



Alex Cervantes
Local 320 President



Anthony Banks
Local 314 President



Aubrey Wayne Foster
Local 298 President

met to establish and approve the set of rules to govern proceedings at the Convention. Next up were the Legislative & Political and the Resolution Committees, both of which reviewed their proposed resolutions and the resolutions that they did not propose, with the understanding that all submitted resolutions might be discussed by the delegates at the Convention during the next week.

Finally, meeting on Saturday was the Election Committee that supervises the election needed to select the Judges of Election for this year's election of National Officers. This Committee produced a videotape to explain the weighted, yet secret, voting process used by the NPMHU, and eventually worked all day and night Monday to conduct this election in time for Tuesday's officer nominations.

Monday, August 22

With delegate registration occurring over the weekend, the Convention proceedings officially began on the morning of August 22. The day started with an opening video, starring the NEB, Local Presidents, and Mail Handlers on the workroom floor. This video – along with many others shown at the Convention – are available for viewing on the NPMHU website. Following the video was the official introduction of all thirty-seven Local Presidents, as well as all seven members of the NEB.

Local 310 Treasurer Reggie Riggins delivered the morning's invocation, which involved a parade as well. He was followed by a moving processional from the Chicago Fire Department Pipe and Drums. The group played patriotic standbys such as "God Bless America" and "America the Beautiful" on bagpipes and drums. Also in the processional was solo trumpeter Mike Olen who played the National Anthem.



Constitution Committee



National Executive Board

(l-r) Mark A. Gardner - National Secretary-Treasurer, Lawrence B. Sapp - Vice President, Southern Region, John A. Gibson - Vice President, Eastern Region, Paul V. Hogrogian - National President, David E. Wilkin - Vice President, Northeastern Region, Rudy Santos - Vice President, Western Region, and Jefferson C. Peppers III - Vice President, Central Region

At the end of this ceremony, National President Paul Hogrogian took a moment to honor Union officers and representatives who have passed away during the past four years. He then delivered a brief opening address, calling the 2016 National Convention to order. "Now, more than ever, we need to harness the power of you, all of you."

Local 306 President and Convention Host June Harris welcomed all delegates to Chicago. She encouraged delegates and their families to explore their surroundings, and volunteered suggestions for touring. "I think we have the most beautiful city in the world," she said.

Harris' sentiments were echoed by the next speaker, LIUNA Great Lakes Manager and General Executive Board Member Terry Healy. Healy also praised the work of the Mail Handler craft, noting the efficiency in the Postal Service and declaring that, "you are how and why it gets done."

After these warm welcomes, President Emeritus John Hegarty spoke about the joys of retirement and the important work to be completed in the coming week. Upon his retirement in 2015, Hegarty was the first and only former president to earn the title "Emeritus." Hogrogian thanked Hegarty for speaking to the delegates and introduced several more notable retired officers, whom he thanked for their loyalty, service, and dedication to the Union. They were Joe Boston (former Treasurer of Local 306), James Bell (former President of Local 304), Hardy Williams (former President of Local 306 and Central Regional VP), and Samuel D'Ambrosio (former President of Local 322 and Eastern Regional VP).



The delegates honor retired union officers (l-r) John Hegarty, James Bell, Joe Boston, Hardy Williams and Sam D'Ambrosio



Chicago Fire Department Pipe & Drums and the presentation of colors



Rep. David Joyce (OH 14th) and Legislative and Political Director Bob Losi after delivering remarks to delegates