Entering to a standing ovation and leading a flag processional, United Farm Workers of America (UFW) President Arturo Rodriguez beamed as he made his way to the Convention stage. “There’s been a long history between our two unions,” said Rodriguez. “OPEIU has always been there for us.”

Rodriguez went on to deliver a passionate speech about the many challenges facing America’s farm workers—from binding mediation for first contracts to immigration reform. “There are 1.6 million farm workers in America and approximately 1 million of them are undocumented,” said Rodriguez. “You wouldn’t have the fruit and vegetables on your tables without these workers.

“Every day, when a farm worker leaves their home, they leave someone behind wondering if Mom or Dad is going to come back. That has to change.”

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OPEIU Vice Presidents Elected For Region VII

Once the votes were tallied, Aaron Sanders and Sharon Taylor were declared the winners in the race for Vice President from Region VII.

Elections Today For Diversity Vice Presidents

Four candidates, Christine Page, Green P. Lewis, Joan Craft and Natalie Naylor were nominated for the position of Diversity Vice President. An election will be held today to determine the winners of the three available seats.

Emmy-nominated former host of Saturday Night Live’s Weekend Update, Colin Quinn had delegates rolling in the aisles with his hilarious commentary on everything from parenting styles in the 1960s to OPEIU’s name! “It looks like an eye chart,” quipped the irreverent Quinn.

OPEIU Dances The Night Away On Sunset Cruise

Convention Fun Fact!
The San Diego Zoo is a zoo in Balboa Park, San Diego, California, which houses more than 3,700 animals of more than 650 species and subspecies.

Today’s Forecast*

*Subject to Mother Nature!
UFW And OPEIU: A Labor Of Love

In an show of solidarity and love for our fellow unions, President Rodriguez and President Goodwin presented each other with gifts of appreciation—including a $25,000 contribution check from OPEIU to UFW.

NAACP NEW YORK BRANCH PRESIDENT RANDY TUCKER JR SAYS, “TENACITY, TENACITY, TENACITY!”

Civil rights and the labor movement—it’s all tied together. That’s what NAACP New York Branch President Randy Tucker Jr. had to say to Convention delegates. “I’ve been with organized labor for 22 years,” said Tucker, “and we all (unions and civil rights organizations) fight on behalf of the best interests of the majority of the American people.”

Tucker also emphasized that we must be tenacious about holding politicians’ feet to the fire, organizing and recruiting new members. A very surprised Tucker was then presented with a $10,000 contribution check from OPEIU to support the good work of the NAACP.

Rodriguez presents memorabilia from past organizing campaigns, including a photo of former OPEIU President John Kelly marching with Cesar Chavez in the early 1990s, to a much-surprised and delighted Goodwin.

Goodwin presents Rodriguez with the check from the International Union in support of UFW’s efforts to improve the lives of America’s farm workers. They were then joined onstage by other OPEIU Local Union leaders, who personally presented their own contributions to UFW.
OPEIU RECOGNIZES SERVICE OF RETIRING VICE PRESIDENTS

In appreciation for loyal and dedicated service to the members of OPEIU, it was with great pleasure that OPEIU bestowed the title of Vice President Emerita to Theresa Kandt, the former President of Local 42, and Vice President Emeritus to John F. Conley, who served as President of ITPEU/OPEIU Local 4873 until his retirement in December 2012. We thank Kandt and Conley for their years of dedicated service to OPEIU.

President Goodwin presents Theresa Kandt and John F. Conley with rocking chairs in celebration of their respective retirements as OPEIU Vice Presidents.

Tonight’s Farewell Party*

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  Reception  Sapphire Foyer
7:00 p.m.               Dinner  Sapphire Ballroom Sections CDGH
                        Dessert  S’mores on the Sapphire Terrace
9:00 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.  After Party  Sapphire Ballroom Sections KLOP

Dance and sing along to crowd favorite, The Zippers!

*Please note that the party has been moved inside due to the chilly evening weather.