



BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE: 2020 CONVENTION, DENVER, COLORADO

The NPMHU's delayed—but not denied—2020 National Convention was held in Denver, Colorado from August 8 through August 11, 2022. The theme of this year's Convention was "Believe and Achieve," which echoed the spirit of perseverance that carried the NPMHU through the difficult challenges of the past 6 years, including the COVID-19 pandemic. Delegates from the NPMHU's thirty-six

Locals gathered in the Centennial Ballroom of the Denver Hyatt Regency for each day of Convention business. The quadrennial Convention is the supreme governing body of the NPMHU and helps set its course for the years to come. In accordance with the NPMHU's belief in democracy and fair representation, more than 320 delegates convene at the Convention to amend the NPMHU constitutions, examine

important issues facing the Union, and pass resolutions to guide policy for the next few years. In recognition of this importance, the Convention was full of pertinent debate and discussion on national and local business.

PREPARATIONS

Preparations for most NPMHU National Conventions take place over the course of a little more than a year.



Because the Covid-19 pandemic had delayed this Convention twice, however, the 2020 National Convention has been in planning for over three years. Over this period, NPMHU staff at the National Office have been working hard to nail down the logistics and details needed for a successful convention. Starting in May 2022, Convention Committees began meeting in Washington, DC to review the issues

facing this Convention: delegate credentials, convention rules, resolutions, and proposed constitutional amendments. (Actually, before the August 2020 Convention was officially postponed, the Credentials Committee had started its meetings in May 2020.) The terms of office for all members of the National Executive Board were set to expire in 2020, so they were reelected in a virtual nomination and primary





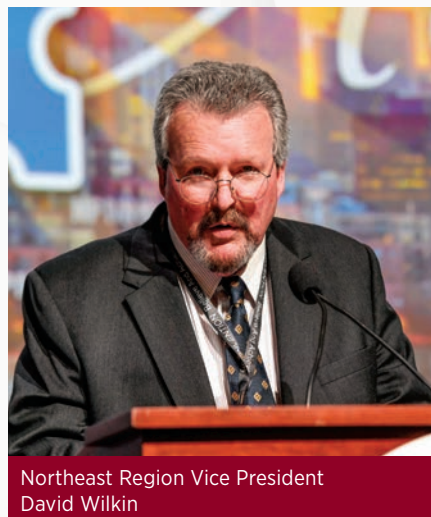
National President Paul V. Hogrogian



National Secretary-Treasurer Michael Hora



President Emeritus John Hegarty



Northeast Region Vice President David Wilkin

process, followed by a mail-ballot election held in the fall of 2020. Because of this, the National Convention did not require either a Committee to Elect the Election Committee or an actual Election Committee. The Committees which were selected for this National Convention and their respective chairs are listed below:

- Credentials Committee, J.R. Macon (Local 329)
- Rules Committee, John Gibson (Local 308 and Eastern Region VP/NEB)
- Constitution Committee, David Wilkin (Local 309 and Northeastern Region VP/NEB)
- Legislative and Political Committee, June Harris (Local 306 and Central Region VP/NEB)
- Resolutions Committee, Lawrence Sapp (Southern Region VP/NEB)

Despite the delay of the Convention by two years, each Committee received a healthy number of submissions from the membership. The Committees that arrived in Washington, DC had a lot of work to accomplish. Over multiple days each, the committees worked tirelessly to accomplish their goals. Around the conference table of the NPMHU headquarters, committee members debated and discussed each proposed constitutional amendment and each submitted resolution.

The Constitution Committee discussed eighty-five proposals, recommending many for adoption and leaving others to be brought up by delegates on the Convention floor. Similarly, the Legislative Committee recommended six proposals. Those six proposals were then reviewed by members of the Resolutions Committee,

which adopted those six and ten more resolutions of their own. All the recommended amendments and resolutions approved by these committees, as well as copies of those properly submitted but not recommended, were included in the Convention reports made accessible to all the delegates upon their registration in Denver before the start of the Convention.

Complementing the work of the National Executive Board and the Convention Committees were the tireless efforts of the Locals. For the past three years, Local Unions have been deciding the number of delegates they wished to send, holding elections of said delegates, and submitting the proposals that determine the business of the Convention. This National Convention proved to be especially challenging for Locals, as the delay meant that many delegates retired, changed crafts, or in some other manner became disqualified to attend. Facing this challenge head-on, Local Unions took the time to contact and appoint alternates, as

well as hold Local Union Council votes to adjust the size of their delegation. Their efforts made it possible for the Credentials Committee to ensure that all the delegates on the Convention floors were duly elected and properly credentialed. Without this hard work, the Convention would not have been possible.

THE NPMHU COMES TO DENVER!

Amongst the first to arrive in Denver in the earliest days of August were staff members of the NPMHU National Office and the NEB. As soon as they hit the ground in Denver, staff members worked round-the-clock to prepare the hotel for a productive Convention: unloading boxes, processing and distributing convention materials, and doing all they could to ensure that the Convention ran smoothly.

On August 3 and 4, the National Executive Board met in the conference rooms of the Hyatt Regency to finalize the NEB's role in the Convention. These meetings also served as the NEB's

regular session for the third quarter of 2022. After a long meeting, the NEB was confident that the NPMHU was well positioned to produce a fantastic National Convention.

Following the NEB meeting and the finalization of logistical preparations, Convention Committees arrived for their final meetings. Although they had met months earlier, these final meetings allowed each committee to resolve any last-minute issues and finalize each committee report.

The Credentials Committee was the first to meet on August 5, 2022. Similar to the impact on Local Unions, a two-year delay and constant delegate changes made things difficult for the Credentials Committee — but not impossible. The Committee took their final meetings to complete and confirm the official list of certified delegates. As last-minute changes were processed, the Credentials Committee was finally able to approve its initial report.

Following the Credentials Committee was the Constitution Committee, which



NPMHU National Executive Board (l-r) Vice Presidents Dave Wilkin, June Harris, John Gibson, Don Sneesby, Lawrence Sapp (front l-r) Secretary-Treasurer Michael Hora, National President Paul Hogrogian