MaryBe McMillan electrifies convention

She was the first speaker of the day and boy, did she kick things off with a bang! North Carolina AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer MaryBe McMillan delivered an impassioned speech about the future of the labor movement, bringing delegates to their feet with her encouraging words of advice. McMillan spoke compellingly about how the anti-labor movement in the south has become a bellweather for the nation. But, she offered hope by saying "Victory is possible," if we work together, get creative and expect more from ourselves and the entire labor movement.

"This is the movement that will challenge inequality and bring justice to everyone. We can build that movement. We will change the nation!" — MaryBe McMillan
Hilary Shelton: NAACP stands with OPEIU to fight inequality in the workplace

NAACP Washington Bureau Director and Senior Vice President for Advocacy and Policy Hilary Shelton eloquently illustrated the parallels between the civil rights movement and the fight for workplace equality — noting that workplace equality is a civil rights issue. Shelton also made it clear that voting pro-labor candidates into office is the key to that equality. "You can't make the changes, you can't fix the problem, you can't make America live up to its constitutional promises if you can't deliver the vote." A standing ovation made it clear everyone agreed.

"We have to increase the minimum wage to a living wage."
— Hilary Shelton

OPEIU workshops: Important training to help us be better prepared to organize!
Tonight!

We'll have a ball!
The Kingdom awaits

Join us at Disney's Magic Kingdom
4 p.m. - park close

But be warned — if you stay until midnight, you just might turn into a pumpkin! Remember you want to be bright-eyed and bushy-tailed tomorrow morning to enjoy the always entertaining and politically insightful CNN commentator Van Jones.

OPEIU's Rising Stars shine!
Millennial activists represent the future of the labor movement

Corinne Cosentino (Local 8), Dominique Prince (Local 393) and Carolina Aceves (Local 30), representing the next generation of OPEIU leaders and activists, spoke eloquently about how important it is to attract and enlist millennials in the fight for workers' rights. Prince — a newlywed and expectant father — explained that despite recently being laid-off, he continues to work as a volunteer organizer because he recognizes that a strong labor movement is the key to protecting his family's future. Truly inspirational messages from three young people, who are proving that age is just a number.

OPEIU is listening, and has outlined a plan of action to give young OPEIU activists the tools they need to succeed and become tomorrow's leaders.
A cast of thousands! More than 70,000 Cast Members in Central Florida, to be more precise. That’s how many people it takes to create the magic at the Vacation Kingdom. Walt Disney World Resort is the largest single-site employer in the United States, with more than 45,000 people covered by a union contract!

Thea Lee explains economic impact of workplace inequality

AFL-CIO Deputy Chief of Staff Thea Lee gave delegates an economic perspective on workplace inequality and the very real impact it has on family earnings, retirement and our nation’s economy. She also pointed out that while the 1% may have most of the money, the rest of us have most of the people power — by working together, we can affect real change!

"We have critical mass to make big change."
— Thea Lee

Oh, the weather outside is...magical!

27th OPEIU Convention participants aren’t letting a little rain (or a lot of rain!) stop them from enjoying all the planned activities. All we need is a poncho and we’re good to go! And things are looking up. We hear that sunshine is just around the corner.