



# LIUNA'S 24TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

## LIUNA Leadership

All of the members of the LIUNA General Executive Board took an active role in the Convention, and in presenting the various committee reports. Leading by example, both General President Terry O'Sullivan and General Secretary-Treasurer Armand Sabitoni gave powerful presentations to the delegates on issues ranging from political and legislative action to union density, with a focus on other important topics like recruitment, market share, the state of the North American Labor Movement, the union's finances, and a host of other issues that the delegates need to focus on today, and in the years to come. The overarching focus of this convention was a call to action to implement policy to grow our economy, to create good, middle-class jobs, and to restore dignity and respect for the hard-working men and women who contribute so much to keep our country strong.

General President O'Sullivan, as always, was inspiring in his own inimitable way. He repeatedly encouraged the audience to "Feel the Power!"—invoking the LIUNA catch phrase adopted at its 2006 International Convention—and emphasizing the tremendous power that we actually have as a large, socially-conscious, and motivated organization, and how we can use that power to strengthen our union, and better our members' lives. He spoke about the challenges facing LIUNA and the Mail Handlers, and how, by working together, we can overcome these challenges. He spoke of the urgent need to step up our support for those politicians and legislators who do right by the Labor Movement, and who support working class values.

During his keynote address, he shared his thoughts regarding the 2012 Presidential and Congressional elections, and the vitriol directed at organized labor from the right-wing financiers and power-brokers. General President O'Sullivan shared that, as Laborers "we fight for what is right. We fight for working people. And we fight because no one declares war on us—No One!" He further stirred the passions of the delegates when he observed that "we are being called out, and trust me brothers and sisters, not by the school yard bully but by an organized, well financed movement with a master plan...to stamp out 100 years of worker rights as if they were nothing more than an annoying bug." The delegates erupted in cheers when O'Sullivan forcefully declared that "Our time is now. This is our call to arms!"

General Secretary-Treasurer Sabitoni also fired up the crowd with his convention address. He talked about what it takes to be a labor leader in 2011 and beyond, and how we must each continue to promote organized labor in the workplace. He said that "we must educate community leaders when new projects are planned to think Union First. We must educate politicians on both sides of the aisle to think Union First—including federal, local and provincial government agencies, the U.S. Postal Service and health care facilities, all to think Union First!" And finally, and perhaps most importantly he declared that "We must return public opinion to think Union First!"

All members of the General Executive Board were re-elected by acclamation, and then were sworn in by retired General Secretary-Treasurer Terry O'Sullivan Sr.



LIUNA General President Terry O'Sullivan addressing the convention



LIUNA General Secretary-Treasurer Armand Sabitoni

## Installation of Officers

