

REPORT OF COPE ENDORSEMENT CONVENTION AFL-CIO June 7-8, 2014
Jacksonville, FL

I was detailed by President, AL Friedman FSALC, to join other Union activists in Jacksonville, FL to represent the FSALC at the FL AFL-CIO Committee On Political Education (COPE), Endorsing Convention. The two day event was especially important because it was to screen Statewide candidates running for office in the 2014 primaries and general election in November, 2014. President Friedman had designated me to be the FSALC representative to the FL AFL-CIO, attending both the Biennial FL AFL-CIO Convention and COPE Convention. Last year I was elected to the FL AFL-CIO Executive Board, and am on the FL-AFL-CIO Committee On Political Education (COPE), that entitles me to vote on behalf of the FSALC, for endorsed candidates running for State and Congressional positions.

The Mayor of Jacksonville, FL Alvin Brown, Liz Shuler, AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer and the four candidates listed below addressed the 178 delegates during the opening session of the COPE Convention.

On June 7, 2014, Saturday, the first part of the endorsing process began. Leading up to the meeting, officially announced candidates for the Florida Attorney General and Governor were invited to attend the screening forum. The candidates that accepted the invitation, were, George Shelton and Perry Thurston, (Attorney General), Charlie Crist and Nan Rich, Governor. Governor Rick Scott responded, he was not available, Attorney General Pam Bondi, did not respond. COPE decided not to screen candidates for Florida Chief Financial Officer and Florida Commissioner of Agriculture.

The function of the COPE is to review recommendations for Statewide candidates from the Central Labor Councils (CLC's) within the State. The COPE meets and debates the submissions from the CLC's and votes on their recommendations. There are about 45 members on the FL AFL-CIO COPE. Those votes represent recommendations of the COPE to the full convention. There were 178 registered delegates from AFL-CIO affiliates from around the State. Another function of the COPE is to vote on the proposed Constitutional amendments on the 2014 November ballot to the Florida Constitution. The COPE can take three positions on a vote; for, against or no recommendation. Three were considered, two For, "Water and Land Conservation" and "Use of Marijuana for Certain Medical Conditions" one opposed, was to require the Governor to prospectively fill vacancies in the State Supreme Court. They can be reviewed with the attachments to this report.

If the CLC's candidate screening process was not completed by the COPE Convention, the COPE receives e-mail messages with CLC recommendations. The COPE then votes electronically between. This is the method used between conventions.

I am enclosing an agenda of the proceedings for your review. As you can see, there was an extensive business, if you or other FSALC officers have any questions about the proceedings or my involvement representing the FSALC, please advise. The

COPE was scheduled to meet at 1:00-4:00 PM June 7, 2014. However, because of the extensive debate and COPE business, the meeting was extended to 6:00 PM. The COPE requires that all candidates seeking FL AFL-CIO endorsements complete an extensive questionnaire. Those documents were distributed to the COPE and reviewed, They were returned for security issues following the screening process. Screening allowed those on the COPE to ask questions to clarify the responses on the questionnaire or ask new ones. I asked Governor Crist on his position of voting by mail Statewide. His response was he favored all forms of voting. Candidate Nan Rich responded, she favored Statewide voting by mail, similar to the Oregon State method.

A \$100.00 a plate Candidate Reception was held on June 7, 2014, 7-9 PM, honoring Florida's Statewide, Congressional, Legislative and Farm Team Candidates. Approximately 300 union activists, candidates and friends of labor made up the attendees. I attended the function at no cost to the FSALC. I spoke to many candidates on NALC/Postal issues.

On July 8, 2014, Sunday, the full Convention Convened. Charles Clark, AFL-CIO Southern Region Director, spoke to the delegates. The normal order of business and reports, were followed by the:

State COPE Screening Report,
Report on Labor Farm Team Candidates (these are union members seeking election or reelection to local elected positions)
Consideration of Ballot Initiatives
Recommendation of Statewide Candidate Endorsements

CLC Recommendations on Candidate Endorsements,
US House of Representatives
Florida Senate and House of Representatives

The Convention voted to endorse, Charlie Crist for Governor, a co-endorsement for Attorney General, Perry Thurston and George Shelton. All the CLC and Farm Team recommendations were approved.

I have arranged for the entire workbook and other items distributed to the delegates to be provided to you, for review and action if necessary.

Again, I appreciate FSALC President Al Friedman authorizing me to represent the FSALC at the 2014, FL AFL-CIO COPE Convention.

In Unity and Solidarity, I remain,

Matty Rose, Branch 1071

