



# Convention HIGHLIGHTS

37TH CONVENTION - CLEVELAND, OHIO

THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 14, 2006

## Convention Ratifies Election of IVP, IEC Choices

Convention delegates unanimously ratified the choices of the district caucuses that selected nominees for International Vice President and International Executive Council.

Ten of the 11 incumbent Vice Presidents were re-elected. Fifth District delegates elected Joe S. Davis

as its new officer.

The IEC will have two new members. The new Fourth District representative on the council will be Jackie Goodwin, business manager of Birmingham, Ala., Local 136. In the Eighth District, Vancouver, British Columbia, Local 213 Business Manager Rick Dowling was elected by delegates.

As in the past, each officer's name was placed in nomination by a brother delegate from the district. Each officer then made brief acceptance remarks. All the candidates thanked their delegations and their families for their support.

All IEC members are business managers of their respective locals.



The Convention at work at Wednesday's afternoon session.

**International Executive Council**

- Chairman:* Robert W. Pierson, Local 9, Hillside, Ill.
- First District:* Joseph P. Calabro, Local 1158, Clifton, N.J.
- Second District:* Myles J. Calvey, Local 2222, Boston, Mass.
- Third District:* Salvatore J. Chilia, Local 38, Cleveland, Ohio
- Fourth District:* Jackie E. Goodwin, Local 136, Birmingham, Ala.

**International Executive Council (Cont.)**

- Fifth District:* Stephen P. Schoemehl, Local 1, St. Louis, Mo.
- Sixth District:* Gregory A. Lucero, Local 66, Houston, Texas
- Seventh District:* Patrick Lavin, Local 47, Diamond Bar, Calif.
- Eighth District:* Rick Dowling, Local 213, Vancouver, British Columbia

**International Vice Presidents**

- First District:* Phillip Flemming
- Second District:* Frank J. Carroll
- Third District:* Donald C. Siegel
- Fourth District:* Paul J. Witte
- Fifth District:* Joe S. Davis
- Sixth District:* Joseph F. "Jeff" Lohman
- Seventh District:* Jonathan B. Gardner
- Eighth District:* Ted C. Jensen
- Ninth District:* Michael S. Mowrey
- Tenth District:* Robert P. Klein
- Eleventh District:* Lindell K. Lee



# Delegates Debate Constitutional Amendments

Delegates continued their review of the report of the Law Committee, which was presented by Chairman Michael Fitzgerald of Chicago Local 134 and Secretary John Marchell of New York Local 3.

A spirited debate arose after the proposal was offered to revise **Article II, Section 13 and Article III, Section 3**, on the subject of the nomination of delegates to other conventions including the AFL-CIO, the Building and Construction Trades Department, Metal Trades Department, the Union Label and Service Trades Department, the Maritime Trades Department and the Canadian Labour Congress.

In this proposal, submitted by International President Edwin D. Hill and Secretary-Treasurer Jon F. Walters, the officers sought to correct what has been inconsistent practice of nominating delegates in the past.

The committee concurred and recommended that the Constitution be amended to give the International President the power to nominate delegates to the conventions, with the IC continuing to elect the delegates.

One member said the amendment will bring consistency and integrity to the process but another argued that union forefathers left delegates the right to nominate candidates for the seats.

“Our Constitution is a living document



Committee Chairman Fitzgerald, left, and Secretary Marchell.

and we, sisters and brothers, are its caretakers,” said Phil Farrelly, San Francisco Local 6. “If we allow this resolution to pass as written, we are stealing from future delegates the right to determine for themselves the best representatives for their needs as they see fit.”

President Hill reiterated that nominations could still be taken from the floor.

A voice vote could not determine the outcome, so President Hill ordered a count of standing delegates. The chairman of the sergeants-at-arms delivered a tally to President Hill, who reported that those in favor of the motion counted 1,225 to those

against, 646. The amendment carried.

Several members rose in opposition to the proposal to amend **Article II, Section 9**, which would change the reimbursement system for travel and expenses to the Convention to a flat sum of \$2,000, with the option that local unions cover additional expenses. The amendment was rejected.

“I stand opposed to the resolution,” said Robert Clarke, St. John’s, Newfoundland, Local 1615. “What will happen to members in rural areas of Canada and, I would suggest, the United States of America, that they will not be able to afford these privileged meetings every five years?” He said as the resolution stands, the three delegates from his local who attended this Convention would not be able to attend the next one.

An amendment to **Article IV, Section 3(i) and Article VIII, Section 7**, on trusteeships passed with little discussion. This proposal will ensure that the IBEW will not incur financial obligations or liability of a local union when the International President or the International Executive Council exercises its authority to protect and advance the interests of local union members by imposing a trusteeship on a local union.

An amendment to change **Article III, Section 2**, relating to U.S. and Canadian pension equity, was submitted by Champaign-Urbana, Ill., Local 601; Kapuskasing, Ontario, Local 1149; Oshawa, Ontario, Local 1590; and St. John’s, Newfoundland, Local 1620. Committee Chairman Michael Fitzgerald said the com-



Delegates line up to speak on proposed amendments.

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## Delegates Debate Constitutional Amendments *(Continued from page 2)*



A delegate speaks.

mittee referred that amendment to the Resolutions Committee for action. The committee report statement said because the proposal requested a change in practice regarding the payment of pension benefits for International Officers, Representatives, and Assistants of the IBEW to Canadian retirees, the submission should be treated as a resolution.

The amendment proposing to revise **Article XXIII, Section 10**, regarding traveling cards, drew several comments from delegates. The article, submitted by President Hill and Secretary-Treasurer Walters, would allow members to return to their home local even though they had traveled to another local and changed their classification. This resolution requires the home local to change the members' classification back to the classification held prior to transferring from their home local union. The committee recommended concurrence.

The motion to adopt the change was approved after several delegates spoke in favor of clarifying this section of the Constitution. One member said the change correctly gives local unions the ability to welcome back their previous members and correctly place them where they were prior to their leaving.

An amendment to change the portion of the Constitution related to local union assessments, **Article XXV, Section 1**, was adopted by voice vote. A few delegates spoke in favor of the change, which would revise the current wording to say, "If a member, or officer or representative of a L.U., is assessed and fails to pay the assessment, a lawsuit may be filed to collect the

unpaid assessment." The reason for the amendment, the Law Committee reported with its concurrence, is that some state laws now provide that a local union lawsuit to recover an assessment is not allowed unless the union's constitution expressly provides for the authority to file a lawsuit to collect an unpaid assessment. One delegate spoke against it, but the resolution passed.

The last amendment of the morning from the Law Committee sought to revise **Article XV, Section 15** of the IBEW Constitution, regarding local union reporting of injury illness and fatality. The resolution, which passed, requires locals to file reports to the International Office providing details of accidents that involve members. Because the IBEW participates in legislative and regulatory activities involving safety and health in workplaces where IBEW members are employed, such accident data is essential to those efforts.

On Tuesday, the delegates approved an amendment to **Article III, Section 11 (s)** relating to organizer positions. The resolution gives the International President the authority to hire and set the compensation for those organizing positions.

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## Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus Jerry O'Connor: 'Stop Them in Their Tracks' in November



Jerry O'Connor  
Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus

**T**hanking delegates for electing a leadership team that is "second to none in IBEW history," Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus Jerry O'Connor delivered a stirring call for labor to reject the right-wing Congress in November.

Expressing his disgust at a *Chicago Tribune* Labor Day editorial suggesting that unions are insignificant because density has dropped to 12 percent, O'Connor said, "We are not insignificant. We are vital and potent and we will grow."

With characteristic wit, O'Connor conducted a history lesson of IBEW's experience with presidential administrations back to Richard M. Nixon. "We told you so," said O'Connor, recounting warnings that Nixon was anti-labor and would "start the ball rolling downhill."

Ronald Reagan proved that "you can fire countless people. He proved that you could replace them permanently and people would say, 'He's doing his job.'"

Bill Clinton, said O'Connor, will go down in history as one of our greatest presidents. But he made "one terrible, terrible unforgivable mistake: NAFTA."

George W. Bush has "continued and reinforced Reagan's hurt," said O'Connor. He is doing it all under the radar, by "starving the institutions that were created to help workers."

"Now, brothers and sisters, he's got two years left. He can do more damage in those two years than you can possibly imagine," said O'Connor, as delegates nodded in agreement. "Are we going to elect these right-wing nuts so that they can hurt us more than Reagan, or are we going to elect a Congress that will stop them in their tracks?"

After reciting a quote from legendary railroad labor leader Eugene Debs, O'Connor drew a standing ovation by asking delegates to make a promise to "annihilate these bastards and then organize their pallbearers."

# Report of the International President's Report Committee

The President's Report Committee was delivered by its chairman, Business Manager John Dougherty, Philadelphia Local 98.

Assisting Dougherty was committee secretary, Ron Jones, business manager, Medford, Ore., Local 659.

"It is the view of this committee that the report is detailed and to-the-point," said Dougherty.

"The report clearly shows that our leadership stands tall and proud and is com-

mitted to the growth of the Brotherhood and the prosperity of the membership and doing whatever it takes to provide us with the tools and skills we need to not only succeed, but to excel."

After hearing the committee's unanimous recommendation for adoption of the International President's Report, President Hill called for discussion. The report was unanimously adopted without debate.



Committee Chairman Dougherty, left, and Secretary Ron Jones.

# Finance Committee Delivers Report



Committee Chairman Briegel, left, and Secretary Shur.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chairman John Briegel, Calgary, Alberta, Local 254, commended the International Officers for their selection of Cleveland as Convention host city. Briegel said the city was a fiscally responsible choice for the 37th International Convention that is likely to result in lower costs to the Brotherhood than the last Convention.

He reported that figures from the registration office show 2,138 delegates representing 763 local unions in attendance at the Convention. The report included reimbursements for transportation, sleeping and living expenses.

Briegel and Finance Committee Secretary Allen Shur, San Diego Local 569, delivered the committee's report to the delegates, who approved it without discussion.

CONVENTION ACTION



Sergeants-at-arms confer on the vote count.



Delegates applaud Convention speaker.

# UFCW Chief Vows Solidarity

## Health Care Fight Critical, Hansen Says

**A** Change to Win Federation leader promised that his union, the million-member United Food and Commercial Workers, would stand shoulder to shoulder with the IBEW in the fight for working families, particularly in politics and the campaign to guarantee health care benefits for everyone.

“If we look at the condition of workers today, we see real fear about health care – fear that they could lose health care, or fear because of the rising costs of health care,” said UFCW President Joseph T. Hansen. “With more than 46 million Americans without health care, it’s time for a change, and the labor movement can lead that change.”

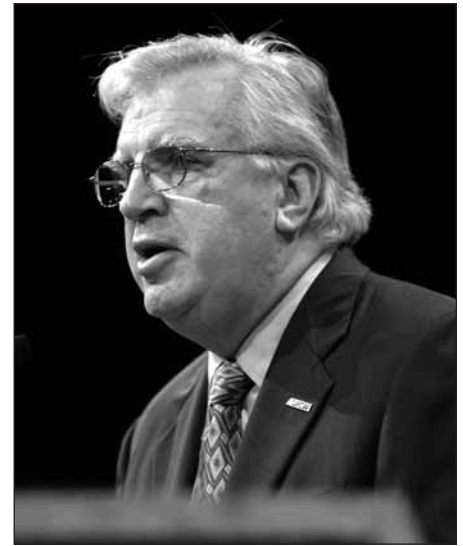
Hansen insisted that the split in the labor movement that occurred last year, with the UFCW joining an exodus of unions out of the AFL-CIO, would not prevent unions from working together, particularly in politics. The UFCW is part of the new federation, Change to Win.

“Unions may have our differences, but we remain united in our goals. We are still one movement. We will confront our challenges together, and we will prevail,” he said.

Hansen pointed to a UFCW survey showing that 8 out of 10 union and nonunion workers under 30 “believed they would be better off in a union. There is a greater need for unions today than at any time in the past 60 years,” he said.

As the only labor member of the Citizen’s Health Care Working Group, Hansen has a unique view of the health care crisis, having collected information from over 16 months of public hearings. “The public is demanding reform,” he said. “The U.S. health care system only works for the wealthy. It doesn’t work for most Americans.”

Hansen said the UFCW survey showed overwhelming support for this statement: “We can’t just rely on our



Joseph T. Hansen  
UFCW President

market system to reform health care. We need to change the system.”

The change should start with the leadership in the House and Senate “because they have betrayed us,” Hansen said. “For most Americans, there are no Red states or Blue states. There is only a state of concern about the problems they face today.”

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## Embarq Chairman: Joint Programs Boost Competitiveness

**D**an Hesse, chairman and CEO of Embarq Corp., a new telecommunications venture, delivered an upbeat Convention presentation celebrating the positive impact of joint programs with the IBEW on the firm’s bottom line.

Embarq, which separated from Sprint Nextel in 2006, employs approximately 3,200 IBEW employees and an equal number from CWA. The vast majority are technicians. Embarq provides service to more than 7 million access lines across 18 states, from Washington to Florida. Expected annual revenues are \$6 billion.

“The future of the IBEW and the future of Embarq are intertwined,” said Hesse, who initiated meetings with IBEW and CWA when the venture formed.

While working to provide unprecedented integration between landline and wireless products, Hesse acknowledged that cable competitors have grown significantly, with a 23 percent increase in their overall number of employees from 1998 to 2003. Only 13 percent of cable’s total technician population is union-rep-



Dan Hesse  
Chairman & CEO of Embarq

resented, said Hesse, with even fewer in wireless. “We share a common problem.”

“Our new culture, with a focus on competitiveness, feistiness and innovation, is engaging our employees like never before,” said Hesse.

The company and the unions agreed to form a joint committee comprising senior officers of both unions, Embarq’s customer relations team and vice presi-

dents responsible for network and customer service. All participants are trained by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

The company has deployed powerful laptop computers to help technicians improve their performance. Productivity studies have reduced driving time, improving customer service. Employees have submitted hundreds of new product ideas. Embarq rewards technicians for referring customers to sales staff; the program is generating 2,500 referral sales each month.

Embarq, IBEW and CWA agreed to apply an incentive program, previously reserved for exempt employees, to bargaining unit members. Every employee, up to the CEO, is paid on the same company operating metrics. “We believe that all our people need to understand our key annual enterprise-wide financial and operating objectives,” said Hesse.

“We’re at a fork in the road,” said Hesse. “We can fight each other as we have in the past, or we can choose the fork that joins forces and uses our collective energies fighting the enemy instead,” he concluded.

# Conservation Partnership Takes Center Stage

Convention delegates on Wednesday got a close look at the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, a leading umbrella organization of 9 million members whose mission is to protect the natural habitat of wildlife, conserve natural resources and guarantee sportsmen and sportswomen a place to hunt and fish.

Fred Myers Jr., vice president of the TRCP, thanked the IBEW and the Building Trades for support of the TRCP and for sponsorship of the TRCP's popular television program, "Life in the Open," shown on the Outdoor Life Network.

"We also thank the IBEW for working tirelessly to get the TRCP message out to its members," Myers said.

Delegates saw a video presentation on the TRCP's mission and its relationships with the IBEW and the Building Trades.

Myers announced an upcoming TRCP all-union television show, "Escape to the Wild," also on OLN, which will feature union members hunting and fishing in the great outdoors.

Two IBEW members will star in "Escape to the Wild," one on a big game hunt in Africa and another caribou hunting in Alaska, Myers said.



TRCP Vice President Fred Myers, center, congratulates shotgun winner Charles Wait, left, of Local 266 and rifle winner Bill Koehler of Local 176.

Following Myers' address, a drawing was held for a deer rifle and a shotgun. Phoenix Local 266 delegate Charles Wait won the shotgun and Joliet, Ill., Local 176 delegate Bill Koehler won the deer rifle.



Rev. Mylon Waite, associate pastor of Cleveland's Antioch Baptist Church, delivers the invocation.



Ninth District delegates listen to a Convention speaker.

## Last Chance on COPE Sax and Guitar!

Visit the IBEW Political Department's COPE booth now for your last chance to win a truly historic souvenir—a guitar signed by John Fogerty, a saxophone signed by Bill Clinton or a dinner with Bill Clinton—while helping IBEW defeat the right wing in November.

## Canada COPE Drawing Winners

Winners of Wednesday's Canada COPE drawing:

### Men's IBEW Watch

Mike Kammer, Akron, Ohio, Local 306  
James M. McNamara, Chicago Local 134

### Ladies IBEW Watch

Terry McKenna, San Francisco Local 6  
Stephen Lyons, Boston Local 2222

### 1st District IBEW Men's Ring

Stephen Waugh, St. John, New Brunswick, Local 1524

Prizes may be picked up at 1st District area of the Convention floor. See International Rep. Laird Cronk.

## Correction

Due to an editing error, Wednesday's newsletter in the story on National Electrical Contractors Association President E. Milner Irvin incorrectly named that organization. We apologize for this mistake.