



LAS VEGAS 2011

Convention News

28th INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION • LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Friday, July 1, 2011

Keegel Says Goodbye

Looks Back on 50-Year Teamster Career

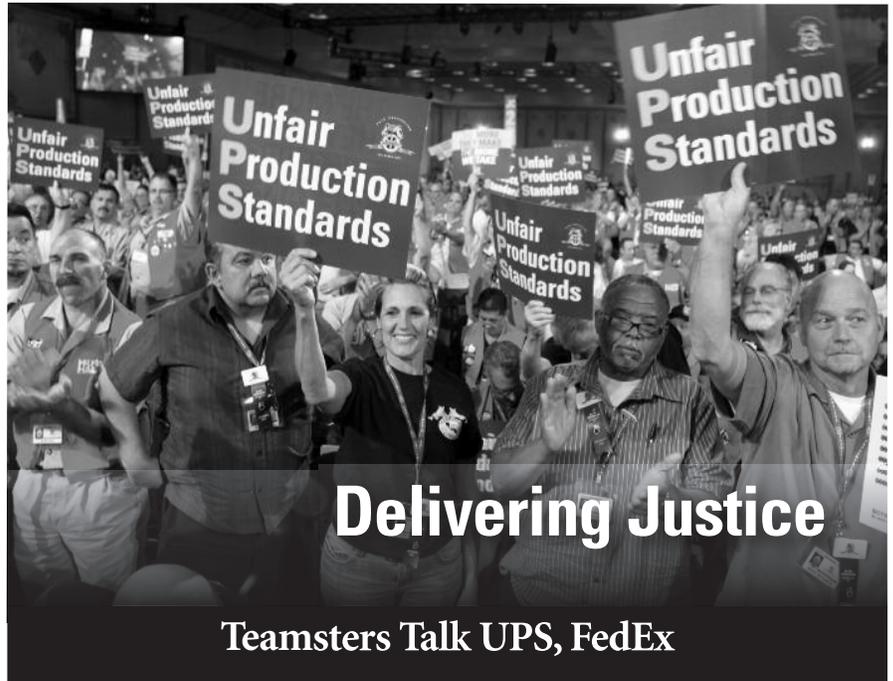
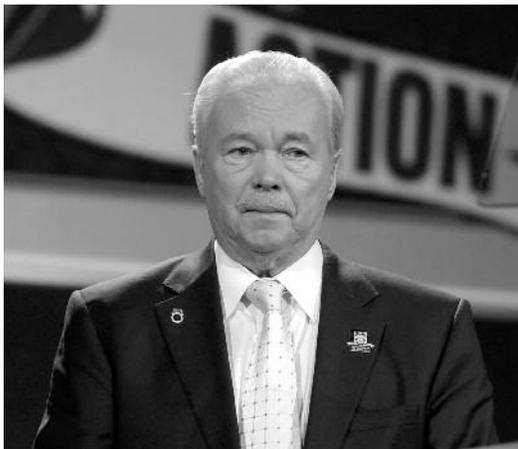
Tom Keegel took the stage yesterday to chants of “Keegel! Keegel! Keegel!” by delegates and guests who knew it was the last time they would hear him address a Convention as the Teamsters’ beloved General Secretary-Treasurer.

“I knew it was going to be emotional but I didn’t think it would be anything like this,” Keegel said to the crowd at the 28th International Convention.

Keegel profusely thanked his family for standing with him during his 52-year career with the Teamsters Union. He talked about moving up through the ranks after joining the union in 1959. He worked his way from steward up to General Secretary-Treasurer, where he enacted financial reforms that put the union on secure financial footing.

“My heritage is in the labor movement. I remember how I became inspired,” Keegel said, detailing how his first co-workers were strong Teamsters who had fought in the famous Minneapolis Strike of 1934. “These men loved their union and taught me that the Teamsters never give up, Teamsters never give in or run from a fight.”

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Delivering Justice

Teamsters Talk UPS, FedEx

UPS is the Teamsters Union’s largest bargaining unit, and at yesterday’s session of the 28th International Convention, members and leaders spoke not only about remaining vigilant there, but the challenges faced by workers at UPS’ main rival, FedEx.

In a big announcement, International Vice President and Package Division Director Ken Hall revealed that the International, along with Joint Council 42, is launching an organizing campaign for FedEx Freight workers in Southern California, and that the Teamsters Union has decided to take on organizing all FedEx Freight.

UPS Teamsters spoke to the crowd about the difference a Teamster contract has made in their lives and the importance of staying vigilant as UPS continues to test that contract.

“I’ve seen the good times. When our economy was flourishing, we all benefited,” said Nancy Aleccia, a 33-year mem-

ber of Local 396 of Covina, Calif. “And when our economy went into a downturn, we faced challenges...Going through that time has made me appreciate more than ever the value of my Teamster contract. We have seniority and recall rights, something nonunion employees do not have.”

Some of the nonunion workers Aleccia spoke about also addressed the Convention.

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Delivering Justice *Continued from page 1*

“I know you have heard many success stories this week about organizing and getting contracts. Now it’s our turn and we are ready,” said Rudy Hernandez, a FedEx Freight worker. “We have an organizing committee and we are working hard with our organizers. But we will need your help. We are all in this together and next Convention, I want to be sitting where you are now. As a Teamster member, with a contract.”

FedEx workers are clamoring for Teamster representation, but there are big roadblocks to overcome before the workers can organize.

“Fred Smith, CEO of FedEx, will do whatever he needs to remain nonunion and keep his employees from having a voice. He skirts laws, misclassifies employees and when all else fails, threatens and tries to scare not only his employees, but also the federal government,” Hall said. The millions of dollars Smith has given to politicians make sure FedEx continues to enjoy the loopholes they take advantage of to keep unions out.

“The Teamsters have been working with states and allies in the federal government to level the playing field and force FedEx to play by the same rules as other companies in the same industry,” Hall said.

One of the Teamsters’ key allies in this fight has been Montana Attorney General Steve Bullock, whose determination on righting misclassification wrongs has essentially forced FedEx to change its entire business model across the country (to a multi-route model), and he has remained vigilant in protecting FedEx Ground drivers in his state.

“This is a nationwide problem and it deserves a nationwide solution,” Bullock said. “They may have the money, but we have two things they don’t; we’re right and we’ll work harder than them. It will be labor leading the resistance to the war on workers.”



Christopher Duffley, the blind, autistic 10-year-old whose singing brought Teamsters to their feet and tears to their eyes, was made an honorary Teamster yesterday.



Danny DeVito energized the crowd with a message of solidarity.

Keegel Says Goodbye *Continued from page 1*

The Teamsters who gave their lives in the 1934 struggle led directly to the passage of labor reforms, and since then, Keegel said, Teamsters have fought tooth and nail to make lives better for every working man and woman in North America.

“That is what our mission remains today. That is what everybody in this room is fighting for. It is the most American of fights. Our Constitution spells it out... ‘We the people, in order to form a more perfect union.’ And that is why we are here this week. To form a more perfect union. That is what I have given 50 years of my life for. A more perfect union,” he said.

“I’ve been fighting for 50 years. I never thought I’d say these words; it’s time for me to say goodbye,” Keegel said. “But you don’t have to worry about where I’ll be and how I’m doing. I’ll be everywhere. Wherever someone is fighting for respect on the job, I’ll be there. Wherever there’s a mother striking for a fair day’s pay, I’ll be there. Wherever there are people trying to organize, I’ll be there. Just look in their eyes and you’ll see me.”

In the SPOTLIGHT

What was your favorite Convention moment?

“My favorite moment was when Christopher Duffley stood up and sang. It was absolutely marvelous to know that he could not see us, but heard the applause. We were all in tears.”

—Geraldo Taveras, Local 237, New York



“Everything about it was really good. I like Christopher and DeVito. I think DeVito should run for office.”

—Romelle Schneider, Local 710, Mokena, Ill.

“Meeting Micky Ward was really cool. And just being here was great, too. This is what we do and this is what we’re about.”

—William Brehl, Teamsters Canada Rail Conference, BMWED



“My favorite part is seeing people come from all over to unite for the same issues. People aren’t just here from the United States, but from Canada and Puerto Rico as well. The power behind that is fantastic.”

—John Padula, Local 812, Scarsdale, N.Y.

“My favorite part was all the information that pertains to UPS and FedEx.”

—Alvin Mitchell, Local 542, San Diego





THURSDAY'S NOMINATION SPOTLIGHT



FRIDAY Agenda Highlights

All Times and Events are Subject to Change

- 9 a.m. Convention Convenes
- 9:20 a.m. Acceptance Speeches of General President and General Secretary-Treasurer Candidates
- 10:20 a.m. First Observer Presentation
- 11 a.m. Committee Reports
- 11:30 a.m. Vice President Joe Biden
- Noon Solidarity Forever Singalong
Convention Convenes

Announcement of Results for the Office of General President and General Secretary-Treasurer

The Rules for the 2010-2011 IBT International Union Delegate and Officer Election (“Rules”) provide that candidates for General President and General Secretary-Treasurer nominated from the floor must receive at least 5 percent of the delegate votes cast in order to be nominated for the ballot.

The results of the secret ballot for candidates for IBT General President and General Secretary-Treasurer are as follows:

Total Votes Cast	1,610
5-Percent Threshold	81

General President	
James P. Hoffa	1,326
Fred Gegare	141
Sandy Pope	137

General Secretary-Treasurer	
Ken Hall	1,269
Jim Sheard	156
Gary Marquart	143