

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2016



# Convention HIGHLIGHTS

## Convention Ratifies IVP, IEC Choices



International President Emeritus Edwin D. Hill swears in the IBEW's international officers on Wednesday.

Convention delegates put their unanimous seal of approval on the results from Monday's district caucuses, which selected nominees for international vice presidents and members of the International Executive Council.

Each of the 11 vice presidents and eight IEC members were elected after having their names placed in nomination by a brother from their home district. Acceptance speeches were filled with gratitude for families and for the Brotherhood they each chose to serve.

International President Lonnie R. Stephenson invited President Emeritus Edwin D. Hill to swear in the officers.

### INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

- First District:** William F. Daniels
- Second District:** Michael P. Monahan
- Third District:** Donald C. Siegel
- Fourth District:** Kenneth W. Cooper
- Fifth District:** Joseph S. Davis
- Sixth District:** David J. Ruhmkorff
- Seventh District:** Steven M. Speer
- Eighth District:** Jerry Bellah
- Ninth District:** John J. O'Rourke
- Tenth District:** Brent E. Hall
- Eleventh District:** Curtis E. Henke

### INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- Chairman:** Christopher Erikson  
Local 3, New York

## Speakers for Thursday

**Carlo DeMasi**  
*Italian Federation of  
Electrical Utility Workers  
Secretary General*

**Tom Harkin**  
*Former Iowa Senator*

**Hassan Yussuff**  
*Canadian Labour Congress  
President*

**Bruce King**  
*Rockwell Collins Senior Vice  
President*

**Sean McGarvey**  
*North America's Building  
Trades Unions President*



- First District:** Joseph P. Calabro  
Local 1158, Newark, N.J.
- Second District:** Myles J. Calvey  
Local 2222, Boston
- Third District:** James D. Burgham  
Local 64, Youngstown, Ohio
- Fourth District:** William W. Riley  
Local 349, Miami
- Fifth District:** Michael D. Walter  
Local 1439, St. Louis
- Sixth District:** Chris J. Wagner  
Local 520, Austin, Texas
- Seventh District:** Patrick Lavin  
Local 47, Diamond Bar, Calif.
- Eighth District:** Ross Galbraith  
Local 37, Fredericton, N.B.

## Koster Promises Right-to-Work Fight

Chris Koster noted St. Louis was chosen to host the 39th International Convention because on the IBEW's 125th anniversary, it is back in the city of its birth.

But the location carries more symbolism than that, the Missouri Democratic gubernatorial nominee told delegates.

"It is also important that you have chosen this community because it is on the frontline this year in the fight for workers' rights in this country," he said on Wednesday.

Right-to-work laws have been passed in recent years in Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin and West Virginia, but far-right groups have been unsuccessful doing so in Missouri.

Koster said that trend will continue if he's elected and he also vowed to protect the state's prevailing wage law, which also is under attack.

"It's collective bargaining that they want to take out at the knees," he said. "Here in the Show-Me State, we will never let that happen."

### PANORAMIC PHOTOS AVAILABLE

Mark Segal Photography will be selling panoramic photographs of the 39th IBEW Convention from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. today and from 8 a.m. to noon Friday at the registration area.

## Delegates Continue Work on Resolutions



*Delegates engaged in lively debate Wednesday over resolutions involving political action.*

Delegates considered resolutions presented to the membership 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.

Four resolutions passed, but two involving political action were sent back to committee.

### Passed Resolutions

**Resolution No. 11:** Urges each local union to educate members on skin cancer awareness and the dangers of sun exposure.

**Resolution No. 12:** Encourages local unions with manufacturing membership to contact the Membership Department to have its products listed at [www.IBEWmade.com](http://www.IBEWmade.com).

**Resolution No. 13:** Resolves that local unions showcase their training programs more in their respective communities, especially to educators, elected leaders and potential customers. It says IBEW training is the best in the electrical industry and it should be used a marketing tool.

**Resolution No. 16:** Encourages local unions and districts to utilize established affinity groups to mobilize members on important issues. It was passed after an amendment was added to include women's groups in the list of affinity groups and clubs.

### Resolutions pending

**Resolution No. 14:** Encourages local unions to support the IBEW Political Action Committee at an average of \$12 per member. It states the IBEW's political actions are more effective when there is a strong national PAC. A motion was passed to send it back to the Resolutions Committee so language could be added to clarify the difference between a state and federal PAC.

**Resolution No. 15:** Encourages locals in Canada to continue to support and also encourage members to support the National Political Action Committee, especially after its success during last year's federal elections, at an average of CA\$10 per member. After debate, a motion to send it back to the committee was later passed in order to make the language more acceptable to Canadian members.

### THURSDAY PHOTOS

Delegates are invited to gather near the bleachers following the morning session today at the rear of the convention floor for the following vice presidential district photos: Second, Fourth, Sixth, Eighth, Tenth.

## Medical Miracle Fueled by IBEW Generosity

Long before Emily Whitehead became an international figure in the fight against leukemia, her mother and father assured her they would stay by her side.

Tom Whitehead said that was possible because of the generosity of IBEW members across North America, who donated money, vacation days and prayers to get them through one of the worst ordeals a family can face.

“We were very fortunate,” said Tom, a member of Johnstown, Pa., Local 459 and a lineman for Penelec of First Energy. IBEW Convention delegates viewed a video about the family during the session on Wednesday morning. “We saw other families that lost their job, who lost their houses, who had to go completely into the welfare system when their children are going through treatment.”

Emily was diagnosed in 2010. Tom said he was able to take 280 vacation hours in 2011 – almost seven weeks. In 2012, when Emily’s condition was its most dire, he took 520 hours – 65 full days, thanks to vacation days supplied by fellow IBEW



*Emily Whitehead with her parents Kari and Tom Whitehead outside their home in Phillipsburg, Pa.*

members.

Donations covered most of the expenses not covered by insurance or Medicare, which the Whiteheads qualified for. Emily has been cancer free since undergoing an experimental treatment with altered immune cells at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia in the spring of 2012.

The New York Times featured Emily’s revolutionary treatment and recovery in a front-page story in December 2012. Other media outlets

picked up on it and she’s been a celebrity ever since, meeting President Obama and actor Bradley Cooper.

In 2014, the Whiteheads started the Emily Whitehead Foundation to provide funding for childhood cancer research and to help make T-cell therapy available to more families.

“The support I’ve received from all my brothers and sisters out there has saved my daughter’s life,” he said. “I couldn’t be prouder to be part of this organization, so thank you.”

### IP COMMITTEE REPORT

Downers Grove, Ill., Local 15 Business Manager Dave Apple on Tuesday delivered the report of the International President’s Committee, on which he serves as chairman.

The committee’s members unanimously recommended that the International President’s Report, found in delegates’ binders, be adopted by the Convention. The report was adopted by the full Convention on a voice vote.

## Trumka Rallies Delegates

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka delivered an impassioned speech Wednesday on the importance of unions – not just to members but to all working people.

“You’re bringing the union advantage to communities across America,” Trumka said. “When we

organize ... when we stand strong, wages go up for everyone.”

He called on delegates to keep fighting for shared prosperity and to get out the union vote in November.

“Our nation is rediscovering unionism right now,” Trumka said. “When we win, the country wins.”



# Convention Approves Constitutional Amendments

Delegates to the 39th International Convention approved five amendments to the IBEW Constitution Wednesday morning.

Law Committee Chairman Marvin Kropke and committee Secretary Frank Jacobs presented the recommendations of the committee to the delegates.

Three amendments were related to future conventions. One clarified rules on the removal of International Executive Committee members and the last removed ambiguities from the rules on placing locals in trusteeship.

Currently, Article II, Section 7 requires a local union to be current with its per capita payments through the month of August in the year of the convention to have its delegates seated. Since the convention is constitutionally required to be held in September, this gave I.O. staff just 10 days to process every local's per capita payment. It was, the proposal argued, "an unnecessary administrative burden" that could be solved by amending the Constitution to shift the date back a month to July. The proposal was approved by acclamation without opposition.

The second proposal changed how the size of a local's delegation to the convention is determined. Under Article II, Section 8, delegations were based solely on per capita payments in May of the year of the convention. A proposal from International President Lonnie R. Stephenson and International Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore "Sam" Chilia changed that to the "average monthly number of members in good standing on which per capita tax is paid to the International Union during the 12-month period ending on March 31." The

proposal was approved by voice vote after a brief debate.

The third proposal altered Article II, Section 10 to give the International President the power to grant a local union special dispensation to elect delegates to the convention who did not have two years' continuous good standing if it was "impractical or impossible" to find a delegate who did. The change mirrored the language in Article XVI, Section 10 which grants the International President the power to allow election of local officers without the requisite two years' in continuous good standing when there is no alternative. The amendment passed without debate.

The delegation was then asked to approve a proposal that created a process for the removal of an International Executive Council member. Article IV, Section 2 gave the International President the power to remove any international vice president or the international secretary-treasurer for "non-performance of duties, disability, or incompetence." The amendment added "any member of the IEC" to Section 2. After IEC Chairman Chris Erikson rose to support the amendment, the proposal was approved.

Finally, delegates approved a change to Article IV, Section 3(i) clarifying rules over the imposition of trusteeship. Trusteeships of locals are extremely rare, but the Law Committee recommended several changes to make the process clearer, allowing trusteeships to be imposed before a hearing in emergencies and clarifying the IEC's role in deciding if trusteeships should extend past six months. That proposal, too, was approved.

## H2H: Putting Vets to Work

Darrell Roberts, executive director of Helmets to Hardhats, spoke to delegates Tuesday on the mission of the organization: connecting veterans with good-paying union jobs in the trades.

Helmets to Hardhats has been in existence for more than 13 years. During that time, Roberts said it has helped collect 22,000 veterans to jobs. Roberts, a veteran of the Navy and Army, said the U.S. Army has started promoting IBEW apprenticeships through social media.

"They'll continue to do so because they've found value in it," he said. "They see what you are offering and know it's valuable."



### CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE UPDATE

A total of 1,938 delegates from 678 local unions were registered and present for Day 2 of the 39th International Convention. Those unions represent a total membership of 632,015, as reported Tuesday to the Convention by International Executive Council Chairman Christopher Erikson.