

Report from 37th UAW Constitutional Convention

The UAW holds a Constitutional Convention every 4 years. This is the first time that we have sent a representative from our JACK Gaming Unit. We sent 2, Dave Waslavek and myself. Sean Yeats went as an alternate. This is the first time that any of us has attended.

The Convention consisted of multiple resolutions stating the views of the UAW. Proposals put forth, debated and then voted upon. For instance, they brought up "Fair Trade" as opposed to 'Free Trade' that we generally hear about. Advocating for wage consideration in the other nations on these treaties. As you would expect, the resolution passed by a wide margin.

Along a similar format, changes to the constitution were proposed and then voted upon. Some were administrative in nature, updating dates. Some were closer to housekeeping, agreeing to pay rates of International employees. The most contentious of the constitution changes was the dues increase passed at the last convention in 2014. The dues were raised from 2 hours per month to 2 and a half hours of dues per month to resupply the strike and defense fund. (We went from \$37 to \$42.50 per month.) The rules stated that the issue must be taken up again at this convention. A compromise was reached – the dues increase will remain in place until the fund reaches 850 million, at that time, we will revert back to 2 hours per month. Should the fund fall below 650 million, we would revert back to 2.5 hours per month. It was estimated that the fund should reach 850 million in 2020. (The fund increased by 42 – 46 million annually and was at 721 million at year end 2017. Up from a low of 590 million at year end 2014.)

I voted against the dues amendment. It is not a bad compromise, but I wanted the opportunity to vote the dues permanently back to 2 hours. We were loud and got from a voice vote to a show of hands. But the hands clearly showed that we were in the minority and a roll call vote was unnecessary.

Like I said, it wasn't a terrible compromise and we will benefit from a well-stocked strike fund when we negotiate with Management.

We elected leaders for the International. There were a number of retirements, so the International Executive Board (IEB) has a number of new faces. Gary Jones replaces retiring Dennis Williams. There was some token opposition but not enough to even claim 2% of the votes. Dave Wazlavek remembers Gary Jones from the organizing of the Flamingo Casino and has good things to say about him.

We also re-elected Region 2B Director Rich Rankin, unopposed, to a full 4-year term. Rich is a great guy and I am very comfortable saying that we have an ally as the Director.

My takeaway is that we should push for more representation for gaming on the IEB in the next 4 years leading up to the 38th Constitutional Convention.

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