



IUPAT NEWS

The International Union of Painters and Allied Trades

DAY TWO **BOLD** FUTURE COVERAGE AUGUST 12TH, 2014 31ST GENERAL CONVENTION

RIGMAIDEN SLATE VICTORY



Lack of opposition shows support for a BOLD FUTURE

With resounding support and words of praise read into the record by delegates from coast to coast and on behalf of all of Canada, General President Kenneth E. Rigmaiden and his slate of executive leaders were elected on Day 2 of the IUPAT 31st General Convention.

With no opposition nominated by any of the more than 700 delegates, a roll call vote was not required. General President Rigmaiden and his slate were elected by acclamation.

District Council 14 Business Manager/ Secretary-Treasurer Terrence P. Fitzmaurice read the prepared statement detailing the General President's career history and then officially nominated him and his slate.

That slate includes: Executive General Vice President William D. Candelori, Jr., General Secretary-Treasurer George Galis, General Vice President Robert Kucheran, General Vice President Harry Zell, General Vice President James L. Reid and General Vice President at Large/Organizing James A. Williams, Jr.

Support for the nomination came in the form of seconds to the motion and additional words of praise and support from District Council business managers from California, New York and Ontario, Canada.

After the slate accepted their nominations, the convention hall filled with music and applause as the team embraced and then joined hands in unity.

General President Emeritus James A. Williams conducted the swearing in ceremony, leading the entire slate in reading the oath of office on stage, vowing to lead and strengthen the union.

Before speaking, General President Rigmaiden asked each member of his slate to address the delegates. Each member expressed appreciation, with many indicating they felt humbled by the support.

The General President's entire acceptance speech is provided, beginning in the box to the right of this article.

GP RIGMAIDEN'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

Thank You.

Thank you for bestowing upon me and my entire slate this great honor at a moment when 93,000 skilled members of the IUPAT are engaged in a battle to reverse the economic hardships we have faced.

I thank you for this honor on behalf of a Labor Union which is moving with determination towards a Bold Future.

I am mindful that this honor bears the responsibility of ensuring that this organization is stronger tomorrow than it is today; that our members are more prosperous tomorrow than they are today.

I am mindful that this honor bears the responsibility of safeguarding our retirees who rely on our deliberate actions and continued growth.

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GST Galis encourages delegates to leave their 'comfort zone'

General Secretary-Treasurer George Galis stressed to delegates of the IUPAT 31st General Convention that there was a great deal members can do to strengthen the union's position as it comes out of a "horrendous" five-year period.



George Galis
General Secretary-Treasurer

But in order to seize that **BOLD FUTURE**, leaders, delegates and members alike will have to leave their comfort zones, he explained as the Day 2 opening speaker.

"The International is moving out of our comfort zone," General Secretary-Treasurer Galis said. "We must be about more than aspirations of the IUPAT, we must be prepared to stand with all workers, – union and non-union."

He also called upon members to re-commit to building membership, which will require a "change in our approach"

in order to stop the recent five-year trend of losing members.

"If we aren't prepared, we will be irrelevant. We must take the time to educate our membership."

General Secretary-Treasurer Galis

As he concluded his remarks to delegates, General Secretary-Treasurer Galis referenced a popular quote from Martin Luther King Jr. about courage and cowardice. The quote ends with, "there comes a time when we must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because it is right."

Building off the quote, Galis raised his voice and challenged the delegates to do the same.

"Don't be afraid to do what is right," he concluded to rousing applause. "Our members deserve it. Seize the **BOLD FUTURE**."



Rep. Mark Pocan provides perspective on work in Washington

The IUPAT's "Brother in Congress" addressed the delegates at the 31st General Convention Tuesday morning and reaffirmed his commitment to be a strong voice for Labor.

Elected to the House in 2012 representing the 2nd District of Wisconsin, Brother Mark Pocan provided delegates with a summary of the last two year's activity – and inactivity – in Washington.

The Democrat blamed the conservative Tea Party members of Congress for halting much of the action, earning the title as the least productive Congress in the nation's history.

Not interested in belaboring the recent past, Brother Pocan opted to focus on the issues he believes Congress should be addressing to help the country recover.

He included the following issues he believes need the attention and action of Congress:

- **Raising the minimum wage**
- **Greater investment in American infrastructure**
- **Efforts that guarantee equal pay for equal work**
- **Making higher education more affordable**
- **Greater investment in apprenticeship programs**



Mark Pocan
Congressman/IUPAT Member

Congressman Pocan then transitioned to mention a subject that he believes

Congress should make sure doesn't happen – stopping the Trans Pacific Partnership from being approved. The trade agreement and its proposed fast tracking have been opposed by most labor trades.

In his concluding remarks, Brother Pocan encouraged more IUPAT members to seek elected office at all levels, from local city council and school boards to state legislatures and even joining him in Congress.

"We have to have more people with a seat at the table," he said, adding that if a delegate is not comfortable running for office, then they need to support other members interested in seeking office or support individuals who are ready to support the IUPAT and other labor trades.

"Labor is a political force," Brother Pocan said. "When we get out and vote, we win ... We need to become a larger than life force this November. Together we are a force that cannot lose."

Job Corps on the rebound

Ready to help IUPAT meet goals, achieve a BOLD FUTURE

Just as the IUPAT struggled through a difficult five-year period, so did its pre-apprenticeship training program, Job Corps.

Andrew Larson, IUPAT's National Project Coordinator for Job Corps, provided delegates at the 31st General Convention with updates on how the program is making a comeback and how it fits into the union's efforts to achieve a **BOLD FUTURE**.



Despite the hardship, the IUPAT Job Corps program remains one of the nation's most

comprehensive pre-apprenticeship training and job placement systems. It includes 46 centers located in 36 states, with an annual budget of more than \$6.5 million.

But the program is also, "ground up organizing in its purest form," National Project Coordinator Larson explained.

The program also improves IUPAT's influence in communities where Job Corps centers are located, which can also be used to leverage greater influence with government officials, he added.



Andrew Larson
Job Corps National Project Coordinator

"We're training young people and giving them the opportunity to lift families out of poverty," National Project Coordinator Larson said.



Richard Trumka
AFL-CIO President

AFL-CIO President rocks

Trumka rolls out action plan for November election

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, "Brought the House Down."

That's how IUPAT General President Kenneth Rigmaiden described the labor leader's animated and highly energized remarks to the delegates on Day 2 of the 31st General Convention.

Trumka opened with strong words of praise for the IUPAT leaders, its "top of the line" training program and the union's frequent ability to "fight above its weight class."

But he was blunt and direct when he said, "We have a long way to go to turn America around."

"It's not going to be easy, but we are going to turn the tide," President Trumka said. "We need to rebuild the middle class. We did it once and we can do it again ... Because unionism works my Brothers and Sisters."

In outlining the AFL-CIO's plans for the coming election season and beyond, President Trumka brought the crowd to its feet for the first of many occasions as he raised his voice to passionately make a point.

"We will not be denied..." he exclaimed. "This is our country and it's time we take it back. Because it's the workers who make this country work!"

President Trumka also provided delegates with details on the AFL-CIO's efforts to raise wages for all workers.

***"Every child should have a chance to get ahead," he said.
"And we intend to fight to give them that opportunity."***

Much of that fight will be centered in Washington, D.C., where recent Labor law reforms have provided some hard lessons for organized labor, he said.

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GVP Reid puts focus on growing market share



James Reid
General Vice President

The IUPAT's future success depends on one truth, according to General Vice President James Reid: Grow our market share.

The General Vice President went on to explain the importance of market share growth to the delegates attending the Tuesday afternoon session of the 31st General Convention.

"It's the # 1 factor in our union's ability to negotiate," he said. "It's the determining factor in our ability to receive better wagers, better working conditions and benefits."

Growth in market share also means more jobs and "allows our political voice to grow stronger," General Vice President Reid continued.

With more than 40 years of experience with the IUPAT, he also expressed conviction that the union was never in a better position to grow its market share. But it will require the union's full attention, focus and resources.

"Yes, we can grow our market share," General Vice President Reid concluded. "But we must do so together."

GP Speech Continued

I am mindful that this honor bears the responsibility of bolstering our employer partners and our industry partners so they can be prosperous and successful, and that their success is shared.

I am mindful that this honor bears the responsibility of helping to lead a labor movement striving to find its voice and its strength in the maze of progressive causes, and in the face of relentless opposition.

I am mindful of all of these things and so many more.

And most of all, I am humbled by the confidence you have bestowed in me.

I am bolstered by your endorsement of my vision and my administration's vision to grow the membership of this union, our vision to cultivate market share growth, and our combined desire to increase our impact.

And I must say, thank you for coming here to Florida and voting on behalf of the membership that elected you, voting on behalf of the thousands of IUPAT members who are working across North America today.

You, the men and women in this room, and all of our membership working across North America are our strength.

You are the fire in my belly. You are our future.

And because of you, our future will be bold!

In my keynote address yesterday, I declared that "The arc of our Universe is long, but we will see to it that it bends towards a **BOLD FUTURE!**"

We will change our arc.

I set forward a goal to net 30,000 members over the next 5 years and now it is time to work with

each person in this room and many, many more to meet that goal.

Together, we must have an intensity about bolstering, adding and diversifying our membership, expanding the presence we have in markets, increasing the markets we dominate, and entering markets we had written off.

And lastly, we must now drive forward to expand the impact we have in our labor movement, in our communities, in our capitol and across North America.

Now it is time that we buckle down. It is time we focus. It is time to hustle. It is time to follow the plan, reach out and grab that marker and deliver for our membership our **BOLD FUTURE!**

Yesterday's passage of Resolution 1 was a massive step in ensuring that we have the resources necessary to drive this organization to the next level; to expand the number of staff people I am able to send to help coordinate a national organizing campaign, to expand the assistance we give back, and to provide the tools necessary to achieve a **BOLD FUTURE.**

While we still have much to do this week, we are on our way to setting in place the ability to deliver on the promise to our members, on our promise to the thousands of craftsmen and women who want to be in our ranks, to our contractors, to our pension, health, training and labor management funds.

We cannot stop now because we owe it to those who sent each and every person in this room here, the members who are working on the job today.

This election and the work ahead remind me of a story about President Kennedy.

In 1963, he visited Cape Canaveral to review the progress NASA was making and during the course of his tour, he introduced himself to one man

who was holding a broom standing next to a custodial cart.

Kennedy asked the man what he did for NASA. The man didn't pause, didn't think about it, he just responded. "Mr. President, I am working to put a man on the moon."

This anecdote about a custodian and the president of the United States teaches a couple of things.

First, it teaches us that we are never too small a union, too small a council or too small a local union to work toward big goals -- goals that will have a lasting impact on your future, on our future. We cannot be deterred or distracted by the expansive nature of our goals, we must continue the push **FORWARD!**

Secondly, if we are going to be successful, we need a team, a team that is working together towards a common goal. We must know what our goals are and work towards achieving those goals. We cannot have a single staff person or even a single member who doesn't know that we are forging a bold future by focusing on increasing our membership, increasing our market share and increasing the impact we have.

You, every delegate in this room, and all the members of the General President's Advisory Committee, you all are my team. You are this Executive Board's team.

I have set forth a marker.

We have a winning team.

Now, who is ready to march boldly towards **OUR BOLD FUTURE!**

I said, who is ready to march with me towards a **BOLD FUTURE!**

In closing his remarks, General President Rigmalden turned to address longtime friends and family who were seated in the VIP Section.

Delegates hear ‘Business Update’ from McGarvey

IUPAT member and President of the North America’s Building Trades Unions Sean McGarvey provided delegates of the 31st General Convention a “Business Update” Tuesday afternoon on where the trades are at, and where they are going.

“The sun is just beginning to shine again,” he said, after referring to the recent economic Recession as being full of “a lot of carnage and a lot of damage.”

President McGarvey went on to explain how the Building Trades Unions will strive to generate membership and market share growth by highlighting the “value” they represent.

That value includes the safest and most productive workforce on the planet; the ability to marshal resources to help fast track projects before they even break ground; a 21st Century model of labor relations that leads to on time and on budget results.

President McGarvey then shifted to discuss the need for continued political action that focuses on supporting only the candidates who support issues important to the Building Trades Unions. He also stressed that they will hold the



Sean McGarvey
BCTD President

world,” adding that the existing system has the capacity to train hundreds of thousands of new workers to meet future demands.

And much of that demand is coming from the dramatic growth in construction tied to energy resources, President McGarvey said.

“This is already touching all regions of the country. The numbers are staggering.”

Sean McGarvey

And as he closed out his speech, McGarvey provided an optimistic view on the IUPAT goal of adding 30,000 members in the next five years, stating he thinks adding 50,000 members in five years would be possible.

He also closed with strong praise for both the IUPAT and the General President.

“My union is on the right track, led by the right man at the right time,” McGarvey said. “Growth is starting and expected to continue for the next 15 years by our estimates. I love my union and Kenny, I love you.”

candidates running for office accountable after they are elected to continue to stand up for Labor when in office.

When it comes to the training infrastructure, President McGarvey called the system the building trades have created to be “one of the greatest success stories in the history of the

Day 2 Resolutions

Here are the results of the resolutions presented by assorted committees on the second day of the IUPAT 31st General Convention. A page number is provided where you can find the full resolution on your Kindle tablet.

Resolution No. RC-8

(Page 93 of Kindle)
Boycott Staples in support of the American Postal Workers Union
✓ **PASSED**

Resolution No. GEB 5

(Page 7 of Kindle)
Amend Sections 60 and 62(b) of the Constitution
✓ **PASSED**

Resolution No. RC-7

(Page 92 of Kindle)
Comprehensive Immigration Reform
✓ **PASSED**

Resolution No. RC-6

(Page 91 of Kindle)
Economy that works for all
✓ **PASSED**

Resolution No. GEB 8

(Page 10 of Kindle)
Amend Sections 93 and 94 of the Constitution
✓ **PASSED**

Committee Reports

The following committees submitted reports to the delegates of the 31st General Convention:

- **General Secretary-Treasurer’s Committee Report**
- **Credentials Committee Report**
- **Laws and Constitution Committee Report**



General President’s Achievement Award – Job Corps
Congratulations to the members of District Council 5 (Seattle) winners of the General President’s Achievement Award - Job Corps

Trumka Continued

“We’re looking for leaders willing to fight for our values,” President Trumka said. “We don’t work for any candidates. We’ll work with anybody who is willing to work with us. We are looking for results, we don’t need excuses.”

And some of those leaders could be elected in November, which led to President Trumka’s, “Big Ask” – that everyone in the room focus on rallying energy and people for the upcoming election.

“Lead with me; work like you have never worked before,” he asked again in rising tones. “Be an example; the first to knock on doors. Lead by example and motivate volunteers.”



Before he finished his remarks, Trumka brought the crowd to its feet one more time, with an enthusiastic promise to do whatever it takes to win, so everyone has a chance to have a good paying job.

*“Keep fighting Brothers and Sisters!” he said.
“Keep fighting and God Bless you!”*

UNION SPORTSMEN'S ALLIANCE

DAILY DOOR PRIZE

Stop by the USA Booth (#3) and Enter to Win

Buck 110 50th Anniversary Folding Hunter Knife
\$73 Value

WEDNESDAY-1 WINNER

BUCK KNIVES

Otis Hardcore Hunter Cleaning System \$69.99 Value

SUNDAY TO TUESDAY - 1 WINNER DAILY

ONE UNION

PAT VETERANS PROGRAM ON TRACK FOR RAPID EXPANSION

With a majority of the delegates standing to illustrate a personal or family connection to military service, IUPAT General President Kenneth Rigmaiden offered appreciation and thanks on behalf of the entire union.

“Today, a proud union expresses our gratitude,” he said during Day 2 of the 31st General Convention. “But we do so mindful that no ceremony or parade, no hug or handshake is enough to truly honor that service.

“For that, we must do more.”

Doing more for the IUPAT this year has centered on the creation of the Painters and Allied Trades Veterans Program (PAT-VP).



The program involves a three-week immersion program into the industrial coating field that introduces men and women who are transitioning out of the military to a new career opportunity. In turn, IUPAT signatory contractors gain reliable new employees with a proven track record of hard work and dedication.

With a first class successfully completed at Joint Base Lois McCord outside Seattle and all participants employed, discussions are underway to expand the program to six additional U.S. military bases.

*“We are rapidly trying to ramp up this program because it is the right thing to do.”
General President Rigmaiden*

“The PAT-VP program has the mutual benefit of helping our district councils build relationships with the bases we have been kept off of for far too long,” he added. “Relationships that will enable us to start to organize some of the construction work that is going on behind the gates of our nation’s bases.”

Moving forward, greater focus will be placed on finding the needed funding, through grants and other alternative funding, to continue and expand the PAT-VP, so more soldiers have the opportunity to transition into careers in the Finishing Trades.

BOLD FUTURE

31ST GENERAL CONVENTION

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ONE UNION