

Canadian comment



Fall 2006



INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
FIRST DISTRICT

PHIL FLEMMING
International Vice President

EDWIN D. HILL
International President

JON WALTERS
International
Secretary-Treasurer

RICK DOWLING
International Executive
Council Member
8th District

37th International Convention and Expo

Cleveland was the perfect setting for the 37th IBEW International Convention and Exposition. Cleveland is a proud city that has rebuilt the inner core and every expectation of the 2,140 delegates was realized.

A massive Electrical Industry Expo kicked off the Convention on Saturday followed with an afternoon of music and friendship as

Delegates got to know each other at the IBEW Block Party.

The Canadian Reception on Sunday afternoon hosted by the First District Staff and Officers brought the Canadian Delegates together for an opportunity to meet and discuss the business of the Convention.

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Pictured above are the Canadian delegates who attended the International Convention in Cleveland, Ohio.

At the same time this picture was taken a number of delegates from Local 636 and 254 along with International Representatives Clendenning, Schell and Daniels were collecting money for the homeless in Cleveland. This was being done after a request was made from Local 254 ABM Karen Stoshnoff and Local 636 Tracy O'Meara to all the Convention Delegates to "leave something behind". As a result over \$5,500.00 was raised to help the needy; a great showing of spirit and caring.



editorial



Phil Flemming
International
Vice President

Greetings:

I am pleased to report that the IBEW 37th International Convention in Cleveland, Ohio September 11 through September 15, 2006 was a huge success. Your elected Local Union Delegates from the 1st District representing Canada from coast to coast certainly were front and centre at the Convention articulating their views on the issues affecting the membership. As you can well imagine by reviewing the actions of the Convention at the www.ibew.org website you will realize the Resolutions were well considered and debated.

Thank you to the Delegates, on behalf of our Canadian membership, that gave me and my team of International Representatives and Office Support Staff a vote of confidence by electing me to a five year term of office as the International Vice President for the First District Canada. I can tell you that it is indeed an honour to be elected by your peers and I want you to know that I take that trust seriously and in earnest.

As proud as I am about that accomplishment, and proud to serve the

members in Canada and proud to serve the IBEW in Canada, I realize and know that I didn't get elected just because of me. Far from it and how naive and assuming would I have to be to believe that.

We all know that any success we have in the labour movement, in our local union, in our labour council, in our federation of labour, in our IBEW only is achieved through a collective effort of officers, stewards and members, everyone working together; Everyone pulling collectively in the same direction, working hard.

I am committed and will continue to work with you and for you over the next five years to keep this Union moving ahead.

Phil Flemming, IVP

Dues Increase

One of the resolutions passed by the delegates at the International Convention was a dues increase. This increase is needed to provide finances for a number of reasons, including a new Industrial Organizing initiative being implemented by the International Office. Full time organizers will be hired to determine targets, make contact with those workers and begin an organizing campaign. At that time, field organizers will be hired on a temporary basis to focus their efforts on the campaign. Our District will receive 2 full time organizers and once these positions are filled we expect them to start creating the opportunity for more people to become organized and join the IBEW. There is no doubt that there is strength in numbers and this initiative will certainly help strengthen the IBEW in Canada.

Political Comment

There are two pieces of Federal legislation that need your support to ensure their success. The first deals with anti-scab legislation Bill C257 has recently passed through 2nd reading in the House of Commons by a vote of 167 to 101. This Bill, if enacted, will prevent Federal employers from using replacement workers in the event of a legal work stoppage and will level the playing field for union workers.

This is the *tenth* time this Bill has been introduced into the House and there is now clear support to be passed into law. Nevertheless, it is important that every one of our members helps to ensure this does happen by calling their MP and asking them for support.

The second issue deals with wage and pension protection for workers. During the Building Trades Legislative Conference in Ottawa this year Hamilton Mountain MP

Chris Charlton introduced a Bill to protect the wages and pension of workers if their company declares bankruptcy. Today, pension funds can be taken and used to pay creditors even though this money was earned by employees.

Companies, lenders, banks, and suppliers can mitigate their losses while employees are left empty handed.

There are a number of IBEW Local Unions that are affected by Federal Legislation and it is important that everyone calls their MP to support the Bill to provide fairness in the workplace. Let your friends and family know that their voice is also needed on this issue.

To find your MP go to <http://webinfo.parl.gc.ca>.

For more information, please go to <http://canadianlabour.ca>

37th International Convention and Expo



Vice President Phil Flemming introducing the Highlanders of Canada Pipes and Drums and his nephew Craig Flemming to sing the national anthem for the opening ceremonies of the International Convention.



Local Union 254, Calgary, AB Business Manager John Briegel nominating Phil Flemming as the Vice President for the First District, Canada.



Pictured is Ken Georgetti, President of the Canadian Labour Congress, addressing the delegates about the issues facing Canada's working families.



Local Union 636, Toronto, ON, Training Officer Patrick Vlanich addressing a resolution on the floor of the convention.

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The opening ceremonies on Monday included the 48th Highlanders of Canada Pipes and Drums in an emotional presentation of the Canadian Flag to the Convention.

The Canadian National Anthem was sung by IVP Phil Flemming's nephew Craig Flemming, an accomplished musician from Halifax, NS.

On Monday afternoon IVP Flemming was returned to Office by the Canadian voting Delegates for a five year term along with Local Union 213 Business Manager Rick Dowling elected to the IEC.

Throughout a busy week of Convention responsibilities, Delegates from across North America debated the issues that will move the IBEW forward as a vibrant leader in the Labour movement.

As always, the Canadian Delegates were a powerful force at the Convention making their positions clear and representing their constituents.

Without a doubt, the 37th International Convention Organizers and Host Committee set a high standard and a class act to be followed in Vancouver, BC in 2011. For more detailed Convention information visit the IBEW website at www.ibew.org.



Local Union 213, Vancouver, BC Business Manager Rick Dowling providing his acceptance speech as the newly elected IEC member for Canada.



Local Union 1928 Halifax, NS Business Manager Mike MacDonald nominating Brother Rick Dowling as IEC member for Canada.



Daniel Boulet, Business Manager of Local Union 2228, Ottawa, ON, addresses the delegates on a proposed resolution.



The opening ceremonies included the 48th Highlanders of Canada Pipes and Drums presenting the Canadian flag to the Convention

Michelle Laurie, President of Local Union 258 Vancouver, BC, presents Tommy Nowlan, a delegate of Local Union 37 Fredericton, NB, a convention watch after he returned Michelle's engagement ring which she lost while walking along one of the busy streets in Cleveland. Incredibly, Brother Nowlan found the ring and returned it to her after an announcement of her loss was made during the convention proceedings. Thankfully this turned into a very happy ending for them both.



IBEW Founders' Scholarship

AWARDED ONLY TO IBEW MEMBERS

The IBEW Founders' Scholarships honour the dedicated wiremen and linemen who, on November 18, 1891, organized the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Each year the officers of the IBEW are pleased to offer its working members scholarships on a competitive basis. It is hoped that the awards will not only contribute to the personal development of our members but also steward the electrical industry that our founders envisioned.

This award is for \$200 per semester credit hour at any accredited college or university toward an associate's, bachelor's or postgraduate degree in an approved field. The maximum distribution is \$24,000 over a period not to exceed eight years. For more information please see www.ibew.org.

We Have Stuff:

⇒ **IBEW 1st District Rings** are available in men and women's styles in 14K gold with optional diamond.

⇒ **IBEW FR Clothing Program** continues to build; made of Nomex® and can be ordered in small or large quantities.

⇒ Thousands of **on-line or CD based courses** priced as low as \$10.00 for children or adults on topics like business, self-help, personal growth, or education.

Visit www.ibew1st.org for more information.

IBEW FIRST DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIPS

The **IBEW 1st District Office**, in conjunction with **AIL Canada, Union Savings and MWG Apparel** is pleased to announce that five (5) Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00 each will be made available to all IBEW members and their families in full or part time studies in pursuit of a post secondary diploma or degree.

The **IBEW 1st District Office, AIL Canada, Union Savings and MWG Apparel** realize the importance of continuing post-secondary education and skill development and are offering these scholarships to help interested union members and their families achieve their educational goals.

Members who are interested in being awarded one of the scholarships for themselves or their family member, may

complete the form below and then forward it to the IBEW 1st District Office.

All applicants are required to submit a brief essay, outlining the benefits of belonging to the IBEW. These essays will become the property of the IBEW and following a validation of each candidate, the successful applicants will be decided by holding a random draw.

All entries must be received by January 31st, 2007, the draw will be held on February 7th, 2007.

Only successful candidates will be contacted. Good luck to all those who apply.

If you require further information call the First District office at (905) 564-5441.

APPLICANT NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

_____ POSTAL CODE: _____

HOMETEL#: _____

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION: _____

COURSE(S) TAKEN: _____

NAME OF PARENT: _____ LOCAL: _____

SIGNED BY APPLICANT: _____ DATE: _____

SIGNED BY PARENT: _____ DATE: _____

Please return application by mail or email to the following address:

IBEW, First District Office • Att: Phil Flemming • 300 - 1450 Meyerside Drive • Mississauga, ON L5T 2N5 • Email: ivpd_01@ibew.org