

PROGRESS MEETINGS

FIRST DISTRICT

The First District All Canada Progress Meeting took place in Toronto, Ontario, September 1-3, 1999. Training courses for delegates and two conferences were held prior to the formal Progress Meeting.

In his address to the Progress Meeting, International President J.J. Barry noted that in 1899 the first Canadian local received its charter, making the Brotherhood a true international union. "The Canadian membership of the IBEW, 58,000 strong, is a solid rock in the IBEW landscape, a strong and integral part of our shared tradition as a Brotherhood," said President Barry.

International Secretary-Treasurer Edwin D. Hill recognized the 100th anniversary of the IBEW in Canada. Speaking of the challenges facing labor, he stressed the importance of organizing, COPE participation and grass-roots political activism.

International Executive Council

Chairman Clyde Bowden and IEC member John E. Cole also addressed the group.

Canadian Labor Congress President Ken

Georgetti welcomed the IBEW's reaffiliation with the CLC and stressed the need for union members to oppose anti-union proposals of provincial government and efforts to introduce "right-to-work" legislation.

New Democratic Party member of Provincial Parliament David Christopherson encouraged delegates to be politically involved on behalf of working people and labor.

First District International Vice President Donald Lounds wrapped up the Progress Meeting and spoke about the challenges Canadian local unions face.

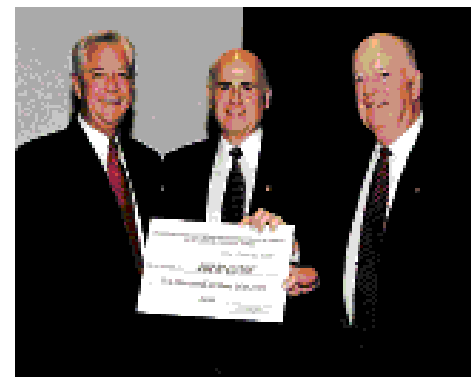


Vice President Lounds pictured during the meeting.

At the 53rd annual Third District Progress Meeting held June 17-18, 1999, in Atlantic City, New Jersey, International President J. J. Barry and International Secretary-Treasurer Edwin Hill spoke to the gathering about the challenges of the 21st century and the importance of skills training and political/legislative activism.

Third District International Vice President Lawrence E. Rossa stressed the significance of COPE participation, the meeting's theme. Rick Diegel, director of the IBEW Political/Legislative Affairs Department, and International Representative Elizabeth Shuler conducted the Third District Political/Legislative Conference.

Prior to the general session, the Third District Women's Caucus was held June 16.



Third District International Vice President Lawrence E. Rossa (center) presents International President J. J. Barry (right) and International Secretary-Treasurer Edwin Hill with a \$10,000 COPE check donated through the COPE lottery.

SECOND DISTRICT

International Vice President Frank J. Carroll opened the General Session of the Second District Progress Meeting held October 26-28, 1999, in Mashantucket, Connecticut. He addressed the assembly on the state of organized labor and stressed the importance of organizing to increase the percentage of union membership in the work force.

International Secretary-Treasurer Edwin D. Hill spoke on the outlook for labor and the IBEW in the new millennium and emphasized the importance of organizing and political involvement in this pivotal election year.

An account of the Second District's industrial organizing endeavors was presented by International Representa-

tive Edward W. Collins Jr., industrial organizing coordinator. International Representative John L. Faria presented the Manufacturing branch's concern with the decline of manufacturing companies throughout New England. International Representative Walter R. Monahan, construction organizing coordinator, reported an 8.2 percent increase in membership in the construction branch thanks to strategic planning and the "Goals and Timetables" program.

Other speakers included IEC member Paul J. Ward, Railroad System Council #7 Vice Chairman William Bohne, Judy McCoy, managing director for Allied Investment Advisors, Con-

necticut State AFL-CIO President John W. Olsen and guest speaker Richard Wolff, economics professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. International Representative Carol Fitzgerald reported on the Second District Women's Conference, held on September 25, 1999.

IBEW Political/Legislative Affairs Department Director Rick Diegel and International Representative Elizabeth Shuler reviewed the contested political races in the Second District and described the status of House bills affecting salting.

IBEW Education Department Director Martha "Marty" Letsinger gave a presentation on "Building the Local Union."

U.S. Representative Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) delivered a rousing keynote speech at the Fourth District Progress Meeting held in Cleveland, Ohio, July 12-14, 1999.

Fourth District International Vice President Paul J. Witte presided over the General Session, and International Secretary-Treasurer Edwin Hill's address focused on the year 2000 and its implications for working people. Guest International Officers and speakers included: Third District International Vice President Lawrence Rossa, IEC Chairman Clyde Bowden, and IEC members Wally Sickles

and Lance Blackstock. Charles Fisher, Executive Assistant to the International President, spoke on behalf of International President J. J. Barry.

IBEW Employee Benefits Director Jim Combs made a presentation on the exciting concept of Worker-Owner Councils. At a Leadership Development Workshop, topics included union busting, Social Security proposals, and effective communications. Branch workshop topics included: arbitration, utility restructuring, union building, the Family Medical Leave Act, teledata agreements and pension investments. ❏



At the Fourth District Progress Meeting, nine local unions presented contributions to COPE totaling \$100,000. Pictured with International Secretary-Treasurer Edwin Hill (center) and International Vice President Paul Witte (far right) are, from left, Business Managers Sam Chilia, Local 38; Brian Malloy, Local 307; James Cunningham, Local 246; Terry Luckett, Local 369; Frank Butler, Local 212; Daisy Winkler, Local 2287; Virgil Bennett, Local 1206; Darwin Snyder, Local 596; and Steve Redman, Local 637.



International Vice President Frank J. Carroll addresses the Second District Progress Meeting. Seated at the dais are, from left: Local 488 Business Manager Patrick A. Donahue; Father Lawrence Carroll, pastor, St. Joseph Church, Brookfield, Connecticut; International Secretary-Treasurer Edwin Hill; IEC member Paul J. Ward; and managing director of Allied Investment Advisors, Inc., Judy McCoy.

The theme of the Fifth District Progress Meeting in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, was "We Empower the Workers Who Power America!" James Weldon, Secretary-Treasurer of the Florida Electrical Workers and Business Manager of Local 728, Ft. Lauderdale, introduced the first speaker: Secretary-Treasurer Edwin Hill, who was followed by D. R. "Rod" Borden, Jr., President of the National Electrical Contractors Association and Fifth District Vice President Mel Horton. Vice President Horton discussed the importance of building the union—not only for present members, but for the future generations of members. "...Building the Union involves more than fighting for a better contract or grievance handling. It goes even further than organizing...To build the Union, our members and all workers must realize that Unions stand for all that is good about America," he said.

Other speakers were Clyde Bowden, Chairman, International Executive Council, and IEC members Lance Blackstock and Bill Motley. Delegates attended workshops entitled CORE: Communicating to Organize, Rebuild, and Enfranchise; Paycheck Economics; History of the Industrial Unions; What Now? A History of Fifth District Local Unions; Employees Rights Under the NLRA; Communication and Innovation: LMCC Panel Discussion; Allied Investment Advisors; The Trial of Ronald McDonald and Here Comes the Judge! The 1999 TV Raffle raised over \$5,700 for COPE. ❏



Vice President Mel Horton during his presentation.

(Continued on next page)

SIXTH DISTRICT

The Sixth District Progress Meeting, held September 22-24, 1999, in Chicago, Illinois, had as its theme "Our Heritage—Our Guide to the 21st Century." A variety of topics were addressed by several speakers: Railroad and the IBEW, Jack Kramer, Business Manager, Local 214; Acting Like a Union, Marty Letsinger, Director, IBEW Education Department; Local Union Audits and Reporting Requirements, Roger Tiberi and Lawrence Wojnarowicz of Thomas Harvey, LLP; The Enemy is Out There (Not Each Other), Vice President Jerry O'Connor and a COPE presentation by Rick Diegel, Director, IBEW Political/Legislative Department and Elizabeth Shuler, International Representative.

Prior to the general session, the Sixth District Women's Conference took place. Under its theme, "IBEW Women Charting Our Course," topics were: Social Security: What it Means to Working Women; Leadership Plenary: Women in Leadership and Obstacles to Becoming a Leader; Women's Wages and Unionism; Developing Skills in the Political Process; the Non-traditional Worker; There's No Such Thing as Woman's Work and The Thread That Binds.



Sharing a smile at the conference were, left to right, Local 134, Chicago, Illinois, Business Manager Mike Fitzgerald, Illinois Governor George Ryan and Sixth District International Vice President Jerry O'Connor.

SEVENTH DISTRICT



Pictured with Vice President Orville Tate (right) are Local 479, Beaumont, Texas, Business Manager Daniel Hetzel and Assistant Business Manager David Nobles who received Outstanding COPE Awards.

The 1999 Seventh District Progress Meeting was held at the Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi, Texas, August 14-17.

International Vice President Orville A. Tate, Jr. welcomed the delegates and introduced International Secretary-Treasurer Edwin D. Hill, who stressed that organizing continues to be of the highest priority for the IBEW. He congratulated the delegates on the 20 percent growth in construction membership in the district and encouraged members to continue the fight for market share.

In his remarks, IVP Tate emphasized that the success of the IBEW's political, education and organizing efforts are a direct reflection of the dedication, motivation and inspiration provided by local union members.

Speakers included Jim Pyers, Vice President of Operations/Engineering and Regulation for Tucson Electric Power, who discussed electric utility deregulation, Fifth and Sixth District IEC members Keith Querry and Bill Motely, Political/Legislative Affairs Department Director Rick Diegel and International Representative Elizabeth Shuler, who discussed current federal legislation and COPE actions.

EIGHTH

Helena, Montana, was the location for the Eighth District Progress Meeting on June 8 and 9, 1999. International Vice President Jon F. Walters welcomed the delegates and introduced a guest speaker, Montana State AFL-CIO Executive Secretary Don Judge, who gave an inspiring address on the importance to labor of active participation in the political process.

International Secretary-Treasurer Edwin Hill reviewed the status of IBEW investments and reported that all is well concerning the finances of the organization. Charles "Bud" Fisher, Executive Assistant to the International President, IEC Executive Council member Lyle Keith Querry, Political/Legislative Affairs Department Director Rick Diegel and International Representative Elizabeth Shuler also made presentations.

NINTH D

The 55th annual Ninth District Progress Meeting took place on the island of Maui, Hawaii, July 20-23, 1999. Hosting the event were Honolulu Locals 1186, 1260 and 1357.

Several dignitaries addressed the Progress Meeting and the Seventh Annual Women's Conference, both of which were the largest, most well attended ever for the district. International Secretary-Treasurer Edwin Hill spoke at both the Women's Conference and the Progress Meeting.

Other speakers included Ninth District International Vice President Michael S.

International Secretary-Treasurer Edwin D. Hill addresses the Seventh Annual Women's Conference held in conjunction with the Ninth District Progress Meeting. Seated is Ninth District International Vice President Michael S. Mowrey.



DISTRICT



Eighth District International Vice President Jon F. Walters (left) introduces Montana State AFL-CIO Executive Secretary Don Judge at the meeting.

DISTRICT

Mowrey and Vincent A. O'Reilly, Senior Executive Assistant to the International President.

Among the workshops presented was one featuring a review of Trial Board procedures presented by Clair Scott, director of the IBEW Bylaws and Appeals Department. The IBEW Ninth District Political/Legislative Conference, conducted by Political/Legislative Affairs Department Director Rick Diegel and International Representative Elizabeth Shuler, emphasized the importance of IBEW COPE and a politically active membership.



TENTH DISTRICT

At the Tenth District Progress Meeting, held June 23-25, 1999, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, International Vice President Carl Lansden discussed organizing as the number-one priority for the IBEW. He spoke of job losses due to plant closings and of organizing successes in such sectors as telecommunications, utility and construction.

Also among the speakers were International Secretary-Treasurer Edwin D. Hill and Senior Executive Assistant to the International President Vincent O'Reilly, who spoke of efforts to develop a Trades and Labor Council on the properties of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Other speakers included the state AFL-CIO presidents from Tennessee, Arkansas, North Carolina and South Carolina.

A demonstration of E-mail addresses on the Internet was presented by Tenth District "Web master" Carl Cantrell, financial secretary of Local 2113, Tullahoma,



Local 429, Nashville, Tennessee, Business Manager Lindsay Lee presents a \$25,000 COPE contribution to International Secretary-Treasurer Edwin D. Hill as Tenth District International Vice President Carl Lansden looks on.

Tennessee. At the Women's Caucus, the primary topic was the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Various workshops focused on topics affecting the Telecommunications, Construction and Maintenance, Railroad, Manufacturing, and Utility branches. Issues examined included ongoing negotiations with Sprint and GTE; construction organizing; apprenticeship programs; a Lucent Technologies partnership; industry mergers; and deregulation.

ELEVENTH DISTRICT



Delegates line up for registration at the Eleventh District Progress. Vice President Bill Eads is 3rd from right.

International Vice President William C. Eads chaired the Eleventh District Progress Meeting held July 7-9, 1999, in Bismarck, North Dakota. Over 300 delegates and guests attended. Included on the program were the Iowa Utility Workers Conference and the Nebraska State Electrical Workers Conference.

North Dakota Attorney General Heidi Heitkamp gave the welcoming address. Guest speakers at the Political/Legislative Conference included Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-North Dakota) and Representative Earl Pomeroy (D-North Dakota).

Eleventh District International Repre-

sentatives conducted Construction, Utility, Manufacturing, and Railroad workshops on issues affecting those branches. Workshop participants included Railroad Retirement Board Representative Debbie Helblink, Federal Railroad Administration Chief Inspector Ken Naylor, and attorneys Robert Henry and Ron Raines. Guests attending the Progress Meeting included union contractors and representatives from NECA, the utility industry, and the JATC.