

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2016



Convention HIGHLIGHTS

GCC/IBT 361M

Harkin to Delegates: Get Fired Up for November



Sen. Tom Harkin, who retired in 2015 after 30 years in the U.S. Senate, addressed delegates in St. Louis.

In 2014, the IBEW made Sen. Tom Harkin an honorary member of the Brotherhood. “A rare honor,” International President Lonnie R. Stephenson called it, but one indicative of the senator’s decades of work on behalf of working people.

“Today, I’m proud to be able to formally call you all my brothers and sisters,” Harkin said opening his remarks to the 39th International Convention. “I may be retired from the Senate, but I’m not retired from the fight for social and economic justice and the right of workers to form and join a union.”

But he had another, more pressing, message for delegates on Thursday. “This campaign,” he said, “is unlike anything I’ve ever seen in my 50 years in politics.”

Make no mistake, Harkin said, “If Donald Trump is elected president, a dark curtain will fall over America.” Citing important choices for the Supreme Court and the National Labor Relations Board, he warned that Trump would undo decades of progress for the labor movement.

“They are coming after you to destroy you,” Harkin said of Republican politicians and conservative megadonors who want nothing more than to gut labor law and extinguish the labor movement.

“I’ve known and worked with Hillary Clinton for over 25 years,” he said. “She is one of the most honest, trustworthy, patriotic, competent, and caring public servants I’ve ever worked with in my lifetime. Period.”

Speakers for Friday

Neil Abercrombie
Governor of Hawaii

Dan McCarthy
CEO, Frontier Communications

Rich Resnick
IBEW General Counsel

FINAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

This is your final issue of Convention Highlights. Information on the actions of the final session will be featured on the convention website at IBEW.org/convention2016, or through ibew.org. Full coverage of the convention will be available in the October/November issue of *The Electrical Worker*.

When the convention ends, Harkin said, delegates need to go back home and “work like hell” to elect Clinton president.

“I’ve been listening to Sen. Harkin speak since I was 10 years old,” said delegate Mark Carson of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Local 405. “We miss him in the Senate. He’s a leader, a fighter and he says what we need to hear.”

Delegates Conclude Law Committee Work

Delegates to the 39th International Convention on Thursday followed the direction of the Law Committee for the final six proposed amendments. The committee, led by Chairman Marvin Kropke and Secretary Frank Jacobs, recommended approving four amendments and rejected two.

The approved changes included a clarification that local union officers must be in good standing from the moment of nomination through completion of their term, unless given special dispensation by the international president.

Delegates also approved a rule requiring local union election observers to be members in good standing and eligible to vote in the election they are observing.

Convention delegates followed the Law Committee recommendation that only penalized parties can appeal disciplinary actions made by international vice presidents, the international president, or the International Executive Council.

Delegates cleared up an ambiguity about when recused members



Delegates voted on amendments to the IBEW Constitution.

of a local executive board should be replaced by the local president. No language was changed, but by moving a single paragraph from Article XVII, Section 11 to Section 12, the delegates approved an amendment to replace recused members only when an executive board is serving as a trial board.

Following the recommendation of the Law Committee, convention delegates rejected two proposed amendments. One change would have

required a vote any time a railroad local made an agreement that affected the seniority or wages of even a single member. After an impassioned and thoughtful debate, delegates voted to concur with the committee's recommendation by show of hands and the amendment was rejected. Finally, an amendment that would have allowed non-dues paying retirees to run for and serve as election judges and tellers failed.

Rockwell Collins Exec Praises Code of Excellence

Senior Vice President of Operations Bruce King of Rockwell Collins addressed delegates on Thursday, celebrating the nearly 75-year partnership between the aviation electronics company and the IBEW.

"This partnership has created success in the past, and it positions us well for the future," he said. The IBEW's Code of Excellence, in particular, has been embraced by both company leaders and IBEW manufacturing employees. "We see it demonstrated by our workers every day."



TOM VAN ARSDALE DELIVERS VIDEO ADDRESS

In a video delivered to the IBEW delegation Thursday, International Treasurer Emeritus Thomas Van Arsdale said, "You are the future of the IBEW. You must recommit to organizing all workers in the electrical industry. Never, never, never give up." Brother Van Arsdale, 92, is also former business manager of New York Local 3.

The Late Show Opens Convention Thursday



Thursday's International Convention featured a video about an IBEW Code of Excellence project at "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert."

Thursday's International Convention began with a video on a Code of Excellence project by New York Local 1212 and its renovation of "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert."

When the first "The Late Show" aired in September 2015, viewers saw a new host – and a new set complete with state-of-the-art technology. It was all done in just over three months.

"A tremendous amount of work was done and in a very short amount

of time. I can't tell you how proud I am of our guys," said Local 1212 Business Manager Ralph Avigliano.

At its height, the renovation, which included removing the previous set vacated by David Letterman, employed close to 100 members, said CBS Vice President Richard Hart. About 30 members work on the show as in-house technicians.

To read the full version of this story, visit IBEW.org.

Building Trades President Calls for Renewed Outreach

North America's Building Trades Union President Sean McGarvey addressed delegates Thursday with a call for outreach to politicians from all parties.

"We need to construct building trades majorities," McGarvey said, noting the new Congressional Building Trades Caucus, created by Rep. Donald Norcross, a Folsom, N.J., Local 351 member, with fellow Rep. David McKinley, a Republican from West Virginia.



"I urge you to look for opportunities to engage with lawmakers from both sides of the aisle," McGarvey said.

Canadian Labor President Delivers Spirited Address

Hassan Yussuff, Canadian Labor Congress president, fired up the crowd Thursday with an impassioned speech on the importance of pushing back against anti-labor policies – and of electing pro-labor candidates.

"When you pick a fight with us, we will not roll over," said Yussuff, the first person of color elected to lead the CLC.



IST, IEC COMMITTEE REPORTS APPROVED

Chairman James Kravec, business manager of Cleveland Local 1377, delivered the report of the International Secretary-Treasurer's Committee on Thursday. Brent Donohue, business manager of Salt Lake City Local 57, reported as chairman of the International Executive Council Committee.

Each committee's members recommended that their respective reports be adopted by the Convention.

Delegates, who were able to read both documents in their binders, approved both reports by unanimous voice vote.

Action Taken on Numerous Resolutions

Delegates passed 23 resolutions presented by the Resolutions Committee, chaired by Tacoma, Wash., Local 483 Business Manager Alice Phillips. Meriden, Conn., Local 457 Business Manager John Fernandes serves as secretary.

The following action was taken:

PASSED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 17: Communication from the international president should be used to determine if a member is in good standing.

Resolution No. 18: Encourages local unions to join the National Safety Council.

Resolution No. 20: Reinforces the commitment to the mission of the Safety Caucus. Resolution No. 19 was combined into it because of similar language.

Resolution No. 21: Reminds local unions the NECA/IBEW Family Medical Care Plan is a high-quality health insurance option.

Resolution No. 22: Encourages local unions to support the Electrical Industry Pension Reciprocal Agreement.

Resolution No. 23: Affirms ongoing support in the Electrical Industry Health and Welfare Reciprocal Agreement.

Resolution No. 24: Asks delegates to request a call-center employee

based in the United States or Canada when contacting a company.

Resolution No. 25: Urges support for research into Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, otherwise known as Lou Gehrig Disease.

Resolution No. 26: Urges the IBEW to enhance its working relationship with the National Electrical Contractors Association.

Resolution No. 28: Encourages local unions to include anti-discrimination language in bargaining agreements.

Resolution No. 29: Encourages continued participation in the National Training Institute.

Resolution No. 30: Reaffirms support for the Davis-Bacon Act.

Resolution No. 31: Commends Hour Power for making the IBEW brand more attractive to customers.

Resolution No. 34: Encourages the appointment of a Committee on Diversity and Full Inclusion. Resolutions 32 and 33 were combined into it because of similar language.

Resolution No. 35: Supports the development of a national policy that encourages the retention of baseload generating facilities.

Resolution No. 36: Calls for legislation that maximizes the use of coal in the future in an environmentally friendly manner.

Resolution No. 37: Encourages the construction of new nuclear power plants and the adoption of better regulatory policy.

Resolution No. 38: Asks the secretary-treasurer to explore whether an electronic warrant system can be developed for local unions.

Resolution No. 41: Urges local union and union employer trustees invest in the IBEW-NECA Diversified Underwritten Real Estate Fund. Resolution No. 40 was combined into it due to similar language.

Resolution No. 42: Urges local unions to mentor women in the workplace and build on the successes of the Women's Caucus.

Resolution No. 43: Encourages local unions to create a new member orientation.

Resolution No. 44: Encourages the continued support of the March of Dimes.

Resolution No. 45: Encourages all construction locals to support Project Tracker.

Resolution No. 46: Recommits support for 100 percent participation in the Construction Jobs Board.

NOT PASSED

Resolution No. 39: Withdrawn. International President Lonnie R. Stephenson pledged to explore a tree trimmers committee.

Italian Unionist Urges Deeper International Connections

Carlo De Masi, secretary-general of the Italian Federation of Utility Workers, brought a message of borderless brotherhood to the International Convention. Through a translator, De Masi spoke about the creation of Electrical Workers without Borders, an international group bringing together unions in France, Germany and Spain and

now, with the help of International President Emeritus Edwin D. Hill, here in North America. "The IBEW and the FLAEI represent an important part of the workforce, that being electrical power, which has always represented the symbol of light. Light that takes darkness away from our homes, our streets, and our cities."

