

The Importance Of Affiliation

One of the agenda items during a recent AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer's conference was a report on the success of the Solidarity Affiliation Campaign that was initiated by the AFL-CIO Executive Council in early 2006. The goal of the campaign was to increase the affiliation levels of local unions with both their State Federations and Central Labor Councils.

Of the fifty-four affiliates in the AFL-CIO, the I.A.T.S.E. was ranked second in terms of the percentage of total members that our local unions had affiliated with the various State Federations. The final percentages of affiliated members at the Central Labor Council level have not yet been made available, but I have no doubt that I.A.T.S.E. local unions will once again be leading the way when those numbers are released.

When the campaign first began, President Short assigned International Representative Dan Mahoney to act as a liaison between the AFL-CIO, the office of the General Secretary-Treasurer and our local unions with the goal of achieving one hundred percent affiliation.

Article Nineteen, Section 22 of the International Constitution and Bylaws mandates that all local unions, with the exception of Special Department local unions, "shall secure and maintain affiliation with their respective State, Provincial and Central Labor bodies of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations or the Canadian Labour Congress". Based on our initial review of the affiliation rates at the launch of the campaign, most of our local unions were already aware of their constitutional obligations and were affiliated. However, some local unions were not affiliated with one or more of the required bodies and rectified the situation once the International contacted them.

Being in compliance with the International Constitution and Bylaws is of course a very good thing, but affiliation with these bodies also makes a positive impact on the lives of our members and their communities. Affiliation at the State, Provincial and Central Labor Council level is an extremely effective way to build influence in the communities in which our members live and work. These bodies bring different unions together to assist each other with job actions, participate in political and working family issue campaigns, lead lobbying efforts with local and State/Provincial governments, and finally, they often coordinate assistance campaigns in communities in times of crisis.

While affiliation is an important first step, it is only when the affiliates become active that State, Provincial and Central Labor bodies can be truly effective. Many of these bodies will be holding important summer meetings over the next couple of months and I encourage you to attend.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

With the 66th Quadrennial Convention only slightly more than a year away we are beginning to receive inquiries as to the dates. The convention itself will run from Monday July 27, 2009 to Friday July 31, 2009 with District meetings taking place the weekend prior and the mid-summer meeting of the General Executive Board taking place from Monday July 20, 2009 to Friday July 24, 2009. The convention property is the Walt Disney World Dolphin Hotel in Orlando, Florida.

QUARTERLY REPORTS

As a reminder to all local union Secretaries, Article Nineteen, Section 7 of the International Constitution and Bylaws mandates that Quarterly Reports are due no later than thirty (30) days following the end of each quarter. Therefore, the 1st Quarter Report for 2008 was due no later than April 30th and the 2nd Quarter Report for 2008 will be due no later than July 30th.