

Voices in Unity ★★
STRENGTH *in Solidarity*

July 28 - August 3, 2010 • Las Vegas, NV

CONVENTION REPORTER

Leading the Way

Following the Conventional Call to Order by BCTGM International President Frank Hurt, International Representative James Rivers delivered the invocation.

In the final Report on Credentials by the Committee on Committees, the following changes were made to the roll call of Convention delegates:

The initial report indicated 369 delegates representing 128 Local Unions, with a total vote of 3,337 votes. With changes and deletions made, the Convention is represented by 125 Local Unions with a total of 361 delegates, including Executive Officers, Vice Presidents, General Executive Board members and International Representative with a total of 3,326 votes.

After hearing the Credentials Report, delegates focused on the day's agenda. In explaining the day's theme Hurt noted, "As you know, today's theme is Leading the Way and it is a day devoted to the election of your International Officers for the next four years," Hurt said.

"In keeping with the theme of the day, we celebrate each of you. As elected representatives of your respected locals at this convention, you are in fact, all leaders of this great union. With leadership comes responsibility. We all have a responsibility to do the best possible job we can do to ensure that this union prospers over the next four years," said Hurt.

For the election of the International Executive Officers, Hurt called on retired Secretary-Treasurer Rene Rondou as the Temporary Chair of the Convention.

Upon accepting the Temporary Chair position,

Rondou delivered brief remarks in both French and English.

"It is a personal privilege and honor to be at this convention. Let me take a moment to express my thanks for inviting me. I can assure you that this is quite an opportunity and honor for me. An opportunity to see and talk with longtime friends. Our Union is in a great position today. Our Union is active, aggressive and efficient because of these leaders, and all of you leaders," Rondou stated.

"Sixty five years ago at the age of 18, I joined a union for the first time. And have remained a proud member ever since. I am thankful for this," he concluded.

Rondou declared the nomination of office for International President in order.

International President Frank Hurt Re-Elected Unanimously

Local 57 Financial Secretary/Business Agent Vester Newsome nominated Frank Hurt for President.

"Frank Hurt has led this union with extraordinary effectiveness during the most challenging times ever experienced by the American labor movement. Over the last four years, the BCTGM withstood the fiercest economic and political storms in our history.

"Our union stands strong today in large measure because of the firm, principled and inspired leadership of Frank Hurt. With Frank Hurt's leadership for the next four years, we are assured that this organization will successfully seize every opportunity and meet every challenge that comes

before us in order to improve the quality of life and standard of living of the membership.

“It is with great pride and deep humility that I place in nomination the name of my friend and my Local 57 Brother, Frank Hurt, for President of the BCTGM,” proclaimed Newsome.

Rondou placed the nomination and delegates unanimously elected Hurt as International President. Delegates gave Hurt a standing ovation.

Hurt acknowledged Rondou and his lifelong dedication to the BCTGM. “As many of you know, I worked with Rene for many years. When I became the organizing director in 1982, he was the Secretary Treasurer. Rene has union blood running through his body and will have so until he steps off this earth. We owe him for all the work he has done for this union and his unwavering dedication as a trade unionist,” noted Hurt.

In accepting the office of International President Hurt said, “I want to thank you for electing me as your president once again. I love being president of this International because I get to work with so many wonderful people. We all get up every morning and go to work. And I can say with all my heart, that I always try to do what is in the best interest of this membership. Please know that everything we do, we do to best serve you,” said Hurt.

“I want you to know that we take our jobs very seriously and I will do everything I can to be your best possible president. I will always work my hardest for you and this union,” he stated.

Hurt extended a special thank you to Jean, his wife of 53 years, for her many years of love, support and friendship, noting she is “the girl I always go home to.”

Delegates Re-Elect Durkee

Local 53 Secretary Treasurer Joyce Alston nominated David B. Durkee for the office International Secretary-Treasurer of the BCTGM International Union.

“David was born in Homer, N.Y., so we claim him in Region One. His family relocated to Evansville, Indiana, which he adopted as his home town. He found work as a young man at Lewis Brothers Bakery and began his baking career as a mixer, becoming the fourth generation in his family to become a baker.

“He quickly became a union activist and was elected as a business agent and financial secretary-treasurer of Local 280 in Evansville.

“He is a man of dedication to the union cause, loyalty to this union, and has served with untold hours of hard work from his earliest days as a local union officer.

“David was first elected as an International Vice President in 1994; was first elected as Secretary-Treasurer in 1998 and re-elected in 2002 and 2006.

“In addition, he has consistently served as the Union’s Director of Organization since 1990, a responsibility he has maintained for 20 years.

“His service to the International Union began when he was appointed by the union president to be an International Representative in 1986.

“David has won the respect and trust of others because of his loyalty and dedication to the union leadership and to the mission of the International Union. He proved himself with his willingness to accept any assignment and many of them required long hours of work every day and separation from his family in Evansville,” said Alston.

“He is a friend of every working man and woman in the BCTGM International Union. You can be assured of his commitment to serve all the members of every local union.

“It is with confidence that I place the name of David B. Durkee for International Secretary Treasurer of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union, and I so move,” concluded Alston.

Delegates unanimously elected Durkee as International Secretary-Treasurer of the BCTGM International Union and gave him a standing ovation.

In accepting the office, Durkee pledged to always work for “the best interests of this membership.”

Durkee thanked his wife of 37 years, Sharon, and reflected on his many years with the union.

“I would like to thank our President Frank Hurt. I truly appreciate working with such a wonderful man,” said Durkee.

He also thanked Executive Vice President Joe Thibodeau for his friendship and dedication to the BCTGM. “I’d also like to thank every single member of this union for all the work you do,” said Durkee.

“I personally know about 70 percent of those of you in this room and by the time we leave this convention, I will know 100 percent,” he said.

“I intend to continue to keep working longer and harder for you and this incredible Union,” Durkee pledged.

Delegates Re-Elect Thibodeau

Local 102 President Ray Aquilino nominated Joe Thibodeau for the office of International Executive Vice President. Referring to Thibodeau as his mentor, Aquilino said Thibodeau symbolizes what the trade movement should be. “He is a man who taught me what it takes to be a good leader. Hard work and a willingness to fight the fight no matter what,” Aquilino said.

Delegates unanimously elected Thibodeau as International Executive Vice President of the BCTGM International Union. Delegates gave him a standing ovation.

In accepting the office, Thibodeau said, “Thank you for re-electing me to another four years as your Executive Vice President. Thank you for allowing me to continue to do the work I believe in, the work I love.

“I believe that union organizing, that keeping the union strong by member participation, is as vital to the workers’ well-being now, just as it was when I worked on my first organizing campaign,” continued Thibodeau.

“The nature of the work done by union organizers calls for them to be away from home a lot, sometimes for weeks at a time. Those absences place a lot of stress on the family. It places a lot of pressure on the partner left on the home front, the person left to deal with family emergencies and the details of day to day life.

“My wife – Helen – did that job during the years I traveled the road throughout New England, New York and New Jersey.

“Thank you Helen. There were a lot of lonely nights and weekends during those years. A lot of birthday parties and anniversaries missed, but we have held there,” added Thibodeau. “Our children – Walter, Delane, and Deirdra – are now grown with children of their own. We have five beautiful grandchildren – granddarlings as they are known in our house – who bring a great deal of joy to our lives.

“It is for the younger generation, like my grandchildren, that we need to remain strong so that they have the same opportunities. Thank you for continuing the good work of this union,” concluded Thibodeau.

Delegates Elect Vice Presidents

Delegates to the Convention unanimously elected the following BCTGM International Vice Presidents:

Region 1: Art Montminy

Region 2: Bob Oakley

Region 3: Steve Bertelli

Region 4: Tony Johnson

Region 5: Sean Kelly

Region 6: Randy Roark

Grain Milling Sector: Mike Konesko

General Executive Board

The following General Executive Board members were unanimously elected by Convention Delegates:

Region 1

Joyce Alston, Local 53

Tom Bingler, Local 36G

Region 2

Paul LaBuda, Local 19

Vester Newsome, Local 57

Region 3

Edward Burpo, Local 300

Bradford Schmidt, Local 218

Region 4

Johnny Jackson, Local 42

Richard Lewis, Local 111

Region 5

Ron Piercey, Local 264

Danny Murphy, Local 406

Region 6

Donna Scarano, Local 125

Doyle Townson, Local 31

Tobacco Sector

Butch Henley, 203T

All photography of the 38th Constitutional Convention will be available to view and purchase online through Hank deLespinasse Studios, the official photographer of the 2010 Convention.
The Convention photo site is: www.bctgm2010conv.com.