

IBEW Local 2150
linemen demonstrate
"pole-top rescue"
techniques.

Pride In Our Craft: IBEW Shines At Union Industries Show 2000

An eager crowd of more than 200,000 attended the AFL-CIO Union Industries Show 2000, held May 5-8 at the Midwest Express Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Thronges of visitors streamed through the always-popular annual show to view more than 400 exhibits that covered floor space about the size of four and one-half football fields.

Over the four-day period, union electrical workers, construction workers, electronics technicians and many other tradespeople demonstrated hundreds of union crafts, skills and products.

Milwaukee area high school students and teachers were invited for a preview of the exposition on Friday before it opened to the general public at noon. During that time, hundreds of students got a close-up look at the kinds of good union jobs available to those who prepare for them. Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist welcomed the giant annual exposition of union jobs, services and products back to the city for the first time in 15 years by designating May 5-8 as "AFL-CIO Weekend."

At the IBEW exhibit area, trade show visitors



Inset, a daily drawing was conducted at the booth of Milwaukee Local 494, also a host local. From left, Local 494 Business Representatives David A. Miller and Michael Mueller, and Organizer Leon Burzynski.



were treated to "Firsthand Encounters With IBEW Craftsmanship." As in past years, visitors were fascinated by the IBEW presentations. The IBEW Starhopper spaceship, measuring 20-feet in diameter, hovered 12 feet above the trade show floor. At the IBEW main booth, located near the spaceship, visitors lined up for the hourly drawings and received information about the Brotherhood. I-bew, the ever-friendly talking robot, strolled among the crowd, chatting up everyone and delighting his new acquaintances. An amazing "Jobob's Ladder" exhibit featured an 80,000-volt electrical arcing device.


Also among the highlights of the IBEW exhibits were spellbinding demonstrations sponsored by Local 2150, a Milwaukee host local, and Wisconsin Electric Power Company. IBEW linemen demonstrated dramatic "pole-top rescue" techniques while working high up in the air on electric utility poles. And at a Local 2150 forestry demonstration, line clearance tree trimmers demonstrated their skills by rappelling from the rafters of the Midwest Express Center.

Milwaukee Local 715, also a host local, demonstrated over-the-air broadcasting of live HDTV programming. Local 159, Madison, Wisconsin, sponsored an exhibit on "IBEW and Photovoltaics in the New Millennium." Madison

Local 965 presented a "fires and wires" demonstration. Other IBEW booths exhibited energy saving electric panels, a model working electric train, switch gear, and many other electrical products, equipment and services.

Among the IBEW company partners participating in the show were: Amtrak, Alliant Energy, Electric City, SP Products, Duray Fluorescent Manufacturing Company, Wilton Tool Corporation, SAV-RX, Mobile Tool International, Thomas Industries, United Technologies, Automatic Switch Company (ASCO) and Cooper Industries, Inc.

International Secretary-Treasurer Edwin D. Hill and Sixth District International Vice President Jeremiah J. O'Connor were among the IBEW officers and representatives at the event. "Members of the IBEW take a lot of pride in the quality of the products they produce and the services they render," Secretary-Treasurer Hill said. "The IBEW is proud to assist the AFL-CIO in sponsoring this show, by displaying the products and services of our union members."

AFL-CIO Union Label & Service Trades Department President Charles E. Mercer said the 2001 Union Industries Show will be held at the Convention Center in Los Angeles, California, April 27-30. 

THE IBEW PARTICIPANTS

IBEW locals and affiliate branches whose members gave of their time and talents to make the Union Industries Show 2000 a success:

- IBEW Sixth District
- Locals 494, 715 and 2150, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Locals 134 and 1031, Chicago, Illinois
- Locals 159 and 965, Madison, Wisconsin
- Local 723, Fort Wayne, Indiana
- Local 983, Huntington, Indiana
- Local 1060, Sheboygan, Wisconsin
- Local 2001, Fremont, Nebraska
- Local 3, New York, New York
- IBEW Railroad System Council #7



Pictured at the IBEW's main booth with IBEW International Secretary-Treasurer Edwin D. Hill (fifth from right), Sixth District International Vice President Jeremiah J. O'Connor (second from right), and IBEW Director of Purchasing Mac Bineham (right) are: listed in random order, Local 2150, Milwaukee, Executive Board members Brian Flanagan, Craig Lukasavitz, Larry Hawkinson, Steve Kauffeld and Mike Pankowski; International Representatives Donna Myron and Mary Harrigan; Local 266, Phoenix, Arizona, Business Manager Ray Nunez; Sharleen Nunez; B.K. Bineham; and Local 2150 Business Representative Joe Koehler.