



**James Morris**  
*Local 317 President*



**Jason Adachi**  
*Local 299 President*



**Javier Valencia**  
*Local 303 President*



President Hogrogian calls the session to order

from the U.S. Congress, Illinois Representative Robin Kelly. Kelly has personal ties to the labor movement, as her brother is a Mail Handler in New York. She explained to the delegates how her brother keeps her informed.

“You don’t have to lobby me; my brother sends me texts. ‘Better have a job after this,’ he writes; ‘a pay raise would be nice too,’” Kelly said. An advocate of postal reform, Kelly believes this legislation and related measures stand a good chance of passage with a new administration.



Rep. Robin Kelly (IL 2nd) addresses mail handler delegates

Kelly also harped on the importance of the next generation. “Let’s give ourselves a pat on the back; we have taught them well. It is reassuring to know we’re leaving our democracy to a generation [that] supports principles and ideals, diversity, inclusion, justice, and equal opportunity for all.”

At the end of Kelly’s address, President Hogrogian gave her a warm embrace. “[It’s] good we have somebody in our family representing us. It’s a good damn thing,” he said. Hogrogian also gave Kelly “an empty wooden box,” the gift bestowed on all guest speakers. Kelly happily accepted the gift: “when you come to visit me in DC,” she said, “this will most definitely be on my desk.”

Hundreds of proposals were submitted for Committee review in June, and those recommended were to be reviewed first. In order for each amendment to pass, it would need to be approved by a super-majority vote (2/3 of the delegates). For an amendment to a proposal to be reviewed on the floor, there would need to be a simple majority (1/2) vote to move the amendment. Fortunately, Parliamentarian Overbey was present to help ensure compliance with the governing rules.



Vice President, Central Region, Jefferson C. Peppers III discusses activities of the Constitution Committee

Next up was the Report of the Constitution Committee. After the Committee was introduced, Chair Jefferson C. Peppers III took the podium. A retiring officer, Peppers congratulated his brothers Paul Hogrogian and Mark Gardner on their re-election and expressed excitement about his upcoming retirement. He then went on to explain the process for reviewing amendments.

All proposals recommended by the Constitution Committee in both the National and Uniform Local Union Constitutions were passed by the delegates nearly unanimously. These changes ranged from cosmetic to substantive – with the former resulting in no debate and the latter inspiring some discussion. Some of these changes include encouraging National Officers to visit nearby postal facilities during SAMLUs and Board Meetings, streamlining the process for selecting and credentialing delegates at the National Convention, and updating the



Vice President, Eastern Region, John A. Gibson addresses delegates

