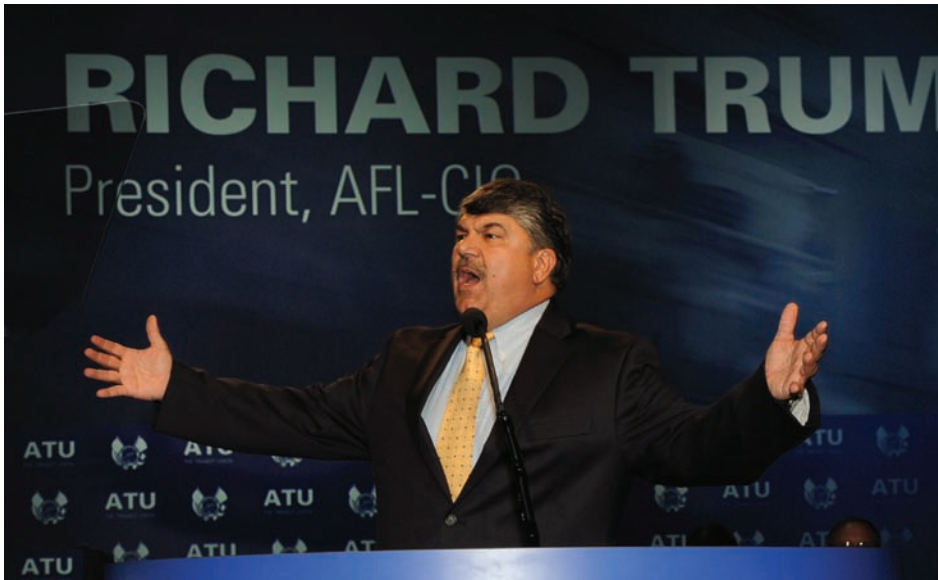


**TUESDAY SPEAKERS**



**Trumka Addresses Fifty-Sixth ATU Convention**

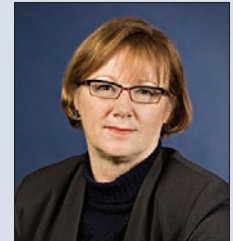
AFL-CIO PRESIDENT TO DELEGATES: 'POWER BROKERS ARE PREYING ON AMERICANS' FEARS'

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka praised the ATU as a proud Union with a dedicated membership. The current economic crisis, he explained, boiled down to an all-out fight for jobs. "American workers want to stop the outsourcing and take the country back," he asserted. The last eight years have seen a loss of skilled workers. And when jobs vanish, cities fall into disrepair. President Obama's dedication to fighting for funding for transportation and high-speed rail was a good beginning, but we need legislation to provide permanent funding for infrastructure repairs and expansion in order to build and renew the American Dream in our communities.

"Power brokers are preying on Americans' fears," he explained, as he described corporations that received \$837 billion in stimulus money but which created no jobs; banks that were bailed out but were not lending to homeowners and consumers; and health insurance companies that wanted premium increases but used the money for executive bonuses.

"The economy is in bad shape, and who can fix it?" he asked. Fighting the right-wing tooth and nail, President Obama's recovery plan has brought back or created jobs. Job growth statistics for the last eight months are higher than those of President Bush's eight years in the White House.

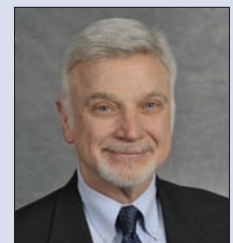
"But we must keep moving forward," Trumka insisted, by shoring up retirement systems and rebuilding America with good-paying union jobs. Therefore, ATU and all unions must mobilize their membership for the upcoming elections in order to stop those who would privatize industry, cut unemployment benefits and put an end to federal dollars used to help states from going bankrupt. "They are out to crush workers," he warned. Labor, as always, will have to roll up its sleeves and get out the vote in order to make Wall Street pay for its greed. We need to back candidates who understand the need for America to rebuild its middle-class.



**BARBARA BYERS**  
*Executive Vice President  
 Canadian Labour Congress*



**WILLIAM MILLAR**  
*President, American Public  
 Transportation Association*



**CECIL ROBERTS**  
*President, United  
 Mineworkers of America*





# OPENING SESSION



Owens then presented the gavel to International President Ron Heintzman who welcomed the delegates to Florida and recognized the over 300 first-time delegates to the Convention. He introduced International Executive Vice President Randy Graham, the first Canadian to hold international executive office, followed by ATU's retired international officers who joined him onstage.

The following committees were appointed: Rules and Order, Credentials, and Laws.

## Monday, September 27, 2010

### *Morning Session*

The 56th International Convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union, meeting in Lake Buena Vista, FL, convened at 9:00 a.m., International Secretary-Treasurer Oscar Owens, temporary chair, presiding.

The Colors were presented by Disney's "Main Street Philharmonic" marching band, followed by the singing of the national anthems by Jacqueline Gant, 732-Atlanta, GA. Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz gave the invocation. Disney cast member Dean Daniels, whose father was a former ATU member, performed a song he had written especially for the 56th Convention.

Owens then introduced the co-hosts of the Convention: Local 1395-Pensacola, FL, represented by Local President Michael Lowery, and the Florida State legislative Conference Board represented by Local President Robert Doane, 1596-Orlando, FL; Financial Secretary Mary Ann Taylor, 1596; and Local President Scott Penrose, 1749-Orlando, FL. Lowery welcomed the delegates to Orlando on behalf of the 11 Florida ATU locals.



## MIKE WILLIAMS

*President, Florida AFL-CIO*

Brother Williams informed the delegates that by holding their Convention at Disney World they supported the 30,000 union workers employed at its various parks. He spoke of the great political challenges for Florida, not just on the city and county level, but on the state and national level as well. "There's a lot of apathy out there," he declared. But the ATU and AFL-CIO in Florida will be working hard for the next 37 days to elect union-friendly Members of Congress like Alan Grayson. Williams encouraged the delegates to get involved with their state feds and legislative councils, help get out the vote, and then hold officials accountable for their campaign promises. They may talk about job creation on the campaign trail, but they have to "walk the walk" and vote pro-union and not pro-contractor once they get into office.

## ED WYTKIND

President, AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Dept.



A frequent guest speaker at ATU Conventions, Ed Wytkind, president of the AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department (TTD), thanked the ATU for its avid support on issues affecting all transportation unions for so many years. He noted that a lot has changed since President Obama was elected, but some things haven't. Efforts by companies to crush unions continue. Two million manufacturing jobs have been lost in the last two years. One in three companies actually fire workers for attempting to organize. No wonder only 12 percent of the workforce in America is unionized.

Two million manufacturing jobs have been lost in the last two years. One in three companies actually fire workers for attempting to organize. No wonder only 12 percent of the workforce in America is unionized.

As a nation, America is facing important choices. Are we going to be a nation of builders, or one of borrowers and conspicuous consumption? After three decades of borrowing, America has become a debtor nation. During the Bush years, our infrastructure – rail lines, bridges and roads – was allowed to wither and crumble. Our public transit system, which should be a growth industry, is in crisis. The president's Department of Transportation is committed to expansion, safety and job creation. His new surface transportation bill will put ATU members to work.

"After all," Wytkind said, "if we can afford an eight-year war on foreign soil, we can afford to invest in America." And where should the investment money come from? We should tax Big Oil which made billions under "Bushonomics" while the middle-class was left abandoned. Politicians don't get it, but working people do. We need to invest in America and make her a country of builders again. The upcoming midterm elections are crucial. The word must go out that the GOP strategy is wrong, and that we need leaders who support middle-class America. That's how we can truly create a new golden age – by making the U.S. a nation of builders again, with the transportation industry the center of economic expansion.



## REP. ALAN GRAYSON, D-FL

Oversight & Investigations Subcommittees

Rep. Alan Grayson, D-FL, recalled his youth as a native of New York where transit is an important part of everyday life. He spoke about a piece of union history that he believes every working person should know but isn't taught in school. It was about the coal miners in Ludlow, CO, who worked for mines owned by John D. Rockefeller 96 years ago.

There was no United Mine Workers, no safety policy, no minimum wage, and no job protections. Nevertheless, the workers united and formed a union and tried to negotiate. We all know the story – a strike ensued and the workers were tossed out of their homes, forcing them to live in tents. The company wanted them removed even from these crude dwellings. The National Guard was called in and the tents were burned down, killing men, women and children.

There are many stories like this in Labor's history – like the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory tragedy and Haymarket Square. Since then, other tactics have been used to prevent and dissuade workers from forming and joining unions, such as the devious methods imposed on Wal-Mart employees. "That is why we need the Employee Free Choice Act," he said. Grayson encouraged the delegates to call and write their Members of Congress to remind them that, like OSHA, the Mine Safety Act and the National Labor Relations Act, workers need EFCA in order to ensure workers' rights. He also wanted everyone to tell Labor's stories and history to the youth of today, and remember these seven words: "The people united will never be defeated."



## CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE - INITIAL REPORT

Credentials Committee Chair Omega Robinson, 993-Okla-homa City, OK, reported that the committee had reviewed and found to be in order credentials for 634 delegates. Of those, four were alternate delegates; 21 were international officers; one represented the Canadian Council; two represented the New Jersey State Council; and one represented the Connecticut State Conference Board. The credentials for 607 delegates were reviewed and found to be eligible for participation in the election of international officers and AFL-CIO convention delegates and alternates. The delegates in attendance represented 209 ATU local unions, two Joint Councils and the Canadian Council.



## Monday, September 27, 2010

*Afternoon Session*

### CLAYOLA BROWN

*President, A. Philip Randolph Institute*

The Convention reconvened at 1:35 p.m. with International Secretary-Treasurer Oscar Owens serving as chair. Owens introduced the first speaker of the afternoon, Clayola Brown, president of the A. Philip Randolph Institute.

As the first woman to hold the position of APRI president, Brown expressed pride in her association with ATU throughout the years, especially recently when ATU members in St. Louis, MO, and Oakland, CA, helped transport entire APRI delegations across town for their conference.

APRI's focus this year, she said, was increasing youth participation which she proudly announced recently topped 125, up from a mere five to 10 young members.

One of the biggest challenges of the economic downturn is unemployment. The national unemployment rate of 9.7% pales in comparison to the 16% rate for communities of color and 13% for Latinos. "We are broke and hurting," she said. The pressure on families is on the rise, with grown children and ex-





**REP. NANCY PELOSI, D-CA**  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives*

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi addressed the delegates by video urging members to get out the vote on four upcoming crucial campaigns – extending the Economic Recovery Act, ensuring that healthcare is a right, not a privilege in America; preserving Social Security; and pushing Made in the USA campaigns. She thanked ATU for “Keeping America Moving.”



tended family moving back home. Family budgets are stretched to the limit.

A unified labor movement is the key, she said, to worker rights and good benefits.

A. Philip Randolph had a vision for people of color in the labor movement. The sleeping car porters were warriors for Labor in the past and we need that union attitude now more than ever. She appealed to the delegates to show up for the One Nation demonstration in Washington, DC, on October 2, and avidly work the polls until the November elections.





## TRIBUTE TO WARREN S. GEORGE

*International President Emeritus*

The delegates were shown a video tribute to International President Emeritus Warren S. George, who first became a union officer in 1973, when he was elected president of Local 85- Pittsburgh, PA, and who rose through the ranks to become one of the most recognized leaders in the labor movement. George thanked the delegates and said he was humbled by the many warm wishes from ATU members. He said he was very proud of his years as international president as well as the fulfillment of his commitment to diversity on the ATU staff. He said that the members could call on him any time, even in his retirement, for help on a campaign or a picket line.

## RULES AND ORDER COMMITTEE

Rules and Order Committee Chair Martha D. Stevens, 1464-Tampa, FL, read the Rules for the 2010 Convention, as proposed by the committee.

A question was raised by Delegate John Brown, 113-Toronto, ON, who contended that the proposed Rules reflected substantial changes from previous Conventions. He noted that Rule No. 12 limited the number of, and the time allowed for nominating and seconding speeches in contested elections. It was explained that the sheer number of elections that will need to be conducted on Thursday would unavoidably limit the time available for each contest.

International Vice President Richard Murphy suggested that committees should be notified of impending votes and brought back into the convention hall before the votes take place. A motion was made to that effect and was passed by the delegates.

A friendly amendment was offered from the floor to add the words “with the approval of the body” at the end of Rule No. 1. The amendment passed.

In addition, Delegate Bill Merlin 113-Toronto, ON, questioned Rule 12(g) regarding “professional election administrators,” which had not been used in previous Conventions. It was explained that a company specializing in electronic voting procedures had been contracted several months ago to perform this year’s balloting and vote count. It was also noted that most unions today employ outside companies to conduct their elections in order to ensure transparency and accuracy.

Others objected to the fact that no notification had been given to the delegates about this decision prior to the Convention. A question was raised as to whether or not the contracted election administrator was a union company.

After much discussion and debate, the objection was withdrawn.

A motion to adopt the Rules as amended was seconded and passed unanimously.



## ION RADOI

*President, USLMA and the Romanian ATU Council*

As a prelude to guest speaker Ion Radoi’s address to the delegates, a video was shown describing the history and formation of the Romanian ATU Council, headquartered in Bucharest, and its role as a partner of the Union in the international labor movement. Leaders of both the ATU and the USLMA had conducted exchange visits and collaborated on the idea of forming a partnership in 1998, in order to support efforts to organize transit workers across the globe.

Brother Radoi, president of the Council, said that seeing the video brought back fond memories of Chicago in 1998, and International President Heintzman’s visit to Romania during one of the Council’s 18 strikes for better wages and working conditions. Since then, the trade union movement in Romania has been “re-awakened” and ATU played a huge part in emboldening Romanian workers to fight for dignity at work.

On the political front, the recent election in Romania was disappointing as workers were unable to elect a progressive candidate.



In fact, politics is a problem throughout Europe, which is now facing 25% reductions in wages, and decreases in pensions and rising prices. Europe is experiencing a widespread social crisis. As in America, “Corporate bigwigs are getting rich off the backs of workers,” Radoi declared.

After eight long years, his union has succeeded in restarting a good relationship with the minister of foreign affairs, and Radoi thanked the ATU for its help and support.

In 2000, the transportation unions started unifying under the umbrella of one cooperative group. Thanks to ATU, his union now enjoys more respect and recognition by both government and working people as a group to be reckoned with in Romania. The Council has been successful because all unions have the same goals

at heart – good wages, better working conditions, and collective bargaining rights. Likewise, every union has one and the same weapon – the will of the workers they represent.

He announced the opening of a communications center which has been set up in Bucharest which allows the Council to stay in contact with ATU’s international headquarters. He closed by saying “Unity and trade union solidarity are the only things that can save us – Solidarity Forever!” He related an old Romanian saying that “For those you respect, take off your hat,” as he doffed a cap and presented a lovely carved replica of an antique school bus as a gift to ATU.

Thereupon, the Convention recessed at 5:10 p.m.



## HISTORY ROOM

The History Room is a little out of the way this year.

**You can find it in  
Nutcracker 1.**

Don't miss this once-every-three-year opportunity to see this wonderful exhibit of our 118-year history.

# COMMITTEES

## CREDENTIALS

Omega Robinson (L.U. 993), Chair  
Felix Gendron (L.U. 591), Secretary

## LAWS

Neil H. Silver (L.U. 1277), Chair  
Michelle Sommers (L.U. 1005), Secretary

## RULES & ORDER

Martha D. Stevens (L.U. 1464), Chair  
Richard Johnson (L.U. 1433), Secretary

## BALLOTING

Doug Johannes (L.U. 583), Chair  
Michael Simmons (L.U. 241), Secretary

## COPE

Sharon Anderson (L.U. 627), Chair  
Raymond Messier (L.U. 1575), Secretary

## GEB REPORT

Jay Wyatt (L.U. 1091), Chair  
Christine Jones (L.U. 1591), Secretary

## IP REPORT

Deborah DeMart (L.U. 1753), Chair  
Budh Dhillon (L.U. 107), Secretary

## IST REPORT

Sabatino DiNardo (L.U. 85), Chair  
Gwendolyn Harris (L.U. 788), Secretary

## ORGANIZING & STRATEGIC CAMPAIGNS

Richard Gardner (L.U. 448), Chair  
Larry Jodouin (L.U. 1573), Secretary

## RESOLUTIONS

Wayne Crabtree (L.U. 1760), Chair  
Henry Gaffney (L.U. 26), Secretary

## SAFETY & SECURITY

Curtis Howard (L.U. 732), Chair  
Pat Hunniford (L.U. 741), Secretary



Representatives of locals receiving Sweeney Organizing Awards (l-r): Michael Cordiello (1181-New York, NY); Michelle Sommers (1005-Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN); Kenneth Day (1338-Dallas, TX); David E. Garcia (1756-Arcadia, CA); Pennie D. Johnson (1733-Vernon Hills, IL); Stan Dera (1573-Brampton, ON).

## Locals Lauded for Organizing Efforts

INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS SEVEN LOCALS WITH JOHN J. SWEENEY ORGANIZING AWARDS

The ATU John J. Sweeney Organizing Awards were first given in 1997 to acknowledge both the outstanding organizing achievements of our locals and the tremendous commitment your predecessor gave to organizing.

This has been a banner three years for organizing thanks in no small part to the change approved by the delegates at the last convention that allowed us to dedicate five percent of our monthly per capita to organizing and activism.

These awards recognize seven locals who over this convention period focused on organizing.

### LOCAL 1005-MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL, MN

This local has jumped into organizing with both feet. During this convention period, Local 1005 took on three campaigns and investigated several others. They successfully organized and negotiated a first contract for the workers at Rochester City Lines; and they organized two First Transit maintenance units in Minneapolis and Blaine, MN. Even as the convention period ended, they were investigating other organizing campaigns.

### LOCAL 1181-NEW YORK, NY

This local worked hard with the Organizing Department to develop an effective organizing model. During this convention period, Local 1181 organized 325 school bus operators in New York City, 36 employees at TransCare in Brooklyn, NY, and 25 maintenance personnel at Midway Leasing. They are awaiting an election date for 200 paratransit operators at MV Transportation in Staten Island.

### LOCAL 1338-DALLAS, TX

Local 1338 has developed dedicated member

organizers. They successfully organized Denton County Transit Authority and organized numerous new members in the unit they represent at Dallas Area Regional Transit. They are currently conducting two campaigns for shuttle drivers at the airport.

### LOCAL 1573-BRAMPTON, ON

Local 1573 has a dedicated member organizer, Larry Joudain, who successfully organized the mechanics at Stock School Bus and at the end of the period was organizing the 200 drivers and monitors at the same property. Brother Joudain also organized for other Toronto area locals.

### LOCAL 1724-VANCOUVER, BC

This local had the largest single organizing campaign when it organized the 450 employees of HandyDART, some of whom were previously represented by other unions.

### LOCAL 1733-VERNON HILLS, IL

Local 1733 doubled in size over this period due to five separate organizing campaigns. The local organized 57 paratransit operators at First Transit; organized an independent union to join the local representing 150 First Student school bus operators in Kenosha, WI, and organized three locations of Illinois Central School Bus. During these three years, Local 1733 organized over 500 new members.

### LOCAL 1756-ARCADIA, CA

In its first venture into organizing, Local 1756 organized two small properties—MV Transportation in Arcadia and the operators, maintenance and yard workers at First Transit in Pomona, CA.