

UNW 17th Triennial Convention Information for Delegates Delegate Series #3: THE CONVENTION DELEGATE



The responsibility of being a delegate to Convention is not to be taken lightly. It is an important task, requiring conscientious men and women who are concerned about their fellow members, and who are willing to participate in – and contribute to – Convention business. Experience, although helpful, is not necessary. Mental flexibility and open-mindedness is more important. Pre-conceived ideas or rigid attitudes are of little value to an organisation which is meeting the challenges and demands of a rapidly changing environment.

Delegates should be able to sensibly weigh facts and arguments before arriving at judgements that are reasonable and fair. A commitment to the principles and ideals of authentic unionism, of course, is a must if the union is to assume a progressive role in the development and betterment of our Northern society.

UNW By-Law 14, Section 1:
“the supreme governing body of the union is convention,”
and it “...shall establish the general policies of the union.”

Convention Rules of Order

General familiarity with Parliamentary procedure is an asset. But a good convention chairperson, working with a set of streamlined rules of order, can minimize any confusion that might arise.

One of the first and most important decisions delegates are asked to make is the adoption of *Convention Rules of Order*. Make sure you read the proposed *Rules of Order* before they are voted on at the opening of the Convention. Ask yourself, are they fair? Will they fairly meet the needs of all the delegates when you are doing Convention business? Will they help you to get business done?
(Note: The proposed Rules will be forwarded to delegates well in advance of the Convention opening date).

Delegate status is not a reward for past services or because a person has status in the Local or Region. There are special memberships for these purposes. **All delegates have the same responsibilities, duties and powers**, even though some (like committee chair people) may have special roles to play. Everyone should be prepared to enter the debate on any matter which concerns them. It is your duty as a delegate, and as a representative of the members of your region to **participate in a responsible way in the business of convention**.

Things Have Changed?

It's not unusual for a delegate to discover that he or she is unable to attend Convention. Your Local will have elected alternate delegates. If you can't attend Convention, make sure to pass on all the convention material you have received to your alternate!



The next issue in this series will be entitled “THE CONVENTION BUSINESS”.