



Convention Highlights

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS®

'Brotherhood Beyond Borders' 38th International Convention Begins in Vancouver



More than 6,000 members and visitors are expected at the IBEW's 38th International Convention starting today in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Thousands of IBEW members will convene in coastal Vancouver, British Columbia, this week for the 38th International Convention at the Vancouver Convention Center.

Nearly 3,000 delegates from all corners of the U.S. and Canada are expected. Along with staff, visitors, spouses and guests, as many as 6,000 will take part in IBEW events that commenced last Friday with pre-convention activities.

"The convention is the place for our solid leaders to take stock of where the IBEW is today, while laying the groundwork for our efforts moving forward," said IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill. "Our delegates understand the challenges we face as a movement, and I look forward to the discussions we will have in the next few days. We have some hard work ahead of us this week, but we also are looking forward to building bonds of unity as exemplified in our theme, 'Brotherhood Beyond Borders.'"

The convention officially begins at 9 a.m. today, when Temporary Chairman and First District International Vice President Phil Flemming will preside over opening ceremonies.

The week will be a mixture of discussion and decision-making by the delegation, the highest law-making body of the IBEW. Convention business will be punctuated by guest speakers, including area and international labor leaders. The convention will also elect International Officers to five-year terms.

The 38th International Convention represents the fourth time delegates have met in Canada. Past meetings have been in Montreal, Quebec, in 1923 and 1962, as well as in Toronto, Ontario, in 1986.

Attendees with hearing impairments will be able to easily follow convention proceedings, as Communication Access Real-Time Translation—or "CART"—services will be provided. CART is similar to closed captioning, but utilizes a reporter with a notebook computer

Speakers for Monday

Edwin D. Hill
IBEW International President

Phil Flemming
IBEW First District Vice President

Don Siegel
IBEW Third District Vice President

Jim Sinclair
British Columbia Federation of Labour President

Mike Flynn
Business Manager, Vancouver, B.C., Local 213

Gregor Robertson
Vancouver Mayor

Ken Georgetti
Canadian Labour Congress President

Visit the Internet Café

All convention delegates are invited to visit the Internet Café, located on the first floor of the Vancouver Convention Center in rooms 109-10. Review the latest convention news at the IBEW Convention Web site, watch the latest videos and check your e-mail. A printer is provided for your convenience. Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

and a stenographer keyboard to provide real-time paraphrasing and transcriptions. This is the first convention to feature such services.

Cross-Border Political Conference Mobilizes Delegates

Delegates gathered at the 2011 IBEW Political Conference made union history September 16 by bringing together IBEW political activists from both sides of the border for the first time. Attendees prepared for challenges of the next year, including the 2012 elections in the United States and important provincial contests across Canada.

Promising to take action on jobs, anti-worker politicians have squeezed middle class families and attacked collective bargaining rights instead.

Mike Bellcock, a Milwaukee, Wis., Local 2150 business agent and lobbyist,



Delegates listen to political presentations from both sides of the border at Friday's Political Conference.

was knee-deep in the struggle to protect collective bargaining in his state. A 24-year lineman and first-time delegate, Bellcock attended the IBEW Political Conference, saying "it was nice to hear acknowledgements from the speakers that Wisconsin is ground zero in the attack on our unions."

San Diego Local 569 journeyman wireman Terrelyn Hartman said "having gone to the Political Conference, I'm going to go back and throw out some facts to my friends—like how 80 percent of the income gain in the last decade went to the top 1 percent of the population."

Strategy and Inspiration Power EWMC Meeting

With urgent calls to action, inspiring speeches, poignant memorials and panel discussions on strategy and tactics, the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus at the 38th Convention put members in attendance on their feet and ready to take another step at building a more diverse IBEW and labor movement.

Under the banner, "Always Moving Forward, Forever Lifting Up," the minority caucus event featured two panel discussions with leaders from

local unions that have exemplified the mission of building a more inclusive organization.

Diana Limon outlined how, under the leadership of Los Angeles Local 11 Business Manager Marvin Kropke, the local worked with its EWMC chapter to visit political leaders as part of a sustained campaign to win billions of dollars of work on public school projects.

EWMC President Robbie Sparks charged hundreds in attendance to fight to keep the gains of the labor and civil

rights movements from being snatched away. Sparks addressed the impatience of members who believe that internal change is not happening fast enough in the IBEW. The way to make progress is to "be inside the room [where decisions are made]."

International President Edwin D. Hill saluted the caucus' role in fighting against an onslaught of anti-labor corporations and politicians.

IBEW Women's Caucus Challenges Members to Break Boundaries

The theme of the IBEW's 6th Women's Caucus was "Sisters in Solidarity: Leadership Beyond Borders" Friday morning at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Vancouver, as part of pre-convention activities before Monday's convention opening.

Hundreds of attendees—including veteran activists and members of the young workers delegation—were encouraged to transcend their own boundaries and work collectively to be effective change-makers in their locals and communities.

"Individual talent is great, but by sharing our common interests, strengths and abilities, we achieve a greater sense of unity," said Carolyn Williams, director of the IBEW Human Services Department.

The centerpiece of the caucus was a presentation by Amber Hockin, director of the Canadian Labour Congress for the Pacific region. She is the first woman director at the 3.2-million-member CLC, the Canadian equivalent of the U.S.' AFL-CIO.

"The IBEW has taken great steps already in terms of promoting women and equity-seeking groups within the organization," Hockin said. "I think that continuing to make space for these groups as they take on stronger roles is important."

The diverse crowd signaled agreement with the elected and appointed leaders' refrain: that working from within any organization is the path to real progress.



San Mateo, Calif., Local 617 member Kathleen Barber adds to the discussion at the Women's Caucus Friday.

Convention Energized by Young Worker Delegates

Attracting young workers and developing a fresher message for tomorrow's labor movement are more than just lofty goals at the 38th Convention.

A group of 48 young IBEW members selected from states and provinces across North America arrived in Vancouver as part of the union's RENEW (Reach out and Energize Next-gen Electrical Workers) effort. The young activists will network with delegates and attend sessions spotlighting the union's history, laws and structure.

RENEW participant Jeb Keola Kalani Kaneshiro, a journeyman inside wireman from Honolulu Local 1186, entered the IBEW's telecommunications branch in 1998 just out of high school.

"I am in Vancouver to learn and observe as much as I can to pass it on to everyone back home," he said.

Kaneshiro is bringing his own rich experience to the convention. Concerned that too many young workers aren't developing mechanical skills as readily as they are mastering computer technology, he is helping to set up an electrical merit badge for the Boy Scouts on Maui.



The convention includes a contingent of IBEW's future leaders.

"I hope to get more young people interested in doing what I do," Kaneshiro said. "It's very rewarding entering a place you built. It's an amazing feeling you get taking something from nothing to something extravagant."

Jennifer Gray, Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245, has worked as a customer service representative at Pacific Gas and Electric for five years. She was tapped as a shop steward by her business representative after questioning a supervisor's interpretation of the parties' labor agreement.

After last year's AFL-CIO's young workers' summit, she set up a Facebook page to engage more young workers in the union.

"This is my first IBEW convention," Gray said. "I'm willing to observe and learn and take on any role that is needed. I've done so much growing being involved in the labor movement and politics. I live and breathe this stuff."

International President Edwin D. Hill said, "Young workers across North America are facing an uncertain and sometimes frightening future. RENEW is designed to tap the initiative of young leaders, give them a better knowledge of the IBEW and the tools to succeed in changing the lives of their peers and building a stronger union."

IBEW Delivers Room Service

Let the IBEW Media Department be your guide to all of the sights, sounds and business of the 38th International Convention. Hosts Tim Tialdo and Angie Weidinger bring you nonstop coverage on the TV right inside your room, available in these hotels:

| Hotel | Channel |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Marriott Pinnacle Downtown | 381 |
| Fairmont Hotel | 48 |
| Hyatt Regency | 56 |
| Renaissance Harborside | 17 |
| Fairmont Waterfront | 51 |
| Four Seasons | 64 |
| Westin Bayshore | 60 |

Social Media, Convention Web Site Join In-Depth Coverage

This year's convention features a quantum leap forward in communications. The convention Web site, www.brotherhoodbeyondborders.org, is a one-stop shop to follow the action in Vancouver—integrating blog updates, video and social media.

Read breaking news and coverage of proceedings, including expanded versions of some stories in this newsletter.

Catch vivid video of events, as well as unique packages exploring union culture in the city.



Go to www.facebook.com/ibewfb for the latest updates and news from the floor.



Follow the IBEW on Twitter for the latest news and use hash tag [#ibewcon2011](https://twitter.com/ibewcon2011) to join the conversation.



Get daily video updates on the IBEW's YouTube page.



Catch the latest scenes from Vancouver on the IBEW Flickr page.

Convention attendees should also look for bright, colorful ads promoting the IBEW at the Vancouver International Airport and on bus shelters in the downtown area.

IBEW Has Talent

First District Act Wins with Living Tribute to Brotherhood

Finalists from each Vice Presidential district warmed up their voices and cranked their guitar amps in pursuit of top honors in the first-ever IBEW Has Talent competition Saturday afternoon at the Pacific National Exhibition in Vancouver.

First District finalists Greg McFarlane and Rob James' winning song "IBEW Fights for Me" is a salute to the sacrifices made by past generations of IBEW members—sacrifices which have made the Brotherhood what it is today. The soaring ballad had delegates and other attendees on their feet, winning over the crowd, who determined the winners.

McFarlane, a 10-year Winnipeg, Manitoba, Local 2085 member and former organizer, says he wanted to write a song that fully expressed his passion for the union and everything it has done for him and his family. "We've both dedicated our lives to this movement, and we wanted to use our musical talents to spread the message that the IBEW is the right choice for working people."

All 11 acts, each representing their districts, took the stage in the early afternoon. Judges selected three acts to move on to the finals later in the day, when the grand prize winner was ranked by audience applause via a high-performance volume meter.

Second-place kudos went to the heavy melodic rock sounds of Joe

Maraio and the Whyte Trash All-Stars, representing the Second District. The quartet featured Boston Local 103 journeyman wireman Michael Scapicchio.

Fourth District finalists The Safety Boys took third place for their entry, "The Safety Rap."

Taking the stage in safety gear, Richmond, Va., Local 50 lineman Dennis McDade rapped about the importance of workplace safety. He was backed up by fellow Local 50 members Ashley Windsor and Norman Soaper.

A wave of video submissions for the competition poured into the International Office after the talent contest was announced last December. Attendees at this year's district progress meetings previewed each entry and voted for their favorites.

Attendees also enjoyed the pop sounds of Danny Gokey, folk from The Wailin' Jennys and the crowd-pleasing sounds of headliner Bruce Hornsby and the Noisemakers.

Female trio The Wailin' Jennys dedicated their closing a cappella song to the memory of Eighth District International Executive Council member Richard Dowling.

After a rousing set, Hornsby's group rounded out the evening by bringing talent contest winners McFarlane and James to the stage for a soaring rendition of the Otis Redding classic "(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay."



Winnipeg, Manitoba, Local 2085 members and cousins Rob James (pictured above) and Greg McFarlane won the first IBEW Has Talent contest Saturday.

Technological Advances Featured at Electrical Industry Expo

The 38th IBEW Convention's industry expo featured exhibits highlighting the union's growing involvement in the rapidly-developing renewable energy industry.

Handy giveaways, information and raffle tickets were available at many booths from more than 70 vendors, ranging from long-standing IBEW employers like Southern Company, Henkels and McCoy and PG&E to signatory software and media firms, apparel vendors, training companies and benefit plan providers.

Across from equipment provided by Vancouver Local 213, including a solar wind anemometer and tower, the booth showcased the work of local unions across the U.S., including San Francisco Local 6; Diamond Bar, Calif., Local 47; Colorado Springs, Colo., Local 113; Castroville, Calif., Local 234; Martinez, Calif., Local 302 and Santa Ana, Calif., Local 441.

Caucus Meeting Rooms

Caucus meetings are scheduled for Monday, Sept. 19, following the adjournment of the afternoon session of the Convention. Meeting locations are as follows:

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| 1st District IVP Caucus | 4th District IVP Caucus | 8th District IVP Caucus |
| 8th District IEC Caucus | 6th District IEC Caucus | Room 111-12 |
| Room 202-04 | Room 121-22 | 9th District IVP Caucus |
| 2nd District IVP Caucus | 5th District IVP Caucus | 7th District IEC Caucus |
| 2nd District IEC Caucus | 3rd District IEC | Room 212-14 |
| Room 114-15 | Room 205-07 | 10th District IVP Caucus |
| 3rd District IVP Caucus | 6th District IVP Caucus | Room 116-17 |
| 1st District IEC Caucus | 4th District IEC Caucus | 11th District IVP Caucus |
| Room 220-22 | Room 211 | 5th District IEC Caucus |
| | 7th District IVP Caucus | Room 118-20 |
| | Room 208-09 | |