



Rudy Santos, Western Region Vice President, President of Local 320 and Chairman of the Legislative and Political Committee presented the Committee's recommendations.



National President John Hegarty recognizes retiring Southern Region Vice President Bruce Z. Miller for his tireless efforts on behalf of his NPMHU sisters and brothers.



National President John Hegarty recognizes retiring Eastern Region Vice President Sam D'Ambrosio for his relentless pursuit of workplace justice.

labor rights and imploring all Mail Handlers to stand up and fight for their rights.

Wall Street sleazebags and right wingers are out to destroy the future of America's working class. These hypocrites claim

the Constitution as their bible, yet they ignore everything in it they don't like. They don't care if Saturday delivery disappears; they don't care if people in underserved communities don't get their paychecks on time; and they sure as hell don't care about your jobs! Brothers and Sisters, make no doubt about it, we are in a battle; we are at war! In this battle, and in every battle, LIUNA has your back. If it's a fight they want, it is a war they will get! This is our moment, this is our time, and this sure as hell is our country, not Wall Street's! It is a country of the people, by the people, and for the people. The pledge of allegiance does not state liberty and justice for some; it states liberty and justice for all!

These powerful and inspiring words evoked thunderous applause and an ear-splitting roar from the delegates.

President Hegarty then recognized Eastern Region Vice President Sam D'Ambrosio and Southern Region Vice President Bruce Z. Miller for their relentless commitment to the NPMHU as they prepare for pending retirements from the NEB. As a token of the National Union's appreciation, President Hegarty presented both with a commemorative NPMHU vase, which they humbly accepted with appreciation.

D'Ambrosio next guided the delegates through the remainder of the Constitution Committee's recommendations. All remaining recommendations were passed by the delegates, including some procedural changes to Article X of the ULUC governing the filing and processing of internal charges. The delegates then moved to consideration of amendments that were timely proposed but did not receive a positive recommendation from the Committee. Each of

these proposals was rejected, after some colorful debate.

The spotlight then focused on Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain, as he delivered a speech to the delegates. "We wait for heroes; it's in our nature," he said. He continued:

My Brothers and Sisters, there was a time when it was different. Everyone who was willing to work hard and play by the rules could enter [the middle class], but that dream is fading. When you wait and you hope, what you really are is powerless. Our movement doesn't have the luxury to sit and wait. We either take responsibility and move forward together, or we revert back to the labor movement of the 1890s, with no power, no middle class, and no hope. The heroes are sitting behind you, and they are sitting in front of you. We need to understand that if we're united, we can accomplish great things.

Next, the delegates turned to legislative and political issues. To start, the delegates watched a video presentation, courtesy of the Legislative and Political Department of the National Office, which encouraged all Mail Handlers to apply pressure on their elected officials, enroll as e-activists, and contribute to the NPMHU Political Action Committee (PAC). Bob Losi, the Union's Political and Legislative Director pointedly told the delegates that "the PAC is by far the most important part of the Political and Legislative Department." Contributions to this fund enable the National Union to get its message out to Capitol Hill and the White House, and in the current political climate, this is a crucial component of the Union's labor agenda. All members are encouraged to participate in these endeavors to the greatest extent possible, in

order to ensure that the NPMHU is able to command an authoritative presence in the legislative arena.

The final task of the day centered on the recommended resolutions from the Legislative and Political Committee, chaired by Western Region Vice President Rudy Santos. Each of the Committee's eleven recommendations was adopted, culminating in the unanimous adoption of a resolution endorsing the reelection of President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden. The delegates broke out in song and dance to show their enthusiasm for the expected endorsement. The full text of the endorsement resolution is reprinted in a separate article in this magazine.

The day concluded with Legislative and Political Director Bob Losi and Senior Legislative Advisor Roger Blacklow jointly presenting their message on the legislative and political landscape now, and into the future. Their message reinforced the need to take this country back from those politicians who would do us harm, and the absolute need to reelect Barack Obama and Joe Biden in November of this year.

DAY 6

SATURDAY

AUGUST 11, 2012

On the final day of 2012 NPMHU National Convention, delegates met for a morning session only. Following an inspiring Invocation by Beverly Henderson, President of Local 297, Dr. Giebel delivered the final lecture in his four-part series on the history of the NPMHU. Giebel discussed the rise of both private-sector and public-sector unions in the middle of the 20th century, the expansion of the Postal Service and growing presence of female postal workers during the post-World War II economic boom, and the gradu-