

2009 TCU Regular Convention “Our Union Makes Us Strong”



Bill Burke, Page One Photography

Delegates at the 33rd TCU Regular Convention re-elected all International officers including President Bob Scardelletti, right, and International Secretary-Treasurer Danny Biggs.

The theme for the TCU 33rd Regular Convention was “Our Union Makes Us Strong.” This theme encompassed our history and celebrated our Union’s 110th anniversary. It is truly the union that makes us all strong in both good times and bad. TCU will always work to improve the quality of each and every member’s life.

Our Convention started with the Carmen Division Convention on July 27, and then the Grand Lodge Convention beginning July 28, 2009, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Elected delegates from across the country met and completed the business of

this great union.

The unity and pride of TCU were on display during the entire proceedings. As TCU celebrated its 110th Anniversary, a bold new beginning took shape on the Convention floor.

Officers Re-elected

The re-election of every International officer by acclamation was just the beginning. In a stirring and inspirational moment, International President Bob Scardelletti thanked his family, and addressed the delegates with emotion clearly in his eyes, “Thank you for your unwavering support which has given me the strength to carry on. I will never let you down.”

International Secretary-Treasurer Danny Biggs also thanked his family and those he works with. “I promise you all that I will do my best,” he stated.

Distinguished Speakers

IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger addressed the delegates, as well as IAM General Secretary-Treasurer Warren Mart and Chris Wagoner of the William W. Winpisinger Education Center. President Buffenbarger presented President Scardelletti with a unique wooden gavel carved by IAM Woodworker members.

Buffenbarger praised the delegates and TCU International officers for their tough decisions during the affiliation process. “I am proud to have the ranks of TCU included in those of the IAM.”

Every speaker pointed out the strength that TCU has shown over the past five years. The Convention theme of “Our Union Makes Us Strong” became the rallying cry for each person as they addressed the delegates. That strength will move us forward into this great union’s future.

AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka spoke to the Convention delegates. Scardel-

letti introduced Trumka saying, "I know Rich is the man to lead the AFL-CIO. He will stand up to the corporations that try to trample our rights. He will go toe-to-toe with those on Capitol Hill who oppose the rights we have worked so hard to obtain." Bob also introduced Rich to TCU's new health care slogan: "You want health care... join a union."

The delegates cheered loudly, standing and waving campaign signs when Mr. Trumka spoke. "Labor must be united," said Trumka. "When someone comes up against one of us, they will know that they face us all."

The election of Rich Trumka as President of the AFL-CIO is a solid show of union strength to everyone that opposes labor. In his acceptance address at the AFL-CIO Convention Trumka said, "I will lead labor to rebuild the middle class and make sure elected officials know the consequences of turning their backs on working people whose votes put them into office."



New AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka pledged to lead the fight to rebuild America's middle class.



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TCU International President Bob Scardelletti swears in Carmen Division Officers: From left: Carmen General President, Rich Johnson; International Representative Ray Grygiel; Assistant International Representative Daryl Burnett; General Vice President Carl Tingle; General Vice President Alex Novakovic; International Representative Jack Wright; Assistant General President Marvin Napier; International Representative Don Grissom and, in front, International Representative Lenny Bauman.

Carmen Division Elections Show Unity and Pride

In an unprecedented show of strength and unity, TCU International President Bob Scardelletti nominated Carmen Division General President Rich Johnson to another term. In true unity and solidarity, Rich Johnson and Assistant General President Marvin Napier were elected unopposed by acclamation as was every other returning Carmen Division General officer. Since the merger with TCU, this has never happened.

"I promise to do everything in my power to maintain and increase our membership, improve our wages and benefits and demand fairness at the bargaining table," said Johnson. "I will

take whatever steps are necessary to secure the best possible future for our members."

The unity displayed at the Carmen Convention clearly showed how strong the Carmen Division has become. The delegates were all proud to serve on the various committees and make the choices that are needed to keep our union strong.

"Because of the support of the Carmen Division, I am able to maintain the confidence I need to keep our union strong — you got my back," said Scardelletti. "And for that I thank you from the bottom of my heart."