



THE POWER OF YOU

2016 CONVENTION, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The NPMHU's 2016 National Convention was held in Chicago, Illinois from August 22 through August 27, and its theme was, "The Power of You." Delegates from all thirty-seven Local Unions gathered at the Imperial Ballroom at the Fairmont Millennium Park Hotel for each day's proceedings. The quadrennial convention is a cornerstone of the NPMHU, and the 288 delegates in attendance form the Union's supreme governing body. As a result, the week was full of important national and local business.

Preparations

Preparations for the National Convention in Chicago started last year, as staff in Washington nailed down arrangements and logistics. And starting in May 2016, Convention Committees began meeting in Washington, DC to review issues ranging from delegate credentials to proposed constitutional amendments and resolutions. The committees and their respective chairs are listed below:

- Credentials Committee, Pervous (Andy B.) Badilishamwalimu, Local 310
- Committee to Elect the Election Committee, Yvette Johnson, Local 300
- Constitution Committee, Jefferson C. Peppers III, NEB and Local 306
- Legislative and Political Committee, Rudy Santos, NEB and Local 320

- Resolutions Committee, Lawrence B. Sapp, NEB and Local 318
- Rules Committee, John Gibson, NEB and Local 308

All the while, Local Unions were working tirelessly on preparations of their own – deciding upon the number of delegates, holding Local elections of said delegates, and submitting proposals to be heard on the Convention floor.

This work paid off. The Committees that met during June had significantly more proposals from the field than in past years. Before the delegates were approximately 115 Constitutional proposals, and nearly 40 proposed resolutions. Some of these were officially recommended by the Constitution, Legislative and Political, and Resolution Committees; others were not recommended for adoption by the delegates. All proposals were included in the various Convention reports, printed and distributed to the delegates upon registration in Chicago.

Preparations also were made for National Officer Elections. In June, the Committee to Elect the Election Committee began the arduous process of running a National Election. It filmed an instructional video, and got balloting materials ready to be shipped to Chicago. It also carefully determined the weighted votes distributed among delegates of the 37 different Local Unions and the NEB.

Over the summer, these Committees kept in contact and communicated frequently – approving all Convention reports and addressing any last minute issues. Committee members also arrived in Chicago the week before the Convention to address unresolved issues.

First to arrive after the National Executive Board were members of the Credentials and Constitution Committees, each of which met on Thursday, August 18. These committees conducted follow-up meetings, as many issues emerged since their last meetings in May and June, respectively. The Credentials Committee discussed registration, credentialed newly appointed delegates, and reviewed the progress it made remotely over the past couple of months. During that period, via mail and email, the Credentials Committee had approved the substitution of delegates, the issuance of credentials, and other important issues.

The Constitution Committee prepared for the many hours of discussion that were expected to occur on the Convention floor, as amendments were considered for adoption by a 2/3 vote. It not only reviewed its own recommended amendments to the National and Uniform Local Union Constitutions, but the Committee also prepared to field questions about those proposals not recommended to the delegates.

On Friday, three more committees held preparatory meetings. First, the Rules Committee