

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

## V.P. BIDEN TO AFSCME DELEGATES: 'WE OWE YOU'



Vice Pres. Joe Biden, responding Tuesday to attacks on public service workers by GOP Presidential candidate Mitt Romney and right-wing lawmakers, told delegates of AFSCME's 40th International Convention that they deserve unwavering respect for the work they do.

"You provide the safe neighborhoods, you provide the good schools, you provide the school lunches, you provide the day care centers, you provide the hospitals, you provide the roads, you provide the ability of people to live a decent middle-class life. We owe you."

AFSCME members have endorsed Pres. Barack Obama and Vice President Biden for re-election and will door-knock, phonebank and rally to get out the vote this fall.

Biden had sharp words for the right-wing's assault on working families. Those who want to undermine labor and reduce public services "don't get we're the most professional, disciplined and well-trained workers" in America.

Romney and his supporters are "insisting on keeping a \$4 billion-a-year tax cut for oil companies – a subsidy the oil companies say they don't need," Biden said. He pointed out that money could be used to double the amount of child care provided in the U.S.

He thanked AFSCME for speaking up for all working families. "You're not just in this fight because of your job. You're in this fight because you care about the families that live next door."

## PRESIDENT, SECRETARY-TREASURER NOMINATIONS

Convention delegates nominated candidates for the offices of AFSCME president and secretary-treasurer on Tuesday. The elections will occur on Thursday from 6-10 a.m. in Kentia Hall of the LACC. Listed in alphabetical order, they are:

### PRESIDENT

**CANDIDATE:** **Danny Donohue**, President, Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA)/AFSCME Local 1000 (New York) and IVP

**NOMINATED BY:** **Denise Berkley**, Statewide Secretary, CSEA/AFSCME Local 1000 (New York)

**SECONDED BY:** **Marv Vike**, President, Local 1077 (Wisconsin Council 40); **Mattie Harrell**, President, Local 2215 and Executive Director, New Jersey Council 71; **Eliot Seide**, Executive Director, Minnesota Council 5 and IVP

**CANDIDATE:** **Lee Saunders**, AFSCME Secretary-Treasurer

**NOMINATED BY:** **Al Garrett**, President, Michigan Council 25 and IVP

**SECONDED BY:** **Casey Karns**, Local 1050 (Pennsylvania Council 13); **Greg Powell**, Business Manager, Local 1624 (Texas) and IVP; **Chris Mabe**, President, OCSEA Local 11 (Ohio)

### SECRETARY-TREASURER

**CANDIDATE:** **Alice Goff**, President, California District Council 36

**NOMINATED BY:** **Ken Allen**, Executive Director, Oregon Council 75 and IVP

**SECONDED BY:** **Sandra Fox**, President, Local 2076 (California District Council 36); **Santos Crespo**, Executive Vice President, Local 372 (New York DC 37); **Roberta Lynch**, Deputy Director, Illinois Council 31 and IVP

**CANDIDATE:** **Laura Reyes**, President, UDW/Local 3930 (California) and IVP

**NOMINATED BY:** **Doug Moore, Jr.**, Executive Director, UDW Local 3930 (California) and IVP

**SECONDED BY:** **Carmen Flores**, Local 1549 (New York DC 37); **Gail Ennis**, President, Local 4034 (California United Homecare Workers); **Randy Perreira**, Executive Director, HGEA (Hawaii) and IVP

## AFSCME MEMBERS STAND TOGETHER, FIGHT BACK



This is the defining moment in American labor history, and AFSCME members must pull together and fight for our nation's public workers and working families, Sec.-Treas. Lee Saunders exhorted delegates in his keynote address Tuesday. The importance of that fight was echoed in a program later yesterday morning, highlighting

AFSCME's efforts to fight for collective bargaining, pensions, workers' rights, and pushing back against budget cuts in states nationwide.

"Everyone knows unions are the last wall against the flood of corporate influence in government," progressive talk radio and MSNBC host Ed Schultz said yesterday while emceeding the battleground program. "You must keep up the fight!"

In his keynote address, Saunders spoke of how public service employees across the country are struggling –

unable to find jobs and losing their homes to foreclosures, Saunders pointed out. But, "we are also mad as hell. And for AFSCME, that means we're taking action."

We're taking action from Ohio to Florida, from Hawaii to Puerto Rico, and racking up big victories along the way. Saunders spoke of the tireless work by Michigan's Council 25 members to put to a vote of the people a law that lets the governor handpick local dictators who can revoke collective bargaining. He spoke of Ohio, where members like corrections officer James Adkins worked for months to defeat Gov. John Kasich's disastrous Senate Bill 5 by a crushing 2-to-1 margin. He spoke of Connecticut, where Councils 4 and 15 members joined forces to fight privatization and layoffs, and elect pro-worker candidates to public office.

"We are not backing down in any state, city, or neighborhood," Saunders said. "Whether it was the Wisconsin uprising that set the tone for our fights across the country or the California home care workers of UDW and CUHW standing up for the elderly and disabled: We don't back down."

(see back page)

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Sector Caucuses:

#### Turning the Tide in 2012

6:45 a.m. Light Breakfast

7 – 9:15 a.m.

Level 2 Meeting Rooms

### Booths

#### 8 a.m. – one hour upon recess

South Lobby, LACC –

Lobby Information Booth (scooters),

Affiliate Booths &

Pin Trading Post

#### 8 a.m. – one hour upon recess

LACC, Hall G, – Main Information

Booth, AFSCME Action Center,

AFSCME Advantage, PEOPLE,

PEOPLE Kiosk & Wellness

### Convention Reconvenes

9:30 a.m. LACC, Hall H/J

Presidential Debate

Secretary-Treasurer Debate

Rally

Immediately following adjournment–

3:30 p.m.

MacArthur Park

## RESOLUTIONS

Delegates on Tuesday approved a number of resolutions, including: (75) Bring Jobs Home, (11) Affordable Prescription Drugs, (26) Support All Our Veterans, (4) Invest in Jobs, (9) State and Local Finances, (17) Support Main Street and Buy American, (74) Protecting the Social and Economic Safety Net, (76) Economic Inequality and the 99 Percent, (51) The Affordable Care Act, (31) Minimum Wage and Overtime Protections for Home Care Workers, (60) Community Living Assistance Services, (63) Paid Parental Leave, (70) Paid Sick Days/Healthy Family Act.



Merion Jones, Local 215 (New York DC 1707), cheers during Tuesday's Convention proceedings. To check out more photos from AFSCME's 40th International Convention, head to [afscme.org/convention](http://afscme.org/convention).

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Schultz, the host of MSNBC's *The Ed Show* introduced five AFSCME members who aren't backing down.

Dean Farmer, a custodian in Londonderry, N.H., and president of Local 1801 (Council 93), said his union and community supporters stopped the Legislature from passing a right-to-work-for-less bill.

"This same fight is being waged in many, many states where workers remain in solidarity and are fighting back."

Neil Lake, president of the State of Nevada Employees Association/AFSCME Local 4041, talked about politicians who are "cutting services in Kansas, New Jersey, Michigan, Tennessee, Texas and his own home state of Nevada where "budget choices are being made that don't line up with our values."

"We're standing up for retirement security for all," said Delores Bresette, a retiree from Rhode Island and a member of Retiree Chapter 94. "I worked for the state and paid into the retirement system for 37 years. But the state broke its contract and took away the cost of living adjustment for us retirees. We're fighting their lies and setting the record straight."

Dawn Tyson, president of Local 538 (Council 4) pointed out the support of the community, elected leaders, the Central Labor Council and the Citizen Action Network

in stopping the mayor of New Haven, Conn., from privatizing school custodial services and gutting workers' benefits. "We fought back by electing 14 union-endorsed candidates in the alderman race," she said.

Gerald "Rocky" Jolly from Ohio (OCSEA) described how, through the AFSCME Faces and Voices Training, members have become powerful messengers across the country, using innovative and creative ways to communicate to the public. "We have the power," he added. "They will never knock us out."

Organizing wins in the past two years are a testament to our determined fight, Saunders said, as more than 50,000 workers are now a part of the Green Machine in Maryland, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Washington, Illinois, California, Georgia, Tennessee, Texas and Utah.

And in the months ahead, AFSCME members must work to re-elect Pres. Barack Obama and Vice Pres. Joe Biden, Saunders said, because they are "the only choice for the working families of this great nation."



## ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

Delegates on Thursday will elect the next AFSCME president, secretary-treasurer, and international vice presidents (IVPs) from each AFSCME legislative district.

Voting, administered by the American Arbitration Association, is from 6-10 a.m. in Kentia Hall of the LACC.

To vote, delegates must show photo IDs and Convention badges. They receive paper ballots that are scanned electronically to make the election results available more quickly.

**If any runoffs are necessary, they occur Friday 6-9 a.m. in Kentia Hall of the LACC.**

Any delegate wishing to withdraw his or her name from a Voter Authorization Form must make his or her intentions known by noon today, in writing and submitted in person by the delegate to the Elections Committee in Room 405. No revocations will be accepted after that time.

An individual's revocation affects only the voting share of that person. The rest of the bloc will remain intact.

## TURNING THE TIDE IN 2012

Talk to other members who do the same work as you. Attend one of the 21 sector caucuses happening today from 7 - 9:15 a.m. A light breakfast begins at 6:45 a.m. No need to register. En las asambleas marcados con asterisco (\*), se ofrecerá traducción en español. (Spanish translation will be offered.)

Administration/Finance.....	<b>Room 303 AB</b>
Child Support.....	<b>Room 304 C</b>
Child Welfare.....	<b>Room 306 AB</b>
Corrections.....	<b>Room 518</b>
Correcciones*.....	<b>Sala 518</b>
Early Childhood Education.....	<b>Room 304 AB</b>
Emergency Services.....	<b>Room 308 AB</b>
Employment & Vocational Services.....	<b>Room 402 AB</b>
Servicios de Empleo y Vocacionales*.....	<b>Sala 402 AB</b>
Environmental Protection and Parks.....	<b>Room 503</b>
Higher Education.....	<b>Room 502 A</b>
Home Health/Home Care.....	<b>Room 406 A</b>
Salud Doméstica/Cuido de en El Hogar....	<b>*Sala 406 A</b>
Hospital-Based Acute Care.....	<b>Room 406 B</b>
Housing.....	<b>Room 404 AB</b>
K-12 Education.....	<b>Room 408 A</b>
Libraries & Other Cultural Institutions.....	<b>Room 502 B</b>
Bibliotecas y Otras	
Instituciones Culturales*.....	<b>Sala 502 B</b>
Long-Term Care.....	<b>Room 410</b>
Outpatient Services.....	<b>Room 501 A</b>
Probation & Parole.....	<b>Room 511 C</b>
Public Assistance.....	<b>Room 501 BC</b>
Asistencia Pública*.....	<b>Sala 501 BC</b>
Public Works.....	<b>Room 409 B</b>
Sworn Law Enforcement.....	<b>Room 409 A</b>
Transportation.....	<b>Room 408 B</b>
Transportes*.....	<b>Sala 408 B</b>

## CHECK YOUR HEART



Check your blood pressure today in Hall G of the LACC courtesy of AFSCME/United Nurses of America (UNA). The booth is closed during General Session. It opens today at 6 a.m. and runs to the beginning of the session and then one hour after the session closes.

## AFSCME RETIREES



The AFSCME Retiree Council held its annual meeting Saturday and Sunday prior to the Convention. Attendees focused on the fight to protect public workers' pensions and benefits. The Retiree Council held elections and elected the following officers: Chairman Gary Tavormina, New York Retiree Chapter 82; Vice-Chair Phyllis Zamarripa, Colorado Retiree Chapter 76; Secretary Jim Moore, North Carolina Retiree Subchapter 165.

### RALLY TODAY!

At the close of Convention business today we will head to MacArthur Park to join our California sisters and brothers who are fighting cuts to public services statewide and launching negotiations with the University of California System. Be prepared to rally when the session ends. **Leave your personal items in your hotel room.** At the end of the session, buses will leave from the Pico Drive entrance to the rally site at MacArthur Park. AFSCME T-shirts will be distributed to all delegates and alternates **today from 7-9:30 a.m. at the registration booths.**

### CONSTITUENCY GROUP CAUCUSES

Constituency Caucuses will convene Thursday upon recess of General Session in the LACC.

African American.....	<b>Room 501 ABC</b>
Asian/Pacific Islander.....	<b>Room 409 AB</b>
Conservatives in AFSCME.....	<b>Room 407</b>
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender.....	<b>Room 510</b>
Green.....	<b>Room 402 AB</b>
Latino.....	<b>Room 404 AB</b>
Next Wave.....	<b>Room 406 AB</b>

## VOLUNTEER MEMBER ORGANIZER BOOTH

The VMO booth is recruiting dedicated, active AFSCME members to participate in a five-day VMO training on targeted organizing campaigns. Members team with an experienced organizer to apply the skills learned in the classroom out in the field. They learn how to move workers to action through one-on-one communication. Ten affiliates have also agreed to sponsor VMOs. Members who stop by the booth can get their picture taken as a superhero VMO and can also participate in our daily drawing. Today's daily winner is **Ronald Cook, Jr. of Local 371 (New York DC 37).**



### POWER TO THE PEOPLE: FIGHT ON!

Show the 1 percent that the 99 percent have PEOPLE power. Wear your AFSCME PEOPLE T-shirt tomorrow and celebrate with us!

