada. We took Dean Heller out. *(Applause)*

Again, we maintained three out of the four seats in Congress. We took both houses of the legislature with a super-majority in the assembly, and we were 13 votes – literally, 13 votes – away from having a super majority in the senate where we could have done anything we wanted.

Not only that, we took five out of the six constitutional officers in the state of Nevada, including for the first time in 20 years, we put in a Democratic governor in the state of Nevada in the Capital. *(Applause)*

First female majority legislature in U.S. history

And for the first time in United States history we put the first majority female legislature in place. *(Cheers)* The first time in history anywhere in America.

What did that equate to? It’s always nice when you can tell your members, “Hey, you do this and we’re going – you know – it’s going to pay off.” And we keep telling them that: It’s going to pay off. It’s going to pay off.

It did. Finally, it did. When you do the work, you get the right ingredients in place.

It did for the building trades, raised the prevailing wage back up to 100 percent. It had been down to 90 percent for all school projects, including the university system, which was actually raising the prices of building because nobody was bidding on the jobs. Why bid a job at 90 percent when you can get 100 percent somewhere else on another job?

Lowered the thresholds from 250,000 back to 100,000. Put in place that they can – any contractor on a project labor – or excuse me – a public works project can have a project labor agreement, which we’ve put those in place in a lot of these jobs now.

Changed the apprenticeship standard so that we can improve and build on our apprenticeship programs mandating certain numbers or percentages of apprentices on public works projects.

Collective bargaining for public employees

For the first time ever, all public employees in the state of Nevada had collective bargaining, except state employees. AFSCME represents state employees. For the first time ever, AFSCME now has collective bargaining. We passed collective bargaining together. *(Applause)*

The governor signed it. And so, they have a right to sit down with their employers across the table and negotiate wages, benefits, and working conditions.

Not only that, we also helped AFSCME by passing a bill that outlawed the privatization of prisons. No private prisons in the state of Nevada. *(Applause)*

For CWA, we passed a bill that put penalties in place for companies that “offshore” their call center jobs. You know, they get taxpayer benefits of rebates or of tax abatements and all of these different benefits from economic development. Set up their call center here, and then a year later, they move it overseas and keep the money. Not anymore. Can’t do that. *(Applause)*

And they can’t apply for any more rebates or abatements for a period of time until they bring their stuff back to America.

For public safety, Fire Fighters passed a cancer bill to provide – they already had one but this one enhanced it – to make it the most comprehensive protection for fire fighters for cancer of which that’s the majority of what’s killing them now is cancer. It’s the best cancer bill in the United States. Nobody has what they have now. Nobody. *(Applause)*

PTSD bill

Not only that, they passed a bill – we passed a bill – for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, PTSD. We had, as you know, “October 1,” here in Las Vegas was a very traumatic time in the city. It was certainly the perfect opportunity for us to pass a bill that provided protection for police officers, fire fighters, and emergency dispatchers for post-traumatic stress to get them the care that they need. *(Applause)*

A bill that I have been working on since 1999, mandating two – you would think this is just logic, this is just common sense – two-person crews on all trains in the state of Nevada. *(Applause)*

You know, you would think that was just common sense, but the train industry had – the railroad industry had – such a lock on the legislature for all of those years. Twenty years they’ve had a Republican governor, so they’ve always had the ability to veto the bills we passed. Not this time.

So, even though back this DC they’ve changed – they are not going to recognize the two-man crew bill. As soon as we get the right president, that’s going to happen. *(Applause)*

But here in Nevada they have two members, two crew members on every train that goes through the state of Nevada. You know, that’s just a sampling of the things. We just had a huge, huge session. And one of the hardest parts was trying to get a way to manage their expectations because, you know, everybody is going to come and say, “Well, we got both houses. We got the governor. We got everything. We’ll just run it all through.” Well, there are some things you have to use common sense on.

‘What’s next?’

What’s next? What’s the future here in Nevada? Like I said, we’re an early caucus state. I’ve hosted at least 15 of the candidates who have been here in the state, meeting with labor roundtables at our offices, while they’re here in Las Vegas or up in Carson City, up in northern Nevada, in Reno.

‘Hold their feet to the fire’

They are coming and telling us everything we want to hear. They love us. They love you now. All I can say is whatever they tell you – *hold their feet to the fire*. Make sure that they follow through on everything they tell you they are going to do. They’ve got to do it. *(Applause)*

Because they’re going to tell you everything. All of the stuff we’ve heard. You know, every one of them tells you that they are the most – they are the biggest supporter of Labor out of every candidate that’s out there. Well, they can’t *all* be the biggest supporter of Labor, but they’ll tell you they are. *Hold their feet to the fire*.

Here in our state, just like everywhere else, the big issue for us is coming up this next legislative session. We can’t let up and that’s the message I keep sending to every one of our members and our locals. We can’t let up. Don’t let down your guard.

2014 was not that long ago. If we don’t continue to do what we need to do, we will lose. Hillary Clinton won here in the state of Nevada in ’14 by two percentage points. That’s not much. Two points. So, we have our work cut out for us.

‘Don’t get tunnel vision’

We have – redistricting is coming up. I preach to my memberships “think long-term.” Don’t get tunnel vision. Think long term. If you do this right, you won’t control the state for two years. You’ll control the state for the next 10 to 15 to 20 years if you do it right.

So, that’s the message we’re pushing. That’s what we’re trying to do because probably the biggest thing that’s for us coming out here in the future – and I don’t know that we’ll get it done this next session – but I would say if we don’t do it this next session, look for it in 2022 – and that would be the repeal of right-to-work here in the state of Nevada. *(Applause)*

It’s going to take a while for us to get that in place mostly because it’s been here forever. There are three to four generations of people here in Nevada because it’s always been “right-to-work” here. They think right-

to-work is okay. I think that’s good. I want the right-to-work.

They don’t know what right-to-work is. It’s going to take a lot of time, effort and money on our part to educate the public about what right-to-work really is so that we can move that legislation and get it done and take that out of the state of Nevada. With that I would let you go. I hope you enjoy your Convention.

Again, I can’t thank you enough for coming to Las Vegas and choosing Las Vegas for your city to visit. Your conventions are the lifeblood of this city. You are probably the fifth or sixth convention that’s been here in the last two months, national convention. And so, it is that that drives this city and helps us do all of the things that we need to do.

Have a good time. Stay safe. If there is anything that you guys need, please contact us. We’ll help. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Rusty, thank you very much. Rusty, hold on. Appreciation from the ATU, we have a gift for you. Thank you. Let’s give him a hand.

Standing Ovation

All right. We have a couple of committee changes. The Balloting Committee is now meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the Skyview 4. There’s a time change. Yes, that’s Balloting. Okay?

KEN NEUMANN

Canadian National Director,
United Steelworkers

COSTA: We have another speaker coming up. Take a look at the video. Are we ready?

Video Introduction

PERRY: Brothers and Sisters, please give a warm ATU welcome to the national director for Canada of the United Steelworkers, Ken Neumann. *(Applause)*

USW CANADIAN NATIONAL DIRECTOR KEN NEUMANN: Well, thank you very much for that



Ken Neumann, USW Canadian National Director

welcome, President Costa, Executive Board, your invited guests, and Brothers and Sisters. Thank you for this wonderful welcome.

And good morning, because one of the things that I looked at is that your slogan or your Convention theme is “Together We Fight,” and I’ll talk a bit about that in a moment.

It’s a pleasure for me to be here, and I want to personally thank President John Costa for the invitation. As you’ve heard, I’m the National Director for the United Steelworkers in Canada. I’m here on behalf of our international president, Tom Conway, to offer you the support and the solidarity of 225,000 Steelworkers in Canada and over 800,000 workers in North America. *(Applause)*

‘I have just one favor to ask’

I just have one favor to ask of our U.S. delegates. And I know that there’s a lot of my colleagues from Canada that are here. I just want to say to you, Brothers and Sisters, that not very often in Canada do we get the right to brag about certain things. But I’m sure you are going to hear from some of your delegates from across the country that Canada now is the NBA champions. They also just won the women’s world tennis. *(Applause)*

Because that’s important to us, so give them some patience. *(Applause)* And for us hockey fans that have lived in Toronto, it’s been a long, long, long time. *(Laughter)* I’m sure that some of you weren’t even born the last time we saw the Stanley Cup there.

Sisters and Brothers, the Steelworkers and the ATU have a close relationship in both the United States and Canada. Larry Hanley had an excellent relationship with our recently retired international president, Leo Gerard, and I also know that Tom Conway and John Costa will be leading the fight for the labor movement in the U.S. going forward.

‘Shoulder-to-shoulder’

And I have been proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with John Di Nino and your union locals across Canada. Our union, like your Union, is proud to be a strong international trade union.

The economies in the U.S. and Canada have always been profoundly integrated, and it only makes sense that our unions would also work together on both sides of the border to build a strong middle class for all of North America.

Let me just tell you a little bit about myself. I was born in Saskatchewan, which is a farm in eastern Saskatchewan in the Canadian prairies. Now, as some of you may know, Saskatchewan is a rural province just north of Montana and North Dakota. It’s also the proud birthplace of Canada’s social democracy.

‘The greatest Canadian’

When I was growing up, our province was governed by the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation or what is known as the CCF and our premier was Tommy Douglas. *(Applause)*

In fact, our family knew Tommy. Our province was the first jurisdiction in North America to have public single-payer health care or what you may call “*Medicare for All*.”

And let me just tell you something, Brothers and Sisters, that fight was not easy. Tommy Douglas had campaigned repeatedly for a public healthcare system, but he waited until his fifth term as premier of the province to push it through, and even then, it was viciously opposed by the medical profession, including the doctors in the province who went on strike to oppose him.

But the system survived. And it was immediately clear to everyone that a fully public medicare system, in which healthcare is provided by the government as a human right to all Canadians made the most sense. In fact, it made so much sense that within four years the entire country of Canada adopted our fully public healthcare system that Tommy introduced in Saskatchewan.

And as of today, Canadians value our public healthcare system more than any other institution in our country. And Tommy Douglas was voted as the “Greatest Canadian” in our history. (*Applause*)

And so, with that background, Brothers and Sisters, you can well imagine how powerful it was for me to visit your Tommy Douglas Center in Maryland; to have an opportunity to say a few words at Larry Hanley’s memorial celebration in June.

And let me again say, as I did back in June, that we lost one of the great trade unionists in North America and Larry passed away far too soon.

‘We miss him very much’

I know (*Applause*) – I know that you all miss him, and we miss him very much as well. We miss him because Larry, much like Tommy Douglas, knew that the struggle for workers’ rights is not limited to national borders or by race, or by creed, religion, gender, or sexual orientation.

And both Larry and Tommy knew that the labor movement’s agenda is to bring justice, and dignity, and fairness for all working people, not just Steelworkers or transit workers. It was for *all*.

I first got to know Larry when he was contacted by our former international president, Leo Gerard, about some raiding activities that were taking place at one of your locals in Toronto. And of course, what it turned out that what it really was, was just an attempted raid turned into a full attack on international unions.

And I want to say to you all here today that I stand here proud, as I did back then, to work hand-in-hand with Larry and Leo and the Canadian leadership and some of the other affiliates to beat back this attack on the international trade unionism that we have known. (*Applause*)

I only wish – I only wish that I had had the opportunity to actually meet Larry in person. I have had numerous Skype conversations and numerous telephone conversations, and many conversations that we’ve had is that... he’s someone that will always be in my heart and in my mind.

Brothers and Sisters, our union knows better than most, that worker struggles are *international* struggles – no different than the struggles that you have.

Tariff tension

And I just want to give you a concrete example of what I mean by international struggles, which is very important to me and the Steelworkers, and it has to do with trade. You may have noticed that over the last couple of years, there’s been some tensions between Ottawa and Washington.

It started with President Trump’s decision to impose tariffs on the Canadian steel and aluminum in the summer of 2018, during the negotiations of the new NAFTA trade deal. Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau announced similar tariffs on U.S. steel and aluminum and against many other products that many of your citizens produce.

Now, our union represents the vast majority of workers in steel and aluminum on both sides of the border. For us in Canada, this trade war caused hardship, anxiety, and job loss for our members and for many other working people in both of our countries.

So, our international union, more than any other group, led the way in the campaign to find a resolution to what I refer to as a foolish dispute. We have made the case to the governments in both our countries that Canada and the U.S. are friends and allies when it comes to trade.

Unjustified tariffs cause economic harm

We saw our rank-and-file members lobby politicians regularly. We showed that unjustified tariffs caused economic harm to American and Canadian workers and to the consumers. In the end, we helped achieve a

resolution to this senseless dispute and the tariffs were lifted on both sides of the border just earlier this year.

Brothers and Sisters, this was truly a Steelworker victory won on behalf of working people across the U.S. and Canada because of the strength of international trade unionism. A victory like that would have not been possible if we would have not been able to mobilize our members and leaders on both sides of the border.

This victory is possible only because the American and Canadian Steelworkers know the shared value and benefits of a longstanding trade relationship between our two great countries. Steelworkers know when it comes to trade, the U.S. is not the problem for Canada, and Canada is not the problem for the U.S. We know that our heavily integrated manufacturing markets have benefitted workers in both of our countries. Sisters and Brothers, we know where the real problem lies, and we are not – *we are not* – afraid to call it out.

We also know why millions of decent middle class jobs have disappeared from our two countries. We know that it's due to unfair global deals and predatory trade practices of bad actors, countries that do not play by the same rules. That's why the Steelworkers in the U.S. and Canada are relentless in their fight against trade deals that create a "race to the bottom" and kill good jobs. That's why we are relentless in our campaigns to demand that governments defend our jobs and our communities and that they sanction these bad actors, be it China or any other countries.

'Elections matter'

So, Sisters and Brothers, our union in Canada is also mobilizing our members to be active in the next upcoming federal election. I say this consistently. I say this to our members across the country: *elections matter*.

For our American friends, you might like to know that our campaigns only last for a period of six weeks. Yes, I'll repeat that again, only for *six weeks*, because I know your campaigns can last as much as two years.

And so, our election is going to be held in less than a month. On October the 21st the federal election is going to be held and the Steelworkers will be active because we know what happens at the ballot box has a direct impact

on our members and all of our workers. We know that when right-wing governments come to power, they dismantle the progressive policies, laws, and rights that were achieved over generations of struggle. We know that these governments lead to more inequality, abuses of rights, and losses of opportunity for the most vulnerable in our society.

And this week, when you meet your delegates from Canada, from Ontario or even Alberta, where we have had two right-wing governments that have just gotten elected, I am sure they can tell in Ontario about the downloading of the transit, about the ripping up of the labor code, about the minimum wage freeze.

'The stroke of a pen'

You can go to Alberta, how they turned back the clock with the stroke of a pen. These were all progressive things that were there for workers that are going to make it a better life for society. They have all been taken away with the stroke of a pen, and that is why I say the elections *do* matter.

And that is why our union in Canada supports the party of Tommy Douglas, the New Democratic Party, or as referred to as the NDP. Steelworkers are supporting the NDP in this federal election because we have seen what the NDP governments have accomplished on the provincial level for many, many years. We know that with progressive NDP governments, here is what we get: improved labour laws and stronger unions, higher wages, sustainable jobs and environmental protections, universal healthcare, strong social programs, and laws that protect the fundamental rights of all people.

In short, we get a government that improves the lives of working people and builds a more equal and prosperous society. And we know that the Steelworkers and ATU members are together and working to elect governments that truly represent the interests of working people.

Friends, I have spoken to you today briefly about the importance of political action and about the importance of the labor movement standing together across borders to defend the rights of working people, and I want to say to you that I know that in Canada, we have a great ally in John Di Nino and the ATU membership.

Since taking over as the president of the ATU in Canada, I have seen personally firsthand, that John is building the strength and the power of the ATU across Canada, building political power and bargaining power to take on your toughest fights.

Whether it is with your largest employers, like the Toronto Transit System or with smaller units, I know that John and his team are working to build the ATU capacity in organizing, political action, and making sure that the ATU continues to provide the greatest representation for your transit workers across the country. *(Applause)*

ATU in Canada is on the move

Sisters and Brothers, I have seen firsthand that the ATU in Canada is an organization that is on the move, and the respect – the respect – for the ATU within the Canadian labour movement has never ever been higher. *(Applause)*

In closing, Sisters and Brothers, the labour movement needs more solidarity and less infighting. We cannot be divided by nationalism or petty politics. When some union leaders or labour leaders, as they are referred to, are only out for themselves or when they attack other unions, it doesn't do any of us any good, and I'm sure you all know who I'm talking about.

So, today, Brothers and Sisters, I do bring a message of solidarity and support to you from our union of over 800,000 members, Steelworkers in North America and we are proud to say that we are your ally. Your struggles are our struggles, and we look forward to working with you into the future. And as your theme says, "fighting together."

And I ask you that when you leave here, when you go back after being energized after a week of being at convention, go back to your hometown and let's go kick some ass for the working class. Solidarity forever!

Standing Ovation

COSTA: Great speech, as always, Ken. Thank you. I had the opportunity in Ottawa – no, in Kelowna, the first time – and saw you speak. And, yes, our two unions are friends and will continue to be friends. And Canada is

growing. And thank you for all of the help. You did help us out. Larry told me the stories.

And we have a gift for you. We appreciate you coming out. Thank you. Give him a hand.

NEUMANN: Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Organizing is meeting in Room 7; am I correct? Las Vegas Room 7. Let's do this again: Organizing is meeting in Las Vegas 7, at this time, please.

IN MEMORIAM

'ATU Remembers' video presented memorializing ATU officers who passed away since the last Convention.

Standing Ovation

FIRST HANLEY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PRESENTED TO THE LATE MARCEL MALBOEUF

COSTA: I had the opportunity to go out to Ottawa and attend Marcel's (Malboeuf) memorial. Going out there – Marcel was a friend of mine like so many up there – and I believe helped me... *(Visibly moved)* ... *(Applause)* ... helped me get to where I stand today. So, many people up there. This one got to me... I'm sorry.



International President John A. Costa

But after going there I had the opportunity to meet his family, his wife, his kids and his sister, and brother-in-law.

And while I was there, I noticed that we had nothing – or I had nothing – from the ATU that I brought with me but my memories of him and the gentleman he was.

And meeting him years ago, probably in the early '90s when the CAN-AM was started ... and all of the friends from Canada, we created the Eastern Canadian Conference back in '95 ... and moved on through the years ... Marcel and others through the years, making that conference what it is today – a great conference.

So, not having anything, I met the family and I had told them stories and I spoke there, and I asked that I would like for the family to attend this conference in memory of Marcel. And I knew it was short notice, but we would try to handle getting them here and gave them time to think about it.

And I received a call back from Clint and John Di Nino, and they were honored to come. So, they are present with us here today.

Standing Ovation

So, in honor of our dearly departed international president, Larry Hanley, the General Executive Board met last week and approved the creation of the Lawrence “Larry” Hanley ATU Lifetime Achievement Award, which will be presented at each Convention. *(Applause)*

This award recognizes individuals who have shown exceptional commitment to the ATU's mission and ideals and who have dedicated a lifetime of service to the ATU, our members, and all of our families in the U.S. and Canada.

The first person to receive this award is our recently departed brother, Marcel Malboeuf, from Local 271-Ottawa, ON.

Standing Ovation

Yes. A true gentleman, Marcel, was one of the most committed, dedicated, and loyal members of the ATU. He was a constant presence at the ATU Conventions for many years as a Sergeant-at-Arms, a friend, and a leader.

Marcel has touched so many lives

Marcel has touched the lives of so many in our Union and amplified what ATU is all about. So, I'd like to call to the stage Marcel's wife Kim and his sister, Yougette, along with Local 279-Ottawa President Clint Crabtree; John Di Nino, ATU Canada president; and the local members here at the Convention. Thank you. *(Applause)*

The GEB had passed this along with a motion that we will have a plaque also at the Tommy Douglas Center and everyone that receives this will be shown at our home office.

So, it's with great honor that I present this to you on behalf of Marcel, the Lawrence J. Hanley ATU Lifetime Achievement Award. And it says:

“In recognition of exceptional commitment to the mission and ideals of the Amalgamated Transit Union, and in recognition of a lifetime of service to the ATU, its members and all working families throughout U.S. and Canada.

Marcel Malboeuf

ATU Local 279-Ottawa, ON

Awarded at the ATU 2019 International Convention

A true gentleman, Marcel was one of the most committed, dedicated and loyal ATU members of our Union, a constant presence at the ATU Conventions for many years as a Sergeant-at-Arms, a leader, and a friend.

Marcel touched the lives of so many in our Union and amplified what our Union is all about.

COSTA: It's dated September 2019.

KIM MALBOUEF: Thank you for this. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Marcel!

DELEGATES: “*Marcel!*”

COSTA: Thank you for letting us have him. Thank you very much.

'You have a conviction'

COSTA: Marcel's sister would like to come up and read a poem:

YOUGETTE MALBOUEF: I'm Marcel's sister. First of all, ... (*Applause*) Thank you.



Yougette Malbouef

I want to thank all of the persons that give us the – to be here today – to assist this Convention, it's an honor in memory of my brother. And what I'll keep in memory of the ATU. It's the strength, the way you are – you have a conviction. That's very ... it's impressive. (*Applause*)

Now, I'd like to tell you a few words about my brother. When I say "brother," you know what it means. I don't have to tell you.

But about a few conversations I had with Marcel a few weeks before he left, I said, "'Marce,' are you afraid to die?" He said, "Yougette, No. If it's, 'I have to go,' – it's my time to go." So, we had tears – both of us. We hugged. And he said, "Now we don't talk about death." We talk about so many things. And most of – maybe an hour – he talked about ATU. (*Applause*)

He made a list and give it to Kim and talked to me about members that I do know a bit because with Marcel it was a union thing – the most important thing. (*Laughter*) So, ... well ... sorry ...

So, I said, "Marce, there is something that makes me think of you, I will always have in mind, what with this cursed life, and I found a poem." It's not a poem. It's a certain inspiration and I could hear Marce talking like that. So, the title: *My Train of Life*.

My Train of Life

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents and we believed they will always travel on our side. However, at some station, our parents will step down from the train leaving us on this journey alone.

As time goes by other people will board the train, and they will be significant. Siblings. Friends. Children and even the love of your life. Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't – we do not realize that they vacated their seats.

This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is we do not know at which station we ourselves will step down, so we must live in the best way. Love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are.

It is important to do this. Because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty, we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

YOUGETTE MALBOUEF: I wish you a joyful journey on the train of life. Reap success and give lots of love. More importantly, thank God for the journey. Lastly, I thank you for being one of the passengers that boarded the train of life of Marcel. Thank you.

Standing Ovation

KIM MALBOUEF: Hi. I'm not used this, but I do this for Marcel.

First, I would like to thank Mr. Costa and all helping me to make this happen. My son really wanted to be here today, but he couldn't make it, so I'm here for him today. And I (*Applause*) – And all I want to say thank you very much for all of the love and the care from you and he wanted to say farewell to everybody. So, now he can rest in peace. Thank you. (*Applause*)



Kim Malbouef

COSTA: And I know Marcel is looking down at his ATU family and he is so proud right now that this Union brought his family here to say hello and to meet you. I know he is up there smiling, and he wishes that he could be here, but he is. Thank you, once again. Thank you. Thank you. *(Applause)*

PETE BUTTIGIEG

Democratic Presidential Candidate
& Mayor of South Bend, IN

COSTA: Okay. At this time, can you turn all eyes on the video. We have a speaker that would like to address the delegation, Mayor Pete:

Video Address

MAYOR PETE BUTTIGIEG: Hello, I'm Pete Buttigieg, mayor of South Bend, IN, and Democratic presidential candidate.



*Pete Buttigieg, Mayor of South Bend, IN
and Democratic Presidential Candidate*

I'm sorry I can't be there in Las Vegas with you, but I wanted to let you know how much I appreciate the work that ATU has been doing for over 125 years. As someone who's been proud to stand with Labor throughout my career and as someone who's doing a lot of travel these days, I have a profound appreciation for the transit workers who operate our buses, tune up our trains, and make sure that bags get to where they need to go.

'Proud to stand with striking ATU bus drivers'

And I was proud to stand with ATU striking Martha's Vineyard bus drivers as you continued to push to be treated fairly. *(Applause)*

It is the labor movement that built this country and secured a middle class lifestyle. And a healthy labor movement is essential to moving our economy forward. We know something is wrong in our economy when the Dow is rising, and life expectancy is falling at the same time. That shouldn't be possible.

We hear about all of these forces: globalization, technology, automation, as if what's happening is due to some "cosmic effect," but the problems in our economy are the result of decisions made in Washington on purpose.

It's not a coincidence that the decline in the middle class went hand-in-hand with the decline in union membership over the last few decades. If workers are going to be able to navigate a changing world of work, we need strong unions to advocate for them. Because freedom isn't just about freedom from regulations. It's also *freedom through organization*.

'Bolder reforms'

That's why I've put forward a plan that lifts wages and empowers workers and employers with the tools that they need to thrive in a changing economy. We need bolder reforms to get Labor ahead of the curve and then we can double the percentage of workers in unions in this country.

We are going to do it by expanding who can unionize,

guaranteeing bargaining rights for all American workers, and penalizing employers who misclassify their workers. Because as I told Uber and Lyft drivers in San Francisco as we rallied in support of California's pro-worker "AB 5" – a gig is a *job*, and anyone doing a job is a worker.

At the same time, we're going to strengthen how you can unionize through multi-employer bargaining and holding employers accountable when they interfere with union elections. And as your president, I will ensure that workers have the predictable hours, wages and support they deserve.

Medicare for All

Freedom also means not having to choose between healthcare and financial survival. That's why my healthcare vision is Medicare for all who want it. Let every American have the choice to walk away from a private plan and into a public alternative when they are ready.

That's why I will unite Americans around bold solutions to tackle climate change before it tackles us.

And I insist that we match the ambition of the Marshall Plan that rebuilt Europe with a "Douglass Plan" to tackle systemic racism right here in America. We need to meet the urgency of this moment with a renewed focus on improving everyday life, ensuring that our shared values light the way to a better future, and when I'm president we'll do just that. Thank you and I will see you on the campaign trail. *(Applause)*

VIDEO ON LOCAL 998- MILWAUKEE, WI WINNING CONTRACT CAMPAIGN

(Applause)

COSTA: That video was for Larry. Larry with the JIC and kicking it off and going into that campaign and the work we did there. Larry was just so, so happy with that kind of work and at least he got to see that one. And there is a couple others that we did some good work on, but Larry was proud of that one. Thank you. *(Applause)*

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT COMMITTEE

COSTA: Next, is the IP Committee Report ready? Okay. Bring them up:

Mr. Chairman, you want to present the report?

COMMITTEE CHAIR MICHAEL McMILLAN, 1300-Baltimore, MD: Good morning, Brothers and Sisters. This is the Report of the Committee on the International President's Report. Mr. Chairman and Delegates of the 59th Convention, your Committee on the President's Report is pleased to submit to you its report.



Delegate Michael McMillan, 1300-Baltimore, MD

We have carefully examined the President's Report to the 59th Convention. We wish to give recognition to the president and his staff for their continued assertiveness in achieving new goals.

We therefore submit the following findings to the Convention covering the President's Report for the period of July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2019.

Coalition building

The committee first recognizes and appreciates the International's continued emphasis on coalitions and building grassroots support for our issues. There are 100 transit riders for every ATU member, and our passengers are our greatest allies in fighting service cuts, fare increases and layoffs.

Organized labor is shrinking, and we need to do all we can to expand our base. Our efforts are gaining notoriety all across the labor movement.

Education and training

The committee also commends the International on its continued efforts to build and improve upon the ATU's extensive educational and training programs, preparing our members for every challenge they may face at the bargaining table and in legislative halls throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Legislative and political efforts

The committee further commends the International on its highly successful legislative and political efforts and achievements at every level of government throughout the reporting period. As summarized in the International President's Report, we also acknowledge the high level of legal and research services provided by the International in protecting our Section 13(c) collective bargaining rights and other interests and for making sure that ATU locals have the necessary information to properly represent our members.

Finally, the committee recognizes and appreciates the dedication by the International in connection with the backbone of any labor union – organizing – with nearly 200,000 members – the highest level in our 127 year history. Our Union is indeed stronger than ever, and we thank the International for recognizing that when our Union grows, we all become more powerful. *(Applause)*

Mr. Chairman, this is our complete report to the Convention for action. The Committee on the President's Report recommends adoption and I so move, Mr. Chairman.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: *"Seconds."*

COSTA: Second. Questions? *(No Response)*

Hearing none, all in favor, say "aye."

DELEGATES: Chorus of *"ayes."*

Opposed? *(No Response)*

(Gavel Knock) Adopted. Thank you. *(Applause)*

McMILLAN: Okay. At this time, Secretary Jackie Boily will read the names of the members of the committee.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY JACKIE BOILY, 1760-Ottawa, ON: The members of the International President's Report Committee consists of:



Delegate Jackie Boily, 1760-Ottawa, ON

- Michael McMillan, 1300, Chair
- Jackie Boily, 1760, Secretary
- Rick Rideout, 113
- Diane Allen, 128
- Paul Jason, 164
- Al Barnes, 281
- Corey Carr, 308
- Harry Lew, 583
- Romoan Bruce, 689
- Tolbert Furr, 819
- Earl Hardy, Jr., 821
- Chris Simmons, 847
- Joseph A. Cherry, 857
- Joseph Romeo, 880
- Albert Garcia, 1225

- Charles Schroeder, 1293
- Lydia Moore, 1342
- Frank Marsh, 1415
- Paul Churchill, 1462
- Percival Patterson, 1493
- Troy Covington, 1517
- Christine Broeze, 1587
- Scott Penrose, 1749
- Christopher Lake, 1761

BOILY: And that is going to be it. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Jackie. Thank you to the committee for the hard work. Appreciate it. Thank you very much. Give them a hand. *(Applause)*

APPEALS COMMITTEE REPORT

COSTA: Next, we have the Appeals Committee on the stand is ready. The Appeals are ready? Mr. Chairman, you ready for your report?

COMMITTEE CHAIR JACQUES CHAPMAN, 282-Rochester, NY: Yes, sir. Good morning, Mr. Chair, fellow Brothers and Sisters. I'm honored to present to you this Report of your Committee on Appeals.



Delegate Jacques Chapman, 282-Rochester, NY

To the International Officers and Delegates of the 59th Convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union, we,

your Committee on Appeals, have duly considered and carefully deliberated in response to one appeal to the Convention, report the following:

Appeal: Jose Mendoza, 1637-Las Vegas, NV

This is an appeal submitted by Mr. Jose Mendoza, Jr., former president/business agent of ATU Local 1637-Las Vegas, NV, appealing a decision of the General Executive Board to adopt the findings and recommendations of the hearing officer, International Representative Antonette Bryant, that the trusteeship of Local 1637 was justified and should have been continued.

The temporary trusteeship was ordered to redress the issues of financial malpractice and/or malfeasance, resolve impediments to the democratic functions of the local union, assure performance of the local union as a lawfully designated collective bargaining representative, and otherwise carry out the legitimate objectives of the International Union.

A trusteeship hearing was held on May 9 and 10, 2017. Former President/Business Agent Mendoza represented the Local and was provided a full opportunity to present evidence and participated.

Upon completion of the review of the evidentiary record, it was concluded that the local union's ability to function properly was significantly compromised prior to the International Union placing Local 1637 into trusteeship. It was determined that there was financial mismanagement, a lack of democratic functioning and oversight by the local union membership, and a willful disregard to follow directions of the international office.

The findings and recommendation of the hearing officer further found that the allegations by former President/Business Agent Mendoza of personal retaliation lacked merit. The General Executive Board adopted these findings, and former President/Business Agent Mendoza appealed the decision to the General Executive Board.

After careful consideration of the record contained in the file and reviewing the presentation of Brother

Mendoza, the members of the Committee on Appeals voted unanimously to recommend that this Convention deny the appeal of Brother Mendoza, and uphold the decision of the General Executive Board, and I so move.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: *"Seconds."*

COSTA: Second. Any questions? *(No Response)*

Hearing none. All in favor, say "aye."

DELEGATES: Chorus of *"ayes."*

COSTA: Opposed? *(No Response)*

(Gavel Knock) Adopted. *(Applause)*

CHAPMAN: On behalf of the committee, I thank International Vice Presidents Marcellus Barnes and Michelle Sommers for their assistance.

On behalf of myself, I would like to thank Amanda Malone for serving for as secretary of the Committee on Appeals. Sister Malone, will you now read the names of the members of the Appeals Committee.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY AMANDA MALONE,
1177-Norfolk, VA: Good morning.



Delegate Amanda Malone, 1177-Norfolk, VA

DELEGATES: *"Good morning."*

MALONE:

- Jacques Chapman, 282, Chair
- Amanda Malone, 1177, Secretary

- Naresh Sachithanandan, 134
- Woodrow Eiland, 241
- Ralph Buccitti, 281
- Artan Martinaj, 425
- John Rugama, 441
- Johnny Haggith, 685
- Carroll F. Thomas, Jr., 689
- George Botts, 726
- Andre Fournier, 741
- Pablo Gonzalez, 820
- Dana Burgess, 823
- RiChard Jackson, 836
- Steven Oss, 883
- Brent Payne, 1091
- Peter Schiraldi, 1145
- Grant Logan, 1182
- Jaroslaw Pizunski, 1209
- John Habanec, 1241
- Mustafa Salahuddin, 1336
- Stephen Simon, 1464
- Katharine Crawford, 1602

COSTA: Thank you, Madam Secretary. Thank you for all the work. Great committee. Thank you. *(Applause)*

Okay. At this time, we are ahead of schedule actually, unless you want to see something, or we can go a little longer.

But, look, you have the excursions that are going to be coming at 12:00. So, what we are going to do is, I think we are going to set up for the photo and we'll break early until tomorrow. This way you get a chance to get your stuff together and catch...

...No. Raffle is done. We did two of them already, right, Mary?

MARY GOLDSWORTHY: Yes.

COSTA: He's trying to get another gift. All right.

So, how is this picture going to work? Who is directing this?

PERRY: Brothers and Sisters, please bear with us for a moment as we await instructions from the photographer.

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT JAVIER PEREZ, JR: Brothers and Sisters, if I could have your attention for a moment, please. There will be a passing of the hat for our member whose son passed away earlier this week, so you should see that starting to come around the room to each of you. So, please do what you can to help our sister and her family in their time of need. Thank you.

PERRY:

- Brothers and Sisters, boxed lunches will be available in the convention hall near the registration desk following the photography session.
- There will be three excursions, and you are urged to check your tickets for the right time to be at the pickup location that you took before at the Paris hotel.
- Sisters and Brothers, the photographer is currently setting up his camera. We will be assembling for the picture in a moment.

PERRY: Brothers and Sisters, please stand up, turn around, and face the photographer, who will be on your right at the back of the hall.

COSTA: Everybody has to turn and look to the back of the room. That is where the camera is. It's a wide angle. So, everybody say, "Together We Fight!"

DELEGATES: *"Together We Fight!"*

PERRY: The Executive Board is asked to join the other officers on the stage.

COSTA: Executive Board members, come up on the stage.

PHOTOGRAPHER: ...Okay. Just about ready. Good looking group. Everybody ready?

DELEGATES: *"Yesses."*

PHOTOGRAPHER: All right. So, I'm going to count off here. All right. Here we go:

Picture Taken

(Applause)

COSTA: One more thing. The videographer would like to get a shot of you all shouting out your "mantra" here. Okay?

PERRY: Delegates, please stay in your places. We have another announcement. We are going to do: "Together We Fight! for the videographer.

VIDEOGRAPHER: All right. Folks, we are going to do a shout out, "Together We Fight, Together We Win!"

All right. Everybody looking at the camera, on the count of three. It will be "Together We Fight, Together We Win!" 1, 2, 3:

DELEGATES: *"Together We Fight, Together We Win!"*

Video Recorded

VIDEOGRAPHER: That's amazing. Thank you.

COSTA: All right. Meeting adjourned until tomorrow morning at 8:30. Thank you. *(Gavel Knock)*

*Whereupon, the Amalgamated Transit Union
International Convention was recessed until Wednesday,
September 25, 2019, at 8:30 am.*

DAY THREE

Wednesday Session September 25, 2019

The 59th International Convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union reconvened on Wednesday, September 25, 2019, at 8:40 a.m.

CHAIR and INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT JOHN COSTA: Good morning. Sergeants-at-Arms, can you get everybody seated, please? Okay.

We ended earlier the last couple of days, but today we got a long one. We are going to work through lunch to try to get everybody out by 2:00 because they need to turn this room over this afternoon for this evening's banquet. So, we are going to get started and go right through.

So, how were the excursions? Everybody enjoy themselves, yesterday? (*Applause*)

Okay. And let's give hand to the staff. I understand the staff working for us did a great job, all right, for this mighty, mighty Union. (*Applause*)

Huh? Get a chant going? Where is Anthony? Here he is. No chant? No "mighty, mighty union" chant?...

DELEGATES: "*We are the Union – the Mighty, Mighty Union!*"

COSTA: Thank you. Thank you. Now, *that is a union!* Good morning. Okay, Shawn:

PERRY (*announcer*): Sisters and Brothers, some meeting announcements for today:

- The Florida State Legislative Board is meeting today, Wednesday, from 3:00 to 5:00 in Bally's, Las Vegas 2 and invites the Louisiana Conference Board and all southern state delegates.
- The Maintenance Committee will meet at 10:00 a.m. today in Skyview 3.
- The Next Generation Committee will meet at 2:00 p.m. today in Jubilee 1.
- The School Bus/Paratransit Committee will meet at 2:00 p.m. today in Skyview 3.

- Gender Equity and Inclusion Committee will meet at 2:00 p.m. today in Las Vegas 5.
- The Environmental/Occupational Health and Safety Committee will meet at 2:00 p.m. today in Skyview 4.
- The New Technology, Apprenticeships and Jobs Committee will meet at 2:00 p.m. today at Las Vegas 4. Please wear your blue shirt to today's 2:00 p.m. meeting for the committee photo.

FATEEN SEIFULLAH

Imam, Masjid As-Sabur Mosque,
Las Vegas, NV

PERRY: Brothers and Sisters, for the invocation please welcome to the stage Imam Fateen Seifullah from the Masjid As-Sabur Mosque (*Applause*):

Invocation

IMAM SEIFULLAH: Good morning.

DELEGATES: "*Good morning.*"

SEIFULLAH: May the peace that only God can give be with you and with us all. In the Arabic tradition, I begin by saying "Assalamu alaykum." It is truly an honor, a pleasure, and a blessing to be here with you all.



*Fateen Seifullah, Imam,
Masjid As-Sabur Mosque, Las Vegas, NV*

Just as I was walking up, I saw one of your members, Tim, I think his name was, and he was so welcoming. It was so indicative of what we found when we first

arrived here, this good nature, this good spirit. So, I am indeed honored, privileged, and indeed grateful to God to be here.

Diversity

I'm especially happy to witness this level of diversity in this space, to be able to pray with you, as Oswald Chambers wrote, "prayer does not equip us for greater work, prayer is the greater work."

So, in the tradition of the Islamic faith, we begin first by reciting one of the chapters from the Koran. It's only seven verses, but those seven verses are considered a commentary for the entire 6,236 verses.

It begins: (*Speaking in Arabic*). And that is:

In the name of God, the most gracious, the most merciful. The praises due to God, the Lord of all of the worlds, most gracious, most merciful, Master of the day of judgment, Leader we worship and Thine aid we seek. Show us the straight way – the way of those upon whom Thou has bestowed our favor – not those whose portion is wrath, nor those who go astray.

As we conclude, again, as people of faith, we pray with all people of faith that the bond of trust be strengthened between those who employ us and those who manage us. Bless this gathering, give success to all of our brothers and sisters working to provide for their families in serving this nation.

'Unite our hearts'

Oh, Cherisher and Sustainer, unite our hearts, aid us and inspire us to continue to work, to march when necessary, to protest when necessary, to use our voices to proclaim loud and clear: "Together We Win, Together We Fight!"

And, lastly, as my elders taught me, my grandparents, they taught us to pray: God give them traveling mercy. Dear God, keep us from all harm and danger, go with them, encamp around them, stay close to them and continue them on their way.

And in the Arabic tradition: "Fi imani Allah." Go

with faith and the security and the protection of God. Again, may the peace and blessings that only God can give be with you and with us all. Thank you for allowing me to be here. Assalamu alaykum. (*Applause*)

COSTA: Thank you, Brother. Thank you.

SECOND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

COSTA: Okay. Next we're going to go into some committee reports. The Credentials are ready? Brother Tuck:

COMMITTEE CHAIR ERIC TUCK, 107-Hamilton, ON: Brothers and Sisters, Mr. Chairman, this is the second supplementary report of the Committee on Credentials.

Since the Credentials Committee presented our last report to this Convention, nine additional delegates have registered, and the committee has found their credentials to be in order. Of this number, the committee found nine to be eligible for participation in the election of international officers and AFL-CIO convention delegates and alternates. The committee recommends that all nine individuals be *seated*, and I so move, Mr. Chairman.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Motion moved.

DELEGATES: "*Seconded.*"

COSTA: Second. Any questions? (*No Response*)

Hearing none, all in favor say "aye."

DELEGATES: Chorus of "*ayes.*"

Opposed? (*No Response*)

Adopted. Thank you. (*Gavel Knock*)

(*Applause*)

TUCK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to note for the record that the roster of the 59th Convention will now show a total of 642 delegates.

Mr. Chairman, 640 of these delegates are found to be eligible for participation in the election of international officers and AFL-CIO convention delegates and alternates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. Thank you for your great work. Next we're going to have a video:

CONVENTION DAY TWO RECAP VIDEO

(Applause)

PERRY: Brothers and Sisters, another announcement:

- The New England Joint Conference Board will be holding a meeting this afternoon in Concorde C, at 3:00 p.m., and the Laws Committee is asked to come to the back left of the stage.

COSTA: Okay. At this time, we have another committee report:

ASSAULTS VIDEO: NOT ONE MORE

COSTA: Not one more! *(Applause)* I have watched that video over and over again. Four months, I have watched that video over and over again, every morning, every night, another video, another one goes on the "rotator" on our website – *not one more!*

And Brothers and Sisters, we could get this bill passed. We could. We need to do more. We need to push more. *(Applause)*

You are going to see a video. We are going to talk about ATU COPE today. Our power is not only our money, our power is the people we have, and we can pass this bill. I know it. I feel it.

This bill has to be passed. It has to be passed now. Not one more of our members should be treated like you saw in these videos. Or have to deal with the distress after this.

We can stop this, please. We can do a better job. This is our Union. Together, we can do better. Together, we can fight this. Thank you. *(Applause)*

LAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

COSTA: Committee report – Laws Committee, ready? Come on:

COMMITTEE CHAIR RAY GREAVES, chair, New Jersey State Council: Wow! I promised I'm not going to start out with a Lou Rawls song, so we're going to go right to the report. Good morning, everybody.



Delegate Ray Greaves, New Jersey State Council

DELEGATES: "Good morning."

GREAVES: We have a big committee, so we have to give everybody some time to get up here on stage. You want to hear a little "Al Green?" *(Laughter)* – We start our meetings with a little song, you know – make everybody loose, you know. They all love my voice, right?

Wow, these lights are bright. Good morning, "Double O."

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER
OSCAR OWENS: How are you, Brother?

GREAVES: Good. Like I said, a large committee and a very large chairman for the committee.

Good morning, Brothers and Sisters. Mr. Chairman, the delegates of the 59th International Convention, I'm honored to now present the report of the

Committee on Laws for consideration and action of the officers and delegates to the 59th Convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union. Because I would be remiss if I did not do so, on behalf of the entire committee, I would like to thank our international vice presidents:

- Ken Kirk – “*Double K!*”

GREAVES: You can all applaud. (*Applause*)

- Yvette Trujillo (*Applause*), and
- Manny Sforza (*Applause*)

GREAVES: For all their help on this committee. And my committee secretary, who we would never have been able to get this report to you without, our secretary, Yvonne Williams. (*Applause*) She was a *big star* at the “Wow Show,” we heard, right? (*Laughter*)

The committee heard all those delegates wishing to appear in favor of or in opposition to the resolutions submitted to it. We were also available to hear any delegates who desired to discuss the changes in Laws recommended by the International President and that were duly referred to the Laws Committee. We have carefully and fully considered all matters referred to our committee.

I will present the proposed amendments as they are ordered in the resolutions book distributed to all delegates in their registration materials. I will report first on the international president’s resolution, and then on resolutions submitted by local unions numbered 1 through 5.

Amendment 1

Submitted by the International President

GREAVES: Amendment No. 1, submitted by the international president. The International President’s sole proposed amendment would clarify the charge of dual unionism, under Section 22.1, Chargeable Offenses, of the *Constitution and General Laws*.

Section 22.1 of the *Constitution and General Laws* currently provides that “dual unionism” is a chargeable offense. The International Union has treated dual

unionism as requiring conduct of the type described in Section 22.2, Charges Involving Dual Unionism, of the *Constitution and General Laws*. However, Section 22.1, does not explicitly reference Section 22.2 or provide its own definition of dual unionism.

In connection with a lawsuit filed in the Ontario Supreme Court challenging the legality of certain provisions of our *Constitution and General Laws*, the International Union commissioned a report by a recognized labour expert on the ATU’s *Constitution and General Laws*’ compliance with Canadian law. The International President’s proposed amendment to Section 22.1 is based on that expert’s recommendations. We considered that report as well in connection with Resolution No. 1, submitted by Local 113, discussed further below.

The right to engage in reasonable dissent

The International President’s proposed amendment to Section 22.1 would make clear that dual unionism, as used in that Section, would encompass only those actions listed in Section 22.2 of the *Constitution and General Laws*. It would thereby reaffirm the right of ATU members to engage in reasonable dissent, including the expression of their views on union officers, their policies, programs and positions, and to maintain membership in another labor union, and to do so without subjecting them to union discipline under Section 22, adverse employment action or otherwise.

In addition to adopting explicitly the definition of dual unionism in Section 22.2, the proposed amendment to Section 22.1 would acknowledge that the chargeable offense of dual unionism may not be applied in a manner which conflicts with any present or subsequent federal, state, provincial, or municipal laws by incorporating a reference to Section 43, Subordination to Other Laws, of the *Constitution and General Laws*.

If amended, Section 22.1, Chargeable Offenses, would be altered as follows: Adding the language: “As defined in Section 22.2 subject to the subordination of other laws, provisions of Section 43”; after “dual unionism.”

As amended, Section 22.1 would read as follows:

22.1 Chargeable Offenses. Any officer or member may be charged with specific activities involving a violation of any specific provision of the *Constitution and General Laws* or the bylaws of the member's local union; gross disloyalty or conduct unbecoming a member; malfeasance or nonfeasance in office; financial malpractice; corrupt or unethical practices or racketeering; dual unionism as defined in Section 22.2, subject to the subordination of other laws provision of Section 43; decertification or succession; or a violation of duly established and applicable rules, regulations, policies or practices of an LU, JC or the IU.

GREAVES: The committee recommends *concurrence* with these changes and I do so move, Mr. Chairman.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Motion moved.

DELEGATES: "Seconded."

COSTA: Second. Any questions? *(No Response)*

Hearing none, all favor say "aye."

DELEGATES: Chorus of "ayes."

Opposed? *(No Response)*

Adopted. *(Gavel Knock)*

(Applause)

RESOLUTION No. 1

Submitted by Local 113-Toronto, ON

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, a MOTION has been submitted calling on Local 113 to take all measures to propose the following amendments to the *ATU Constitution and General Laws* (ATU *Constitution*) at the next ATU International Convention; and

WHEREAS, proposed amendments to the ATU *Constitution* are processed as Resolutions, of the ATU *Constitution*; and

WHEREAS, recent litigation in the Ontario

courts involving the ATU and Local 113 has raised questions about certain provisions of union *Constitution*, including of the ATU *Constitution*; and

WHEREAS, the members of Local 113 recommend that such matters including those raised by the MOTION deserve careful review and analysis; and

WHEREAS, the members of Local 113 recognize that the issues raised by the MOTION are important to our members and to the entire membership of the ATU in all of the jurisdictions in Canada and in the United States;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we HEREBY APPROVE THE MOTION as a RESOLUTION and that it be forwarded to the International Union pursuant to Section 6.16 of the ATU *Constitution* in order to provide all ATU local unions and all members of ATU an opportunity to review, analyze and consider the proposed constitutional amendments set out in the RESOLUTION, in advance of their consideration at the ATU International Convention in 2019.

Local 113 will take all measures to propose the following amendments to the ATU *Constitution* at the upcoming Convention.

Repeal Section 17, and replace it with the following:

Section 17, withdrawal of local unions.

A local union may disaffiliate from the international union if a resolution to that effect is passed by a majority of the local's members, in a membership vote conducted in accordance with the local's bylaws. A local that disaffiliates is entitled to keep any property it holds at the time of disaffiliation.

Repeal Section 22.2 of the *Constitution* in its entirety.

Amend section 22.1 To remove the words "gross disloyalty" and "dual unionism, decertification or secession."

Amend section 13.4 To remove the sentence beginning with the words "in case of withdrawal..."

Amend section 13.17 To add the following words at the end:

“Provided, however, that no local union may be placed in trusteeship if its members are contemplating or voting on disaffiliation from the International Union.”

GREAVES: Resolution 1 from Local 113-Toronto, ON, would amend five sections of the *Constitution and General Laws*.

I reiterate that we heard from all witnesses wishing to address this resolution and we had before us the report of the Canadian labour law experts dealing with each of the specific proposals raised by this resolution. That report has been made available to you on your iPads – iPads and the ATU app.

First, Resolution 1 would repeal all language in the current Section 17, Withdrawal of Local Unions. In the current *Constitution and General Laws*, Section 17 governs the process by which a local union may withdraw from the ATU. The penalties for failing to follow that process, the status of members remaining at the end of a withdrawal, and the handling of any remaining local union assets.

The amendment would replace our current language of Section 17, with the following:

Section 17, Withdrawal of Local Unions. A local union may disaffiliate from the International Union if a resolution to that effect is passed by a majority of the local’s members and a membership vote conducted in accordance with the local’s bylaws. A local that disaffiliates is entitled to keep any property it holds at the time of disaffiliation.

Second, Resolution 1 would repeal Section 22.2, Charges Involving Dual Unionism, eliminating such conduct as chargeable offenses. The current language of section 22.2, which the proposed amendment would repeal in its entirety, defines the offense of “dual unionism,” and requires that charges alleging dual unionism be filed with the General Executive Board.

Third, Resolution 1 would amend Section 22.1 of the *Constitution and General Laws* to remove the words “gross disloyalty” and “dual unionism, decertification or secession” from the list of chargeable offenses so as to exempt such conduct from union discipline.

As amended Section 22.1, Chargeable Offenses, would read as follows:

22.1. Chargeable Offenses. Any officer or member may be charged with specific activities involving a violation of any specific provision of the *Constitution and General Laws* or the bylaws of the member’s LU; conduct unbecoming a member; malfeasance or nonfeasance in office; financial malpractice; corrupt or unethical practices or racketeering; or a violation of duly established and applicable rules, regulations, policies or practices of an LU, JC, or the IU.

Fourth, Resolution 1 would strike the last sentence 13.4 of the *Constitution and General Laws* to remove the asset reversion clause which provides that the assets of a local union are held in trust by the International Union when a local union withdraws from the ATU, lapses, or dissolves.

As amended 13.4 Property and Real Estate would read as follows:

13.4. Property and Real Estate. LUs may own any property and real estate. LUs holding or owning such property and real estate, one or both, may select from their membership a trustee or board of trustees to hold, manage, control and operate the real estate or property of the local union in accordance with the laws of the state or province in which the LU is located.

Fifth, Resolution 1 would amend Section 13.17 of the *Constitution and General Laws* to specify that a local union may not be placed in a trusteeship if members are contemplating or voting on disaffiliation from ATU.

As amended, Section 13.17, Duty to Uphold the Constitution would read as follows:

13.17, Duty to Uphold Constitution. An LU willfully violating the *Constitution* or principles of the ATU or acting in antagonism to its welfare may be suspended by the IP with the consent of the GEB or may be placed in trusteeship in accordance with the provisions of Section 12.6. Provided, however, that no local union may be placed in trusteeship if its members are contemplating or voting on disaffiliation from the International Union.

The committee recommends *nonconcurrency* with the entire proposal and I so move, Mr. Chairman. (*Applause*)

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Motion moved.

DELEGATES: “*Seconded.*”

COSTA: Second. Any questions? (*No Response*) I see Mic. 2:

JOHN DI NINO, President, ATU Canada: Good morning. ...I stand before you today in hopes that this delegation rejects this motion. (*Applause*) Sisters and Brothers, this motion is a difficult motion as it is an attack on our International *Constitution*. This attack on the International *Constitution* is unprecedented.



Delegate John Di Nino, ATU Canada

Resolution would make us vulnerable

There is no other labour union in Canada or the United States that would have adopted this resolution. It would make us vulnerable to attacks from other unions and predators. I encourage this delegation and I ask for your support in turning down this motion. Thank you. (*Applause*)

COSTA: Michael Cordiello:

MICHAEL CORDIELLO, 1181-New York, NY: Good morning, Mr. Chair. I, too, rise in strong opposition to this resolution and support the motion of nonconcurrency.

The proposal strikes at the heart of what the ATU and all democratic unions stand for, unity, solidarity, and strength. It is dangerous and would expose our members



Delegate Michael Cordiello, 1181-New York, NY

to uncontrolled threats of raid, and the theft of funds built up by generations of our members.

The fabric that unites us

And we should not let any resolution tear down the fabric which unites us all, the United States and Canada, large unions and small locals, and therefore in the name of solidarity, unity and strength, I urge you all to oppose this resolution and support the motion of nonconcurrency. (*Applause*)

COSTA: Just for a point of order, please. Mic. 2, can you just announce your name and your local, please?

CARLOS SANTOS: Carlos Santos, 113-Toronto, ON.

COSTA: Thank you.

CARLOS SANTOS, 113-Toronto, ON: I too rise in front of the Board, the committee, to let everyone know that I'm in opposition of Resolution No. 1.

Let me be very clear, neither myself, nor the vast majority of our members, (Local) 113 delegation, support this resolution and we will be voting against it. Local 113 has only accepted this resolution at the local level because we felt it was important for all delegates to be given an opportunity to consider and debate the merits of these proposed changes to our *Constitution*.

ATU is and always has been a democratic union. As delegates to this Convention, we have the power to determine how we as a union want to govern ourselves.



Delegate Carlos Santos, 113-Toronto, ON



Delegate Kevin Morton, 113-Toronto, ON

This resolution is dangerous

As the president of Local 113, I supported the changes proposed by the International President just approved regarding dual unionism, but the changes proposed by this resolution are dangerous. Should they pass, it would make it easier for our locals to be raided, strip away our ability to prevent such actions, and allow the raiding union to run off with assets and funds built up by generations of ATU members.

I do not support allowing this to happen and, therefore, I'm asking this Convention to vote on Resolution No. 1 – to vote no on Resolution No. 1. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Brother. Mic. 2:

KEVIN MORTON, 113-Toronto, ON: Good morning. I rise in opposition to Resolution 1, and in support of the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence. The resolution was referred to this committee by my Local. I oppose it along with my Local 113 president, who just addressed you, and by the majority of the members of my Local.

I will be voting against the motion, the resolution in support of the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence. Let me explain why:

I lived through the challenging events – I'm sorry ... *(Visibly moved)*

COSTA: Take your time, Brother.

'We're not recovered yet'

MORTON: I lived through the challenging events and the crisis of 2017. It was all consuming and as a local union we're not recovered yet. The majority of the executive board led by myself, requested that President Hanley trigger the trusteeship protections under the ATU *Constitution*. Our local union is grateful to our fallen leader and to the whole ATU for their assistance that we received in defending our Local from marauders, raiders, and carpetbaggers! *(Applause)*

As you heard from Ken Neumann of the Steelworkers yesterday, the fight involved an alliance of several unions who recognized the multifaceted threats our union faced. We are grateful to Ken and the Steelworkers and to all of the other locals across Canada and United States.

Brothers and Sisters, give yourself a hand. *(Applause)*

'The record should be clear'

The record should be clear: We agreed as a local union to refer the resolution for the International Union not because we supported it, but because we wanted the matter reviewed and considered by this Convention.

We did this to permit all of you – the delegates from across the United States and Canada – at our highest decision-making body – to decide on these proposed changes. You, the delegates, are the ones to express the democratic will at this Convention.

After all, any ATU constitutional amendments affect all

of you in Canada and the United States. Together we decide how we are governed. *(Applause)*

As the long-serving Secretary-Treasurer of 113, I supported the changes proposed by President Costa and just approved regarding dual unionism.

I do not support this resolution. The changes proposed in this resolution are dangerous. They must be rejected.

As the Local 113 President, and President of ATU Canada, John Di Nino, just said, these changes would not encourage. They would allow. They would limit our ability to defend ourselves from attack and allow raiding unions to campaign on the basis that they would be able to run off with our union hall, your union hall; our assets, your assets; our money, your money.

And by the way, we pull in over \$15 million of dues, our building and our assets are worth over \$10 million. They came after us because we're good, and our members pay, and we are an excellent organization. *(Applause)*

'We cannot let this happen'

We cannot let this happen. I am therefore asking the Convention to vote down Resolution 1. I support the recommendation of nonconcurrence of the committee. We need to vote it down overwhelmingly. In closing, God bless the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada!

COSTA: Thank you, Brother.

Standing Ovation

COSTA: Mic. 5:

OSWALDO CHIN, 1622-Danbury, CT: Good morning, everybody. Mr. President, Mr. Costa, everybody ... I'm here before you to reject the resolution. At a time when we should all be united, instead we are trying to divide us. We must remember together, we are going to win, and divided, we will fall. This resolution should be voted down unanimously. Thank you.

COSTA: Thank you, Brother.

Mic. 2:



Delegate Oswaldo Chin, 1622-Danbury, CT

THOMAS MASON, 726-Staten Island, NY: Mr. Chairman, I call for the question.

Disruption from the Floor

COSTA: The question has been called. All in favor?

DELEGATES: Chorus of "ayes."

COSTA: Opposed? *(No Response)*

The motion is adopted. Thank you.

Disruption from the Floor

KEVIN BARRETT, 85-Pittsburgh, PA: "No. That is the vote on *calling the question*, not the resolution."

COSTA: You are right. Sorry.

GREAVES: So, moved. I moved for *nonconcurrence* of the resolution.

BARRETT: "This is the question. You have to vote on the *question* first."

GREAVES: We did.

COSTA: Now we vote on the motion. Right?

Okay. So, once again, *nonconcurrence* with the resolution – all in favor, say "aye."

DELEGATES: Chorus of "ayes."

COSTA: Opposed? *(No Response)*

The "ayes" have it. Adopted. *(Applause)*

GREAVES: Boy, Kevin, you don't need a microphone.

RESOLUTION No. 2:

Submitted by Local 241-Chicago, IL

WHEREAS, the Amalgamated Transit Union is endowed with the trust of all its members of all of its subordinate bodies to defend their self-evident rights through democratic procedures, reaffirming that no individual has the unilateral authority to speak for the entire body in a democracy; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with the *Labor Management and Reporting Disclosure Act of 1959*, enacted to prevent abuses in the administration of trusteeships by labor organizations, in accordance with the constitution and bylaws of the organization which has assumed trusteeship over the subordinate body for the purpose of restoring democratic procedures; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with the Amalgamated Transit Union *Constitution and General Laws* at Section 12.6 which provides that a trusteeship may be imposed by the International Union in order to restore democratic procedures; and

WHEREAS, the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 241 deems it to be in the best interest of the Amalgamated Transit Union to reaffirm the Preamble and the Amalgamated Transit Union *Constitution and General Laws* to build up an organization where all working members of our craft can participate in the discussion of those practical problems upon the solution of which depends our welfare and prosperity, and to restore democratic procedures, by establishing, prior to the conclusion of a trusteeship of subordinate bodies, a Bylaws Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 241 deems it to be in the best interest of the Amalgamated Transit Union to reaffirm the Amalgamated Transit Union *Constitution and General Laws* at Section 13.2, Bylaws, which currently provides a democratic procedure enacted to protect the rights of its members by allowing them to freely participate and exercise their right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the current language of the Amalgamated Transit Union *Constitution and*

General Laws at Section 12.6, Trusteeships, provides the following:

Prior to the conclusion of the trusteeship, the trustee shall review the bylaws of the subordinate body and shall submit his or her recommendations for amendment to the IP. In order for the amendment to the bylaws to be legal and effective, it must be approved by the international president and ratified by the General Executive Board; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 241 approved this Resolution to amend the Amalgamated Transit Union *Constitution and General Laws* at Section 12.6, Trusteeships, as submitted in the attached proposed amendment to the Amalgamated Transit Union *Constitution and General Laws* as follows:

Prior to the conclusion of the trusteeship, the trustee shall establish a Bylaws Committee. The trustee and members in good standing of the subordinate body chosen by the trustee to be assistants from each unit and location represented by the subordinate body shall comprise the Bylaws Committee. The trustee shall serve as the chair of the Bylaws Committee. The Bylaws Committee shall review the bylaws of the subordinate body and shall submit recommendations for amendment to the subordinate body to be processed in accordance with the ATU *Constitution and General Laws* at Section 13.2.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 241 stands with subordinate bodies of the Amalgamated Transit Union against any abuses in the administration of trusteeship and advocates for restoring democratic procedures in compliance with applicable laws and the Amalgamated Transit Union *Constitution and General Laws*, by empowering Amalgamated Transit Union members of subordinate bodies to exercise their voice in the process of amending their Bylaws, at the same time reaffirming that amendments to Bylaws, to be legal and effective, must be approved by the International President and ratified by the General Executive Board.

GREAVES: Resolution 2 from Local 241-Chicago, IL, would amend Section 12.6 of the *Constitution and*

General Laws, by altering, the current procedure and for amending the bylaws of a local union emerging from trusteeship to require a trusteeship to establish a Bylaws committee and submit recommendations to a local union's membership for approval prior to release from trusteeship.

During its deliberations, the committee agreed that the process of amending the bylaws of a local union emerging from trusteeship would benefit from membership consultation and input. In reaching this decision, the committee was mindful that once released from trusteeship, a local could pursue bylaws amendments as provided for under Section 13, Bylaws.

Therefore, the committee is recommending that the resolution be *modified* in pertinent part to state:

Prior to the conclusion of the trusteeship, the trustee shall review the bylaws of the subordinate body and shall consult with the subordinate body's membership regarding the bylaws prior to submitting his or her recommendations for amendment to the IP. In order for the amendment to the bylaws to be legal and effective, it must be approved by the International President and ratified by the General Executive Board.

The committee recommends *concurrence* with its substituted proposal, and I so move, Mr. Chairman.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: "*Seconds.*"

COSTA: Second. Any questions? (*No Response*)

Hearing none, all in favor say "aye."

DELEGATES: Chorus of "*ayes.*"

COSTA: Oops, sorry, I see 4, Mic. 4:

DWIGHT MATTINGLY, 1577-West Palm Beach, FL: As a point of order, I believe it's only proper to have the amended motion before us in writing before we adopt it.

COSTA: Mic. 5:



Delegate Dwight Mattingly, 1577-West Palm Beach, FL

CARLY OWEN, 697-Toledo, OH: I concur with Brother Mattingly, and I also have deep concerns about the resolution and the powers that a trustee has in that situation.

COSTA: Mic. 6:

TOI BOWERS, 241-Chicago, IL: Toi Bowers, 241, would like to thank the committee for accepting our resolution with the recommendation, and we would like for you to vote for this. Thank you. (*Applause*)

GREAVES: So, the committee, in the motion that I moved, recommends that the membership would have involvement in this process, input, which was what 241 was hoping to get by submitting this resolution. The committee took that into consideration, and we put forth this proposal with the substituted language in it. And that is all that was done. The membership will have input in the process.

COSTA: And, Brothers and Sisters, I just checked with parliamentary procedures and as long as it's read, it does not have to be in writing to be adopted. (*Applause*)

Any other questions? (*No Response*)

Hearing none, all in favor?

DELEGATES: Chorus of "*ayes.*"

COSTA: Opposed?

DELEGATES: Chorus of "*noes.*"

COSTA: The "ayes" have it.

Adopted. (*Gavel Knock*)

(*Applause*)

RESOLUTION No. 3: Acknowledging Mechanics as a Skill Trade

Submitted by Local 241-Chicago, IL

GREAVES: Resolution No. 3:

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION AND GENERAL LAWS OF THE AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION

WHEREAS, The Amalgamated Transit Union (IU) will acknowledge all Mechanic(s) in the ATU to be a skill trade.

WHEREAS, While Completion of (2,000) two thousand hours of working in the ATU or a proven of (144) one hundred forty-four hours of Classroom Instruction.

WHEREAS, The Amalgamated Transit Union (IU) will acknowledge all Mechanic(s) governed by the IU, as Certified Journeyman Mechanic(s).

WHEREAS, All Credited and Obtained Years of Work and/or Combined with Schooling the Mechanic(s) Members(s) will be Certified as the IU issue the Certification of Journeyman Mechanic(s) title to the LU.

WHEREAS, The Amalgamated Transit Union will issue an ATU Certification Journeyman Card to all Mechanic(s) that meet the qualification of the IU.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Amalgamated Transit Union 241 approved this Resolution to amend the Amalgamated Transit Union *Constitution and General Laws* to be trusted to a new section of the Amalgamated Transit Union *Constitution and General Laws*.

GREAVES: Resolution 3, from Chicago, IL, would amend the *Constitution and General Laws* to add a new section requiring ATU to issue an ATU certification journeyman card to all mechanics who meet specified qualifications.

Upon review, the committee concluded that the amendment raised important matters, policy matters,

instead of union governance matters requiring an amendment to our *Constitution and General Laws*. More specifically, the resolution instead addressed policy issues and program directions regarding maintenance training and certification standards.

Further, the committee took notice of Resolution I entitled, “Ensuring Training and Recognizing the Achievement of Maintenance Workers,” which addresses the subject matter of Resolution 3, and which will be considered by the Maintenance Committee.

In light of Resolution I, the committee recommends *nonconcurrence* with Resolution 3, and I so move, Mr. Chairman.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion has been made.

DELEGATES: “Seconds.”

COSTA: Second. Questions? Mic. 3:

MARQUEAL WILLIAMS, 241-Chicago, IL: My name is Marqueal Williams. I have CTA maintenance, PACE, and all of the First Transit drivers.



Delegate Marqueal Williams, 241-Chicago, IL

This resolution starts, “WHEREAS, the Amalgamated Transit Union, International Union will acknowledge all mechanics in the ATU to be a skilled trade.” This journeyman card – just like Teamsters, any other union – recognizes their mechanics as a skilled trade. When it comes to the ATU – *No*, you do not recognize us as a skilled trade.

Skilled labor

It has to start somewhere. By you saying that you are rejecting this and taking this to Resolution I – Resolution I starts off pretty much the same, but you are asking for federal funding at the end. You are asking for a whole apprenticeship program at the end.

Me, myself, I worked in the outside world before I came to this transit union. I worked as a journeyman. I went through being a utility, being a helper, being a mechanic, being a journeyman.

This right here, we are asking you to recognize us as *skilled labor*. All of your bureaucratic, whole diplomat that you are trying to pull right now – *no* – you are going to recognize us mechanics in the ATU as skilled laborers.

We'll fight until the end with operators. We'll fight with you on in the picket line – but, you are going to recognize us as being skilled labor in this ATU. (*Applause*)

'It has got to start somewhere'

It has got to start somewhere. It don't start with Section I being federally funded. You get all your federally-funded money you want to, but you are taking my union dues. You are going to recognize me as a skilled trade. You are going to get off the pot if you ain't shitting, and you are going to recognize me as a skilled trade. That is what this is saying.

When are you going to stand up, get to the mic, get onboard with the maintenance department, because we are certainly onboard with you?

COSTA: Brother, we do recognize you as skilled labor, as skilled trades, we do.

WILLIAMS: *How?* Explain how. *How?* I'm listening. How do you recognize me?

GREAVES: Brother Marqueal, you came and spoke before the committee.

WILLIAMS: Yes, I did.

GREAVES: Being a maintenance member myself and chairman of this committee, we discussed what we want to do moving forward. We have before us now, for the

first time at an International Convention, a Maintenance Committee through the International President.

WILLIAMS: For the first time in how long? ...

GREAVES: Excuse me?

WILLIAMS: ... in 59 Conventions, this is the first time you have got a Maintenance Committee. We are asking you; you are going to recognize us as a skilled trade.

GREAVES: Marqueal, I would ask for respect.

Respect

WILLIAMS: I got two minutes; 11 seconds left. You are going to give me *my* respect.

With that being said, if you are dropping this proposal and it's failing – drop Proposal I as well. Put it all together. Let the Maintenance Committee decide. Don't stand here and say, "No, you are going to reject this."

Delegates, I'm asking you – reverse their decision. Recognize the mechanics as skilled labor, please. Thank you. (*Applause*)

'It's not that easy'

COSTA: Brother, we passed this along to the Maintenance Committee. We looked at this, and we believe – look, I would love to be able to have a training center like the Operating Engineers or the IBEW at the Tommy Douglas. I would love to be able to do the training there and have an apprenticeship training and be able to get a license – but it's not that easy. It's complicated.

Number one, our training center – we could not – we don't have garages. We don't have buses.

So, what I chose to do when I saw this resolution was to put together a Maintenance Committee and take a look at this and try to put a resolution together that we can move forward and possibly be able to get recognitions and search to get recognition to bring this possibly "in-house" at the Tommy Douglas Center, so therefore we can keep it moving.

‘I’m from maintenance’

It was a great opportunity not only to do training for our business of representation but also, I would love to be able to do that. But it needs to take time. It needs research to see if we can actually be allowed to do that and the cost to do it.

So, I’m from maintenance. I understand the want, and I would like to get there with you, and I’d like to commit that moving forward we are going to search to get there along with moving this into the Maintenance Committee and that being a start.

Recognition long past due

COSTA: Mic. 6:

TIM WESTOFF, Local 241-Chicago, IL: Brothers and Sisters, I ask for support of this amendment. It’s long past due – the recognition of the maintenance department. We have fallen behind on hiring, training, and credentialing of the men and women of the maintenance department. An entire generation of skilled laborers have passed us up. They have not been hired.



Delegate Tim Westoff, 241-Chicago, IL

Just last night I spoke to two different IVPs, and what struck me the most when talking to them, former maintenance workers, was how proud they talked about having their card – their Electrician’s card, their Laborer’s card.

‘We deserve that same pride’

We deserve that same pride when we talk about our department. We deserve to have that look in our eyes when we say, “We are mechanics, we are servicers in ATU.”

We can disagree about how we will get there in the future, but we need to be part of the process and that process needs to start today. We have to be honest with ourselves. We don’t have to like that we are disagreeing right now, but we can’t risk falling even farther behind. Please support this amendment. Thank you. *(Applause)*

‘Mechanics have to be recognized’

COSTA: Mic. 6:

BILL JOHNSON, 583-Calgary, AB: I have a problem with this resolution – the way it’s written. Like the brother before me said, we need the mechanics recognized as a skilled trade, but we have to keep in mind that in Canada, the journeyman certificate is significantly different than the U.S.



Delegate Bill Johnson, 583-Calgary, AB

To put this in its current form into the Constitution, I don’t think is correct. I think it should be referred back to the Maintenance Committee for some work. But, as the brother said before me, definitely the mechanics have to be recognized as a skilled trade. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Brother.

‘Back burner’

COSTA: Mic. 6:

BRANDYEE BROTHERS, 1028-Des Plaines, IL: I’m the executive board officer for Local 1028. I also represent the maintenance department. We, too, stand with maintenance asking for this change because ever since the *Janus* law came in, our people in the maintenance department have all opted out – the *whole* maintenance department.



Delegate Brandyee Brothers, 1028-Des Plaines, IL

And so, them not being recognized, it serves our Local as a dishonor, because we are not doing everything we can to push maintenance forward. So, if we recognize everyone else, they, too, need to be recognized. We can’t continue taking their money and putting them, their credentials – who they are to this local union – on the back burner. So, ATU Local 1028 also stands with 241 in having this change. *(Applause)*

‘A big divide’

COSTA: Mic. 5:

THOMAS LEIGHTY: 1015-Spokane, WA: Just a quick backstory. In 2015, when I ran for election, there was a big divide between our maintenance department and our coach operators at our largest employer.

I’m a maintenance guy. I ended up getting the support of all of our coach operators and was elected president of our Local, and the first maintenance guy in the history of our Local to be elected president. *(Applause)*



Delegate Thomas Leighty, 1015-Spokane, WA

That brought a huge step forward in mending the relations between the maintenance department and the drivers because the maintenance guys felt that this was a drivers’ union and the drivers don’t care about the mechanics, and the International doesn’t care about the mechanics. And I stepped forward to prove that notion is wrong.

And I do think recognizing the mechanics as a skilled trade and taking steps forward to recognize that is gonna be great step in mending that relationship between the drivers and the maintenance department all across the ATU.

It’s sad to me that even in our own state in Washington some of the locals, the mechanics aren’t even part of the ATU. They are a completely different union altogether.

And I think we do need to recognize that whether it is with this resolution or it is addressed at a future date, it has to be recognized. So, that’s all I got to say. Thank you. *(Applause)*

‘We will change the process’

COSTA: The chairman of the Laws Committee would like to make a statement.

GREAVES: I’d just like to say, this – by asking for nonconcurrency – does not say we don’t want to address the issue of maintenance being recognized in the ATU.

But what this resolution would do, it would set policy in our *Constitution*. So, we’re not going to look to change policy, but we will change the *process*. And this committee has worked hard on this to make sure that

maintenance is recognized and that our skilled work force is recognized.

And we're asking for nonconcurrency so we can then move this resolution with our concerns and our input here from this body, through Resolutions and then on to the Maintenance Committee. I just wanted to make that clear. That we are looking to address the issue.

There were some comments made to the contrary. We are here to *support* maintenance. Therefore, we are looking for nonconcurrency, so we can move this through Resolutions to be dealt with through the Maintenance Committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (*Applause*)

COSTA: Mic. 2:

THOMAS MASON, 726-Staten Island, NY: Good morning, again. Mr. Chairman, I call for the question. (*Applause*)

COSTA: The question has been called. Hear a second?

DELEGATES: "*Seconds.*"

COSTA: Second. All in favor?

DELEGATES: Chorus of "*ayes.*" Opposed?

DELEGATES: Chorus of "*noes.*"

COSTA: All right. We need two-thirds. I don't think we had it. Mic. No. 5:

RUFUS SILAS, 732-Atlanta, GA: We, too, stand with Local 241. (*Applause*) Because on our property that designation will help us at the negotiating table. They've designated these mechanics with other names. So, we stand with 241 to bring about this change. Thank you. (*Applause*)



Delegate Rufus Silas, 732-Atlanta, GA

COSTA: Mic. 3:

JOHN ADAMS, 1563-Denver, CO: I, too, was a mechanic before being elected as president within a union that was a majority drivers. And I hear the



Delegate John Adams, 1563-Denver, CO

brother that was saying the mechanics positions were overwhelmingly ruled out by the votes of the drivers, but when I became president, then the mechanics felt that they had a voice.

'This resolution would bring pride back'

And I believe that this resolution would strengthen my Local by bringing that pride back, by having something as simple as a card that says, "Hey, I'm recognized by the International for the skills that I've acquired, by the training that I've received, and that I seek to gain."

So, I would recommend that this resolution be added, whether it be policy or not. It's starting out as a card and that card does mean something. (*Applause*)

'I want to make sure we get this right'

COSTA: And yes, Brother, we do recognize that, and we support that. But as the chairman said, the way it is written right now, it causes complications. And what I have suggested to do was move it to the Maintenance Committee. I am from maintenance. I am a mechanic.

And I would love for this to go forward, but I want it to go forward *correctly*. I want to make sure we get this right.

I am not saying I don't concur with us being recognized as skilled mechanics, and I'd love to find a way that we can get this in-house. And that's the purpose of sending it to the Maintenance Committee, and talking about it, and moving on to try and accomplish what we're all seeking here in the maintenance departments. Mic. 6:

ED CORTEZ, 1774-Aspen, CO: Good morning, Mr. President. The language that you're, that we, are discussing today seems a little vague to me. My experience is relatively new, and I have these challenges everyday as a local president with our members – mostly drivers.



Delegate Ed Cortez, 1774-Aspen, CO

But recently, I was asked by our mechanics that they were frustrated with the way the company is treating them. And when I spoke to them, I spoke to them assuming that the mechanics were skilled labor.

And when I explained – when I have to go back and explain to them that the language that we have does not call them skilled labor, it's gonna make that extremely difficult for me to bring them into the Union. Because somebody within that group is going to read the message that ATU is sending out, and they are going to ask me, "Why aren't we being called skilled labor?" And I will not have an answer for that, and I need to have an answer.

As of this moment, I consider them skilled labor. And I agree with the problems that they are having with the language at this Convention. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Mic. 1:

JAMES MACON, 998-Milwaukee, WI: We're having the same fight in Milwaukee. But wasn't the vote passed to vote this down? We need to move on. We could argue about this for the whole Convention. We voted it down. Let's move on and see what happens from there.



Delegate James Macon, 998-Milwaukee, WI

COSTA: We didn't have – I don't believe we had – two-thirds on the last vote. That's why we are continuing. Unless somebody wants to move. Mic. 2:

'I don't see how the International can even move such a policy'

ORLANDO RILEY, 819-Newark, NJ: Also, vice chair of our state council. I, myself – I am a maintenance person. I have been with the company for 25 years. So, I know exactly how the maintenance guys feel here.

But I believe, like many of us here, I'm kind of confused by the resolution. So, is this resolution asking the



Delegate Orlando Riley, 819-Newark, NJ

International to monitor hours of working, classroom hours? I'm confused because there's a lot of detail here that I don't see how the International can even move such a policy. I don't understand it.

COSTA: And that's the problem. That's the problem why, as a maintenance person myself, looking at it, it's problematic to get certified. So, the suggestion was to move it into Maintenance and let's work on this resolution and let's get it right, so we can actually establish something that is, No. 1, recognized and also, we'll be proud of. *(Applause)* Hold on – Chairman would like to talk out of the committee again.

'We don't want to not do it'

GREAVES: Thank you, Orlando, and that's the issue that this committee has. We don't want to not do it; we *want* to do it. But we can't just hand out a journeyman card without having a process to get that person, that member, through the process to an accredited apprenticeship program, which we don't have right now, to give them that card, but we want them to get that card.

So, we are, as a committee here, recommending nonconcurrency for the fact that this language does not address the problem. This language will not allow us to move this ATU into the future where we can address the issue properly. Understand? We have an accredited apprentice language here – we do not have an accredited program set up at this time.

There are a lot of "I's" as I told the members that came before the committee to discuss this. And while we appreciate their effort to move this, and we agree with the members from 241, with Marqueal, we are not against what he's proposing. We need to address it properly.

'What we're looking to accomplish is the same'

And us, as a committee, and I hope this body understands that, what we're looking to accomplish at the end is the same, but we do not have a process in place in the International yet that can properly address this right now.

So, we are asking for nonconcurrency to move this through Resolutions where proposals can be amended, changed, language can be moved around a little bit through those committees and through Maintenance to then come out with a final resolution through the Maintenance Committee that we will all be happy with. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

'We fight for them'

COSTA: I'm going to go to Mic. 2:

DELGATE MICHAEL SHEA: 587-Seattle, WA: I'm in agreement with the Chair. This resolution is not the place that we – you – should be fighting for your skilled labor cards, if that's what you need. It's documentation.



Delegate Michael Shea, 587-Seattle, WA

'We fight for them'

We have over 750 maintenance members at our union and we have three members on the executive board. All of our maintenance people once they become a mechanic are certified mechanics. And when we go into labor negotiations, we tell the company they're certified, skilled mechanics. Pay them appropriately. We fight for them. *(Applause)*

We all have a card. We all have the union card that we got from the International or from our Local. We're all part of the same Union. *(Applause)*

And as far as *Janus* goes – we have less than five mechanics

that don't pay their dues. For a group of all mechanics to not pay their dues, I find that very concerning. They need to bring their issues to the right place and not use holding their dues hostage for that information. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Mic. No. 5:

MUSTAFA SALAHUDDIN, 1336-Bridgeport, CT: Good morning, Mr. President. I too stand with Local 241 on this matter. *(Applause)* I'm not going to stand here and be redundant. There is no need to do that, there is enough going around.



Delegate Mustafa Salahuddin, 1336-Bridgeport, CT

But what I would say is I, too, have pushback from my maintenance department on this same issue. And they have threatened on a number of occasions to withdraw from the union because of this.

What I need is a definitive answer that I can bring back to them because they're awaiting my arrival to the solution to this. So, I'll be getting with you, Raymond, to find out what that definitive answer is because it's not being given right now.

'I don't need this cancer going through my Local'

The last thing I need as a union president, and I have almost 466 members, I don't need this cancer going through my Local where people are seeing people come out of the Union because of certain issues, and then they follow suit.

So, that's why I'm at this mic. Because I work very hard

for my members and it is because of that work that they have given me the chance to address this issue before doing so. So, please give me a definitive answer that I can go back and tell my journeymen, skilled mechanics, that they can feel satisfied that I've addressed it and it's worth waiting for. Thank you very much.

COSTA: And that's one of the reasons the committee is recommending it to put it to the Maintenance Committee to work on the resolution to get it right. Mic. 2:

LUIS ALZATE, 1056-Flushing, NY: Good morning, Mr. Chair. I call the question.

DELEGATE: Question called.

COSTA: Question called. Second?

DELEGATES: *"Seconds."*

COSTA: All in favor?

DELEGATES: Chorus of *"ayes."*

COSTA: Opposed?

DELEGATES: Chorus of *"noes."*

COSTA: Okay. Now let's go back to the motion of *nonconcurrency*.

All in favor of the recommendation of *nonconcurrency* say "aye."

DELEGATES: Chorus of *"ayes."*

COSTA: Opposed?

DELEGATES: Chorus of *"noes."*

COSTA: Adopted. *(Applause)*

GREAVES: Thank you.

COSTA: I would just ask the Sergeants-at-Arms – because this is kind of long – if anybody needs water up here – to please pass some waters up to the stage, please.

And thank you for your patience on that very important matter. Hopefully, we can all respect the fact that sometimes – you know – we are in our membership every day. We don't always agree, but we know how to disagree.

And at the end of the day, we will get this right. Because we all want maintenance to be recognized and that's why we have established a Maintenance Committee through the international president. (*Applause*) With saying all of that, let's go to Resolution No. 4 submitted by Local 1015, Spokane, WA:

RESOLUTION No. 4: Per Capita Waiver for Operators Unemployed in July, August

Submitted by Local 1015-Spokane, WA

GREAVES:

Under Section, 18, 18.1 Paragraph C (page 75 in the ATU Constitution book)

LU remittance of the per capita tax otherwise payable to the IU may, upon request by a LU, be waived by the IP upon approval by the GEB for the months of July and August for LU members providing school bus or transit services who are not employed during those months.

As amended, Section 18.1, Per Capita Tax, at subsection (c) would read as follows:

LU remittance of the per capita tax otherwise payable to the IU may, upon request by a local union, be waived by the IP upon approval by the GEB for the months of July and August for LU members providing school bus or transit services who are not employed during those months.

GREAVES: Noting the unique circumstances underlining this proposal, the committee believes that such may be addressed under the current provisions of the CGL – that's the *Constitution and General Laws*, already. Therefore, the committee recommends *nonconcurrency* with this proposal and I so move, Mr. Chairman.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Motion moved.

DELEGATES: "*Seconds.*"

COSTA: Second. Any questions? Mic. 4:

MIKE LOWERY, 1395-Pensacola, FL: I just want to get something clarified here – I'm reading the rules and if I'm reading Rule 5 wrong. What I understand is that

when you close debate, those at the mic. get to continue to speak and no one else was supposed to walk up to the mic. I think we might have approached that wrong last time. I'd like you to check with the Rules Committee going forward with the rest of the resolutions.



Delegate Michael Lowery, 1395-Pensacola, FL

COSTA: Thank you, Brother. Mic. 5:

THOMAS LEIGHTY, 1015-Spokane, WA: I believe we were trying to address our unique circumstance in a small city that we represent down in Pullman where they operate on a school bus type schedule for the college and university, but it's still a public transit agency. But I believe since we've now gotten a clarification, that we are in support now of the nonconcurrency of this. Thank you.

COSTA: Thank you, Brother. (*Applause*)

Any more questions? (*No Response*)

Hearing none, all in favor say "aye."

DELEGATES: Chorus of "*ayes.*"

COSTA: Opposed? (*No Response*) Adopted.

GREAVES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

RESOLUTION NO. 5: Amending Local Bylaw and Election Procedures

Submitted by Local 1321-Albany and Troy, NY

WHEREAS, a MOTION has been submitted and

approved calling on Local 1321 to propose the following amendments to the ATU *Constitution and General Laws* at the next ATU International Convention in September 2019; and

WHEREAS, proposed amendments to the ATU *Constitution* are processed in accordance with Section 6.16; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we HEREBY APPROVE THE MOTION as a RESOLUTION and that it be forwarded to the International Union pursuant to Section 6.16 in order to provide all ATU local unions and all members of ATU an opportunity to review, analyze, and consider the proposed constitutional amendments set out in the RESOLUTION, in advance of their consideration at the next ATU International Convention in September 2019.

Amend Section 13.2 as follows: First paragraph, last sentence: Remove “LUs that desire to do so can adopt this *Constitution and General Laws* as the bylaws for the LU.”

Amend Section 13.2 as follows: New paragraph: Add “LU bylaws must be reviewed by the local and forwarded to the IP for review and approval at least once every 10 years.”

Amend Section 13.3 Meetings as follows: First paragraph: Add as new second sentence “Such regular meeting shall be referred to as the charter meeting. Local bylaws will state which regular meeting held each month is considered the charter meeting.”

Amend Section 13.3 as follows: Third sentence change “An LU may, under special and justifiable circumstances, omit the regular charter meeting if excused by the IP.”

Amend Section 14.1 as follows: Second sentence change “Their term shall continue until such time as their successors are elected or on, until and including the thirty-first (31st) of December or the thirtieth (30th) of June following the election of officers.” Move 4th sentence to follow this sentence, “Newly elected officers shall assume the duties of their offices on the first (1st) of January or the first (1st) of July following their election, irrespective of their installation date.”

Amend Section 14.4 Nominations; Ballots as follows:
First paragraph:

“LU nominations and elections shall be held as follows: The LU shall specify a date for nominations and elections in their bylaws, at a regular meeting of the LU or, under instruction of the LU, the executive board shall hold a meeting at which nominations for officers shall be received. In the case where an LU abides by the meeting requirement for election to office, any such change to the nomination process must be completed at least 24 months before the date of the nomination meeting so that members may have sufficient notice to meet the meeting requirement.”

Amend Section 14.4 Nominations; Ballots as follows:
Last paragraph:

“According to LU bylaws and as soon as possible, immediately following the nomination meeting, the FS or the RS shall prepare a ballot. Candidates’ names for the respective offices shall be placed on the ballot in the alphabetical order.”

GREAVES: Resolution 5 submitted from Local 1321-Albany-Troy, NY, would make seven amendments to Sections, 13.2, 13.3, 14.1, and 14.4 of the *Constitution and General Laws*.

First, Resolution 5 would amend Section 13.2 bylaws in two places. It would eliminate the option of a local union to adopt the ATU *Constitution and General Laws* as the bylaws of the local union by striking the last sentence of the first paragraph. Also, it would add a provision at the end of the section requiring a local union to review its bylaws every 10 years and submit the bylaws to the International President.

Second, Resolution 5 would amend Section 13.3, Meetings, of the *Constitution and General Laws* in two places, to require a local union to designate in its bylaws which regular meeting would be the “charter” meeting.

Third, Resolution 5 would amend Section 14, Election of Local Union Officers, Subsection 14.1, when held. The current language states that newly elected officers take office on either the 1st of January or the 1st of July. The amended language would restate as much, but also note that terms of office end on December 31st, and June 30th.

Fourth, Resolution 5 would amend Section 14.4, Nominations, Ballots of the *Constitution and General Laws* to: (1) require a local union's bylaws to specify a date for an election in their bylaws rather than set the date at a regular meeting. And, (2) require 24 months' notice of any change to the nomination process with respect to meeting attendance requirements – if a local union has meeting attendance requirements. And, (3) amend the last paragraph of the section to state that the FS and RS shall prepare ballots following the nomination meeting according to their bylaws and as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman, the committee recommend *nonconcurrence* with these proposals, and I so move, Mr. Chairman.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: “*Seconds.*”

COSTA: Second. Questions? Mic. 2:

COREY BIXBY, 1321-Albany/Troy, NY: Good morning, Brothers and Sisters, President Costa. I have been a union member for 13 years. I was a union rep for three and local president/business agent from 2016 to 2018. This is my second Convention, but the first as an elected delegate.



Delegate Corey Bixby, 1321-Albany/Troy, NY

I authored these changes to the *Constitution* because of specific issues that I faced during my term as president/business agent. They were brought before the membership of Local 1321 and approved to be forwarded at Convention.

While I personally disagree with the decision of

nonconcurrence by the committee, I do respect the work of the Laws Committee and do appreciate the opportunity to testify before you on the importance of these changes. Thank you. (*Applause*)

COSTA: Thank you, Brother. Seeing no more questions, all in favor, say “aye.”

DELEGATES: Chorus of “*ayes.*”

COSTA: Opposed? (*No Response*)

Adopted. (*Gavel Knock*) Thank you.

GREAVES: Well, how many more do we have? All right. Thank you for your patience and due diligence. It is at this time I'm going to call on the star of the “Wow Show” and the star of this Laws Committee. I call on Sister Yvonne Williams to read the names of the members of the committee. Hey, let's hear it for the *star!* (*Cheers*)

COMMITTEE SECRETARY YVONNE WILLIAMS: You are crazy, Dude. “Whaaa?” Okay.

I'm going to murder your names, so don't beat me up too bad about that, but to our president, John Costa, and the rest of our leadership and everyone in the audience and thank you for working with a great committee with hard work. But now I'm going to mess the names up:



Delegate Yvonne Williams, 192-Oakland, CA

- Raymond Greaves, NJ State Council, *chair*
- Yvonne Williams, 192, *secretary*
- John Di Nino, ATU Canada, *president*
- Ken Kephart, 22
- Stephen Palonis, 85

- Carlos Santos, 113
- Eric Carvalho, 174
- Keith Hill, 241
- Kenneth Franklin, 308
- Rodney Dunn, 382
- Ronald Cox, 416
- Richard Gardner, 448
- Ken Wilson, 508
- Mark Tettersington, 569
- Ken Price, 587
- Kevin Lucier, 588
- James Evers, Jr., 589
- Thomas Cute, 618
- Raymond Jackson, 689
- Daniel Cassella, 726
- Shirley Block, 757
- Reginald Howard, Sr., 788
- Tiran Billups, 819
- Rethena Goodwin, 825
- Lillian Shavers, 842
- Julio Rivera, 1001
- Ryan Timlin, 1005
- Antone Sousa, 1037
- Mark Henry, 1056
- Bennie Caughman, 1179
- Michael Cordiello, 1181
- Kathryn Smith, 1212
- Arturo Aguilar, 1277
- Jonothan P. Walker, Sr., 1287
- Kenneth Day – *and the “day.” What time is it? It’s Local 1338. You’re crazy!*

- Robert Bean, 1433
- Aleem Chaudhary, 1505
- Gena Alexander, 1555 – *my homegirl*
- Valerie Jefferson, 1560
- Pennie – *Hi, Pennie!* – Johnson, 1733
- Jamie Larkin, 1760

GREAVES: Brothers and Sisters, let’s hear it for the star of the show and, *“Together We Fight! Together We Win!”*

COSTA: Thank you, Laws Committee, on the great work and being up here so long. Good work. Thank you.

REQUEST FOR RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR STRIKING GM WORKERS

COSTA: Mic. 2:

EREK SLATER, 241-Chicago, IL: President Costa, you and I have been going back and forth the last few days to try to get a resolution. I’m excited to do that, so I have been asked to ask the Chairman – I have a resolution calling for ATU support and action on behalf of the striking UAW members at GM.

I want to first thank you, sir. You immediately and quickly put out a resolution statement on behalf of the 200,000 families in support of the striking UAW workers. You did it quickly. It was a really good job.



Delegate Erek Slater, 241-Chicago, IL

COSTA: Thank you.

SLATER: Second, I have been discussing with some of the IVPs and getting their support for this. I hope they are able to motivate this later, including Janis Borchardt, Michelle Sommers, Natalie Cruz, Yvette Trujillo, and Marcellus Barnes.

‘Why is this important?’

So, why is this important? This is the second week of a national industrial strike. We have not seen this in a generation. This is one of the most important moments in the history of the labor movement, in the last 20 years.

The first week – if anyone has been in a strike – everyone’s excited. The second week, the paycheck doesn’t come. Right? And that’s what’s happening right now.

And so, GM is calculating that they can crush the strike and crush the United Auto Workers. They are calculating on a long strike, and they can bleed us until we come back on our knees; we come back asking for half of what we had before. Can we allow that, ATU?

DELEGATES: “Noes!”

SLATER: Can we allow GM to be smashed – can we allow the UAW to be smashed? Excuse me. Okay.

DELEGATES: “Noes!”

SLATER: And what this motion – and it’s still in discussion – is calling for is what workers are already doing. Workers are going from their local union to the picket line of GM. They are already organizing buses and vans to do so. And so, what we are talking about is in the next few weeks asking for our International to assist their local unions in doing that.

‘Our amazing media arm’

And also use our media arm. We have this amazing media arm that we can use to centralize it, to go on the picket line, to do press conferences, to make it clear that ATU is on the side of the striking workers in UAW.

So, one more thing. This is not about charity. This is about solidarity, which is a very different thing. You don’t just give – you also get.

When you go to the picket line, you are going to a “war zone.” You learn. You take that information, that knowledge, back to your local union and you learn what’s working and what does not. So, this is very valuable for our ATU to take movement towards supporting our UAW brothers and sisters.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion of unanimous consent to refer the resolution to the Resolutions Committee.

COSTA: Thank you, Brother. We have a late filed resolution. Do I hear a motion for unanimous consent to refer this to the Resolutions Committee? (*Moved from the floor*)

DELEGATES: “Seconds.”

COSTA: All right. It’s been so moved and seconded. So, all in favor?

DELEGATES: Chorus of “*ayes*.”

COSTA: Opposed? (*No Response*)

“Ayes” have it.

So, I have committed to accept this resolution for a referral to the Resolutions Committee for a supplement meeting. The committee should meet today on this. We’ll find a time and location. Thank you. (*Gavel Knock*)

Mic. 3:

MARQUEAL WILLIAMS, 241-Chicago, IL: President Costa, just for clarification, Resolution 3 was moved to the Maintenance Committee, right?

COSTA: Yes, Brother.

WILLIAMS: Thank you so much, sir.

COSTA: Thank you, sir. (*Applause*)

Thank you. Good debate. I like that.

GRACE NAPOLITANO

Democratic Congresswoman
from California

COSTA: Okay. Coming up next, we have got a special video message from Congresswoman Grace Napolitano



Representative Grace Napolitano, California (D)

– I didn’t kill it (*pronunciation*), did I?– from California.
Good friend of ours:

Video Message

REP. NAPOLITANO, D-CA: Hello, ATU members. I apologize that I could not be here with you, but I am here in Washington voting this week.

I want to sincerely thank all of you for the service you provide for our country. You are the backbone of our transportation system in getting our workers, students, seniors, and all Americans to their destinations safely, affordably, and on time.

But we must all recognize that your jobs are not easy. You work early in the morning and late in the evening. You are underpaid and have to challenge your employers for proper benefits. Worst of all, too many times you and your colleagues are assaulted just for doing your job. This is unacceptable.

Over 200 assaults per year

In my region of Los Angeles County, there are over 200 assaults on bus drivers per year that are reported by the LA Metro. This does not include the many assaults that go unreported. The transit agency must do the right thing and invest in various assault prevention measures to keep you and your passengers safe. That is why I have introduced HR1139, *Transit Worker and Pedestrian Protection Act*. (*Applause*)

This bipartisan legislation is cosponsored by my colleague, Rep. John Katko, R-NY, and there is a companion bill in the Senate (Senate Bill 436) by Sen.

Chris van Hollen, D-MD. The bill requires transit agencies to install barriers in buses in order to prevent these assaults within two years.

The bill also requires bus retrofits and technology upgrades to remove blind spots that inhibit the driver’s full view of the road. Blind spots caused by the large side mirror and window frames have increasingly inhibited the bus driver’s view and led to accidents with pedestrians. The bill provides \$25 million per year over five years to transit agencies in order to install the bus modifications required by the legislation.

‘Thank you for your leadership’

I want to thank you and your leadership for advocating in the halls of Congress for this bill. That advocacy has led to the bill signing being sponsored by 157 members of Congress.

I urge you, please contact your members of the House and the Senate to get additional cosponsors of HR1139 and Senate Bill S436. Congress will start work on a major transportation authorization bill later this year, and my biggest priority will be including the *Transit Worker and Pedestrian Protection Act* as part of the larger transportation bill moving through Congress.

We must stop the violence against transit workers. We must protect you. Thank you for your support.
(*Applause*)

MATTHEW GREEN

NDP Candidate for Parliament &
Hamilton, ON, City Councillor

Video Introduction

PERRY: Sisters and Brothers, please welcome to the stage former Hamilton City Councillor and New Democratic Party (NDP) candidate for Parliament, Matthew Green:

Standing Ovation

NDP CANDIDATE MATTHEW GREEN: It is a pleasure to be here. It is a pleasure to be here. I was out in the back, man, and as an aspiring parliamentarian, I was hearing the passion and the debates and the democracy



NDP Candidate Matthew Green

that are happening right here on this floor. Give yourselves a huge round of applause for representing your memberships. *(Applause)*

‘Sound check’

Yes. Resolutions can be, you know, passionate. We are going to bring it together though. We need to do a little bit of a sound check. Can we do that?

I don’t know, man. Let’s start on this side. Let’s start over here. We are going to bring it together now. We are going to do a sound check. When I say, “Together We Fight!” this side is going to say, “Together We Win!”

Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: *“Together We Win!”*

GREEN: Wool! let’s try it right here: Together We Fight!

DELEGATES: *“Together We Win!”*

GREEN: Okay. It’s starting to bleed over to the red. Is this New York?

DELEGATE: Yes.

GREEN: Where is New Jersey? I heard New Jersey was louder than New York. *Whoa*, let’s check it out: Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: *“Together We Win!”*

GREEN: Let’s go to the left side, which is close to my heart. You know, I’m “left wing.” Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: *“Together We Win!”*

GREEN: And now we are going to bring it all together now: Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: *“Together We Win!”*

GREEN: That’s what I’m talking about. That’s why I came all the way – I flew late last night to be here with you early this morning. I don’t even know what time it is.

DELEGATE: It’s Vegas. It don’t matter.

GREEN: It don’t matter, but I came here for my 15 minutes of fame. *(Laughter)* I came here to share with you what is on my heart – not necessarily what is on my mind. Is that okay? Can we do that?

DELEGATES: *“Yeses.”*

GREEN: We are having a moment, politically. Can I share with you?

‘I’m here for Janet’

Yeah. I’m here for Janet. Janet is about 68 years old. Her husband, Richard, has recently been placed in a long-term care home. The only way that Janet can see her husband is to take the “5 Delaware” bus. Every day she stands on the corner with her basket, to go and see her loved one in the home. I know that because I met Janet on that bus.

I’m here for my neighbor, Tracy, who at 4:30 in the morning wakes up to catch the first bus to get out towards the airport, so she can work her job in logistics. She has to travel an extra 45 minutes a day just to make a decent wage.

I’m here for my good friend and brother, “L.J.,” who had a lot of precarious work in his life until he found an opportunity with the ATU – where now he can make enough money to support his family and buy his first home and have the benefits and pensions to take care of his children. *(Applause)* That’s why I’m here.

‘I’m here for Winnipeg’

I’m here for Winnipeg, who put it on the line to fight for their workers. I’m here for Martha’s Vineyard. *(Applause)*

There are examples in locals across this Union where

every day, working class people take on the powerful and the elite, where in Martha's Vineyard they took on millionaires and won. (*Applause*)

So, when I say, "We will fight!" you say, "We will win!"

We will fight! –

DELEGATES: "*We will win!*"

GREEN: That's what I'm talking about! And I would not be here without my brother, Eric Tuck, (*Applause*) ATU Local 107-Hamilton, ON. I met Eric where grassroots organizers tend to meet folks – in the church basements. When we recognized that decades of austerity in our city had created a transit system that had been sorely underfunded.

And I got to tell you, at the time I wasn't thinking about the drivers. I have to be honest with you, I was thinking about the people like Janet and Tracy. I knew that if somebody was making minimum wage and they had to travel an extra hour-and-a-half, they were not really making \$14 an hour, were they?

'I proposed a transit riders union'

So, I proposed a transit riders union. And we put it out there on social media and we got together, and that is when I first got a chance to meet Eric Tuck as a rookie, brand new Hamilton City councillor. And we started to build a coalition, an unlikely alliance of so many different people. I'm talking about trade unionists. I'm talking about environmentalists, social justice activists, people dealing with disability rights. We got together and we said the transit in our city not good enough.

When I say, "We will fight!" you say, "We will win!"

We will fight! –

DELEGATES: "*We will win!*"

GREEN: I've gotta check on you because – you know. And we took that fight because when our municipality had the opportunity to have a billion dollars investment in new light rail, we knew what that Liberal government at the time was going to do. They were going to try to undermine the union.

They were going to try to eliminate successor rights.

They were going to try to ensure that the workers would have to start from the basement instead of the top floor. Which is why in Hamilton, we got together with that very same coalition and we created a campaign called "Keep Transit Public." (*Applause*)

And I know some of you are probably on some private properties, but I just got to keep it real for you if it's okay for a moment. Because in Canada we have seen what happens when private companies come in and buy our public lines to jack up the prices and/or drop them when they are not profitable enough.

'We believe transit is a right'

We believe that transit is a right. That mobility in an urban center is a right and we will fight for that right.

We will fight! –

DELEGATES: "*We will win!*"

GREEN: *Woo!* New York just got New Jersey. New Jersey has been sleeping a little bit. I'm sorry, John, I apologize.

Bedtime negotiations

You know, I'm here for my son, Langston. The most sacred part of my day starts at about 7:00 pm when I begin negotiations with my son. He tries to negotiate with me. He says, "Dad, I want to watch one more show." I say, "Son" – I counter with an offer, you know – "I'll give you a piggyback ride." We go to arbitration and up the stairs we go.

And if you are a parent, you will know that when you lay your child down to sleep and you pick those stories to read, you want to imbue with them the values and the principles and the character that you want to see them grow into. You want to share with them the compelling vision for the world that you want them to grow up in.

But the reality is this: We have 11 years left before the catastrophic climate change becomes irreversible, which is why as a New Democrat I am so incredibly proud to be here to talk about the just transition for workers away from a carbon economy; that our party is committed to creating 300,000 climate jobs. (*Applause*)

‘You are climate professionals’

And I know that you feel like you are transit professionals, but I’m here to share that you are also climate professionals. You are climate workers. You are the critical path forward to a carbon-free economy.

Because simultaneously we have fires in the west and we have flooding in the east. We know this to be true. The science is right before us.

The question is: As municipalities – are we listening as states, as provinces, as countries? Do we hear the call? And as we borrow the future from our children, we have to implement national transit strategies that move people around in sustainable ways. Public transit is the answer to transitioning off of a carbon economy. *(Applause)*

But cities are so set in their ways and city councillors are so set in their ways. And I tell you, I’m actually not a former city councillor. I’m a recovering city councillor. My city is like New York. One year in Hamilton is like four years. If you can make it there, you can make it anywhere.

‘We fought to keep transit public’

But we fought to keep transit public. We held the privatization at bay and we successfully delivered a key transit public policy – the first one in the province. *(Applause)* – to send a message to the privateers and the big corporations that our workers are not for sale, that our riders are not for sale, because we know what happens: They get in and they jack the prices up.

And if you are working on minimum wage, your \$2 trip becomes \$3. Your commute now becomes \$6. You’re now not making minimum wage.

Justice

This is a conversation around justice. And you ask, like, “How do we pay for this stuff?” Well, I’ve got to tell you, the subsidies to the oil and gas sector – I’m sorry, Alberta – the subsidies to the oil and gas sector are huge in our country which is very relatively small to where we are here in the United States of America. We

are talking about \$3.4 billion a year. Subsidized to one of the wealthiest sectors in the world while there is a refusal to fund operational transit on the ground.

So, what does that look like in a just transition? If we reordered our priorities and we put climate and people over profits and big corporations, we would be able to fund sustainable, efficient, safe transit for everybody across all of North America. *(Applause)*

So, when I say, “We will fight!” –

DELEGATES: “*We will win!*”

And it’s not going to happen on its own because these are not concessions that big business and government are going to give you. You must take it. *(Applause)*

And I’m going to tell you what that looks like. This meant so much to me that when I transitioned out of city council, I had an opportunity to stand at a podium just like this with ATU Canada. And I met a man named John Di Nino, newly installed as the president.

A national transit strategy

He had a very ambitious plan. In a very short period of time, he wanted to push an agenda for a national transit strategy.

He wanted to ensure that every single worker and driver was protected. He wanted to make sure that the dignity of his drivers was protected with things like washrooms. He wanted to make sure that the attacks like the one that happened in my city of Hamilton to the Go Bus driver, which was racially motivated – a hate crime – should never happen to any worker at any workplace. *(Applause)*

So, when I meet with folks from the International and they are talking about that assault bill, we are talking about basic labour rights. Where else would this be acceptable?

But we had such a short period of time because we are actually in an election right now. I’m running to be a member of Parliament, which is like, you know, your Congress. I’m ready to take this show on the road.

‘We did what we knew was right’

And we got together, and we did what we knew was right. We went back out into the membership. We talked to people. We went out to the environmentalists. We listened to people. We built those coalitions across the country.

But we recognized, which is sometimes the case – and hey, I’m not – I’m a friend of Labour, but I’m not Labour. But I’m saying we recognized that sometimes it’s the case that we get caught in the business of unions and not the work. Is that okay? Is that okay to say? Is that right?

Affirmations from the Floor

GREEN: I’m talking about the business of unions and not the work. When we went back to the work, what we recognized that we were up against this “P3” model that will be everywhere. Hands up if you know about P3s. (*Show of hands*)

This is a language of austerity. This is the language of neoliberalism and capitalism that says, “We want to take public assets and privatize them. We want to take public dollars and turn them over to companies for massive corporations.”

‘They always start with the same thing’

And they always start with the same thing: “As a city, we’re just small. We can’t afford to put in proper transit. We don’t have a partner in the province, or the state, or the federal government. So, that means we have to go to our private sector people.”

But if you have been working in a municipality in a city or an urban setting that has been starved of transit funding, you know how this story goes.

First, they cut the funding: “Oh, it’s a tough year! We’ve got to pull back. We’re going to need that 1.5 percent increase – below inflation.”

Then the cuts obviously, what? They disrupt the service, and then they blame the service publicly. Then they say, “Look, the public sector can’t handle this, so we better privatize it.” That is the P3 model.

‘Another P3’

I’m here with another “P3.” I’m here to talk about people, power, politics. (*Applause*)

I’m here to talk about the working class. I’m here to talk about each and every one of you going back into your communities because – here is the secret. This is what I recognized early as a city councillor:

There is no level of government that has a greater face-to-face contact with the public than you. You are talking to tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of people across your countries and across your states and in Canada every single day. So, what are you going to tell them?

‘We needed ATU International’

So, we did that work at ATU Canada, but we couldn’t do it alone. We needed ATU International to come and support it. We needed that solidarity. And I know Ken Neumann was here talking about solidarity. And it’s true. In Canada, we have a history of fighting. You’ve heard some of the details today.

We will fight! –

DELEGATES: “*We Will Win!*”

GREEN: But we can’t do it alone, which is why solidarity is the single most important thing to overcome the isolation of the work that we do.

‘Look at your workers as whole people’

So, I’m challenging you here today to go back to your locals and to start to look at your workers as whole people. Know that they are not just drivers and transit professionals and, you know, maintenance staff. These are people who are also churchgoers. They are in their Little Leagues. They are in their neighborhood associations. And you ask them, “Who in our community should we be engaging on these critical issues?”

In a very short period of time in working with ATU Canada, many of whom are here today, in a very short –

I'm talking about two-and-a-half months from President Di Nino being elected – we went out and found two of the country's best grassroots organizers in Justin and Madelin. If you are here right now, I need to acknowledge you. (*Applause*)

Justin and Madelin are probably out organizing right now somewhere. Justin wants an Atlanta pin, so somebody has got to hook him up with that. And, of course, what started off as one-person office with Crystal, who is also here who is also incredible, we grew into a national campaign.

We took our show to Ottawa and lobbied there to talk about a national transit strategy. I'm in the middle of a campaign and I've lost count, but I'm going to say there is probably, we're minus maybe 27 or 26 now until the election.

Two out of the four parties now – as of now – have a national transit strategy in their federal platform because of the work of ATU Canada and all of the incredible work that happened on the (Parliament) Hill. That didn't happen on its own. (*Applause*)

'We forced the question'

We forced the question. We knocked on the door.

That's what today's all about and that's why a very excitable recovering city councillor found time out of my campaign in Hamilton Centre because I know that at the end of today when I get home and I lay my son back down to sleep, I know that by coming here I will have made a meaningful difference in the conversation around climate change, around economic justice, and around the future – the very compelling future for the world. Thank you so much, Sisters and Brothers, and friends.

GREEN: Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: *"Together We Win!"*

GREEN: Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: *"Together We Win!"*

GREEN: Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: *"Together We Win!"*

GREEN: Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: *"Together We Win!"*

Thank you so much for having me here with deep appreciation from the city of Hamilton. Thank you. (*Applause*)

COSTA: Thank you, Brother. We have a gift for you to express our appreciation.

This sounds like an ATU brother here, right? Let's give him a hand. (*Applause*)

PERRY: Sisters and Brothers, two announcements:

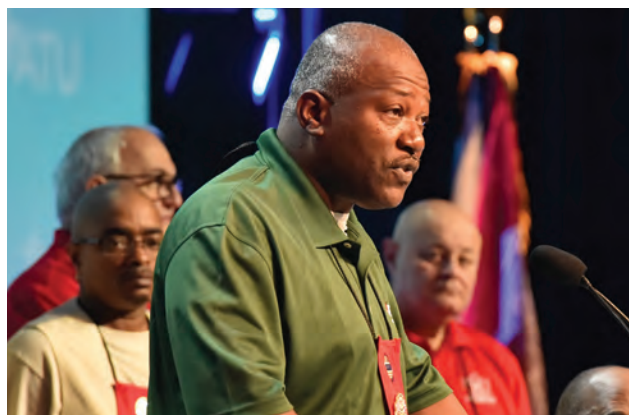
- The Maintenance Committee members are asked to proceed to Skyview 3 on Bally's 26th floor where a meeting is taking place at this time.
- And Organizing Committee members are asked to please assemble at the stage for the Organizing/Collective Bargaining and Strategy Committee Report.

REPORT OF THE ORGANIZING/ COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

COSTA: Okay. We have the Organizing Committee ready? Thank you. Whenever you're ready, come on up:

COMMITTEE CHAIR PATRICK GREEN, 1235-Nashville, TN: Good morning.

DELEGATES: *"Good morning."*



Delegate Patrick Green, 1235-Nashville, TN

GREEN: To the Chairman, the Executive Board Members, and the Delegates of this 59th Convention:

The Organizing and Collective Bargaining Committee was tasked with the responsibility of looking at two resolutions to get to the core of our purpose as a labor organization. These two resolutions address fixing our profoundly broken [U.S.] labor laws to allow workers the human right to join a union and renewing our commitment to grow our strength and uplift the standards in our industry by organizing new members into the Union.

Our deliberations involved the review of recent organizing experiences and campaigns and a detailed discussion of our ongoing strategy and tactics to reach out to the many unorganized workers in the transit industry. We discussed the despicable lengths to which anti-union employers go in their quest to keep workers non-union and wages low and how our toothless labor laws have utterly failed to protect the right to join a union.

In the face of such intense employer opposition, we discussed the need for the Union to engage in more aggressive strategic bargaining campaigns and to adopt practices which further those objectives.

The first resolution that we reviewed was Resolution J, a resolution to support the *Protect the Right to Organize* (PRO) Act, which would provide real penalties for union-busting and improve the law for the right to organize and strike. And it reads:

RESOLUTION J: Supporting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act

Submitted by Amalgamated Transit Union

WHEREAS, for too long, employers have been able to violate the *National Labor Relations Act* (NLRA) with impunity, routinely denying workers our basic right to join with coworkers for fairness on the job; and

WHEREAS, the collective strength of workers to negotiate for better pay and benefits has eroded, and income inequality has become a huge issue; and

WHEREAS, too often, when workers choose to form a union, employers stall the bargaining process to avoid reaching an agreement; and

WHEREAS, earlier this year, in the case of *SuperShuttle DFW, Inc. v. Amalgamated Transit Union 1338*, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ruled that a shuttle company's drivers were correctly classified as independent contractors, making it difficult for gig-workers such as Uber and Lyft drivers to be classified as employees under the NLRA; and

WHEREAS, the PRO Act would modernize the NLRA by bringing its remedies in line with other workplace laws; and

WHEREAS, the bill would impose financial penalties on companies and individual corporate officers who violate the law and give workers the option of bringing their case to federal court; and

WHEREAS, the bill would make elections fairer by prohibiting employers from requiring their employees to attend "captive audience" meetings whose sole purpose is to convince workers to vote against the Union; and

WHEREAS, the bill would ensure that employees are not deprived of their right to a union because an employer deliberately misclassifies them as supervisors or independent contractors; and

WHEREAS, the PRO Act protects employees' right to strike by preventing employers from hiring permanent replacement workers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATU shall work in coalition with the AFL-CIO and other stakeholders to pass the PRO Act so that more workers can enjoy the benefits of union representation and raise their standard of living; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU shall encourage the passage of similar improvements in the laws which govern the U.S. public sector and workers in Canada.

GREEN: The Organizing and Collective Bargaining Committee recommends *concurrence* and I so move.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion is moved.

DELEGATE: "Second."

COSTA: Second. Questions? *(No Response)*

Hearing none. All in favor, say "aye."

DELEGATES: Chorus of "ayes."

COSTA: Opposed? *(No Response)*

(Gavel Knock) Adopted.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. *(Applause)*

GREEN: The second resolution that the committee took up was Resolution P. And, again, I will read from the "further, be it resolved": *[Full text of resolution provided below]*

RESOLUTION P: Organizing

Submitted by Amalgamated Transit Union

WHEREAS, organizing the unorganized is a fundamental mission of our Union; and

WHEREAS, union representation and negotiated contracts promote and provide better working conditions, improved wages and benefits, and enhanced safety and job security protections; and

WHEREAS, to grow, the ATU needs to (re)build union density in the communities we serve; and

WHEREAS, almost 40% of the transit workforce in Canada and the U.S. is unorganized; and

WHEREAS, many of our locals have lost density as their systems have fragmented due to several industry trends favoring expanded contracting of services to private operators; and

WHEREAS, there are thousands of fixed route, paratransit, rideshare, school bus, intercity coach, shuttle bus services, and medical transportation workers within our jurisdictions who are unorganized; and

WHEREAS, as the rideshare industry continues to expand and increase its contract service to transit agencies, the monitoring of such expansion as potential organizing possibilities is essential; and

WHEREAS, many new unorganized workers are employed by national and international companies with multiple U.S. locations; and

WHEREAS, the ATU has demonstrated success in reaching out to unorganized workers in the U.S. and Canada; and

WHEREAS, a combination of strategic community-based campaigns and "hot shop" organizing has resulted in 51 organizing victories, involving some 30 ATU locals, bringing ATU representation to thousands of workers during the past three years; and

WHEREAS, early detection of potential decertification activities has been critical in thwarting such actions; and

WHEREAS, our successes in the face of aggressive and determined anti-union employers is a testament to the hard work and dedication of ATU's organizers; and

WHEREAS, strategic campaigns require the combined resources of our local union officers and members, as well as contributions from the ATU Research, Legal, Field Mobilization, Communications, Government Affairs, and Training departments;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATU Organizing Department, under the direction of the International President, should be responsible for the development of comprehensive strategic campaigns, focused on regional density and multiyear activities; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATU enhance and continue to train local union officers and members to expand the ranks of ATU organizers, and better equip locals to target and pursue successful campaigns; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATU will, in conjunction with the joint industry councils, develop corporate-wide approaches with the private employers in our industry, including where possible "good conduct" and neutrality agreements governing conduct during ATU organizing campaigns; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that in conjunction with the International, ATU Canada will take the lead in Canada in developing strategic organizing campaigns, and oversee the staffing and operation of such campaigns; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATU shall collect and maintain information regarding targets, their corporate affiliation, media reports, requests for proposals, related Section 13(c) grant filings, NLRB policies and procedures; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATU will coordinate with the AFL-CIO, CLC, and ATU Canada and allied organizations to develop and implement supportive community-based campaigns in support of organizing drives.

GREEN: The Organizing and Collective Bargaining Committee recommends *concurrence* and I so move.

COSTA: The motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: “*Seconded.*”

COSTA: Second. Any questions? (*No Response*)

Hearing none. All in favor, say “aye.”

DELEGATES: Chorus of “*ayes.*”

COSTA: Opposed? (*No Response*)

Approved. (*Gavel Knock*)

Thank you. Adopted. (*Applause.*)

COMMITTEE SECRETARY ANTONIE MAIBEN, 770-Mobile, AL: I stand before you again to read the names of the members of the committee and want to thank all the them for the debate and discussion that we had together:



Delegate Antonie Maiben, 770-Mobile, AL

- Patrick Green, 1235, *chair*
- Antonie Maiben, 770, *secretary*
- Marvin Alfred, 113
- Enrico Signore, 113
- Crystal McGeeLee, 256
- Hariqbal Bal, 279
- John Blocchi, 282
- Eric Dixon, 308
- Karin Gill, 583.
- James Bradley, 589
- Inga McGlothlin, 627
- John Boland, 628
- John Gaines, 689
- James Curran, 726
- Mikesha Walker, 732
- Jeffrey Evans, 825
- Doni Jones, 1005
- Brenda Moore, 1091
- Renee Jean-Louis, 1181
- Nicholas Hedge, 1181
- Victor Rodriguez, 1277
- Richard Swain, 1338
- Tassy Saylor, 1474
- Andrew Woods, 1512
- Chris Moore, 1633
- Erek Slater, 241

(Applause)

MAIBEN: I also would like to thank JIC Coordinator John Lyons, Organizing Field Mobilization Director Chris Townsend, Field Mobile Specialist Todd Brogan, Field Mobile Specialist John Ertl, for their contribution into this committee. Thank you. (*Applause*)

COSTA: Thank you. Thank you for the hard work. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

CLAYOLA BROWN

President, A. Philip Randolph Institute

Video Introduction

PERRY: Sisters and Brothers, please welcome to the stage the national president for the A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI), Clayola Brown. *(Applause)*

APRI PRESIDENT CLAYOLA BROWN: Good morning.

DELEGATES: “Good Morning.”

BROWN: I don’t have to ask if you’re awake because I heard y’all cutting up out here from the back. *(Laughter)*



Clayola Brown, APRI President

Usually I try to be dignified, but that doesn’t last but for a few minutes. So, I’m just going to be myself from the beginning because I saw how you were just a little while ago. *(Laughter)* And all of that’s good. That’s what you do, right?

Oh Lord, Jesus, it’s hard getting old. I came up the ramp trying to look young and I’m out of breath. *(Laughter)* Don’t laugh. Some of y’all are old too now.

‘I am so very proud of you’

Whew. Well, let me first start by saying to your International President, John Costa – *(Applause)* – yeah.

I am so very proud of you.

Having heard your name, only met you twice before, but everything that I have been hearing around the country has been so positive and that’s what should happen from the membership, being supportive of your leadership, because your base is what keeps you strong.

So, President Costa, it’s my pleasure to be here to join you at this Convention. Thank you so very much. *(Applause)* Thank you.

‘He belonged to us too’

And I’ll take a moment of personal privilege to recognize a friend of mine of more than 20 years having lived in New York for 47 of those, our brother, Larry Hanley, who passed away. *(Applause)* Yeah. I must say that his leadership was an encouragement for many around the country. You all didn’t just hold him for yourself. He belonged to us too.

And I’ve got to give him credit, he taught me how to cuss pretty good, too. *(Laughter)* And gave me permission to do it whenever the spirit hit me. So, how about that? So, I will not apologize for any of those words that pop out. It came from ATU. Now that’s the truth. That is the truth. *(Applause)*

I want to also say to Javier Perez, your International Executive Vice President – *(Applause)* – sitting here looking like a cool drink of water all dyed, fried, and laid to the side. *(Laughter)* Yeah, the quiet one that I’ve only just met – actually, I saw you on a number of occasions. The last time was at Brother Hanley’s services.

‘Double O!’

But when there is a diversity among your leadership like this, it gives you a great deal of pride to be able to call it “your” Union. And for my partner in crime – who I’ve known the longest because I went after him to make sure he was among the leadership inside of the organization that I’m blessed to head as its president – Oscar Owens.

DELEGATES: “Double O!”

BROWN: I hear you. “Big O!” Yeah – who has been a steadfast leader of the A. Philip Randolph Institute from the very beginning of my tenure. And for as long as I can stand up and catch my breath, he ain’t going nowhere until I’m ready to go somewhere. *(Applause)*

So, “Double O,” as I hear you being called, I thank you for your leadership every day. Every time that there has been a necessity for someone to step up and stand up, my first stop is this man right here. Because if you say, “I need you,” he is there. If it’s your organization to bring support to us, he is there for that.

And I don’t know how many of you know the real important role that he plays with the young people that we have in the organization. We had 165 students from across the United States to be a part of our conference last time, along with more than 700 adults, and moving them from place to place was not an easy task.

‘We can figure this out’

You know, Oscar talk kind of slow and look at you and smile, right? He said, “We can figure this out.” I was, like, Oh, thank you, Jesus. Now I know I don’t have to worry about that any longer.

And we were able to take care of that. Because you know if kids get lost while they are in your charge, that’s a hard thing to come back from. And in 15 years we’ve never ever had to worry, President Costa, because this man to my left and to your right has been the voice that said: I think we can figure it out. Thank you for figuring it out. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

And I get to hug him because his wife gave me permission 15 years ago. So, anybody that wants to go and gossip – go ahead. I took care of that already. *(Laughter)*

Now, I know that Sister Jackie Jeter is somewhere in this room. Where are you Jackie? *(Applause)* Oh, I see you back there. That’s a troublemaker back there, y’all. In case you don’t know her, that women can cause more trouble than you can shake a stick at. And we love the leadership that you bring. Jackie, thank you for always doing for what you do. *(Applause)*

Sister Jackie Jeter. Sister Jackie Jeter. Sister Jackie Jeter. That’s what I’m talking about! *(Applause)* Yes. Yes. Thank you, Jackie. Thank you very much for what you do.

‘I’m going to try and be dignified’

Now, I look at the whole scope of what I’m supposed to say, and you all brought some powerful people to the stage, so I’m going to try and be dignified for a few minutes and do what I must do. But I find that unless you recognize those who help you, you’re just talking about yourself and stuff that people don’t really want to know a whole lot about.

There are people that bring you very important information and you have got to learn from that situation. Now, I met, when I first came in, a brother, Steve. Are you outside or behind the stage? Where are you? You all know who I’m talking about. He is dressed to the nines, always sharp and stepping quickly.

COSTA: MacDougall? –

BROWN: *MacDougall*. Well, Steve gave me some important information. He was the one that told me where the bathroom was. *(Laughter, Applause)*

And when you get to be 71 years old, you want to know that right away because when nature says it’s time, you want to be able to get up right then and go, right? Anybody in here understand what I’m talking about? *(Applause)*

So, give Brother Steve a round of applause, please. *(Applause)* Yeah. Yeah.

Now, I’m sorry if I get my time mixed up just a little bit this morning because I came directly here from Ghana, West Africa. *(Applause)*

‘I’ll be a little crazy, y’all, but hang with me’

Yes. So, I’ll be a little crazy, y’all, but kind of hang with me. And if I get off the path, I’m going to count on you, right there. Okay?

Is that first name, is it Daniel? Okay, Daniel. You *the man* this morning. All right. So, if I start messing up, Daniel is going to tell me to turn the train around, get back on course. Okay?

But my sister, Jean Herve, and I – and Jean is seated over here to the right. Stand up, Jean. Yeah, that’s it.

(Applause) Jean Hervey and I traveled to Ghana together along with four other people to do a site visit for a piece that is coming up in 2020. It wasn't one of them fancy trips where you go and stand in front of a camera for a photo op and all of the rest.

We went to the villages to see the young children who need to know that people everywhere care about them and can help them figure out some stuff. Like, where can we get books? They don't have to be brand new. They just need to be intact. Where can we help to get personal items for the people of Ghana, especially those that live in small villages and provinces there?

Pride and dignity

Women like to be women, no matter where their address is, and be able to take care of themselves and maintain that pride and that dignity. *(Applause)*

And, Sisters, I am saying to you this morning, as we plan to move forward, Oscar will come back along with sisters like Jackie Jeter and others to tell you about what this next venture will be leading to. And hopefully, if you can join us on that venture, we would love to have you to do that. Don't bring your fancy clothes. It ain't that kind of trip. Bring some jeans, some sneakers, and an ATU t-shirt, and you'll be good to go.

Because a lot of it is doing the real stuff – not the fancy stuff. And being willing to go into a village where there are retired people, retired not from a job that provides a pension or a benefit to sustain them, but retired from the days of carrying great big baskets on their heads, walking with tubes, and pipes, and wood, and you name it. Retiring because they can't do it any longer.

But going into those situations and telling them, "somebody still loves you." And here is the dignity that comes with having your own washcloth, your own personal hygiene products. Here is the dignity that comes along with getting a note or a card or a letter every now and again from somebody that wishes you well.

They are not looking for your money, so don't think

this is a hit about money. Money always helps, but that's not what they want. They want to know that there's unity across all of the waters and that what we see from this jackass in the White House is not who we are as a people. *(Applause)*

'We have got to do better'

So, we have got to do better than we are doing with our image. We have got to do better. And, Brothers, the same for you, letting the young men and women know that there's hope still that this globe really is representative of what we are charged to do, be our brother and sister's keepers.

And it's not just Ghana. It's looking at all of the international nations that have been impacted, but also remembering that right here in these United States of America, we are committing some serious injustice to one another through humanity.

I'm not going to stand up and watch a veteran who has served this country, who gave lives across these waters and all waters to fight for the dignity and respect that we have now learned to enjoy, die in the street like a dog because their health benefits have been slowed down *(Applause)*, that hospitals are being shut, that they can't go and get a doctor to look at them, or that they have to go to a place that is substandard. *(Applause)*

'They made the supreme sacrifice'

They made the supreme sacrifice and by damn it, we ought to be able to do that back for them. *(Applause)* A veteran is a proud person that we should be standing up for and giving them the strength that they deserve, so we have got to do better. We have got to do better, y'all.

Standing Ovation

It encourages people. You never know who is watching how you act. When you stop and say something to someone, even if it's just, "Good morning," it may be the only time that someone has spoken to them with civility, where they look in that person's eye or hand them a hand to shake. Not giving them a handout – but letting them know that there's someone there that is encouraging to them.

‘They did not go there by choice’

So, when you see somebody that is on the street, they did not go there by choice. Circumstances have put a lot of people who were in hard times in that position that they are in. Hard times ain’t new to everybody in this room.

How many of you ever lived in the country? I’m talking up South, as real as down South. Anybody ever had a syrup sandwich? *(Cheers)*

Uhhuh. Had bologna for your main meat at dinner? *(Cheers)* And if they fried it, they put a little slit in that bologna, so it laid flat in the frying pan – you know what I’m talking about? *(Cheers)*

Or had your grandma to say, “Well, everybody is going to get some soda.” She’d take that one Pepsi Cola or that one Coca-Cola and pour it in a pitcher and put a lot of ice in it, and all of the kids, everybody sitting at the table had something because it was community involvement. It was the sincerity of sharing. It was what was going on to make somebody feel welcome.

That’s the dignity and pride that we are instilled with as trade unionists. And when we get somebody that calls a whole nation a “shit hole” nation, and that people need to go back to where they came from: Hell! I ain’t going nowhere!

‘I will fight until I drop!’

I’ve had hard times right here, but I will fight until I drop to the ground to make sure that those that are coming with me and after me don’t have to do that! *(Applause)*

That is the spirit that we have to have. That is where we have to have our hearts come from. That is what we have to ensure – that this democracy is a democracy for everybody. That democracy does not have a “D” or an “R” by it. It has a human being behind it.

And that is what we have to take a challenge to uphold and to make sure will never go away. These are the kinds of struggles that your Union is not a stranger to.

Y’all are, what, 127 years old now? Is that about what it is? Yeah, y’all are 127, since 1892.

Please God, give me the same number of years because I would like to live. *(Laughter)* I’d like to be here to cuss somebody out when they ain’t doing right. And on a good day, I would like to be able to pray for someone even if I have to sit in a wheelchair to do it.

But a union with a lineage of 127 years has had the experience of being a brother or sister keeper. Now, that doesn’t mean that we are not going to fight.

Where the strength comes from

Y’all was fighting this morning pretty good and doing a good job of it. I’m proud of you. *(Applause)*

I saw the delegation that came with the red shirts. I saw the other delegations that came with blue, but, guess what, on all of them it said ATU! *(Applause)* All of them said, ATU. And that is where the strength will come from.

You’ve had the times when you’ve had to fight all over this country – and I’m trying not to go too long – but you had some good solid victories, too. And if I could find my notes, I could tell you where all of them were.

‘Hoity-toity’

But one in particular that struck my fancy was finding out that y’all had organized stuff at Martha’s Vineyard. Where is that Local at, that did some of that organizing up at Martha’s Vineyard? They are not represented here at the Convention?

Rumbling from the Floor

There you go. *(Applause)*

Yes, please stay standing for a second, Brother. When you can organize at Martha’s Vineyard, where the “hoity-toity” and “paloity” live, you’re a bad brother. *(Applause)* You are a bad brother. My hat goes off to you.

It takes that kind of determination to make things happen, so I salute you with real sincerity. The work that you did up there in making that happen, in making that happen, that is the kind of strength and dignity that determines that we are definitely going to continue this fight.

Standing Ovation

Now, it doesn't just mean that he or she may be the only one that can make that happen because in Silicon Valley, you all did some pretty good work, too. Light rails and bus operators. You even had to take a look at the Santa Clara Valley. You all don't care whether it's the rich, the poor, or the in-between, huh? You just kind of go after them.

Wherever a worker needs a union contract, that must be where we are prepared to go. And spreading the word on how to get there is also a vital responsibility of ours. People are not going to march just because you say, "March!"

Young people certainly won't do it. They will be, "We are *marching*? Where at, and *how come*? For *what*?" (*Laughter*) You have got to be able to give the *message* with the *meaning*.

'Two women of the evening...'

BROWN: Okay. I'm going to digress just for one second. Is that all right, Mr. President?

COSTA: Yes.

BROWN: There was – since we in Vegas, I figured I could say this. There were these two women of the evening in Las Vegas who had a big sign on their car that said, "Hookers, \$50 an hour."

DANIEL CASSELLA, 726-Staten Island, NY: Oh, I gotta reel you in.

BROWN: Oh, Okay. Just pull me on back. That's right, Daniel, pull me back. So, I'm not going to look at him for a second. Okay? (*Laughter*).

And when the cops saw the car and the sign and these two women out there, they stopped them. They said, "You can't advertise like that. And right at that time a bus was going by that said, "Jesus Saves" on it.

So, they said, "They got a big old sign." He said, "But it's a different kind of message." So, she says, "We promise you we'll go back," and she looked at her friend and her friend nodded her head, "and we will change our ways."

But the very next day – let me see if I can dress this up so Daniel don't stop me. (*Laughter*) The very next day these two women were right back out there again with another sign. And the cop said, "You know what, I'm going to have to lock them up." He's saying that as he walks over to the car to see whatever the sign is saying.

He looked at the sign and he had to pause for a second. The sign said, "Two fallen angels in search of Peter." (*Laughter, Applause*)

Is that all right, Daniel? Okay? Okay.

But I say that because you have to be able to give the message that moves the people. (*Laughter*)

Now, don't you all go looking for that car with that sign when you leave here this evening. You hear? Don't go doing that. (*Applause*)

You've got to be able to put your message together, as you have for 127 years, to pull the people in to join this magnificent Union. I'm going to take only two more minutes. Is that all right with you?

COSTA: Take all of the time that you need.

'What the hell happened?'

BROWN: Okay. Well, we look today at where we are. The A. Philip Randolph Institute is a nonpartisan organization. We do not endorse, nor do we name a name for anybody that we support. We may be nonpartisan, but we are pretty doggone particular about who we support. Aren't we, Sister? (*Applause*)

Now, we say that because we are a "501(c)(3)" and a "(c)(4)." But you look at what's going on today in this environment of crazy politics, and you just rest your head to the side, and you go: "What the hell happened?"

What happens sometimes is that we think that things are so outlandish that it could never happen. Right? Or this one vote won't make a difference. Well, I think we got the message that that is not exactly the factor that determines where we are right now.

Did you all see the news last night or this morning – those who were not on the slot machines or at the tables?

Well, there is some stuff going on about impeachment, and I'm pretty bright every now and then, Oscar, but – there is a corner that supports it. *(Applause)*

'Took us 3 years to figure out this fool was crazy?'

But I just can't understand what that means. It took us three years to figure out this fool was crazy? *(Laughter)*

See, my grandmama used to say, "Something ain't right about that child." And we knew that almost from the beginning – something ain't right with that boy. *(Laughter)*

But she would pray for him.

But I say, "We got to get on our tall boots and kick his natural ass," okay? *(Applause)*

'We have got to go and fight'

That's what we have to do. We have got to go and fight for those things that are important to us as a people. It's not about being a Democrat or being a Republican, it's about doing what is right for working people.

And you cannot take away the benefits of health insurance. You can't cut pension entitlements. You can't give the only breaks to the rich. You cannot do that and expect the American public or the Canadian public to believe that something is okay with that.

What is scary is that some of the other nations are mimicking his habits and trying to be the Trump of their country. I was so glad to see that long, tall drink of water from Canada this morning that spoke before I did. *(Laughter)*

'Tenderronies'

I was so glad to see that long, tall drink of water from Canada this morning (Prime Minister Justin Trudeau) that spoke before I did. *(Laughter)*

Now, see in the country we call them "tenderronies." *(Laughter)*

But being a woman of 71, I'm going to say, "Yes, baby, that's right, be a good son, do what you have to do, be respectful." But the fire in the belly of people who want to do – bring about change – has to be encouraged.

At the Institute, we do training sessions that teach young and old people how to be an agitator, a fighter, a rabble rouser, how to build strength, how to build courage, all of that. If we get you for a week, you are going to come back and raise some hell. And thank God the ATU supports us on that and provides us with help on lots of levels to make sure that it continues.

But if you don't get out and do the work, you don't have a thing to say about how things are. All right? *(Applause)*

'You have got to get up and make a difference'

So, save that for yourself. You have got to get up and make a difference.

How many of you are officers within your local union? Shop steward, officers at a seat on the delegates' boards, or whatever?

(Show of Hands)

Now, how many of you ran for that office because you really wanted it?

(Show of Hands)

How many got it because nobody else would run? *(Laughter)*

(Show of Hands)

How many of you wish you had not taken it after you got it? *(Applause)*

(Show of Hands)

And how many of you are still – that's right. Is that Martin?

GREAVES: That's Martin.

BROWN: Okay, Martin. I feel you, Brother. I have come out of the shop too, so I know. How many of you are waiting on the first "thank you" for handling my grievance? *(Applause)*

Uh-huh. How many of you can see the complaints coming in the dozens; but the helpers – you have to search deep and wide for? *(Applause)*

‘Strength comes from the bottom up’

Yeah. Your job is one that is a thankless job. But know in your gut that not only the people in the work environment where you are, are benefitting from it, but people across this nation see the activism that comes out of ATU. And that’s not just your officers. Strength comes from the bottom up, comes from the bottom up! *(Applause)*

And once that strength is solid, there is nothing that your Union can’t do. But know that folks see you, and your Union in particular being 127 years old, has been the example all across this country and others for how to get it done.

Dignity

How many people would go to work every day when people are slinging pee at them because they are driving a bus? You know what I’m talking about? And be able to maintain your cool and your stride to make sure that the position of bus driver is one that’s still maintained with that dignity.

And have an organization behind them to not only care for what has happened to them but take care of them to make sure that they are healthy even after a situation like that with the crazy person. These are the kinds of things that grow strength. These are the kinds of things that make you say, “Yeah, I’m a member of ATU and I’m proud of it!”

But the one thing I will say before I take my seat today is that we have a message for people in political power. For those who are making the determination this time around, we say one simple phrase: “Don’t blow it.”

Don’t blow it. Because working people are not asleep. We are wide awake and watching and working to make sure that this country stands for the dignity, the respect and the notoriety of being a humanitarian that makes a difference.

‘We will not sit down!’

We will not sit down and watch everyday people who don’t have trillions of dollars or big bank accounts and all of the rest of it treated less than those who have plenty. But remembering the words that from “those who have, much is expected.” And the much that is expected starts with us.

I want you to reach over to the person that’s seated next to you, pat them on the back or on the shoulder, and – don’t go crazy if you have been trying to touch that man or that woman all the time since you been here. *(Laughter)*

Congratulate them for their leadership, their pride and their dignity and tell them – you all saw the president get over there, right – that you are proud of what they do. You appreciate them for who they are, and you are determined to make sure that strength and dignity will prevail.

And, Sisters, I want you to remember every single day that you have got just too much of “Maya Angelou” in you or “Ella Baker” in you, or “Shirley Chisholm” in you to sit silently and not do anything. *(Applause)* We’ve been there before. We will be there always, and we will do it again.

Thank you, ATU, for having me. I love it. *(Applause)* I appreciate you and hopefully I’ll be invited again. Thank you all very, very much. I appreciate it.

Standing Ovation

COSTA: Clayola Brown, Ladies and Gentlemen, Brothers and Sisters, give her a hand. Great job. And we have a gift for you for coming out. *(Applause)* Thank you very much.



Clayola Brown, APRI President receives a standing ovation.

BROWN: Thank you, ATU!

PERRY: ATU Sisters, the Women's Caucus will meet at Bally's Las Vegas 6. That's Bally's Las Vegas Room 6 at 2:00 p.m.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY AWARDS - THE 'OSCAR'S'

'Oscars' Video Presentation

(Applause)

PEREZ: Brothers and Sisters, now, the gentleman that's known for having deep pockets and short arms – our International Secretary-Treasurer, Oscar Owens. *(Applause)*

OWENS: You know this is a defining moment. Not because my name is "Oscar," but because of the hard work that the financial secretaries of this great organization have done over the years that deserve the "Oscar Award." So, as I call your name, will you please come to the stage:

- Eileen Zibura, 1279-Johnstown, PA
- Donald Campbell, 1592-Binghamton, NY
- Troy D. Covington, 1517-Idaho Falls, ID
- Richard P. Schwartz, 883-Everett, WA
- Linda Stevens, 1582-Niagra Falls, ON



International Secretary-Treasurer Oscar Owens

- Brian Chamberlain, 1624-Peterborough, ON
- Dawn M. Metcalf, 282-Rochester, NY
- Denyse Mitchell, 1724-Vancouver, BC

- Kevin P. Marx, 882-Wilmington, DE
- Michael D. Harvey, 1001-Denver, CO
- Mary L. Parent, 279-Ottawa, ON
- Thomas Hutchinson, 1338-Dallas, TX

OWENS: We are now going to present the awards:

Oscar Awards are Given Out

COSTA: Let's give them a hand. The Oscar Awards. Thank you very much. Appreciate it. Congratulations. I want to take a lifestyle break of about 15 minutes. Thank you.

Whereupon, a Recess was Taken.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR LATE BROTHER PATRICK DOWNS

PEREZ: Brothers and Sisters can we come to order, please. Brothers and Sisters, we have a couple announcements. If you'd come to order, please. I would like for you to join me and stand in a moment of silence.

Delegates Rise

We are sorry to announce the passing of retired President and Business Agent Patrick Downs, 883-Everett, WA. Patrick passed away on Saturday, September 21, 2019. The ATU International and all of us here offer our deepest condolences to his family, his Local, and all who knew him. Thank you very, very much.

DELEGATE'S WIFE GIVES BIRTH

Second announcement, and such is life, I guess: On Monday, September 23rd, Local 265-San Jose, CA, Treasurer Raj Singh's wife gave birth to a seven-pound baby girl.

Mother – where is he at? Where is he at? Stand up. – Mother and [child] are doing well. Raj's wife had been scheduled to have a C-section this Friday when he returned back to San Jose, so he could be there for the

birth, but she didn't wait. Raj is here representing his members, but he will be back in San Jose soon to join his wife and new daughter. Let's congratulate him and the newest member of the ATU family. *(Applause)*

BOB MENENDEZ

U.S. Senator from New Jersey

COSTA: Is everybody in? Okay. All eyes on the screens, please:

Video Address

SENATOR BOB MENENDEZ, D-NJ: Hello, I'm Senator Bob Menendez of New Jersey. *(Applause)* And while I'm sorry I can't join you in person, I couldn't miss greeting all of you attending the Amalgamated Transit Union's triennial Convention.

I want to start by recognizing the outstanding leadership of your international president, John Costa. *(Applause)*

John is a fierce advocate and true champion for the men and women of the ATU. I'd also like to acknowledge New Jersey's Chairman Ray Greaves *(Applause)* who's been a relentless and dedicated partner for years. As ranking member of the Senate's transit subcommittee, I know how important the work of the ATU is. From subway and light rail operators, to mechanics



U.S. Senator Bob Menendez, New Jersey (D)

and maintenance workers, to school bus drivers, and ferry boat operators, ATU helps move America.

'I stand with all of you'

I believe the strength of our transit systems is our people. And I stand with all of you in fighting for safe workplaces, a living wage, and the benefits you've earned. Here in the Senate, I'm fighting for passage of the *Transit Worker and Pedestrian Protection Act*. *(Applause)*

It's a commonsense bill to require transit agencies to make their systems safer, whether that's through installing barriers to protect bus drivers, rethinking vehicle design to reduce blind spots, or employing new operator assistance technology. This bill would protect our workers and make our roads and rails safer and it's one of my top priorities for the next transportation bill.

Likewise, I'll continue to stand with ATU against the threat of privatization. *(Applause)* Too often private sector involvement comes at the expense of decent wages and fair benefits for our workers. Privatization isn't the answer for our transit challenges. The real solution is robust public investment in our transit systems, themselves, and in the dedicated people who run them.

I'm grateful for ATU's partnerships on these issues, for the fights we have won, and for those we have yet to win. And to my Latino friends in attendance, *(speaks Spanish)*.

(Applause)

I look forward to working with all of you to advance our shared goals. Thank you to everyone in attendance for your service and your partnership in improving the nation's transportation system.

(Applause)

ATU COPE (U.S.)

COSTA: You know I wanted to cue that in, because the first time I met Bob Menendez; he was a congressman. And I had just got elected as vice president of my Local in north New Jersey and we were doing COPE.

And at the time, my financial secretary – her name was Tina Lucas from the Lucas family. Her family worked there. And she was a financial secretary. First black female financial secretary the Local ever had. And she was older. I was about 30 years old, she was older.

‘You should deliver it in person’

And she grabbed me aside and said, “We got this check for Bob Menendez. And you should take it in person.” And it was a \$1,000 check and that was – that was around ’95 or ’94 – a lot of money.

So, I went over to Hoboken, NJ, that night. I put a suit on, put on a tie. She told me to go see him in person, make sure he got that check in person and knows who you are and knows who this Local and the ATU is. “You should do that with every dollar you get. Anything you give, they should know where it’s coming from.”

So, I went down to Hoboken. And there was a restaurant on the dock. And I walked over and went to the restaurant and said, “I’m here to see Bob Menendez.” And you know, they were trying to take the check from me. And I said, “No, I have got to give him this in person.” And they were like, “Well, we can take that.” And I said, “No, I got to give it to him in person.”

So, I went, and I sat, and he was doing his thing all night and talking to people and I sat there by myself. And a couple of aides came over, introduced themselves. And about two hours later, it kind of slowed up and I waited, and he came over to get the check. And he kind of found it odd that I said, “I had to give you this in person. I was told to give it to you in person.”

‘We spoke for a while’

And we sat down. We spoke for a while. Got to know each other. He was younger and I was younger and that check, every dollar our Local got from there, every time we had COPE dollars, we made sure that whoever it was went to that affair went to that function and handed him that check in person, and that’s the relationship we have now 24 years later.

He is a senator on the transportation committee and I’m international president. And listening to that and going out there and taking the time out of my schedule and from my family that night to hand him that check – and it was kind of lonely, intimidating. I was by myself. I didn’t know the people there – but it worked out.

So, that COPE check was – a lot of per capita was gained by that in the relationship we have today. *(Applause)*

So, I just wanted to let you know how important it is to not only give the money but to let them know where it’s coming from and holding them accountable for our members that donate to COPE because it’s our members that give this money. Thank you.

ATU COPE AWARDS

COSTA: Oscar:

OWENS: Thank you. Let me just say a few words about COPE. You know we do a great job. COPE is our life-blood. If we did not give to COPE, in my opinion, we wouldn’t be here today. Those good wages and benefits that we all enjoy, to me, that comes because we are well connected to the politicians. And as you know, it takes money.

So, what I’m going to ask each delegate here and I’m going to ask if you will take it back to your members, those of us who contribute to COPE – let’s increase it. I’m not going to ask you how much to increase it. I’m going to leave that up to you. But go back home and increase the donation to COPE. All right?

If you do that for me, I really would appreciate it. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

Now at this time, we are going to turn to the ATU-COPE awards. COPE is an ATU political action committee. It opens doors for ATU members on Capitol Hill, and state capitals, and at the local government level across the United States.

Through the voluntary contribution of our members, ATU-COPE helps us elect candidates who will fight for our right to organize, guard our pensions, and pursue transit funding.

It is my honor to announce the winners of the 2018 Chairman’s, President’s and Patriot Awards:

Chairman’s Award

First, the Chairman’s Award, which goes to the local union with the highest dollar amount contributed.

In the category of 50 or less members:

- Local 519-Lacrosse, WI. *(Applause)*

OWENS: Lacrosse, will you please come to the podium.
(Applause) For locals in the

- 51 to 200 membership category:
Local 540-Trenton, NJ. *(Applause)*
- 201 to 800 membership category:
Local 282-Rochester, NY. *(Applause)*
- 801 to 1,500 membership category:
Local 618-Providence, RI. *(Applause)*

The winner for locals with more than 1,500 members is no surprise. It is a program that was launched by our late international president, Larry Hanley, and continues to thrive today under current President and Business Agent Dan Casella, 726-Staten Island, NY. For locals with 1,500 members or more:

- Local 726-Staten Island, NY. *(Applause)*

President's Award

OWENS: Up next, the President's Award recognizes local unions with the highest percentage of active members enrolled in COPE clubs. As you will see, we have some locals that have won both categories, a true sign of their commitment to political action. For locals in the:

- 50 or fewer membership category:
Local 519-Lacrosse, WI. *(Applause)*
- 51 to 200 membership category:
Local 1093-Kalamazoo, MI. *(Applause)*
- 201 to 800 membership category:
Local 1575-San Rafael, CA. *(Applause)*
- 801 to 1,500 membership category:
Local 618-Providence, RI. *(Applause)*

And, once again, for the locals that are in the category:

- 1,500 members or more:
Local 726-Staten Island, NY. *(Applause)*

Patriot Award

Finally, after recognizing the local unions, we have one individual award, and it's a special award for the person who dug the deepest into their own pockets in support of their ATU program. The winner of the 2018 Patriot Award for the highest annual contribution by any ATU member is:

- Casey Kiger, 627-Cincinnati, OH. *(Applause)*

Congratulations to Casey and to all of our winners. *(Applause)* Now, with a few more words about our COPE program, I'd like to introduce ATU Director of Government Affairs Jeff Rosenberg:

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS JEFF ROSENBERG: Good afternoon, everyone. We have a quick COPE video we would like to show you. Please check out the screen:

Why Give to ATU-COPE Video

(Applause)

ROSENBERG: So, I realize we have a lot of new people in the audience here today, and just while we are on the subject of COPE, we wanted to take a few minutes to talk about our really important political action committee, which is known as ATU COPE. And to answer any questions, I'll be outside at the COPE booth after this. I have a short – very short – infomercial-type presentation I wanted to show you



Jeff Rosenberg, Director of Government Affairs

about the importance of political action and why it's so important to give to our COPE Committee.

So, as you can see, [on screen] if there are any labor historians in the audience, this is a very famous quote from Samuel Gompers, the founder of the AFL, more than 100 hundred years ago, talking about why – what does Labor want? And if you can read it, it talks about all of the different things that are important, that were important to working families 100 years ago.

‘What do ATU members want?’

The real question is, “What do ATU members want?” And these are some of the things, of course, that are very important to all of us, including workplace safety, secure jobs and pensions, and quality affordable health care:

Assault: But what else do we want? Right? We want to stop getting assaulted behind the wheel, right, folks? Time and time again these headlines flash across newspapers. It’s unbelievable. It happens in Washington, DC. It happens in California. It happens in Connecticut. It happens all over the place. We need to make these assaults stop. Right?

Restroom Breaks: What else do we want? We want the ability to use the restroom when we want to, access to clean restroom facilities – a human right, human dignity.

Fixing Blind Spots: What else do we want? We want to stop running over people because of blind spots, engineering problems on buses, which result in this type of thing – tragedies for the victims as well as our members who have to live with the fact that they have taken a life, right?

Safety: We want to have vehicles that are safe, that don’t look like this one (*on screen*). This is the result of privatization.

We want our maintenance workers – who we heard a lot from this morning, right? – [who] don’t want to work in garages like this or this, which may result in situations like this. I remember the late Jake Schwab from our Local in Erie, PA, who was tragically killed in a garage that was an OSHA nightmare because they don’t have OSHA protections for public workers in Pennsylvania.

Privatization: We need to change the laws. We need to stop privatization. And this is an issue that doesn’t affect just our members just in transit, but also in school

bus, right? Privatization rampant all across the country. You heard Senator Menendez talking a little bit about that. It happens all over the place, and we need to do something about it, right?

Funding: We need an administration in Washington that is going to really fund transit. The current one is not doing that.

Overtime: For our intercity bus operators – Local 1700 – and other intercity bus operators, we need to change the *Fair Labor Standards Act* so we can make sure that our workers can make overtime pay, so they don’t wind up falling asleep behind the wheel and seeing circumstances like this with crashing vehicles all over the country.

Legislative change

But in order to do that, of course, it requires legislative change. As President Costa was saying, it requires an effort on all of our behalf to try to pump up our COPE program, which for those of you that don’t know, it’s the voluntary contributions of our members that go to COPE and it has a direct impact on the political process – guiding policies on all of these different issues that we just talked about from transit funding, to school bus issues, to maintenance issues, assaults – you name it.

And this is where COPE fits in in our overall scheme. You know, of course, organizing, and there’s COPE, and there’s passenger organizing, and all of these different things. COPE is an integral part of our entire program.

Good news and bad news

Now, the good news and the bad news is that we are doing okay with COPE. The bad news is that, well, over the last couple years, it has dropped by a couple of – more than 1,000 people have dropped out of the program. I’m a bit concerned about that. The good news is that we have people, I have talked to many of you here today who really want to get more involved in the program.

You know, here are the “inside numbers” on our COPE program. We have about 50 percent of our locals that don’t give at all. Keep in mind, I’m only talking about our

U.S. locals. Unfortunately, for the Canadians, we can't take your money. Although we would like to, we can't take it.

But there are about 100,000 of our members in the U.S. who don't give – 100,000 out of 120,000 eligible people who don't give to the program. And as a result of that, we wind up in a situation where we are being carried basically by just a small number of locals.

\$200,000 per year

And I wanted to give special recognition to one particular local – Local 726. *(Applause)*

Danny, can you bring your folks up here? Because you just told Local 726, these awards that they just won, \$200,000 per year is raised by this Local, folks – \$200,000 per year! *(Applause)* I mean, Danny, do you want to say a few words?

DANIEL CASSELLA, 726-Staten Island, NY: Thank you, Jeff. As we all know how important the COPE program is, in Staten Island, we took the ball from Larry Hanley and we just kept it going. I can't really tell you how we get the money, but we *are* from New York. *(Laughter)*

All right? We are going to leave it at that because I'll probably be in trouble with the legal counsel here. But we do what we got to do. I've got big Tom Mason to my left. That is one of the reasons that we get a lot of money. And Chris is here, Chris is here, second enforcer, and "Nuch." Between these guys, you are not going to say "no."



Delegate Daniel Cassella, 726-Staten Island, NY

But all joking aside, one of things that I did when I became president, I bargained to do the training for the new operators that come to Staten Island. And when I mean the training, the transit teaches them to drive. We teach them the routes. We get the students that come to Staten Island for a month and we train them – the union – and when you have them for a month, you can teach them a lot.

And we drill into their head about the COPE program, about the union, about the officers of the union, that we are always available, and it's gone a long way. We are at just about 100 percent of every single operator that comes to Staten Island. *(Applause)*

'It has to start with you'

And I just want to say, the officers of the Union, it has to start with you. That's one of the things that the president before me, Angelo Tanzi, and myself now, every single board member, and shop steward must give. I can't go ask my members for money if my executive board doesn't give. *(Applause)*

So, it starts with the new people. I know it's hard with the older guys to try to tell them to give, but if you start with the new people, we will be successful. Thank you. *(Applause)*

The '50/50 Rule'

ROSENBERG: So, just to conclude what I was talking about here on the COPE program, keep in mind that we are unique as far as other international unions are concerned. 50 percent of the money that you raise at the local level goes back to your local. It's called the "50/50 Rule."

So, we spend 50 percent of the money, and 50 percent goes back – no questions asked. For if you want to support members of your state legislature or local city council. These are obviously very important races for all of you at the local level because they control a lot of the issues that we deal with.

New online program

And I want to let you know that we have set up a new program. The traditional way the COPE works is through the brochure, but now we have a new program online. You can directly contribute without going through the company. We can show you the link. It's on our website. It works out very well.

And we are asking for \$4 per month. For \$4 a month, for new members, you can get one of these really nice t-shirts, and very nicely designed on the back.

And after the Convention is over, we are going to be setting up a true program to get real change, to get more of our members signed up, and for \$4 per month – a dollar a week – you can be eligible for that.

A dollar a month

The question was, "What can you get for a dollar a month?" A dollar? Well, you can download a song on iTunes, or you could get close to people like Senator Menendez, who was referenced by President Costa, right? Twenty years ago, that relationship started and look where it is now – as he's not only a member of the Transportation Committee in the Senate, he's the ranking member and poised to be the chairman if the Democrats were to take control of the Senate.

For that dollar a month, you can buy yourself a cup of coffee at McDonalds, or you can get yourself involved in Congress and try to get this bill introduced and passed. That's our critical bill right now, the *Transit Worker and Pedestrian Protection Act*. We have 167 cosponsors on there. We need about 200 to get that bill moving, and we need your help on all of that.

For a dollar a month, and a dollar and a dream, you can get yourself a scratchoff ticket or you can work to get involved in places like Wisconsin (*Applause*) where we wrote a big check and now, we are heavily involved in the changes that are going on politically in places like Wisconsin.

Peace of mind

So, for that dollar per month, the bottom line is – folks, you can really get peace of mind for you and your family. That's what it's all about.

The COPE booth is right back out there. I'd be willing to talk to anybody. I welcome the opportunity to talk to you about this and give you a t-shirt for just \$4 a month to sign up. Thank you very much for your time, everybody. (*Applause*)

COSTA: Thank you, Jeff, for the great presentation.

So, the hats – we are going to send a bunch of cards around and everybody is going to sign up. What I did at my Local – I had everybody commit \$20 a month. We had an issue that they were going to take – they were going to privatize nine percent of our work and they said we could not stop it. So, we went around, and we collected \$20 a member, and we wound up bringing about \$100,000 per year into COPE. Right, Ray?

GREAVES: Right, John.

COSTA: And we wound up with that bill, not only stopping the privatization but we also got a seat on the New Jersey Transit Board of Directors, recognizing the ATU on that seat. So, that was because of our members' money and that's what it went for, to have power and to sit at that seat and say, "We don't think that you need to privatize the maintenance department." (*Applause*) "Because, we could – tell you the truth – we know how to do it better."

Okay. Ready for our next speaker?

PERRY: Brothers and Sisters, two announcements, first:

- ATU Canada will meet in Versailles 3. That is Versailles 3, at 4:00 o'clock p.m.
- And delegates are reminded of the upcoming MS Golf Tournament, October 20th and 21st, which will be happening at the Worthington Manor Golf Club in Urbana, MD. Contact International Secretary-Treasurer Oscar Owens for more information.

PETER KURDOCK

General Counsel, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety

PERRY: Brothers and Sisters, please welcome to the stage the General Counsel for Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, Peter Kurdock. *(Applause)*

GENERAL COUNSEL PETER KURDOCK: Thank you. So, I'm warming up for Bernie Sanders. My mom is going to be very impressed!



*Peter Kurdock, General Counsel,
Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety*

So, thank you very much. I want to appreciate, and I really want to extend my gratitude to President Costa and the leaders of ATU for having me – inviting me to come speak here today. We've worked with ATU in Washington for many years now on road safety.

You all – every day you transport millions of people safely to where they're going and where they're coming from. So, I really wanted to express my gratitude for that.

And also mention that I'm the son of the president of a public teachers' union in New Jersey. *(Applause)* I can remember fondly my mom coming home many late nights with those battles, you know, during renegotiation. So, all of you from New Jersey know the type of hits the public teachers' union has taken in there. So, I wanted to mention that.

Driverless car technology

So, but what I'm here to really talk about is something

that is getting a lot of interest in the safety community and in the transit community, in general, and that is driverless car technology. And as we all know, it's right around the corner and it's the solution to all of our ills, right? And it's a brand new technology.

Anybody want to guess when this ad is from? *(Ad depicting driverless car on screen)* – 1950.

Okay. So, they have been talking about this for 68 years. So, the idea that this is something new is not that accurate.

So, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety – we are celebrating our 30th anniversary. We are a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization. We are a coalition of the largest property and casualty insurers in the country and consumer and public health groups, like the Consumer Federation of America, the Emergency Nurses Association.

Safer vehicles, drivers, roads

And while these groups, as you can imagine, don't really agree on a lot, they do agree on auto safety. And they've come together. We're unique in our board composition. Our mission is really very simple: It's safer vehicles, safer drivers, and safer roads.

So, over the years – and over 30 years of being in existence – we have always been very supportive of getting the latest safety technology into motor vehicles – things like airbags, things like rearview cameras.

A 10-year fight

It was a 10-year fight involving a pediatrician from Long Island. – I know the New Yorkers are up here somewhere close. – There they are. – He actually backed over his own son in his yard in Oyster Bay. And that was a 10-year fight to get rearview cameras into cars because we had realized there was a zone of blindness – and I don't need to tell bus drivers about zones of blindness – in the rear of SUVs and pickup trucks.

So, while we have always been very supportive of getting the latest technology into motor vehicles, we are very concerned about the current state of technology of

driverless cars. And one of the reasons I wanted to talk to you today is that one of the things that people don't talk about is that these things are going to be operating in a transportation ecosystem with you all in a mixed fleet.

There's a lot of assumptions that somehow, it's all going to be driverless cars and they're all going to be moving together. And there's going to be no more congestion on Canal Street in New York or the freeway in L.A., you know, the "101" is now going to be some seamless artery of, you know, "bliss" – and that's just not the case.

Autonomous technology

So, the first thing I wanted to bring to light for you all is what is going on in the federal government right now with regard to both autonomous technology in passenger vehicles but, more importantly, in commercial motor vehicles.

And one of the things that we have really stressed – and I'm a member of the Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Committee that is the Federal Motor Carrier Administration's Safety Administration's Advisory Board. And one of the things that we've told them is no matter what they do with driverless car technology in commercial motor vehicles, you have to have a *driver* – a *human* driver – in the cab with a CDL (*commercial driver's license*), that's got their proper endorsement and is properly trained. Because this technology is far from perfect. (*Applause*)

'You are already better than the best technology'

Just a show of hands: How many of you all can see a fire truck when its lights are on and it's on the side of the road? (*Show of hands*)

How many of you all can see a police officer when he is on the side of the road and conducting a traffic stop? (*Show of hands*) Thank you.

How many of you all can see roadside barriers when you're operating a bus? (*Show of hands*)

You are already better than the best technology that's out

there in driverless car technology, and we'll get to that in a little bit.

So, one of the reasons, though, that we are hopeful that this technology eventually does come to fruition is that we're losing about 37,000 people out on the road. I don't need to tell you all that. You see the results of some of the most horrific crashes we have every day. So, we are very, very, very hopeful that the technology some day is developed because we need to get this number down.

Complete fantasy

Video of Old Film Featuring Driverless Flying Vehicles

Now, this is the fantasy – and we'll talk about the reality in a second. All you have to do is call your own helicopter. I mean – what can be better than this, right? Simple. You don't even need a Metro card anymore, just your phone. That's it. Done. We are there. And there she goes off to soccer practice.

Okay. So, that is complete fantasy, just so we're all clear. Okay? No matter what Uber tells you. Here's the reality: Toyota? None of us have any idea when self-driving technology will happen, right? Mercedes Benz? Here's really what – Bill Ford, Jr., really captures it the best – and these are obviously leaders in the industry. There has been a lot of overpromising about the state of autonomous technology and there's a ton of misinformation out there.

Incredible hesitation

So, the other reality is that the public is incredibly hesitant, and for good reason, about getting into these things. So, how many of you, the last time you saw a poll taken – and I'm from Washington, DC, (full disclosure) – [remember] when 64 percent of Americans agreed about anything? Yet 64 percent of Americans say they are not getting into these things and 74 percent said they wouldn't ride in one of these things. So, there is incredible hesitation by the public to use these things.

And as a safety organization that really concerns us because when we got airbags in the car, there was a public backlash, as many of you will remember, when they started to hurt children that were placed in the

front seat of cars. We almost lost airbags. There was actually a bill in the United States Senate to take airbags out of motor vehicles and they've since saved thousands of lives.

'We're not getting in them'

So, if we don't get this right and the folks developing this technology don't get it right, really, any safety benefits that we care about could be lost for generations. And right now, the public says we're not getting in them.

The other reality is that – and one of the reasons why the public says we're not going to use these things is because the number of really concerning crashes that have happened. You can go down the list. You can see what collided with a parked fire truck. Look how many of those involve a fatality.

And one of the things I'm going to talk about in just a second is this crash (*autonomous vehicle crash shown on screen*). In 2016, in Florida, a Tesla self-driving vehicle was driving down a highway in the state of Florida and it went directly under – it did not detect – it was in self-driving mode – it did not detect a tractor trailer that was crossing the road because there was some sun glare and some other things involved. The vehicle went right underneath the tractor trailer, killed the occupant.

By the way, the gentleman that was in the vehicle was a "techy." He was incredibly tech savvy. This is not someone who didn't understand the system. So, in response, the NTSB investigated. We'll get into that investigation in a little bit.

Tesla: 'We're fine'

Tesla said, "*We fixed it*. Don't worry about it. We did an over-the-air update just like on your phone. We're fine."

Guess what happened three years later? *Same exact crash* in Florida. The Tesla operating on an autopilot system went underneath a tractor trailer – killed the occupant (*autonomous vehicle crash on screen*).

Look how striking the damage is – how similar that damage is between 2016 and 2019. So, as a safety

organization, that gives us significant pause as to how the technology is being developed by some individuals and where it is currently.

Distraction

Now, one of the things I wanted to bring to your attention because you all see this every day is the level of distraction. How many of you that are drivers – I understand there are a lot of folks here that aren't just drivers – but how many of you that are actually driving see someone distracted behind the wheel on your daily route – all of the time? (*Show of Hands*)

So, for our 30 years, we always looked at – there were two – two of the prevailing factors in crashes were speed and the other was alcohol. Guess what now has become the third member of the unholy trinity? Distraction – cell phones.

And guess what these Level Two – so right now the technology that's in some of these cars, it's a self-driving car and it's in self-driving mode, but you have to pay attention the whole time. And guess what? There is a ton of research by people like at the Duke Robotics Institute that say that's totally impossible.

In fact, we met with a – we often meet with technology companies and we met with one about two years ago – and they said we had this technology in 2012. We put our engineers in the car and said this is critical to the project that we're paying you for, and the success of your job, that you have to pay attention while the vehicle is operating in a certain city in a certain state on the West Coast. Let's just leave it like that.

Couldn't do it – their own engineers couldn't pay attention. They built the system!

Skipped over to full self-driving

So, they quickly – this was an eye opening moment for me, I'll never forget – they quickly realized there was no safe way for them to engineer the type of systems that are in a lot of these cars right now that are on our roads. So, they skipped, went right over to fully self-driving, which they're still working on and which is decades away.

But one of the things that came out of the NTSB investigation – that crash in 2016 – is you can see it right there. That’s the most startling finding. The autopilot was active, again, “autopilot,” was active for 37 minutes of the 41minute trip. The driver’s hands were on the steering wheel seven times for a total of 25 seconds, but you are supposed to be paying attention the whole time.

‘Disturbing to watch’

Now, we have an engineer on staff who’s got a big brain. He’s got a Ph.D. in something I can’t even pronounce. And he talks about how incredibly poor this was engineered to ensure safety.

The other crash that (and we’ll get to a little bit) what’s going up on the Hill – and Mr. President, give me a shout when I’m close to my time – is the Arizona Uber crash. I’m going to show the video in just a second. And they had a “safety driver,” who was not a member of ATU, by the way, in the car, supposed to be monitoring the system. She was actually watching “Hulu” at the time of the crash. This is a video from the crash. It’s disturbing to watch. So, I wanted to tell you all that before it’s played.

You’re going to see, first, the camera looking outside of the vehicle. By the way, there was an automatic emergency braking system in the vehicle that – from the original equipment manufacturer, from Volvo – they had disabled to get better testing.

The second shot on the video will be from the inside showing the driver. And it’s not an easy thing to watch.

This is now the interior view looking at the driver. That’s her watching “Hulu.” Uber, before this crash, there used to be two safety drivers in the vehicle. They took one out.

Federal government needs to step in

So, as a safety organization that to us says: “Federal government, you need to step in and protect public safety.” We need to put some guardrails on this technology, so we don’t have any more families losing loved ones, like we just saw.

So, what did the Administration do? – We are going to issue voluntary guidelines that are totally unenforceable and get out of the way and you all do whatever you want – That’s currently what we have in place.

We have for – since 1966 – a *Motor Vehicle Safety Act* The Department of Transportation was authorized with setting standards. I don’t need to tell you all. We have standards in place that require seatbelts in cars, requires a car to protect an occupant, particularly in a crash.

No federal regs for self-driving cars

We do not have one federal safety standard that applies specifically to self-driving technology that gets placed into a car. Right now, a manufacturer can develop self-driving technology, stick it into a car that they can sell at the dealership and there is nothing preventing them from doing so. There are no federal regulations on how the system must perform.

There is no federal – and we’ll get into this in a little bit – there is no federal requirement that the system be able to detect pedestrians; that it be able not to hit the back of a bus; that it be able to see a police officer directing traffic on Canal Street. Not one federal regulation dictates how that system is supposed to perform.

The only enforcement authority that NHTSA has – how many of you have had to have a Takata airbag replaced? No? You’re lucky. There’s about 57 million vehicles right now under recall for Takata airbags. It’s probably because you all bought domestic vehicles, right? Smart.

The only authority that they have is what they have right now for airbags – your car just ran over somebody, we’re going to issue a recall and tell them to take it back to the dealer and fix it – that’s it.

‘Debbie Downer’

I’m like the total “Debbie Downer” of this entire conference at this point. So, you would think Congress is going to step in and act right away, right? This Congress, they’re – well, not talking about what’s going on now – but, you know, they are going to get right onto this. Nope.

Two pieces of legislation actually would have increased the ability of manufacturers to put cars on the road that were exempt from federal motor vehicle safety standards. We opposed the legislation for that reason and some others. The legislation died. This was in the last Congress.

They are now drafting legislation that we anticipate may be introduced again in this Congress, depending on what other things happen up on the Hill. But that's where we are right now.

'Guardrails'

One of the things that we've talked about continuously is some of the guardrails that should be in place to make sure that this technology is developed safely, because we are very supportive of it someday coming to fruition, but not in the commercial motor vehicle space.

This is the passenger motor vehicle space. We have taken the position, as purely a safety organization, that at no time at any point in the future should a professional driver be taken out of the cab of a commercial motor vehicle because it's not safe to do so. *(Applause)*

The first time I worked with ATU actually was on the driver – commercial motor vehicle driver – training negotiated rulemaking five years ago. We talked about getting, you know, to talk about the level of training that you all receive and the professionalism that you all have and the way you conduct yourselves.

Data retention

So, one of, so a couple of things that I wanted to point out that's really important as this technology develops – that's data *retention*. Being able to – a lot of the car companies are developing this technology. They are collecting the data. They are not sharing it.

In the Tesla crash I mentioned back in Florida, NTSB, the National Transportation Safety Board, the most preeminent safety organization in the world – they get deployed all over the world for crashes – they had to go to Tesla to ask for the data for the data and then Tesla had to tell them what the data said.

So, how many of you in a grievance would agree with doing that? Right?

Consumer information

So, we've talked about standardization of data. The other thing we talked about a lot is sufficient consumer information – telling people what their car does. There is a lot of misinformation out there about what the car can and cannot do.

Cyber security

And the other thing we talk about that's particularly of importance I know to you all in particular is cyber security. We have seen all too often – already you have seen – trucks, especially in the European space. We saw it in downtown Manhattan by the World Trade Center where they get turned into weapons unfortunately of terrorism.

The potential to have a fleet of self-driving commercial motor vehicles without a driver in the cab being hacked by a malevolent actor is real and it could be incredibly catastrophic. And there are currently no cyber security standards in place for these things.

Vision test

The other thing I already talked about is driver distraction and then finally what we like to call a "vision test." You all can see the transportation ecosystem that you are operating in. An AV system can't ("see") right now and there needs to be a requirement that it does so before it's put on our public roads and endangers the public.

So, that is all my contact information *(on the screen)*. I know none of you want to ever contact me because I've scared you all half to death. But I wanted to thank you for the opportunity.

Like I said, a lot: this thing is so important, I think, for folks like you all – the professional drivers that are out there, that do such an amazing job transporting people safely every day – is that these things are going to be operating in your ecosystem at some point. Some of

them already are, and we're doing everything we can to make sure that they're developed in a safe manner.

I also wanted to end up on a personal note. I mentioned to you earlier when I first started that my mother was a public teacher – was a president of a public teachers' union.

Well, I was in my office working on driverless cars this Spring when I got the call no son ever wants to get that my mom had cancer. She had Level IV ovarian cancer, but she beat it because the healthcare package her union was able to secure for her. *(Applause)*

'What you do ... is literally saving lives'

So, I don't want – you all know this already – but I would be remiss if I didn't say it, and I would kill myself if I didn't: What you all do as leaders in your public union is literally saving lives. It saved my mother's life. So, I thank you and I thank you for all of the work you do. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Let's give Peter a gift. We thank you for coming out and doing your presentation, thank you. *(Applause)* Okay. Please don't leave. We're going to have – we're going to Skype Bernie in, we ready yet? Five minutes? All right. We have five minutes.

MAURICE POWELL

'Master Transit Operator'

COSTA: Brother Eric Tuck, can you come up? I want to give a special opportunity here for our brother, Eric Tuck, and a 50-year member here, he wanted to say a few words. *(Applause)*

ERIC TUCK, 107-Hamilton, ON: Brothers and Sisters, President Costa, the General Executive Board, Delegates, I want to take this opportunity to present to you, a brother from my Local. Brother Maurice Powell, having reached 50 years as an active transit operator. *(Applause)*

Since Brother Maurice Powell started on August 19, 1969, he operated his bus with Local 107, at the Hamilton Street Railway with pride and distinction. As an ATU member, he always answered the call and was very active in the affairs of the Local.

Those who know Brother Maurice Powell know him as a kind, reliable role model in the Local. It is for these reasons that I hereby declare Maurice Powell a "master" of his craft and bestow upon him the title of "Master Transit Operator." How about a big round? *(Applause)*

COSTA: And on behalf of the ATU, Brother Powell, we have a gift for you – 50 years, God bless.

Standing Ovation

BERNIE SANDERS

Democratic Presidential Candidate,
U.S. Senator from Vermont

VIA SKYPE

COSTA: Okay. I think we are ready for the senator. Please welcome – *live* – U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders.

Standing Ovation

DELEGATES: "Bernie!"

COSTA: Senator, I feel the "Bern."

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS: All right. John, are we Skyping okay? All right.

Let me begin by thanking John Costa and let me thank all of the 190,000 members of the Amalgamated Transit Union for all of the great work that you are doing and have done and will do in the future in standing up for the working people of America. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*



Senator Bernie Sanders, VT, Democratic Presidential Candidate

These are tough times for working people. And what you know and what I know is that we need a government and an economy that works for all of us and not just wealthy campaign contributors and the top one percent. *(Applause)*

And when we are in the White House together, that's the kind of government that we're going to have. We are going to address the needs of working people and not just the wealthy and the powerful, and we are going to transform this economy so that it works for all of us. That is my promise to you. *(Applause)*

Epidemic of violence

Now, let me begin by just touching on a few of the issues that I know are concerns for the ATU. As you all know, there is an epidemic of violence against bus drivers that has got to be addressed. Bus drivers and transit workers should not have to fear being stabbed, being shot at, or being abused when they are on the job. *(Applause)*

And as president, I will do everything I can to work with you, to work with the Union, to work with transit agencies all over this country to make sure that they have the funding they need to ensure the safety and the well-being of bus drivers and transit workers. *(Applause)*

And among many other things, we need much stronger rules at the Federal Transit Administration to combat bus operator assaults and we will provide those rules working with you. *(Applause)*

Privatization

And let me touch on another issue that I have been working on since I was mayor of the city of Burlington, Vermont. And that is I will do everything that I can to oppose privatizations of public services.

Standing Ovation

DELEGATES: "Bernie!"

Whether it is in public transit or any other essential government service *(Applause)* – in state after state, city

after city, the privatization of public transit, toll roads, parking meters, and highway rest stops has been an absolute disaster and we will stop that trend. *(Applause)*

You understand that I have always understood that this type of privatization does not save taxpayers money. *Does not!* What it does do is lead to poor service and poor quality while enriching the executives on Wall Street and in private corporations. *(Applause)*

'Unacceptable'

Let me tell you that it is unacceptable to me that about 30 percent of the 500,000 public school buses in America today are operated by private contractors. It is unacceptable to me that three companies: First Group, Veolia Transportation, and MV Transportation have dominated the private operation of transit services throughout this country. As president, I will prevent the privatization of public services and I will return subcontracted work to public entities.

Standing Ovation

Wages

And it seems to me that people who do the enormously important work of transporting our kids to schools or transporting passengers to work or to their homes, they deserve to have wages that are commensurate with the important work they do. And we are going to fight to substantially increase the wages, benefits, and working conditions of private transit workers. *(Applause)*

Unfair labor practices

And together we will aggressively pursue grievances and unfair labor practices to preserve the integrity of our collective bargaining agreements with private employers. *(Applause)*

And this is something, let me add something that I very, very strongly believe in and that as president, not only will I oppose the privatization of public transit, I will invest \$300 billion to expand public transit, increase ridership *(Applause)*, and put another \$600 billion into highspeed rail that will be operated

and built by good-paying union workers, not low wage private contractors. *(Applause)*

Infrastructure

Now, I don't have to tell anybody in the audience or anybody in America that our infrastructure today in the wealthiest nation in the history of the world is an infrastructure that is collapsing. And that means that our roads, our bridges, our railways, our water systems, our sewers, our dams, our culverts, our housing and our schools need enormous repair.

But when I talk about a crumbling infrastructure, I'm also talking about putting billions into public transit systems all across this nation. *(Applause)*

Climate change

And the reason we need to do that – the reasons are numerous. But one of them is that we need to combat climate change by transforming our energy system away from fossil fuels to energy efficiency and sustainable energy. And to do that, to do that, we need to invest in public transportation in a way that we have never ever done in the history of this country. *(Applause)*

Instead of privatizing our public transit systems, we will make a \$300 billion investment in them. We will increase public transit ridership by 65 percent by the year 2030. *(Applause)*

We will make sure that our public transit system is accessible and affordable for seniors, for people with disabilities and in our rural communities. *(Applause)*

Light rail

Brothers and Sisters, in terms of rail and in terms of public transportation, the sad truth is that the United States of America – our great country – is falling behind many other countries around the world. Japan has trains that can reach nearly 200 miles per hour. France began highspeed train service in the 1980s. China has the world's fastest and largest highspeed rail network. If China, if France, if Japan, can make advances in highspeed rail, please do not tell me that

the United States of America cannot do even better. *(Applause)*

So, Brothers and Sisters, let me go beyond the immediate issues that impact all of you as proud transit workers, people who are getting, every day, millions of people to school, to work, back to home. Let me touch on some of the issues that impact working-class people all across this nation.

War against the working class

And that is, what we understand, is that for too long there has been a war against the working class of this country by the corporate elites, and together we are going to end that war and we are going to provide a decent standard-of-living for the working class of this country. *(Applause)*

It is not acceptable to me – and you know, we don't talk about this in Congress, we don't talk about it in the media – the corporately owned media. But let me tell you what you are not going to see on television tonight, and that is – in America, we have more income and wealth inequality than we have had since the 1920s. And the sad truth is that this country is rapidly moving into an oligarchic form of society where a handful of billionaires have increasing control over the economic and political life of this country.

'Not acceptable'

So, let me be as clear as I can be. It is not acceptable to me that while millions and millions of workers are forced to work two or three jobs to put food on the table that we have three families in America – *three families* – owning more wealth than the bottom half of American society – not acceptable to me or the American people. *(Applause)*

It is not acceptable that the top one percent owns more wealth than the bottom 92 percent, or that 49 percent of all new income today – *49 percent* – is going to the top one percent.

It is not acceptable that over the last 30 years, the top one percent has seen a \$21 trillion dollar increase in their wealth, while the bottom half of American people have

less wealth than they did 30 years ago. That is not what America is supposed to be about.

It is not acceptable to me or to you that when the very, very rich get richer, half a million Americans today are sleeping out on the streets because we have a crisis in affordable housing. That is not what America is supposed to be about. *(Applause)*

It is not acceptable to me that we have hundreds of thousands of bright young people who cannot afford to go to college or go to the trade schools that they need to go to in order to get the good-paying jobs that are out there.

Cancel student debt

Not acceptable to me, that 45 million Americans today are struggling with student debt. And that is why together we are going to change the priorities in America. We are going to make public colleges and universities tuition-free. *(Applause)*

And if the United States Congress, against my vote, could bail out the crooks on Wall Street 11 years ago, if Trump and his friends could give over a trillion dollars in tax breaks to the top one percent, you know what else we can do: we can cancel all student debt in this country. And that's what I intend to do. *(Applause)*

Healthcare

Let me tell you what else – what else – we have got to do as a nation. It is an international embarrassment – an international embarrassment – that the United States of America today remains the only major country on earth not to guarantee healthcare to all people as a human right. *(Applause)*

Today in America we have 87 million people who are uninsured or underinsured. We have 30,000 people who die each year because they don't get to a doctor when they should. We have 500,000 people going bankrupt because of high medical bills.

Can you imagine being diagnosed with cancer and having to deal with all of the issues that you deal with when you are struggling with a terrible illness

and then on top of all of that you have to worry about your family going bankrupt?

And Brothers and Sisters, in the midst of all of this, we pay the highest price in the world for prescription drugs and the healthcare industry last year made \$100 billion in profit. That is not right.

And that is why I intend to move this country forward to guarantee healthcare for every man, woman, and child without any premiums, without any co-payments, without any deductibles, without any out-of-pocket expenses through a *Medicare for All* single-payer program. *(Applause)*

'A human right'

Healthcare is a human right, not a privilege. The function of healthcare is to provide quality care to all, not to make the insurance companies and the drug companies outrageously wealthy.

Let me conclude by just saying this: We have a president of the United States – and it gives me no pleasure to tell you this – it really does not – but we have a president of the United States who is a pathological liar. *(Applause)*

We have a president who is a racist *(Applause)*, who is a sexist, who is a homophobe, and who is a religious bigot. *(Applause)*

And what is this president trying to do? What this president is trying to do in an unprecedented and ugly way is to win reelection by dividing the American people up based on the color of our skin, based on where we were born, based on our religion, our sexual orientation, and that is not what a president should be doing.

And what our campaign is about is doing exactly the opposite of what Trump is doing. What our campaign is about is bringing the American people together, Black and White and Latino, Native American, Asian American, gay, straight, born in America, people who have come into America. We're going to bring our people together to fight for an agenda – fight for an agenda – that works for all of us, and not just the one percent.

But what this campaign understands that I think no

other campaign out there has really ever understood, is that the only way to transform this country is when we bring millions of people together led by the trade union movement to take on the very powerful special interests on Wall Street, the insurance companies, the drug companies, the fossil fuel industry. You name it.

Most sweeping labor reform 'ever introduced'

And that is why I have introduced the most sweeping labor rule reform ever introduced in modern American history. Because I believe the only way that we grow the middle class is when we grow the union movement in America. *(Applause)*

And let me tell you why I have introduced this legislation called the *Workplace Democracy Act*. I have introduced it because millions of workers all across this country want to join unions. *(Applause)* They know that when you are in a union, you earn better wages, you have better working conditions. They know that.

But today because of illegal employer opposition, they are unable to join a union and we're going to put an end to that employer going after the key people when joining unions. So, this is what I'm going to do and what our legislation is about. What our legislation says that if 50 percent of workers in a bargaining unit plus one sign a card, sign a card saying they want to join a union, they will have a union. *(Applause)*

And if an employer refuses to negotiate a first contract, that employer will be severely punished. *(Applause)*

Ending right-to-work

And what our legislation also does is end Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley law which allows for so-called right-to-work states. We're going to end right-to-work in America. *(Applause)*

Brothers and Sisters, thank you so much for what you are doing every day on the job – the important work you are doing. Thank you for helping to grow the trade union movement.

What our campaign is about is telling Wall Street, the insurance companies, the drug companies, and the fossil fuel industry, and all of the powerful special interests, that we're going to create an economy and a government that works for all of us and not just them.

So, I look forward to working with you in the months and years in front of us to create the kind of America that we know we can become. Thank you all very much for what you do.

Standing Ovation

COSTA: Bernie! Bernie! Thank you, Senator. Thank you, Senator.

DELEGATES: "Bernie!" *(Applause)*

PERRY: Two announcements:

- The Black Caucus will meet this afternoon at 4:30 in Champagne 3 and 4; and the
- Resolutions Committee will reconvene tomorrow in Las Vegas 1 at 7:30 a.m.

SARA NELSON

International President, AFA-CWA

Video Introduction

(Applause)

PERRY: Brothers and Sisters, please welcome to the stage a leader that is helping to put the fight back into our fighting labor movement – International President of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, Sister Sara Nelson. *(Applause)*

AFACWA INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT SARA NELSON: All right! I did enjoy that, although you might hear some of those lines again. So, I'm super excited to be here with all of you and I really want to thank your president, John Costa, for the invitation.

And it is with incredible respect and a heavy heart that I offer sincere condolences on the loss of our Brother Larry Hanley, whose spirit is forever woven into the fabric of this Union and our movement and whose determination and strategic vision gives us all inspiration to fight harder, smarter, and even more determined for what we, as



AFA-CWA International President Sara Nelson

working people, deserve for the dignity, respect, and fair share of the value that we create.

‘That’s a hell of a lot of power’

I’m also excited to be here because we are in transportation. And let’s be clear about this, this country doesn’t move, this country doesn’t sell goods, this country doesn’t conduct any business without transportation. *(Applause)*

And together that’s a hell of a lot of power. We’re going to own our democracy – not the corporate elite who have been dragging us around for way too long.

So, my union – the Association of Flight Attendants, with 50,000 members at 20 airlines – first formed to beat back discrimination that ranged from quitting at age 30 or stepping on a weight scale until 1993. We even fought for men to have the same rights as women on the job! You are welcome guys. *(Applause)*

And we were at the forefront of LGBTQ rights because it doesn’t matter who you love, it only matters that you love. *(Applause)*

That’s the spirit that led flight attendants to declare we wouldn’t work flights that facilitated the Administration’s evil policy of family separations and it’s the spirit that mobilized action against ICE detention of one of our members. Within 18 hours of when it came to our attention, we got her released from ICE detention. *(Applause)*

‘They hold us in contempt’

Now – my first week on the job – a 35 year flight attendant pulled me aside. And after I watched her fight with a supervisor in the office on a contractual issue – and she won, of course – she said, “Listen – management – they think of us as their ‘wives’ or their ‘mistresses.’ In either case, they hold us in contempt.”

That was a lot to take for a 23 year-old fresh out of company training, by the way. But what I remember is what she said next: “Your only place of worth is with your fellow flying partners. If you wear your union pin and we stick together, there is nothing we can’t accomplish.” *(Applause)*

‘There is nothing we can’t accomplish’

So, if we stick together, ATU, there is nothing we can’t accomplish. *(Applause)*

Now, we have the right to fight. We have the right to be here today because of our union and we need to recognize that. We need to start out right now recognizing that with some good union pride.

I’ve been all over this country, and I ask crowds that I speak with to stand up and give me some good union pride. So, I’d like to capture it on video and the public gets to make their own assessment about who has the most union pride across this labor movement.

So, I’m going to record this. And on the count of three – you might want to stand up because you’re really going to want to compete – North Carolina just set the bar really high on this last week, by the way.

So, when I count to three, I want you to shout out your local and then I want to hear some cheers about that local. Okay?

One. Two. Three: *(Cheers)*

DELEGATES: “ATU!”

NELSON: That’s pretty good.

So, your Convention is addressing pressing issues for your members. Attacks on transit workers. I will be in Congress tomorrow testifying on the implementation of

the FAA Bill and I will make sure to tell those members of Congress that they need to get on, cosponsor, and pass the *Transit Worker and Pedestrian Protection Act* as well. (Applause) They need to do it for Thomas Dunn and Jubal Fraser and all of you. (Applause)

You are also taking on privatization and making it clear that cutting service is just another attempt to make public transportation not work and drive to privatization, so they can lower wages and take your pensions and we're not going to let that happen. (Applause)

'Technology will never replace the beating heart'

You are taking on the issue of autonomous vehicles. But I want to tell you something, remember – technology will never replace the beating heart. Never fear a robot. Fear of robots is how the rich intend to keep us down. But Uber drivers remind us that we have the power together. (Applause)

And you are making organizing a high priority for this Union. We have to do that. The vast majority of Americans want a union and we have to make sure to give it to them. (Applause)

'Our rights were hard-won'

Now our rights did not materialize out of the good will of corporations. Our rights were hard-won:

- In the midst of the fight for the eight-hour day, four men were framed for the Haymarket Affair and hanged by the State of Illinois.
- 143 garment workers died in the Triangle Shirtwaist fire because the bosses didn't want the workers to take breaks.
- 20 were shot or burned alive, including women and children, when the miners in Ludlow, CO, were striking to gain the right at work for – the laws that existed in Colorado already – for the right to join their union.
- A group of auto workers, including Walter Reuther, were brutally beaten by the company

thugs when fighting for a raise and a shorter workday.

- And two days ago, I was on the picket line with GM workers, 50,000 workers, we stand with them to fight back. They are trying to take everything that the Reuther brothers fought for and gained for all of us and we are not going to go back. (Applause)
- 30 years ago, this summer, our CWA brother, Gerry Horgan, was struck and killed while on the picket line for the NYNEX strike which included fighting for healthcare.
- And just like Bernie Sanders knows, we all know that a for profit healthcare system is no way to go. We know that *Medicare for All* is the only way to make sure that healthcare is a right for every single person in this country. (Applause)

'Horrific'

Now, each of the tragedies in our labor history were horrific. But they were also the driving force in the workers' hearts to fight for change, to make sure that our friends and families did not die in vain.

Corporate thieves today don't turn on us with guns, and clubs, and knives, they inject money into our politics and stack the court and buy the agenda in the statehouses and in our Congress. They try to strip us of our rights through court decisions, massive trade deals, executive orders, or the refusal to implement gains like the ten-hours rest flight attendants won under law last year, but still don't experience because the DOT has refused to order the airlines to put it in place.

DELEGATES: "Boos!"

NELSON: Boardrooms in Wall Street like to say the business definition of our airlines, mainline, regional, ultra-low cost, define the value of our work as aviation's "first responders." It's another form of misclassification of workers. But the results are the same – people are living in poverty, having to choose between paying rent or the electric bill, and with no safety net in this healthcare system if they get sick.

The outsourcing, contracting, understaffing – every single industry is playing the same game. This is not his fight or her fight or their fight, this is *our* fight. *(Applause)*

Since 1978, executive pay has risen 940 percent while worker compensation has only risen 12 percent in that same period of time. United, American, and Delta alone have awarded, nearly, \$30 billion in stock buybacks since 2014, while cutting flight attendant staffing and claiming that they can't do anything about the poverty wages at regional airlines or in our catering kitchens, our airline catering kitchens, where UNITE HERE is fighting to make sure that one job is enough. *(Applause)*

'People are ready to fight!'

American corporations have awarded \$3 trillion in stock buybacks since 2009. And the government bailed out banks, but not regular working people during the Great Recession. There is money to be had and we are going to take it. *(Applause)* Because these conditions are unsustainable and the truth is, people are ready to fight.

I have good news about this. Labor is rising. More people than ever, a super-majority of Americans want a union in their workplace and to be part of our movement. *(Applause)*

Now I want to summon in your mind's eye the faces of all the people who've walked a picket line in the last few years, not even members of unions themselves, some of them. So, picture them:

- West Virginia's teachers and their mineworker parents and grandparents, grocery workers, hotel workers
- Google engineers
- Uber drivers
- Amazon workers
- Transit workers on Cape Cod *(Applause)*
- Wayfair workers in Boston protesting their company's collaboration with ICE, and

- Coal miners in Kentucky who have been occupying the tracks and blocking coal trains to demand that they're paid what they've earned.

There are no illegal strikes. There are only unsuccessful ones. *(Applause)* But we are not "one and done" in the labor movement. Our unions are the structures that last, and we need to build our unions like never before.

'Solidarity is a force stronger than gravity'

Solidarity is a force stronger than gravity and I know solidarity because I've lived it. As a brand new flight attendant at United Airlines the company failed to pay me. With a zero balance in my bank account, and no idea how I would even eat that day, I went down into the airline office to ask why I hadn't been paid and what was going on.

They had no answers, and for the first time I felt like I was just a number in an HR file. The tears started to roll, when I felt a tap on my shoulder that changed everything. I turned around and saw someone standing there who looked a lot like me or at least she was wearing the same uniform. I had never seen her before, otherwise. She was holding her checkbook and asking me how to spell my name. She handed me a check for \$800, and she said, "Number 1 – you call our union, and, Number 2 – make sure that you take care of yourself."

I did call our union, and I got my paycheck the very next day.

'In our unions we are never alone'

But I learned everything I needed to know about our union in that moment when she was standing in front of me because our unions can fight for us like none of us can fight for ourselves alone. And in our unions, we are never alone. *(Applause)*

On June 26, 2015, a dear friend walked into my office just a few minutes after the Supreme Court decided for marriage equality. If I'm being honest, I was feeling pretty cynical when he walked in. And don't get me

wrong, I wanted to celebrate, but at the time I was in the middle of a fight to stop furloughs of several of our members and we were trying to stop the Obama Administration from pushing a trade agreement that would gut millions of jobs and our streets were filled with protesters demanding answers for the killing of black youth. I couldn't see how this decision would have an impact on any of that.

But my friend, standing in my office with tears running down his face – and he's not a crier – he said, "I don't have a partner. I don't know that I will ever be married, but that's not what today is about.

"I did not realize until today the oppression I have felt my entire life. But today, my country recognizes me and the choices I make in my personal life as the same under the law. The feeling of being acknowledged as equal has moved me more than I ever expected it to."

And in those words, I remember two things that are easy to lose sight of, but that we cannot forget, Number 1 – every step forward makes the next step possible, and, No. 2 – we cannot ever dismiss the oppression of someone else as their problem. *(Applause)*

'We beat back discriminatory practices through a contract'

These discriminatory issues were at the heart of why my union was formed. Some of the earliest LGBTQ wins were in our contracts. As we beat back discriminatory practices through a contract at one airline, another soon followed suit. And just as important, it gave our members a sense of the power that they had to change their own lives.

Some of those members and our union leaders testified in the San Francisco hearings that led to domestic partner benefits on the road to marriage equality.

When my friend came into my office, all of the years of union activism, fighting for those rights, came flooding back to me, and suddenly, the ruling wasn't a distant thing handed down by the Court. It was the natural outcome of years of hard work. We won through solidarity, changing one contract, one workplace, one community at a time.

'All work has dignity'

Sexism, racism, homophobia, cultural traditions, have for a century been the premier tactic of the boss to hold us down, to keep us divided, and deny us the power that we have together to take what we are owed as workers. They like to divide us by job classification as well. They like to have us think that some jobs are worth less than others, but all work has dignity. *(Applause)*

Wouldn't we be stronger if we saw fear of someone else as a tactic by the powerful to divide the working class? Wouldn't we be better if people, different from ourselves, raised our curiosity and we asked them to tell their stories? This is what happens on the picket line. This is possible in a sustained structure of our unions.

I think about this as the "Me Too" movement broke, and the calls that we got in our office because as they were looking around and saying, "Gee, I wonder who has experienced sexual harassment at work – flight attendants were at the top of the list to call. And I told them – I told them our stories, and I told them my stories, but I wanted to make sure that I was actually reflecting the reality of today because our jobs had been objectified, sexualized in ads with things like, "I'm Cheryl, fly me," and making us wear hot pants and gogo boots and selling sex on our backs.

'Stories came pouring in'

And so, we asked for these stories, and stories came pouring in. It's still going on. But as we were asking for these stories, we didn't get the stories from men. We are 80 percent women in our work force, but I have witnessed the objectification and sexual harassment and even sexual assault of men on the job because our profession has been objectified. And sexual harassment is not about sex, it is about power, and the people who have to feel like they are bigger men by keeping someone else under their heel are the ones who commit the crimes. *(Applause)*

'Don't you get it?'

So, they weren't telling the stories, and I asked them, "Why aren't you telling your stories?" And they said

to me, “Don’t you get it, we are in a workforce that is 80 percent women. If we are going to have any chance of having any bargaining power at the table, we have to make the most out of this moment for equality for women.”

When someone in your workforce is marginalized – that is hurting your own power. That is hurting your own bargaining power. We have to stand up for everyone who stands beside us and does the same work that we do. *(Applause)*

Now, the labor movement is not always at its best. The most corrosive idea that people in power have pushed into our minds is the idea that individual accomplishment is the ultimate achievement, and if we succeed, we don’t owe anyone else a chance to do the same.

PATCO strike sent a powerful signal

When Reagan broke the PATCO strike in 1981, there were plenty in Labor who quietly whispered that the air traffic controllers who had endorsed Reagan got what they deserved. As a labor movement, we didn’t back their play or stand united. And I was in third grade at the time, but I say “we” because we have to own the movement that belongs to all of us at every age.

When PATCO fell, it sent a powerful signal to the corporate titans and working people alike that it was “open season” on unions. Both the people in power and working people got the message loud and clear.

In 2005, at the end of a three-year-long bankruptcy, United Airlines came after our pensions, like Pan Am, TWA, and U.S. Airways before them; American, Northwest, and Delta after them. When \$80 million would have saved our pension, the bankruptcy court approved terminating it while awarding \$400 million to the top executives and a \$4.5 million in a pension trust for the CEO.

‘We fought every way we could’

Now, we fought every way we could. We took our fight to Congress. We spread out all over Capitol Hill to get

lawmakers to force United Airlines to keep its pension promise. The pension we bargained for – the pension that we had earned.

At the time, many congressional offices did not even know what the PBGC was because ever since the passage of ERISA, pensions were simply a “promise” that would never be broken. Then when the White House plan to privatize Social Security didn’t work, the attack turned to defined benefit pension plans. It turned to privatizing our post office and many other functions of our government, too.

House Democrats tried to hold a hearing, but they didn’t control the Congress and when Republicans refused, the Democrats set up the first ever online hearing. In just one week, 15,000 flight attendants submitted personal testimony to bring the human factor to the fight.

‘I am a promise broken. I am despair’

One testimony stood out to me: “My name is Jamie Manley. I’m a 46-year-old woman. I’m a wife. I’m a mother of four young children. I’m a daughter of a proud World War II veteran and Korean War veteran. I’m a daughter of a liberated 1960s feminist who worked to put food on the table for her family. I’m a sister, aunt, friend and neighbor. I’m honest, hardworking, faithful. I am college educated, community-oriented, and family driven. I am the girl next door and I am exactly what United Airlines was looking for when they hired me 21 years ago.

“I am their past, but I am also their future. I am a promise broken. I’m despair. Can you see my face yet?

“I’m sad. I’m worried. I’m the face of 28,000 flight attendants who might lose their defined benefit pension and I’m a burden to taxpayers – I am Jamie Manley.”

‘Above all, we must fight’

Our efforts turned the House around and we got a bipartisan vote to stop termination of our pensions.

Now, Mother Jones told us, “We will fight and win. We will fight and lose, but above all, we must fight.”

The Senate failed to act. Our pensions were terminated, but because we fought, we doubled the amount United was willing to pay for a pension replacement plan and we saved retiree healthcare for our retirees. *(Applause)*

Sometimes we fight by rallying. Sometimes we fight by marching. Sometimes we fight by voting. Sometimes we fight by singing. Sometimes we fight by striking. But above all when we fight – we fight together. *(Applause)*

Now, flight attendants will never fall prey to the “I lost mine, so you should lose yours, too.” ATU, we are with you. We know which side we’re on. We work. They don’t. We’re on your side. *(Applause)*

‘Using power builds power’

Now people think power is a limited resource. But using power builds power. Once workers get a taste of our power, we will not settle for a bad deal and we won’t stand by while someone else gets screwed either. That’s what happened during the government shutdown.

Only because of our unions, we heard the real stories of real people. During the shutdown, some agencies were handed down memos from the White House to tell federal workers that they were forbidden from speaking about how they were faring during the shutdown. Our unions put a stop to that to make sure people could express their personal hardship that they face every day.

‘Real people were in crisis’

And workers, real people, were in crisis:

- No money to pay for rent, for childcare, or a tank of gas.
- The federal worker stretching insulin through the night and wondering if she will wake up in the morning.
- The TSA officer in her third trimester with no certainty for her unborn child.
- The union vet advocate who was attacked by the Administration for speaking truth about the crisis created for a quarter million veterans with

the instability of the shutdown and the increased risk of veteran suicide.

- The air traffic controller who whispered to his union leader, “I just don’t know how long I can hang on.”
- Our TSA brother, Robert Henry, in Orlando, who took his life jumping eight floors to his death in the middle of the security checkpoint.
- To the public federal workers who were suddenly no longer nameless, faceless bureaucrats, the stories made them human to the public. And for flight attendants, aviation security isn’t academic – it’s life and death.

‘That could have been me’

I frequently worked flight 175. The plane you can picture hitting the south tower of the World Trade Center because that’s the image captured from so many angles after American Flight 11 struck the north tower 17 minutes earlier.

And that could have been me. But instead it was my friends. It was Amy and Michael, Robert, Catherine, Al, Alicia, Amy, Jesus, and Mary Ann. Even if it had not led to tragedy, any breakdown in the system means flight attendants aren’t flying. As hourly workers, when we don’t fly, we can’t pay our rent. So, this shutdown was a threat to us too.

Many people wanted federal workers with no right to strike and the threat of PATCO style federal indictments hanging over their heads to walk off the jobs and end the shutdown themselves. But that would have played right into the hands of the politicians who pushed us into the senseless shutdown in the first place – an excuse to privatize major functions of our government.

When two million people were locked out of work or being forced to come to work without pay and the rest of us were going to work in increasingly unsafe conditions, I asked the labor movement, “What the hell are we waiting for? Let’s end the shutdown with a general strike.” *(Applause)*

We had to urgently define what was at stake and what

leverage we had to fix it. Flight attendants made clear our rights allowed us to refuse to work flights that were unsafe, and we made clear we were going to exercise those rights. Calling for Labor to talk about a general strike made clear who had the power.

‘Solidarity is our power’

When it seemed that there was no answer and no end in sight, Labor led the way, but the strike is our tactic. Solidarity is our power.

The shutdown ended not so much because of a few grounded flights in LaGuardia, but because those ten air traffic controllers who couldn’t safely do their jobs any longer signaled a much more powerful threat to those who want to take all of the money and all of the control.

Labor is rising and the very last thing they could allow to happen in this process is to allow us to taste our power. Now, some thought the shutdown was about a wall, and if you were looking on social media or network news, you might think the wall was already built because the country was so bitterly divided over racist fear-mongering, but it was all a lie.

I spoke with transportation security officers who told me that if it weren’t for the stress of not getting a paycheck, they had never been happier at work. Instead of grouching during screening, people said thank you. They were kind and they offered help.

‘Most people want to choose kindness’

Most people want to choose kindness. We pull together when things get bad. I saw it after 9/11 and I saw it during the shutdown. Americans like to feel solidarity. We have the chance in this moment to build a labor movement for today, one founded in mutual respect and dignity – a future with good union jobs and a clean planet where our greatgrandchildren can rise even higher than we can dream. Our lives and our well-being are completely tied together with workers in Mexico and Canada, China, and Germany. Yet politicians in every country seek to divide us, pit us against each other.

‘Carbon emissions threaten our very civilization’

The energy sector employs millions of workers. Our communities depend on coal, oil, and natural gas, yet carbon emissions threaten our very civilization. It’s a threat to flight attendant jobs, and we are already being thrown around the cabin with clear air turbulence that is getting worse and worse every day. And when we get thrown, so do the 300 pound carts that land on top of us.

Now, I have been in a lot of boardrooms, and the people in those boardrooms do not have the corner market on smarts. We need to drive the conversation and set the agenda. We can fight climate change and create good jobs with rights and benefits. That’s why I support the Green New Deal.

But we can only fight climate change if we stand together, if we listen and respect our brothers and sisters in the energy sector and we demand the rich and powerful pay their fair share in the fight against climate change. And that we begin by honoring the promises we have made to the people who have kept our cities lit and our homes warmed – promises that would have pensions and healthcare that they could count on in their retirement.

Build a movement that sees itself as a movement

Part of our task is to build a labor movement that sees itself truly as a labor *movement*, not just a collection of separate unions, but a movement that is big enough and broad enough to lift everyone up who works in America. Now, we can do this. We can do this together.

We were all inspired by Puerto Rico. The uprising was in response to vulture capitalists who swooped in, bought up the island’s debt and demanded more and more cuts from the people. But it erupted in force when leaked emails and instant messages showed the governor and his inner circle mocking victims of a hurricane, spreading homophobic and misogynist lies, and joking openly about corruption. So, sound familiar?

Social and economic issues were inseparable. Teachers, sanitation workers, nurses, drivers, and civil service

workers organized through their unions, and driven by the values of their island, marched and changed history. The general strike brought down a U.S. sitting governor.

‘We don’t have to wait for the next election’

With our unions, we don’t have to wait for the next election to seek change. The power of solidarity gets results right away. Change comes fast when the risk becomes too great for those in power, and power shifts to the people when we act in unity. *(Applause)*

Now, people are hurting all over this country, and they are looking for answers, and they are looking for leadership. I learned the hard way at the bargaining table with some of the world’s most powerful corporations stacked with even the power of the bankruptcy court that the solidarity and courage of working people is the greatest force for good in human history. So, let’s use it. Spread the word that the labor movement belongs to all working people.

And women, people of color, young people – join unions and run unions. We need your vision, your passion, your creativity, and your leadership. Spread the word that unions are for everyone.

Build your Union!

And if you are done with poverty – build your Union!

If you want affordable housing – build your Union!

If you want to stop attacks on transit workers with accountability – build your Union!

If you want to close the dangerous safety loopholes and self-regulation of companies like Boeing – build your Union! *(Applause)*

If you are done with choosing dying or putting your family in financial ruin – build your Union!

If you’re sick and tired of pension defaults for Main Street and stock buybacks for Wall Street – build your Union!

If you want a green economy that saves our planet and creates good union jobs – build your Union! –

DELEGATES: *“Build your Union!”*

NELSON: If you want for yourself what you are willing to want for someone else, even if they are different from you – build your Union! –

DELEGATES: *“Build your Union!”*

NELSON: And, finally, ATU, look to the people next to you. Look to your right. Look to your left. Look to everyone around you and tell them, “I’ve got your back.” Ready? –

DELEGATES: *“I’ve got your back!”*

NELSON: Are you ready to stand up, fight back?

DELEGATES: *“Yeah!”*

NELSON: Stand up! Fight back! –

DELEGATES: *“Stand up! Fight back!”*



NELSON: I’ve got your back! –

DELEGATES: *“I’ve got your back!”*

NELSON: Stand up! Fight back! –

DELEGATES: *“Stand up! Fight back!”*

NELSON: I’ve got your back! –

DELEGATES: *“I’ve got your back!”*

NELSON: Stand up! Fight back! –

DELEGATES: *“Stand up! Fight back!”*

NELSON: I’ve got your back! –

DELEGATES: *“I’ve got your back!”*

NELSON: Thank you, ATU.

COSTA: Sara! Sara!

DELEGATES: “Sara!”

COSTA: Sara, we wanted to present you with a gift. Thank you for coming out. She’s great, isn’t she? Good luck, and we are with you.

Standing Ovation

NELSON: Thank you. Thank you all.

COSTA: Sisters and Brothers, ... we’re going to be breaking down tonight. Tonight, the reception and banquet hall will be held here at the convention hall starting at 5:00 o’clock with a dinner starting at 6:00. So, we’re going to have the cocktail hour at 5:00 p.m. 6:00 o’clock will be dinner, and then tomorrow we’ll reconvene. But before we do that.

Raffle Drawing

PERRY: Brothers and Sisters, a very important announcement:

- The hotel staff has to prepare the hall for the banquet tonight immediately, so please look about yourself and pick up anything that you have brought into the hall and leave the hall very quickly. Thank you very much.

COSTA: Hold on. We got a winner:

STANLEY SMALLS: Brother Al Barnes, 281-New Haven, CT. Brother Al Barnes, 281.

COSTA: We’ll hold it for him.

All right. We’re recessed until tomorrow. Thank you. Enjoy.

*Whereupon, the ATU International Convention recessed
to reconvene on Thursday, September 26, 2019,
at 8:30 a.m.*

DAY FOUR

Thursday Session
September 26, 2019

The 59th International Convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union reconvened on Thursday, September 26, 2019, at 8:48 a.m.

CHAIR and INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT JOHN COSTA: Sergeants-at-Arms, can you have everybody seated?

PERRY (*announcer*): Members of the Credentials Committee are asked to assemble on the stage immediately after the invocation.

COSTA: Good morning.

DELEGATES: *"Good morning."*

COSTA: Good Morning!

DELEGATES: *"Good Morning!"*

COSTA: Okay. That's a little better. So, did we enjoy ourselves last night? How was the banquet? (*Cheers*)

Good, good, and I'd like to recognize our staff here that helped us run that last night. Let's give a recognition to the ATU staff on the great job and the great show we had. (*Applause*)

We are going to have a pretty busy day ahead of us today. So, we are going to hear from some of the committees, we have some videos that we are going to do.

REV. RALPH WILLIAMSON

Pastor, First African Methodist
Episcopal Church, North Las Vegas.

COSTA: But at this time, I'd like to call up Pastor Ralph to bless the Convention.

PASTOR RALPH WILLIAMSON: Bless you, thank you. Good morning, ATU.

DELEGATES: *"Good morning."*



Reverend Ralph Williamson, First African Methodist Episcopal Church, North Las Vegas

WILLIAMSON: Let us open our hearts and bow for a moment of prayer.

Eternal God who commits to us the swift and solemn trust of life, since we know not what a day may bring forth but only that the hour for serving You, is always present, may we be guided in our work, our craft, and our profession to be a light that shines in the midst of darkness and that others may see our good works and we may glorify You in all that we do.

Without Your presence in our midst, without Your guidance, oh, God, to direct our inquiries, that by due diligence and right to serve you, we labor in vain.

Lift us above unrighteous anger and mistrust with a simple steadfast reliance on service by doing the best we can in our various capacities.

While we are gathered here in the City of Las Vegas, we ask special protection of our nation and of our families in our absence in the places where we have traveled from, we ask that You keep all of our children under Your watchful care.

Thank you for the privilege of life

Thank you once again for the privilege of life and the opportunity to be a part of such a great time in history of this great organization, ATU.

I pray your blessings upon all that we do during this, our 59th Convention, in the name of the One who created each and every one of us, we pray. Amen.

DELEGATES: *"Amen."* (*Applause*)

COSTA: Thank you, Pastor Ralph Williamson.

DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTION NO. 3

COSTA: Mic. 3:

MARQUEAL WILLIAMS, 241-Chicago, IL: Good morning, Delegates, John, Executive Board. Yesterday, I asked for clarity on Resolution 3. Before I go in and ask you the question, I'm going to explain what happened.

In our Maintenance Committee, I went there, John Lindsay, I mean, I'm sorry, Jim Lindsay, said this was a dead issue. That we cannot talk about it – it's a dead issue. I asked him: I got clarity from President Costa that this is not.

He did his due diligence and called Dan Smith to the room. Dan Smith came to the room and said that the members voted it down – this is a dead issue. Now, you cannot talk about this resolution, what you could try to do is implement it in Resolution I.

I told him, no. I got clarity that we will resolve and talk about this issue here, Resolution 3. Because I got clarity, from you, Mr. Costa.

So, my thing and my question is: Was Resolution 3, supposed to have been discussed and resolved during the Maintenance Committee?

COSTA: Yes, Brother, we are dealing with that in the Maintenance Committee, that resolution. We will when that comes up, that resolution...

WILLIAMS: No.

COSTA: ...will be dealt with in that.

WILLIAMS: It did not get dealt with. I sat on that Maintenance Committee.

COSTA: Okay.

WILLIAMS: I sat on that committee. Resolution 3 did not get heard in that committee. Resolution 3, what we did was try to put a BandAid on Resolution I for Resolution 3, which like I say, Resolution 3 is totally separate from Resolution I.

COSTA: Okay.

WILLIAMS: Resolution I is just saying that if we get

federally funded for this learning center that it will be implemented. It's a big "if."

COSTA: Okay. We are going to deal with that when that committee comes up. This is out of order right now. We are not dealing with resolutions right now. We are going to deal with that resolution when [we hear from] the Maintenance Committee, and you'll have your opportunity then to talk against, or in favor of.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.

COSTA: Thank you.

FINAL REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

COSTA: Okay. At this time, can we have the Credentials Committee Report?

COMMITTEE CHAIR ERIC TUCK, 107-Hamilton, ON: Mr. Chairman, delegates to this 59th Convention, this is the final report of the Committee on Credentials. Since the presentation to this Convention of our second supplemental report, no additional delegates have registered.



Delegate Eric Tuck, 107-Hamilton, ON

663 delegates

In total the committee has reviewed and found to be in order credentials for 663 delegates. Of those delegates, 640 are voting delegates. There are also 23 non-voting delegates, consisting of 21 international officers, one

delegate from ATU Canada, and one delegate from the New Jersey State Council.

The credentials for the 640 voting delegates have been reviewed and are found to be eligible for participation in the election of international officers and AFL-CIO convention delegates and alternates.

208 locals represented

Mr. Chairman, the 59th convention delegates gathered here represent 208 ATU locals, one joint bargaining council, and ATU Canada.

At this time, Mr. Chairman, we applaud International President Costa and the other international officers and staff for their efforts to prepare this Convention, so that we may deliberate and chart the course of our future.

Our committee is particularly grateful for the assistance of International Vice President Janis Borchardt. Mr. Chairman, I move this report.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: *"Seconds."*

COSTA: Second. Any questions? *(No Response)*

Hearing none. All in favor say "aye."

DELEGATES: Chorus of *"ayes."*

COSTA: Opposed? *(No Response)*

Motion adopted. *(Gavel Knock)*

(Applause)

COMMITTEE CHAIR ERIC TUCK, 107-Hamilton, ON: Mr. Chairman, at this time I would like to thank all of the members of the Credentials Committee for their hard work and a job well done and would ask that following this report, our secretary, Jeff Richardson, read the names of the committee members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY JEFF RICHARDSON, 1342-Buffalo, NY: Good morning.

DELEGATES: *"Good morning."*



Delegate Jeff Richardson, 1342-Buffalo, NY

RICHARDSON: Good Morning!

DELEGATES: *"Good Morning!"*

RICHARDSON: That's better. All right. We're going to read the names. If I butcher them, it's okay. Alright:

- Eric Tuck, 107, *chair*

I might butcher this name:

- Jeffrey Richardson, 1342, *secretary*
(Laughter and Applause)
- Pino D'Armiento, 113
- Anthony Wallace, 113
- Stephen Scanlan, 279
- Mark Weems, 308
- Michael Shea, 587
- Jerry Merritt, 638
- Derrick Mallard, 689
- Printus Dates, 689
- Sharyn Vitello, 824. *Must be from New Jersey.*
(Laughter)
- Kevin P. Marx, 842
- Richard Steitz, 1027, *All right, New York!*
- Gladys McDaniel, 1056
- Richard Adams, 1181
- Cory Ernst, 1192
- Alphonso Burns, 1208

- William Howard, 1267
- *Not “Carol” but –*
- Errol Frazier, 1277
- Jeffrey Rice, 1300
- Donald Brooks, Sr., 1321
- Carlos Westley, 1535
- Charles Ryan, III, 1548
- Oscar Rodriguez, 1555
- Karen Miller, 1700

RICHARDSON: We got a couple people we’d like to thank:

Richard Otzel from the ATU. He did a wonderful job helping us out. Can we give him a hand, please? *(Applause)*

Janis, the IVP, Borchardt. If I’m not saying it right. Can we give her a hand, please? *(Applause)*

And last but not least, Katherine Andrews, because she helped us out a lot. Give her a hand please, from the ATU. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Brother Richardson. Okay. Let’s give him a hand. Good work. Thank you once again for all of the work. It’s a hard committee. *(Applause)*

Okay. At this time all eyes on the screens, please. We’ve got a video:

CONVENTION DAY THREE RECAP VIDEO

(Applause)

PERRY: Sisters and Brothers, at this time the members of the GEB and Environmental Committees are asked to assemble at the left of the stage.

SCHOOL BUS/PARATRANSIT COMMITTEE REPORT

COSTA: At this time, I believe we have some more committees. We have the School Bus Committee.

Ready? Okay. Send them up.

COMMITTEE CHAIR ANTHONY CORDIELLO, 1181-New York, NY: Wow. I always wanted to be under the bright lights. Good morning.



Delegate Anthony Cordiello, 1181-New York, NY

DELEGATES: “Good morning.”

CORDIELLO: *First*, I’d like to thank the Chair and the GEB for the opportunity to be on the very first School Bus and Paratransit Committee. *(Applause)* *Second*, I just want to say it’s very dangerous to give me a microphone. *(Laughter)*

Mr. Chairman, Delegates of the 59th Convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union, I am pleased to submit the Report of the School Bus and Paratransit Committee:

The committee gave ample consideration and full discussion to Resolutions **F**, **G**, and **S**, which were referred to us by the Resolutions Committee.

With respect to “F,” the committee is recommending an amendment calling for the ATU to review the 13(c) ramifications of this resolution. I will now read the “therefore, be it resolved” portions of Resolution **F** as amended. *[full text of resolution provided below]*

RESOLUTION F: Protecting Workers’ Jobs & Safety as Mobility Alternatives Emerge

Submitted by Amalgamated Transit Union

WHEREAS, the expansion of transportation network companies (TNCs) like Uber and Lyft to

the riding public as well as the utilization of public transit funds for paratransit has altered the way we move and work in our communities; and

WHEREAS, inadequate regulation has led to serious issues involving the exploitation of drivers, discrimination against riders with disabilities and disadvantaged communities, driver and passenger safety; and

WHEREAS, TNCs have aggressively lobbied legislatures to exempt themselves from requirements that have been standard in the transit industry, including worker and rider protections, mandatory vehicle inspections, criminal background checks, federally mandated drug and alcohol testing, and commercial insurance; and

WHEREAS, TNCs have successfully lobbied for bills to preempt local and community control of these services; and

WHEREAS, the combination of the use of TNCs and public transit agencies courting TNCs to provide “first mile, last mile” and paratransit services has increased congestion in urban areas by pulling riders off buses and subways; and

WHEREAS, TNCs are a reason for falling bus ridership, especially among riders-by-choice, which undermines the influence and support necessary for already underfunded public transit and service improvements, which further harms underutilized routes subsidized by mass transit ridership; and

WHEREAS, few public transit agencies have chosen to operate their own software that harnesses the service benefits of TNC technology in an equitable manner;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATU shall continue to monitor and lobby on federal, provincial, and state legislation regarding transport networking companies, TNCs, educating lawmakers, our officers, and our members about the safety and equity issues involving the use of TNCs; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATU supports the regulation of TNCs to address issues with driver and rider safety, the exploitation of

drivers, and the funding of public transit; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU is committed to ensuring services to underserved communities and transit deserts, including encouraging public transit agencies to develop technologies with the same benefits as the TNCs to serve these communities; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATU shall work with transit rider advocacy groups, disability groups, senior groups and urge transit agencies to stop giving our work to TNCs, resulting in a lack of transportation options for our transit dependent riders. *(Applause)*

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATU review the 13(c) ramifications of this resolution.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion is moved.

DELEGATES: *“Seconds.”*

COSTA: Second. Question? *(No Response)*

Hearing none. All in favor, say “aye.”

DELEGATES: Chorus of *“ayes.”*

COSTA: Opposed? *(No Response)*

Motion adopted. *(Gavel Knock)*

CORDIELLO: Thank you. With respect to Resolution G, the only change here is to amend the title by changing the word “members” to “workers.” The title will now read, Supporting School Bus Workers. I will read “therefore, be it resolved” portions of this resolution. *[full text of resolution provided below]*

RESOLUTION G: Supporting School Bus Workers

Submitted by Amalgamated Transit Union

WHEREAS, every day, school bus drivers and aides across North America are entrusted with the care and safety of millions of children as they are transported to and from school and school-related activities on school buses; and

WHEREAS, drivers and aides are not only responsible for the safe and proper operation of the school bus, but also must often respond to medical and other emergencies that arise during the trip to and from school, as well as disciplinary problems and all too frequent outbreaks of violence aboard their buses; and

WHEREAS, school bus drivers and aides are often the first to respond in such instances and can serve to warn school officials when a child is demonstrating violent or other potentially dangerous behavior; and

WHEREAS, bullying has become a huge problem; and

WHEREAS, drivers are typically the only authority figure aboard the bus, and have only a rearview mirror in which to view the students entrusted to their care; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that bus companies hire a skilled and trained workforce that will provide the safest and most reliable transportation to schoolchildren; and

WHEREAS, many school bus drivers and aides are not represented by a union;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU shall support mandating trained aides to be present on all school buses; and (*Applause*)

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU shall support requiring training for school bus drivers and aides on managing student behavior, safety and security awareness, and emergency preparedness and response; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATU shall work to prevent attacks on school bus drivers and aides (*Applause*) including the support of criminal statutes to treat physical attacks on school bus drivers and aides in the same manner as attacks on transit operators; and (*Applause*)

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU shall continue its efforts to raise the standards-of-living for its existing school bus members at the bargaining table and fight to protect their jobs; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATU supports the employment protection provisions (*Cheers*), the EPPs, to ensure that bus companies will hire experienced and qualified school bus drivers and aides, providing a baseline that will set a minimum standard of qualifications before someone can transport children; and (*Applause*)

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU shall aggressively work to organize school bus properties so that more school bus workers can enjoy the benefits of union representation.

CORDIELLO: I move to *concurrence* on Resolution G, as amended.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: “*Seconds.*”

COSTA: Second. Any questions? (*No Response*)

Hearing none, all in favor, say “aye.”

DELEGATES: Chorus of “*ayes.*”

COSTA: Opposed? (*No Response*)

Motion adopted. (*Gavel Knock*)

(*Applause*)

CORDIELLO: Thank you. Finally, with respect to Resolution S, the committee approved the resolution with the addition of the words “and educate,” in the first “therefore, be it resolved clause.” I will now read the “therefore, be it resolved” portions of this resolution. [*full text of resolution provided below*]

RESOLUTION S: Supporting Paratransit Members

Submitted by Amalgamated Transit Union

WHEREAS, paratransit workers represented by ATU are dedicated to helping people with disabilities get to work, school, the doctor, and other destinations; and

WHEREAS, being a paratransit worker requires unique skills and a special vocation; and

WHEREAS, in addition to driving specially equipped vans through massive service territories, paratransit workers are required to perform multiple tasks, including the operation of wheelchair lifts and ensuring that passengers are safely secured in the vehicle; and

WHEREAS, citing costs, public transit agencies in North America outsource more than 70% of paratransit service to private contractors, most of whom cut corners to pad profits instead of focusing on the well-being of passengers; and

WHEREAS, in many cities, privately operated paratransit service has been overrun by management and financial problems; and

WHEREAS, customers have endured hours-long waits for rides, spent entire afternoons in vans travelling nonsensical routes and watched as fellow riders soiled themselves on unreasonably long trips, through no fault of the driver; and

WHEREAS, since most privately operated paratransit service in North America is non-union, these workers are paid low wages and do not have livable retirement or healthcare benefits; and

WHEREAS, ATU successfully lobbied for language in the most recent U.S. federal surface transportation bill to allow more Federal Transit Administration funds to be used for operating assistance for paratransit;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU will partner with, and educate passengers, disability rights advocates, community groups, and elected officials in pursuit of more funding to improve the quality of paratransit service; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU will work to improve working conditions for operators, including bargaining for fairer wage and benefit packages, sensible scheduling, and health and safety protections; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU will work to organize more paratransit workers to improve their lives and the lives of the people who depend on their services. *(Applause)*

CORDIELLO: The committee recommends *concurrence* with Resolution S as amended, and I so move, Mr. Chairman.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: *"Seconds."*

COSTA: Second. Any questions? *(No Response)*

Hearing none. All in favor, say "aye."

DELEGATES: Chorus of *"ayes."*

COSTA: Opposed? *(No Response)*

Motion adopted. *(Gavel Knock)*

CORDIELLO: Secretary Diane Stambaugh will read the names of the people on the committee. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COMMITTEE SECRETARY DIANE STAMBAUGH, 1743-Pittsburgh, PA: Good morning.



Delegate Diane Stambaugh, 1743-Pittsburgh, PA

DELEGATES: *"Good morning."*

STAMBAUGH: The Committee for the School Bus/Paratransit:

- Ray Rivera, *IVP*
- Anthony Cordiello, 1181, *chair*
- Diane Stambaugh, 1743, *secretary*
- Caeserie Montgomery, 241
- David Tancrati, 448

- Gary Strayborn, 627
- Debra Carter, 689
- Greg Roddy, 725
- Ayana Dunlap-Bell, 732
- Catina Wilson, 788
- Arcadio Fret, 1181
- Ernest Maione, 1181
- Albert Dirla, 1338
- Dwayne Session, 1433
- John Q. Adams, 1563
- Kevin Colon, 1564
- Donna Meanor, 1595
- Tracey Tredway, 1614
- Oswaldo Chin, 1622
- Nancy McCurdy, 1733
- Justin Priest, 1754
- Lawanda Epps, 1763
- Cris Laffin, 1775

STAMBAUGH: Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Madam Secretary, and let's give them a hand. Great job. Thank you. Thank you.

DEMOND DRUMMER

Co-Founder, Executive Director,
'New Consensus'

Video Introduction

(Applause)

PERRY: Brothers and Sisters, at this time, please give a warm ATU welcome to the Co-Founder and Executive Director of "New Consensus," Demond Drummer.



Demond Drummer, Co-Founder, Executive Director, 'New Consensus'

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DEMOND DRUMMER:
Thank you. Good morning.

DELEGATES: *"Good morning."*

DRUMMER: And thank you for that great video. I want a copy of it if I can get it. And I don't know if you noticed, they didn't tell me they were playing the video. So, I'm wearing that same suit. Don't tell anybody. *(Laughter)*

A special thank you to International President John Costa and the ATU leadership for the invitation to present at this Convention.

And before I get into the work of "New Consensus" and our work on the Green New Deal, I would like to start with a couple personal "shout outs" to some locals that have shaped and have had an impact in my life.

So, much of my life has been shaped by the members of this Union. Catching the Via bus to high school in San Antonio, TX, a shout out to Local 694. Where is Texas? *(Applause)*

I was never late to school because of that. If I was late, it was on me, right? So – always on time.

Taking dates to the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra while studying at Morehouse College in Atlanta. Thank you to the members of Local 732 for the assist on several successful dates. *(Applause)*

'I got home safely'

And, of course, Local 689, in DC is the reason why *(Applause)* I got home safely after having my first

drink that summer of 2004, on a foreign policy fellowship in Washington, DC. And Local 689, again, is the reason why I made it back to my dorm safely in a very real way.

And last but definitely not least, my hometown for the last 14 years – Chicago (*Applause*) Local 241 and Local 308, you are truly the life blood of Chicago and of Chicagoland and you are probably 50 percent of the reason why I stay in Chicago and continue to call that my home. I'm not moving to Washington, DC. (*Applause*)

The Green New Deal

So, I'm here to talk a bit about the Green New Deal. And I'll talk about the Green New Deal in three different ways because I know we have heard a lot about it, but so little is known really about what it means.

So, I'm going to talk about the Green New Deal as a mobilization. I'm going to talk about it as a series of technological "moon shots," and I'll also frame it as a movement. And I'm going to do this by showing some old photos.

1941

Let's see if this works. (*images on screen*)

So, this first photo is my favorite: In 1941, the United States had the industrial capacity to produce about 3,000 warplanes. President Roosevelt wanted 189,000, and folks thought that he was being wildly unrealistic. And these skeptics weren't completely unjustified because the U.S. simply did not have the industrial capacity to build the materiel – the munitions and all of the armaments – needed to wage a sustained war effort abroad.

So, what Franklin Roosevelt did was he tapped some business leaders to organize American industry for the war effort. And these leaders assessed the capacity of our country – the factories all across the country – and worked out a way to retool them to make helmets, bullets, and the supplies of war.

The financial capital needed to fund this work did not

come from a bank. It came from the public sector. And, in fact, in some cases the federal government actually built factories to build the things that we needed to win war abroad.

And, of course, they would give these factories to companies to operate, but you had to pay the workers a fair wage to get that contract. And when it was all said and done, a country that could only produce 3,000 war planes produced more than 300,000 war planes for that war effort.

A World War II-scale mobilization

In a "new consensus," we see the Green New Deal as a World War II-scale mobilization of all of the resources of our country, our ingenuity, our industrial capacity, and our financial capital. All of the resources of our country to make a just transition to a clean energy economy.

The Green New Deal proposes a set of solutions that match the scales, scope, and speed of the global climate crisis.

We're calling to upgrade every building in this country to the highest levels of energy efficiency, air quality and water quality. We all know that there are pipes that need to be replaced in communities, towns and cities all across this country. That is a full employment program for the building trades. Go run and tell dad!

We want to upgrade America's infrastructure to be more resilient; accelerate the adoption of clean and renewable energy; research, develop and deploy technologies to decarbonize heavy industry; and position America to be a world leader in clean manufacturing.

'Decarbonize our food system'

We have to decarbonize our food system and invest directly in farmers to adopt regenerative agricultural practices. We give billions of dollars of subsidies, to "Big Ag." That money should be going directly to farmers and family farms, so they can stay in the family.

We are calling to invest in America's industries to

produce electric vehicles and the energy efficiency parts and components that we need to make this transition.

And of course, most importantly, mobilizing massive public investments in America's public transit infrastructure. We know passenger vehicles account for fully one-third of greenhouse gas emissions. And we have a ready solution right in front of us: more routes, more frequent runs, a world class fleet, top of the line infrastructure, world class equipment.

ATU has been leading this fight

America must invest in our public transit future. ATU has been leading this fight since the beginning and the Green New Deal joins this fight with you. (*Applause*)

This mobilization will create new industries and substantially grow our economy. So, it is absolutely necessary that we design the Green New Deal to prioritize two types of people. *One*, those who have been disproportionately impacted and have borne the burden and the cost of this extractive economy. And, *two*, those who will be most affected by the transition to a clean economy.

The Green New Deal will not leave any worker, any community behind. The greatest generation mobilized this country to beat fascism abroad during World War II. It is our task in our day to beat fascism right here at home and mobilize our country to meet the imminent and existential threat of climate breakdown and that is what the Green New Deal is all about.

My absolute favorite.

I spent most of my childhood wanting to be an astronaut. And when my father was stationed at the 1st Calvary Division in Ft. Hood, TX, my parents bought an encyclopedia on a CD-ROM. Remember those? And on that CD-ROM encyclopedia there was an excerpt of John Kennedy's moon mission speech. And I remember being inspired from the quote where he said, "We choose to go to the moon in this decade because that goal will serve to organize and measure our country's energy and skills."

A series of technology moon shots

The moon shot, ATU, wasn't just about science. It was about survival and it was about proving that the American system could beat the Soviet system. And the U.S. actually spent most of the space race behind Russia.

The Green New Deal is a series of technology moon shoots. And like the space race before it, the Green New Deal is a great national effort, an exercise in survival. It goes without saying that decarbonizing every sector of our economy will be extraordinarily difficult. In most cases, the technologies we need simply do not exist. But we can get 90 percent of the way there with the current technology we have.

But that can't stop us. We must throw the entire might of American ingenuity at these problems. Massive investments of public capital to a network of research universities and companies to solve the most pressing technology challenges of our day.

A movement of movements

And this brings me to our last photo: So, we've talked about the Green New Deal as a mobilization. We've talked about the Green New Deal as a series of technology moon shots. But I would like to talk about the Green New Deal in its most important form – and that is as a movement of movements. The environmental justice movement, the environmental movement, the racial justice and economic justice movement, the labor movement, all of these movements are bringing their full weight and might and power to bear on this issue of the climate crisis.

The Green New Deal is admittedly capacious. Some say it's entirely too big and too ambitious. But at New Consensus, we rejoin that there is no truly just transition to a zero-carbon economy without critically examining and interrogating and challenging the logic of an economy that exploits people and extracts from the earth.

Economist Mariana Mazzucato says that behind the climate crisis, behind the economic crisis, is a crisis of thinking.

Yes. A movement is afoot, and that movement is building a new consensus. And what do I mean by a "new consensus"?

Letter from Birmingham Jail

In his letter from Birmingham jail, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., addressed his fellow clergymen who were concerned about his activism. They agreed with his aims but disagreed with his methods. Breaking the racial inequality, it would happen slowly, more naturally and gradually they argued. In a word these clergy people believed that the American people weren't ready for change.

And in this letter from the Birmingham jail, King argued and discussed the difference between a thermometer and a thermostat. A thermometer simply measures temperature. A thermostat however sets the temperature.

And to adapt this for our purposes, we are acting as a thermometer if we are recording and reflecting popular opinion. If we're acting as a thermostat, we are setting, transforming, and creating public will.

The Green New Deal requires a new political and economic consensus. A consensus that says that we will no longer be duped by the mythic invisible hand of the market. A consensus that recognizes that the public sector has a fundamental role to play in shaping our economic life to serve the interest of society.

The Green New Deal proposes a set of solutions that meet the scale of the crisis we've created for ourselves and we believe its comprehensiveness is its power.

And so, the Green New Deal is a World War II-scale mobilization of all of the resources of our economy. The Green New Deal is series of technology moon shoots to decarbonize industry and transportation. And the Green New Deal is a movement of movements.

It will be brought forth and sustained by an enduring alignment of our youth who know we deserve clean air, clean water, and good food; workers who deserve pay on which a family can thrive; scientists and researchers who can lead us into the light; entrepreneurs of all types. Yes, even investors who are looking for good investments that can rebuild America, grassroots leaders; and organizations who continually change; and list goes on.

'The next chapter of the American story'

Mobilizations, moon shots, movements – this is the story of America. And we in this room at this Convention and

in communities all across this country are writing the next chapter of the American story.

There is a direct correlation between wages that can't sustain a family and an economy that can't sustain human life on this planet. I'm going to say that again: There is a direct correlation between wages that cannot sustain a family and an economy that cannot sustain human life on this planet.

'We are looking to you'

So, ATU, we are looking to you for your continued leadership. So much of the Green New Deal – so much of what the Green New Deal requires is that we take seriously the solutions that are right here in front of us.

You know what it takes to increase ridership. You know what it takes to integrate new technologies into fleets. You know what it takes to invest in our transit infrastructure. You know what it takes to lead this fight on this front in every city that has an ATU local.

So, this morning, I believe that we the people have an economic mandate, we have the technological expertise, we have the existential imperative, and the power to give ourselves a Green New Deal. And I know deep in my heart and in my soul that we can, and most importantly that we will. *(Applause)*

Thank you, ATU. Thank you for your leadership, and we look forward to working with you at New Consensus. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Brother Drummer – let's give another hand. We have a gift here. Let's give another hand for the brother. *(Applause)*

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL/OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

COSTA: On that note, I think we have some committees. Is the Environmental Committee ready? Send them up.

COMMITTEE CHAIR JACK JACKSON, 1572-Mississauga, ON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Brothers and Sisters, Delegates, Guests and the Executive Board. Mr. Chairman, this is the Report of the Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Committee.



Delegate Jack Jackson, 1572-Mississauga, ON

Officers and Delegates of the 59th Convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union, we your Committee on the Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety submit the following for your consideration and approval:

The committee met and discussed the current status of ATU Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Program.

The committee also gave ample consideration and full discussion to Resolutions **A**, **N**, and **O**, which were referred to us by the Resolutions Committee.

In an effort to expedite this report, the committee determined that instead of reading all of the clauses in each resolution, the body and the intent of each resolution, starting with the “therefore, be it resolved” would be read. At this time, I would therefore like to read the “resolved” clause of the resolutions and allow me to read them in an effort to expedite the consideration of these important matters. The resolutions in their entirety will appear in the official proceedings: *[Full text of resolution provided below]*

RESOLUTION A: Not One More: Stopping Attacks on Transit Workers

Submitted by Amalgamated Transit Union

WHEREAS, in recent years, we have seen unimaginable attacks on transit workers simply trying to do their job; and

WHEREAS, attacks generally result from fare disputes, scheduling matters, and other incidents in which bus operators have no control; and

WHEREAS, unlike commercial pilots and other transportation workers, bus operators are vulnerable to attacks because they are seated out in the open without physical barriers to protect them; and

WHEREAS, bus operators often get verbally abused, routinely get spit on, punched, slapped, stabbed, sexually assaulted, beaten with a variety of objects, including baseball bats, pipes, and canes, and even get doused with hot coffee and urine; and

WHEREAS, rail workers and other transit workers also get assaulted on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Dunn, member of ATU Local 1593, was murdered by a transit passenger in Tampa, FL; and

WHEREAS, Irvine Jubal Fraser, member of ATU Local 1505, was killed by a Winnipeg, MB, passenger; and

WHEREAS, countless other American and Canadian transit workers have died or been seriously injured on the job as a result of senseless attacks; and

WHEREAS, ATU has successfully lobbied for passage of laws in at least 30 states increasing the penalty for assault when the victim is a transit worker; and

WHEREAS, Bill S221 passed by Parliament may now result in more serious criminal charges for threatening or assaulting a transit operator; and

WHEREAS, ATU drafted and built a labor coalition in support of the *Transit Worker and Pedestrian Protection Act* legislation in the U.S. Congress that is needed to save the lives of transit workers and riders; and

WHEREAS, the bill would define “assault” as any interference with a transit worker, ensuring that all incidents get reported to the U.S. Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the bill would require transit systems to conduct risk assessments to determine if they have an issue with transit workers being assaulted; and

WHEREAS, the bill requires transit system managers to work with their frontline workforce and the unions that represent them to come up with solutions to stop the attacks; and

WHEREAS, some of these ideas include targeted law enforcement, offboard fare collection, scheduling changes, safety shields, and other changes to the bus driver's workstation; and

WHEREAS, the bill also requires transit systems to work with unions to address blind spots which lead to senseless and tragic accidents in which pedestrians have been killed;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU shall continue to lead a coalition of unions in support of the *Transit Worker and Pedestrian Protection Act* so that NOT ONE MORE bus or rail worker will be the victim of these senseless and brutal attacks; and, *(Applause)*

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATU should continue its strategic campaigns involving our locals and members in securing support for the bill, and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU shall continue to work in Canada in support of similar legislation and policies to address the assault issue. *(Applause)*

JACKSON: The committee recommends *concurrency* with this proposal, and I so move, Mr. Chair.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion moved.

DELEGATES: "*Seconds.*"

COSTA: Second. Questions? *(No Response)*

Hearing none, all in favor, say "aye."

DELEGATES: Chorus of "*ayes.*"

COSTA: Opposed? *(No Response)*

Motion adopted. *(Gavel Knock)*

(Applause)

RESOLUTION N: Supporting a Green New Deal

Submitted by Amalgamated Transit Union

WHEREAS, the worsening climate crisis along with increased support among organized workers worldwide for a Green New Deal approach to addressing the crisis motivates a bold undertaking by ATU to help lead the fight to overcome this emergency; and

WHEREAS, scores of U.S. cities and 20 states have set targets of reaching "zero carbon" by 2050, at the latest; and

WHEREAS, transportation-related emissions are rising; and

WHEREAS, it is widely recognized that modern public transportation systems are vitally important in terms of reducing car dependence, greenhouse gas emissions, and improving air quality; and

WHEREAS, ATU has called for a New Green Deal approach to protecting our climate, reducing pollution, and creating jobs in sectors like public transportation; and

WHEREAS, the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) has shown leadership on climate change, and has urged ATU and all other affiliates to more actively promote climate protection as one of the reasons to defend and expand public transportation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU shall actively support the work of the ITF and other organizations in promoting public transportation as a means of reducing emissions from transport and support candidates who understand the need to address climate change in ways that create green jobs; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU shall engage with supporters of the Green New Deal and the New Consensus in developing a strong emphasis on public transit to address the climate emergency.

JACKSON: The committee recommends *concurrency* with this proposal, and I so move, Mr. Chair.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: “*Seconds.*”

COSTA: Second. Question? (*No Response*)

Hearing none, all in favor, say “aye.”

DELEGATES: Chorus of “*ayes.*”

COSTA: Opposed? (*No Response*)

The motion has been adopted. (*Gavel Knock*)

(*Applause*)

Resolution O: Providing for the Health and Safety of ATU Members

Submitted by Amalgamated Transit Union

WHEREAS, ATU has always fought for the health and safety of its members since its inception in 1892; and

WHEREAS, transit workers are exposed to toxic chemicals, dangerous fumes, and neglected, improper equipment that puts their lives and limbs on the line; and

WHEREAS, many surveys report that more than 75% of transit workers “fear for their safety on a daily basis” because they are at risk of physical, verbal, and sexual assault from passengers; and

WHEREAS, assaults on transit workers have increased over the past three years, despite serious under-reporting of all types of assault; and

WHEREAS, many transit workers still do not have access to clean, secure, and well-equipped restrooms/washrooms and schedules do not allow enough time to use them; and

WHEREAS, a majority of transit workers report either avoiding eating or drinking, trying to “hold it in,” or using diapers or bottles to cope with lack of restroom access; and

WHEREAS, driving with the urge to void has the same effects as driving under the influence

of alcohol and can cause health issues including urinary tract infections, bladder infections, and hemorrhoids; and

WHEREAS, transit workers still have higher rates of musculoskeletal injury than most other occupations according to Bureau of Labor Statistics, Statistics Canada, and independent research; and

WHEREAS, a recent study states that transit workers experience 79% higher rates of Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (COPD) and 32% higher rate of asthma than the average population; and

WHEREAS, in the same study, 44% of transit workers report shortness of breath, 37% report having asthma, 44% report wheezing, but only 52% report seeing a doctor for these issues;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU will further its commitment to improving occupational health and safety on the job; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU will continue to educate and train our members to wage effective campaigns to win adequate restroom/washroom access, assault protections, better air quality on vehicles and in shops, protections from toxic chemicals, and proper tools and equipment; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU shall bargain for strong contract language that ensures health and safety standards and enforcement for all its members.

JACKSON: The committee recommends *concurrence* with this proposal, and I so move, Mr. Chair.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: “*Seconds.*”

COSTA: Second. Questions? (*No Response*)

Hearing none, all in favor, say “aye.”

DELEGATES: Chorus of “*ayes.*”

COSTA: Opposed? (*No Response*)

The motion has been adopted. (*Gavel Knock*)

(*Applause*)

JACKSON: I would like to thank the committee for all of their hard work, and I now would like to introduce, Martin Heraghty to say their names. *(Applause)*

COMMITTEE SECRETARY MARTIN HERAGHTY, 824-New Brunswick, NJ: Good morning.



Delegate Martin Heraghty, 824-New Brunswick, NJ

DELEGATES: “*Good morning.*”

HERAGHTY: [It’s] an honor and a privilege to introduce the names of this great, fine committee. Let me start off with:

- Bruce Hamilton, *IVP*
- Jack Jackson, 1572, *chair*
- Martin Heraghty, 824, *secretary*
- Perri LileBarrett, 26
- Roland Beaudet, esquire, 113
- Eric Darby, 192
- LaTrina Meredith, 192
- Roger Love, 241
- Joe Kang, 279
- Dawn Metcalf, 282
- Douglas Underwood, 382
- Calvin Henry, 425
- Veronica Chavers, 443
- Kevin Meyer, 568

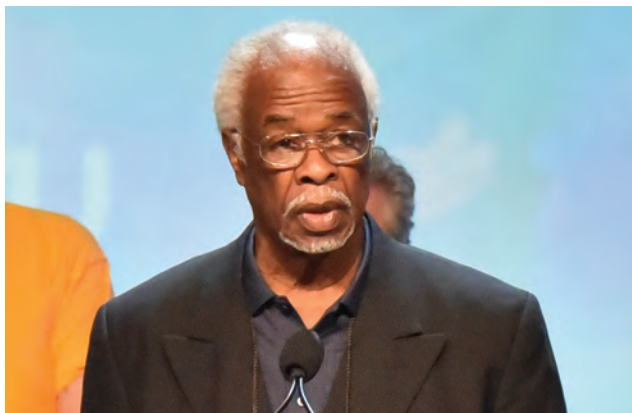
- Tzur Wilfand, 587
- Harold Batson, 587
- Jennie Gill, 587
- Paul Neil, 587
- Richard Lee, 589
- Lee Creech, 589
- Tracy Smith, 689
- Diron Jackson, 689
- Christopher Waymer, 726
- James Atkins, 732
- Anthony Forrester, 757
- Khristopher Alexander, 757
- Nancy Spence, 823
- Angela Williams, 1001
- Chris Morales, 1001
- David Gosha, 1005
- Edward Cusano, 1181
- Fred Andreani, 1181
- Steve Moquin, 1321
- Gerald Duncan, 1385
- Michael Lowery, 1395
- Lionel Randolph, 1436
- Theo (Mathias) Hamilton, 1447
- Sandra Surgeon-Jones, 1464
- Sam Aquino, 1587
- Donald Campbell, 1592
- Maria Carrera, 1596
- Sammie Howard, Jr., 1700
- Jerry Nunez, 1704
- Anthony (Dion) Baker, 689

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary, and thank you for all of the hard work that we have done here today with this committee. Give them a hand. (*Applause*)

REPORT OF THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT COMMITTEE

COSTA: Okay. Next up, we have another committee that's ready. I believe that is the GEB, correct? So, let's get them up.

COMMITTEE CHAIR CALVIN KENNEDY, 1324-Savannah, GA: Mr. Chairman, this is the report of the Committee on the General Executive Board's Report.



Delegate Calvin Kennedy, 1324-Savannah, GA

Officers and Delegates of the 59th Convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union, we, your Committee on the General Executive Board Report, submit the following report for your consideration and approval:

Under the provisions of our *Constitution and General Laws*, it is the duty of the General Executive Board to supervise and direct the affairs of the Union during the periods between Conventions. It is also the duty of the Board to see that the laws and policies of the Union are carried out by the international officers, the local union officers, and the general membership of the Union.

The fieldwork of the individual general executive board members, which is under the direction of the

international president, is outlined separately in this report. This report contains a summary of the acts and rulings of the General Executive Board itself covering such subjects as required action and direction of the Board.

Within the 36-month period herein reported, the General Executive Board held six regular meetings and three special meetings. The first ...

- regular meeting took place September 26 – 30, 2016, in Toronto, ON; followed by
- a special meeting, held on February 2, 2017, in Silver Spring, MD;
- a regular meeting, May 1 – 5, 2017, in Silver Spring, MD;
- a regular meeting, October the 11 – 14, 2017, in Silver Spring, MD;
- a regular meeting, April 23 – 26, 2018, in Silver Spring, MD;
- a regular meeting, October 29 – November 2, 2018, in Silver Spring, MD;
- a regular meeting, April 29 – May 3, 2019, in Silver Spring, MD;
- a special meeting, May 20, 2019, in Silver Spring, MD; and
- a special meeting, June 25, 2019, in Silver Spring, MD.

KENNEDY: As required by the *Constitution and General Laws*, the General Executive Board employed certified public accountants to audit the books and accounts of the International Union for the semiannual meeting of the General Executive Board.

Financial relief and arbitration expenses

During the past 36 months, the General Executive Board has processed 17 requests for financial relief and arbitration expense, approving or deferring 13 of these requests, extending significant direct assistance and excusing the payments of per capita taxes by various

requesting local unions, typically for a period of three to six months.

Appeals

The General Executive Board rendered nine decisions on member appeals brought in accordance with Section 22.10 of our *Constitution and General Laws*, one of which is being considered by this Convention.

Organizing

Extraordinary organizing efforts, in the face of challenges for ATU members and all working families, have led to 51 successful representation campaigns over these three years, bringing nearly 2,600 new workers into our union family. These results demonstrate that the ATU will play a significant role in the renewal of the labor movement across the United States and Canada.

It is apparent to this committee that these results could only have been obtained through a close and productive working relationship between the General Executive Board and our international executive officers, combined with a strong sense of responsibility and commitment to the members of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

On behalf of this committee and the delegates attending this Convention, we wish to express our appreciation for the outstanding work that has been accomplished by the General Executive Board for our Union and on behalf of each rank and file member.

Mr. Chair, this is our complete report to the Convention for action. The Committee on the General Executive Board recommends adoption, and I so move, Mr. Chair.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: “*Seconds.*”

COSTA: Second. Any questions? (*No Response*)

Hearing none, all in favor, say “aye.”

DELEGATES: Chorus of “*ayes.*”

COSTA: Opposed? (*No Response*)

Motion adopted. (*Gavel Knock*)

(*Applause*)

KENNEDY: Mr. Chair, I call on Brother Alzate to read the names of the members of the committee and thank you. (*Applause*)

COMMITTEE SECRETARY LUIS ALZATE, 1056-Flushing, NY: That’s not helping me right now, but anyway, thank you. (*Laughter*)



Delegate Luis Alzate, 1056-Flushing, NY

Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Executive Board and Delegates to the 59th Convention.

It was an honor and privilege to serve on the GEB Committee. On behalf of the committee, we would like to thank IVP Gary Johnson and ATU Counsel Jeff Rosenberg for their assistance and guidance.

These are the members to the GEB Committee:

- Calvin Kennedy, 1324, *chair*
- Luis Alzate, 1056, *secretary*
- Rick Fox, 113
- Fritz Titus, 113
- John Remias, 272
- James Brooks, 308
- Darlene Malayko, 569
- Jody Trotman, 583

- Gloria A. Fulton, 610
- Jim Yakubowski, 615
- Michael Majette, 732
- Lakisha Ewell, 819
- Michael Brown, 998
- Teresa Moore, 1015
- John DiRito, 1277
- Christine Davis, 1356
- Michelle Gray, 1605
- Donald Turner, 1701
- Mark Beeching, 1724
- Dennis Champagne, 1767

ALZATE: Once again, thank you. *(Applause)*

KENNEDY: Mr. Chairman, we would like to thank the assistance that we received from International Vice President Gary Johnson and for the assistance from the ATU International. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Mic. 2:

COREY BIXBY, 1321-Albany/Troy, NY: I just had point of clarification from an earlier resolution. We had Resolution F: “Protecting Workers’ Jobs and Safety as Mobility Alternatives Emerge,” which was presented and passed by the School Bus and Paratransit Committee, as amended. And then it was also considered under the Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Committee, and passed as written, so I was curious if we have two separate resolutions.

COSTA: Hold on – the correct one is the first one. The second one was a mistake. It shouldn’t have been assigned.

BIXBY: Thank you.

COSTA: Thank you. Thank you, committee. Great work. Let’s give them a hand. *(Applause)*

MARTHA’S VINEYARD CAMPAIGN VIDEO

(Applause)

COSTA: Thank you.

The best way we unite a local to get big wins is to engage in campaigns. And I believe the future of negotiations as we go along, we’re going to need to strategize, put together campaigns, unite our members, unite our communities, our churches, our businesses as we did in Martha’s Vineyard. *(Applause)*

Our brothers and sisters on the Vineyard had been fighting to be recognized with this terrible private company out of Florida, owner, and we had the opportunity to go out there and see those members. And I witnessed the fire they had, and they were tired. They were sick and tired of being treated like shit.

And I saw that they were in a position to have a fight, and we went back. We put a campaign together, and we took it to the island and it’s a proud one.

So, at this time I wanted to recognize – we asked one of the brothers in the story. He was actually on management side for a couple weeks, about a week watching this strike and thought it was totally unfair – what management was doing – so he decided to quit and go back as a bus driver. *(Applause)*

Quit and go back as a bus driver and would not cross the line. He stood in the line with the brothers and sisters there and fought back and we had a great, great victory there.

Also had the opportunity, one that was going around, to see not only how our members rallied and our officers, but we went to the CAN-AM over in Boston and at the same time the strike was going. And so many brothers and sisters in other unions were going over there to support every day in- and -out.

Over \$50,000 collected

But what was amazing we brought a couple of the members that were on strike over to the mainland in Boston and they were at the conference and spoke. And

a hat went around. We started collecting money for them being on strike.

And already the GEB did a great job, too. They had increased and supported increasing their strike benefit.

But we helped raise by all of the locals that were there that day – you talk about the spirit of Labor being in a room – over \$50,000 in 45 minutes! *(Applause)*

Give yourselves a round of applause, yes.

Standing Ovation

Proud moment. These brothers and sisters remained strong, unified on the picket line for 28 days. They rocked the island and they won a fair contract. And that's why the ATU and the brothers and sisters are here and that's why people want to join this union and that's why we're going to organize and become bigger. Why? Because together we fight and, together we win!

Standing Ovation

JASON CHALIFOUX

Organizer, Martha's Vineyard Operators

COSTA: So, I'm going to ask our brother to come up here with Chuck, his president, and say a few words. Let's give Jason Chalifoux a big ATU welcome. Come on: ATU! ATU! ATU! ATU! –

DELEGATES: “ATU!”

JASON CHALIFOUX, 1548-Plymouth, MA: Thank you. Good morning.

DELEGATES: “Good morning”



Jason Chalifoux, 1548-Plymouth, MA

CHALIFOUX: I'm not sure who organized this event, but all week I see these professional speakers come in and nail it. However, to schedule a poor bus driver to speak after open bar night is a really bad idea. This might end badly. *(Laughter)*

Good morning, Brothers and Sisters. I had asked if I could bring up some people to stand behind me, but, unfortunately, they threw me to the wolves.

The reason I want to stand with some of you is because this story isn't about me. This story isn't about Martha's Vineyard. This is our story. This is your story. *(Applause)*

The only reason I stand on this stage today is because of where I live. I didn't do anything any of you wouldn't do. It could have been any one of us.

Together, we made noise across North America. But alone my voice would have never been heard. But together we made noise across North America. Together we were strong. Together we are ATU! *(Applause)*

First of all, I would like to thank John Costa for inviting me and my fiancé, Vicky, to this Convention. It's an honor and a privilege to be able to experience this and we will be forever grateful. Thank you for letting us share our story. *(Applause)*

For those of that do not know me, my name is Jason Chalifoux. I represent ATU Local 1548 out of Plymouth, MA. I started working for the Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA) as bus operator in 2008. In 2015, I moved up to become an operations supervisor. After four years of making suggestions on how to improve operations and relationships with the operators and being completely ignored, I decided in April of this year to self demote myself and took a pay cut to become a bus operator again and join the fight against the VTA.

Standing Ovation

Thank you. Now, to give you an idea of how Transit Connections, Inc. – the management company from the Vineyard Transit Authority – treated their employees, I have two stories to tell:

‘He was that selfish’

The first one involves me. In July of 2018, I decided to pursue another job. Since I had asked for a raise each of the last three years but was denied. I became one of two finalists for the director of transportation job for the island public school system.

In my first interview, I stated clearly that I didn’t want anyone calling my references at the VTA unless I was seriously being considered for the position. I didn’t want any awkwardness at my current job if I wasn’t going to get the job.

I was called by the assistant superintendent on the Wednesday asking permission to call Darin Morris, TCI’s GM and my boss and Angie Grant, the VTA administrator –

DELEGATES: “*Boo!*”

CHALIFOUX: Absolutely.

The reason for the call to Angie was the VTA had the contract to maintain all of the school buses and the assistant superintendent wanted it to be known that they might be wanting to steal one of their managers.

Now mind you this would have been a \$50,000 raise for me. The next day I get a call saying they decided to hire the other candidate, but they were so impressed with me they were going to try and find another position for me after Labor Day. I thought that was weird.

Well, come to find out the school position started on August 16th. Apparently, my boss, Darin Morris, told the assistant superintendent there was no way he could let go of me before Labor Day. And there were other rumors that he had said pretty negative stuff about me to keep me from getting the job. But yet I was good enough to keep working for him. He was that selfish that all he cared about was his job and no care in the world for others bettering their own lives.

‘She couldn’t take it anymore’

The second story involves my fiancée. She had worked as transportation coordinator for a paratransit system

for over 16 years. She also drove bus part time. Because of the way Darin treated her and how underappreciated she was, she had been asking for the last three years if she could transition to a fulltime bus driver. He flat out said no.

Well, because of the stress she was enduring in the office, her heart failed her in November of 2018. She was med-flighted to Boston where she received a pacemaker to keep her heart beating at the young age of 50.

After a first procedure, she had complications with one of the leads to her heart, so she needed a second surgery days later to replace the failing lead.

At 6:00 p.m. on a Sunday night, she went into surgery. At 7:00 a.m. on Monday morning, her boss Darin texted her and asked if she could help him with some billing. Are you bleeping kidding me?

In January, after she returned to work, she again asked if she could transition to being an operator since her health wasn’t that good and the office was stressing her out. Again, he refused this request.

Eventually, she couldn’t take it anymore and walked out on the job. A few days later Darin contacted her and asked if she could come in for a few hours and teach him how to do some of the paratransit work and in return they would talk about her coming back as a driver.

She jumped at the opportunity. After she spent four hours with him, he went back to his office. She asked herself, well, what now? As she’s sitting there at her old desk.

She walked back to Darin’s office and asked if they were going to talk about her driving. He said he didn’t know what he was going to do. I’ll give you a call. Of course, she never heard from him.

‘It lit a fire’

Although these were personal events, I’m thankful we went through them. I did not take these events personal. However, it lit a fire under my ass to get involved and instilled the drive in me to protect my coworkers from this town.

So, this was the reason we needed a union. Not

necessarily because of our stories but the countless other stories of our GM bullying us, overworking us and just doing whatever he wanted to as long he put asses in the seats.

We needed the protection

We needed the protection. For the past 16 years, we had been trying to get the Vineyard Transit Authority and their operating company TCI to recognize ATU as our union representatives. Sixteen years ago, they refused to recognize our union. And after a year of “BS,” they held a vote to decertify the union, which unfortunately passed.

‘Little did they know...’

Five years ago, we voted again for the ATU to represent us and again the VTA and TCI refused to recognize us. But little did they know this was a very different group. They brought it through the court system spending who knows how many tens of thousands of dollars trying to bust our union until April of 2018, when the U.S. Court of Appeals for 11th Circuit ruled that TCI had engaged in unfair labor practices and had refused to bargain with the union and ordered TCI to negotiate with ATU. *(Applause)*

I started out making \$16 an hour in 2008. After 11 years, I was only making about \$22.50. Considering the cost-of-living on Martha’s Vineyard, this was a ridiculous wage to go earning after 11 years. My rent is \$2,300 a month for a 1,300 square-foot apartment in an affordable housing development. A gallon of gas costs me \$3.89. A gallon of milk is \$4.69.

To compare what bus operators make in our general area – Fall River, New Bedford, and Cape Cod cap out at around \$24 to \$26 an hour. We capped out at \$23.50 after a 14-year progression. Even though the cost-of-living is 60 percent higher on the island than anywhere else in the country.

The Steamship Authority at Woods Hole hires its operators at \$17 an hour. The same wage we started at, at the time. The difference is the Steamship Authority will bump you up to \$20 an hour after 30 days.

‘We couldn’t earn a living wage’

You know how long it took us to earn \$20 an hour at our pay scale just seven miles away? Six years. We live in one of the richest places in the world and yet we couldn’t earn a living wage.

The administrator, Angela Grant, kept saying that they didn’t have it in their budget to give us raises. Yet, over the last four years, she was able to find enough money to give both herself and the deputy assistant administrator over \$30,000 each in raises.

They also spent over \$100,000 in lawyers’ fees and court costs fighting the Union. A crazy amount considering the most senior drivers hadn’t received a raise in over five years.

The only argument I ever heard against our cause was “just go out and get another job and stop complaining.” I certainly could have done that, and I certainly thought about it. But then I started to look around me, and I realized I’m one of the youngest fulltime operators at the VTA and I’m probably younger than everyone else by 10 years. So, yes, I could go out and get another job but most of my coworkers are 55, 65, and a few of them are well into their 70s. They couldn’t just go out and find a decent job.

Some of my coworkers have been working at the VTA for 20 years or more and were only making \$23.50. So, I chose not to get another job. But rather stayed here and fought with my coworkers for what’s right and what’s fair. *(Applause)*

‘Negotiations were fruitless’

Of course, negotiations were fruitless. All we wanted was a living wage, affordable health insurance, seniority rights, and job security.

On May 31st, TCI offered us a last and final contract offer. In this contract it had language that basically said TCI could void the contract at any given time based on many factors.

We made a counter-offer, but TCI refused to come back to the bargaining table. So, on June 29, 32 of us operators decided we were going to go out on strike.

Within days VTA continued their union-busting tactics by hiring a firm to bring in scabs. They were paid between \$28 and \$35 an hour. Plus, they were given food money, housing and transportation money. They couldn't find the money to pay us – but, they found hundreds of thousands of dollars to pay the scabs. It was demoralizing to say the least.

'With community support, we held strong'

But with the community support, we held strong. Two weeks into the strike, the community asked the VTA board why they hadn't met since the strike and held them accountable for the inactivity over the past several years.

We attended selectmen board meetings and put pressure on each town to hold their appointees to the board accountable for the mess they helped create.

We demolished the VTA on social media and especially in an islanders-only group called "Islanders Talk." Through this group, we got the public to attend VTA board meetings and we marched into board members' offices and demanded action.

'We had to get creative'

We didn't win this fight the normal way by shutting down the bus system. We had to get creative and our biggest ally was our community.

The ATU also ran an ad campaign letting vacationers know we were on strike and bus service could be interrupted. We were on the picket line at the major boat terminals and I can tell you I've never seen so many empty boats in the month of July in my life. *(Applause)*

I attribute this to the campaign ATU ran. We marched in the 4th of July parade where the crowd shouted out words of support. Shook our hands and told us to keep up the fight.

We also had the support of mayors, state representatives, and presidential candidates as the campaign gathered more steam. We got to shake hands and speak with Mayor Pete who came to the island for a fundraiser.

He invited us into the fundraiser at the Performing Arts Center. When we walked in, the crowd gave us a standing ovation.

On July 17th, I was invited to speak at the CAN-AM conference in Boston. I had no idea what to expect. What I experienced was a show of solidarity that I may never witness again. *(Applause)*

Within 40 minutes after our speeches, ATU locals at the CAN-AM pledged over \$50,000 to support our strike fund. *(Applause)*

It was a day I'll never forget. And for the 32 striking drivers on Martha Vineyard, it was just what we needed to stay motivated and keep up the fight.

On July 18th, the VTA board was finally functioning properly and ordered TCI back to the negotiating table. During one of the negotiating sessions, a federal mediator turned to us and said, "I'm telling you guys I have never seen a strike work when the bus system continued to run."

'Failure was not an option'

At the CAN-AM Conference, I said failure was not an option. We would not go back without a contract. We did not let you guys down.

Mr. Mediator, it took 28 days, but I have something to show you: Our first contract, Mr. Mediator *(Chalifoux holds up contract)*.

Standing Ovation

DELEGATES: "ATU!"

CHALIFOUX: Don't ever, ever let someone tell you, you can't do something or that it can't be done. *(Applause)*

He underestimated the strength of our community. He underestimated the heart of the 32 striking workers on Martha's Vineyard and he most certainly underestimated the power and solidarity of the ATU.

Like all first contracts you don't get everything you want, but what we did get was a three-year contract that has the union protections we need, seniority rights, grievance protections, and a living wage. We went from a cap of \$23.50 over a 14-year progression

to capping out at \$27.50 after only an eight-year progression. *(Applause)*

We never could have done this without the ATU

We never could have done this without the help of the ATU. There are so many people to thank.

First and foremost, I want to thank my fiancée, Vicky. *(Applause)* She is always by my side and she always supports me whatever I do even if it means taking time away from her. I wouldn't be here without her. Thank you.

I want to thank Rich Towns, one of coworkers who started this fight and unfortunately couldn't make it here today. Without his relentless fight and leadership, we never would have stood a chance.

Obviously, a special thanks to the late Larry Hanley, who believed in our cause and who started our campaign. *(Applause)* And to John Costa who picked up where he left off and has continued to support us through everything we are going through today.

Thanks to Steve MacDougall, Bruce Hamilton and Ray Greaves, Rick Gilbert and Ray Rivera for their leadership. *(Applause)* Thanks to Todd, Dave, and James for their organizing efforts. *(Applause)*

Also, to Ginny Diamond for her continued support and dedication to our cause. And thank you to the members that joined us on the picket line – Eric from Local 174-Fall River, Tony and Gary from Local 1037-New Bedford, and to my friends that came all the way out from Staten Island, NY, Local 726 – thank you. *(Applause)*

Thank you to all of other unions that stood by our side including the Stop & Shop workers, the Massachusetts Nurses Association, United Steelworkers Association, and to everyone else that stood with us in solidarity that I forgot to mention.

I'd also like to give a heartfelt thanks to Chuck Ryan, president for Local 1548, who continues to be there for us and guide us in the right direction, and he was there with us 16 years ago when we started. *(Applause)*

From all of the local ATUs supporting us to the campaign that was run to the support all the way up to our leader, President John Costa. *(Applause)*

'A real team effort'

I also couldn't be more proud of our 32 striking workers who started 32 strong on June 28th, and ended 32 strong on July 25th, as not one of us crossed back over that picket line. *(Applause)* It was a real team effort.

Standing Ovation

'ATU has your back'

If there's one thing I would like everyone to take from our experience it would be to realize no matter how small or how large your local is, everyone that is part of the ATU has your back. Whether it comes from kind words of support or gift cards from Stop & Shop donated from the ATU locals or an expensive campaign set up with the blessing of our president, everyone at the ATU supports you. We are about as small a group as you can get and yet the ATU has put every resource they have to fight for us.

Our story has not ended

Sadly, our story has not ended. Shortly after the strike ended and we went back to work, two of our members quit. Two were fired including Sister Linda Dixon who spoke at the CAN-AM Conference. They also continued to employ some of the scabs they hired to replace us, and we had to work side-by-side with them.

Then a few weeks ago, the VTA announced they were going to make drastic cuts to the winter service, which would make many of our members either unemployed or working hours and shifts that they haven't had to work in five or more years. This is also a severe blow to our ridership that depends on us to get to doctors' appointments, work, to grocery stores, libraries, et cetera.

There is one lady we know who is a single mom, who doesn't drive and had to quit her second job caring for an elderly couple that desperately needed her assistance because she would no longer be able to take our buses to work. Which means she lost an additional \$1,200 a month in income and the poor elderly couple she took care of has to find new caretaker.

'It's a flat-out lie'

Normally, we run routes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 10A and 13. In the winter, they are going to cut routes 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10A, leaving only 1, 10 and 13. The VTA claimed our contract would lead to a \$700,000 deficit, in and-of-itself. Obviously, it's a flat-out lie.

It's just another example of union-busting at its finest. It was a big hit to our morale but after the ATU put up hundreds of thousands of dollars to help us get our first contract – money they will never recover from us by the way – they are again back helping us to fight these cuts and our administrator's anti-union, union-busting ways.

Now, I don't want to leave you guys all depressed and feeling sorry for us because we are going to continue to fight – I won't sleep until I get everyone's job back – I will continue to be a thorn in the VTA's side until we expose their real agenda.

'They underestimate our heart'

They think we're going to crumble and fold, and they think they will get rid of the ATU. But once again, they underestimate our heart and they underestimate the power of solidarity. *(Applause)*

I want to leave you all with this. Do you remember that vile, little coward of a man, our general manager, Darin Morris? Well, the day before I left to come to Vegas, I was informed that he gave his two-week notice. So sad to see him go. *(Applause)*

He could not take the pressure that the ATU has put on him. He could not handle the fact that he lost all of his power. And when the story is finally told, when the story is finally over and at last told, Administrator Andrew Grant will follow him out the door. *(Applause)*

And you know why? Because together we fight, and together, we win! Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Brother Chuck Ryan, 1548, president, you would like to say a few words?

CHUCK RYAN, 1548-Plymouth, MA: 16 years ago – a week before the International Convention at Bally's, I got word that the Vineyard people had decertified the union. Joe Welch and I had done a contract, and it was not ratified, and the company seized the moment to turn around and get rid of the union. I never thought we'd be over there again.



Delegate Chuck Ryan, 1548-Plymouth, MA

Five years ago, at one of those 1:00 o'clock in the morning phone calls, I got a phone call from Larry Hanley saying, "You and Steve MacDougall get over to that island and organize those people." And I thought, "Oh, God, this is going to work out great – two Irishmen going over there and organizing these people!

Well, little did I know that through the efforts of Larry and everybody else at the ATU, we stand here today with a first contract five years later, and fought these people tooth and nail. *(Applause)*

I would be remiss if I didn't thank Steve MacDougall for his assistance over there. He did a great job. Thank you, Steve *(Applause)*; for a couple of my friends from Local 726 that Danny sent over to keep things straight, thank you, Danny. *(Applause)*

And when those guys got done, we got the second round from Ray Greaves and his people. Thank you, Ray. *(Applause)*

But I do want to thank International President John Costa, who picked up the mantle from Larry and said, "We are not going to give up, we are going to get it done." Thank you, John.

Standing Ovation

COSTA: And we are not done because we are going back to that island and we are finishing the job and we are going to get rid of her, and we are going to get rid of her quickly. So, yes, we are not done. We are back. But give them a hand. It was a great victory and great campaign. Give Jason a hand.

CHALIFOUX: Thank you.

GARY MAUER ORGANIZING AWARDS

COSTA: Javier, we are going to take over – we are going to do the Organizing Awards, and Javier is going to take over.

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT JAVIER M. PEREZ, JR: Good morning, Brothers and Sisters.



International Executive Vice President Javier M. Perez, Jr.

DELEGATES: “Good morning.”

PEREZ: I’m pleased to announce the Organizing Awards. These are given each Convention in the memory of Gary Maurer – an international representative and ATU organizer.

Gary passed away in 2010, after a long battle with cancer. He built a record and reputation that continues to echo throughout the Union to this day. He was a fearless and tireless fighter for workers, their right to a union, and for a world free of racial and social injustice.

He believed the key to successful organizing was the

one-on-one meetings with workers. At this Convention, we will be honoring locals with the ATU Gary Maurer Organizing Awards.

Recipients of the 2019 Gary Maurer Organizing Awards – and I would ask you to come up, please. Local:

- 256-Sacramento, CA (*Applause*)
- 627-Cincinnati, OH (*Applause*)
- 689-Washington DC (*Applause*)
- 732-Atlanta, GA (*Applause*)
- 998-Milwaukee, WI (*Applause*)
- 1005-Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN (*Applause*)
- 1091-Austin, TX (*Applause*)
- 1181-New York, NY (*Applause*)
- 1309-San Diego, CA (*Applause*)
- 1338-Dallas, TX (*Applause*)
- 1763-Rocky Hill, CT (*Applause*)

PEREZ: Chris Townsend, is Chris here? Where is Chris? Chris, please present the awards to each individual.

ORGANIZING DIRECTOR CHRIS TOWNSEND: Okay. Good morning, everyone.

DELEGATES: “Good morning.”

TOWNSEND: I’m Chris Townsend, your organizing director. And thank you, Javier, thank you, John, thank you, Oscar, for this brief opportunity to show the new organizing that this Union does in between Conventions.



International Organizing Director Chris Townsend

I'd like to start on the end of the line with Ralph Niz. Come on up, Ralph. Local 256 in California has done fine work. Everyone here has organized work with the International to organize not one, but two or more new properties in between the Conventions. And thanks to Ralph, Local 256. Thanks very much. *(Applause)*

RALPH NIZ, 256-Sacramento, CA: Thank you. *(Applause)*

TOWNSEND: Second, Local 689 from Washington, DC. This proud Local has organized not one, but two, but three new properties in their area, Raymond Jackson, president; Jackie Jeter, former president. *(Applause)* Thanks very, very much. Thanks much for Local 689.

Thank you. Thanks very much.

The next awardee, Local 627, Troy Miller from Cincinnati. *(Applause)* Troy's Local stepped up, worked with us, organized several properties. Let's have a hand for him, Troy Miller, 627. *(Applause)*

Local 732. Local 732-Atlanta, GA, come forward. *(Applause)* Absolutely fine job. I want to point out that our Atlanta Local has taken the ribbon with not one, not two, not three, not four, but five new organizing victories since the last Convention. Absolutely, good work. Good work. *(Applause)*

Local 998. James Macon, 998-Milwaukee, WI, worked with us to organize two new properties and was featured in the video with one of the toughest contract fights that we have had. James, congratulations.

JAMES MACON, 998-Milwaukee, WI: Thank you. *(Applause)*

TOWNSEND: Local 1005, Ryan Timlin. Ryan Timlin from Minnesota worked with the International Union to organize two new properties. Congratulations and thanks to Local 1005. *(Applause)*

Brent Payne – oh, Brenda – you going to do it? Sure. Accepting the award for Local 1091-Austin, TX, Brenda Moore. Brenda, on behalf of the International, your Local has done extraordinary work with two new properties. Thanks very much. *(Applause)*

1181 – Ernie – let's find yours – 1181. Local 1181 from New York City:

Accepting the award is Ernie Maione, organizer for the Local. You've done fine work. Two new properties since the last International Convention. Thanks very much. Thank you, 1181. *(Applause)*

Local 1309 from San Diego. Local 1309, presented to Lisa Fair has worked with the International in the last three years to organize two new properties. Thanks very much, and thank you, Lisa. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

Local 1338-Dallas, TX, Ken Day worked with the International Union to organize three new properties. *(Applause)*

And Local 1763, LaWanda Epps. *(Applause)* LaWanda Epps, 1763. Let's have a great hand for her and all of the rest of the organizing locals that have come up this morning. *(Applause)*

We also have two Locals that have been recognized, Locals 1756 and 1764, who are not here to accept the award, but they worked nonetheless very diligently and very hard.

Javier, thanks very much. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you. Give them a hand. *(Applause)* That's what it is all about. Organizing is not easy, and those that do it, it's not easy work, but good results *(Applause)*

JOE BIDEN

Former Vice President and Democratic Presidential Candidate

COSTA: Okay. We have another speaker, so all eyes on the screens behind me. Thank you.

Video Address

FORMER VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: Hello, Amalgamated Transit Union Convention. *(Applause)*

I'm really sorry I can't be there with you in Las Vegas because the stakes have never been higher for our country.

I want to thank President John Costa and the entire Executive Board for giving me a chance to say hello. I'm truly grateful for each and every one of you.



Joe Biden, Former Vice President and Presidential Candidate

‘We owe you’

You’re on the frontlines of public service, and the work you put into keeping the American people safe is incredible. How many millions of people in this country depend on public transit to get to work? – We owe you.

And I want you to know that if I have the honor of being elected your president, you’ll have no stronger friend, no more reliable partner, no better advocate in the White House than me. I’ll stand with you in the fight. I’ll stand next to you in the fight. I’ll stand behind you because I know how hard you’ve had to fight to defend the rights you’ve earned.

There’s been a long war in Labor’s house. Anti-union forces have attacked your good jobs, your high-quality benefits, your healthcare, the security of your pension so you can retire with dignity. You are constantly fighting privatization. It shouldn’t be this way.

‘Collective bargaining will be sacred’

Under the Biden Administration, collective bargaining will be sacred. The right to organize will be sacred. The question is no longer how we fund public transit, it will be how much more, how more quickly, can we fund it? How quickly can we do it?

We need more public transportation to deal with the existential threat of climate change. It’s urgent, and you’re part of the solution by taking hundreds of thousands of vehicles off the road, reducing greenhouse gases, reducing emissions.

And all of you embody the good qualities we teach our children – courage, resilience, resolve. That’s at the heart of our American national character. And in this day and age, we need to pay more attention to our character, not less.

‘I need you’

So, I hope all of you, all of you, get involved in these upcoming elections, from the primary all of the way through the general election. Don’t wait to get to work. I need you. More importantly, the country needs you.

And I promise you, if I’m elected your president, I will ensure that you are given the respect you deserve. May God bless you. May God protect our troops. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Brothers and Sisters. I think this will be a good time to take a lifestyle break and reconvene in about 15 minutes.

Whereupon, a Recess Was Taken.

PERRY: Sisters and Brothers, please take your seats because the Convention is about to reconvene.

COSTA: Sergeants-at-Arms, can we have everybody seated? Okay. We have a raffle to do. We have some – before I forget it, we have a raffle. Brother Smalls, you can come up here and do this raffle.

BROTHER SMALLS: Danny, you won’t win.

Commotion from the floor

Michael Overstreet, 308-Chicago, IL. *(Applause)*

COSTA: What’s in the box?

BROTHER SMALLS: *“Something nice.”*

COSTA: Thank you, thank you. Come on up. We have the gift.

ELECTION OF INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

COSTA: Okay. At this time, we are going to go into nominations for international officers, and Brother Javier Perez will come on up and take over the Chair, please.

PEREZ: Good morning, Brothers and Sisters. The time has come for the election of our international officers. I will conduct the nomination for the International President's position.

International President

PEREZ: Nominations are now open for the Office of International President, and I recognize Mic. 2, Ray Greaves:

RAY GREAVES, NJ State Council, chair: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm going to ask the New Jersey delegation to please join me in this proud moment. Please come behind me. *(Delegates Comply)*

Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a comment. Last night at the event, which was wonderful, I happened to have the opportunity to speak to Mel Brooks for a couple hours last night, and I was waiting for Mel Brooks to come up on the stage.

DANIEL CASSELLA, 726-Staten Island, NY: Ray – that was not Mel Brooks. I don't know if you know that. That was Neil Silver.

GREAVES: Get out! *Neil Silver? (Laughter)* Wow, I'm sorry, Neil.

Nomination: John Costa

GREAVES: Brothers and Sisters, I'm proud to stand here at this 59th International Convention, but before we nominate, I want to recognize some guests that have flown in from New Jersey to be here with their beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle:

I want to recognize Marie Costa. This is John's wife for over 30 years. *(Applause)*



Delegate Ray Greaves, New Jersey State Council

His daughters, Courtney and Jackie, Jackie's husband, Zach; their two beautiful, children, Lucas and Lucia. You saw them last night trying to get up on the stage. *(Applause)*

Also, John's brother, Sean; and a shout-out to his son, Dante; and to John's father, Jack, who wanted to be here, but they couldn't get him on the plane. He wanted to hang out in Atlantic City and hear the good news tonight. And he is going to be in Atlantic City waiting, but Jack wanted to be here and the entire extended Costa family. Let's hear it for them. *(Applause)*

I have known John for over 34 years. I have worked with him. I watched him progress every step of the way. He started out in the Newark City subway. He started out as a shop steward, worked his way up to Local 819 president, and then to New Jersey State Council Chairman. John is not only my friend, he's my mentor, he's my brother.

I'm going to ask everybody on the East Coast to please join me and stand up. *(Delegates comply and cheer)*

Everyone on the West Coast, to please join me and stand up. *(Delegates Comply and Cheer)*

Everyone in the North to Ontario, Quebec, Canada, to please stand up. *(Delegates Comply and Cheer)*

Everyone in the Midwest to the South, to the Southeast, to the Northeast. *(Delegates Comply and Cheer)*

Everyone throughout the United States that is in this room – every brother and sister across Canada – join me in placing the name of our friend, our guy, "Johnny Contract," John Costa, for nomination for International President.

Standing Ovation

DELEGATES: “Costa!”

PEREZ: The name of John Costa has been placed in nomination. I recognize Mic. 1, Yvonne Williams:

YVONNE WILLIAMS, 192-Oakland, CA: Oh, my goodness, Ray. Come on now. You leave me not much to say, but I will say this: *A man such as he, at a time such as this.*



Delegate Yvonne Williams, 192-Oakland, CA

For this brother to step into those shoes and be willing to lead the ATU International forward for the next 125 years and beyond into space (*Applause*) until we are traveling as ATU, as space operators, mechanics, clerks, drivers, and whatever shall be, whatever shall be is amazing.

And I thank you, Brother, because you have really taken on a responsibility far and above what many of us would even attempt to do. (*Applause*)

PEREZ: Thank you, Yvonne. The Chair recognizes Clint Crabtree at Mic. 3:

CLINT CRABTREE, 279-Ottawa, ON: It is with honor and privilege that I get the opportunity to stand before the delegation of the 59th Convention to honor John Costa and nominate him as International President. Canada stands behind you, John.

DELEGATES: “Costa!”

PEREZ: Are there any other nominations for President? (*No Response*)

Are there any other nominations for President? (*No Response*)



Delegate Clint Crabtree, 279-Ottawa, ON

Are there any other nominations for President?

DELEGATES: Chorus of “Noes!”

PEREZ: Hearing none, nominations for President are closed.

Standing Ovation

PEREZ: Brothers and Sisters, Brothers and Sisters, Brothers and Sisters, Brothers and Sisters, I apologize. There apparently was somebody at Mic. 5, that I missed, so was there a nomination that I missed back there?

MUSTAFA SALAHUDDIN, 1336-Bridgeport, CT: Mustafa Salahuddin from the great state of Connecticut on behalf of the Connecticut ATU Legislative Conference, also so move to nominate the brother to the position of president of the ATU. And it is our honor to stand here in solidarity to do so, and we don't have to wear a t-shirt to say it. (*Applause*)

PEREZ: Yeah, that is appreciated, but that is out of order because the rules only allow for two seconds. So, if there are not any other nominations – I want to make sure I don't miss. If there are not any other nominations, nominations are closed.

Standing Ovation

Brothers and Sisters, Brothers and Sisters, if you would please – this is a special time in our history – I know it's a special time for Johnny's family, and so I would ask your indulgence. I know that each of you have one of these. Would each of you turn on your [mobile phone] flashlight for me, please, and can we turn down the houselights? (*Delegates comply*).

All right. John, do you accept the position of International President?

COSTA: I honorably and humbly accept. Thank you very much.

Standing Ovation

PEREZ: And, Brothers and Sisters – Brothers and Sisters, let me say: Today, John, with your election, the flickering flame from the candles of the mourning that we shared at the death of Larry Hanley has passed as a torch from each of us to you as we move forward. God bless you and Godspeed. Congratulations, John Costa.

Standing Ovation

JOHN COSTA ELECTED INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

PEREZ: I now ask the IST to cast the unanimous ballot at 11:24 a.m. for International President John Costa. *(Applause)*

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER
OSCAR OWENS: I cast a unanimous ballot for John

Costa as President of the Amalgamated Transit Union. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Brothers and Sisters, I am honored, humbly honored, to be your International President. Ray Greaves, New Jersey and the total ...

GREAVES: Love you, John.

COSTA: ... New York, thank you for the kind words. Thank you for all of the energy. Yvonne, thank you for the second and the beautiful words, and also my friends from Canada and Clint Crabtree, thank you also for that second. Thank you. *(Applause)*

I'm honored to stand here today – I am honored. You don't understand the energy – look, I took this – and I didn't know what I was doing. I guess, Larry – Larry said it. I don't know, but Larry – I guess Larry saw something I didn't see in me, but thank you.

The energy you give me is remarkable

But the energy that you give me to do this job is remarkable. This is a great Union. From the moment I stood up and nominated myself, this is the first time



International President John A. Costa and family.

I have ran and not been challenged. This is my first time I ran unopposed. And, actually, I thought I would be challenged because every one of my elections went like that.

But the democratic process – the debates that we have had here – I welcome it, I look forward to it. Let's just be respectful and treat each other like family – because we are family. We are one big family.

And I just want to recognize, thank you everyone here for your support. It's just a remarkable week. And I thank God for putting me here because I didn't really see this happening in my time but thank you. *(Applause)*

DELEGATES: "Costa!"

COSTA: I know there's a time limit here, but I want to just recognize my wife, Marie. She's been with me from the start. And, Marie, if it wasn't for you, I wouldn't be here. Not only my high school sweetheart, but still my sweetheart, and thank you very much for being with me, Baby. I love you. *(Applause)*

My daughter Jacqueline is in the crowd. That is my life, my joy. My daughter, Courtney, couldn't make it. I hope they "Facetimed" her, or something they were going to do. But she's running her little business there. Courtney, I love you. We did it.

My grandson, Lucas. Lucas is out there. Hello, Lucas, and my granddaughter, Lucia Marie. Thank you. My brother came in – Sean. Thank you, Sean; and my godson, nephew, Dante, is in the house. Thank you very much.

My son-in-law is in the house also. Little Lucia Marie. Thank you all for being here. *(Applause)* My parents couldn't be here, my father, but thank you, everybody.

We have an election to go through, and we have a Union to run and we have many fights moving forward – as we move forward. So, thank you. Thank you. I'm very humbled. Thank you. *(Applause)*

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

COSTA: Okay. Next nominations are now open for International Executive Vice President. Mic. 2:

Nomination: Javier M. Perez, Jr.

ROBERT ROACH, 1287-Kansas City, MO: Congratulations, John, on your election.

Ray, you made this next to impossible for me to do. I'm not a public speaker anyway and to follow you, wow. So, I'll keep this short and sweet. It is my honor to nominate Javier Perez for Executive Vice President of the Amalgamated Transit Union.



Delegate Robert Roach, 1287-Kansas City, MO

Standing Ovation

COSTA: Nominations for Javier – Mic. 3:

LUIS ALZATE, 1056-Flushing, NY: Good morning, Delegates of the 59th Convention. To President Costa, congratulations.

On behalf of the President of the ATU-ILC, (Latino Caucus) Ismael Rivera and myself, the executive board that stands with me, and the members of the ATU-ILC membership, we rise to nominate one of the founding fathers of the ATU International Latino Caucus – Javier Perez, Jr. *(Applause)*

From one of our first vice presidents at ATU-ILC to the current International Executive Vice President, Javier Perez has been a member and a strong supporter



Delegate Luis Alzate, 1056-Flushing, NY

of a dream that in the late 1980s became what it is now today, the Amalgamated Transit Union International Latino Caucus.

It is an honor and a privilege for the ATU International Latino Caucus to cast the second endorsement for Javier Perez as the ATU International Executive Vice President. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you.

COSTA: Second? Is there any other mics open? Mic. 4:

KENNETH DAY, 1338-Dallas, TX: Good morning, Brothers and Sisters, Delegates, Officers of this great Union. I, Kenneth Day, stand on behalf of the ATU Black Caucus and second the nomination of Brother Javier Perez for Executive Vice President of this great Union.



Delegate Kenneth Day, 1338-Dallas, TX

Standing Ovation

COSTA: Thank you.

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And one more time, are there any other nominations?
(No Response)

Hearing none, nominations closed. *(Gavel Knock)*

Standing Ovation

PEREZ: Mr. President, I accept the nomination.

Standing Ovation

JAVIER M. PEREZ, JR., RE-ELECTED INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast a unanimous ballot for Javier Perez, Jr., as International Executive Vice President of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

Standing Ovation

COSTA: International Executive Vice President Javier Perez: *(Applause)*

PEREZ: Good morning, Brothers and Sisters. Thank you very much. I thank and acknowledge our Creator. I thank my nominator and seconds. I thank the Local that I came from... excuse me... I thank the Local *(Applause)* I thank the Local where it all started for me: Local 1287 *(Applause)*, my local president, Johnny Walker.

I also want to thank the Latino Caucus and all of the caucuses and conferences that have supported me throughout the years. Thank you. *(Applause)*

Many of you know that Lee Ann and I are battling her cancer. We thank each of you for your prayers and your thoughtful concerns you have shared with us. Thank you.

Standing Ovation

It's a battle. But helping with this, Brothers and Sisters, it's a battle for us. But together we fight. Together we will win. *(Applause)*

A few minutes ago, we passed the torch of leadership as the head of our great Union, but we must never forget the men and women who built this Union. Men and women whose shoulders we stand on today. We have with us many of our retired officers. If you are here in the hall, please stand, please wave. (*Applause*)

One of those retired officers – one of those retired officers – is President Jimmy La Sala, who many today may not know, but Jimmy was responsible, among many things, for instance, for instituting the training program for ATU members. Classes were held at the George Meany Center which today is called the Tommy Douglas Center.

Under his leadership he introduced to the ATU computers, created a web page, electronic bookkeeping and more. Thank you for your foresight. Thank you for your leadership, Jimmy. (*Applause*)

I also want to thank retired Executive Vice President Mike Siano, without whose mentoring I would not stand here today. Thank you, Michael and Judy. (*Applause*)

By our own hands

Brothers and Sisters, we do not honor the hardworking men and women who built this Union and whose shoulders we stand on by proposing endless patience with the status quo. We have learned that it is not in the hands of a clock that will solve our problems, but it's by our own hands and our actions that we will prevail.

Those that follow us will know us not by our words, but by our actions: What we have done and what we have failed to do.

We, the ATU, have recognized the need to be continuously innovative, focusing on new and better ways to engage our membership. We are working to marry “high tech” with “high touch.”

‘Not going to be anyone’s patsy’

We are not going to be anyone’s patsy in an employer propaganda war. Nor are we going to allow the employers to set the stage of engagement. We will run our campaigns because – help me, Brothers and Sisters –

Together We Fight, Together We Win. –

DELEGATES: “*Together We Fight, Together We Win!*”

PEREZ: Brothers and Sisters, “Together We Fight, Together We Win” is more than a slogan. Mother Jones said we mourn for the dead but fight like hell for the living and we will do that. (*Applause*)

The ATU story is one we are proud of. It is a story that at times beats us up, leaves us bruised. The thrill of victory and the agony of temporary defeat. But more often the story that lifts us up, inspires us.

Brothers and Sisters, “Together We Fight, Together We Win” is more than a slogan. How do we bring economic justice to members and to our allies if we are not in the game? How will our members experience the thrill of victory or the agony of [defeat if] we are not in the game?

Brothers and Sisters, we have endless challenges, opportunities and possibilities ahead of us. Both equally require our mutual respect and responsibility.

‘You must pick up a torch’

You must pick up a torch. We lit the torch for John this morning but each of you when you go home must pick up the torch. You have to create and then be the souls of the Union at the local level. It is not a 9-to-5 job. You know that. What we – what *you* do now will define us forever.

In a climate where the velocity of change is accelerating, we can't allow ourselves to be so enamored by our past success that we become a big, slow, bureaucratic, constipated organization. The future is where we will live and spend the rest of our lives.

Dinosaurs were big at one time. They ruled this earth. They roamed the world. Where are they now?

Taxis once dominated our city streets, and what has happened to them?

While we have gathered here and had a good time here and huddled together in our meetings and caucuses, let us remember that people don't go to go to football

games to see the teams huddle. People watch games to see what happens after the huddle breaks.

‘Make your locals better’

Go home inspired, refreshed, renewed. Make your locals better.

As we, the International, go forward, you should anticipate an evolution in how we do things. You should expect to disrupt the status quo, to put our professions in a higher plane. Be prepared to be part of that evolution and through evolution be “Proud to be ATU.”

I’m reminded of the words of Robert Kennedy. While some saw the 1960s as times of despair and peril, Kennedy said, “Some men see things as they are and ask why. I dream things that never were and ask why not.”

We should be proud of the organizing we have done, but when we look over all of the reports and we see that we averaged 850 members a year and other organizations are doing more, let’s be proud of what we’ve done, but let’s not gloss over the challenge.

‘Why not now?’

PEREZ: Say it, Brothers: “Why not now?” –

DELEGATES: “*Why not now?*”

PEREZ: Why not now? We should grow. When we see the threats posed by Parliament in Canada and Congress in Washington, DC; when we see the fights run courageously by Erik Tuck to keep transit public; and we see the fights at the states’ capitals and provinces; and when we see that our contributions have declined while some lament – I say let’s rebuild this sad song. Let’s rebuild and make it better.

Say it with me, Brothers and Sisters: “Why not now?” –

DELEGATES: “*Why not now?*”

PEREZ: You and I can bend the course of our future from one of potential peril to one of promise. We are creating history. We are building a foundation for those who will follow and beyond.



International Executive Vice President Javier M. Perez, Jr.

‘Accept the torch’

These are our “good old days.” Accepting the torch, I ask each of you to please stand, join hands and repeat the following after me. Please stand, join hands and repeat the following after me. I’m asking you to accept the torch that we lift today.

Please repeat after me. Accept the torch for you individually and for your locals.

PEREZ: We are pilgrims on a journey. –

DELEGATES: *“We are pilgrims on a journey.”*

PEREZ: We are brothers and sisters on the road. –

DELEGATES: *“We are brothers and sisters on the road.”*

PEREZ: We are here to help each other. –

DELEGATES: *“We are here to help each other.”*

PEREZ: Walk the mile. –

DELEGATES: *“Walk the mile.”*

PEREZ: Carry the load. –

DELEGATES: *“Carry the load.”*

PEREZ: I will hold the light for you. –

DELEGATES: *“I will hold the light for you.”*

PEREZ: In the nighttime of your fear. –

DELEGATES: *“In the nighttime of your fear.”*

PEREZ: I will hold my hand out to you. –

DELEGATES: *“I will hold my hand out to you.”*

PEREZ: Speak the peace you long to hear. –

DELEGATES: *“Speak the peace you long to hear.”*

PEREZ: I will weep when you are weeping. –

DELEGATES: *“I will weep when you are weeping.”*

PEREZ: When you laugh, I will laugh with you. –

DELEGATES: *“When you laugh, I will laugh with you.”*

PEREZ: I will share your joy and sorrow. –

DELEGATES: *“I will share your joy and sorrow.”*

PEREZ: Until we’ve seen this journey through. –

DELEGATES: *“Until we’ve seen this journey through.”*

PEREZ: I will hold your hand. –

DELEGATES: *“I will hold your hand.”*

PEREZ: And Brothers and Sisters, in closing once again, as I always do, I must say: I, an ordinary man, thank each of you for this tremendous responsibility. God bless you and God bless the ATU.

Standing Ovation

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

COSTA: Okay. Next, I will open the position of International Secretary-Treasurer. It is now open.

Nomination: Oscar Owens

COSTA: Nominations are now open. Mic. 1:

YVONNE WILLIAMS, 192-Oakland, CA: Hello, Brothers and Sisters. I stand on this occasion of the 59th Convention to place into nomination my brother, “Double O” – Oscar Owens as International Secretary-Treasurer. All right. Okay.



Delegate Yvonne Williams, 192-Oakland, CA

Standing Ovation

Okay. I have a little bit to say about the brother. It’s not going to take me long because – because, you know – but I can talk about the 53 years of ATU membership

that Oscar Owens has served. I could also talk about 46 years of union leadership and his exemplary leadership as the International Secretary-Treasurer.

Oscar Owens is our international ‘treasure’

But it’s something else, it’s something deeper and it’s something more. Oscar Owens is our international “treasure.” He is a treasure to the International and a gift to us.

He has been a member of this Union, as I said, for over 50 years. Oscar Owens met every challenge. The challenge of knocking down the walls of discrimination, even within our Local 192, and forging a path for us to move into this leadership position.

Oscar Owens is more than the IST. Oscar Owens is not “quick grits.” He is not instant mashed potatoes and he is not instant oatmeal.

And there will come a day when Oscar Owens – and only when he chooses to pass that mantle on, and on that day (*Applause*) – no, I’m not done yet – you know, this is not funny – this is serious business – and on that day when Oscar decides to pass that mantle on and someone has the nerve to reach their hand out to take that mantle, they’d better not fuck it up!

Standing Ovation

COSTA: Mic. 4:



Delegate Kenneth Day, 1338-Dallas, TX

KENNETH DAY, 1338-Dallas, TX: President Costa, I apologize when I had the mic earlier. I did not say “on

behalf of the Black Caucus,” we also support you and congratulations. (*Applause*)

At this time, I will ask all of the delegates of the ATU Black Caucus to please stand as we second the nomination of “Double O.” Fire it up! Fire it up! Fire it up!

DELEGATES: “*Fire it up!*”

DAY: I am proud to second the nomination of “Double O.”

COSTA: Mic. 1:



Delegate Joyce Willis, 192-Oakland, CA

JOYCE WILLIS, 192-Oakland, CA: Okay. I’m here today with our members from the California Conference Board and Oscar’s family of 192 and I’m standing here to say that, “Oscar, you have a special place in our hearts because we stand on your shoulders for what you did for us in Local 192 and we will never forget it,” and with that I second the nomination for ATU 192, Oscar Owens. (*Applause*)

COSTA: Nomination for Oscar Owens.

Nomination: Kevin Morton

COSTA: Mic. 3:

CLINT CRABTREE, 279-Ottawa, ON: Brothers and Sisters, I stand before you, the 59th convention delegates, to honor and nominate a friend of my Local, Local 279. I want to nominate Kevin Morton for the position of International Secretary-Treasurer.

Kevin is a fighter. He is a passionate man. He is instrumental in providing education to the CAN-AM Conference and as well he was also instrumental in



Delegate Clint Crabtree, 279-Ottawa, ON

keeping ATU 113 part of the Amalgamated Transit Union with the hard work of his executive board, and the raid that they endured under UNIFOR. It is my honor and privilege to nominate Kevin Morton, and Kevin, if you are successful – you'd better not fuck it up! *(Laughter, Applause)*

COSTA: Nomination for Kevin Morton was put up. Mic. 3:



Delegate Carlos Santos, 113-Toronto, ON

CARLOS SANTOS, 113-Toronto, ON: It's a great honor and privilege to nominate Kevin Morton for Secretary-Treasurer. There is nobody that speaks with more passion, more fire than Kevin Morton. He's been very instrumental in our Local and he's been one of the best secretary-treasurer's we've possibly had in our existence.

Everybody knows Kevin. He is a great speaker. He is very qualified. He is very smart with his numbers and he is the best guy that we believe can take this Union going forward.

It's an honor and privilege and I commend him for stepping up and running. Believe in your hearts, follow your heart and you will prevail. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Carlos, was that a second?

SANTOS: It's a second.

COSTA: Okay. Are there – is Mic. No. 3 still on, or is that it?

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Okay. Before we close, Oscar, do you accept your nomination? *(Applause)*

OWENS: It's my honor to accept the nomination of International Secretary-Treasurer of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

Standing Ovation

COSTA: Okay. No speeches. We just need to know if you accept.

Brother Kevin Morton, do you accept your nomination? Mic. 3:

KEVIN MORTON, 113-Toronto, ON: It's my honor and privilege, and I'd like to personally thank my nominator Clint Crabtree.

COSTA: No speeches.

MORTON: Absolutely.

COSTA: Thank you. Okay. The nominations are closed.

I'll call the chairman of the Balloting Committee and we have an election for a ballot with Oscar Owens and Kevin Morton for International Secretary-Treasurer.

Balloting

COSTA: Mr. Chairman:

COMMITTEE CHAIR DWIGHT MATTINGLY, 1577-West Palm Beach, FL: Good morning, Brothers and Sisters. The Balloting Committee will begin preparing the



Delegate Dwight Mattingly, 1577-West Palm Beach, FL

ballot for International Secretary-Treasurer momentarily.

Under the election rules passed by this Convention, each candidate is entitled to two election observers but must submit the name of any observers to the International Secretary-Treasurer prior to voting.

I ask that any observers meet me up front as I exit the stage. In order to ensure an expeditious and orderly election, I ask that all delegates pay particular attention as I walk through how the balloting process will take place:

MATTINGLY:

As a preliminary matter, the elections of our International officers and each of the AFL-CIO convention delegates and alternate positions are governed by the previously adopted Rule No. 18 of this 59th Convention.

The members of this committee will vote first and then the candidates' observers will vote next.

Upon the conclusion of that process, I will call the delegates to vote by their seating area in this hall. Upon being called to vote, each delegate from that designated seating row whose eligibility to vote has been confirmed by the Credentials Committee should proceed out of the exits of the convention hall to the Champagne Ballroom.

Members of the Balloting Committee and Sergeants-at-Arms will direct you to the voting area.

Once you are in the balloting area, you will need to report to the ballot table designated for delegates from your local union. There are signs

at each table identifying the range of local unions which will report to the table in order to get their ballots.

For example, the first table in the room will have a sign with Locals 19 through 241. So, delegates from Locals 19, 22, 26, and through 241 should report to that table.

All of the tables are ordered numerically. So, the final table will check in delegates for those locals with the highest local union numbers, Locals 1588 through 1779.

At the ballot tables, the eligibility of each voting delegate will be confirmed against a voter eligibility list. As you approach the table, please state your local union number and be prepared to present your convention badge with its name insert.

Once a balloting committee member has confirmed your eligibility, you will be given a ballot and asked to sign your name on the voter eligibility list to confirm that you received your ballot.

Once you have your ballot, you must then proceed directly to one of the voting booths. Balloting committee members will be present to help usher you and direct the flow of traffic.

Once you are in the privacy of one of the voting booths, you will mark your ballot with an "X" next to the name of the candidate for whom you wish to vote. Make no other mark on your ballot. Please fold the ballot in half, so that no one will be able to see how you voted.

When you come out of the booth, you will be directed to one of the ballot boxes to deposit your marked ballot. We expect the ballots to list the candidates running in the election for the specific office in question.

The candidates will be listed alphabetically. To the left of each name, there will be a box in which the voter is to place an "X" if he or she desires to vote for that named candidate.

If an equipment malfunction prevents us from printing ballots and thereby threatening to delay our proceedings, the names of the nominated candidates will be written on one or more boards

appearing before the voting booths, and we will use blank, in other words “empty” ballots, upon which the candidates’ names will be written.

After each election has been concluded and the committee has completed its count, the results will be announced to the Convention.

It should go without saying that the decorum of this assembly will need to be maintained during the balloting. For that reason, we will certainly appreciate the cooperation of all of those in the hall in both maintaining order and following the direction of members of the Balloting Committee who will be posted at appropriate locations as well as the Sergeants-at-Arms who will be assisting outside of the immediate voting area.

MATTINGLY: We appreciate your patience as we prepare the ballots. When the ballots are ready, I will make an announcement that the Balloting Committee is prepared to commence the voting. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Okay. So, they’ve got to report.

All right. At this time, we cannot go through anymore nominations until this election is done, so just rest easy until we get the ballots done and then we’ll report it and start the procedure, the voting procedure. Okay? Thank you.

Please remain in the convention hall because once the ballots are all ready to be – once they are printed – then we are going to reconvene and start the process, so don’t go too far. We’ll do an announcement when we are ready to proceed, and the ballots are finished. Thank you.

Whereupon, There Was a Short Interruption.

COSTA: This is my grandson, Lucas, next Union leader. *(Applause)* I think he has a few words to say.

LUCAS: “Union, yes!” *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you. My beautiful wife, Marie, here. Come on. Give a fist, Honey. There you go.

MS. COSTA: Even Lucia has the fist up. Yeah, fist up, Lucia. “Fist up.”

(Applause)

Whereupon, a Recess Was Taken.

PERRY: Delegates, please take your seats. The balloting is about to begin.

COSTA: Okay. The ballots are ready. I need the Sergeants-at-Arms to get everybody seated, and I also need the Sergeants-at-Arms at the back rows – the back row of the auditorium. I need them in the back of all four back rows of voting delegates.

So, how we’re going to do this? We are going to do this in rows; so, we are going to work our way from the back forward. So, the Sergeants-at-Arms will release the rows, so we can have a nice flow because this is going to take a while. This process is done by hand and with hand ballots. There’s no machines or anything.

So, for anybody that is doing this for the first time, it’s going to take a while to get the voting done.

Hold on, hold on. Dan, we alright there?

Okay. All right. The doors will be straight back. The first row. Release the first row. Go ahead, start voting in the back, first row in the back. *(Delegates Depart to Vote)*

Okay. We can release the second back row. *(Delegates Depart to Vote)*

The next two rows can go. Sergeants-at-Arms, release the next two rows. *(Delegates Depart to Vote)*

PEREZ: All right. Brothers and Sisters, we are ready for the next two rows to go vote, please. *(Delegates Depart to Vote)*

PEREZ: Brothers and Sisters, we are ready for one more row to go back to vote, please. *(Delegates Depart to Vote)*

PEREZ: Brothers and Sisters, we are ready for one additional row, please. *(Delegates Depart to Vote)*

PEREZ: Brothers and Sisters, we are ready for one additional row to go vote, please. *(Delegates Depart to Vote)*

PEREZ: Brothers and Sisters, we have a lost cell phone. We have a lost cell phone, and the back of this colorful cell phone says, “Talk to me, Baby.” *(Laughter)*

I know that it’s not Felix’s. His might say, “My name is Rico, Baby. What’s yours?” *(Laughter)*

Brothers and Sisters, if there’s anybody in the room who

has not yet gone to vote, please do so now. If you have not yet left to go vote, please do so now. Thank you.

COSTA: Excuse me. All voting delegates, please, if you have not voted, proceed immediately to Champagne 3 and 4 – 3 and 4. If you are a delegate and you have not voted, go to Champagne 3 and 4 to vote. Thank you. *(Delegates Depart to Vote)*

COSTA: Okay. Can I have the Sergeants-at-Arms have everybody seated, please. Okay, chairman of the Balloting Committee is here. Back in order. Mr. Chairman.

MATTINGLY: Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, the balloting in the election for Office of International Secretary-Treasurer has concluded.

The election has been fairly conducted. The ballots have been accurately counted and the secrecy and sanctity of the ballot had been preserved.

The Balloting Committee has certified the tally of ballots as follows: 628 ballots were cast. 627 ballots were deemed valid. There were no void ballots.

One ballot was challenged. Because of the margin of victory, the unresolved challenged ballot was insufficient to affect the outcome. The ballot was not opened.

- 154 ballots were cast for Kevin Morton. *(Applause)*
- 473 ballots were cast for Oscar Owens. *(Cheers)*

DELEGATES: “Oscar!”

COSTA: Mr. Chairman needs to continue. Go ahead, Mr. Chairman:

OSCAR OWENS RE-ELECTED INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

MATTINGLY: Oscar Owens is the new Secretary-Treasurer for the International.

Standing Ovation

COSTA: The Chair recognizes Oscar Owens, International Secretary-Treasurer. *(Applause)*

‘Thrilled and full of joy’

OWENS: Fellow trade unionists, activists, ladies and gentlemen, I’m not going to be longwinded today because I’m thrilled and full of joy that you have decided to elect me as Secretary-Treasurer of this great organization. *(Applause)*

I want to thank you all. I want to thank those who voted for me and those who did not, thank you. *(Applause)* So, Mr. Chairman, again, to the delegates, thank you very much. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Mic. 4:

MIKE LOWERY, 1395-Pensacola, FL: Mr. Chairman, for Brother Owens don’t we have to cast the unanimous ballot.

COSTA: Yes, sorry. Thank you. And I cast – well, I recognize – excuse me, Robert? *(conferring with parliamentarian)* It was not unanimous. It was an election. And it’s – I recognize the International Secretary-Treasurer Oscar Owens as the elected winner. Thank you. *(Applause)*

‘Today was a democratic vote’

COSTA: Mic. 3:

MORTON: Thank you, John. I’d like to congratulate Oscar on your victory. It was well deserved. And I hope you have very healthy three years and you do the best you can to move us forward, and I know you will.



Delegate Kevin Morton, 113-Toronto, ON

John, I think today you got an overwhelming vote for transformation. Larry Hanley was a visionary. He died too early. I hope you can carry on what he believed in and I know you can.

All of Canada supported you as well as the delegates from the United States, but I just want to say that today was a democratic vote for what democracy is all about. Everyone should have the right to run. *(Applause)*

And in true democracies, you accept the defeat, you guide the winner, and support the winner and that is what I'm going to do. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Brother.

MORTON: And with the support you got here today, I think you have the power to change the way we appoint. The people here today do not want appointments. They want elections. *(Applause)*

And I know you since 1995, when you were on the CAN-AM. That's when I first met you, and I see how many executives from the CAN-AM became IVPs, and now the president. Larry Hanley was also an executive of the CAN-AM and thank you very much for giving that great tribute that the CAN-AM is a fantastic conference. We do not elect – we educate

– and I know that you are going to do that. So, in closing, take the power that we have given you and do it for change. Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: *"Together We Win!"*

COSTA: Together We Win!

MORTON: Together We Win. Thank you.

COSTA: Thank you, Brother Morton.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

COSTA: Okay, Brothers and Sisters, we are going to continue. Nominations are open, and we are going to open now the International Vice President spot for the No. 1, No. 1 International Vice President spot. Mic. 3:

Nomination: Richard Murphy

JAMES EVERS, 589-Boston, MA: John, how are you? Mr. Chair, President Costa, the General Executive Board, thank you.



International Secretary-Treasurer Oscar Owens



Delegate James Evers, 589-Boston, MA

And good morning, Brothers – actually, afternoon now – Sisters and Brothers, it’s a privilege and an honor on behalf of Local 589 “Boston Carmen’s Union” that I rise to nominate Richard Murphy as first international vice president. *(Applause)*

Thank you. Richard is a former Marine and past President/Business Agent of Local 589. Richard, along with the executive board and all of the members of Local 589, were successful in preventing the MBTA and Governor Bill Weld from privatizing services at the MBTA 23 years ago, thus ending the career of Bill Weld. He’s also running for president.

DELEGATES: “*Bool!*”

EVERS: Yep, “*Bool!*” is right.

Richard has been a great asset to all of New England and throughout the rest of the country, where he has assisted many locals with contracts, arbitrations, and audits, since his appointment by International President Jimmy La Sala.

Fighting injustice

Rich has always been available any time I have needed his help or just to access his unlimited knowledge. Rich is the true definition of a union leader and has dedicated his life fighting against injustice throughout the ATU.

Richard also assisted in forming the “One ATU” movement in 2009, and 2010. I was there for that and for all of you who attended that Convention, you



Delegate Thomas Cute, 618-Providence, RI

know the importance of what took place and how it made this Union greater and more united than ever before. So, please join me in supporting Richard Murphy as the first International Vice President. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Mic. 2:

THOMAS CUTE, 618-Providence, RI: Good afternoon. I want to congratulate President Costa, Executive Vice President Javier Perez, and International Secretary-Treasurer Oscar Owens on your great wins and wish you continued success.

It is my honor and privilege to stand here with the New England states in supporting Richard Murphy for the first spot of International Vice President. No one works harder on behalf of the membership than Richie Murphy as far as arbitrations, contract negotiations, and just being there to help guide leaders to do the right thing. It is a great pleasure to second the nomination of Richard Murphy. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Nomination for Richard Murphy and second.

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Is that light on No. 2 off now?

And final, are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Hearing none, Brother Murphy, do you accept? Mic. 5 on, please:

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD MURPHY: I accept the nomination. *(Applause)*

COSTA: He accepts the nomination.



International Vice President Richard Murphy

Richard Murphy Re-elected International Vice President

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast the unanimous ballot for Richard Murphy, first International Vice President.

Standing Ovation

COSTA: The Chair recognizes International Vice President Richard Murphy. *(Applause)* Mic. 5:

MURPHY: I would like it to thank Jim and Tom for being my nominator and my second. I'd also like to thank all of the delegates to the Convention for the honor and privilege to serve you for another three years. It is indeed an honor and a privilege that has been bestowed on me seven previous times and I really appreciate it.

I know that Jim La Sala left the room. I want to thank him for the confidence he showed in appointing me in 1996, as an international vice president. I want to congratulate the three executive officers that got elected prior to me. And I'm proud to be a member of the "John Costa team" which includes 17 additional current Vice Presidents. Thank you. *(Applause)*

SECOND INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

COSTA: Okay. Nominations are now open for the second position of International Vice President. Mic. 6:

Nomination: Janis Borchardt

PENNIE JOHNSON, 1733-Vernon Hills, IL: Hi!



Delegate Pennie Johnson, 1733-Vernon Hills, IL

First, let me say congratulations to all three top officers. We are really happy in 1733 to have you back.

I rise today to place in nomination for the second position of International Vice President Ms. Janis Borchardt. Janis has worked with our Local. *(Applause)* Yeah. Janis has worked with our Local since 1999. She has taught us more than anyone has time to stand up here and say.

The things that she has helped us to accomplish: learning to negotiate, learning to deal with management on a daily basis. Her lessons are valuable, and they are immensely valuable to me as well to all of the other Midwest locals that she works with.

Most all of the Midwest locals – I'm pretty sure she has worked with them all. They are extremely proud to have her and, you know, to be able to learn from her. So, we proudly place in nomination, the Midwest locals, for the second position of International Vice President, Ms. Janis Borchardt. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Janis Borchardt her name was placed in ...



Delegate RiChard Jackson, 836-Grand Rapids, MI

Mic. 5:

RiCHARD JACKSON, 836-Grand Rapids, MI: On behalf of the Michigan delegation, I rise to recognize the work as well as second the nomination for second International Vice President for Janis Borchardt. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Second. Mic. 1:

TODD STRASSER, 519-La Crosse, WI: Delegates of the 59th Convention, I stand in front of you today with my Wisconsin delegates behind me in support of Janis Borchardt for International Vice President. *(Applause)*



Delegate Todd Strasser, 519-La Crosse, WI

COSTA: Thank you, Brother. Are there any other nominations? Is Mic. 1 off?

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And last and final, are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Oscar – sorry. Janis, do you accept? Mic. 1:

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT JANIS BORCHARDT: Yes, I do. *(Applause)*

Janis Borchardt Re-elected International Vice President

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast a unanimous for Janis Borchardt for the second position of International Vice President of the Amalgamated Transit Union. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The Chair recognizes International Vice President Janis Borchardt.



International Vice President Janis Borchardt

BORCHARDT: Good afternoon, fellow ATU members, Delegates to the Convention. Usually, this is done before noon, so I was able to change clothes and be comfortable but I'm good with that.

First of all, congratulations John, Javier, Oscar, I truly look forward to working with you for the next three years.

Richie, I always continue to look forward to working with you. And that being said, I also look forward to working with the 16 brothers and sisters on the GEB behind me. *(Applause)*

Thank you, Pennie, the Illinois delegation; RiChard, the Michigan delegation; and Todd, the Wisconsin delegation. We love the Midwest. We wish it could always come to the Midwest. We are true, blue union folks in the Midwest. *(Applause)*

I'm proud and privileged to represent ATU and the trade union movement. Together We Fight. Together We Win. *(Applause)* I also look forward to getting back home and continuing our work kicking ass for the working class. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Sister.

THIRD INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

COSTA: Okay. Nominations are now open for the third position of International Vice President. The third position. Mic. 4:

Nomination: Paul Bowen

ROY LUSTER, 1070-Indianapolis, IN: Good afternoon, everyone. I stand here with the fine delegates of the state of Indiana. And what can I say about the gentleman I'm about to nominate for the third position as International Vice President?



Delegate Roy Luster, 1070-Indianapolis, IN

I rise and stand and nominate Paul Bowen. Paul has successfully helped us negotiate numerous contracts with a paratransit third-party vendor for two successful 10-percent wage increases. *(Applause)* So, I'm here, duly honored to nominate Paul Bowen as the third International Vice President. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The name Paul Bowen is placed in nomination. Mic. 6:

GLENN TOLBERT, 26-Detroit, MI: Good morning, delegates. *First* of all, let me say this has – this Convention has renewed my faith in this unionism. Brother Kevin from 113 you have really been a class act. *(Applause)*



Delegate Glenn Tolbert, 26-Detroit, MI

Secondly, I second the nomination of Paul Bowen, along with my Michigan delegates. Paul has been very instrumental in Detroit.

You all know that we had problems in Detroit and Paul was very instrumental in helping us get through that bankruptcy situation that we've dealt with. And at this time, I second that nomination. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Brother. Mic. 3:

KEN FRANKLIN, 308-Chicago, IL: Good afternoon, Johnny "the Bull" Costa, congratulations. Congratulations to all of the other elected officials. I rise to second the nomination of Paul Bowen – a young man, IVP, that I worked with in Chicago during the mayoral race against Rahm Emanuel – someone we worked real hard to get out of office.



Delegate Ken Franklin, 308-Chicago, IL

I spent a lot of time with him (*Bowen*). He is a hardworking man with great thought-provoking ideas and forward penetrating vision. So, proudly – I proudly stand here in support of Paul Bowen's nomination. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Brother.

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Paul, do you accept? Mic. 6:

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT PAUL BOWEN: I accept.

COSTA: Thank you, Paul.

Paul Bowen Re-elected International Vice President

COSTA: “Double O”:

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast a unanimous ballot for Paul Bowen for the third position as International Vice President of the Amalgamated Transit Union. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The Chair recognizes International Vice President Paul Bowen.

BOWEN: Giving it up for God who is the light of my life.

DELEGATES: “Amen.”

BOWEN: First, I’d like to congratulate John, Javier, Oscar, Richie, Janis, and I’d like to thank all of the delegates here at this Convention but especially my nominators and my seconders.



International Vice President Paul Bowen

I can’t say enough about the legacy that Brother Hanley left us. But I am very confident we are in great hands now, and we’re going to continue to build upon that legacy.

And what I – again, I would be remiss without thanking – the woman in my life for 39 years *(Applause)*, my wife Sandra Bowen. She’s my “road dog” now. She sometimes goes out on assignments with me and a big, big help. Sometimes, she beats me up a little bit when she sees I’m out of line, but I need that. She is the “better half.”

Thank you again, ATU, and all of the delegates. Looking forward to working more in the future. I’m here. If

anybody needs any help, please call. Thank you very much. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Paul. For the record, the nominations were closed. I didn’t say that. I’ll get the hang of this.

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

COSTA: Next, nominations are now open for the fourth position of International Vice President:

Nomination: Ken Kirk

COSTA: Mic. 4: Is Mic. 4 on?

CHRIS BOURKE, 993-Oklahoma City, OK: I’ve had the privilege to work with Ken Kirk on contract negotiations and arbitrations. His leadership is invaluable to the locals that he serves. I stand before you today with honor to nominate Kenneth Kirk for the fourth International Vice President. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Ken Kirk is placed in nominations. Mic. 1:

THOMAS HUTCHINSON, 1338-Dallas, TX: I don’t have but four minutes, but I would like to tell a little story. In 1994, me and my brother, Michael Moore – we worked hard to change the city of Dallas. We went from a union that basically didn’t do grievances at the time. And Mr. Kirk – we had to take him out to breakfast 13 times before we could get him to run.



Delegate Thomas Hutchinson, 1338-Dallas, TX

Anyway, we voted Mr. Kirk in, in 1994. And he's been a steward. He is an arbitrator. He saved our union a lot of money. We had *Janus* before *Janus*. We had an agreement where you couldn't get out of the union for a year.

Also, he stayed up to 3:00 in the morning to broker a deal between Mr. Kirk and Mr. Day of the Black Caucus. And Mr. Day – Mr. Day backed off and let Mr. Kirk, our president, and Mr. Day today is the president of the Black Caucus.

Mr. Kirk deserves your vote. He's an honor from the state of Texas, a right-to-work state. We went from about 600 members to about 2,500 members in that time. And we ask everybody for your support for Kenneth Kirk for the No. 4 on the GEB Board. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Brother. Mic. 4:

GLORIA FULTON: 610-Charleston, SC: I too rise to second the nomination of the office of International Vice President Kenneth Kirk. Thank you. *(Applause)*



Delegate Gloria Fulton, 610-Charleston, SC

COSTA: Thank you, Sister.

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And last and final, are there any other nominations?
(No Response)

Brother Kirk, do you accept?

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT KENNETH KIRK: I accept.

COSTA: Thank you, Brother Kirk. Nominations are closed.

Kenneth Kirk Re-elected International Vice President

COSTA: Brother Owens:

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast the unanimous ballot for Kenneth Kirk for the fourth position as International Vice President of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

Standing Ovation

COSTA: The Chair recognizes International Vice President Kenneth Kirk.

KIRK: Let me say thanks to God, my wife Barbara, my nominators and the delegates of this 59th Convention for the trust that you have placed in me and the responsibility for the next three years. Believe me when I say, this is an honor and a privilege to serve in this capacity knowing that in this room with the talent that we have there are three or four hundred other people who could do my job.



International Vice President Kenneth Kirk

To my wife who supports me and allows me to do this job, who's at home when I'm away, I say thank you again. And, again, I say thank you to the delegates. I look forward to doing my very best for the next three years. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Brother Kirk.

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

COSTA: Nominations are now open for the fifth position of International Vice President.

Nomination: Marcellus Barnes

COSTA: Mic. 6:

KEITH HILL, 241-Chicago, IL: Good afternoon, delegation. I stand here with pride and honor to nominate Marcellus Barnes for position of IVP No. 5. But before I do this, let me tell you about my friend, a mentor, a leader, an advisor, a confidant. At the age of 28, I stepped into the game of representing Chicago Avenue Garage as a union rep. I started to move around in Local 241, and became a lobbyist, a lot of opposition and things came my way.



Delegate Keith Hill, 241-Chicago, IL

I'll never forget the day Rodney took us to Springfield. Down there with about 200, 300 members, Marcellus said, "No, you ride back with me." I get in the van, don't really know much. I'll never forget the words, the mentor that he has always been behind that. The strength that he has given me to keep moving and to keep this Local moving.

I spent two hours writing something out, but I'd rather talk from my heart. Marcellus Barnes will answer the phone whenever. Will be that word of strength and encouragement. He will come into the local and bring calm to a storm. He's a very strong brother. So, Local 241, stands here with pride, dignity, and honor to

nominate Marcellus Barnes for IVP for the fifth spot. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The name Marcellus Barnes has been nominated. Mic. 2:

MICHAEL CORDIELLO, 1181-Staten Island, NY: Mr. Chair, good afternoon now, congratulations to you, John, Javier, and Oscar and everyone who came after you. It is an honor for me to second the nomination of Marcellus Barnes.



Delegate Michael Cordiello, 1181-Staten Island, NY

'He has a passion'

I met Marcellus 13 years ago when Local 1181 went through some troubled times. You know what they say, you can only leave a first impression once. Well, my first impression of him was correct. He has a passion to help everyone he meets – especially the members of this Union.

We all saw that passion on Monday when on opening day of this Convention he delivered an emotional, inspiring invocation, which set the tone of this 59th Convention of the ATU. So, I ask that you all join me in supporting this nomination for Marcellus Barnes. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Brother. *(Applause)* Mic. 3:

KEVIN MORTON, 113-Toronto, ON: Mr. Chairman, it is with dignity that I get up and support Marcellus Barnes. I first met him in, twenty-some years ago, when he was president of the Black Caucus in Memphis, TN. I've seen his maturation as a leader. And I've also seen the dignity when he had to handle the sudden death of his wife.

As much as his passion is for the Union, the only more passion that he has is for the Lord Jesus Christ and he is a true leader and Local 113, from Canada fully supports him. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Brother.

If there's nobody on Mic. 2, can you shut it off?

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Marcellus, do you accept? Mic. 6:

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT MARCELLUS BARNES: Yes, I do. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Brother Owens – nominations are closed.

Marcellus Barnes Re-elected International Vice President

COSTA: Brother Owens:

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast a unanimous ballot for Marcellus Barnes as fifth International Vice President of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

Standing Ovation

COSTA: The Chair recognizes International Vice President Marcellus Barnes:

BARNES: Thank you, Mr. President, let me congratulate you, John, and let you know that you will be in my prayers that you will continue to lead this great organization.



International Vice President Marcellus Barnes

To Javier, congratulations. We are a team. To Oscar Owens, thank you, my brother, you also as a part of the executive team that make up this organization. And to my brothers and sisters that went before me, thank you and much success.

I pause for a minute to remember President Hanley. I never will forget at the Executive Board meeting the positive conversation that me and Larry had and the compliments that he gave me and the confidence that he had in me. May Larry Hanley continue to watch over our organization. *(Applause)*

'Your purpose is to serve...'

I want to thank God for my purpose. And I said, God, I know I have a purpose but what is it? And he said to me, "Your purpose is to serve your fellow man." *(Applause)* And by His grace, I stand before you today.

I want to say to my wife that's sitting in the back, thank you for the sacrifice that you make. *(Applause)* I love you and I appreciate your guidance.

To Michael in 1181, in New York, I love you guys dearly. I appreciate that connection that we made way back when. To Kevin in 113, thank you. You guys have always been supportive of me.

And now to my Local. To my local president, one that I mentored, and one that knows that no time is too late or too early to call when he's in need. I want to thank my Local. They got their act together. *(Applause)* And my sister Local, 308, Brother Franklin, who is standing here with me, thank you, because they also have their act together. *(Applause)*

And I would like to thank all of the delegates that are here assembled into this room, may God continue to bless you all and I promise that I will serve until the Lord tells me otherwise. Thank you so much, God bless you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Brother Barnes.

Standing Ovation

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

COSTA: Okay. Nominations are now open for the sixth position of International Vice President.

Nomination: Ray Rivera

Mic. 6. We have Mic. 6:

CALVIN KENNEDY, 1324-Savannah, GA: I'd like to take this opportunity to place into nomination for the No. 6 position as International Vice President for Ray Rivera. I have had the pleasure (*Applause*) – I have had the pleasure and honor of working with Ray Rivera for over 20 years. Ray has worked with our Local 1324 for many years together and we've attempted to improve the working conditions for our members.



Delegate Calvin Kennedy, 1324-Savannah, GA

Also, I might add, between Richmond, VA; and Fort Lauderdale, FL; the members of Local 1324 now receive the highest wages.

Ray has also assisted the Local in organizing our paratransit and also the operators and paratransit of an adjoining city Savannah – of Hinesville, GA. We are currently in contract negotiations in Savannah, and Ray is leading the fight along with the local leadership to further improve our conditions.

Brothers and Sisters, I nominate Ray Rivera for reelection to the position of International Vice President No. 6. Thank you. (*Applause*)

COSTA: The name Ray Rivera is placed in nomination. Mic. 1:

RACHEL MIRANDA, 1555-Oakland, CA: Good afternoon, Brothers and Sisters. On behalf of the President of the ATU-ILC, Ismael Rivera, myself, the executive board, and membership of the ATU-ILC, I proudly rise to support a mentor, a leader, but most of all, a valuable asset to the entire ATU family. It is an honor for the ATU International Latino Caucus to second the nomination of Ray Rivera for the sixth position, International Vice President of the ATU International. (*Applause*)

COSTA: Mic. 6:



Delegate Rachel Miranda, 1555-Oakland, CA

MICHAEL MAJETTE, 732-Atlanta, GA: Yes. Good evening, everyone. I am here to second the motion for Mr. Ray Rivera. Thank you. May God bless. (*Applause*)



Delegate Michael Majette, 732-Atlanta, GA

Nomination: Antonette Bryant

COSTA: Mic. 2:

ROBIN WARD, 1300-Baltimore, MD: Good afternoon. I come before you on behalf of the ATU International Women's Caucus where I serve as recording secretary; and Jackie Jeter, chair; Elaine Vance, financial secretary; and Maryann Taylor, vice chair.



Delegate Robin Ward, 1300-Baltimore, MD

Our members are the women of the ATU from the U.S. and Canada. In 1991, women joined to create the IWC. Their mission was to assure that all women with the qualifications to serve are reflected on the General Executive Board, so that it mirrors the membership that we serve. The equality of this Union is the cornerstone of our success.

After fair interviews with the candidates, our caucus came together and voted its list to support, and we proudly place the name of Antonette Bryant into nomination for Position No. 6. She's an African-American woman who has the qualifications, and we are sure that she will serve this membership whenever it calls for her to do so.

And with that, I ask the members of the Women's – the men and women – of the Women's Caucus, as well as the Black Caucus to stand in, and we accept – put in the second nomination for Antonette Bryant.

COSTA: The name Antonette Bryant is put in nominations. Mic. 3:

AMANDA SAWYER-MALONE, 1177-Norfolk, WA: Since 2013, Ray Rivera has served as our International Vice President, our Local went through a financial



Delegate Amanda Sawyer-Malone, 1177-Norfolk, WA

deficit and he has been there since day one, so myself and Delegate Wadsworth are here to second the nomination.

COSTA: Thank you, Sister, but there's only two seconds allowed. But thank you. Only two seconds to the rule.

MALONE: Thank you.

COSTA: Mic. 5:

PATRICK GREEN, 1235-Nashville, TN: To the Chair, the Delegates, of this 59th Convention, I rise to second the nomination of Antonette Bryant for the position of International Vice President.



Delegate Patrick Green, 1235-Nashville, TN

'Daniel in the Lions' Den'

I'm going to be very quick, but I want to remind everybody about the story of "Daniel in the Lions' Den" because some of the people in this room have given this woman hell, all because she wanted to serve.

But if you know the story, you know that the next day Daniel was still alive. Because of the strength and spirit of this woman, she is still alive, and I thank God that He did not give her the spirit of fear, but the spirit of power, love, and of a sound mind. My Sister, you remembered who you are, and now the game has changed. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Is Mic. 5 still on or off? Mic. 5:

GENA ALEXANDER, 1555-Oakland, CA: Hi, I'm President and Business Agent of 1555, which is a Local that Antonette has served for the past 28 years. She's been a President. She took us through two contentious strikes where people sacrificed their lives.



Delegate Gena Alexander, 1555-Oakland, CA

She was also part of a negotiating team that garnered us the highest wage increase for an ATU local at that time, in 1997. She's drafted language in our contract as a part-timer, when she started in the '90s, that remains to give part-timers benefits and consecutive days off.

She's been a member of the Black Caucus – an active member – and served two consecutive terms as the Recording Secretary. She's been a member of the Women's Caucus and served two consecutive terms. I stand here to second the nomination for Antonette Bryant for the International Vice President Position No. 6. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Sister.

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Final, are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Ray, do you accept? Ray Rivera?

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT RAY RIVERA: Mr. Chairman, I accept the nomination. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Antonette Bryant, do you accept?

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ANTONETTE BRYANT: I proudly accept the nomination for Position No. 6. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you. Nominations are now closed. Brother Owens – I'm sorry. Mr. Chairman, from the Balloting Committee:

MATTINGLY: Thank you. Good afternoon, Brothers and Sisters. The Balloting Committee will begin preparing the ballot for the sixth position of International Vice President momentarily.

Under the election rules passed by this Convention, each candidate is entitled to two election observers but must submit the names of any observers to the International Secretary-Treasurer prior to voting. I ask that any observers immediately proceed to the balloting room.

We appreciate your patience as we prepare the ballots. When the ballots are ready, I will make an announcement that the Balloting Committee is prepared to commence voting. The committee members will vote first and then the candidate observers will vote next.

MATTINGLY: Upon conclusion of that process, I will call the delegates to vote by their seating area in this hall. Thank you.

If could I have your attention one moment, please. If you are an observer, please come to the front of the room and meet me. Thank you.

COSTA: Okay. So, we are going to need some time to print the ballots again, so don't go too far and we will advise when the voting starts. Observers, please come up front so we escort you to the room. Thank you.

Whereupon, Voting Preparations Commenced

PERRY: Brothers and Sisters, please take your seats as the Convention is about to reconvene.

COSTA: Okay. Sergeants-at-Arms, have everybody seated, please. And can the Sergeants-at-Arms repeat from the first time? Go to the back. And when ready let the back the two rows go. We can start voting, please. *(Delegates Depart to Vote)*

COSTA: Okay. Sergeants-at-Arms, next two rows: *(Delegates depart to vote)*

PEREZ: If you are in the convention hall and you have not voted, please go vote immediately. Please go vote immediately, if you have not voted. Thank you. *(Delegates depart to vote)*

PERRY: Brothers and Sisters, any delegate who has not voted yet, must do so now. *(Delegates depart to vote)*

COSTA: Excuse me. If there are any voting delegates that didn't vote, please head to Champagne 3 and 4, because you have about five minutes and the voting will be closed. So, any voting delegates that haven't voted, go vote. *(Delegates Depart to Vote)*

PERRY: Brothers and Sisters, please. The Gender Equity and Inclusion Committee will meet in Versailles 1 immediately following this session.

COSTA: Okay. Sergeants-at-Arms, please have everybody seated please.

Okay. Okay. Mr. Chairman of the Ballot Committee is here to give his report:

MATTINGLY: Good evening. Mr. Chairman, the balloting in the election for the office of sixth International Vice President has concluded. The election has been fairly conducted. The ballots have been accurately counted and the secrecy and sanctity of the ballot has been preserved.

The Balloting Committee has certified the tally of ballots as follows. There were 616 ballots cast. 614 – I'm sorry. 614 ballots were deemed valid. One ballot was void. One ballot was challenged. Because of the margin of victory, the unresolved challenged ballot was insufficient to affect the outcome of the election:

- 247 ballots were cast for Antonette Bryant.

(Applause)

- 367 ballots were cast for Ray Rivera.

Standing Ovation

Ray Rivera Re-elected International Vice President

MATTINGLY: Mr. Chairman, Ray Rivera is now the new sixth International Vice President. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the Balloting Committee.

The Chair recognizes International Vice President Ray Rivera. Mic. 6:

RIVERA: First of all, I want to thank – not thank, but congratulate – the executive officers that got elected earlier this morning. And since then, all those officers who have been elected ahead of me.



International Vice President Ray Rivera

It's an honor. I'm humbled. It was fairly close. But I want to thank first of all my nominators and my seconder from the Latino Caucus; Mike Lowery down in Florida, who was a big help; Local 732 delegation; my own delegation from Local 1700 – the Greyhound group. I owe a lot of thanks to you folks for your help.

There are probably some people in this room who helped me pass out literature on Wednesday morning and they were volunteers. They went out there in force and they were a big help, and I want to make sure that they know that I appreciate their help. Without these volunteers, I couldn't have done it.

'An exciting day'

But in any event, it's been an exciting day. The first time

I have been challenged for an office. Some of you have been challenged in the past. It's no fun. I can tell you that. *(Laughter)*

But I want to thank my Lord, Jesus Christ, because without Him, nothing is possible. *(Applause)*

Let's see, I look forward to continuing to work with the GEB and the executive officers of this Union because I think we have a good team in place. We're going to continue the work that Larry has started and has now been passed onto John Costa and the new executive officers and I look forward to that.

And, last, but not least, I want to thank the delegates, the folks that are in this room. You made the difference. Thank you.

Sí, se puede! (Applause)

COSTA: Mic. 1:

BRYANT: Mr. President, congratulations. To the officers that have been elected, congratulations. To Ray Rivera, congratulations. This is exactly what I wanted – a democratic process. *(Applause)*



International Representative Antonette Bryant

'It's your vote'

And as I told everyone in every meeting that I went to – it's your voice, it's your vote, and it's your ATU. Win, lose, or draw, I had no problem. I wanted the members to be able to choose, and choose you have.

So, I thank all of you. I thank my "Team for Antonette, IVP," I thank all of you. You all were dedicated. You

worked extremely hard. I know that I'm going to continue to work just as hard for ATU and I hope that you will join me.

But please remember, this is a democratic process. I have no problem with the results because the job got decided was for Ray and I have no problem with that. Because that means there is something else better for me to do, and I'm going to do that. So, thank you everybody. Go ATU! *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thanks, Sister.

Standing Ovation

SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

COSTA: Okay. Nominations are now open for the seventh position of International Vice President:

Nomination: Yvette Trujillo

COSTA: Mic. 3:

JULIO RIVERA, 1001-Denver, CO: Good evening, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the officers and members of ATU Local 1001 and the entire Colorado delegation, it is a privilege and honor to nominate Yvette Trujillo for the position of seventh International Vice President of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

Yvette came up through the ranks at my Local Union. In fact, we were in the same training class as new



Delegate Julio Rivera, 1001-Denver, CO

bus operators. However, I'm still senior to her on the seniority roster. *(Laughter)*

From the very beginning Yvette demonstrated strong leadership traits and an unyielding willingness to take charge. She first served as an assistant steward and then as a chief steward and executive board member. She went on to recording secretary and correspondent before being elected as our president and business agent in 2005.

As president, Yvette worked hard to keep the RTD transit agency in check and built relationships with other labor leaders and ATU locals in the state. When RTD employees voted to go out on strike in 2006, she didn't skip a beat in leading that strike and reaching a settlement in just three days.

'A tireless advocate'

Yvette also faced down then-Governor Bill Owens on the steps of the capitol as we prepared to ratify the new proposal.

We are all proud that the International ATU recognized Yvette's talents and we applauded her appointment as an International Representative starting on January 1, 2007. Not long after that, she was elevated to IVP and has been re-elected several times with your support.

Yvette has been a tireless advocate for ATU members and locals in Colorado, California, Montana, Texas, and wherever she has been assigned. We are lucky to have her in our office. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The name Yvette ... are you done?

JOHN ADAMS, 1563-Denver, CO: I met Yvette about seven years ago and the only thing I knew about Yvette was that she was there to help us. And so, I said, "Well, who can help us better than Javier?" That's who I know. So, I called up Javier and he says, "Oh no – you've got Yvette."

So, from that point forward, Yvette and I, we worked together. You know, we have a lot of inside jokes, her and I. The "Together We Fight" – Sometimes Yvette and I would be kind of fighting with each other, but we would always come up with the best solutions and her solutions were most of the time the best.



Delegate John Adams, 1563-Denver, CO

'I welcome the future with her'

So, I really am honored to be here today to celebrate Yvette and honor her and so I welcome the future with her because I know that she is a fighter and I really appreciate that. I also want to congratulate all of the Executive Board up there, including Mr. Robert Molofsky for the counsel that you give them. So, thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The name Yvette Trujillo, has been placed into nomination. Mic. 4:

SHIRLEY BLOCK, 757-Portland, OR: First of all, I want to say good afternoon. I stand in front of you to second Yvette, she's always been there for us. She's a sister that fights. Whenever I call out for her, she's there. I text her; she never turns me down. So, again, I want to second Yvette. *(Applause)*



Delegate Shirley Block, 757-Portland, OR

COSTA: Mic. 1:

LUIS ALZATE, 1056-Flushing, NY: Good afternoon, congratulations to the executive members that got elected into the IVPs. On behalf of the president of the ATU-ILC, Ismael Rivera and myself and the executive board and members that stand behind me, we proudly rise to nominate a strong labor leader and a woman who has been a foundation to our ATU-ILC.



Delegate Luis Alzate, 1056-Flushing, NY

Yvette Trujillo has always been available to assist the leadership of the ATU-ILC and continues to be a strong beacon for the ATU and its members. It is an honor for the ATU-ILC to second the nomination of Yvette Trujillo to the position of International Vice President. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Are there any other nominations; is that light 3 on for nominations? *(No Response)*

Any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And last any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Yvette, do you accept?

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT YVETTE TRUJILLO: Yes. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The nominations are now closed.

Yvette Trujillo Re-elected International Vice President

COSTA: “Double O”:

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast a unanimous ballot for Yvette Salazar for the seventh International Vice

President. *(Applause)* Let me correct that, I said “Salazar” – Trujillo. *(Laughter)*

COSTA: Trujillo. The Chair recognizes International Vice President Yvette Trujillo. *(Applause)*

TRUJILLO: Thank you, Oscar, for getting that correct. My husband is in the back of the room and was called Mr. Salazar for 17 years of our marriage. So, I finally changed it ten years ago, but thank you. *(Laughter)*



International Vice President Yvette Trujillo

I just want to say thank you to Local 1001, and the rest of my delegation from Colorado. Like Julio mentioned, we have been brother and sister since day one. And it's been a pleasure to come up through union leadership with him. I don't know if most of you know but he's retired and finishing up his term and he is going to be missed deeply by myself and the rest of our locals in Colorado, and I just want to thank him for being there.

I also want to thank Shirley Block and Local 757 from Portland. It's been a pleasure working with them, and I just thank them for seconding my national as well the ATU Latino Caucus.

I can't be where I'm at without the guidance and support that I have learned from all of my ATU brothers and sisters throughout the United States and Canada.

I also want to congratulate President Costa, Executive International Vice President Javier Perez, Oscar Owens, and the IVPs that were elected before me and the ones that will follow behind me. I look forward to continuing my work with the ATU and with all of my brothers and sisters again throughout the U.S.

And I have got to follow up with my husband. As most of you all know, union work is not easy, and without him, I could not do what I do and be on the road, without him taking care of the kids, our family, and our home, so thank you and I love you. So, thank you to everybody. *(Applause)*

EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

COSTA: Nominations are now open for the eighth position of International Vice President.

Nomination: Gary Johnson

COSTA: Mic. 4: I'm sorry, Mic. 2: Mic. 2:

TROY MILLER, 627-Cincinnati, OH: So: **O - H** –

DELEGATES: “**I O.**”

MILLER: It's a good team right here, and we wear the tie for the “Buckeyes” for this week.

Commotion from the Floor

MILLER: But I'm here today for Gary Johnson. We support Gary Johnson. Gary is a – he's traveled from Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee. He's been to North Carolina. He's in different states. He's been a great person. He's worked a lot of locals. We support him, and we are here today to do his nomination for International Vice President for “Spot 8.” *(Applause)*



Delegate Troy Miller, 627-Cincinnati, OH

COSTA: The name Gary Johnson is placed into nominations. Mic. 4:

THEO HAMILTON, 1447-Louisville, KY: Thank you, Brother Costa. Congratulations to Javier, Costa, and Oscar Owens on your nominations, your election.



Delegate Theo Hamilton, 1447-Louisville, KY

I would like to say “good afternoon” to everyone. Sisters and Brothers, I stand here before you, my ATU family, to speak briefly about my IVP, my IVP who from day one has been about the business of this great Union. From day one, he has been instrumental in my Local's successes and assisting my Local in the biggest wage increases we've ever had in the last three contracts.

'A-1'

In short, Brother Gary Johnson has been “A-1” since day one. He has always stood up, stood by the values of the ATU. He has always stood up and about any and all improper actions in my Local before my term and during my term. And he has never held his tongue back on any issues.

He possesses all of the gifts of a great leader. I nominate – or I would like to second nomination for – Brother Gary Johnson for IVP in the eighth position. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Mic 6.

WOODROW EILAND 241-Chicago, IL: Good afternoon. We also would like to congratulate you, President Costa, you, Executive Vice President Javier



Delegate John Courtney, 265-San Jose, CA

Perez, and also, you “Double O,” Oscar, Treasurer; and also, the other ones that won as far as IVPs. We at Local 241 would also like to second the nomination for Gary Johnson for the eighth spot of IVP. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Mic. 5: Sorry. *(Laughter)* Hold up.

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Last and final, are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Gary, do you accept?

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT GARY JOHNSON: Yes, I do.

COSTA: Nominations are closed. *(Gavel Knock)*

Gary Johnson Re-elected International Vice President

COSTA: Brother Owens:

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast a unanimous ballot for Gary Johnson for the eighth position of International Vice President for the Amalgamated Transit Union.

Standing Ovation

COSTA: The Chair recognizes International Vice President Gary Johnson.

JOHNSON: To God be the glory!

DELEGATE: “Yes, sir!”



International Vice President, Gary Johnson

JOHNSON: To my union brothers and sisters, delegates of this great Union, I say thank you for your support and your continued trust in me. This is a new beginning for our Union, and there’s no better time than now that we stand together and fight together. We must respect each other and treat each other like brothers and sisters. I would like to congratulate the officers that were elected before me and those that are coming behind me.

I would like to thank my wife for putting up with me, you know, in and out of town and coming home and being demanding. But she puts up with it. And, Honey, you got to pack my bags for three more years. *(Laughter)* With that, I say thank you very much.

(Applause)

NINTH INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

COSTA: Nominations are now open for the ninth position of International Vice President:

Nomination: Robin West

COSTA: Mic. 4:

KENNETH WILSON, 508-Halifax, NS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. Thank you so much and congratulations to all of the executives that have been elected so far and hope we can continue on this path.



Delegate Kenneth Wilson, 508-Halifax, NS

It's humbling to stand here in front of this delegation of the 59th Convention in support of IVP Robin West. Robin is my president and always will be my president. He's taught me everything that I know. And we have one of the best locals in the country. I hate to say that, but we do and I'm proud of it.

'40 years of experience'

Robin brings over 40 years of ATU experience – with 35 as an officer – from Vice President to Financial Secretary to President/Business Agent.

You know, I heard a lot of conversations about this being a drivers' union this week, and I can tell you that when I first started, Robin just finished a strike that was about protecting maintenance work. He convinced the operators to defend the maintenance, and we built a strong union on that principle alone. *(Applause)*

I can't thank Robin enough for his guidance, his support, no matter the time of day, no matter where he is, what local, what province. If he's at the GEB, he'll take my call.

I'm pleased to say that my last round of negotiations, my members are receiving \$2.75 for the last couple years with one more to go. This is all because of Robin West. So, I stand here, and I ask for your support for Robin West for the ninth position of International Vice President. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The name Robin West has been placed in nomination. Mic. 4:

ERIC TUCK, 107-Hamilton, ON: Mr. President,

Brothers and Sisters, it is with great pride and privilege that I stand to second the nomination of a friend, a mentor, and a tremendous leader. He is a brother who has served this Union as a local president, a former president of ATU Canada, and Canadian IVP.



Delegate Eric Tuck, 107-Hamilton, ON

Mr. Chairman, I'm proud to second the nomination of Robin West for the ninth position of the International Vice President. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Mic. 4:

JACK JACKSON, 1572-Mississauga, ON: Mr. Chairman, I stand here with an honor and a privilege to second the nomination for a man who has dedicated his life to being a labor leader, a labor leader that is not just in one local, but a man who has traveled across Canada, not only to secure contracts, but to educate the younger people, like myself, to pass on the wisdom and knowledge needed, so that this Union can continue to grow. A man that has impacted Local 1572 so much that we recently named him an honorary lifetime member.



Delegate Jack Jackson, 1572-Mississauga, ON

It is my honor and my privilege to stand here on behalf of the delegates and ask that you vote for him. He is my brother, my friend, and the unforgettable, Robin – yeah. I got a little passionate there. Thank you.

COSTA: Mic. 3:

CLINT CRABTREE, 279-Ottawa, ON: John, I believe that we've had already three nominations, so I think that we are overnominating Robin West, but we'd also like to nominate Robin West as well, but we were beat to the punch. *(Applause)*



Delegate Clint Crabtree, 279-Ottawa, ON

COSTA: Thank you, Brother. Thank you.

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And final, are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Robin, do you accept?

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT ROBIN WEST: I do.

COSTA: You do. Nominations are closed. *(Applause)*

(Gavel Knock)

Robin West Re-Elected International Vice President

COSTA: Brother Owens:

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast a unanimous ballot for

Robin West as the ninth International Vice President of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

Standing Ovation

COSTA: The Chair recognizes International Vice President Robin West.

WEST: Thank you, Mr. President. Sorry about my voice. I have been losing it the last couple of months for some reason.



International Vice President Robin West

Brother Costa, congratulations. It's going to be an honor to work with you. Even though you were junior to me, just behind me, now you have become my boss. It's going to be a little hard to accept, but I'll deal with it. *(Laughter)*

Javier and Oscar, congratulations to you too. Congratulations to all of the IVPs that have been elected in front of me and all of the ones that I support that are getting elected behind me from the team. I'm looking forward to working with you guys again for the next three years.

I do want to give a special thanks to my nominator, my president of my Local, Ken Wilson, and my executive – his executive now – no longer mine. You know, I have had the pleasure of their support for the last 35 years, since I've been elected – first elected in 1985 – and it means a lot to me. So, I guess I'm going to be around for another three years to help them out there.

Lifetime honorary member

I do want to thank my nominator, Jack Jackson. It is an honor, as they said they made me a lifetime honorary member of their Local. We'll see if they ever take that away from me. I'll give them time. Jack, I guess now that I have been elected, I have not told the wife yet that when we fly home on Saturday, I have to fly out Sunday morning to be back in negotiations with you for a week. But I'm looking forward to that.

And to my other seconder, Eric Tuck, I guess it's a week after, I'll be back in conciliation with you and I'm looking forward to that. And I do want to thank Clint Crabtree, from Ottawa. I know he wasn't able to second me, but I do appreciate it. There's been a lot of people that wanted to second me and I, unfortunately, I'm limited to two, but I understand that.

I do want to take a few minutes at this time to thank – to thank the person that means the most to me, which is my wife, she's in the back right now, we have been married 44 years. (*Applause*) Like the other IVPs, she put up with me being on her own for the last 35 years and I guess she is going to have to deal with it the next three for sure.

I also want to acknowledge two other people in the room, too. My daughter, Robin West, my first born, is in the back of the room for the first time at the ATU Convention. (*Applause*)

A little story

I'm gonna tell you a little story, but before you jump all over it, please let me finish. She is probably the only woman in the room – *person* in the room – that's a "manager." She is a manager back home of the liquor store and one of the high-ranking managers. But what you don't know is she is also a union officer in her union because the managers back home are unionized.

So, I'm proud that she's here as a union officer as well even though I told her not to take it. She disagreed with me and took it anyhow, so I guess like father, like daughter.

My sister-in-law, Betty McGraw, is in the room, too, and I appreciate her being here to see this.

So, I want to thank you all for letting me work the next three years going forward and I appreciate that and I'm looking forward to that.

'My house was burning to the ground'

But before I give up the mic, I'd like to take a moment of a privilege if I may, Mr. President. A year ago, today while I was at the Tommy Douglas Center with the Executive Board, I got a phone call at 3:00 o'clock in the morning. My house was burning to the ground. I lost everything in that house. But my wife and my family that were there at the time got out. It was an electrical fire and even though we lost everything, my family survived.

But the reason I bring it up (*Applause*) – the reason I bring it up is because I want to thank the delegates in this room, the ones that are the officers at our home because if it wasn't for the calls and emails of encouragement that we got from across Canada and the United States and offering anything they could to help, they really helped us get through a tragedy that was pretty hard on us.

I'm sure there are other people in the room that have had such a tragedy too, but it was new to us. I've had a lot of members that have gone through it, but trust me, it's not the same until you go through it yourself. We just moved back in the house, maybe four weeks ago. Just got it rebuilt. So, that's a start.

The other thing I want to do is – and I forget what day it was. I guess it might have been Monday, Tuesday ...

COSTA: Monday.

WEST: ... At the show at the "Wow," my wife went to that and my daughter and my sister-in-law, and on the way back to the bus some of you may have heard, she tripped in a hole and fell and smacked her head. She got 26 stitches above her eye. And I want to thank the delegates here, there are so many of you that came to us when you heard about it to offer your assistance, and your condolences, and stuff like that. And we really appreciate that.

I know she's got a headache – and it's not just from me – it's from the bang on her head. And trust me she *fell*.

I wasn't there! *(Laughter)*

So, I want to thank you all for the support you have given her for the last couple of days from her injury and the support you've given her and I over the last year from the house burning down and the support you have given me as an officer for the last 35, because I do appreciate it.

And now I will give up the mic because I know we've got a few more behind us to get elected and it's getting late. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you all. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you. Thank you, Robin. Anything you need for your wife's situation, we're here for her. Thank you.

TENTH INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

COSTA: Okay. Nominations are now open for the tenth position of International Vice President:

Nomination: Chuck Watson

The Chair recognizes Mic. 2:

MICHAEL CORDIELLO, 1181-New York, NY: Hello, Mr. Chair, I rise to nominate Chuck Watson for the tenth International Vice President position.

Chuck is a Vietnam vet. Spent six years in the Air Force. 44 years in this great Union. 20 years, he served as business agent for his Local in Syracuse – 580. For



Delegate Michael Cordiello, 1181-New York, NY

20 years, he served on the New York State Legislative Conference Board. And now, for nine years, he's been an International Vice President for this great Union of the ATU.

He fought for his country

He has fought for his country. He has fought for his members in Syracuse. He has fought for the members in New York State, and now we need to have him keep continuing to fight for our members in the ATU International and I'm honored to nominate Chuck Watson. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The name Chuck Watson has been nominated. Mic. 2:

MARK HENRY, 1056-Flushing, NY: Congratulations, President Costa, Executive Vice President Perez, International Secretary-Treasurer Oscar Owens. I wish you all good health and success leading our International Union into the future. I want to congratulate the IVPs that have been elected, and those that are forthcoming.



Delegate Mark Henry, 1056-Flushing, NY

I stand here with the leadership of the Legislative Conference Board and about half of the New York state delegation to this 59th Convention, we rise in support of the nomination of Chuck Watson to the tenth position of IVP of our International Union.

We recognize Chuck's years of service to this labor movement and our International Union and I second his nomination. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Mic. 2:

DANIEL CASSELLA, 726-Staten Island, NY: Congratulations, John Costa, Javier Perez, and Oscar Owens. “Double O” – you the *man!* I stand here to nominate Chuck Watson. Chuck is a dedicated worker as everybody knows, his Local knows that and let’s get this going.



Delegate Daniel Cassella, 726-Staten Island, NY

COSTA: Thank you. (*Applause*)

Any other nominations? (*No Response*)

Any other nominations? (*No Response*)

Final, are there any other nominations? (*No Response*)

Chuck, do you accept?

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT CHUCK WATSON: I accept.

COSTA: Mic. 1:

WATSON: I accept.

COSTA: Let’s try this one more time.

WATSON: *He accepts!* (*Applause*)

COSTA: Nominations are closed.

Chuck Watson Re-elected International Vice President

COSTA: Brother Owens:

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast a unanimous ballot for Chuck Watson for the tenth position of International Vice

President of the Amalgamated Transit Union. (*Applause*)

COSTA: I see Mic. 5 is on. Okay. Nominations are now open for the eleventh position of International Vice President.

Disruption from the Floor

COSTA: Oh, I’m sorry, Chuck. I didn’t hear you before. The Chair recognizes International Vice President Chuck Watson. (*Applause*)

WATSON: First of all, congratulations John, Javier, Oscar, the vice presidents elected prior to me and the eight vice presidents to be elected after me. I’d also like to thank my nominator, Michael Cordiello from 1181, and my seconders, Mark Henry from 1056, and Danny Cassella from 726.



International Vice President Chuck Watson

It’s a humbling experience and I’d like to also thank the delegates, the conferences, and the caucuses for their support over the years. I really appreciate it. And I owe you all a debt of gratitude.

I’d also, of course, like to thank my wife. I have to tell you a little story. One of the delegates in the room came up to me the other night and says, “Gee, I’m glad you brought your daughter with you today.” I said, “Well, you know, I would but I don’t have a daughter – it happens to be my wife for 37 years.”

She is back in the room. I love you. (*Applause*)

I also, three years ago, was up at the microphone and I had mentioned about an important election that was coming soon upon us in 2016, and I said we have

to be careful about who we choose to be our president of the United States. Because if we choose the wrong person, we're going to be in really deep shit.

And lo and behold, we were, and we are. The good thing is, like our members, we get a second chance. Let's get it right this time in 2020. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

ELEVENTH INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

COSTA: Okay. Nominations are now open for the eleventh position of International Vice President.

Nomination: Bruce Hamilton

COSTA: Mic. 3:

SAMMIE HOWARD, 1700-Chicago, IL (Greyhound National): Good afternoon, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters. We would like – we'd like you to stand with us in nominating Bruce Hamilton for the eleventh position of International Vice President.



Delegate Sammie Howard, 1700-Chicago, IL

Well, Bruce came up in ATU 1700, and we're all indebted to him for all of the things that he's done for us. And we feel like we are lending Bruce to the International to share with all of the good things he's done for us. So, please join us and give us your support. Thank you.

COSTA: The name Bruce Hamilton has been nominated. Mic. 5:

MUSTAFA SALAHUDDIN, 1336-Bridgeport, CT: I second the motion for Bruce Hamilton. *(Applause)* Bruce Hamilton has been a rising star in the climate change and justice arena. And I have had the privilege to stand beside him and work with him on three different occasions in this endeavor.



Delegate Mustafa Salahuddin, 1336-Bridgeport, CT

It is a very serious thing. We know that in the coming years it gets more and more threatening and it is my honor and it has been my honor to stand beside him to fight for this cause. Again, I would love to echo that I second this nomination. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Mic. 2:

MARK HENRY, 1056-Flushing, NY: Good afternoon, again, President Costa and the executive board officers, and all of the IVPs that have been elected and will be elected.



Delegate Mark Henry, 1056-Flushing, NY

I, again, rise in support of the nomination of Bruce Hamilton for the eleventh position of our IVPs for our International Union. On behalf of the leadership and the conference board delegates to this Convention, we recognize the staunch advocacy on climate change and green jobs that Bruce has brought to us. Bruce has served this International Union with his great humanity and I second his nomination. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And final, any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Bruce do you accept? Mic. 3:

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT BRUCE HAMILTON: Yes, thank you.

COSTA: Nominations are closed.

Bruce Hamilton Re-elected International Vice President

COSTA: Brother Owens:

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, [I cast a unanimous ballot for] Bruce Hamilton as the eleventh International Vice President of the Amalgamated Transit Union. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The Chair recognizes International Vice President Bruce Hamilton:

HAMILTON: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you all the delegates. Thanks for your



International Vice President Bruce Hamilton

support, your continuing support not just for me but for the great work that this Board has been doing and will continue to do.

Sammie, thank you very much for your kind words. Mustafa and Mark, thank you very much for your seconds and the New York State delegation – how terrific it is to see you guys all standing there. Thank you, thank you.

And to all the delegates. Thank you and just – I also want to say actually thank you to Veronica Chavers who unfortunately had a family emergency and couldn't be here. But our thoughts and our prayers, if you pray, please keep Veronica in your hearts at this particular moment.

As we go forward working together with all of you, the work that started really under President Hanley some of the great campaigns we have been involved in, working to end bus driver assaults, "Not One More." We need to pass that bill.

We need to continue the workstation campaigns and really wrap it all up and deal with the health and safety issues in our garages as well as behind the wheel.

We have to pass the *Not One More Act*. We have to pass the *Workplace Democracy Act* which you've heard explained in fairly great detail here yesterday.

And it's extremely important that we get right behind the Green New Deal and enact that legislation and make this world a sustainable place for everybody in the future.

So, thank you. The work is really daunting out there. We got a team that can do it under John and his great leadership and we're ready to go forward. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

TWELFTH INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

COSTA: Nominations are now open for the twelfth position of International Vice President:

Nomination: Michelle Sommers

COSTA: Mic. 3:

RYAN TIMLIN, 1005-Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN: First of all, I'd like to congratulate you John Costa, Javier Perez, and Oscar Owens. I'm here to nominate Michelle Sommers for the twelfth position of IVP.



Delegate Ryan Timlin, 1005-Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

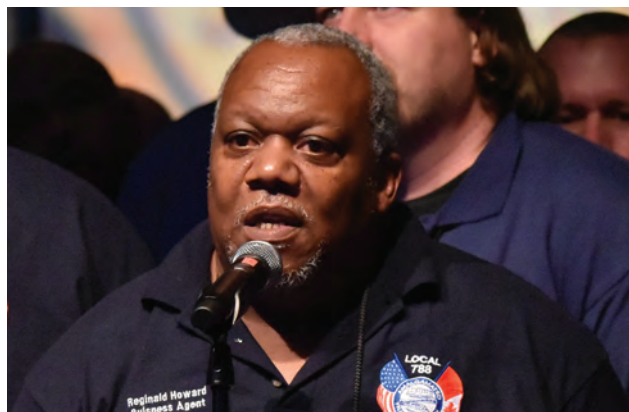
Michelle as all of you know, some call her “The Hammer.” I would like to say she is a great mentor. A great leader. And one hell of a fighter. Kicking ass for the working class.

One last thing I'd like to say though, it's funny to be standing up here as somebody who's filling the shoes, the big shoes that she left at Local 1005, and I used to be a pain in her ass when I was a member. Now I call her for advice and she just starts laughing at me. And one of the first things she always says is: “Are you enjoying it now?” (*Laughter*) Again, I'm honored to nominate Michelle Sommers for the twelfth position of IVP. (*Applause*)

COSTA: Mic. 3:

REGINALD HOWARD, 788-St. Louis, MO: It is my honor to nominate – to second the nomination for – Michelle Sommers which I call “the hardest working woman in the union business.”

She has stood up for us and helped us, directed us in a different direction than we had been going into, and I appreciate everything she does. If ever we got a question, all you got to do is pick up the phone and call her. Michelle is going to call you back regardless of



Delegate Reginald Howard, 788-St. Louis, MO

what time it is. My phone is on and hers is to, too.

So, there again, like I said, I second the nomination. She's not just my IVP, and I'm a nominator for this, but she is also my friend. Thank you. (*Applause*)

COSTA: Michelle Sommers' name has been placed into nominations, and Mic. 6:

KEITH HILL, 241-Chicago, IL: First let me say “congrats” to President Costa, Javier, Oscar Owens and all IVPs that have been elected thus far.



Delegate Keith Hill, 241-Chicago, IL

I met Michelle Sommers after 2013. I called her “R & R” – Real and Raw. Because she's going to give it to you real and tell it in the raw and she's “100 percent fight.” 100 percent fight from when I see her. So, I stand here as an honor to nominate Michelle Sommers for IVP. (*Applause*)

COSTA: Are there any further nominations? (*No Response*)

Is that 3 on for nominations or it's just left on? Mic. 3?

Are there any further nominations? (*No Response*)

And last, are there any further nominations? *(No Response)*

Michelle, do you accept?

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT MICHELLE
SOMMERS: I accept.

COSTA: You accept?

SOMMERS: Yep.

COSTA: Nominations closed.

Michelle Sommers Re-elected International Vice President

COSTA: “Double O”: *(Applause)*

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast a unanimous ballot for Michelle Sommers for the twelfth position as International Vice President of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

Standing Ovation

COSTA: Chair recognizes International Vice President Michelle Sommers:

SOMMERS: Thank you. First of all, congratulations to everybody that went before me. And second of all, I want to thank everybody in this room. From 2013 to today you guys have supported me. You’ve helped teach me. You’ve guided me, and you’ve kept me humble.



International Vice President Michelle Sommers

What we do is for everybody in this room. And if I ever forget it, kick my ass. *(Laughter)*

With that let’s move on. Thank you very much.
(Applause)

THIRTEENTH INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

COSTA: Nominations are now open for the thirteenth position of International Vice President:

Nomination: Jim Lindsay

COSTA: Mic. 1:

ARTURO AGUILAR, 1277-Los Angeles, CA: Hello, my name is Arturo Aguilar, affectionately known as “El Presidente Boobie.”



Delegate Arturo Aguilar, 1277-Los Angeles, CA

First, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the International Executive Board, John, Javier and Oscar. Way to go “Double O,” and all the IVPs who have been elected thus far and I know you all will continue to do a great job and continue to move our great Union forward. However, I stand here today very proud to say, “I told you so.” Not only did we add another shield in our armor, but we added a frequent flier, A-listed, preferred member to Southwest Airlines.

And if he wasn’t flying because it was faster driving to his destination, then he would be on the road for several hours. And for several years, he would be reminded by a billboard, a sign that says, “Call Art,” and he would do just that. He would call me to talk about important issues and to keep him company on the road, so he wouldn’t fall asleep until he got to his next destination.

‘We all needed him’

For the last three years, this IVP spent on an average of 250-plus days away from home because of local issues in California, Nevada, or Arizona. We all needed him. He has always made himself available when it comes to local needs and assistance.

When our late and great International President, Larry Hanley, asked him to be an IVP, he made a great choice, and I knew he would not let us down.

My Sisters and Brothers, he has been a member of Local 1277 for 29 years. Yes, I’m talking about James Burt Lindsay, III, also known to some of you – give it up – also known to some of you as the “Big Boobie” or the “six-foot 9” or “Big Jim.”

Jim was elected shop steward in 1994. Just three years later, he joined our ATU 1277 Executive Board as Treasurer and one of the youngest elected fulltime officers ever at our Local. In January 2004, Jim was elected Financial Recording Secretary and worked with our Treasurer and other Board members. He kept 1277 financially strong and secure.

They must bring their ‘A-game’

Jim was elected as president in November of 2011. Under his brief leadership and working closely with our board, we successfully negotiated strong contracts, all of our properties, while continuing to make 1277 an influential player in local politics.

When our late international president, Larry Hanley, appointed Jim as an IVP in November of 2015, the big man was ready for the challenge. Now, fellow delegates, we all know that IP Hanley made a wise decision bringing Big Jim onboard. The hundreds of days, thousands of hours spent in negotiations have made our locals stronger, our contract language better, and has made all of management think twice with Big Jim by our side.

Private or public contracts, management knows they must bring their “A-game” when they are going up against this IVP.

‘The most crowning touch’

But you know what? His strength as an IVP, as some of you may have already experienced – it’s not just knowledge of the contracts and Labor’s agendas. It’s not just his deep understanding of the needs and goals of working people and families.

It is when he’s standing or sitting quietly and that brain in that bald head of his is going a mile a minute, trying to out-think management and come up with that last idea that will be the most crowning touch of a contract, like an annual cost-of-living increase for retirees, a six to nine-month medical reserve fund, a significant wage increase for both operators and maintenance, just to name a few.

Brother James Lindsay will continue to serve our International Union and the members and families we represent with skill, dedication, and that bulldog tenacity. We need him as an IVP, and I’m very proud and pleased to nominate James B. Lindsay, III, for International Vice President No. 13. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The name James Lindsay is placed into nomination. Mic. 5:

BOB BEAN, 1433-Phoenix, AZ: We from 1433 are honored to stand here to second the nomination for James Lindsay, III, as we know him, “The Gentle Giant” for Position No. 13. *(Applause)*



Delegate Bob Bean, 1433-Phoenix, AZ

COSTA: Mic. 1:

JOHN FOSTER: 1637-Las Vegas, NV: It is with great pleasure that I second the nomination of IVP James Lindsay. I’ve had the privilege of working with



Delegate John Foster, 1637-Las Vegas, NV

James Lindsay for 15 months that he was in Las Vegas. He helped our Local through a hard time. Without a James Lindsay, there would not be a me.

He took time. He invested in me his time, his talent, his phone calls, and his knowledge, so I second the motion of IVP James Lindsay. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Mic. 4:

DELEGATE: Good evening, President Costa, congratulations to the – to Javier to Oscar. We stand and we rise. We stand with our brothers and sisters from California in support of the nomination for Jim Lindsay.

COSTA: Brother, Brother, we already had two seconds.

DELEGATE: I'm not nominating. I'm rising in support of the nomination.

COSTA: Thank you though, Brother. Thank you.

DELEGATE: We stand with "Big Jim."

COSTA: Thank you. Thank you. Okay. Are there any further nominations? *(No Response)*

Any further nominations? *(No Response)*

And last, any further nominations? *(No Response)*

Big Jim, do you accept?

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT JIM LINDSAY: Yes, sir, Mr. President.

COSTA: Thank you. Nominations closed.

Jim Lindsay Re-elected International Vice President

COSTA: "Double O":

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast a unanimous ballot for James Lindsay, III, for thirteenth position of International Vice President of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

Standing Ovation

COSTA: The Chair recognizes International Vice President "Big Jim" Lindsay. *(Applause)*

LINDSAY: Thank you, John. Congratulations, first off, to you, John, and Javier, and Oscar and all those that have been elected before me. I want to thank my nominator, Art Aguilar. As you can all see, our executive board meetings last so long because he don't shut up. *(Laughter)* I think he went past the four minutes, John. You should have capped him.



International Vice President Jim Lindsay

COSTA: I thought about it. *(Laughter)*

LINDSAY: I also want to thank Brother Bob Bean and the delegates from Arizona and John Foster and his delegates here in Nevada for their kind words. I just want to thank all of the delegates on the Convention floor here for their support. It is truly an honor to be elected to this great Union.

I have spent many years working on behalf of the brothers and sisters, and I will continue to do that.

I would like to take just one second to talk about a

couple of my presidents that I work with in California that have retired and are going to be leaving at the end of this year – Terry Russell and Rick Steitz. I thank them for the great job that they have done over the years. Rick was president in California for 29 years and did great work.

So, with that, I also want to thank my wife and my daughter who are here in the back of the room that have made their way here. *(Applause)* I know this Convention, when I tell her that we have been married for 25 years, she's not going to stand back there and correct me because I'm correct, unlike she did last Convention. *(Laughter)*

But I just again want to thank all of the delegates and appreciate your support, and let's just continue to kick some ass.

FOURTEENTH INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

COSTA: Thank you, Brother. Nominations are now open for the fourteenth position of International Vice President:

Nomination: Manny Sforza

COSTA: Mic. 2:

JOHN Di NINO, ATU Canada, president: Well, good afternoon. John Costa, congratulations, Javier, Oscar, and all of the IVPs. John, we look forward to a continued working relationship. You have been



ATU Canada President John Di Nino

absolutely stellar in the last four months and thank you on behalf of Canada.

In terms of all of the IVPs, I want to give a special shoutout to Robin West, who has been exceptional with us. He's been a mentor to me, and I want to congratulate him as well.

'A pillar of the labour movement'

But here today, I stand before you to nominate a friend, to nominate a colleague, someone who I work through and with at my home Local, someone who has stood by my side through one of the toughest challenges that we had at our Local, who is a pillar and a champion in the labor movement and a reflection of what ATU should be. I am honored and I am proud to nominate Manny Sforza for the fourteenth position of International Vice President.

Standing Ovation

I will say that my successes are shared with Manny Sforza. He challenges me every day. He starts the morning calling me. We end at the end of the evening with a chat.

He pushes me to the limit. He encourages me to make the right decisions. He challenges me, where we sometimes battle, but he does it for the good of ATU. Manny, on behalf of ATU Canada, you are our guy. Congratulations. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The name Manny Sforza has been nominated.

Mic. 2:

MICHAEL CORDIELLO, 1181-Staten Island, NY: Mr. Chair, I also stand to second with the members of New York and the ATU 1181, to second the nomination of Manny Sforza. I met Manny at the last Convention. He had the courage to – we were under a very tumultuous time at that International Convention and has worked through some tough times with his Local at 113.

'Courage'

And so, I just want to say, anybody who has that kind of courage and the kind of work that he does, we stand behind him 100 percent, and I put his name into nomination. *(Applause)*



Delegate Michael Cordiello, **1181**-Staten Island, NY

COSTA: Mic. 3:

CLINT CRABTREE, 279-Ottawa, ON: Mr. Chair, the 59th Convention Delegates, our nomination also would go to Manny Sforza. Back in 2016, Manny ran for the International Vice President's position, and my Local supported Manny when he went to do that. We continue today to support him. We made the right choice in 2016, and we continue to make the right choice today. We support Manny Sforza for the fourteenth position of IVP.

COSTA: Thank you. Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Final, any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Manny, do you accept? *(Applause)*

Manny, do you accept?

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT MANNY SFORZA: Mr. Chairman, I accept, and I thank my nominators. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Nominations are closed.

Manny Sforza Re-elected International Vice President

COSTA: Brother Owens:

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast a unanimous ballot for Manny Sforza as the fourteenth International Vice President of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

Standing Ovation

COSTA: The Chair recognizes International Vice President Manny Sforza.

SFORZA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are right on the borderline of good afternoon and good evening. I'm going to stick with good afternoon.

Sisters and Brothers, this is truly overwhelming. I'm honored to stand here to be part of the greatest Union in the world. Mr. President, congratulations on your election. I'm proud to go into any fight that you are leading.

COSTA: Thank you.

SFORZA: Congratulations to Javier and Oscar. Congratulations to all of the IVPs that have been elected before me and those that will be elected after me.

I want to begin by thanking God for healing my cancer scars and my battle wounds, both emotional and physical. I want to thank my family who is there for me from the beginning, when I'm on the road, and when I'm at home.



International Vice President Emanuele (Manny) Sforza

I want to thank International President Larry Hanley for giving me an opportunity four years ago to work for this great Union. He often referred to me as the "quiet guy" from Local 113. I'm not quite sure what he meant by that. *(Laughter)* He also referred to me as the guy from 113 that had the loudest voice when it was needed the most.

I want to thank John Di Nino, my nominator, for all

the kind words and the support from ATU Canada. I want to thank all of the delegates from coast to coast and Canada.

I want to thank my friend, Michael Cordiello and his Local 1181, because they were instrumental in getting me elected in Toronto, and I'll never forget that. Thank you very much.

I want to thank the New York and New Jersey Joints, all of the other joint councils that nominated me and supported me three years ago and supported me today. I want to give a special mention to the Latino Caucus support – I have worked with them. I have worked on the board, and they are truly family – incredible people.

I want to end with thanking my home local, Local 113 (*Applause*) for their support. No words can describe how satisfying it was to sit amongst my colleagues this week at this Convention.

And the first-time delegates probably won't know what I'm talking about, but if you were there in Toronto, you'll know exactly what I'm talking about. And this is what it's all about, moving forward, working together, and making this Union stronger. (*Applause*) Together We Fight!

DELEGATES: "*Together We Win!*"

SFORZA: Together we fight, Sisters and Brothers. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

FIFTEENTH INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

COSTA: Nominations are now open for the fifteenth position of International Vice President.

Nomination: John Callahan

COSTA: Mic. 3:

SCOTT LOVELL 1722-Kelowna, BC: Good evening, John. Congratulations John, Javier, Oscar and all of the International Vice Presidents thus far and those yet to come.



Delegate Scott Lovell, 1722-Kelowna, BC

I stand on this floor before you as a second-time delegate and a first-time speaker with the support of President Aleem Chaudhary of Local 1505, whose home Local – normally this would be his honor but, unfortunately, he had to return to Winnipeg, as there was some issues with a contract that they just had a tentative agreement with.

I also stand with Kevin Lucier of Local 588; President Jim Yakubowski, one of my mentors of Local 615; President Travis Oberg of Local 987; President Rick Ratcliff of Local 583; President Mark Tetterington of Local 569, I believe at podium 6; President Mark Beeching of Local 1724; President Naresh Sachithanandan of Local 134; and in his absence, on behalf of President Dennis Frykas of Local 1747.

I stand with their support to nominate the next person for international vice president position fifteen. And the aforementioned presidents represent the entire Western Canadian delegation, and more so, the locals which IVP John Callahan represents.

John started with Winnipeg Transit in 1988, as an apprentice mechanic. He was a shop steward for several years, elected assistant business agent in maintenance 2004, 2007, 2010. He was elected President/Business Agent in 2013 and 2016.

He created the "Citizens Trust – Citizens for Transit Riders" coalition. He was elected to ATU Canada executive board, western position. He served on the Manitoba Federation of Labour executive board for four years and also in the Manitoba Federation of Labour Health and Safety Committee. He also served on several other labour-affiliated committees, including the NDP labour liaison, and he was

appointed to the international vice president position in July of 2017.

In 2018, he received the “Dick Martin Award” for dedication to the betterment of occupational health and safety for the Manitoba Federation of Labour.

John has been courted on several occasions, both provincially and federally to run for the NDP but he has declined each time so that he can represent this great Union.

All of that is very impressive on its own. But the reason I’m speaking to this delegation to nominate John Callahan is because of what he did for my Local and what he did for Labour as an entire entity in the Okanagan Valley where I live. The Okanagan Valley is one of the most anti-union and contracted-out regions in Canada.

During the 2018 CAN-AM Conference, which was held in Kelowna, John helped to lead several hundred ATU brothers and sisters picketing in the support of the BCGEU strikers who had been out on strike for 12 weeks at that point. That strike rally set in motion a roar which resonates for all Labour in the Okanagan today.

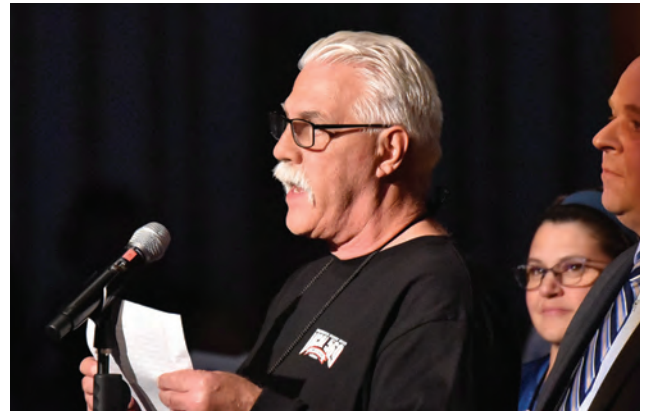
Passion, vigor

John’s passion, John’s vigor, and John’s relentless support for Labour is why I have come before this delegation and it’s a true privilege, a true honor to nominate John Callahan for International Vice President position fifteen.

Standing Ovation

COSTA: The name John Callahan has been placed in nomination. Mic. 6:

MARK TETTERINGTON, 569-Edmonton, AB: I’d like to congratulate President John Costa, Vice President Javier Perez, and International Secretary-Treasurer Oscar Owens, and all the other IVPs elected. I’ve known John now for the past five years and I know what kind of work ethic he has. He’s worked tirelessly for all of the locals in Western Canada, and I’m very proud to second the nomination for John Callahan as IVP. *(Applause)*



Delegate Mark Tetterington, 569-Edmonton, AB

COSTA: Mic. 3:

JEFF DiPERNA, 85-Pittsburgh, PA: Good evening everybody. I just wanted to say I have known John for 20 years now. I met him at the George Meany Center. For anybody that knows, the George Meany Center is now the ATU headquarters.



Delegate Jeff DiPerna, 85-Pittsburgh, PA

When I met John, it was immediate friendship, brotherhood. He’s done so much up at Local 1505 with maintenance training and they keep all of their work “in-house.” It’s just phenomenal stuff that he did. He’s a great leader. He’s continuing to do it.

‘Best dressed’

But the most important thing is he is the *best dressed* – not just IVP – he is the best dressed in this *entire* Union. *(Laughter)* So, on behalf of the Pennsylvania Joint Conference Board, we also second the nomination for

John Callahan. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Final, are there any or nominations? *(No Response)*

John, do you accept?

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT CALLAHAN:
Yes, I do and thank you to my nominators. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The nominations are closed.

John Callahan Elected International Vice President

COSTA: Brother Oscar:

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast a unanimous ballot for John Callahan for the fifteenth position as International Vice President of the Amalgamated Transit Union. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The Chair recognizes International Vice President and best dressed John Callahan.

CALLAHAN: Thank you. Actually, I didn't have a thing to wear today, so I just kind of threw this on. *(Laughter)*



International Vice President John Callahan

First of all, I'd like to thank International President John Costa and the rest of the General Executive Board for their support over the past two years and

congratulations on your elections and also the other officers before me and the ones to follow.

I'd like to thank everyone in this hall, delegates and officers past and present. It's your wisdom and your dedication that makes this Union great, and I'm proud to be part of it. And I'm even prouder for the honor of you allowing me to serve you over the next three years.

I'd also like to say a special thanks to my friend and mentor, Larry Hanley. He left us far too early, but I know he's still with us and he's looking down on us right now and he's probably calling me "Peter Pan" because that's what he usually called me. *(Applause)* Thank you, all.

SIXTEENTH INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

COSTA: The nominations are now open for the sixteenth position International Vice President:

Nomination: Curtis Howard

COSTA: The Chair recognizes Mic. 6:

RUFUS SILAS, 732-Atlanta, GA: Hello, ATU members, Brothers and Sisters. First of all, congratulations to President John Costa, Executive Vice President Perez, Secretary-Treasurer Oscar Owens. It is an honor and a privilege to nominate to the sixteenth position of International Vice President, Curtis Howard. My friend, my brother, and a strong



Delegate Rufus Silas, 732-Atlanta, GA

mentor to many – a visionary, a fighter, a fierce leader, and one to be reckoned with.

Dedication, commitment

Curtis Howard has demonstrated his dedication, passion, and commitment for all ATU members for over 24 years. Curtis Howard is a strong, resilient union fighter. Curtis stands firm for all workers and their rights against management's harmful tactics in grievance hearings, negotiations, and one who is protecting our pension.

Curtis has many accomplishments – too many to name them all – but what I will say, if you need someone to rally the troops – call Curtis.

If you need someone to close out a contract – call Curtis.

If you need someone to stand with you in the fight – call Curtis.

If you want to win – call Curtis. *(Applause)*

And for all of these reasons stated, we nominate Curtis Howard to the sixteenth position of the International Vice President. Thank you and God bless. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The name Curtis Howard has been placed into nominations.

Mic. 4:

MICHAEL LOWERY, 1395-Pensacola, FL: I'm proud and honored to second the nomination of Curtis Howard for the sixteenth International Vice President.



Delegate Michael Lowery, 1395-Pensacola, FL

Brother Hanley assigned him into Pensacola. He came in and I thank the good Lord that Larry did because he created a brotherhood for me for life. I love this guy.

He not only worked a campaign fighting back attacks on us, but he has negotiated contracts. And as you see this proud delegation behind us, he is working throughout Florida and we're calling Curtis to help us get contracts done. But more importantly, he was there for 1593 during the tragic moment of Thomas Dunn, and his leadership there will never be forgotten. Curtis, we've always got your back. Thank you.

COSTA: Mic. 6:

MICHAEL MAJETTE, 732-Atlanta, GA: Yes, Good evening. I also would like everyone to know that I accept and second the nomination for my friend, Mr. Curtis Howard. Thank you.

COSTA: Are there any further nominations? *(No Response)*

Are there any further nominations? *(No Response)*

And final, are there any further nominations? *(No Response)*

Curtis, do you accept?

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT CURTIS HOWARD: Mr. President, I do accept. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Nominations closed.

Curtis Howard Elected International Vice President

COSTA: Brother Owens:

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast a unanimous ballot for Curtis Howard for the sixteenth position of International Vice President of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

Standing Ovation

COSTA: The Chair recognizes International Vice President Curtis Howard. *(Applause)*

HOWARD: *First*, I would like to thank God.

Second, I'd like to thank my family who traveled here from Atlanta, GA, to support me. I love them. I appreciate them. They put up with me. I don't even



International Vice President Curtis Howard

want to say on the floor how much. I've got a strong personality, so I definitely appreciate it.

John, congratulations. Javier, congratulations. "Double O", congratulations, and thank you for you guys' guidance. The IVPs, all 15 of them before me, congratulations. I look forward to, definitely, the two behind me.

This is going to be a little harder for me, but Larry Hanley – I want to thank him for trusting in me, in my leadership and giving a guy in Atlanta, GA, just an opportunity to be me. I would love to say to you – I love the delegates. I love working class people, and I love fighting managers that think they can tear us down. So, Larry Hanley, rest in peace and thank you for seeing something in me.

To my Local, thank you for the kind words, the support. The love the other brothers and sisters I work with that are standing with me, I thank them. But, ultimately, I thank all of ATU delegates in this room tonight. All the men and women. I appreciate it. This is something for – since 2000, I have been on your side. This is the first Convention that I'm on – being elected to an International seat and I thank you all. God bless and Amen. *(Applause)*

SEVENTEENTH INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

COSTA: The nominations are now open for the seventeenth position of International Vice President:

Nomination: Natalie Cruz

COSTA: Mic. 1:

ART AGUILAR, 1277-Los Angeles, CA: It's me again. Hello, my Brothers and Sisters. "El Presidente Boobie" from 1277 standing here with the California delegation. I stand here today to add another shield to the ATU armor in the name of Natalie Cruz for IVP No. 17. *(Applause)*



Delegate Arturo Aguilar, 1277-Los Angeles, CA

Natalie has worked hard for the members. She represented as shop steward and an organizer for Local 1700. During her tenure as a shop steward, she represented 160 workers. Natalie helped her Local in many ways. For example, organizing terminal workers, and called upon to act as the FRS for her Local when the FRS was removed for improprieties.

Natalie Cruz's ethics and leadership were recognized at an early stage by IP Warren George and IVP Larry Hanley. IP George used Natalie Cruz as an organizer from time to time because of her ability to "habla" – speak Spanish. Yes, she is Latina and a very strong Latina at that.

In 2008, she was asked to assist the Organizing Department in Orlando, FL, and due to her organizing tactics, Orlando Airport PoPo required her to check in and out every time she was at the airport for six months. Yet that didn't stop her from doing her assignment during negotiations for Local 1700. Then IVP Hanley asked Natalie Cruz to start calling the membership from Local 1700 and getting authorization for a strike.

During her calling of members, management was made aware of the strike vote. Management then called Larry and went back to the table and settled that contract without a strike.

Organized internally and externally

Natalie Cruz was asked by then-IVP Hanley to help organize internally and externally. For example, like in Wisconsin against that mean old Governor Walker. Natalie Cruz did not stop there. In 2010, IVP Hanley won as IP and began to change the course of our International Union to what it is today. Our late and great IP Hanley made a move to bring her on officially as an organizer in 2012.

As an organizer, Ms. Cruz continued her quest to fight for members' rights and kept completing assignment after assignment. Assistant trustees organize the unorganized, leaflet various locations to the point of almost being arrested there, too.

Natalie never, and I repeat, *never*, said no to any job assignment. In July of 2018, Natalie was promoted to International Representative. She continued to do what was expected as a representative of the ATU, traveling coast to coast, assisting in trusteeships, visiting locals and negotiating contracts like in 1777, and, yes, she continued to do what she was asked to do.

'Why me?'

In November of 2018, International Representative Natalie Cruz received a call. Our late, great IP, Larry Hanley, called her to see if she was interested in becoming an IVP. Natalie Cruz asked, "Why me? You have all of these other reps that can do the job as well." Larry's response was, "I know you can do the work and you have been doing the work."

Natalie Cruz was Larry's last appointment to IVP. Larry was building a ship for the future. Larry wanted Natalie as part of the ATU ship. I would not be standing here today entering the name of Natalie Cruz for IVP if our late and great International President, Larry Hanley, didn't believe in Natalie Cruz.

Together We Fight, Together We Win! Natalie Cruz is one of our fighters, and we need her to win today. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The name Natalie Cruz placed into nomination. Mic. 2:

DANIEL CASSELLA, 726-Statens Island, NY: – Larry Hanley's Local, and it'll always be Larry Hanley's Local. *(Applause)* I stand here with the New York delegation to second the nomination of Natalie Cruz. As we all know, as Art just said, Natalie was Larry's last appointment to IVP, and as we all know, I have to say this to Natalie, Larry saved the best for last. *(Applause)*



Delegate Daniel Cassella, 726-Statens Island, NY

COSTA: Mic. 5:

CARLY ALLEN, 697-Toledo, OH: Yes sir. I'm honored to second the nomination of Natalie Cruz, a warrior who will continue to champion our cause. *(Applause)*



Delegate Carly Allen, 697-Toledo, OH

COSTA: Mic. 3:

SAMMIE HOWARD, 1700-Chicago, IL: Mr. Chairman, we are ATU 1700. We just want to tell Natalie, ATU 1700 is always home, and we got your back.

COSTA: Okay. *(Applause)*



Delegate Sammie Howard, 1700-Chicago, IL

Okay. There are two – are there any other nominations?
(No Response)

Any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And, final, any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Natalie, do you accept?

INTERNATION VICE PRESIDENT NATALIE CRUZ: President Costa, I do. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Nominations are closed. *(Applause)*

Natalie Cruz Elected Seventeenth International Vice President

COSTA: “Double O”:

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast a unanimous ballot for Natalie Cruz for the eighteenth position of International Vice President of the Amalgamated Transit Union. *(Applause)*

COSTA: That’s the *seventeenth* position.

OWENS: I’m sorry.

COSTA: No problem. The Chair recognizes International Vice President Natalie Cruz. *(Applause)*

CRUZ: First of all, I would like to thank the Executive

Board, my nominator, Art, and Danny Cassella, Carly from Toledo. Danny, I guess he did save the best for last. *(Applause)*



International Vice President Natalie Cruz

I was Larry’s last appointment, I kept fighting with Larry – “Why?” Why do you want to put me in that position? I like being out with the members. I like fighting with the members.

I just want to say thank you to the delegation; the Latino Caucus for supporting me in every move I make *(Applause)*; New York delegation – every time I go to New York, I’ve got 1181 with me. *(Applause)* And I do apologize if I forget some locals because there’s a lot of locals in here, I’ve worked with.

To my family, they put up with me missing events at home, I appreciate you. To my husband that’s in the back, “Bebe,” I love you, honey. *(Applause)*

(Spanish Spoken) Which means: “Together We Fight, Together We Win!” Thank you.

Standing Ovation

EIGHTEENTH INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

COSTA: Nominations are now opened for the eighteenth position of International Vice President:

Nomination: Anthony Garland

COSTA: Mic. 1:

OZZIE ANDREWS, 689-Washington, DC: Thank you. Can I get all of those that are guests along with 689 to stand in the back please, along with us as we do this nomination?



Delegate Ozzie Andrews, 689-Washington, DC

Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and President John Costa, Vice President Perez, Secretary-Treasurer Owens, ATU International General Executive Board, Delegates and Guests to the 59th Convention. I, Ozzie Andrews, on behalf of Local 689 rise to present and nominate my brother and mentor Anthony Wayne Garland (*Applause*) to the position as International Vice President for position eighteen.

Wayne Garland, to some of you, is a friend; to some, a co-worker; to some, a family man; to some, just plain “Garland.” But to me he’s a fighter, a person who brings people together, an educator, and most of all – a leader by and for the people.

As a new employee at WMATA, I met Wayne at Southeast Bus Garage. Not only did he go out of his way to bring newcomers into the way things have been but took time out of his busy schedule to advocate for change and fight for you. It is my sincere belief that Mr. Wayne Garland is and should be accepted as our leader for the next three years as IVP No. 18.

Congratulations to all that have won their rightful seat to govern this great institution and may God continue to shine His face upon you as well. We, together, march forward in our fight to win, God bless you all, thank you. (*Applause*)

COSTA: The name Anthony Garland has been placed into nominations. Mic. 4 – I mean Mic. 1:

I’m sorry. Mic. 1:

DERRICK MALLARD, 689-Washington, DC: All right. Good afternoon, everyone. Mr. Chairman, I rise in full support to second the nomination for position eighteen of Anthony Garland as International Vice President. (*Applause*)



Delegate Derrick Mallard, 689-Washington, DC

COSTA: Mic. 5:

ANTONIE MAIBEN, 770-Mobile, AL: I would like to congratulate, first of all, to all of the GEB officers that were reelected. I would like to second, Mr. Chairman, and rise to the position of Anthony Garland the eighteenth International Vice President. (*Applause*)



Delegate Antonie Maiben, 770-Mobile, AL

COSTA: Mic. 4:

KENNETH DAY, 1338-Dallas, TX: Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate all of the officers that



Delegate Kenneth Day, 1338-Dallas, TX

have been elected. I rise as the president of the ATU Black Caucus, who unanimously voted to endorse the candidate – the eighteenth position for International Vice President, Mr. Garland. *(Applause)*

COSTA: All right. Thank you, brother, that's it. There's been two seconds. Okay.

Are there any further nominations? *(No Response)*

Any further nominations? *(No Response)*

And, final, any further nominations? *(No Response)*

Anthony, do you accept?

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT ANTHONY GARLAND: I do, Mr. Chairman. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Nominations closed.

Anthony Garland Elected International Vice President

COSTA: "Double O":

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast a unanimous ballot for Anthony Garland for the eighteenth position for International Vice President of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

Standing Ovation

COSTA: The Chair recognizes International Vice President Anthony Garland:

GARLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, let me thank my nominator, my good friend Ozzie Andrews. I actually gave him a script, but I knew that



International Vice President Anthony Garland

was not going to work, but Ozzie Andrews with that first nomination, Derrick Mallard from Local 689, with the second, and Antonie Maiben from 770-Mobile, AL. So, thank you guys.

And I do want to say, with the support that I have behind me with our sister local in Baltimore, MD, Local 1300; my home Local, which is 689 *(Applause)*; and our great leader, my president, Raymond Jackson. I don't know if Raymond is here. And I want to take this time, I'm the only IVP that has been elected that can say congratulations to the entire GEB Board and our executive officers of the ATU. *(Applause)*

And, last, this delegation, you guys have conducted the business of the ATU here this week. You've fought, you've debated, and here today you helped settle the democratic process and the election for the ATU. You've spoken.

'I'm very thankful'

And I just want to say this, there's over 200,000 members in the ATU. This delegation is of 600 maybe 40 plus delegates. I feel privileged to have this opportunity to serve you because any of you in this room can be standing here where I'm standing and do this job. There are only 21 of these jobs, including executive officers, so I'm very thankful that you have given me this opportunity. And I promise you, I'll do my best to come here in 2022, and ask you to give me another opportunity to serve you.

And I want to leave you with this, everyone in here has been elected by your fellow members to be a

leader. That means you are responsible for the livelihoods of those that you represent, and you've conducted this business here this week and we have another day tomorrow.

And I just want to leave you with this, because after we leave here, there's going to have to be some healing. And I just want to say this, as leaders, always remember this, what is right is always not best, and what is best is not always what is right. Make the decision, live with it, move on. God bless all of you guys and thank you.

Standing Ovation

COSTA: I'd like to congratulate everyone who succeeded today, and those that didn't, thank you for stepping up. Democracy makes our Union stronger and we look forward to working with each other in the years ahead.

This Convention is officially recessed, and we'll continue 8:30 a.m. tomorrow morning for the final day. Thank you. Enjoy your evening.

Whereupon, the 59th International Convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union was recessed until Friday, September 27, 2019, at 8:30 a.m.

DAY FIVE

Friday Session

September 27, 2019

The 59th International Convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union reconvened on Friday, September 27, 2019, at 8:36 a.m.

PERRY (*announcer*): Sisters and Brothers, please take your seats. The Convention is about to reconvene.

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT JOHN COSTA: Okay. Sergeants-at-Arms, have everybody seated, please. Good morning, everybody. It's been a long day yesterday. Good morning, everybody.

DELEGATES: "*Good morning.*"

COSTA: Okay. It was a long day yesterday. We broke a little earlier, but we have a lot of business still to do here. We have delegates to the AFL-CIO to finish today along with some committees to report and finish today.

CHAPLAIN TY CHEW

Chaplain, Valley Vegas Church,
Las Vegas, NV

COSTA: So, at this time I'd like to start off by bringing Chaplain Chew up to bless the Convention, please.

Invocation

CHAPLAIN CHEW: Good morning, everyone.

DELEGATES: "*Good morning.*"

CHEW: It's been a long, hard week, hasn't it?

I pray that this week you will have remembered that you are all supposed to be focused. We all fight together. The Amalgamated Transit Union is one body, and you are several members, but all members are strong.

You represent your locals from different states, different countries, and that is my prayer for you, that you remain united, remain strong because "Together We Fight."



Chaplain Ty Chew, Valley Vegas Church, Las Vegas, NV

Father God, I pray that as we end this week, that you will understand that the plight of the Amalgamated Transit Union is real, the issues are real, but you, almighty God, will allow the representatives, the Delegates, the employees, the Union members, to remain solidified, unified, stand together, stand strong.

Father God, I pray that each and every delegate is able to have travel mercies returning to their homes – safe travel mercies with renewed energy to fight for the cause, unity. I pray these in Your most precious name, Jesus. Amen.

DELEGATES: "*Amen.*" (*Applause*)

COSTA: Thank you, Chaplain.

DELEGATES TO THE AFL-CIO CONVENTION

COSTA: Okay. At this time, we are going to go into the AFL-CIO delegate selections. First position:

First AFL-CIO Convention Delegate

COSTA: Mic. 1 is now open. The first position for delegate to the AFL-CIO:

Nomination: Daniel Cassella

COSTA: I'm sorry. Mic. 2:

GEORGE BOTTS, 726-Staten Island, NY: Good

morning, Mr. President. Good morning, Brothers and Sisters. Local 726 – Larry Hanley’s own. I stand before you today to place in nomination the name of my friend, my local president, a worthy successor to Lawrence Hanley, Daniel Cassella.

COSTA: The name Daniel Cassella has been placed into nomination. *(Applause)* Mic. 2:

LUIS ALZATE, 1056-Flushing, NY: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. It is an honor and a privilege to nominate Danny Cassella for the second position of AFL-CIO delegate. I have known Danny for many years, and he is a tremendous labor leader and he will represent us well.

COSTA: Mic. 2:

RAY GREAVES, NJ State Council, chair: Mr. Chairman, the New Jersey State Joint Council rises to second the nomination of our friend – my man from Staten Island, President Danny Cassella.

COSTA: Are there any other nominations for the first delegate to the AFL-CIO? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? Mic. 5:

OSWALDO CHIN, 1622-Danbury, CT: Good morning, Mr. President. I would like to nominate Mustafa Salahuddin for the AFL-CIO.

COSTA: The name of Mustafa has been placed in nomination, Salahuddin. Any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And is that 5 up for – anybody at Mic. 5? Anybody else at Mic. 5? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And, final, any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Hearing none, Danny Cassella, do you accept?

DANIEL CASSELLA, 726-Staten Island, NY: Yes, I accept the nomination, and I’m very proud to be wearing this hat from 113. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Mustafa, do you accept?

CHIN: Mr. President, he’s on his way. He’s not in here yet.

COSTA: He has to be present to accept.

DELEGATE: Give him one minute.

COSTA: All right. He’s not here to accept, so nominations are closed.

Danny Cassella elected First Delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention

COSTA: Brother Owens:

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast a white ballot for Danny Cassella as the first Delegate from the Amalgamated Transit Union to the AFL-CIO convention. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Danny, anything to say? The Chair recognizes Danny Cassella as first AFL-CIO Delegate to the convention.



Delegate Daniel Cassella, 726-Staten Island, NY

CASSELLA: I stand here proudly to nominate my friend and coworker ...

COSTA: No. No. Danny, do *you* have anything to say to be *elected*?

CASSELLA: I’m sorry.

COSTA: But if you don’t, we can just move on.

CASSELLA: I think there are a lot of people that have to catch flights. So, I just thank everybody for standing here and nominating me and I’ll do a good job at the convention. Thank you. *(Applause)*

Second AFL-CIO Convention Delegate

COSTA: Thank you. Okay. At this time, nominations are now open for the second Delegate to the AFL-CIO:

Nomination: Mark Henry

COSTA: Mic. 1:

CASSELLA: All right. Now I'm at this mic. *(Laughter)*

Bend down a little bit, Jeff, so they can see you. *(on the live convention video screen)*. There we go. See now that's a little better. – The biggest damn guy at the Convention you put me next to! I don't get this. *(Laughter)*

Oh, my God! *(viewing himself next to the much taller Richardson on convention video screen)*

I stand here proudly to nominate Mark Henry from New York. We do a lot of work together – Mark Henry and myself – fighting the New York City Transit on many, many issues, and I can't help but say Mark is probably one of the smartest guys that I've ever met and a big help to my Local, and obviously a big help to his Local. So, I'd like to put that name of Mark Henry forward for AFL-CIO. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The name Mark Henry has been brought forward from Local 1056. Mic. 1:

JEFFREY RICHARDSON, 1342-Buffalo, NY: Mr. Chairman, good morning.

COSTA: Good morning.

RICHARDSON: I would like to second the nomination of my friend, my good friend, Mark Henry who's a hard worker, who's dedicated. *(Laughter – as Cassella stands on a higher level)*

These New York guys – we got to stick together. I tell you. I'm glad Danny decided to stand up. But anyway... *(Laughter)* Mark Henry, he is a hard worker. He is dedicated. He is our New York State Legislative Conference Board president and without a doubt we stand here to place – second – the nomination of our good friend, Mark Henry. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And, final, any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Mark Henry, will you accept?

MARK HENRY, 1056-Flushing, NY: Good morning, Mr. Chair. Good morning. Yes, I do accept. Thank you, Danny Casella, and Jeff Richardson, two of the best union presidents...

COSTA: We just need to accept. That's all. All right. The nominations are closed. "Double O":

Mark Henry elected Second Delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention

COSTA: "Double O":

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast a white ballot for "MH" as the second Delegate to the AFL-CIO convention. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The Chair recognizes Mark Henry from Local 1056 as the second AFL-CIO Delegate to the convention. *(Applause)*

HENRY: Good morning, Mr. Chair, again.



Delegate Mark Henry, 1056-Flushing, NY

And I'd like to thank all of the delegates and Jeff Richardson and my good friend from Staten Island, Danny Casella, for nominating me for the Delegate's position for the AFL-CIO. I make the plan and always will make this International Union proud to be a Delegate there. Thank you again. *(Applause)*

Third AFL-CIO Convention Delegate

COSTA: Nominations are now open for the third Delegate to the AFL-CIO convention:

Nomination: Yvonne Williams

COSTA: Mic. 1:

LaTRINA MEREDITH, 192-Oakland, CA: I would like to nominate my President. She is also the President of the Alameda Labor Council. She has also knocked on more doors than you can walk. She's a strong leader, very dedicated to her job. She always says, "Your work ain't done until you have done your work." – Yvonne Williams for AFL-CIO Delegate three. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Yvonne Williams has been nominated for the third spot. Mic. 1:

ARTURO AGUILAR, 1277-Los Angeles, CA: Good morning, everybody. How are we doing today? Don't worry. It's not that long this time. I only got 55 seconds left.

First of all, good morning. Congratulations to the Delegates for the AFL-CIO that were already elected.

I too stand in support of my sister, Yvonne from 192. She is also the president of the Alameda County Fed. – 135,000 strong. We could not pick a better Delegate for the AFL-CIO as this person. She will lead us.

I call her the "Queen of the North" for the California Conference. So, let's support her. Let's give her that unanimous vote. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And final, are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Yvonne, do you accept?

YVONNE WILLIAMS, 192-Oakland, CA: Yes, I accept. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The nominations closed.

Yvonne Williams Elected Third Delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention

COSTA: "Double O":

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast a unanimous ballot for Yvonne Williams of Local 192 for the AFL-CIO third Delegate. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The Chair recognizes Yvonne Williams from Local 192.

WILLIAMS: Brothers and Sisters, this Convention has been just wonderful, and I want to congratulate all of our leaders that's going to lead us into the future.



Delegate Yvonne Williams, 192-Oakland, CA

I'm so proud of you and so happy to be part of the Amalgamated Transit Union. So, at the convention I'm sure that I will make this Union proud. Thank you. It's an honor. *(Applause)*

Fourth AFL-CIO Convention Delegate

COSTA: The nominations are now open for the fourth Delegate to the AFL-CIO convention:

Nomination: Kenneth Day

COSTA: Mic. 4:

ALBERT DIRLA, 1338-Dallas TX: Yes. President Costa I'd like to congratulate you along with the Executive Vice President Perez and "Double O." The person I'm placing into nomination goes above and beyond. He

leads the way – the ATU way. Has a true passion for the business of ATU whether it is collective bargaining, meet and confer, or organizing.

He is a friend, brother, mentor not only to me but an officer, but to all officers and representatives of the local caucuses and legislative conference board and International offices.

He has saved our Local lots of money by doing his own arbitrations. He has been serving the ATU as an officer and president since 1994. With all this being said, my Brothers and Sisters, I nominate Brother Kenneth Day as a Delegate No. 4 to the national AFL-CIO convention. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The name Kenneth Day been placed into nomination. Mic. 4:

THOMAS ETTISON, 1338-Dallas, TX: I would like to second the nomination of Kenneth Day. A person that I helped elect in 1994 and has become the ATU Black Caucus President and has been an arbitrator and has been representing our members all the way from about 600 members to about 2,500 of them now. I'd like to say he is probably one of the most dedicated brothers in the union business. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Are there any further nominations? *(No Response)*

Any further nominations? *(No Response)*

Final, any further nominations? *(No Response)*

Kenny, do you accept?

KENNETH DAY, 1338-Dallas, TX: Mr. Chairman, I do accept.

COSTA: Nominations closed.

Kenneth Day Elected Fourth AFL-CIO Delegate

COSTA: "Double O":

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast a white ballot for Kenneth Day for the fourth position as Delegate to the AFL-CIO convention. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Nominations are now open for the fifth Delegate to the AFL-CIO – I'm sorry. – Hold on, Kenny.

The Chair recognizes Ken Day as the fourth AFL-CIO delegate.

DAY: That's okay, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, officers, delegates to this great, great Convention – this great organization. I thank my



Delegate Kenneth Day, 1338-Dallas, TX

nominators. I thank all of my brothers and sisters that stand with me. I thank everyone for having the trust and the faith I will represent you proudly. Take care. *(Applause)*

Fifth AFL-CIO Convention Delegate

COSTA: Nominations are now open for the fifth AFL-CIO Delegate:

Nomination: Keith Hill

COSTA: Mic. 6:

KENNETH FRANKLIN, 308-Chicago, IL: – here with my Vice Presidents, Mark Weems, Pennie McCoach. The union – one of two unions in Chicago that got the control and the heart of the business and operations in Chicago. We proudly stand, rise to nominate our sister Local President, Keith Hill, 241-Chicago, IL. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The name Keith Hill has been placed into nominations. Mic. 6:

RAY GREAVES, New Jersey Council, chair: Mr. Chairman – I’m sorry still a little raspy from your nomination speech, Mr. Chairman. We proudly rise together – New York and New Jersey. We move New York and New Jersey, and we are here to join in the nomination of our Brother Keith Hill of 241, and 308, who moves Chicago. We move USA. Let’s move this unanimously for Keith Hill. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And, final, any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Keith, do you accept?

KEITH HILL, 241-Chicago, IL: Mr. President, I accept. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Nominations closed.

Keith Hill Elected Fifth Delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention

COSTA: Brother “Double O”:

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I rise to cast a white ballot for Keith Hill, President of Local 308 – I’m sorry – 241, as the fifth Delegate to the AFL-CIO convention. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The Chair recognizes Keith Hill, Local 241.

HILL: To the delegation, to the President and other officers, congratulations. To this delegation, I would like to thank you for your trust and belief in me. I will not disappoint you. To my Local, I thank for your support,



Delegate Keith Hill, 241-Chicago. IL

your strength. To my nominators, Ray, Ken, I thank you. I thank you. 241-Strong, baby!

DELEGATES: “241-Strong!” *(Applause)*

Sixth Delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention

COSTA: Nominations are now open for the sixth Delegate to the AFL-CIO.

Nomination: Pablo Gonzalez

COSTA: Mic. 2:

GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, we jointly rise together, New York, New Jersey, and I’m sure a lot of the other brothers and sisters here with us this morning to nominate somebody who is a leader in New Jersey, Local 820’s president, Pablo Gonzalez, for the sixth spot AFL-CIO Delegate. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Mic. 2:

MARK HENRY, 1056-Flushing, NY: Good morning again, Mr. Chair. I, too, rise to nominate Pablo Gonzalez from Local 820 as a delegate to the AFL-CIO. Thank you.

COSTA: The name Pablo Gonzalez has been placed into nominations. Mic. 2:

ARTURO ALZATE, 1056-Flushing, NY: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. It is a privilege and an honor to stand here and support one of my friends, Pablo Gonzalez, from Local 820 to second the nomination of the sixth AFL-CIO Delegate. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And, final, are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Nominations closed. “Double O”:

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast...

(Commotion from the Floor)

COSTA: I’m sorry, Pablo. Pablo, do you accept?

PABLO GONZALEZ, 820-Union City, NJ: I accept.

COSTA: Nominations closed.

Pablo Gonzales Elected Seventh Delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast a white ballot for “PG” for the seventh Delegate to the AFL-CIO convention.

COSTA: For the sixth AFL-CIO delegate, the Chair recognizes Pablo Gonzalez. *(Applause)*

GONZALEZ: I want to thank my nominators, Ray, Luis and Mark. I want to thank my delegation from New Jersey. We are a great team. We always work



Delegate Pablo Gonzalez, 820-Union City, NJ

together, and we work hard every day. And a special thanks to my two mentors, Ray and Costa, for guiding me through my first couple years. Thank you. Congratulations, John. *(Applause)*

Seventh AFL-CIO Convention Delegate

COSTA: Nominations are now open for the seventh Delegate to the AFL-CIO:

Nomination: Printus L. Dates

COSTA: Mic. 2: Need the light on Mic. 2: There you go.

RAYMOND JACKSON, 689-Washington, DC: Good morning, Brothers and Sisters: First, John, I would like to thank you, or congratulate you and the entire staff, the GEB, on your win and this lovely Convention we had.

Coming out of 689 as the President for the last nine months, all I hear is, “I got big shoes to follow,” and with that being said, I have five contracts coming up next year and in negotiations with one right now. Therefore, I would like to nominate my brother, Printus L. Dates, for Position No. 7 with the AFL-CIO convention. *(Applause)*

Mr. Dates is one of these, and I have a handful of young upcoming brothers and sisters that will one day be leaders in this ATU, and I want you all to meet one of them in a few seconds, and that’s Printus L. Dates. I nominate him for Position No. 7 for the AFL-CIO convention. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The name Printus Dates has been nominated. Mic. 2:

NIYA BANKS, 689-Washington, DC: Mic. 2: Good morning. I stand behind my president, Raymond Jackson, in nominating my brother and co-shop steward, Printus L. Dates. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Mic. 2: Okay. Any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Can we shut that light off, please? Any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And, final, any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Printus, do you accept?

PRINTUS DATES, 689-Washington, DC: Yes, sir. Thank you very much for the opportunity. I accept.

COSTA: Nominations closed.

Printus Dates Elected Seventh Delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention

COSTA: “Double O”:

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I rise to cast a white ballot for Printus Dates of 689. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

COSTA: For the seventh AFL-CIO Delegate, the Chair recognizes Printus Dates.

DATES: Thank you very much for the opportunity. I want to thank my President and the others that have mentored me through this and for our VP that represents



Delegate Printus Dates, 689-Washington, DC

us, Wayne Garland, and the other people that have come before me. I'll do my very best. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

Eighth AFL-CIO Convention Delegate

COSTA: Nominations are now open for the eighth AFL-CIO Delegate:

Nomination: Shirley Block

COSTA: Mic. 4:

JONATHAN HUNT, 757-Portland, OR: Good morning, Sisters and Brothers of the 59th ATU Convention: John and the rest of the Executive Board, I congratulate you on your victory and look forward to success in the next three years. I rise with my fellow officers of Local 757 representing the entire state of Oregon and Southwest Washington, negotiating over 28 separate collective bargaining agreements, over 5,000 local members, and 1,500 retirees that are chaptered in Local 757.

I rise with great pride to nominate my President, Shirley Block, for Position No. 8 of the AFL-CIO convention. Shirley's tenacity is second to none. Her ability to go into locations and negotiate contracts and work with our fellow members is outstanding.

Shirley and I have worked together in different positions for the last 20-plus years. Shirley herself has over 40 years in working for this great organization. Again, I stand with my fellow sisters and brothers in representing Shirley Block for Position No. 8 of the AFL-CIO convention. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The name Shirley Block from Local 757 has been placed in nomination. Mic. 4:

MIKEL BURKE, 757-Portland, OR: Mr. President, It's my honor to second the nomination for Shirley Block, President of Local 757. *(Applause)*

Nomination: Mustafa Salahuddin

COSTA: Mic. 5:

OSWALDO CHIN, 1622-Danbury, CT: Good morning, Mr. President. It is my honor to nominate my friend. He is always a call away – a phone call away – when I need anything, and he always helps us in the state of Connecticut and the Northeast Region to negotiate and to help us do everything that we need to do protecting our members. It's my honor to nominate my friend Mustafa Salahuddin for the Position No. 8 to the AFL-CIO.

COSTA: The name Mustafa Salahuddin has been placed into nomination.

Are there any other nominations? Mic. 5 is still on. Mic. 5:

BRENDA MULE, 717-Manchester, NH: Good morning, I'd like to second Mustafa for Position No. 8. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And, final, are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Shirley, do you accept?

SHIRLEY BLOCK, 757-Portland, OR: Yes, I accept. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Mustafa, do you accept?

MUSTAFA SALAHUDDIN, 1336-Bridgeport, CT: Yes, sir, I do. *(Applause)*

Balloting

COSTA: Okay. Balloting Committee, Mr. Chairman:

COMMITTEE CHAIR DWIGHT MATTINGLY,

1577-W. Palm Beach, FL: Brothers and Sisters, good morning. The Balloting Committee will begin preparing the ballot for the eighth position of the AFL-CIO convention Delegate momentarily.

Under the election rules passed by this Convention, each candidate is entitled to two election observers but must submit the names of any observers to the International Secretary-Treasurer prior to voting. I ask that any observers immediately proceed to the balloting room.

We appreciate your patience as we prepare the ballots. When the ballots are ready, I will make an announcement that the Balloting Committee is prepared to commence voting.

COSTA: Can we get some order, please?

MATTINGLY: The committee members will vote first, and then the candidate observers will vote next. Upon the conclusion of that process, I will call delegates to vote by their seating area in the hall. Thank you.

COSTA: Okay. The ballots are going to have to be made, so I'm asking the body if it's okay if we move into doing some reports as we wait for time.

DELEGATES: *Moved and seconds.*

COSTA: Moved, second.

All in favor, say "aye."

DELEGATES: Chorus of "ayes."

Okay. So, we are going to move to some reports, and we'll let you know when the ballots are done. Who is ready? Who is ready? Any committees back there?

Okay. Can we get the Gender Equity and Inclusion Committee? Gender Equity Committee, are you available? Please report to the back. Gender Equity Committee.

And also, we can do a raffle, right? Come on. We'll do a raffle, too. Brother Smalls:

Raffle Drawing

BROTHER SMALLS: Shareka Cook, 732-Atlanta, GA. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you.

REPORT OF THE GENDER EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

COSTA: Gender and Equity Committee ready? Please come up.

Okay, Madam Chair. Can we get some order? The madam chairman is going to give her report.

COMMITTEE CHAIR LISA FAIR, 1309-San Diego, CA: Good morning. Mr. Chairman, Delegates of the 59th Convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union: I am pleased to submit the report of the Gender Equity and Inclusion Committee. The committee gave ample consideration and full discussion to Resolution K, which was referred by the Resolutions Committee.



Delegate Lisa Fair, 1309-San Diego, CA

At this time, I wish to recommend *concurrence* with the resolution, which was amended by the committee. I will now read the resolution, as amended:

RESOLUTION K: Supporting Women's Equity

Submitted by Amalgamated Transit Union

WHEREAS, ATU recognizes that women face barriers to full inclusivity and equity in our workplace and in our unions; and

WHEREAS, these barriers prevent a high participation, high functioning union and for all and harm our workplaces; and

WHEREAS, ATU Canada has released a “Report and Recommendations on Gender Equity” to begin to address structural and cultural forces and that disproportionately and negatively impact ATU women in Canada; and

WHEREAS, the report identified physical and psychological safety, including assault and verbal abuse on the job as one of the top issues experienced by ATU women in Canada; and

WHEREAS, sexual harassment by passengers, management, and union members was identified in the report as a top concern; and

WHEREAS, women surveyed in the report identified inadequate access to clean restrooms / washrooms and inadequate time to use them as top concerns; and

WHEREAS, a lack of representation by women in the transit industry, in management, and in union leadership was identified in the report as a top concern;

WHEREAS, women surveyed in the report identified oppression and discrimination, including stigmas and stereotypes they face as a top concern; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent Harvard study of a major U.S. transit system, “even in a unionized environment, where work tasks are similar, hourly wages are identical, and tenure dictates promotion, female workers earn 89 cents on the male worker’s dollar” weekly earnings; and

WHEREAS, the gender wage gap also persists in Canada, even from unionized women workers; and

WHEREAS, there are other gendered dimensions to health and safety issues affecting ATU members; and

WHEREAS, we seek to increase women’s participation in union activities and elected positions;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU is committed to promoting women’s equity and advancing women’s status in our Union and in our workplaces;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATU supports the public transit policies that increase schedule flexibility, which some women may particularly value; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU undertake in the United States a survey similar to the report.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU will develop an educational curriculum on topics, such as antioppression and antisexual harassment, women’s leadership training, and general union education for women; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU will prepare a guide to address women’s health and safety concerns through advocacy and contract negotiations; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU will prioritize educating women through training and mentorship programs, and increasing the presence of women in leadership by supporting a network of women’s structures, such as local women’s committees, women’s leadership training, and women’s caucuses; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in addition to the supporting women’s equity, the committee recommends that the International Union undertake further research into issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community and support the LGBTQ+ community and, in particular, transgender individuals, and we recommend an LGBTQ+ committee be created.

FAIR: That’s it. I so move that this resolution be adopted.
(*Applause*)

COSTA: Thank you, Madam Chair. The motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: “*Seconds.*”

COSTA: Second. Question? (*No Response*)

Hearing none. Mic. 5:

MICHAEL ALLEN, 85-Pittsburgh, PA: To the committee members, thank you. It’s about damn time.
(*Applause*)

COSTA: Any other questions? *(No Response)*

Hearing none, all in favor, say “aye.”

DELEGATES: Chorus of “*ayes.*”

COSTA: Opposed? *(No Response)*

(Gavel Knock) The motion is adopted.

PERRY: Brothers and Sisters, the members of the Technology Committee are requested to move to the stage.

FAIR: The committee also gave ample consideration and full discussion to Resolution L which was referred to us by the Resolution Committee. The fourth “therefore” statement is amended to state as follows: *[full text of the resolution provided below]*

RESOLUTION L: Preventing and Stopping Sexual Harassment

Submitted by Amalgamated Transit Union

WHEREAS, sexual harassment has no place in our society, much less in our workplaces and our Union; and

WHEREAS, far too many working people – many of them women – go to work in dread, wondering if they’ll be harassed or assaulted, and fearing retaliation for speaking up; and

WHEREAS, sexual harassment is widespread and rightfully receiving renewed attention in the wake of the #MeToo movement; and

WHEREAS, sexual harassment is rooted in discrimination and is not only unwanted sexual advances, but includes unwelcome behavior that happens to workers because of their sex or gender identity; and

WHEREAS, sexual harassment is a pernicious barrier to women’s equal treatment; and

WHEREAS, many victims do not come forward because they fear retaliation or that they will not be believed; and

WHEREAS, an individual’s sexual orientation, immigration status, gender identity and expression, race, ethnicity, religion, and age can all interact to enhance the likelihood a person will be targeted; and

WHEREAS, economic insecurity and low-wage employment makes workers more vulnerable to harassment and abuse; and

WHEREAS, unions are a good way for working women and men to address harassment and discrimination in their workplaces; and

WHEREAS, through education, support, and effective representation, unions can help end the culture of silence and ensure meaningful accountability, ensuring that workers know their rights on the job and in the Union, and where to find support and file claims;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU is dedicated to preventing sexual harassment through education and enforcement of strong policies, and by fostering workplace and union cultures that support working women and men; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU, building on the ATU Canada “Gender Equity Report,” will help end the culture of silence, by using membership surveys and other tools to better understand the problem and how it manifests in the transportation sector; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU will partner with movements for gender, racial, and economic justice that have specialized knowledge and training, to develop training and safe spaces for members to discuss and address the issue; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU will create a supportive environment for women, people of color, LGBTQ+ and other individuals more likely to be subjected to harassment to speak out and lead on developing solutions, this may include the creation of committees and caucuses for education and advancement within the community; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU will develop best practices and model language for

collective bargaining agreements and local union bylaws for preventing and dealing appropriately with instances of sexual harassment, including training guides for officers, staff, members and shop stewards, including on how to handle claims with sensitivity and ensure every claimant is heard and is treated with respect.

FAIR: And at this time, I recommend *concurrence* and I so move, Mr. Chair.

COSTA: Thank you, Madam Chairman, the motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: “Seconded.”

COSTA: Second. Question? (*No Response*)

Hearing none, all in favor, say “aye.”

DELEGATES: Chorus of “*ayes*.”

COSTA: Opposed? (*No Response*)

The motion is adopted. (*Gavel Knock*)

(*Applause*)

FAIR: At this time, I would have Brother Lovell, who is the secretary, will now read the names of the Gender Equity and Inclusion Committee.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY SCOTT LOVELL,
1722-Kelowna, BC:



Delegate Scott Lovell, 1722-Kelowna, BC

- Lisa Fair, 1309, *chair*
- Scott Lovell, 1722, *secretary*
- LaNette Mitchell, 85

- Tracey Brown, 113
- Angie Clark, 113
- Kelvin Gilkey, 241
- Donna Murphy, 308
- Martha Martinez, 569
- Karen Maxwell, 589
- Ozzie Andrews, 689
- Karen Thomas, 819
- Doris West, 819
- Cherida Smith, 998
- Felix Avila, 1056
- James Vangerwen, 1505
- Rachel Miranda, 1555
- Beverly Glenn, 1596

LOVELL: This is truly a revolutionary committee, and I was very privileged to be part of it. Thank you. (*Applause*)

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary, and great work. Let's give the committee a hand. (*Applause*)

PERRY: At this time, we also request the members of the Next Generation Committee to proceed to the left of stage.

REPORT OF THE NEXT GENERATION COMMITTEE

COSTA: We're going to do one more committee before we vote and that's the Next Generation Committee. Come upfront. Mr. Chairman:

COMMITTEE CHAIR TRAVIS OBERG, 987-Lethbridge, AB: Good morning. Mr. Chairman, Delegates to the 59th Convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union, I'm pleased to submit the Report of the Next Generation Committee:

The committee gave ample consideration and full discussion to Resolution Q regarding the next generation of transit workers.



Delegate Travis Oberg, 987-Lethbridge, AB

The committee strongly urges ATU International to develop union ambassador and mentoring programs and make them available to all locals across the United States and Canada in order to help identify leaders of the next generation of our Union.

The committee also requests that the International Union enhance the social media component of our union communication and information sharing, by building upon current training offered.

The committee also requests that the International develop and make available a comprehensive history of local and international union successes – sorry, lost my spot – victories, campaigns, and values to share with the next generation of ATU members.

Finally, the committee would like the International Union to examine opportunities to invest in local members for the purposes of engaging the next generation of members of our Union.

In an effort to expedite this report, the committee determined that instead of reading all clauses of the resolution, the body and the intent of the resolution starting with “Therefore be it resolved” clause will be read: *[Full text of resolution provided below]*

RESOLUTION Q: Next Generation of Transit Workers

Submitted by Amalgamated Transit Union

WHEREAS, investing in the next generation of union activists, with special attention to women,

people of color, and newly organized workers is a strategic priority for the ATU; and

WHEREAS, the skills needed for new organizing, political action, direct action, health and safety, internal and external communications, news media, concerted action, negotiation, arbitration, coalition building, rider organizing, and member mobilization are critical to the success and the survival of the labor movement and the ATU; and

WHEREAS, the ATU is committed to providing the training for the above skills, and opportunity for younger workers to become effective union activists; and

WHEREAS, a powerful labor movement must be built through recognition and inclusion of the full diversity of the labor force, including workers of all ages; and

WHEREAS, the ATU commits to equal employment opportunity and the importance of a diverse workforce that is inclusive of women, people of color, and others regardless of LGBTQ+ status in all levels within the Union; and

WHEREAS, the ATU recognizes the value of mentoring programs for both leadership and job skill development and maximizing the retention of newly hired members; and

WHEREAS, the ATU recognizes the necessity of local and national leadership to be drawn from and representing the interests, background, and concerns of the emerging workforce; and

WHEREAS, programs that focus on the “next generation activists” of members are key to getting younger union members more involved in their local unions, and the state, provincial, and national labor movements; and

WHEREAS, an understanding of the history of the ATU and the labour movements in both Canada and the U.S., is important background as we address the organizing, bargaining, and emerging technology challenges in our industry; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to raise the awareness of our current leaders and members to the diversity

of background and experience which shape the younger workforce; and

WHEREAS, programs that build intergenerational relationship are important to the solidarity and success of the ATU and the labor movement;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATU actively develop activists’ initiatives and programs aimed at bringing young workers into all ATU campaigns and activities; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that among these initiatives, ATU develop targeted training and education programs aimed at teaching our younger workers and members about the activist history of the ATU and the labor movement; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATU work with our locals to develop mentoring programs for new officers and members to increase participation in the affairs of the Union and enhance their job skills through joint labor/management career ladders and apprenticeship programs; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATU will provide the support and resources to ensure the success of the ATU’s “Next Generation” Programs.

OBERG: The committee recommends *concurrence* with this resolution and so I move, Mr. Chairman.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: “*Seconded.*”

COSTA: Second.

Question? (*No Response*)

Hearing none, all in favor, say “aye.”

DELEGATES: Chorus of “*ayes.*”

COSTA: Opposed? (*No Response*)

Motion adopted. (*Gavel Knock*)

(*Applause*)

OBERG: I would like to thank the committee for the debate that we have. I believe we need much more time to sit down and develop these, but I call on now Secretary Tamieko Cook and she will read the names of the Next Generation Committee. (*Applause*)

COMMITTEE SECRETARY TAMIEKO COOK, 587-Seattle, WA: Good morning.

DELEGATES: “*Good morning.*”

COOK: I will now read the names of the Next Generation Committee members:



Delegate Tamieko Cook, 587-Seattle, WA

- Travis Oberg, 987, *chair*
- Tamieko Cook, 587, *secretary*
- Ross Nicoter, 85
- Hernan Saulle, 113
- Aleem Tharani, 113
- Veronica Harry, 113
- Furqaan Abdullah, 241
- Nitin Datta, 279
- Michael Overstreet, 308
- Jennifer Ewanchuk, 565
- Rahul Patel, 588
- Katharine Mullen, 589
- Armani Marsman, 589
- Leah Anderson, 689

- Barry Wilson, 689
- Shareka Cook, 732
- Jami Lyles, 880
- Thomas Erdman, 1056
- Tomas Fret, 1181
- Mauro Varela, 1277

COOK: I also want to thank International Vice President Natalie Cruz for her contributions to this committee. Thank you very much.

COSTA: Thank you, Madam Secretary. Let's give them a hand. Great work. Hard work here. Good committee.

REPORT OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGY, APPRENTICESHIPS AND JOBS COMMITTEE

COSTA: Okay. It looks like we can get one more committee in. New Technology ready? Bring them up.

CARLY ALLEN, 697-Toledo, OH: Mr. Chairman, this is the New Technology, Apprenticeships and Jobs Committee.



Delegate Carly Allen, 697-Toledo. OH

Officers and Delegates of the 59th Convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union, we, your Committee on New Technology, Apprenticeships and Jobs submit the following for your consideration and approval:

The committee met and reviewed the efforts of the Amalgamated Transit Union in the field of emerging autonomous vehicle technology known as “AV” for the last three years.

Our members are engaged in dangerous work. They are responsible for safely transporting millions of passengers every year and must do so even amidst poor working conditions and poorly designed equipment.

It is essential that as calls grow to deploy this new and untested technology on our roads, that we continue to demand that not one of our members should have their job automated away, especially when it places innocent lives at risk.

We view the establishment of stringent testing and safety standards for AVs as essential for the protection of our members, our passengers, and the general public at large.

If – and only if – such standards are made, met and exceeded, should this technology be deployed. And even then, only after significant protections against displacement and opportunities for retraining have been guaranteed for workers in this sector. Until then, we will continue to [support] restrictions on the deployment of these technologies and collect data on their efficacy, participate in research, and advocate for robust protections on all government levels and through collective bargaining. I bring to you an amended Resolution E:

RESOLUTION E: ATU Approach to Autonomous Vehicles Deployment, Safety & Training

Submitted by Amalgamated Transit Union

WHEREAS, ATU has successfully responded and grown in the face of technological changes outside of and through the applications of its Section 13(c) rights and protections; and

WHEREAS, ATU has as its responsibility to protect the safety and job security of its members; and

WHEREAS, the emergence of new technologies is likely to transform the responsibilities of our

members and may have serious effects on their existing job classifications; and

WHEREAS, information is essential to combat the safety and ethical impact of the deployment of autonomous vehicle (AV) technology; and

WHEREAS, ATU recognizes that the serious and unresolved safety issues involving the eventual deployment of autonomous vehicles require constant monitoring and evaluation; and

WHEREAS, AV technology still has significant operating issues in a variety of common scenarios and weather conditions, such as fog, heavy snow, rain, and intersections with complex traffic signals; and

WHEREAS, ATU acknowledges the minimal federal safety laws and regulations governing testing, certification, and operation of autonomous vehicles; and

WHEREAS, many states, provinces, and cities have passed laws authorizing the testing and limited operation of autonomous vehicles on public roadways while also enacting laws prohibiting local jurisdictions and transit agencies from regulating the operation of autonomous vehicles at the local level; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Federal Transit Administration, think tanks, universities, independent researchers, and other entities have commissioned research and studies on the development and implementation of autonomous vehicles;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU shall track and analyze new technologies including developments in AV technology in both the private and public sectors; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU will work with local officers and members so that new technologies are not implemented at the expense of existing jobs; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU shall track federal, state, provincial, and local laws, regulations, rulings, and executive action regarding AV technology and deployment; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU shall review ongoing safety research studies, and record safety issues involving AVs, including accidents causing death, injuries, or substantial property loss; and proposed amendments to laws.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATU shall aggressively advocate for the advance notice and negotiation with affected employee representatives prior to AV service implementation, the setting of rigorous federal safety standards for the testing and operation of autonomous vehicles, requirements for onboard safety operators, submission of potential workforce impact reports by providers to the agencies, and well-funded workforce transition impact and skills training and benefits as conditions for implementation of AV service operations; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU will present local union training and educational material on AVs and technological developments; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU shall compile contractual language on the introduction of new technology, develop strategic approaches and messaging; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU will continue to raise safety, training, and ethical concerns regarding the deployment of AVs; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU shall work with the Transportation Learning Center and other organizations to develop the best practices for training and skill development, including apprenticeships, certifications, and mentoring.

ALLEN: And I so move.

COSTA: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Motion is made.

DELEGATES: "*Seconded.*"

COSTA: Second. Question? Mic. 5:

RUFUS SILAS, 732-Atlanta, GA: Good morning, Brothers and Sisters of ATU. Once again, I would like to congratulate President Costa, Executive Vice President Perez, Financial Secretary Oscar Owens and all of the other 18 IVPs.

"To much is given and much is required" ... While



Delegate Rufus Silas, 732-Atlanta, GA

my presence at this mic. is not in any way to say that I stand against this resolution, but it is to ask the question: This resolution has a lot of words like “compile,” “track,” “analyze,” “record” and “advocate,” I would like know how is ATU going to accomplish such a massive endeavor?

While I see the “*what*,” what eludes me is the “*how*.” Will the ATU provide a department to monitor and gather this data and a point of contact for the locals to call? Will the ATU supply the locals with this information monthly, quarterly, biannually, by request or will it automatically come to the locals? That is my question.

COSTA: Yes, Brother. The ATU will have a department that regulates this and to monitor this and get the information out to our locals. *(Applause)*

SILAS: Thank you.

COSTA: Any other questions? *(No Response)*

Hearing none, all in favor, say “aye.”

DELEGATES: Chorus of “*ayes*.”

Motion adopted. *(Gavel Knock)*

ALLEN: Although traditionally a committee chair reads all resolutions, I find it only appropriate that my secretary, Jamaine, read the following Resolution R with minor amendments from the committee because truly 265 has brought us a great example and program. *(Applause)*

COMMITTEE SECRETARY JAMAINE GIBSON, 265-San Jose, CA: Good morning, everyone. I’ve always said I wanted to be up here and then you get up here



Delegate Jamaine Gibson, 265-San Jose, CA

and these lights are kind of bright and hot. So, I will be reading Resolution R:

RESOLUTION R: Developing Bus Operator Apprenticeship Programs

Submitted by Amalgamated Transit Union

WHEREAS, transit has the highest percentage of aging workers in the U.S. among all industries: 35% are over the age of 55; and

WHEREAS, the turnover rate for new bus operators is extremely high; and

WHEREAS, due to several factors, including low starting pay, split shifts, and dangerous working conditions, there is currently a major bus driver shortage throughout North America, resulting in existing drivers being forced to work overtime – a serious threat to public safety and operator health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the ATU has been a leader in developing innovative transit apprenticeship programs so that bus operators can prepare for the challenges our members face on the job and our Union can retain members; and

WHEREAS, labor/management partnerships are essential for implementing effective apprenticeship programs; and

WHEREAS, ATU Local 265 in San Jose, CA, and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority have implemented a registered coach operator

apprenticeship program which serves as the transit industry “gold standard;” and

WHEREAS, the program, focused on union-appointed mentors, was initiated to address longstanding needs to improve training and increase the retention rate of new drivers, and was developed through a joint labor/management partnership to address workplace operational issues; and

WHEREAS, traditional bus driver training has focused on the safe operation of the vehicle, with less attention paid to enhancing and valuing drivers’ day-to-day relationships with passengers, even though it is these interactions and issues which often elevate drivers’ stress, lead to related health problems, and undermine their commitment to the job; and

WHEREAS, Local 265’s mentoring and apprenticeship program was built on three core principles: It is worker-centered, community-oriented, and reflective of industry needs and standards; and

WHEREAS, mentors provide critical street survival skills, dealing with the daily stresses involving passengers, traffic, and the disruptions both on and off the bus – key to reducing the rising attrition rate among new hires; and

WHEREAS, the program also focuses on health and wellness, customer service, and the process of getting acclimated to the job; and

WHEREAS, since the inception of the program 13 years ago, the agency has a 95% retention rate among drivers – well above the industry average; and

WHEREAS, customer service complaints and grievances have decreased, absenteeism has been cut, and job satisfaction has risen; and

WHEREAS, good training and career ladders give us another tool for reaching out to the communities we serve;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU is committed to supporting the expansion of bus operator apprenticeship programs in the U.S. and Canada modeled after Local 265’s program to help build the skills and career opportunities of our transit bus operator members; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU will work with industry partners to ensure that local apprenticeship programs are jointly developed and implemented; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU will continue to work with the Transportation Learning Center and other organizations and entities to both advance the establishment of such apprenticeship programs and to secure the necessary approvals for federal funding and certification of our apprenticeship programs; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU will educate our local officers and members on the short and long-term benefits of comprehensive apprenticeship and mentoring programs.

GIBSON: Mr. Chair, I so move.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. The motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: “*Seconds.*”

COSTA: Second. Question? (*No Response*)

Hearing none, all in favor, say “aye.”

DELEGATES: Chorus of “*ayes.*”

COSTA: Opposed? (*No Response*)

Motion adopted. (*Gavel Knock*)

(*Applause*)

ALLEN: Last but not least, a special thanks to all the members of the New Technology, Apprenticeship and Jobs Committee:

- John Callahan, *IVP*
- Myself, 697, *chair*
- Jamaine Gibson, 265, *secretary*
- Kevin Barrett, 85
- Mike D’Agostino, 113
- Phil Horgan, 113
- Demarcus Roberson, 558
- Raj Brar, 569

- Marcus Taylor, 589
- Darcy Pederson, 615
- Damion Cannon, 689
- David Ward, 732
- Joe Ruffin, 757
- Thomas Leighty, 1015
- Joseph Branch, 1056
- Dean Boykin, 1277
- Ferraro Jacobs, 1464
- Everett Rudolph, 1505
- Robert Goudie, 1573
- Miguel Navarro, Jr., 1574
- Carolyn Higgins, 1637

ALLEN: And a sincere and special thanks to Michael Delgado, ATU staff, who worked with us on this committee. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. Okay. Give them a hand. Great work. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

PERRY: Sisters and Brothers, we are looking for a lost phone. It's an LG G7 with Otterbox. If you find it, please hand it to any one of the Sergeants-at-Arms.

BALLOTING

COSTA: Okay. We are going to commence the election. Sergeants-at-Arms, can you start releasing the rows, please. *(Delegates depart to vote)*

PERRY: Brothers and Sisters, any delegate who has not voted should do so now – all rows. *(Delegates depart to vote)*

Sisters and Brothers, we remind you again to, please, if you have not voted, delegates, if you have not voted, please proceed to the balloting place right now. *(Delegates depart to vote)*

Sisters and Brothers, you are urged – delegates – if you have not voted please do so now. *(Delegates Depart to Vote)*

Your attention, please. All International Vice Presidents are requested to come to the stage at this time – all IVPs.

COSTA: Okay. Will the Sergeants-at-Arms get everybody ready, please?

Balloting Committee's chairman has arrived. Mr. Chairman:

MATTINGLY: Mr. Chairman, the balloting in the election for Office of the Eighth AFL-CIO Delegate has concluded. The election has been fairly conducted. The ballots have been accurately counted and the secrecy and sanctity of the ballot has been preserved.

Shirley Block Elected Eighth Delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention

The Balloting Committee has certified the tally of ballots as follows:

462 ballots were cast. 461 ballots were deemed valid. One ballot was voided. One ballot was challenged and unresolved because of the margin of victory the unresolved challenged were insufficient to affect the outcome of the election. There were

- 295 ballots cast for Shirley Block.
- 165 ballots were cast for Mustafa.

Shirley Block is the new eighth AFL-CIO Delegate. Thank you. *(Applause)*



Delegate Shirley Block, 757-Portland, OR

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Chair recognizes the eighth AFL-CIO delegate, Shirley Block. *(Applause)*

BLOCK: I want to thank all of my brothers and sisters who supported me and the ones that didn't support me. This is the way it should be voted on and brought forth to the floor. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Sister. *(Applause)* Mic. 5:

SALAHUDDIN: Yes sir, Mr. Chairman I would just like to congratulate Ms. Shirley Block on her victory in this democratic process and thank God for the democratic process. It's not about titles. It's about the work. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you.

ALTERNATE AFL-CIO CONVENTION DELEGATES

COSTA: Okay. We're going to now move to the Alternate Delegate to the AFL-CIO, the alternates.

First Alternate AFL-CIO Convention Delegate

COSTA: So, nominations are now open for the first Alternate Delegate:

Nomination: Ken Franklin

COSTA: Mic. 6:

KEITH HILL, 241-Chicago, IL: Thank you, President Costa. Delegates, it's with great honor and a pleasure to nominate one of my hardest working brothers from my sister local, Ken Franklin as Alternate Delegate No. 1. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Mic. 6:

TIRAN BILLUPS, 819-Newark, NJ: Good morning, everyone. It's my privilege – and privilege to second my brother Kenneth for the first – the first Alternate to the AFL-CIO. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The name of Ken Franklin has been placed into nomination.

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And, final, are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Ken, do you accept?

KEN FRANKLIN, 308-Chicago, IL: Johnny "the Bull" Costa: AFL-CIO, I want to – yes, I do. Yes, I do.

COSTA: That's all I need right now. Just, hold up. Okay.

COSTA: Nominations are closed.

Ken Franklin Elected First Alternate Delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention

COSTA: "Double O":

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast a unanimous ballot for Ken Franklin as Alternate Delegate to the AFL-CIO convention. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Okay. The Chair recognizes Ken Franklin as the first Alternate to the AFL-CIO convention.



Delegate Ken Franklin, 308-Chicago, IL

FRANKLIN: I want to thank my sister Local President, Keith Hill, ATU Local 241. My other nominators. Thank you. I'm ready to break my back for the ATU working hard. *(Applause)*

Second Alternate Delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention

COSTA: Okay. Nominations are now open for the second Alternate Delegate to the AFL-CIO convention:

Nomination: Lillian Shavers

COSTA: Mic. 1:

JOYCE WILLIS, 192-Oakland, CA: Good morning, Brothers and Sisters. I am standing proudly here to nominate Lillian Shavers, Local 842, out of Delaware. She is small but she is tough, and I feel like she will be great asset as alternate delegate No. 2. Thank you.

COSTA: The name of Lillian Shavers has been nominated. Mic. 1:

KEVIN MARX, 842-Wilmington, DE: I would like to second the nomination for my President, Lillian Shavers. *(Applause)*

Nomination: Jose Rosado

COSTA: Mic. 4:

KEN PRICE, 587-Seattle, WA: I would like to nominate Mr. Jose Rosado as No. 2 alternate delegate.

Jose has been active member of 587 for over 24 years. He currently holds the position of Northwest Representative of the International Latino Caucus. He is also Vice President-at-Large of the Washington State Labor Council and a very active shop steward and chief shop steward for 24 years.

COSTA: The name Jose Rosado has been nominated. Mic. 4:

HAROLD BATSON, 587-Seattle, WA: I second the nomination of Jose Rosado.

COSTA: Any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And, final, any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Lillian Shavers, do you accept?

LILLIAN SHAVERS, 842-Wilmington, DE: I accept the nomination. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Jose Rosado, do you accept?

JOSE ROSADO, 1587-Seattle, WA: I accept. *(Applause)*

BALLOTING

COSTA: Okay. Balloting Chairman:

MATTINGLY: Brothers and Sisters, the balloting will begin preparing the ballot for the Second Alternate of the AFL-CIO convention ...

COSTA: Can we get some order, please?

MATTINGLY:

Under the election rules passed by this Convention, each candidate is entitled to two election observers but must submit the names of any observers to the International Secretary-Treasurer prior to voting. I ask that any observers immediately proceed to the balloting room.

We appreciate your patience as we prepare the ballots. When the ballots are ready, I will make an announcement that the Balloting Committee is prepared to commence the voting. The committee members will vote first and then the candidates' observer will vote next.

Upon conclusion of that process, I'll call the delegates to vote by their seating area in this hall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Listen, while we're waiting for the ballots we're going to do some more committee reports. Maintenance Committee, can you please come up? Maintenance Committee:

Disruption from the Audio System

COSTA: All right. Do we have an open mic. or something going on?

RICK SABO *(convention producer)*: It's from the hotel, sir, from the other Concorde Room. We are trying to fix that problem now.

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

COSTA: Mr. Chairman:

COMMITTEE CHAIR ORLANDO RILEY,
819-Newark, NJ: Good morning, Delegates.

DELEGATES: “Good morning.”

RILEY: Good morning, Chair. This committee represents thousands of skilled maintenance workers who repair and maintain the buses and trains which carry millions of people throughout the U.S. and Canada.



Delegate Orlando Riley, 819-Newark, NJ

So, I would like to personally thank the ATU leadership for recognizing our skilled maintenance employees, brothers and sisters, and creating the very first ATU Maintenance Committee. *(Applause)*

Mr. Chair, this is the report of the Maintenance Committee. Officers and Delegates of 59th Convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union, we, your Committee on Maintenance, submit the following for your consideration and approval:

The committee met and reviewed information related to the deleterious conditions that ATU maintenance workers face on the job. A lack of adequate safety and training, dangerously neglected tools, and understaffing have killed members like Jake Schwab who died in an unfamiliar bus garage where there had not been a safety review for nine years.

ATU members are also exposed to dangerous chemical hazards. Transit maintenance work will remain dangerous without any intervention, as seasoned transit mechanics

continue to retire in the next few years without clear replacements, and transit agencies introduce unfamiliar battery electric bus systems. This is why the committee resolved to pass Resolution H and I, the conclusions read below: *[full resolution provided below]*

RESOLUTION H: Enhancing Safety and Protecting Maintenance Workers

Submitted by Amalgamated Transit Union

WHEREAS, bus and rail mechanics represented by ATU perform their jobs under dangerous conditions within their garages, including poor ventilation, exposure to dangerous chemicals, and lifts; and

WHEREAS, improved workplace requirements are essential to ensure a safe workplace; and

WHEREAS, Brother Jake Schwab, an ATU member from Local 568 in Erie, PA, died in 2014, while performing his mechanic duties; and

WHEREAS, many ATU mechanics are forced to work with the wrong tools on unfamiliar buses with little to no training, which has resulted in injury and death; and

WHEREAS, thousands of public sector transit mechanics are forced to work in workplaces not protected by the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OHSA) because their states have not enacted similar state approved OHSA requirements;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU shall continue to push for passage of new OSHA laws at the state level to ensure the safety of our maintenance members; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU will support the Federal Transit Administration's Safety Management System to ensure the highest levels of safety procedures, practices, and policies for managing safety risks and hazards for all ATU-represented employees; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATU is committed to ensuring collective bargaining agreements with the highest safety levels for all ATU represented employees.

RILEY: The committee recommends *concurrency*.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Motion moved.

DELEGATES: “*Seconds*.”

COSTA: Second. Question? Mic 3:

MARQUEAL WILLIAMS, 241-Chicago, IL: I don’t have a question for this.

COSTA: You are good?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

COSTA: No questions? (*No Response*)

Hearing none, all in favor, say “aye.”

DELEGATES: Chorus of “*ayes*.”

COSTA: Opposed? (*No Response*)

Motion adopted. (*Gavel Knock*)

(*Applause*)

RILEY: Thank you, Chair.

RESOLUTION I: Ensuring Training and Recognizing the Achievements of Maintenance Workers

Submitted by Amalgamated Transit Union

WHEREAS, mechanics represented by ATU perform highly skilled work, ensuring that millions of bus and rail riders can safely commute to work each day on well-maintained vehicles; and

WHEREAS, a large percentage of the transit maintenance workforce will be retiring within the next few years, which will create a shortage of qualified mechanics; and

WHEREAS, new technology, including the introduction of electric vehicles, is rapidly changing the performance of work traditionally performed by mechanics; and

WHEREAS, few programs exist to provide training to workers so that they can perform their jobs adequately, move up career ladders, and help

the nation’s transit agencies operate at maximum efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the ATU recognizes the highly skilled nature of mechanical work, the invaluable experience of our mechanic members, and the high level of skill achieved by these members; and

WHEREAS, the ATU has been working with the Transportation Learning Center and the American Public Transportation Association to develop frontline training on electric buses, bus maintenance apprenticeships, and innovative rail maintenance training programs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATU is committed to working on collective bargaining language to enhance training and career ladder opportunities for our mechanic members; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATU is committed to developing recognized standards to acknowledge the skills of our maintenance members; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU shall advocate for federal programs to provide frontline workforce development and standards based training for bus and rail maintenance through labor/management partnerships and apprenticeships; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATU will continue to support federal funding for the Transportation Learning Center from the Federal Transit Administration, the Department of Labor, and the Transit Cooperative Research Program to develop and support technical training for frontline workers.

RILEY: The committee recommends *concurrency*.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Motion moved.

DELEGATES: “*Seconds*.”

COSTA: Second. Questions? Mic. 6:

RYAN TIMLIN, 1005-Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN: Yeah. I hope at this time, this would be possible to make an amendment at this time. It’s really easy:

In the portion in the “therefore, be it resolved” – the ATU is committed to working on collective bargaining

language to enhance training and career ladder opportunities for our mechanic members – just an amendment to change “mechanic” to “*maintenance*.”
(*Applause*)

COSTA: The amendment has been moved.

DELEGATES: “*Seconds*.”

COSTA: Second. Question? (*No Response*)

Hearing none, all in favor, say “aye.”

DELEGATES: Chorus of “*ayes*.”

COSTA: Opposed? (*No Response*)

Amendment accepted. (*Gavel Knock*)

(*Applause*)

Now back to the original – Mic 3, question:

WILLIAMS: Also, President Costa, congratulations for your win. We would like to amend as well:

“FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the recognition of ATU mechanics is a skilled trade. A local union may issue a separate union card identifying the maintenance members in that department as journeyman mechanics or other classification in that maintenance department. Copy of such card will be provided to the International.”

COSTA: An amendment has been made.

DELEGATES: “*Seconds*.”

COSTA: Second. Question? (*No Response*)

Hearing none, all in favor of the amendment, say “aye.”

DELEGATES: Chorus of “*ayes*.”

COSTA: Opposed? (*No Response*)

The amendment has been accepted. (*Applause*)

Back to the regular motion. Any more questions on the original motion? (*No Response*)

The motion as amended, all in favor, say “aye.”

DELEGATES: Chorus of “*ayes*.”

COSTA: Opposed? (*No Response*)

The motion and amendment has been accepted.
(*Gavel Knock*)

RILEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair and the delegation. The Maintenance Committee recording secretary, Jonathan Hunt, will read the members of the Maintenance Committee.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY JONATHAN HUNT, 757-Portland, OR: Good afternoon, Sisters and Brothers.

DELEGATES: “*Good afternoon*.”

HUNT: I would like to thank you all for your attendance today. Special thanks to:



Delegate Jonathan Hunt, 757-Portland, OR

- Jim Lindsay, IVP
- Orlando Riley, 819, *chair*
- Jonathan Hunt, 757, *secretary*
- Jeff DiPerna, 85
- Scott Gordon, 113
- Marqueal Williams, 241
- Jason Kilby, 279
- Jose Hernandez, 569
- Bill Johnson, 583
- Derrick Gray, 689
- Greg Bowen, 689
- Anthony Rogers, 732

- Michael Francois, 757
- Antonio Floyd, 788
- Michael Young, 880
- Chris Bourke, 993
- Kurt Anderson, 1005
- Frank Myers, 1056
- James Berry, 1179
- Monica Carney-Hayes, 1277
- Aaron Williams, 1277
- Loni Petrowski, 1505

HUNT: Thank you all.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. See, Maintenance – we fix things. Thank you for the great work. Thank you.

Rosada withdraws nomination

COSTA: Mic. 4:

ROSADO: I wish to withdraw my nomination.

COSTA: Okay. Brother, with that, I will need to open nominations before I close, so nominations are reopened.

Are there any other nominations for the – what number was that? Hold on. Let me get my notes – for the second Alternate to the AFL-CIO.

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And, final, are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

So, the only one left, Lillian, you did state that you accepted your nomination? Right, Lil?

SHIVERS: Correct, Mr. President.

COSTA: Thank you. Nominations closed.

Lillian Shavers Elected Second Alternate Delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention

COSTA: “Double O”:

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I now announce Lillian Shavers as the second Alternate to the AFL-CIO. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The Chair recognizes Alternate AFL-CIO Delegate Lillian Shavers. *(Applause)*

SHIVERS: Thank you, delegates. I would like to say congratulations President John Costa on your election, and I will do honor – I’m also honored to be an Alternate



Delegate Lillian Shavers, 842-Wilmington, DE

at the AFL-CIO. Thank you.

COSTA: Thank you.

SHIVERS: Thank you, Brother, for stepping down. I really appreciate you. And thanks, Mr. Greaves, for your battery – for putting the battery in my back. Thank you, President Costa.

Third Alternate AFL-CIO Convention Delegate

COSTA: Okay. Nominations are now open for the third Alternate Delegate.

Nomination: Jeffrey DiPerna

COSTA: Mic. 2: Is it on?

GREAVES: – Chairman, the New Jersey State Council, and the New York delegation and the Pennsylvania delegation proudly put forward a fighter and a Local 85-Pittsburgh, PA, our brother, Jeffrey DiPerna, for the third Alternate to the AFL-CIO convention. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The name of Jeff DiPerna has been nominated. Mic. 2:

PINO D'ARMIENTO, 113-Toronto, ON: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. I stand here also to second the nomination for Jeffrey DiPerna. Thank you.

COSTA: Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And, final, any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Jeff, do you accept?

JEFFREY DiPERNA, 85-Pittsburgh, PA: With honor, I accept. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The nominations closed.

Jeffrey DiPerna Elected Third Alternate Delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention

COSTA: “Double O”:

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I rise to cast a unanimous ballot for my brother, Jeff DiPerna, AFL-CIO Alternate Delegate.

COSTA: The Chair recognizes Jeffrey DiPerna from Local 85 for the third Alternate to the AFL-CIO Convention. Mic. 2:

DiPERNA: President Costa, ATU Delegation. First of all, from my heart from Pittsburgh, PA, I want to congratulate everybody up here all of the delegation ...

COSTA: Can we get that mic. on, Rick? Hold on. Can you make room for Jeff to do his speech, please? Turn that 5 on. Mic. 5:



Delegate Jeffrey DiPerna, 85-Pittsburgh, PA

DiPERNA: Can everybody hear me? I want the leadership ...

COSTA: Jeff, hold on a second. Just be patient. This technology – you know. Technical difficulties. Jeff, go to Mic. 1, it's working. 1 – over to your right. Let's give Jeff a hand. He's trying to get this done. *(Applause)*

DiPERNA: All right. Here we are, I just want to first thank John Costa, Oscar Owens, and Javier for this honor. I mean, this is going to be great. And congratulations to all of you and all of the delegates and to the delegation here. I appreciate the support.

And to my nominators, thank you so much – Wayne, Pino. It's an honor to do this and I'm going to do the very best I can to represent Pittsburgh. So, thank you.

COSTA: Thank you, Jeff, and we apologize for the mic. problem. Let me just check it out. All right. 2 and 5 are the only mics. working right now while they are trying to fix this.

Any other nominations set up at 2 and 5, please?

Fourth Alternate AFL-CIO Convention Delegate

COSTA: Okay. Nominations are now open for the fourth Alternate Delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention:

Nomination: Troy Miller

COSTA: Mic. 1:

INGA McGLOTHIN, 627-Cincinnati, OH: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to nominate my good friend and our President, Troy Miller, for the alternate position for position 4 of the AFL-CIO. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The name Troy Miller has been nominated. Mic. 1:

CARLY ALLEN, 697-Toledo, OH: Yes. Mr. Chair, I would like to second the nomination for Troy Miller to the Alternate Position to the AFL-CIO convention. Troy is my colleague, my friend, the leader of the ATU Ohio Joint Conference Board and also serves as a Delegate to the Ohio AFL-CIO. Again, Troy Miller for AFL-CIO Convention Delegate Alternate.

COSTA: Thank you. Any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Any nominations? *(No Response)*

And, final, any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Troy, do you accept?

MILLER: Yes, I do.

COSTA: The nominations closed.

Troy Miller Elected Fourth Alternate Delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention

COSTA: "Double O":

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I rise to cast the unanimous ballot for Troy Miller, Local 627.

COSTA: The Chair recognizes Troy Miller from Local 627, fourth Alternate AFL-CIO Delegate. *(Applause)* Is



Delegate Troy Miller, 627-Cincinnati, OH

it on?

MILLER: I'd like to thank the Board. I look forward for the next three years working with you. Also, I would like to thank Inga McGlothlin, a great partner. I got a great partner in that office. Carly Allen – the great work she does in Ohio. We take on challenges. And then the rest of the Ohio delegation that's here with me. I'll be honored to serve as an Alternate and thank you. *(Applause)*

Fifth Alternate Delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention

COSTA: Thank you, Brother. Nominations are now open for the fifth Alternate Delegate to the AFL-CIO:

Nomination: Tiran Billups

COSTA: Mic. 2:

ORLANDO RILEY, 819-Newark, NJ: It's a pleasure for me to stand before the delegation and nominate the next person for the fifth position for Alternate AFL-CIO Delegate. This individual forced me – and I repeat – forced me to run for state council position back in 2002, and we have been fighting together ever since.

It's a pleasure to work with him every day – every single day. If you are in a fight. If you are in a brawl, this is the person you want to come into that brawl with you. It's my pleasure to nominate President, Local 819, Tiran Billups for the Alternate for the AFL-CIO delegate. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The name Tiran Billups from Local 819 has been nominated. Mic. 2:

MARTIN HERAGHTY, 824-New Brunswick, NJ: I second the nomination for Tiran Billups, Local 819. I am proud to have worked with him and I look forward to his work in the future. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: All of the mics. are up I'm being told. So, are there any other nominations? Mic. 6:

KEITH HILL, 241-Chicago, IL: I come before this delegation proud to nominate Tiran Billups for the fifth Alternate Delegate position. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And, final, are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Tiran Billups, do you accept? Mic. 2:

TIRAN BILLUPS, 819-Newark, NJ: I really don't need a mic. With pride and honor, I accept. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Nominations are closed. *(Gavel Knock)*

Tiran Billups Elected Fifth Alternate Delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention

COSTA: "Double O":

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I rise to cast a unanimous ballot for Tiran Billups, Local 819. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The Chair recognizes Tiran Billups for the fifth Alternate to the AFL-CIO from Local 819. *(Applause)*
That's *my* Local.

BILLUPS: Good morning, everybody. I really don't like standing up on mics. and talking to people and



Delegate Tiran Billups, 819-Newark, NJ

everything. I'm a person that really stands behind and try to help everybody else do what they do. But I'm honored to accept this position and I thank you for your support.

I thank "O" because we have been together a long time working together fighting management. That's what we do. We fight to make sure that everybody has their rights. *(Applause)*

Wrong or right, we tell you when you're wrong, but we're going to fight for you anyway. That's our job. That's what we do. I also thank Marty. Thank you, Marty. And, Keith, thank you. And thank you everybody standing behind me. I appreciate you. Thank you. *(Applause)*

Sixth Alternate Delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention

COSTA: Nominations are now open for the sixth Alternate Delegate:

Nomination: Jonathan Hunt

COSTA: Mic. 4:

MARY LONGORIA, 757-Portland, OR: Sisters and Brothers, I want to congratulate everyone that has been elected to these jobs. These jobs are difficult. I proudly stand with ATU 757 delegates to nominate Jonathan Hunt our Vice President in Portland as the Alternate Delegate No. 6. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The name Jonathan Hunt has been nominated. Mic. 4:

MIKEL BURKE, 757-Portland, OR: Mr. President, it is my privilege to second the nomination of our Local Vice President Jonathan Hunt as an alternate.

COSTA: Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And, final, any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Jon Hunt, do you accept?

JONATHAN HUNT, 757-Portland, OR: I proudly accept. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Nominations closed.



Delegate Jonathan Hunt, 757-Portland, OR

Jonathan Hunt Elected Sixth Alternate Delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention

COSTA: "Double O":

OWENS: I cast a ballot for my Brother Jon Hunt out of 757. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The Chair recognizes Jon Hunt for the sixth Alternate Delegate to the AFL-CIO. Brother Hunt:

HUNT: Thank you, Delegates of the Convention of – 59th Convention. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank my Local 757 and their participation in this Convention. I would like to thank all of the delegates and all of us that have made it here today.

I would like to take a special thanks to my wife Joyce Hunt who allows me to do the things I do every day and is my rock. Thanks, sexy. *(Applause, Laughter)*

Seventh Alternate Delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention

COSTA: Nominations are open for the seventh Alternate Delegate to the AFL-CIO convention:

Nomination: Jeff Richardson

COSTA: Mic. 1:

JAMES CORNELIUS, 1342-Buffalo, NY: I stand here to nominate not only my president, but a real good friend of mine. We have been friends for over

40 years. Our President/Business Agent, pension chair and also the Vice President of our Local AFL-CIO, Jeff Richardson. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The name of Jeff Richardson, 1342-Buffalo, NY, has been nominated. Mic. 1:

GLADYS McDANIEL, 1056-Flushing, NY: Good morning. I stand here proudly to second Jeff Richardson, our friend, our brother, our leader, and an amazing man. I second for the seventh seat as an Alternate.

COSTA: Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And, final, are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Jeff, do you accept?

JEFF RICHARDSON, 1342-Buffalo, NY: I do, sir, proudly accept. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Nominations closed.

Jeff Richardson Elected Seventh Alternate Delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention

COSTA: "Brother O":

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, I cast a unanimous ballot for my brother, Jeff Richardson, Local 1342.

COSTA: The Chair recognizes Jeff Richardson, seventh Alternate to the AFL-CIO convention. Jeff: *(Applause)*

RICHARDSON: Thank you, President Costa, Javier,



Delegate Jeffrey Richardson, 1342-Buffalo, NY

Oscar, and all IVPs. Congratulations, first of all.

Second of all, thank you for this opportunity to represent this great Union of ours. I will do it proudly and serve this Union well. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Thank you, Brother.

Eighth Alternate Delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention

COSTA: Nominations are now open for the eighth Alternate Delegate to the AFL-CIO:

Nomination: Chantel Daniels

COSTA: Mic. 4:

DWAYNE RUSSELL, 1197-Jacksonville, FL: Good morning, Brothers and Sisters. To the Executive Officers, IVPs, and remaining delegates, I'm proud – to announce – to nominate my sister, Chantel Daniels, to the eighth spot to the AFL-CIO Alternate. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The name Chantel Daniels has been nominated. Mic. 4:

MIKE LOWERY, 1395-Pensacola, FL: Mr. Chairman, I am proud to second the nomination for my sister out of Jacksonville, Chantel Daniels for the eighth Alternate spot at the AFL-CIO.

COSTA: Thank you. Okay. Is there anybody else at that Mic. 4?

Are there any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Any other nominations? *(No Response)*

And, final, any other nominations? *(No Response)*

Chantel, do you accept?

CHANTEL DANIELS, 1197-Jacksonville, FL: Yes. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The nominations are closed. *(Gavel Knock)*

Chantel Daniels Elected Eighth Alternated Delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention

COSTA: And I'll ask Brother Owens to step up:

OWENS: Chantel Daniels, Local 1197, I cast a unanimous ballot for Chantel Daniels. Thank you. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The Chair recognizes Chantel Daniels as the eighth Alternate AFL-CIO Delegate. *(Applause)*

DANIELS: I would like to thank my president and my Florida delegates for putting me out there, and I would like to thank everyone that's in this – I'm nervous. *(Cheers)* – that is in this ATU. Thank you for letting me represent you all to the AFL-CIO. *(Applause)*



Delegate Chantel Daniels, 1197-Jacksonville, FL

COSTA: Thank you, Sister. Okay. This concludes – the nominations are closed. *(Cheers)*

FINAL BALLOTING COMMITTEE REPORT

COSTA: This concludes the voting. All of the delegates have been there, and I need the chairman from the Balloting Committee to come up, please, and finalize this. Dwight, is he in the house? There he is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman:

DWIGHT MATTINGLY, 1577-W. Palm Beach, FL: This is the final report of the Balloting Committee.



Delegate Dwight Mattingly, 1577-West Palm Beach, FL

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On behalf of the Balloting Committee, I would like to thank all of you for conducting your balloting in an orderly and efficient manner. We conducted elections for International Secretary-Treasurer, International Vice President Position No. 6, and the eighth AFL-CIO delegate.

With the conclusion of the elections at this 59th Convention, I trust that the delegates will join me in expressing appreciation to the members of the Balloting Committee for performing their duties with seriousness, dedication, and the hard work that they gave. Would you join me in expressing to them? (*Applause*)

As a result of their hard work, the balloting was accurate, fair, and transparent. Our committee would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to International Vice President Robin West for his assistance. (*Applause*)

I would like to also personally thank Karima Howard from Local 85 who has served admirably as a balloting committee secretary. Sister Howard will now read the names of the balloting committee members:

COMMITTEE SECRETARY KARIMA HOWARD, 85-Pittsburgh, PA: Good afternoon. Good afternoon. Wow!

DELEGATES: *"Good afternoon."*

HOWARD: I would like to personally congratulate our international president, John Costa, and congratulate all of the officers, IVPs, and AFL-CIO members. Our committee is truly thankful for this opportunity, and we



Delegate Karima Howard, 85-Pittsburgh, PA

did not take it lightly. So, thank you guys. The Balloting Committee names are as follows:

- Dwight Mattingly, Chair
- Karima Howard, 85, Secretary
- Kevin Odom, 22
- Robert Yoders, 103
- Peter DeAngelis, 113
- Jacques Racine, 279
- Pennie McCray-McCoach, 308
- Annette Pingel, 312
- Sandra Sands, 580
- Brian Bradt, 582
- Rick Ratcliff, 583
- John Clancy, 589
- Steve Sousa, 618
- Troy Barnes, 689
- Ronald Shelton, 689
- Tracey Britt, 689
- Jennifer Chase, 689
- Edward Knutson, 714
- John Fattorusso, 726
- David Kyser, 765
- Darrell "Get-It-Done" Lampley, 819

- Carlos Gonzalez, 820
- Denise Briggs, 822
- DeCarlo Greer, 900
- Scott Szabadka, 946
- Sandra Cobb, 998
- Eric Stubblefield, 1001
- Vincent Casella, 1027
- Troy Hanson, 1168
- Edward Franke, 1179
- Janel Williams, 1225
- Michael Winningham, 1249
- Jeff Shaffer, 1277
- Oscar Velasco, 1277
- Leroy Carpenter, 1300
- Alisia Brown, 1336
- John Doerrman, 1345
- Efren Mazas, 1360
- Jim Beresten, 1415
- Denis Bosc, 1505
- Margaret Gilbert, 1582
- Mario Ferrante, 1587
- Denyse Mitchell, 1724

HOWARD: And we thank you, we thank you, and we thank you. (*Applause*)

MATTINGLY: And that concludes your Balloting Committee Report, Mr. Chairman.

COSTA: Thank you, Madam Secretary. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let's give them a hand. That was a lot of work this week they had to do. Thank you. (*Applause*)

Shawn, do we have any information on any buses? I understand the schedule is trying to – people are asking about schedules.

PERRY: Yes. First, we are asking the members of the Resolutions Committee to come to the stage. Please direct your attention now to the screens at the front of the hall for information on departure times for the airport shuttles.

COSTA: At this time, we are going to read the convention expense report from 2016. Oscar:

2016 58TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION EXPENSE REPORT

OWENS: Mr. Chairman, the Amalgamated Transit Union statement of receipts and disbursements converted to U.S. dollars of the 58th Convention in Toronto, ON, on October the 3rd through the 7th of 2016:

- Income: \$168,655.00
- Delegates and guest registration fee: \$168,655.00
- Total expenses: \$2,000,588.63
- Net: \$2,000,420.28

OWENS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Shawn, do we have any reports – any information on the buses?

PERRY: Yes, we have the shuttle times that were up just a moment ago and then we are going to put them up again.

COSTA: Okay. They are up? Okay.

FINAL REPORT OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

COSTA: All right. Bring the resolutions up, please. Mr. Chairman:

COMMITTEE CHAIR CLINT CRABTREE, 279-Ottawa, ON: So, Mr. Chairman and Delegates to the 59th Convention, your Committee on Resolutions is pleased to submit its final report:



Delegate Clint Crabtree, 279-Ottawa, ON

The committee met and gave ample consideration on the final resolution, and it was submitted to the committee. In an effort to expedite this report covering the remaining resolution, the committee determined that instead of reading all of the clauses, the body, and the intent, we will start by reading the “therefore, be it resolved.” *[Full text of resolution provided below]*

At this time, I would therefore move that we go to the “resolved” clause of the resolution and allow me to read it in an effort to expedite the consideration of this important matter.

DELEGATES: “Seconds.”

COSTA: All right. The motion has been moved. Second.

Question? Mic. 6:

EREK SLATER, 241-Chicago, IL: This is on the Resolution for UAW. Chairman, we rise to support the motion of concurrence for solidarity with the striking General Motors workers. We just recently had a victory in the strike. They have given our healthcare insurance back.

COSTA: Erek, I don’t think this – this is not the resolution. Can you hold up? He hasn’t read the resolution. Thank you.

CRABTREE: So, I’ll start by reading the “therefore” – “Therefore, be it resolved” – and this has to do with solidarity trips for the UAW picket lines. *[Full resolution provided below]*

RESOLUTION in Support of the UAW Strike

Submitted by Erek Slater, 241-Chicago, IL

WHEREAS, 49,000 United Auto Worker (UAW) families are currently on strike for good health care and a fair contract; and.

WHEREAS, a win this big for Labor will have ripple effects throughout the labor movement; and.

WHEREAS, ATU members’ putting our bodies at the frontlines of the first major national industrial strike in a generation will have a transformative effect on our Union;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that our International President will urge International Vice Presidents and International staff to coordinate with local unions across the United States and Canada to organize trips of ATU members and supporters to UAW picket lines; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that where possible, we will organize solidarity collections of money or food to help our UAW brothers and sisters sustain and win this fight; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that we will record and document these solidarity actions and make them very public, in an effort to help build our UAW brothers’ and sisters’ morale as well as to help win the national public relations battle between UAW and GM.

CRABTREE: So, the committee recommends *concurrence* on this proposal, and I so move, Mr. Chairman.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion has been moved.

DELEGATES: “Seconds.”



Delegate Erek Slater, 241-Chicago, IL

COSTA: Second. Question? Mic. 6:

SLATER: Thank you again to the Chairman, to our President.

We are rising to support this motion of concurrence with the striking workers of General Motors. Once again, we just had a victory where GM was forced to give the health insurance back. They are still on strike. So, there's a huge moment for ATU to step into this battle and to crush GM and to win this week. *(Applause)*

And if they refuse to back down – and this is a long strike – we'll make clear that we are side-by-side with our brothers and sisters on the picket line now.

I ask that other delegates who are supporting this, get up and take the microphone, including our brothers and sisters in Chicago, Minnesota, Milwaukee, Michigan, St. Louis, Washington State, and any other locals that have agreed to take action to get boots on the ground at the picket line.

Again, I want to thank President Costa. You did a great – immediately you made it clear, all our 200,000 families were going to take action with your statement last week. That breathed life into the picket line, and now we can put troops on the ground.

I also want to thank the GEB members who have – hopefully, they'll take the microphone – that understand the importance of solidarity. It's in their bones. We have not had a big strike like this in a few decades. It is where we can see that solidarity works and its power.

So, at the end of this, we are going to be meeting at the entrance to this location. I know many people are leaving. We are going to discuss the practicality, where are buses going to go from what cities, and we are also asking each one of the people standing up to talk about what solidarity means to them, why it's so important, and what they are practically doing to support local to local and how they are working with the International.

So, with the remaining time, I want to give this time to ATU Local 241 president with the permission of the Chairman.

COSTA: Permission granted.

SLATER: Thank you, sir.

Solidarity

KEITH HILL, 241-Chicago, IL: I stand in solidarity with my board member Erek Slater, and I look for everyone to help us out. One fight is all fight. We are all family. "One Union" is all union. *(Applause)*



Delegate Keith Hill, 241-Chicago, IL

COSTA: Mic 3:

RYAN TIMLIN, 1005-Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN: I would just like to say that we support this as well. As we know, in 2008, when the great recession hit, like us they attacked the auto workers. They bailed out the banks and they bailed out actually the auto industry and they forced these workers to take massive cuts.



Delegate Ryan Timlin, 1005-Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

And as Sister Nelson said the other day, she has got our back, we have her back. We have the auto workers backs, just like they have our back.

I think this is important. We have – near our Local, we have, in Hudson, WI – we have UAW workers on

strike. And our members have actually on their own gone out there, so we will be supporting this, and we will definitely mobilize our members to head out to Hudson to support those UAW workers. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Mic. 1:

JAMES MACON, 998-Milwaukee, WI: I also support this. Right now, we are in a fight in Milwaukee that we may look at another strike. We finally got rid of Scott Walker; now we have another clown as our county executive. As people in Boston might know who I'm talking about because his father owns Boston Scientific, and he's a clown.



Delegate James Macon, 998-Milwaukee, IL

And we had the Teamsters, the Teachers, and everyone else come walk with us in a rally. And, more important, where it comes in together, we fight, we had 241 that had sent some people up to fight with us, and I appreciate that. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Mic. 4:



Delegate Chuck Lare, 587-Seattle, WA

CHUCK LARE, 587-Seattle, WA: GM is playing hardball. Let's show the auto workers that transit workers have their back. Last week thousands of United Auto Workers walked off the job. Thousands are now walking the picket lines at General Motors factories across the U.S.

Scary and uplifting

This is the biggest private sector strike in more than a decade, and you can help. Walking off the job is both scary and uplifting. This is where solidarity gets really real. By showing up and helping out, you make striking a little less scary and a little more uplifting.

Passage of this resolution will demonstrate auto workers can count on you – transit workers. Union teachers are taking apples to the picket line.

I encourage you to not just pass this resolution, I encourage you to do more. I encourage you to go back to your locals, explain to your members that this is the biggest private sector strike in more than a decade, and your members can help. Ask your members to demonstrate to auto workers that they can count on your members, take actions that demonstrate to auto workers that transit workers have their back.

Campaigns

The best way to engage your members and grow ATU is through campaigns. This strike is a campaign that with our participation could broaden us and help us grow. Our campaigns must not just be in this room. Our campaigns must include our members, include our members' families, include our members' communities, and include other union workers.

The United Auto Workers strike gives us an opportunity, an opportunity to engage, grow, and increase the power of our locals. Together we fight, together we win! *(Applause)*

COSTA: Mic. 5:

RICHARD JACKSON, 836-Grand Rapids, MI: – a place not necessarily known for being union friendly – if you will.



Delegate RiChard Jackson, 836-Grand Rapids, MI

Our Board and the Michigan delegation speak in favor of concurrence with this resolution. We have done plenty of things to support the striking auto workers: delivering food, holding dinners, but on one day in particular, we actually – our executive board as well as the A. Philip Randolph Institute in Michigan Board, where I sit, we attempted to send pizza from Pizza Hut and Papa John's, and they refused because they are not in favor of this strike at all.

'Union-Strong'

So, solidarity means everything for any place, whether it's a "Union-Strong" environment or a community that's not so labor-strong. We need to stand strong with them because we are all union brothers and sisters. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Mic. 6:

DEBORAH LANE, 308-Chicago, IL: Hello, Brothers and Sisters. We stand in solidarity with UAW. Also, we represent "Jobs With Justice," where we sit on the board, Calvin and Mario. We understand the power in uniting. When we were in our fight, the United Auto Workers were the first ones to send a solidarity letter stating that they would fight with us.

Sometimes in this fight, if we don't provide the "411," it always becomes the "911" to corporations. *(Applause)*

We have to understand that we are our brothers' keepers, and their fight becomes our fight. We are a community that stands together against the giants, and when we fight against the giants, we arrive and have the "David mentality" to slay the giant. And when we do that and we fight together, we win.



Delegate Deborah Lane, 308-Chicago, IL

So, we ask all of you to please locate United Auto Workers in your area and let them know that ATU stands proud with them. When we fight, we fight together, we win. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Mic. 1:

ARTURO AGUILAR, 1277-Los Angeles, CA: Good morning, Mr. President. I call for the question. *(Applause)*

COSTA: The question has been called.

DELEGATES: "Seconds."

COSTA: Anybody else on the mics? Second?

DELEGATES: "Seconded."

COSTA: Any questions? Oh, question's been called.

All in favor, say "aye."

DELEGATES: Chorus of "ayes."

COSTA: Opposed? *(No Response)*

Okay. Back up to the motion. All in favor of the resolution, say "aye."

DELEGATES: Chorus of "ayes."

COSTA: Opposed? *(No Response)*

"Ayes" have it. Adopted. *(Gavel Knock)*

CRABTREE: So, Mr. Chairman, that concludes the report of the Resolutions Committee. On behalf of all of the members of the committee, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to play a leading role in the crafting of our Union's policies over the next three years. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Okay. At this time, Shawn, do you want to make an announcement of the shuttles, again, there have been changes.

PERRY: Here is some additional information on the shuttles:

- Those leaving from Bally's should go to the Uber/Lyft departure point. That's where the excursions left from. And those who are leaving Paris should go to the similar location, the Uber/Lyft departure point where the excursions left from. Shuttles will pick up passengers continuously between the times listed at approximately 20 to 30minute intervals.

COSTA: Thank you, Shawn.

At this time, the Paris Hotel has been kind enough to give us – one lucky member – a chance to win a free trip back here to Paris Hotel for a two-night weekend stay here. It's around \$250 and a dinner credit. Flight is not included though. And participants – to participate all you have to do is be present when we do this raffle.

This was negotiated in the contract and congratulations to the lucky winner, but we're going to pull this raffle now.

JERRY NUNEZ, 1704-San Bernardino, CA: And the winner is Tracey Brown, 113-Toronto, ON. *(Applause)*

COSTA: Tracey, you want to come up? Alright. While that's going on can we – any more announcements? Looks good.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

COSTA: We're going to move on to do the installation of the officers. Can we get all of the IVPs and set that up to get everybody up on stage, please?

Also, can we have Jimmy La Sala and the executive international retiree vice presidents that are announced please come up for the swearing in?

BROWN: Thank you very much.

COSTA: Congratulations. *(Applause)*

I know there are flights that people are waiting for also. *(Applause)*

I just want to take a moment to recognize retired International President James La Sala *(Applause)*, retired Executive International Vice President Ellis Franklin *(Applause)*, and retired Executive International Vice President Randy Graham from Ottawa. *(Applause)* I asked them to come up and assist in the swearing in.

Are you ready, Jimmy? Oscar?

RETIRED INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT JIM LA SALA: Before I do this, Johnny. I know all of us that's here have been a part of your life and your career. And more importantly, from the day that we came into this Convention you just remind me of everything that we stand for. Those that came before us and everything that has been done on all of our behalf. Thank you all for being here. *(Applause)*



Retired International President Jim La Sala

COSTA: Thank you, Jimmy.

LA SALA: Do each of you accept the position to which you have been elected?

All of the officers please rise. Do you accept the office to which the delegates of this Convention have elected you?

INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS: Chorus of "Yeses."

LA SALA: Each of you will raise your right hand and repeat the following obligation:

I, in the presence of the members of this Union, do solemnly promise that in addition to the membership obligation I have already taken in this Union, I will to the best of my ability perform the duties of the office to which I have been elected as laid down in the Convention of our

Union until I have been relieved by the proper officers or my successor duly elected and installed. And that I will faithfully perform all of the work that falls to my office as prescribed by the *Constitution* of this Union.

I further promise to diligently guard and turn over to my successor all properties of the Union entrusted to my possession and responsibility and during my official acts while holding this office shall be just and honorable working for the good of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

LA SALA: I congratulate all of you and wish you well into the future. (*Applause*)

COSTA: Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: “*Together We Win!*”

COSTA: Together We Fight! –

DELEGATES: “*Together We Win!*”

COSTA: ATU! –

DELEGATES: “*ATU!*”

COSTA: ATU! –

DELEGATES: “*ATU!*”

COSTA: ATU! –

DELEGATES: “*ATU!*”

COSTA: Thank you. (*Applause*)

Okay, everybody. We’re going to get ready for a video. Everybody get comfortable. We got a highlight video for you to see:

Family

COSTA: I just want to say a couple words here. I didn’t get a chance – how many people is this your first Convention? Raise your hands. (*Show of hands*)

What did you think? (*Applause*)

Twenty-four years ago, I was – you know, I was flying in here on a plane on my way here and I was looking out the window and I just realized as I was flying and before we landed I was thinking about the Convention trying to get my head wrapped around and thinking about my first Convention.

My first Convention was 1995, here in Las Vegas at the Bally’s Hotel right next door. We had it in the conference at Bally’s.



*International Executive Vice President Javier M. Perez, Jr., International President John A. Costa
and International Secretary-Treasurer, Oscar Owens*

And I was thinking as I was coming in, I came to my first Convention and I was like, wow, it just blew me away. And then 24 years later, we flew back to Las Vegas and I was International President to this Convention. *(Applause)*

So, that's what's great about this Union. You know, hard work, and anything is possible, but I just want to say it's been an honor to serve you. It's been an honor to stand here before you. Thank you.

The respect. I felt like I had a family. I just want to say as I said yesterday, the energy and the respect we had for each other. Thank you.

This is "One ATU!" Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

And at this time, I believe the video is ready and all eyes on the screen. Thank you very much, Brothers and Sisters and have a safe flight back. Byebye.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS VIDEO PRESENTATION

(Applause)

COSTA: We have a couple more announcements. The decision has not been made on where our next convention destination will be – being that we put this together we didn't have time to search and get prices. So, that will be announced, hopefully, by our next GEB, we will decide that. So, that's why you don't see the picture going up as we're used to notifying where we are going to be.

Also, I want to recognize the IATSE Local 720, and the IATSE Local 22 local unions for the audio and visual productions have done a great job. *(Applause)*

So, "*all union*" here.

Okay. At this time, the 59th Convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union is officially closed. Thank you.

Whereupon, the 59th International Convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union adjourned sine die.



DELEGATES OF THE AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION 59TH CONVENTION

INTERNATIONAL UNION

John A. Costa, International President

Javier M. Perez, Jr., International Executive Vice President

Oscar Owens, International Secretary-Treasurer

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS & GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

Richard M. Murphy

Janis M. Borchardt

Kenneth R. Kirk

Paul D. Bowen

Marcellus Barnes

Ray Rivera

Yvette Trujillo

Gary Johnson Sr.

Robin G. West

Chuck E. Watson

Bruce E. Hamilton

Michelle Sommers

James B. Lindsay III

Emanuele Sforza

John Callahan

Curtis Howard

Natalie Cruz

Anthony Garland

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Dennis G. Antonellis

Steve MacDougall

Antonette Bryant

Sesil Rubain

Marilyn Williams

Mike Harms

ATU CANADA

John Di Nino

NJ STATE COUNCIL

Raymond Greaves

LOCAL 19

Colorado Springs, CO

George Borja

LOCAL 22

Worcester, MA

Ken Kephart

Kevin Odom

LOCAL 26

Detroit, MI

Schetrone Collier

Perri Lile-Barrett

Glenn R. Tolbert

LOCAL 85

Pittsburgh, PA

Michael V. Allen

Joseph Bahorich

Kevin P. Barrett

James D. Cavolo

Sabatino DiNardo

Jeffrey S. DiPerna

Karima Howard

Richard R. Keating

James L. McDonough

LaNette M. Mitchell

Ross Nicotero

Stephen M. Palonis

LOCAL 103

Wheeling, WV

Robert L. Yoders

LOCAL 107

Hamilton, ON

Chris Campbell

Paul Doucette

Deirdre Osborne

Eric Tuck

LOCAL 113

Toronto, ON

Marvin Alfred

Mario Azzopardi

Roland Beaudet

Tracey Brown

Claudio Cappadocia

Angie Clark

Mike D'Agostino

Pino D'Armiento

Jason DaSilva

Peter De Angelis

Rick Fox

Luigi Garda

Frank Giustini

Scott Gordon

Steve Hajoglou

Veronica Harry

Phil Horgan

Michael Judd

Frank Malta

Max Matharu

Tony Meglio

Kevin Morton

Kirpal Nijjar

Ryan Rajmoolie

Mohammad Rana

Rick Rideout

Carlos Santos

Hernan Saulle

Kiranvir Sidhu

Enrico Signore

Aleem Tharani

Fritz Titus

Anthony Wallace

Ross Zambri

LOCAL 128

Asheville, NC

Diane Allen

LOCAL 134

Vancouver, BC

Naresh Sachithanandan

LOCAL 164

Wilkes-Barre, PA

Paul Jason

LOCAL 168

Scranton, PA

Mark Gifford

LOCAL 174

Fall River, MA

Eric Carvalho

LOCAL 192

Oakland, CA

Tracy Brown

Eric Darby

LaTrina Meredith

Wendy Meredith-Steve

Josette Moss

Kennard Plummer

Yvonne M. Williams

Joyce M. Willis

LOCAL 241

Chicago, IL

Furquaan Abdullah

John Bayer

Toi W. Bowers

Brandon Bowling

James Campbell

Clarence Covington

Mario DeMelb

Keith V. Edwards

Woodrow Eiland

Tiant M. Gatewood

Kelvin K. Gilkey

Keith Hill

Dwayne Jones

Roger L. Love

Caesarie Montgomery

Tanno Muhammad

Dorsey Nunn

William B. Pierce

Orlando L. Robinson

Erek Slater

Sanwella Stockdale

Rodney D. Taylor

Thornton

Paul Tolson

Michelle Townsend

Timothy Westhoff

Marqueal Williams

LOCAL 256

Sacramento, CA

Corina De La Torre

Matthew Lucien

Crystal McGee-Lee

Ralph T. Niz

LOCAL 265

San Jose, CA

Zac Bodle

John Courtney
Jamaine Gibson
John Pospishek
Rajvinder Singh

LOCAL 272

Youngstown, OH

John J. Remias

LOCAL 279

Ottawa, ON

Hariqbal Bal
Clint Crabtree
Nitin Datta
Chuck Fitzpatrick
Joe Kang
Jason Kilby
Norm Mac Duff
Jacques Racine
Stephen Scanlan

LOCAL 281

New Haven, CT

Al Barnes
Ralph Buccitti

LOCAL 282

Rochester, NY

John Blocchi
Jacques Chapman
Dawn Metcalf

LOCAL 308

Chicago, IL

Saul Ayala
James Brooks
Corey Carr
Eric Dixon
Bobbie Eaton
Kenneth L. Franklin
Deborah Lane
Reginald McCall
Edward McCoach
Pennie McCray-McCoach
Donna Murphy
Michael Overstreet
Mark Weems

LOCAL 312

Davenport, IA

Annette Pingel

LOCAL 313

Rock Island, IL

Eric Appelquist

LOCAL 382

Salt Lake City, UT

Norman Blessant
Rodney Dunn
Douglas Underwood

LOCAL 398

Boise, ID

Rocky Perkins

LOCAL 416

Peoria, IL

Ronald L. Cox

LOCAL 425

Hartford, CT

Winston Anderson
Calvin Henry
Artan Martinaj

LOCAL 441

Des Moines, IA

John Rugama

LOCAL 443

Stamford, CT

Veronica Chavers

LOCAL 448

Springfield, MA

Richard Gardner
David Tancrati

LOCAL 508

Halifax, NS

Jeannie Garbett
Ray MacKenzie
Shane O'Leary
Ken Wilson

LOCAL 519

La Crosse, WI

Todd Strasser

LOCAL 540

Trenton, NJ

Kenneth W. Rice

LOCAL 558

Shreveport, LA

Demarcus D. Roberson

LOCAL 568

Erie, PA

Kevin Meyer

LOCAL 569

Edmonton, AB

Damir Begovic
Harminder (Raj) Brar
Lester Cox
Jennifer Ewanchuk
Jose Hernandez
Daryn Kreutzer
Darlene Malayko
Martha Martinez
Daryll Miller
Mark Tettersington

LOCAL 580

Syracuse, NY

Sandra Sands
Francis Saya

LOCAL 582

Rome, NY

Brian B. Bradt

LOCAL 583

Calgary, AB

Karin Gill
Bill Johnson
Harry Lew
Mike Mahar
Neil McKinnon
Rick Ratcliff
Ryan Todd
Jody Trotman

Neil “Larry” Tweedale
Zul Vira
Harvey Woo

LOCAL 587

Seattle, WA

Ronald Anderson
Harold Batson
Patrick H. Brady
Patsy Breazeale
Tamieko Cook
Jennie Gil
Charles Lare
Randy Lewis
Kenneth J. Price
Andrew Price
Michael Rochon
Jose Rosado
Penny Scott
Michael Shea
Tzur Wilfand

LOCAL 588

Regina, SK

Kevin Lucier
Rahul Patel

LOCAL 589

Boston, MA

Ronald Batherwich
James Bradley
John Clancy
Lee Creech
Jose Cruz
Leslie Evans-Pina
James Evers
Richard Lee
Anthony Lucas
Armani Marsman
Karen Maxwell
Katharine Mullen
Donnell Murray
Marcus Taylor
Monique Wallace
Elayne Young

LOCAL 610

Charleston, SC

Gloria A. Fulton

LOCAL 615

Saskatoon, SK

Darcy Pederson
Jim Yakubowski

LOCAL 616

Windsor, ON

Dragan Markovic
Mel Young

LOCAL 618

Providence, RI

Joseph Cole
Kevin M. Cole
Thomas G. Cute
Steve Sousa

LOCAL 627

Cincinnati, OH

Inga McGlothlin
Troy Miller
Gary Strayhorn

LOCAL 628

Covington, KY

John Boland

LOCAL 638

Cedar Rapids, IA

Jerry Merritt

LOCAL 662

Pueblo, CO

Jerry Ballard
Ernest Johnson

LOCAL 685

Brantford, ON

Johnny Haggith

LOCAL 689

Washington, DC

David Allen
Leah Anderson
Ozzie Andrews
Dion Baker
Niya Banks

Troy Barnes
Alexis Bobo
Gregory Bowen
Tracey Britt
Romoan Bruce
Keith M. Bullock
Damion Cannon
Debra Carter
Jennifer Chase
Printus Dates
John Gaines
Brandon Godwin
James Goines
Derrick Gray
Shameka Harris
Raymond Jackson
Diron Jackson
Quincey Jones
Theus Jones
Wilbur Lucas
Derrick Mallard
Lorenzo McKenney
Angela Morina
Donald Murray
Cynthia Rustin
Albert Smith
Tracy R. Smith
Brenda Thomas
Carroll Thomas
Barry Wilson

LOCAL 690

Fitchburg, MA

Laurie Wysk

LOCAL 691

Springfield, MO

John Godfrey

LOCAL 694

San Antonio, TX

Brigido Almanza
Juan L. Amaya
Gilbert T. Rodriguez
Amalio L. Soto

LOCAL 697

Toledo, OH

Carly Allen

LOCAL 704

Little Rock, AR

Carl Beechman

LOCAL 714

Portland, ME

Edward Knutson

LOCAL 717

Manchester, NH

Brenda A. Mule

LOCAL 725

Birmingham, AL

Gregory Roddy

LOCAL 726

Staten Island, NY

George Botts

Daniel Cassella

James Curran

John Fattorusso

Paul La Polla

Thomas Mason

Nuccio Stuto

Christopher Waymer

LOCAL 732

Atlanta, GA

James Atkins

Shareka Cook

Ayana Dunlap-Bell

Twyla Griffith

Michael Majette

Anthony Rogers

Rufus Silas

Jaron Thomas

Mikesha Walker

David J. Ward

LOCAL 741

London, ON

Andre Fournier

Michael Gauthier

LOCAL 752

Bloomington, IL

Thalia Klunick

LOCAL 757

Portland, OR

Khris Alexander

Shirley Block

Mikel Burke

Anthony Forrester

Michael Francois

Darin Hagey

Jonathan Hunt

Kevin Kinoshita

Mary Longoria

Michael McCurry

Joe Ruffin

Anna Tompte

LOCAL 758

Tacoma, WA

Deborah E. Brown

Harold T. Leazer

Isaac O. Tate

LOCAL 765

Montgomery, AL

David Kyser

LOCAL 770

Mobile, AL

Antonie M. Maiben

LOCAL 788

St. Louis, MO

Felicia Clayton

Antonio Floyd

Reginald Howard

Antoian Johnson

Catina Wilson

LOCAL 819

Newark, NJ

Tiran Billups

Lakisha Ewell

Tolbert Furr

David Greaves

Darrell Lampley

Orlando Riley

Karen Thomas

Doris West

LOCAL 820

Union City, NJ

Manuel Colon

Carlos Gonzalez

Pablo Gonzalez

LOCAL 821

Jersey City, NJ

Earl C. Hardy, Jr.

LOCAL 822

Paterson, NJ

Geraldo Arroyo

Denise L. Briggs

Luis F. Gomez

Preston Grayson

LOCAL 823

Elizabeth, NJ

Dana Burgess

Nancy Spence

LOCAL 824

New Brunswick, NJ

Martin Heraghty

Sharyn Vitello

LOCAL 825

Oradell, NJ

Jeffery Evans

Retheena Goodwin

LOCAL 836

Grand Rapids, MI

RiChard Jackson

Patrick J. Lynch

LOCAL 842

Wilmington, DE

Renaldo D. Epps

Kevin P. Marx

Lillian Shavers

LOCAL 843

Bellingham, WA

Jeff James

LOCAL 846

St. Catharines, ON

Steve Beaudry

LOCAL 847

St. Joseph, MO

Chris Simmons

LOCAL 857

Green Bay, WI

Joseph A. Cherry

LOCAL 859

Decatur, IL

Nanette Ruffin

LOCAL 880

Camden, NJ

Corey Gallman

Jami Lyles

David Nickodemus

Joseph Romeo

Michael Young

LOCAL 883

Everett, WA

Steve Oss

LOCAL 900

Waukegan, IL

DeCarlo Greer

LOCAL 946

Cornwall, ON

Scott Szabadka

LOCAL 956

Allentown, PA

Ricardo Vega

LOCAL 966

Thunder Bay, ON

Ken Koza

LOCAL 987

Lethbridge, AB

Travis Oberg

LOCAL 993

Oklahoma City, OK

Christopher Bourke

LOCAL 996

South Bend, IN

Steve Redman

LOCAL 998

Milwaukee, WI

Michael Bautch

Michael Brown

Cassandra Cobb

James Macon

Cherida Smith

Anthony Spence

LOCAL 1001

Denver, CO

Chris Berger

Mike Harvey

Chris Moralez

Barbara O'Donnell

Julio Rivera

Dion Solano

Eric Stubblefield

LaTasha Thompson

Angela Williams

LOCAL 1005

Mpls./St. Paul, MN

Kurt J. Anderson

Tommy L. Bellfield

David A. Gosha

Doni S. Jones

Dorothy M. Maki-Green

John M. McConnell

Demetre M. Muhammad

Vanetta M. Rennock

Jane E. Samborski

Ryan P. Timlin

LOCAL 1015

Spokane, WA

Thomas Leighty

Teresa Moore

LOCAL 1027

Fresno, CA

Vincent R. Casella

Richard Steitz

LOCAL 1028

Des Plaines, IL

Brandyee Brothers

Aminatu El-Mohammed

LOCAL 1037

New Bedford, MA

Tony Sousa

LOCAL 1039

Lansing, MI

Katie Kelley

LOCAL 1056

Flushing, NY

Luis Alzate

Felix Avila

Joseph Branch

Thomas Erdmann

Robert France

Mark Henry

Gladys McDaniel

Frank Myers

LOCAL 1070

Indianapolis, IN

Rachel L. Hill

Roy C. Luster

LOCAL 1091

Austin, TX

Yvonne Luna-McGee

Brenda Moore

Brent Payne

Lawrence Prosser

LOCAL 1093

Kalamazoo, MI

Earl L. Cox

LOCAL 1108

Quincy, IL

Deborah Altgilbers

LOCAL 1145

Binghamton, NY

Peter Schiraldi

LOCAL 1164

Knoxville, TN

Joe Greer

LOCAL 1168

Wausau, WI

Troy Hanson

LOCAL 1177

Norfolk, VA

Amanda Malone

Vanessa Wadsworth

LOCAL 1179

New York, NY

James Berry

Bennie Caughman

Edward Franke

Colando Stokes

LOCAL 1181

New York, NY

Richard Adams

Manuel Alicea

Fred Andreani

Robin Benedetto

Joseph Borgella

Vincent Buttarò

Jean-Claude Calixte

Andrew Cappa

Giullermo Castillo

John Cleary

Anthony Cordiello

Michael Cordiello

Edward Cusano

Carl Davis

John De Loatch

Mike Finger

Brunot Fleuriot

Arcadio Fret

Tomas Fret

Joseph Gordon

James Hedge

Nicholas Hedge

Mario Jean

Renee Jean-Louis

Ernst Jean Pierre

Ernest Maione

Joseph Micciulli

Mark Peay

Guy Prosper

George M. Robinson

Georges Saint-Victor

Paulette Thompson

Rosemary Varriale

Michael Volpe

LOCAL 1182

Saint John, NB

Grant A. Logan

LOCAL 1189

Guelph, ON

Andrew Cleary

LOCAL 1192

Waterloo, IA

Cory Ernst

LOCAL 1197

Jacksonville, FL

Chantel Daniels

Dwayne Russell

LOCAL 1208

Jackson, MS

Alphonso Burns

LOCAL 1209

New London, CT

Jaroslav A. Pizunski

LOCAL 1212

Chattanooga, TN

Kathryn D. Smith

LOCAL 1225

San Francisco, CA

Albert Garcia

Janelle Williams

LOCAL 1235

Nashville, TN

Patrick Green

Fernando Parmer

LOCAL 1241

Lancaster, PA

John A. Habanec

LOCAL 1249

Springfield, IL

Michael Winningham

LOCAL 1267

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Douglas Behr

William Howard

Chris Rivero

LOCAL 1277

Los Angeles, CA

Arturo Aguilar

Dean Boykin

Monica Carney-Hayes

John DiRito

Errol Frazier

Victor Rodriguez

Jeff Shaffer

Mauro Varela

Oscar Velasco

Aaron Williams

LOCAL 1279

Johnstown, PA

Michael A. Walters

LOCAL 1285

Jackson, TN

Woodrow Terrill Perry

LOCAL 1287

Kansas City, MO

Ronald Love

Robert Roach

Jonothan P. Walker

LOCAL 1290

Moncton, NB

Alan McGrath

LOCAL 1293

Lincoln, NE

Charles E. Schroeder

LOCAL 1300

Baltimore, MD

Leroy K. Carpenter

Kelsharee Dorsey
Louis Durant
Steven Glasscho
Michael McMillan
Vivian Moore
Jeffrey Rice
Robin Ward

LOCAL 1309

San Diego, CA

Lisa Fair
Erik Madsen
Christopher Todd

LOCAL 1310

Eau Claire, WI

Philip Swanhorst

LOCAL 1320

Peterborough, ON

Tyler Burns

LOCAL 1321

Albany & Troy, NY

Corey Bixby
Donald Brooks
Steven M. Moquin

LOCAL 1324

Savannah, GA

Calvin Kennedy

LOCAL 1328

Raleigh, NC

Terrence Dewberry

LOCAL 1333

Rockford, IL

Marcy Longstreet

LOCAL 1336

Bridgeport, CT

Alisia Brown
Mustafa Salahuddin

LOCAL 1338

Dallas, TX

Bryan Blanks

Kenneth Day
Albert Dirla
Learis Graham
Thomas Hutchinson
Donnie Jolly
Richard Swain

LOCAL 1342

Buffalo, NY

James Cornelius
Ronald Giza
Lydia M. Moore
Jeffrey Richardson
Charles Sikora

LOCAL 1345

Reading, PA

John Doerrman

LOCAL 1356

Sioux Falls, SD

Christine Davis

LOCAL 1360

Topeka, KS

Efren Mazas

LOCAL 1363

Providence, RI

Gil Mendonca

LOCAL 1385

Dayton, OH

Gerald Duncan
Tanika Thompson

LOCAL 1395

Pensacola, FL

Michael A. Lowery

LOCAL 1415

Toronto, ON

Jim Beresten
Frank Marsh

LOCAL 1433

Phoenix, AZ

Robert Bean

Frank Gutierrez
Dana Kraiza
Dwayne Session

LOCAL 1436

Harrisburg, PA

Lionel Randolph

LOCAL 1447

Louisville, KY

Mathias Hamilton
Pam Robinson
Diona (Dee) Williams

LOCAL 1462

St. John's, NL

Paul Churchill

LOCAL 1464

Tampa, FL

Ferraro Jacobs
Genette Keely
Stephen Simon
Sandra Surgeon-Jones

LOCAL 1474

Richmond, IN

Tassy Saylor

LOCAL 1493

Raleigh, NC

Percival Patterson
Shirley Williams

LOCAL 1498

Joplin, MO

Richard Davis

LOCAL 1499

Muncie, IN

Robert Wattenburger

LOCAL 1505

Winnipeg, MB

Denis J. Bosc
Aleem Chaudhary
Derek J. Hanley
Loni M. Petrowski

Everett A. Rudolph
James Vangerwen

LOCAL 1512

Springfield, MA

Andrew Woods

LOCAL 1517

Idaho Falls, ID

Troy D. Covington

LOCAL 1535

Harahan, LA

Carlos A. Westley

LOCAL 1547

Brockton, MA

John W. Troxell

LOCAL 1548

Plymouth, MA

Charles A. Ryan

LOCAL 1555

Oakland, CA

Gena Alexander
Dana Mims
Rachel Miranda
Oscar Rodriguez

LOCAL 1557

Gatineau, QC

Pierre Lacroix

LOCAL 1560

New Orleans, LA

Treena Jackson
Valerie Jefferson

LOCAL 1563

Denver, CO

John Q. Adams

LOCAL 1564

Detroit, MI

Antoinette Brown
Kevin Colon

LOCAL 1572*Mississauga, ON*

Leonardo Covello
 Antonio DaSilva
 Rafi Ebraemi
 Jack Jackson

LOCAL 1573*Brampton, ON*

Carol Dominaux
 Robert Goudie
 Dale Jaecques
 John Zahreddine

LOCAL 1574*San Mateo, CA*

Allen E. Elmore
 Miguel Navarro

LOCAL 1575*San Rafael, CA*

David Herrera
 Shane Weinstein

LOCAL 1576*Lynnwood, WA*

Kathleen Custer
 Danielle Julien
 John Sainz

LOCAL 1577*W. Palm Beach, FL*

Dwight Mattingly
 Marcos Rodriguez

LOCAL 1579*Gainesville, FL*

Zefnia Durham, III

LOCAL 1582*Niagara Falls, ON*

Margaret Gilbert

LOCAL 1587*Toronto, ON*

Sam Aquino
 Johanna Barbita
 Catherine Borrens

Christine Broeze

Mario Ferrante

Danny Peikos

Jackie Smithson

LOCAL 1591*Broward Co., FL*

April J. Williams

LOCAL 1592*Binghamton, NY*

Donald Campbell

LOCAL 1595*Pittsburgh, PA*

Donna Meanor

LOCAL 1596*Orlando, FL*

Maria I. Carrera
 Will Delgado
 Beverly Glenn

LOCAL 1598*Spokane, WA*

Samuel D. Hairston

LOCAL 1602*St. Catharines, ON*

Kathy Crawford

LOCAL 1603*Bethlehem, PA*

Dennis Jorgenson

LOCAL 1605*Concord, CA*

Michelle Gray

LOCAL 1614*Dover, NJ*

Tracey D. Tredway

LOCAL 1622*Danbury, CT*

Oswaldo Chin

LOCAL 1624*Peterborough, ON*

Brian Chamberlain

LOCAL 1633*Welland, ON*

Chris Moore

LOCAL 1637*Las Vegas, NV*

John E. Foster
 Carolyn J. Higgins
 Donald Stance

LOCAL 1700*Chicago, IL (Nat'l)*

Herman Green
 Sammie Howard
 Karen Miller
 Michael A. Rodriguez
 Reginald D. Smith
 Leonard Weaver

LOCAL 1701*Sarasota, FL*

Donald Turner

LOCAL 1704*San Bernardino, CA*

Ronnie Davis
 Jerry Nunez

LOCAL 1722*Kelowna, BC*

Scott Lovell

LOCAL 1724*Vancouver, BC*

Mark (Ian) Beeching
 Denyse Mitchell

LOCAL 1733*Vernon Hills, IL*

Pennie Johnson
 Nancy McCurdy

LOCAL 1741*Lafayette, IN*

Derek Streeter

LOCAL 1742*Charleston, WV*

David Sayre

LOCAL 1743*Pittsburgh, PA*

Diane Stambaugh

LOCAL 1749*Orlando, FL*

Scott Penrose

LOCAL 1754*Lawrence, KS*

Justin R. Priest

LOCAL 1760*Ottawa, ON*

Jackie Boily
 Jamie Larkin

LOCAL 1761*Charlotte, MI*

Christopher Lake

LOCAL 1763*Rocky Hill, CT*

LaWanda Epps

LOCAL 1767*Sault Ste Marie, ON*

Dennis Champagne

LOCAL 1774*Aspen, CO*

Eduardo Cortez

LOCAL 1775*Barrie, ON*

Cris Laffin

LOCAL 1779*Kenosha, WI*

Angelo Navarro

COMMITTEES OF THE 59TH CONVENTION

Like Congress and Parliament, committees of delegates do a lot of work evaluating and preparing all of the items that come before the Convention. The committees had a heavier workload at this Convention than at most others. ATU salutes the committee members below, who executed their duties with distinction and helped the Convention make the right decisions for ATU's future. We apologize for those committee members who are not included in their committee photo.



APPEALS COMMITTEE

Chair: Jacques Chapman - Local 282, **Secretary:** Amanda Malone - Local 1177, Naresh Sachithanandan - Local 134, Woodrow Eiland - Local 241, Ralph Buccitti - Local 281, Artan Martinaj - Local 425, John Rugama - Local 441, Johnny Haggith - Local 685, Carroll F. Thomas, Jr. - Local 689, George Botts - Local 726, Andre Fournier - Local 741, Pablo Gonzalez - Local 820, Dana Burgess - Local 823, RiChard Jackson - Local 836, Steven Oss - Local 883, Brent Payne - Local 1091, Peter Schiraldi - Local 1145, Grant Logan - Local 1182, Jaroslaw Pizunski - Local 1209, John Habanec - Local 1241, Mustafa Salahuddin - Local 1336, Stephen Simon - Local 1464, Katharine Crawford - Local 1602.



BALLOTING COMMITTEE

Chair: Dwight Mattingly - Local 1577, **Secretary:** Karima Howard - Local 85, George Borja - Local 19, Kevin Odom - Local 22, Robert L. Yoders - Local 103, Peter De Angelis - Local 113, Jacques Racine - Local 279, Pennie McCray-McCoach - Local 308, Annette Pingel - Local 312, Sandra Sands - Local 580, Brian B. Bradt - Local 582, Rick Ratcliff - Local 583, John Clancy - Local 589, Steve Sousa - Local 618, Troy Barnes - Local 689, Ronald Shelton - Local 689, Tracey - Britt - Local 689, Jennifer Chase - Local 689, Edward Knutson - Local 714, John Fattorusso - Local 726, David Kyser - Local 765, Darrell - Lampley - Local 819, Carlos Gonzalez - Local 820, Denise L. Briggs - Local 822, DeCarlo Greer - Local 900, Scott Szabadka - Local 946, Cassandra Cobb - Local 998, Eric Stubblefield - Local 1001, Vincent R. Casella - Local 1027, Troy Hanson - Local 1168, Edward Franke - Local 1179, Janel Williams - Local 1225, Michael Winningham - Local 1249, Oscar Velasco - Local 1277, Jeff Shaffer - Local 1277, Leroy K. Carpenter - Local 1300, Alisia Brown - Local 1336, John Doerrman - Local 1345, Efen Mazas - Local 1360, Jim Beresten - Local 1415, Denis Bosc - Local 1505, Margaret Gilbert - Local 1582, Mario Ferrante - Local 1587, Denyse Mitchell - Local 1724.

COMMITTEES OF THE 59TH CONVENTION



COPE COMMITTEE

Chair: Troy Miller - Local 627, **Secretary:** Marcy Longstreet - Local 1633, Kennard Plummer - Local 192, Paul Tolson - Local 241, John Pospishek - Local 265, Reginald McCall - Local 308, Patsy Breazeale - Local 587, Leslie Evans-Pina - Local 589, Wilbur Lucas - Local 689, George Botts - Local 726, Nuccio Stuto - Local 726, Antioan Johnson - Local 788, Chris Berger - Local 1001, Robert France - Local 1056, Earl L. Cox - Local 1093, Brunot Fleuriot - Local 1181, Chantel Daniels - Local 1197, Louis Durant III - Local 1300, Charles Sikora - Local 1342, Shane Weinstein - Local 1575, Herman Green - Local 1700, Sindy Vasquez - Local 1700, Ronnie Davis - Local 1704, David Sayre - Local 1742.



CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Chair: Eric Tuck - Local 107, **Secretary:** Jeffrey Richardson - Local 1342, Janis Borchardt - IVP, Pino D'Armiento - Local 113, Anthony Wallace - Local 113, Stephen Scanlan - Local 279, Mark Weems - Local 308, Michael Shea - Local 587, Jerry Merritt - Local 638, Derrick Mallard - Local 689, Printus Dates - Local 689, Sharyn Vitello - Local 824, Kevin P. Marx - Local 842, Richard Steitz - Local 1027, Gladys McDaniel - Local 1056, Richard Adams - Local 1181, Cory Ernst - Local 1192, Alphonso Burns Jr. - Local 1208, William Howard - Local 1267, Errol Frazier - Local 1277, Jeffrey Rice - Local 1300, Donald Brooks - Local 1321, Carlos Westley - Local 1535, Charles Ryan III - Local 1548, Oscar Rodriguez - Local 1555, Karen Miller - Local 1700.

COMMITTEES OF THE 59TH CONVENTION



ENVIRONMENTAL / OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chair, Jack Jackson - Local 1572, **Secretary**, Martin Heraghty - Local 824, Perri M. Lile-Barrett - Local 26, Roland Beaudet - Local 113, Eric Darby - Local 192, LaTrina Meredith - Local 192, Roger Love - Local 241, Joe Kang - Local 279, Dawn Metcalf - Local 282, Douglas Underwood - Local 382, Calvin Henry - Local 425, Veronica Chavers - Local 443, Kevin Meyer - Local 568, Tzur Wilfand - Local 587, Harold Batson - Local 587, Jennie Gill - Local 587, Paul Neil - Local 587, Allen Lee - Local 589, Lee Creech - Local 589, Tracy Smith - Local 689, Dion Baker - Local 689, Diron Jackson - Local 689, Christopher Waymer - Local 726, James Atkins - Local 732, Anthony Forrester - Local 757, Khrist Alexander - Local 757, Nancy Spence - Local 823, Angela Williams - Local 1001, Chris Moralez - Local 1001, David Gosha - Local 1005, Edward Cusano - Local 1181, Fred Adreani - Local 1181, Steven Moquin - Local 1321, Gerald Duncan - Local 1385, Michael Lowery - Local 1395, Lionel Randolph - Local 1436, Mathias Hamilton - Local 1447, Sandra Surgeon-Jones - Local 1464, Sam Aquino - Local 1587, Donald Campbell - Local 1592, Maria I. Carrera - Local 1596, Sammie Howard Jr. - Local 1700, Jerry Nunez - Local 1704.



GEB REPORT COMMITTEE

Chair, Calvin Kennedy - Local 1324, **Secretary**, Luis Alzate - Local 1056, Rick Fox - Local 113, Fritz Titus - Local 113, John Remias - Local 272, James Brooks - Local 308, Darlene Malayko - Local 569, Jody Trotman - Local 583, Gloria A. Fulton - Local 610, Jim Yakubowski - Local 615, Michael Majette - Local 732, Lakisha Ewell - Local 819, Michael Brown - Local 998, Teresa Moore - Local 1015, John DiRito - Local 1277, Christine Davis - Local 1356, April Williams - Local 1591, Michelle Gray - Local 1605, Donald Turner - Local 1701, Mark Beeching - Local 1724, Dennis Champagne - Local 1767.

COMMITTEES OF THE 59TH CONVENTION



GENDER EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Chair, Lisa Fair - Local 1309, **Secretary,** Scott Lovell - Local 1722, LaNette Mitchell - Local 85, Tracey Brown - Local 113, Angie Clark - Local 113, Kelvin K. Gilkey - Local 241, Donna Murphy - Local 308, Jeannie Garbett - Local 508, Martha Martinez - Local 569, Karen Maxwell - Local 589, Ozzie Andrews - Local 689, Karen Thomas - Local 819, Doris West - Local 819, Cherida Smith - Local 998, Felix Avila - Local 1056, Laura Santiago - Local 1181, James Vangerwen - Local 1505, Rachel Miranda - Local 1555, Beverly Glenn - Local 1596.



INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT COMMITTEE

Chair, Michael McMillan - Local 1300, **Secretary,** Jackie Boily - Local 1760, Rick Rideout - Local 113, Diane Allen - Local 128, Paul Jason - Local 164, Al Barnes - Local 281, Corey Carr - Local 308, Harry Lew - Local 583, Romoan Bruce - Local 689, Tolbert Furr - Local 819, Earl Hardy Jr. - Local 821, Chris Simmons - Local 847, Joseph A. Cherry - Local 857, Joseph Romeo - Local 880, Albert Garcia - Local 1225, Charles E. Schroeder - Local 1293, Lydia M. Moore - Local 1342, Frank Marsh - Local 1415, Paul Churchill - Local 1462, Percival Patterson - Local 1493, Troy Covington - Local 1517, Christine Broeze - Local 1587, Scott Penvose - Local 1749, Christopher Lake - Local 1761.

COMMITTEES OF THE 59TH CONVENTION



INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT COMMITTEE

Chair, Sabatino DiNardo Jr. - Local 85, **Secretary**, Joyce Willis - Local 192, Paul Doucette - Local 107, Kevin Morton - Local 113, Toi Bowers - Local 241, Corina De La Torre - Local 256, John Courtney - Local 265, Norman Blessant - Local 382, Daryll Miller - Local 569, Zul Vira - Local 583, Patrick Brady - Local 587, Kevin Cole - Local 618, Keith M. Bullock - Local 689, Amalio L. Soto - Local 694, Mary Longoria - Local 757, Deborah Brown - Local 758, David Greaves - Local 819, Corey Gallman - Local 880, Michael Harvey - Local 1001, Tommy Bellfield - Local 1005, Aminatu El-Mohammed - Local 1028, Lawrence Prosser - Local 1091, Jean-Claude Calixte - Local 1181, Robert Roach - Local 1287, Christopher Todd - Local 1309, Thomas Hutchinson - Local 1338, Diona Williams - Local 1447, John Sainz - Local 1576, Catherine Borrens - Local 1587.



LAWS COMMITTEE

Chair, Raymond Greaves - NJSC, **Secretary**, Yvonne Williams - Local 192, John Di Nino - ATU Canada, Ken Kephart - Local 22, Stephen Palonis - Local 85, Carlos Santos - Local 113, Eric Carvalho - Local 174, Keith Hill - Local 241, Kenneth Franklin - Local 308, Rodney Dunn - Local 382, Ronald Cox - Local 416, Richard Gardner - Local 448, Ken Wilson - Local 508, Mark Tetterington - Local 569, Ken Price - Local 587, Kevin Lucier - Local 588, James Evers Jr. - Local 589, Thomas Cute - Local 618, Raymond Jackson - Local 689, Daniel Cassella - Local 726, Shirley Block - Local 757, Reginald Howard Sr. - Local 788, Tiran Billups - Local 819, Rethena Goodwin - Local 825, Lillian Shavers - Local 842, Julio Rivera - Local 1001, Ryan Timlin - Local 1005, Antone Sousa - Local 1037, Mark Henry - Local 1056, Bennie Caughman - Local 1179, Michael Cordiello - Local 1181, Kathryn Smith - Local 1212, Arturo Aguilar - Local 1277, Jonathan P. Walker, Sr. - Local 1287, Kenneth Day - Local 1338, Robert Bean - Local 1433, Aleem Chaudhary - Local 1505, Gena Alexander - Local 1555, Valerie Jefferson - Local 1560, Pennie Johnson - Local 1733, Jamie Larkin - Local 1760.

COMMITTEES OF THE 59TH CONVENTION



MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Chair, Orlando Riley - Local 819, **Secretary,** Jonathan Hunt - Local 757, Jeff DiPerna - Local 85, Scott Gordon - Local 113, Marqueal Williams - Local 241, Jason Kilby - Local 279, Jose Hernandez - Local 569, Bill Johnson - Local 583, Derrick Gray - Local 689, Greg Bowen - Local 689, Anthony Rogers - Local 732, Michael Francois - Local 757, Antonio Floyd - Local 788, Michael Young - Local 880, Christopher B. Bourke - Local 993, Kurt J. Anderson - Local 1005, Frank Myers - Local 1056, James Berry - Local 1179, Monica Carney-Hayes - Local 1277, Aaron Williams - Local 1277, Loni M. Petrowski - Local 1505.



NEW TECHNOLOGY, APPRENTICESHIPS AND JOBS COMMITTEE

Chair, Carly Allen - Local 697, **Secretary,** Jamaine Gibson - Local 265, Kevin Barrett - Local 85, Mike D'Agostino - Local 113, Phil Horgan - Local 113, Demarcus Roberson - Local 558, Harminder (Raj) Brar - Local 569, Marcus Taylor - Local 589, Darcy Pederson - Local 615, Damion Cannon - Local 689, David Ward - Local 732, Joe Ruffin - Local 757, Thomas Leighty - Local 1015, Joseph Branch - Local 1056, Dean Boykin - Local 1277, Ferraro Jacobs - Local 1464, Everett Rudolph - Local 1505, Robert Goudie - Local 1573, Miguel Navarro Jr. - Local 1574, Carolyn Higgins - Local 1637.

COMMITTEES OF THE 59TH CONVENTION



NEXT GENERATION COMMITTEE

Chair, Travis Oberg - Local 987, **Secretary**, Tamieko Cook - Local 587, Ross Nicotero - Local 85, Aleem Tharani - Local 113, Hernan Saulle - Local 113, Veronica Harry - Local 113, Furqaan Abdullah - Local 241, Nitin Datta - Local 279, Michael Overstreet - Local 308, Jennifer Ewanchuk - Local 569, Rahul Patel - Local 588, Katharine Mullen - Local 589, Armani Marsman - Local 589, Leah Anderson - Local 689, Barry Wilson - Local 689, Shareka Cook - Local 732, Jami Lyles - Local 880, Thomas Erdman - Local 1056, Tomas Fret - Local 1181, Mauro Varela - Local 1277.



ORGANIZING / COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND STRATEGIES COMMITTEE

Chair, Patrick Green - Local 1235, **Secretary**, Antonie Maiben - Local 770, Marvin Alfred - Local 113, Enrico Signore - Local 113, Crystal McGee-Lee - Local 256, Hariqbal Bal - Local 279, John Blocchi - Local 282, Eric Dixon - Local 308, Karin Gill - Local 583, James Bradley - Local 589, Inga McGlothlin - Local 627, John Boland - Local 628, John Gaines - Local 689, James Curran - Local 726, Mikesha Walker - Local 732, Jeffrey Evans - Local 825, Doni S. Jones - Local 1005, Brenda Moore - Local 1091, Renee Jean-Louis - Local 1181, Nicholas Hedge - Local 1181, Victor Rodriguez - Local 1277, Richard Swain - Local 1338, Tassy Saylor - Local 1474, Andrew Woods - Local 1512, Chris Moore - Local 1633.

COMMITTEES OF THE 59TH CONVENTION



RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Chair, Clint Crabtree - Local 279, **Secretary,** Kathleen Custer - Local 1576, Manjit Matharu - Local 113, Tiant Gatewood - Local 241, Tanno Muhammad - Local 241, Ralph Niz - Local 256, Chuck Fitzpatrick - Local 279, Harvey Woo - Local 583, Joseph Cole - Local 618, Ernest Johnson - Local 682, Brenda Thomas - Local 689, Quincey Jones - Local 689, Carl Beecham - Local 704, Manuel Colon - Local 820, Geraldo Arroyo - Local 822, Steve Beaudry - Local 846, Nanette Ruffin - Local 859, Ken Koza - Local 966, Deborah Altgilbers - Local 1108, Joe Greer - Local 1164, Colando Stokes - Local 1179, Woodrow Terill Perry - Local 1285, Zefnia Durham III - Local 1579, Will Delgado - Local 1596.



RULES AND ORDER COMMITTEE

Chair, John E. Foster - Local 1637, **Secretary,** Thomas Mason - Local 726, Glenn R. Tolbert - Local 26, Frank Malta - Local 113, Ryan Rajmoolie - Local 113, Michelle Townsend - Local 241, Deborah Lane - Local 308, Rocky Perkins - Local 398, Kenneth W. Rice Sr. - Local 540, Elayne Young - Local 589, Jerry Ballard - Local 662, Juan Amaya - Local 694, Brenda A. Mule - Local 717, Isaac O. Tate - Local 758, Luis Gomez - Local 822, Patrick Lynch - Local 836, Steve Redman - Local 996, James Macon - Local 998, Katie Kelley - Local 1039, Roy C. Luster Jr. - Local 1070, Andrew Cleary - Local 1189, Dwayne Russell - Local 1197, Douglas Behr - Local 1267, Michael A. Walters - Local 1279, Robin Ward - Local 1300, Donnie Jolly - Local 1338, Gil Mendonca - Local 1363, Shirley Williams - Local 1493, John W. Troxell Jr. - Local 1547, Eduardo Cortez - Local 1774.

COMMITTEES OF THE 59TH CONVENTION



SCHOOL BUS / PARATRANSIT COMMITTEE

Chair, Anthony Cordiello - Local 1181, **Secretary**, Diane Stambaugh - Local 1743, Caesarie Montgomery - Local 241, David Tancrati - Local 448, Gary Strayhorn - Local 627, Debra Carter - Local 689, Gregory Roddy - Local 725, Ayana Dunlap-Bell - Local 732, Catina Wilson - Local 788, Tomas Fret - Local 1181, Ernest Maione - Local 1181, Albert Dirla - Local 1338, Dwayne Session - Local 1433, John Q. Adams - Local 1563, Kevin Colon - Local 1564, Donna Meanor - Local 1595, Tracey Tredway - Local 1614, Oswaldo Chin - Local 1622, Nancy McCurdy - Local 1733, Justin R. Priest - Local 1754, Lawanda Epps - Local 1763, Cris Laffin - Local 1775.



59TH CONVENTION SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Budh Dhillon - Local 107, Mark Bertoia - Local 113, Paul Callaghan - Local 113, Frank Grimaldi - Local 113, Wayne Bender - Local 268, William Nix - Local 268, Roy Larkin - Local 279, Dale Anderson - Local 519, Esker C. Bilger Jr. - Local 689, Anthony Fuqua - Local 689, Courtney Williams - Local 689, David Benavides - Local 694, Juan Fernandez - Local 694, Ruben Silva - Local 694, Joseph Gaudette - Local 714, Sellers Davis III - Local 726, Keith Sellers - Local 726, Lamont Watson - Local 726, Steven Laino - Local 726, Millicent Johnson - Local 788, James A. Williams - Local 819, Thomas L. Stocks - Local 819, Etrulai Simms - Local 819, William Daniels - Local 819, Louis Castro - Local 820, Richard C. Stark, Jr. - Local 825, Robert Llord - Local 846, Rudy Trujillo, Sr. - Local 1001, Gary J. Pires - Local 1037, Willie Moorer - Local 1056, Kenneth Haanraads - Local 1179, George Ann Jackson - Local 1287, William C. Howard - Local 1287, Mark G. Gerling - Local 1321, Elias "Babe" Amash - Local 1321, Donnie K. Small Sr. - Local 1535, William Montgomery - Local 1592, Denny Crisostomo Nunez - Local 1593, Tunisia Jordan - Local 1593, Wayne Crabtree - Local 1760, Daniel Sunquist - Retired International Representative.

