

Convention News

POWER
To Win

**17th Biennial Ohio Council 8 Convention
Dayton, Ohio September 20-23, 2007**

September 22, 2007

Today's Activities:

7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Election of Regional Vice Presidents, Room 306

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Activist Awards Breakfast Room 103

10:00 a.m. - Call to Order

Remarks – The Honorable Ted Strickland, Governor, State of Ohio

Video – “Child Care Providers, a Labor of Love”

Partial Report of the Resolutions Committee

Remarks – Ohio AFL-CIO President Joseph Rugola

Remarks – AFSCME International President Gerald McEntee

OPERS Award – Charlie Adkins

Video – “In the Public Service”

Panel Discussion

Remarks – The Ohio State Treasurer, Richard Cordray

Volunteer Member Organizers

Election Results

Recess

6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. PEOPLE Extravaganza Room 102

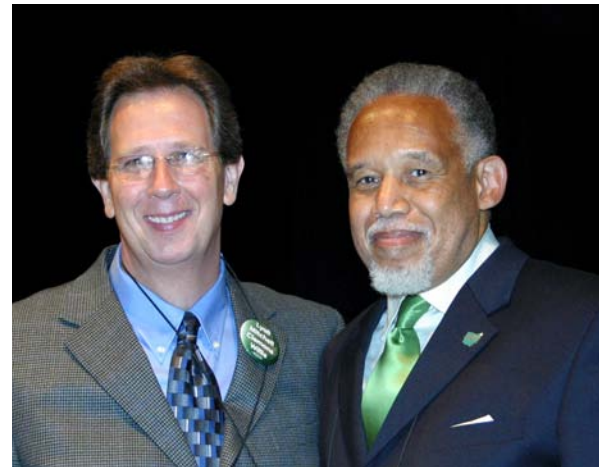
Lyall, Mitchell, Willis, and Clemons Elected

By unanimous consent, the 17th Biennial Ohio Council 8 Convention elected John A. Lyall the union's fifth President.

The Convention also unanimously elected Harold Mitchell First Vice President, Cenia Willis as Recording Secretary, and Eric Clemons as Secretary Treasurer.

“I thank you for all of your support. And I pledge to you, that working together, we will move this union forward,” Lyall said.

In a demonstration of respect and solidarity, the union's entire executive board left the stage together and stood at the microphone to nominate Lyall, Mitchell,



President John Lyall and First Vice President Harold Mitchell

Willis, and Clemons.

Elections for Regional Vice President will take place in the Toledo, Athens, and Cincinnati regions. Balloting will take place on Saturday, September 22, with a run-off if necessary, scheduled for Sunday, the convention's final day.

Kucinich Rocks the House

Ohio congressman and U.S. presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich rocked the house with a message of hope and determination.

“A lot of politicians call themselves a friend of labor, but Dennis Kucinich has proven himself a true friend of labor and working families again and again throughout his career,”

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Congressman and presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich, center, and Ohio Council 8's table officers.

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Your PEOPLE dollars are the muscle that moves AFSCME's political agenda forward and elects people who stand up for Ohio and the nation.



Ohio Senate Minority Leader Teresa Fedor, third from left, escorted by Toledo delegates.



Ohio House Minority Leader Joyce Beatty, center, and her escort committee.

Kucinich Continued

said First Vice President Harold Mitchell.

"Today, 47 million Americans are without health insurance. And for the rest of us premiums and copays keep going up. I am for universal health care because we are already paying for it, but we are not receiving it," Kucinich said.

"We all know how private insurers make money — they make money by not providing health care, they make money by telling the doctors don't give that test, don't perform that surgery.

"What kind of a system do we have here? It's upside down," he said.



Congressman Dennis Kucinich, center, escorted by a committee of delegates.

Workshops Build Skills

Akron City Local 1360 member Melwyn Hopson, and Stark Area Regional Transit Authority Local 1880 member Brenda Berardelli were among many delegates who sharpened their skills at convention workshops.

"We have real issues over health care benefits with our employer," Berardelli said. "It pays to take a real close look at our benefits and make sure everyone is paying their fair share for them."

According to Hopson, it's important for everyone to educate themselves and their co-workers. "This workshop gave us good information we can take back to our local union," Hopson said.



Local 1360 member Melwyn Hopson, left, and Local 1880 member Brenda Berardelli.