

# 92,155 !!!



(Photo by Khalid Naji-Allah)

President Lee Saunders and Vibiana Saavedra, a home care provider with California UDW/Local 3930, salute the delegates after she introduced the president for his keynote speech.

**With Volunteer Member Organizers leading the way, we nearly doubled our goal of signing up 50,000 new AFSCME members this year.**

“Today, we are not just 50,000 Stronger. We are 92,155 stronger! 92,000 voices stronger! 92,000 fighters stronger! 92,000 warriors stronger!” Pres. Lee Saunders thundered in his keynote that launched the Convention. Delegates roared in approval.

The remarkable success of the 50,000 Stronger campaign, which was established as an internal organizing goal at a leadership summit in January, comes on the heels of a Supreme Court decision that undermines our ability to represent home care and child care workers. It serves as proof that determined face-to-face organizing is the best antidote for the gathering storm of attacks against public employees. That power to endure and overcome was the core message of President Saunders’ keynote address.

“You see, we know what it means to be caught in a storm. We understand what it means to be tossed on rough seas. Getting through the storm takes not only courage, but perspective. You have to focus on what you’re going through, yet envision where you want to be,” he told the delegates.

Monday’s program was a celebration of the dedication and determination of VMOs in building our strength and voice in the workplace. LaTonya Graham of District of Columbia Council 20 and Angela Brandel of Ohio Civil Service Employees Association (OCSEA) were among the VMOs who shared their moving stories about the challenges and rewards of organizing new members. Their experiences had a common theme: While it takes courage to knock on doors and start conversations, the effort pays off.

Vibiana Saavedra, a VMO from California, led a passionate discussion about the ways that members are working to build our union. As a home care provider, Saavedra is one of the workers whose union rights were under attack by the court in the Supreme Court case *Harris v. Quinn*. Her message

was clear: In today’s anti-worker political climate, union members must take bold action to fight back.

“The lawsuit was funded by billionaires. They wanted us to lose our union,” she said. “But AFSCME was prepared for this assault.”

And those opponents are more threatening than ever, as President Saunders made clear. The *Harris v. Quinn* case created new obstacles for home care and child care providers who are trying to improve their wages and working conditions. It is part of a well-funded effort by business groups who want to silence the voices of working people.

“Our opponents want to deplete the labor movement of resources, steal our power, silence our voices and cripple us,” he said. “They are even undercutting the most fundamental right we have as Americans – the right to vote.”

He stressed how AFSCME affiliates nationwide refused to back down against political attacks. Since our last convention, we faced threats from elected officials in places like Enid, Oklahoma, and Jefferson City, Missouri, but members got organized and protected their jobs and rights.



(Photo by Tessa Berg)

Henry Bayer, retiring executive director of Illinois Council 31 (also an IVP), is cheered by the delegates. President Saunders cited Council 31 for their high level of activism.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### CONVENTION REGISTRATION

7 a.m. – 1 p.m., McCormick Place North, Level Three, Hall B

### CHILD CARE

(7 a.m. – until 1 hour after recess, as needed)

McCormick Place, N126-N129

### BOOTHS

7 a.m. – until 1 hour after session (closed during General Session)

McCormick Place North, Level Three, Hall B: Cyber Dome, Learning Lounge, Pin Trading Post and Affiliate, AFSCME Advantage, Generations United, Information, Labor History, Organizing, PEOPLE, PEOPLE Q+A, Video and Wellness

### WORKSHOPS

7:30 – 9 a.m.

(See list, page 2)

### CONVENTION RECONVENES

10 a.m., McCormick Place North, Level Three, Hall B

**Keynote Address:** Laura Reyes, International Secretary-Treasurer, AFSCME

**Program:** Building Political and Legislative Power

**Speaker:** Charlie Crist, Florida Democratic gubernatorial candidate

**Speaker:** Mary Burke, Wisconsin Democratic gubernatorial candidate

### NOMINATING CAUCUSES – SW DISTRICT

15 minutes after recess of General Session, McCormick Place N230b

### AA MEETING

6 – 9 p.m., Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel, Picasso Room

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Upon recess of General Session at McCormick Place North

Committee	Room
Elections	Front of Convention stage

Credentials Committee will meet at McCormick Place North, Level Three, behind the Registration area in Hall B.

## Sing Us a Song!

Don't miss out on the chance of a lifetime! Sign up today for AFSCME's Got Talent, the karaoke show that's going to be fun for all, and also important for our fight to make sure the best politicians win their seats at the local, state and national levels. This is a PEOPLE fundraiser. So just visit the AFSCME's Got Talent Showcase Stage A, located next to the PEOPLE booth at McCormick Place North, Level Three, Hall B. That's where you will enter your name for a chance to perform in the finals on Thursday. Don't forget, you need to tell us when you sign up what song you plan to sing. The audience will vote with PEOPLE dollars to raise the money for the PAC and choose the winners.



## KNOW YOUR ENEMY: The Koch Brothers

The bad actors displayed in cardboard images at the Organizing Booth include David and Charles Koch

(pronounced like 'Coke'). Get to know them. They are among the most powerful anti-worker forces in America. Their wealth, estimated at \$35 billion, funds a secretive political fundraising network that spent millions to support Wisconsin Gov.



Scott Walker and other anti-union politicians nationwide. Funneled through front organizations such as Americans for Prosperity, money from the Koch brothers' empire has gone into efforts to undermine public employee pensions and Social Security, oppose environmental regulations and support politicians who want to weaken the power of union members. The more you know about them, the better you can stand up to oppose them.

## Get Smarter at the Interactive Learning Lounge

Stop by the Interactive Learning Lounge this morning and see how much more effective you can become in just a short while. It's located in McCormick Place North, Level Three, Hall B. **Here is today's schedule:**

- 8:00 AM: What Faith Groups Say About Worker Justice
- 8:30 AM: Beginning Bullhorn

## Use Technology to Build AFSCME Power!

We're stronger when everyone lends a hand to AFSCME PEOPLE! Sign up at the Cyber Dome to volunteer to fight for working families and help us build political power through activism. Winner of Monday's raffle was Sue Henrickson of Local 53 (Council 28). The Cyber Dome will be open before and after the General Session (McCormick Place North, Level Three, Hall B).



## BE BOLD — Step Up to the Video Booth

How will you be bold, brave and determined as we fight right-wing extremists who want to take away our rights to collective bargaining, or to oppose outsourcing of our jobs? Tell your sisters and brothers here, and back home, by stopping by the Video Booth. It takes just a few minutes but it will mean so much. The Video Booth is located next to the Wellness Booth at McCormick Place North, Level Three, Hall B. Just ask any Action Ambassador to point it out. It's open from 7 a.m. until one hour after the General Session (it is closed during General Session).



Steven Holman of Illinois Local 1006 tells his story in the video booth.

(Photo by Tessa Berg)

## TODAY'S WORKSHOPS

The following workshops will be held TODAY, 7:30 – 9 a.m.

- **The Affordable Care Act and Health Benefits** North Building, Level Two, Room N226
- **The Art of Class War** South Building, Level Four, Room S404 A
- **Bargaining During Challenging Times** (Also offered in Spanish) North Building, Level Two, Room N227 B
- **Creating and Delivering Short Persuasive Speeches** (Also offered in Spanish) North Building, Level Two, Room N227 A
- **Exposing Wasteful Subsidies** North Building, Level Four, Room N426 A
- **The Fight for Our Pensions** North Building, Level Two, Room N230 B
- **From the Kitchen Table to the Street** (Also offered in Spanish) North Building, Level Four, Room N426 B
- **Get on the VAN-Wagon: Data Driven Campaigns** South Building, Level Four, Room S403 A
- **Hot Topics in Health and Safety** North Building, Level Two, Room N231
- **IRS Form 990 Filing Requirements: Protecting Your Tax Exempt Status** South Building, Level Four, Room S406 B
- **Labor History for Labor Activists** North Building, Level Two, Room N228
- **Making the Case for Immigration Reform** North Building, Level One, Room N139
- **Main Street Matters** North Building, Level Four, Room N426 C
- **The New Frontier: Organizing Non-Traditional Workers** North Building, Level One, Room N137
- **The New Wage and Benefits Movements** South Building, Level Four, Room S401 B/C
- **Retiree Power** South Building, Level Four, Room S402 A
- **Retirement Security for All** South Building, Level Four, Room S401 D
- **Speaking Up When Oppression Happens** North Building, Level One, Room N135
- **Stopping Outsourcing in Its Tracks** (Also offered in Spanish) North Building, Level Four, Room N140
- **Stronger Together! Internal Organizing (Locals fewer than 200 members)** South Building, Level Four, Room S404 D
- **Stronger Together! (Locals between 200-1,000 members)** South Building, Level Four, Room S405 A
- **Stronger Together! (Locals more than 1,000 members)** South Building, Level Four, Room S405 B
- **Talkin' Union to New Employees** South Building, Level Four, Room S403 B
- **(Un)Popular Economics: Student Debt** South Building, Level Four, Room S401 A
- **Using Direct Action** South Building, Level Four, Room S404 B/C
- **Women in Bargaining** South Building, Level Four, Room S402 B

## Get Ready to Rally Tomorrow!

Chicago cab drivers need our help. We're going to raise our voices as only AFSCME members can, to support their fight for justice. So before you go to bed tonight, get prepared. First, don't take personal items with you on the rally. Leave important items locked in a safe in your room. Wear your AFSCME T-shirts and comfortable walking shoes. Shuttles will begin immediately after the close of session from McCormick Place to the rally, and return to the hotels and the Convention site after it's over.



## AFSCME Advantage Winner!

Congratulations to Peggy Kinzler of Minnesota Local 2789 (Council 65), winner of Monday's grand prize. The Advantage Booth is at McCormick Place North, Level Three, Hall B. Be sure to stop by Tuesday for another chance to win the Union Plus \$100 gift card sweepstakes!