Delegates Continue Action on Resolutions

Delegates continued consideration of resolutions presented to the membership by the Resolutions Committee, chaired by Boston Local 104 Business Manager Tiler F. Eaton and Bloomington, Ind., Local 2249 Business Manager Carven B. Thomas served as secretary.

After discussion by delegates, the following actions were taken:

**Resolution No. 28.** The Resolutions Committee combined Resolution No. 28 (Funding of Political Action) and Resolution No. 58 (Political Action Committees). The Resolutions Committee recommended that local unions be strongly discouraged from operating their own political action funds, saying that having one IBEW PAC shows the determination, strength and commitment of the members of our Brotherhood to friends and foes alike.

The original resolution was amended to endorse the establishment of a political action committee covering IBEW locals in Canada.

After a question from the floor from A. Michelle Laurie, president of Vancouver Local 258, concerning the different laws governing campaign contributions on either side of the border, President Hill clarified that any fund established in Canada will employ counsel to ensure that the fund is in compliance with Canadian law.

**Resolution No. 36.** A resolution submitted by International President Hill and Sam Chilia said the IBEW recognizes the important contributions immigrants have made to the United States, but stemming the tide of those entering the United States illegally must be a priority for federal officials. The organization is also on record as rejecting any guest worker program and for establishing strong labor and wage protections for foreign workers here on a visa.

The resolution's reference to E-verify—an online program used to check an employee's legal status—became a topic of debate.

"Many delegates here do not know what an E-verify program is," said Dublin, Calif., Local 595 Business Manager Victor Uno, in support of a failed amendment to delete all references to E-verify. "I cannot support a resolution that calls for a program that we do not use in the local."

An amendment offered by Anchorage Local 1547 delegate Chris Tuck proposed to add the words "that must contain safeguards against false positives and at the same time protecting the privacy of all workers" to the resolution's statement supporting "a worker verification program such as E-verify" was passed.

**Resolution No. 35.** The resolution called for parity among locals for all Book II re-sign procedures to ease the travel and bookkeeping requirements for members traveling to other jurisdictions for work.

The Resolutions Committee recommended nonconcurrence based on what they said was the impossibility of devising a system of complete parity in locals' re-sign procedures.

Speaking in opposition to the committee's recommendation, Detroit Local continued on page 3

Delegates considered and debated resolutions on a wide variety of subjects, including unification of the labor movement and recommending St. Louis as the site of the 39th IBEW Convention in 2016.
Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee, chaired by Michael Everett, business manager, Peoria, Ill., Local 34, assisted by Secretary Tracy Newman, business manager of Rockwood, Tenn., Local 1323, reported on figures from the 38th International Convention registration office.

Credentials were issued for 2,266 delegates. Members traveled 4 million miles to come to Vancouver. The report included reimbursements for transportation, sleeping and living expenses.

Everett said the Finance Committee supported the per capita tax increase recommended by International Secretary-Treasurer Sam Chilia.

The committee's report was supported by the convention.

Debate Continues on Amendments

Chairman John O’Rourke of San Francisco Local 6 and Secretary Ross Galbraith of Fredericton, New Brunswick, Local 37 guided the delegation through discussion and debate on the final full day of the convention.

At the last convention, a decision was made prohibiting apprentices from serving as local union officers in most cases. A proposal was put forth by the International Officers to amend Article XVI, Section 11 to state that an apprentice shall also not serve as an election judge or teller. Advocating the need for experience and accumulated knowledge in decision making, the committee concurred with the officers’ proposal.

This prompted spirited debate from the floor. Leonard Rousseau of Victoria, B.C., Local 230 agreed with the committee’s recommendation, saying that the key responsibility of all apprentices was to become “the finest, most well-trained electricians they can be,” and that serving as election assistants could divert progress toward this goal.

Helena, Mont., Local 233 Business Manager Keith Allen suggested a compromise: allow members of any classification in good standing for at least two years to serve. Salvador Ventura of San Jose, Calif., Local 332 rose in support saying, “When our members are sworn in, to exclude them is not fair.” Additional discussion ensued, and the amended resolution to allow members with two years of service who are in good standing to assist in elections passed by a close voice vote.

Another proposal put forth would amend Article XVIII, Section 5 concerning local union expenditures and purchases. Currently, the International President provides guidelines and frameworks regarding local unions’ spending. A motion was made to allow for expenses under $5,000 to be approved more quickly and efficiently by an International Vice President, providing that any expenses above that figure be approved by the International President.

The committee, however, voted for nonconcurrence with the International officers’ proposal, stating that the resolution is cumbersome and restrictive on local unions’ efforts to conduct business in a timely manner.

Vinny McElroen of New York Local 3 rose in support of the committee’s recommendation. He said, “this resolution could overburden our ability to fight for our 29,000 members.” Discussion was then closed, and the delegation agreed with the committee’s nonconcurrence.

The committee read and adopted amendments on the following subjects, which you can read about at www.brotherhoodbeyondborders.org:

- Retired members voting in local union elections
- Military service cards
- Members holding management positions
- Submission of bylaws and agreements to the International President
- Local union examining board, including vacancies
- Local union audits
- Pension benefit fund
- Death benefits

The Law Committee will wrap up its report on Friday.
Delegates Continue Action on Resolutions (continued from page 1)

58 delegate Susan McCormick said that while she acknowledged that it may be impossible to devise a system of complete parity, “by standardizing the day of the month in which re-signs are required, it will lessen the burden on both office staff and members.”

The motion of nonconcurrence failed and after floor debate, the original motion carried. The convention, thus, votes to set up a system of parity in re-sign procedures.

Resolution No. 24. The convention urges all local unions and their union employers to review and consider adopting and joining the IBEW/NECA Family Medical Care Plan to benefit all IBEW members and the electrical industry as a whole.

Speaking from the floor in favor of the resolution, Billy McDaniel, business manager of Kansas City, Mo., Local 412, trustee of one of three utility plans that are part of the FMCP, called attention to the drastically increasing out-of-pocket expenses facing workers across the nation. The FMCP, says McDaniel, is improving customer service and will be even stronger with more participating local unions.

Resolution No. 30. The IBEW calls upon leadership on every level to continue to participate in discussions to unite the AFL-CIO, Change to Win and the National Education Association to help create a unified labor movement to better advance the interests of all working families.

Resolution No. 37. The IBEW supports its railroad members working for America’s freight railroads who have been working without a contract since January 1, 2010, and calls on management to fairly negotiate a contract that is equitable for all employees.

The convention read and adopted resolutions on:
- Privatization of Amtrak’s Northeast Corridor
- Promoting participation in the National Electrical 401(k) plans.
- Providing local unions with information and training on pension plans
- Supporting the continuing partnership between the IBEW and the National Electrical Contractors Association
- Opposing the obscure corporate tax break known as a “Reverse Morris Trust”
- Calling upon local unions to post and update the Construction Jobs Board
- Resisting the growing right-wing movements in Canada and the U.S.
- Recommending St. Louis as the site of the 39th IBEW Convention
- Calling on locals to engage their members on the issues and candidates to further the union’s grassroots political program.
- Adopting a national business development team to seek and secure work for IBEW members

The resolutions can be found on www.brotherhoodbeyondborders.com.

PHOTO INFORMATION

Panoramic Photos
The panoramic photograph taken on Wednesday afternoon will be on sale Friday morning until shortly after the close of the convention. The photo is on display and can be purchased at a table where registration was located.

District Photos
Photos of district delegations that were taken this week will be available within two weeks on the IBEW Web site at www.ibew.org.

Italian Union Leader: ‘Globalization Requires Global Brotherhood’

Carlo De Masi, Secretary-General of the Italian Federation of Electrical Utility Workers, told delegates that the increasing internationalization makes global solidarity more important: “The number of European energy companies operating inside the United States and Canada makes the relationship between our union and IBEW vital.”

In a speech Thursday, International Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus Lindell Lee commended the 38th International Convention for incorporating so many younger members into its proceedings.

“It’s wonderful to see so many young members here because you are truly the lifeblood of our organization,” said the former Eleventh District Vice President. He retired this year after a more than 40-year IBEW career.

Lee: ‘Inspire Young Members to Get Involved in This Fight’
Texas Delegate: ‘A Low Wage Economy Doesn’t Work’

Texas Gov. Rick Perry is running for president on a pro-jobs platform, boasting that the Lone Star State has created more than jobs than anywhere else in the United States.

But Houston Local 716 President Dale Wortham says Perry’s isn’t anything to crow about.

Wortham, who spoke on the floor in support of a resolution calling for strengthening the minimum wage, said his sister, a single mother, works two restaurant jobs.

“With two minimum wage jobs, the child care and the transportation, she is lucky to just break even,” he says.

Van Arsdale: Solidarity Antidote to Anti-Worker Policies

Drawing on his decades of steady guidance as an International Officer and business manager for New York Local 3, International Treasurer Emeritus Thomas Van Arsdale delivered a message Thursday urging delegates to learn from our countries’ rich labor history traditions.

Van Arsdale became International Treasurer in 1978, and served in that position until it was combined with the office of International Secretary in 1998. His dedication to the trade union movement continues the legacy of his family’s activism, especially that of his father, Harry Van Arsdale Jr.