

2009 CONVENTION UPDATE

Final Wrap Up – April 26



Day 3 Highlights

CAW President thanks OPSEU for solidarity

CAW National President Ken Lewenza was a surprise guest speaker on the final day of Convention. He spoke with conviction about the need for the labour movement to unite.

Lewenza thanked the OPSEU Executive Board for their hand in friendship and solidarity and was overwhelmed by the show of OPSEU support at a CAW Pension Rally on Thursday, April 23. Approximately 1,000 Convention attendees participated in the rally, joining CAW sisters and brothers and other labour activists at Queen's Park.

"This fight isn't just about auto workers," said Lewenza. "Thursday was the day the labour movement got its act together and walked in solidarity."

The purpose of the rally was to put pressure

on the Ontario government and to raise public awareness about pension protection. Rally participants demanded stronger pension



protections that would allow retirees to retire with dignity. The rally was organized on the heels of Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty's announcement that there may not be enough money in the province's pension guarantee fund for General Motors retirees, should the corporation go bankrupt. "Most pension plans in Ontario and across the country are in serious financial trouble," Lewenza said. "This is through no fault of their own."

It's not business as usual, Lewenza said. "Government is blaming workers, calling them overpaid and underworked. The labour movement must come together."

"CAW is fighting the fight for all of us and doing it admirably," said OPSEU President Warren (Smokey) Thomas.

Lewenza was in Toronto to support negotiations between the union and Chrysler LLC in reaching a tentative deal that may prevent the auto giant from filing for bankruptcy protection.



OPSEU members joined CAW and other union sisters and brothers at the CAW Pension Rally on April 23, 2009

Brought to you by the OPSEU In Solidarity Editorial Committee

Liquor Board Employee Division seeks member support

On Saturday, Liquor Board Employees Division (LBED) Division Chair Vanda Klumper addressed Convention 2009 attendees, asking for member support. The LBED division is bargaining their first fully OPSEU supported contract since merging with the union in 2005.

Another first for LBED is having a democratically-elected bargaining team. In prior rounds of bargaining, teams were appointed. Members are excited to see how real democratic bargaining is done.

The Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO), as a Crown Corporation, has enough money to provide good jobs within the communities they serve. However, the employer chooses to provide 60 per cent of LCBO employees with casual part-time jobs, jobs with no benefits and no security.

Klumper asked members to show their support to LBED bargaining by wearing campaign buttons and distributing “Booze Bucks” within their communities.

Campaign buttons read “Our communities need good jobs.” “Booze bucks” are paper-currency size campaign

coupons. They have no cash value. When paying for purchases at an LCBO store, include “Booze Bucks” when paying the cashier. This will send a clear message to the employer of community support for liquor board employees.

The “Booze Bucks” show the campaign logo. They also say “When working people do well, business does well” and “I support liquor board employees in their fight for good jobs in our community.”

To receive LBED campaign materials, contact OPSEUDirect at 1-800-268-7376.



Constitutional Amendments

Delegates turn down new executive board seats

A proposed constitutional amendment to add two additional positions to the Executive Board was defeated. These seats would have represented equity seeking groups, with one of the positions to be held by a female.

The Executive Board composition remains the same with three elected Executive Board Members from each of the seven regions within OPSEU.



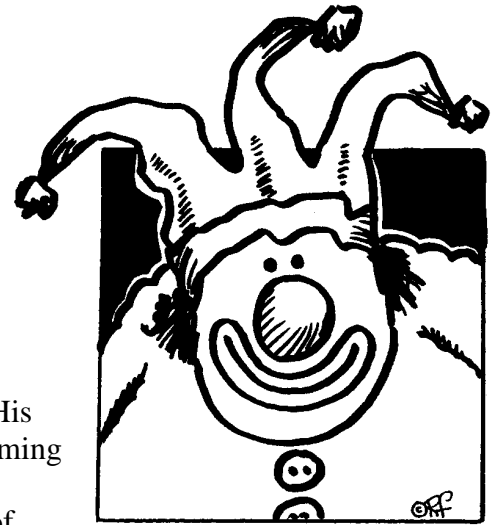
Executive Board Members per region remain at three

A constitutional amendment that would have allowed an additional regional representative in Region 5 was defeated. The rationale for the proposed change was “representation by population” as Region 5 has the largest number of members of any region in OPSEU. The change would have allowed for a fourth executive board member.

Supplementary dues during a strike remain unchanged

Delegates defeated a proposed change to the constitution that would repeal the requirement for emergency and essential service workers to pay supplementary dues during a strike.

National comedians entertain at second annual Comedy Night



OPSEU participants attended a night of comedy and laughter on Friday, April 24. OPSEU President Warren (Smokey) Thomas hosted the event. He introduced the first comedian, Elvira Kurt.

Kurt had everyone laughing about Smokey’s “enthusiastic” introduction. In her comedy routine, she shared with the audience the perfect, yet unconventional, cure for getting even with cell phone and text messaging addicts that rudely use their mobile devices while with company.

Joel Cohen was the second comedian of the evening. Cohen is the only Canadian writer for Fox Television hit series “The Simpsons”. He topped off his standup routine by sharing video clips from the TV show, showing the Simpsons family and their escapades in Canada. It showcased his brilliance in writing and why the cartoon is such a hit.

Steve Brinder was the last entertainer and is a master of “one-liners.” Brinder engaged members of the audience by making them a part

of his act. His exquisite timing and skillful execution of

slapstick humour showed why he has toured with the comedy industries best.

Convention newbie Sonia Cacciotti (Local 614) said, “I had no idea that OPSEU provided such first class entertainment at convention.”

Cheryl Flynn (Local 107), said, “Steve Brinder was awesome. I just had to come to comedy night when I heard he was coming back again.” This is Flynn’s eighth time at OPSEU’s Annual Convention.

The highlight of comedy night was when the Master of Ceremonies returned to the stage dressed up as “Smokey” the Bear.

Comedy night is a great way to unwind after a long day on the convention floor. This is the second year that convention has held this event, and it is sure to be around for a long time to come.

Who is here?	
Delegates	875
Alternates	468
Observers	214
Retirees	7
EBMs	21
Committees	38
Solidarity Guests	26
Guests	87
Total	1736

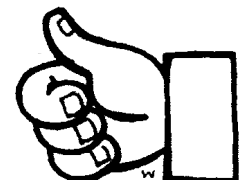
A special thanks extended to Sister Dafoe

The *In Solidarity* Committee extends a heartfelt “thank you” to Sue Dafoe, the new Bilingual Communications Officer at Head Office, for her assistance at this year’s convention.

Sister Dafoe assisted the team with invaluable support and advice prior to and during the 2009 OPSEU Annual Convention.

Without her, we would not have been able to produce the quality and timely daily publications that we have.

Thank you from all of us on the team.



OPSEU honours outgoing Executive Board Members

On the final day of Convention, participants gave a standing ovation to the seven outgoing Executive Board Members for the tireless and passionate work they have given to the union.

OPSEU President Warren (Smokey) Thomas said their work as individuals and as a collective deserves recognition. "Each of these outgoing Board Members has invaluable contributed to the union," Thomas said. "Each of them is a passionate and caring person who brought so much dedication to the table and so much value to their region. It is impossible to calculate the value and contribution they have brought to the union."

Those honoured are Mary Ing, Region 1, Jay Jackson, Region 2, Doris Middleton, Region 3, Bob Eaton, Region 4, David Rapaport, Region 5, Mandy Dumais, Region 6 and Brenda Clapp, Region 7.

Jackson said union work was personally rewarding, while conveying his gratitude to his Region 2 colleagues. Thomas praised Jackson's "enormous contribution to union building and staff training."

Thomas joked of the outgoing Region 3 EBM as being the only person brave enough to dance with him. Doris Middleton said her term on the Board "was a journey." She thanked her daughter and union members from Region 3 for their support.

"A 20-year love affair with the union" forced Bob Eaton, outgoing Region 4 EBM, to declare

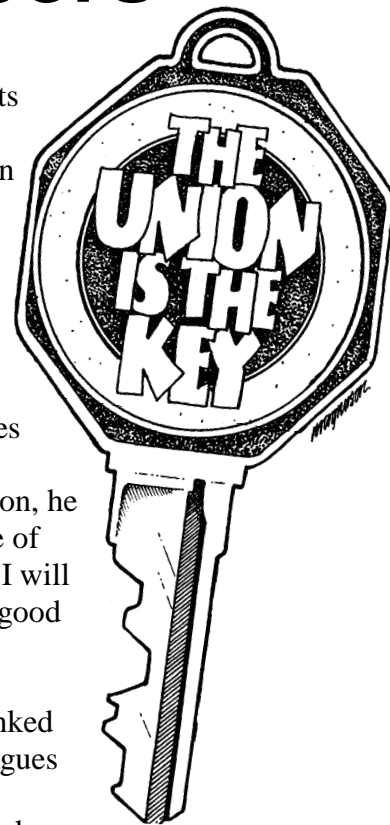
to the 1,733 strong convention participants that he enjoyed every minute of it. "It was an honour and a great privilege to be of service," said Eaton.

David Rapaport said his 25 years in the union have rewarded him ten times more in personal development. The union, he said, gave him a sense of control over his life. "I will miss OPSEU and the good people of Region 5," Rapaport said.

Brenda Clapp thanked and praised her colleagues in Region 7 for their friendship and helping her make her job more enjoyable.

Peter Wall accepted the plaque of appreciation for Mandy Dumais, Region 6, whom Smokey Thomas praised for her professionalism.

Mary Ing, Region 1, was not able to attend. The Sister was recognized for the invaluable work she has done for the union.



Brought to you by **IN SOLIDARITY**.

This is the sixteenth year that the Editorial Committee of **In Solidarity** has produced the daily updates. We will provide a record of Convention events and happenings.

Who we are: Karrie Ouchas, Local 340, Laurie Sabourin, Local 368, Edwin Mercurio, Local 526, Felicia Fahey, Local 681 and Jim Ziolkowski, Local 137. Ex-officio members are: James Tocker, Executive Board Liaison, and Don Ford, OPSEU Communications.