

PRECONVENTION



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS.

Convention HIGHLIGHTS

37TH CONVENTION - CLEVELAND, OHIO

MONDAY

SEPTEMBER 11, 2006

Cleveland Welcomes 37th IBEW Convention



Cleveland Local 38 member Jack Ware Jr. puts finishing touches on the Convention hall.

Monday, Sept. 11, marks the opening of the IBEW's 37th International Convention in Cleveland. Opening ceremonies complete with live music and video presentations were set to usher in the Convention with distinguished guests and addresses by International Officers.

The official opening of the Convention was preceded by several

days of activities including the three-day Electrical Industry Exposition, which welcomed thousands of visitors. The women's conference, political conference and Electrical Workers Minority Caucus were all packed with enthusiastic participants.

This morning, IBEW delegates and officers get down to the business of the 37th International Convention.

IBEW Products, Services Featured at Expo

The 2006 Electrical Industry Exposition opened on Friday with a ribbon cutting by President Edwin D. Hill and Secretary-Treasurer Jon Walters before a crowd of delegates and guests eager to visit over 110 exhibits of American- and Canadian-made products and services. "The range of vendors here shows the breadth of the industries the IBEW represents in the U.S. and Canada,"

said President Hill, welcoming the citizens of Cleveland.

Behind President Hill was the Klein Tools Indy racer, driven by Indy racer Dario Franchitti.

From 100 percent union-grown, union-roasted coffee to high-quality lineman's tools, worker-oriented investment plans and IBEW hats and T-shirts, the Expo had something for everyone.

Instant Convention Coverage on the Web

View videos of your delegation at work and enjoying Convention activities. Scroll through our photo gallery. Review a great speech. Check out what happened at a conference that you missed or find great photos of the attendees.

It's simple. Visit www.ibew.org. Click on the 37th International Convention logo. The latest video broadcasts and the photo gallery are on the right. Daily Convention news is located center page.

Visit the Internet Café

All Convention delegates are invited to visit the Internet Café, located between the Message Center and Information Desk on the main floor of the Cleveland Convention Center. Review the latest Convention news, videos and photos or check your e-mails. A printer and comfortable couches are provided for your reading pleasure.

Guest Speakers for Monday

Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa)
John Sweeney,
AFL-CIO President
Bill Burga,
Ohio AFL-CIO President
Frank Jackson,
Mayor of Cleveland



Political Conference Inspires, Motivates Convention Delegates

Delegates to the 37th International Convention came to Cleveland ready to play their part in a tumultuous national political scene on the brink of what could be a watershed change across America. An impressive lineup of IBEW speakers and political candidates stoked the excitement of nearly 500 faithful IBEW activists two months before Election Day at the 2006 IBEW Political Conference.

“November 2006 is about putting America and our labor movement onto the road of recovery from the sick politics of greed that have deformed and defiled the world’s most powerful nation,” IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill said.

One of America’s most hotly contested electoral battlegrounds is Ohio. Congressman and U.S. Senate candidate Sherrod Brown discussed the philosophical differences between himself and incumbent Sen. Mike DeWine.

Secretary-Treasurer Jon Walters said IBEW members represent the political

heart of this nation, “men and women who have worked their way into the American dream, a dream under siege today.”

Mary Jane Lambert, retired IBEW member of now-defunct Ottawa, Ohio, Local 1654, spoke on behalf of the 250 retirees who lost their health insurance after the bankruptcy of the L.G. Philips picture tube plant.

Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-California), a member of IBEW Local 441 in Santa Ana, noted that Ohio has lost 200,000 manufacturing jobs in the last five years—more than any other state.

IBEW member Charles Dertinger, a candidate in Pennsylvania’s 15th District, is opposing first-term Republican incumbent Charlie Dent. Also addressing the conference were Bill



Hundreds of delegates attended the IBEW Political Conference on Friday, Sept. 8.

Cunningham, retired Cincinnati, Ohio, IBEW Local 212 business manager and current mayor of Lawrenceburg, Ind.; Larry Clark, former business manager of Louisville, Ky., IBEW Local 369, and the Democratic leader of the Kentucky House; Jennifer Brunner, Ohio state secretary of state candidate; Irasema Garza, national political director of AFL-CIO Working America; and Bob Powers, senior director of legislative programs at the Nuclear Energy Institute.

Spirited Women’s Conference

IBEW Women’s Conference Showcases Strong Union Spirit

The IBEW Women’s Conference on Friday, Sept. 8, showcased a great spirit of solidarity and strong union sisterhood. Nearly 200 delegates and guests attended.

“Stand tall, stand together with courage and commitment to move forward,” President Edwin D. Hill told the delegates. “We will move forward together, Brothers and Sisters, and let’s start right here in Cleveland.”

“Women have a place everywhere in the IBEW,” Secretary-Treasurer Jon Walters said. “We need you to move this union forward.”

“President Hill has appointed more women and minorities for staff positions than any other International President,” said Executive Assistant to the International President Liz Shuler.

Guest speaker Elise Bryant, National Labor College faculty member, addressed

the delegates. IBEW Education Director Jan Schwingshagl made a presentation on conflict resolution.

Voting for change in 2006 midterm elections was emphasized by International Representative Sherilyn Wright, Political/Legislative Affairs Department. “It’s going to take all of us to do it,” Wright said. “Get active and let’s make this change happen.”

Guest speaker Connie Schultz, Pulitzer Prize winning *Cleveland Plain Dealer* columnist – and wife of Ohio Senate candidate Rep. Sherrod Brown – praised the grassroots activism of women and unions.

“Organizing to Win” was the topic of a presentation by International Representative Carmella Cruse. “Sisters are leading the way,” Cruse said. “It’s going to take every last one



Delegates attending the IBEW Women’s Conference take a stand for union solidarity and sisterhood.

of us to stand up together, shoulder to shoulder.”

For more information and photos of the conference, check www.ibew.org.

Electrical Workers Minority Caucus Confronts Issues of Changing Workforce

Saturday's meeting of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC) combined healthy servings of inspiration, advice, honors for fighters of the past and dialogue to recruit the leaders of the future.

EWMC President Robbi Sparks introduced Resolution No. 14, to be introduced on the floor of the 37th IBEW Convention, which provides for a strategic goal-setting and outreach program at all levels of the union to hire, train and mentor minorities to leadership positions in the union. The resolution derived from discussions between the IBEW leadership and the caucus. Sparks expressed the EWMC's support for the resolution and asked for the support of delegates.

"Let no one doubt that the IBEW does not have the time or the patience for anyone who clings to the old ways



Minority Caucus members stand for Pledge of Allegiance.

of doing business. . . We are not going to tolerate that," said President Hill to loud applause.

The meeting turned into a classroom when Ninth District International Representatives Keith Edwards, Juanita Luiz and Brian Ahakuelo led a workshop entitled "Diversity Matters."

After the attendees took the microphones to list what they thought to be the causes of IBEW's membership losses, a lively discussion ensued detailing how different locals are revitalizing the

IBEW and the labor movement.

Following the workshop, a panel addressed the theme, "Embracing Cultural Differences." The panelists included John Easton Jr., business manager of Houston Local 716; Larry Greenhill Sr., newly elected vice president of Washington, D.C., Local 26; and Jane Templin of Los Angeles Local 11.

Milton Frazier of Nashville, Tenn., Local 429, who is also IBEW's Tennessee state political coordinator, delivered a presentation entitled "Mobilizing for Progressive Change."

The caucus meeting closed with reports from the chapters and remarks by EWMC executive committee members Victor Uno, business manager of Dublin, Calif., Local 595, Fred Naranjo of Houston Local 66 and Sparks.

To read more about the meeting, or to see the photo gallery, visit www.ibew.org

Fellowship Reigns at Block Party, Gala



The "IBEW Boys" helped the band sing "Rocky Top."

The IBEW Block Party took over a breezy lakeside lawn for a concert in a setting that gave delegates a chance to relax outside and enjoy the offerings of a variety of local food vendors.

Pianist and songwriter Bruce Hornsby, eclectic band Little Feat and country music singer Rebecca Lynn Howard took turns entertaining a crowd of approxi-

mately 2,500 people.

"This is the third Convention I've been to and it's the best," said Waukegan, Ill., Local 150 President P. Edward Moore, surveying the scene of families enjoying the day. "You just can't beat the camaraderie of this."

Saturday night's gala featured John Fogerty, legendary leader of Creedence

Clearwater Revival. The show opened with a variety of singers and dancers representing different eras and included a performance by International President Edwin D. Hill and Secretary-Treasurer Jon Walters, who sang a bluegrass number in overalls.

Last Chance for Souvenir Journal Covers

If you missed having your photo taken and superimposed on a commemorative cover of the *IBEW Journal*, there's still time. The photographer will be set up in Room 222A, off the lobby area, on Monday and Tuesday, September 11 and 12 during the mid-day break, from approximately noon to 2 p.m. This service will not be available when the Convention is in session.

Entertainment Events

Tuesday, September 12
6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

A Night of Entertainment at the Powerhouse

at the Nautica Entertainment Complex, hosted by the IBEW Fourth District. Food and beverages will be served.

Musical entertainment will include country music, blues, dueling pianos, tributes to the Eagles and the Beatles, disco, Island calypso music and a steel drum band.

Other entertainment includes live comedy, billiards, video games and sports on widescreen televisions.

All Convention delegates, alternates, officers, staff, guests, spouses and children are invited.

Shuttle buses will be provided from all official Convention hotels to the event, between 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., departing every 10-15 minutes. Return service will be provided when the event concludes, at approximately 10 p.m.

Convention badges are required for admittance.

Wednesday, September 13
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Spouses Luncheon and Entertainment

will be held at the Cleveland Convention Center in the Public Auditorium.

Entertainment features the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber.

COPE Giveaways

The IBEW Political/Legislative Department encourages delegates to participate in the COPE giveaways, which will include the following:

- A saxophone autographed by former President Bill Clinton
- A guitar signed by Bruce Hornsby, John Fogerty and Little Feat
- A chance to attend an event as the personal guest of President Clinton

The giveaways will be today through Wednesday.

The Wednesday giveaway at noon will be an especially big one – not to be missed. Details will be in subsequent newsletters.

District Photos

District-wide photos will be taken Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. At the designated times, delegates should report to the bleacher section on the Convention floor.

Tues. after morning session – 9th
 Tues. before afternoon session – 8th
 Tues. after afternoon session – 2nd & 10th

Wed. after morning session – 3rd
 Wed. after afternoon session – 6th & 7th

Thurs. after morning session – 1st
 Thurs. before afternoon session – 11th
 Thurs. after afternoon session – 4th & 5th

The panoramic photo of the entire Convention floor will be taken at beginning of Wednesday's afternoon session.

Please note that the schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced from the podium.

Who Are These Guys?

If you have not done so already, you will probably be crossing paths with various camera crews at events around the Convention Center. They are documenting the Convention and related activities for two purposes. One is daily – and Monday through Thursday, twice daily – webcasts available for viewing on the special Convention Web site. (Click on www.ibew.org for a link.) In a television news format, they will cover speeches and interview delegates and IBEW leaders and generally provide a summary of highlights.

Another camera crew is filming the Convention for a special feature of the new IBEW Archives at the International Office in Washington, D.C. That feature can be viewed along with the rest of the updated archives after the January 2007 unveiling.

'How May We Help You?'

High-Tech Message/Information Center Assists Delegates

At the IBEW message and general information center, helpful staff answer questions and help delegates make the most of their visit.

Located in the main lobby of the Convention Center, center staff take messages for any registered delegate. The phone number is (216) 583-0060. Messages are posted on nearby electronic screens. Delegates retrieve messages by waving their identification card at a card reader.

Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Cleveland representatives are on duty at the Message/Information center, providing information and brochures on area attractions. They are also selling half-price tickets to this week's Cleveland Indians games.

Caucus Meeting Rooms

Caucus Meetings are scheduled for Monday, September 11, following adjournment of the afternoon session of the Convention. Caucus meeting locations are as follows:

1st District IVP Caucus
 8th District IEC Caucus
Room R202

2nd District IVP Caucus
 2nd District IEC Caucus
Room R212A

3rd District IVP Caucus
 1st District IEC Caucus
Music Hall

4th District IVP Caucus
Room R211

5th District IVP Caucus
 4th District IEC Caucus
Room R205 B&C

6th District IVP Caucus
 5th District IEC Caucus
Hall "C"

7th District IVP Caucus
 6th District IEC Caucus
Room R205A

8th District IVP Caucus
Room R208

9th District IVP Caucus
 7th District IEC Caucus
Room R212B

10th District IVP Caucus
Room R203

11th District IVP Caucus
 3rd District IEC Caucus
Hall "D"