

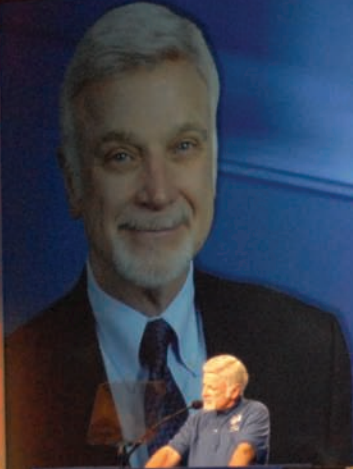
FIFTY-SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



OF THE AMALGAMATED

CECIL ROBERTS

International President, United Mine Workers



Working
T-GETHER
To Secure Our Future

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 29 **DAILY**
PROCEEDINGS

A Look Back at Tuesday, September 28

Roberts: 'No Worker Should Be Enslaved!'

UMW CHIEF INSPIRES STANDING OVATION FROM DELEGATES

A sixth-generation coal miner, Cecil Roberts, president of the United Mine Workers (UMW), delivered a powerful message to the Convention. He described the ties between ATU and UMW which spanned over a century from the very beginnings of the two unions. He spoke about the friendship of ATU's founding international president, William D. Mahon with UMW's long-time president, the legendary John L. Lewis.

ATU stood arm-in-arm with the UMW during the 1989 Pittston strike, during which the company was fined over \$64 million dollars. Later, UMW members joined ATU picket lines during several Greyhound strikes.

The UMW pitched in \$10,000 toward fines leveled against ATU as a result of a RICO suit in New England. In the Labor movement, he said, "solidarity is not like a

river flowing just one way. It's mingled like an ocean for all time."

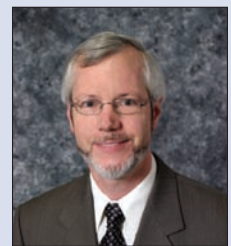
He echoed ATU's position that we need to secure regular federal operating funding for transportation. "If they can bail out Wall Street, they can bail out transit workers," he asserted.

"All of Labor is facing troubling times during this recession," Roberts said. "The voting public is angry, and unions need to use that anger to their advantage during the upcoming elections."

"Labor's friend, Nancy Pelosi," he continued, "could lose the speaker's position. And Newt Gingrich is running for president. Labor must wake up to how close some of these elections could be and realize what is at stake."

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GUEST SPEAKER



MICHAEL ROSCHLAU

President and CEO

Canadian Urban

Transportation Association

AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION
56TH CONVENTION

SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 1, 2010 — LAKE BUENA VISTA, FL



Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Morning Session



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Roberts took a moment to recognize the military veterans in the audience and reminded us that our military is comprised of working people. “When wars arise, it’s the working class – the real patriots – who fight them.”

“But the labor movement has been too quiet for too long now,” he said, “even in the face of unbelievable tragedies involving workers over the last century. Fourteen workers die on the job every day in America – 5,200 workers per year.

He spoke about his family and close friends; young men who lost their lives in the Big Branch Mine in West Virginia. “This is a company with no heart that should be held accountable for the 29 lives lost that day. No worker should be enslaved!” he said.

Roberts said that ATU’s slogan, “We Move the Nation,” could be attributed to “every craft, and every union. All union members already know how to solve the national crisis the U.S. finds itself in today.”

“We don’t need a bailout,” he insisted, “Give the American labor movement the right to organize and that will fix the nation’s problems. Working people would achieve higher wages and eliminate poverty; demand and enforce safety standards; provide health care for all; and tell bosses who try to force them into danger where to go.”

“But it won’t get done here at the ATU Convention,” he said, “Workers must walk the streets with picket signs demanding what they need and want, and march together with unified voices to the Hill – just like Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Cesar Chavez. We need to walk and march like Moses who walked to confront the pharaoh demanding ‘Let My People Go!’”

The delegates erupted with a heartfelt standing ovation as International President Heintzman thanked Brother Roberts for his blazing wake-up call. The International President said that we all could be proud to have him as a friend.

The Convention reconvened at 9:00 a.m., International President Ron Heintzman presiding. Prior to the official Call to Order, video highlights from Monday’s session were shown.

International Secretary-Treasurer Oscar Owens introduced Imam Al Shorman of the Albir Islamic Association who gave the morning invocation.



BARBARA BYERS

Executive Vice President, Canadian Labour Congress

Guest speaker Barbara Byers, Executive Vice President of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), was escorted to the platform. After greeting the delegates in both English and French, Byers thanked ATU’s Canadian Council members for their help in strategizing on common goals for transportation workers in both the U.S. and Canada: reducing violence against transit operators, increasing union density, and fighting company demands for wage and benefit concessions.

“When issues cross borders,” she related, “having brothers and sisters fighting for common causes on a global scale makes the job easier, and successes can be shared around the world.

She elaborated, saying, “One of those issues is the unemployment crisis. The number of jobs lost in both the U.S. and Canada is a disgrace. Millions of jobs lost – over 500,000 in the manufacturing sector alone.”

“When politicians talk about job creation, do not be impressed,” she warned. “For the most part, the jobs they ‘create’ are short-term, low-wage, unsustainable jobs with no benefits or security. In Canada, government officials are now attacking public sector jobs, demanding downsizing because ‘they need to share the pain.’”

“Politics in Canada mirrors the U.S. in many ways. The right-wingers are trying to restrict human rights and labour rights. The prime minister, a friend of former President George W. Bush, is so anti-labour he needs to be kicked out of Parliament,” Byers said.

“The CLC will only back candidates who listen to working people and put workers first when it comes to core issues such as a secure retirement for all,” she asserted. “The CLC strategy is simple: Expand the Canadian Pension system

which is paid to all citizens – over and above any employee pension plan they may receive – to double the former level,” she explained.

“With 1.6 million retirees living in poverty, private plans are not the solution. Only 38% of employers even offer pensions, and many of those are ‘contribution plans,’ not defined benefit plans. With ATU-Canada’s help, we will win this important change,” Byers declared.

Other campaigns being waged by the CLC include new bankruptcy legislation, improved health and safety rules on violence in the workplace, and ergonomic policies.

“And don’t forget about local and community elections,” she reminded them. “The CLC has helped elect 800 labour-endorsed mayors and local politicians throughout Canada. On the federal level, the CLC helped the New Democratic Party elect the second largest number of pro-labour leaders in history.”

Looking toward the future, the Canadian labor leader told the Convention, “the CLC will focus on enlisting youth workers, women and people of color into its ranks because our security lies in diversity.” She closed by again thanking the ATU for its support.

WILLIAM MILLAR

President, American Public Transportation Association

With 40 years in the public transportation sector, Bill Millar, president of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), said he was privileged to have worked with International President Emeritus Warren S. George for over 35 years, and was glad to be back at another ATU Convention to talk about advancements in labor/management training partnerships.

Over 1,500 strong, APTA members have much in common with transportation unions, he said, and together they can tackle common issues.

Millar reviewed the current state of the transit industry, saying, “The widespread recession has taken its toll on the industry in terms of fare increases, service cuts and layoffs, already occurring in 59% of the nation’s systems.” But on the whole,” he said, “jobs in the transit industry are more secure because they can not be shipped overseas like so many others.”

Continuing, he described recent history: “2008 was a good year for the transit industry. Ridership was high and growing, while gas prices were above \$4 per gallon.” However, 2009 saw a decline in ridership. With the threat of a deepening recession, Millar stressed the need for Federal Emergency Operations Assistance guidelines.



“The future of transportation depends on major investments now,” Millar insisted. “Champions of transportation in Congress like Jim Oberstar need ATU’s help to get a long-term, well-funded transit authorization bill passed.”

Millar is hopeful: “The transportation funding proposals President Obama made during his Labor Day address in Milwaukee, WI, indicates that he would sign such a bill if it reached his desk.”

The upcoming midterm elections provide a great opportunity and challenge for ATU to keep working for pro-labor candidates who will invest in infrastructure and transportation improvements. “But make sure you know where candidates stand before the election,” Millar warned.

APTA is currently working on a “Tell Our Story” campaign, collecting the stories of actual transportation users in communities across America. The stories are being brought to Washington to show Congress how the riding public feels about their local transit systems; how it has helped them in terms of getting to work, school; and wherever they need to go. Besides the stories, Millar hoped to gather signatures from citizens in all 50 states calling for more investment in transportation systems.

Investing in human capital was equally important, Millar said. With ATU and other transportation unions, APTA has started the Transportation Learning Center where attendees received skills training on myriad aspects of the transportation industry: bus and train maintenance, certification status for workers, and specialized training for signal maintainers.

The Convention recessed for the day at 10:55 a.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.

ATU's **top** Talent

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!

1ST PLACE

CHRISTINA CONTINO FRANCIS
Daughter of Vincent Contino, 276-Stockton, CA

3RD PLACE

WILLIAM WILLIAMS
25-Detroit, MI

2ND PLACE

MIKE BARNES
689-Washington, DC

4TH PLACE

KEVIN BARRETT
85-Pittsburgh, PA

THANK YOU TO ALL PERFORMERS AND GUESTS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE ATU MS RESEARCH FUNDS!



Christina Contino Francis



Mike Barnes



William Williams



Kevin Barrett



Celebrity Look-Alike Judges



ATU Members show their appreciation for their brothers' and sisters' spirited performances.