



NABET CWA News

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCAST EMPLOYEES & TECHNICIANS THE BROADCASTING AND CABLE TELEVISION WORKERS SECTOR OF THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA

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NABET-CWA Sector Conference and CWA Convention Set to Begin

On July 25, 2019, the quadrennial NABET-CWA Sector Conference will convene at the Westgate Hotel Conference Center in Las Vegas, NV. There are many events and important matters of union business to be decided on over the ensuing three days, leading into the 77th CWA Convention. Important times, dates, and locations are described below.

Delegates to the NABET-CWA Sector Conference will arrive July 24 for registration, a brief orientation meeting, and a welcome dinner hosted by NABET-CWA. Thursday morning will also see a brief, hour-long delegate registration beginning at 9:00 a.m. Immediately following the close of delegate registration, the Sector Conference will begin for the day. Friday will see a full day of conference activity. During the Thursday and Friday sessions, delegates will consider and vote on proposed amendments to the Sector By-Laws, as well as propose and hear resolutions for consideration by the Conference. Delegates will also hear from a number of speakers, and be offered the chance to view a number of presentations intended to help them in their day-to-day work.

An integral part of the conference is the NABET-CWA By-Laws Committee and the NABET-CWA Resolutions Committee. The By-Laws Committee will be chaired by Richard Gelber (Local 16); also serving on the committee are Joe Ayala (Local 53), Jeff Necko (Local 47), Kevin Gallo (Local 53), and Samantha Miller (Local 14).

The SEC Advisor will be RVP-2 Roy Schrodt. The Resolutions Committee will be chaired by Ken Kosick (Local 42); other seated members include Dave Dicola (Local 28), Bantu Opiotennione (Local 31), and Myra Cates (Local 44). The SEC Advisor for this committee is RVP-5 Cheryl Bacon.

Moving into Saturday, the conference will conduct the Installation of Sector President and Sector Vice President at 10:00 a.m. At 2:00 p.m., Region 2 and Region 6 will hold a joint Regional Advisory Board meeting. Finally, at 4:00 p.m., the conference will host an Aptify training customized for NABET-CWA locals.

Upon the conclusion of the NABET-CWA conference, registration begins for delegates to the CWA's 77th Convention. Sunday will offer registration, additional Aptify training, a steward training presentation, and CWA district meetings. An additional abbreviated registration will be held Monday, followed by the formal convening of the CWA Convention. The CWA Convention is the highest governing authority in the union; delegates have the power to establish policies, interpret and amend the constitution, rule on appeals, and elect and install officers. Nominations will be held for CWA President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Executive Board members, with voting on the positions to be held subsequent to the nominations. After all official business has concluded, the CWA's 77th Convention will adjourn Wednesday, August 1st. ❖



NABET-CWA Mourns Loss of Beloved Union Leader Fred Saburro

On Friday, May 9th, 2019, NABET-CWA lost one of its most beloved and influential figures, Federico “Freddie” Saburro, at the age of 92. Freddie passed away comfortably, surrounded by his family whom he loved and cherished.

The 13th child born to Federico and Filomena Rosamina Saburro on February 13, 1927, Saburro would often say that he was the luckiest man alive. A veteran, Saburro enlisted with friends and fellow teammates from his local baseball team in 1945. Freddie would go on to marry the love of his life, Ida May, with whom he had ten children. His family—children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and all other members of his growing extended family—were truly what Freddie lived for.

Additionally, Saburro loved the New York Yankees, the New York Giants, reading the sports pages, playing golf on sunny days with his friends in Canali’s Golf League, poker nights, Turning Stone Casino, Atlantic City, Las Vegas, and Sunday dinner. He was a Northside Little League Coach for his sons, initiator of the PE Program at St. Anthony’s School, and perhaps the most audible fan at his grandkids’ sporting events.

Saburro’s love for and devotion to the Union was unwavering and unquestioned. NABET-CWA President Charlie Braico referred to Saburro as the “Godfather of NABET” and to NABET-CWA as “Freddie’s Union.” Braico added, “Freddie was a totally devoted leader, an extremely loyal friend and a true gentleman. His imprint on each of us, and his impact on our Union, will be missed in a profound way, but we will never forget him.”

First joining the union in 1952, Saburro was a tireless champion of NABET Local 21. He served as a camera operator, crew chief, lighting director and jack-of-all-trades behind the scenes at WRGB—the first television station in the nation. He served as shop steward, vice president, and then president of the local for 25 years. He was subsequently elected Vice President of Region 2 and proceeded to serve 14 consecutive terms before retiring at the age of 90. He was among the longest tenured members of the Union upon his retirement.

Braico delivered a eulogy at the funeral service for Saburro, recalling another nickname that stated the true impact



Freddie was never shy with showing his union pride.

of Saburro’s tenure. “Freddie was so highly respected by the 20 or so locals in his region that he could produce a unanimous block vote of those locals – on virtually any issue. They respected his leadership so much that under his direction, they would vote as one unit – one very powerful force. Anybody seeking national office in the union had to have Freddie’s support – or they didn’t stand a chance. Hence the nickname – ‘The King Maker.’”

“Freddie’s life was truly a life well-lived. We all have special memories of Freddie, and dozens of funny stories from our time with him. Focusing on those memories and stories will help each of us through this very sad period,” added Braico.

In lieu of flowers or other offerings, Saburro’s family requested that donations be made to the NABET-CWA Scholarship Fund. To date, donations have totaled approximately \$7,000; after decades of dutiful service to the Union, Freddie continues to make an impact even after his passing.

It is with great regret and sympathy that we say goodbye to Freddie Saburro. An example of what every man and woman should aspire to be, both personally and professionally, Freddie has left an indelible mark on us all, and will never be forgotten. ❖

Sector President Braico, Vice President Marinaro Re-elected by Acclamation; Raza Siddiqui Elected Vice President for Region 4



Sector Vice President Louis Marinaro and President Charlie Braico.



Left to Right: Sector President Charlie Braico administers the oath of office to RVP 4 Raza Siddiqui, RVP 3 James "Carl" Mayers, RVP 5 Cheryl Bacon and RVP 6 Gil Maestas.

Ahead of the upcoming NABET-CWA Sector Conference, Sector President Charlie Braico and Sector Vice President Louis Marinaro were re-elected to their positions by order of acclamation. Sector President Braico was the only candidate for the sector president position to receive a valid nominating petition, leading to his re-election. Vice President Louis Marinaro ran unopposed for the office of vice president, leading to his re-election.

Braico was first elected to the position of sector president during the 2015 NABET-CWA Sector Conference. Braico had previously served as NABET-CWA Sector Vice President since 2010, as a regional vice president, and in numerous positions at his local union, NABET-CWA Local 41 – Chicago, IL. At the same 2015 sector conference, Lou Marinaro was elected by delegates to serve as the sector vice president. Prior to being elected to the position of sector vice

president, Marinaro served in a variety of positions, including his current position as local union President at NABET-CWA Local 11 – New York, NY.

In accordance with the NABET-CWA Sector By-Laws and Rules, the deadline for nominating petitions was June 21, 2019. Braico and Marinaro will serve four-year terms in their respective positions.

Both Braico and Marinaro look forward to continuing their service to NABET-CWA and all its members, and guiding the union through a challenging and tumultuous national political environment. NABET-CWA looks forward to their continued leadership and congratulates them on their re-election.

Additionally, in a closely contested election, Raza Siddiqui, Vice President – Local 41, Chicago, prevailed over Chris Willadsen, President, Local 41 – Chicago, to become the next Regional Vice President for NABET-CWA Region 4 (RVP-4). Don Farnham, Jr., had previously served three terms as RVP-4, beginning in 2010. Brother Farnham chose not to run for reelection to the position.

Siddiqui began his term on the Sector Executive Council on July 1, 2019. Siddiqui has expressed an excitement and eagerness to begin serving in his new capacity as RVP-4, and believes his years of experience in advocating for greater member involvement, particularly among younger members, will serve the union well.

“One of the things I most hope to accomplish is to get the younger members involved,” noted Siddiqui. “I’ve helped institute a ‘Next Generation’ training program at that encourages involvement from younger members and gets them involved in being labor leaders, and I’m talking with the Sector about expanding that program. If younger members want to become involved in the union, they need to know they have a voice, a platform, and how to use them. Some of the younger members want to make change, and we need to harness that.”

NABET-CWA congratulates Brother Siddiqui on his victory and looks forward to his service in his new role on the Sector Executive Council. ♦

Funding Our Fight for the Future

One of the most important initiatives at CWA's 77th Convention is a proposal to change the structure and funding streams for major CWA long-term projects that build power for the union. The CWA Executive Board fully supports and endorses this proposal.

The proposed resolution re-balances the funding stream for Strategic Industry Funds (SIFs) and Growth Fund projects and fully affiliates CWA members with the AFL-CIO, its state federations, and with the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). The resolution is designed not only to help CWA better fight for our future, but also to alleviate some of the staffing pressures created by declining membership and revenue. Specific elements of the resolution are as follows:

- Current income directed to the SIFs and all investment earnings from the Members Relief Fund shall be combined.
- From these combined funds, CWA shall make 100% of the national and state per capita payments to the AFL-CIO and the Canadian Labour Congress on behalf of CWA and its locals.
- Following the payment of AFL-CIO and Canadian Labour Congress per capita payments, CWA shall assign 50% of the remaining funds to the SIF silos and 50% of these funds to the Growth Fund.
- The Defense Fund Oversight Committee will continue to monitor SIF and Growth projects and spending within the current rules, and to enforce the existing "floor" of MRF reserves.

- A new "soft" floor will also be established. If the MRF falls below \$400 million, then 50% of MRF earnings would be directed to the MRF until the MRF balance exceeded \$400 million.

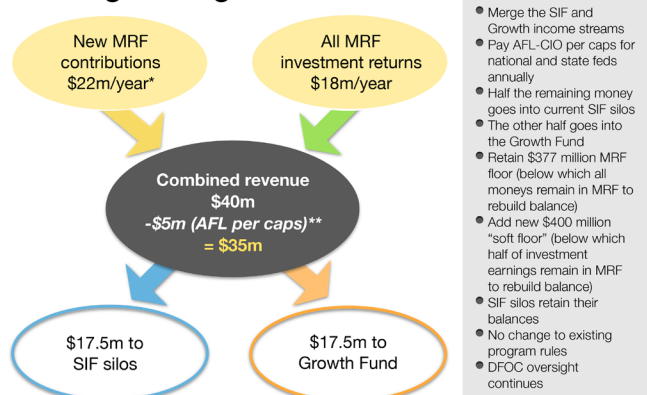
To survive, we must grow power for CWA and our members. The SIF and Growth Fund allow us to fund the long-term projects that build that power. SIF resources are industry-based. The Growth Fund supports efforts that look beyond traditional industry or geographic boundaries. Through the Growth Fund, we can hire staff to support strategic projects and provide support for multiple SIF projects. Developing this expertise can also help us reduce CWA's dependence on outside vendors called in on a project-by-project basis.

Additionally, fully affiliating with the AFL-CIO will greatly increase CWA's strength inside the labor movement, both nationally and in key states. Through its National Affiliation Fee Program, the AFL-CIO offers a 20% discount to unions that pay in full to affiliate members to their state feds. With full affiliation, locals will be better able to impact state fed programs. Locals that currently pay State Federation per capita will be relieved of this expense and can reallocate funds to other purposes.

This proposed resolution is a tremendous opportunity for CWA to secure long-term stability for the union and to reestablish a road back to prosperity. Though the changes may seem intimidating, they are essential to cementing CWA's position at the forefront of the labor movement. For more information, see the included chart and visit <https://cwa-union.org>. ♦

Proposal to 2019 CWA Convention:

Funding Our Fight for the Future



*Estimate of typical year based on 2019 membership & average investment earnings since 2012
 **Saves \$2 million from CWA General Fund, allowing us to hire staff, and provides local budget relief by covering an estimated \$3 million in state fed affiliation costs



Current

- 1/4 hour contribution goes to SIF
- 50% of MRF investment returns go into the Growth Fund

- CWA General Fund pays national AFL-CIO per capita (\$2 million)
- Locals pay per caps to state feds (full local affiliation costs @ \$3 million)

- MRF floor: If balance drops below \$377 million, all contributions and earnings stay in MRF

- Member contributions directed to SIF "industry" silos
- Unspent silo balances carry forward

- DFOC oversees programs / spending

Proposed

- Combine SIF 1/4-hour and 100% of MRF investment returns

- National & state fed per caps paid from SIF/GF income stream
- Frees up \$2 million in CWA General Fund to hire staff, and frees local funds currently paid as state fed per caps

- \$377 million MRF floor remains in place
- New "soft floor": If balance drops below \$400 million, 50% of earnings stay in MRF

- Member contributions directed to SIF "industry" silos
- Unspent silo balances carry forward

- DFOC oversees programs / spending