

2020 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOOD

The Committee on General Good had referred to it Resolution No. 3.

Resolution No. 3 addresses several urgent topics and necessary immediate actions, but all of its parts relate to the role that BAC plays in building communities and building lives: our union community of BAC local members, leaders, and jobsites; the larger community of working people and their families; and the community of our two nations. Resolution No. 3 recognizes that although BAC has faced, and prevailed against, numerous threats over the years, including depression and war, the COVID-19 pandemic which we're currently living through poses unique existential challenges. Despite those challenges, BAC members have bravely continued their essential work of building our communities, and BAC local leaders have ensured that they can do so safely. This Convention itself shows our resilience, carrying out our constitutional responsibilities through harnessing new technology to hold our Convention on-line.

Resolution No. 3 also recognizes that the pandemic has required BAC to address new health and safety challenges on our jobsites in several different ways: by adapting to local health and safety requirements addressing social distancing, personal protective gear, personal hygiene, symptom screenings, testing, and workplace sanitation; by working with our national partners to develop a model standard for exposure control; and by successfully advocating for the Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR) to develop a COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan tool to help construction

employers develop written plans using the latest rules, guidance and data. In doing all of this, BAC has stepped up to the plate, taking decisive action where federal leadership, through the Trump Administrations' OSHA, has abdicated its responsibilities, going AWOL at a critical juncture when our members and other essential workers needed strong protection. Moreover, the International Masonry Training and Education Foundation has also adapted to the current situation by providing training through on-line platforms, so our members can continue to safely advance in their crafts.

Resolution No. 3 also recognizes that BAC has redoubled its efforts to build our on-line communities now that we cannot gather together in person. Our local affiliates are using remote meeting technologies, such as Zoom, GoToMeeting, Google, and other platforms, to hold union meetings. Moreover, BAC is enhancing local efforts by making available attractive and free local websites through the "Union Hall" program; webinar training on the best practices for on-line meetings; no-cost texting applications; and training on how to use social media. Although we all look forward to the end of the pandemic and a return to the face-to-face communication that has built BAC, we recognize that the steps we take now to strengthen our virtual and digital communication will pay dividends long after we can resume meeting in person.

Resolution No. 3 also recognizes that the development of new materials and technologies on the jobsite continues unabated during the pandemic, and that BAC, partnering with its signatory contractors, must continue its efforts to adapt to those changes to insure they enhance, rather than diminish, the job opportunities available to

our members. This is especially true for climate change. We must be proactive in shaping climate-safe policy, encouraging the use of greener materials, and promoting masonry's contributions to a cleaner and sustainably built environment that creates work opportunities for our members.

Resolution No. 3 also recognizes BAC's long and proud tradition of inclusivity amongst all craftworkers, and calls on all of us to reaffirm our commitment to racial justice by strengthening our ties to all communities to ensure that the benefits of collective bargaining, health and retirement programs, and our unparalleled training programs are available to all who seek to make a career within the masonry industry.

Resolution No. 3 also recognizes that working people find themselves at a unique crossroads in the current political season. The pandemic has laid bare the contradiction that while working people are and always have been essential in building and maintaining our economy, they have little financial security and no adequate safety net because they lack their fair share of control over the rules that govern the economy. Gaining that control requires political action to strengthen the rights to organize and collectively bargain, increase investment in infrastructure and good jobs, improve jobsite safety, protect healthcare and pensions, restore balance to a tax code that has favored investments and inheritance over wages earned from hard work, and defeat those who sow hatred and division to goad the many into voting for the interests of the very few. The pandemic has also exposed to public view Donald Trump's unfitness for office and the urgency of stopping his anti-worker agenda.

The Resolution stresses the importance of supporting Joe Biden, the candidate BAC has endorsed, in the presidential election. Vice President Biden has always fought for the workers who are the backbone of this country and, as President, will continue to fight hard for our members, and for all Americans. His plan to build a stronger, more inclusive economy starts with placing checks on corporate power and empowering more workers to form and join unions. By investing at least \$1.3 trillion in our nation's infrastructure over the next 10 years, he will create and sustain millions of good jobs, revitalize communities, expand transportation manufacturing, and offer millions of Americans access to opportunities. And through his four-point plan for essential workers, he will ensure that those working on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis will finally receive not only the respect they deserve, but also the hazard pay, safety equipment, and testing that they've earned. He will fight to preserve our pensions and health care, and with a modest payroll tax on earnings above \$400,000 a year, he will not only preserve, but expand, the Social Security and Medicare benefits that workers in this country have earned and so clearly need.

On that basis, Resolution No. 3 calls on this Convention to take the following action:

- To encourage our BAC locals and ADCs to continue to promote the highest levels of safety and health for BAC craftworkers and improved cleanliness and professionalism of jobsites, both during and after the global pandemic;
- To recognize that communication is critical to BAC's ability to build the community of unionism, and accordingly to urge our affiliates to use all

digital tools available to maintain and expand our communication with members, contractors, government, and non-union tradespeople during the pandemic and after its conclusion;

- To urge our affiliates to prepare for new and different delivery models and changes to the very nature of the worksite; to coordinate with signatory contractors and industry partners in pursuit of resulting work opportunities; and, with IMTEF, to provide the necessary training and support for contractors and craftworkers to assert jurisdiction over new technologies and systems;
- To reaffirm that climate change is a significant issue of our time, that we must support sustainability, and that we must proactively address climate change and the threat it poses to the health and well-being of BAC members and to the long-term sustainability of the global economy;
- To condemn the evil of racism, and to call on all BAC affiliates, and all BAC members, to strengthen our efforts to root out and defeat racism in all its ugly forms; and finally,
- To call on the International Union, and all US BAC affiliates, to work to ensure that Joe Biden is elected as the 46th President of the United States of America.

The Committee recommends concurrence in Resolution No. 3.

This concludes the Report of the Committee on General Good. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the members of the Committee:

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Lester Kauffman III, Local 5 Pennsylvania

Kenneth Kudela, Administrative District Council of Ohio/Kentucky

Dennis Pagliotti, Local 1 Pennsylvania/Delaware

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COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOOD

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