



NUHHCE NEWS

Choices and Opportunities — The Challenge Ahead

VOLUME 2, EDITION 2

CONVENTION DAILY

Tuesday October 25, 2011

Today's Sessions

General Session

9:30

Celebrity Ballroom I

Chair

Henry Nicholas

President

Report

Kathy Sackman,

Secretary-Treasurer

Town Hall Meeting

1 to 2:30

Celebrity Ballroom I

The Future of a Divided Labor

Movement –What's Next?

Sheila Cochran

Milwaukee County Labor Council

George Gresham

1199 SEIU

Dr. William Lucy

Coalition of Black Trade Unionists

Andy Van Kleunen

National Skills Coalition

Cheryl Feldman

1199C Training Fund

Awards Banquet

7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Celebrity Ballrooms 1,2

Opening Speakers Rally Delegates

The convention erupted into applause and standing ovations as speakers, including National Hospital Union President Henry Nicholas and U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis (on video), decried the war against working Americans and urged support for an unrelenting fightback.

Referring to certain Republican governors and their allies in Congress, Stewart Acuff, chief of staff for the Utility Workers Union of America,

declared: "If they succeed in destroying the labor movement there will be nothing between this democracy and the corporate takeover of America."

"We, in the labor movement, are partly responsible for what is happening to us," said New York State CSEA, AFSCME President Danny Donohue. "In Wisconsin some of our AFSCME members believed Scott Walker and voted for him to be governor even though he said what he was going to do." Others failed to vote.

"This fight is not about Republicans and Democrats; we're not hostage to any of them," he added. Donohue cited New York Democratic Governor Andrew Cuomo who cut state employees and demanded givebacks, while allowing a surtax on millionaires to expire.

Our country now fits the description of Charles Dickens' opening line from his novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*. "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," Pres. Nicholas stated.

"The great benefits we can provide are not available to most of the people of this country," he said, citing a Kaiser Foundation study calculating healthcare costs for a single person at \$15,000 a year. "What happens if you have no job and can't pay?" he asked; "then, it's the worst of times."



The convention opened with a moment of silence led by Susan Cleary, 1199J President, to acknowledge the death last January of National Union Secretary Emeritus Joseph Franklin.



- Bill Artis

Tomorrow

P.E.O.P.L.E Breakfast

7:30 to 9 a.m.

Celebrity Ballroom 1

Craig Ford, Chair

NUHHCE Secretary

Speaker

Steven Horsford,

Majority Leader,

Nevada State Senate

General Session

Celebrity Ballroom 2

General Session

Chair

Henry Nicholas

President

Guest Speaker

Lee A. Saunders

Secretary-Treasurer

AFSCME International

Election of Officers

11:45

Celebrity Ballroom 2

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Executive Board Mtg.

Noon to 1 p.m.

Melrose 1 & 2



Excerpts from Yesterday's Speakers

Nevada AFL-CIO Executive Secretary Treasurer Danny L. Thompson

"There has never been a larger disparity between the rich and the poor...

"It's not just in Ohio or Wisconsin, it's everywhere..."

"They want to get rid of unions because we're the only ones left..."

"The middle class is under attack. We, unions, are the only organized group that can stand up for the middle class..."

"If we don't re-elect Barack Obama, our troubles will be untold... If we put a Republican in this seat we are headed for a disaster of huge proportions..."

"Have a great time in Las Vegas. What happens here does go home with you."

NUHHCE President Henry Nicholas

"We meet in a place where unemployment is the highest in the nation. We meet in a place where 66 percent of the homes have been foreclosed. So we're in the right place because our vision is to help those who need help..."

"The technician who operated our equipment yesterday came afterward and held my hand. He said, 'Thank you.. I got a chance to get a day's pay.' That was a very sobering feeling and it is a feeling that is felt all over the nation..."

"There is a movement afoot and it is not a movement of crazy people but of people who understand what time it is. And I'm not talking about what time it is by the clock, but what time it is for people here in the United States. There are more people in the nation of plenty who are hungry than there were when we met three years ago..."

"We can't stop thinking about tomorrow. There are 50 million Americans without health care. That figure was 46 million at our last convention."

Stewart Acuff, chief of staff Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA)

"Voter identification laws are being passed in several states to try to stop people from voting. We are not going to go backward..."

"People will say that (2012) was the year freedom won again in America..."

"I like Barack Obama... sometimes I wish he would be stronger... Barack Obama proves you can be an African American man in the Oval Office, but we're not far enough along yet that you can be an angry black man ... The President is our brother. He sees the world we do. He believes in what we believe. Let's treat him like that, alright, let's treat him like our brother ..."

"Our country's history is the history of struggle and success for greater freedom and greater liberty and greater justice --that is what God ordained of this country."

Danny Donohue, President New York State Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA)

"We need to get Obama re-elected because without him we will be worse off. But we must also focus on state, county, town and village elections because that is where many of the rules are set for what happens to our members..."

"Obama's (healthcare) plan may not be perfect, but it's a plan that gives millions of Americans healthcare that they don't have today. Nothing's perfect but we can make it better..."

Donohue, who lost his bid for AFSCME Secretary-Treasurer last year, confirmed that he will run to lead AFSCME when the international union meets in Los Angeles this coming summer. To those who supported him, Donohue said "I'm going to give you a chance in L.A. to do it again." Promising to put an emphasis on organizing, Donohue said,

"I believe this union can be better."



-Bill Artis and Maida Odom