



Convention HIGHLIGHTS

37TH CONVENTION • CLEVELAND, OHIO

TUESDAY

SEPTEMBER 12, 2006

Leadership Team Re-Elected

IBEW members at the 37th Convention demonstrated their support for a progressive agenda by unanimously electing International President Edwin D. Hill and International Secretary-Treasurer Jon Walters to five-year terms.

International Executive Council Chairman Robert Pierson was also elected by acclamation.

Expressing his gratitude to delegates, President Hill stated, "By re-electing me, you did not vote for the status quo ... because we are going to work together to do whatever it takes to keep this Brotherhood strong and growing and on the move."

Reminding delegates that the Brotherhood is "not about any one man or woman," Hill said, "I have been fortunate enough in this job to meet presidents and CEOs and some of the most powerful people in North America. They didn't want to meet Ed Hill; they wanted to meet the person who leads the IBEW, the person who represents all of you. That's the kind of power that we have if we have the courage and the wisdom to use it and to make this Brotherhood the best it can be."

Hill gave special thanks to his brothers and sisters back home in Beaver, Pa., Local 712; his wife, Rosemary; and his children Michele, Toni and Edwin Jr.

Recognizing the teamwork that exemplifies the IBEW, Hill said that he was one of the luckiest men alive because he has had the best to lean on in his term as International President, praising Jon Walters, IBEW's vice presidents and the International Executive Council.



International President Edwin D. Hill (left) and Secretary-Treasurer Jon F. Walters acknowledged the cheers of the delegates after being re-elected.

President Hill expressed the need for members and leaders to constantly evaluate what they are doing and to "make adjustments when necessary, even if those adjustments represent a major change in course." Evoking the music of the opening ceremonies, President Hill said, "Always know that you can lean on me. I'm your union brother, Ed."

Frank Telesz, business manager of Local 712, placed Hill's name into nomination, praising his courage and his honesty "no matter how much it hurt."

Secretary-Treasurer Walters said that

he was humbled by his election. "Who would have ever guessed that a farm kid from eastern Idaho would be here today, addressing this historic 37th International Convention as International Secretary-Treasurer? My presence here today is a tribute to the power that the IBEW has to provide opportunity and change lives."

Pierson pledged to support the union's emphasis on growth through organizing, saying, "Like every generation of the IBEW, we must leave the organization better than we found it."

Hill Keynote Stresses Optimism and Courage

International President Edwin D. Hill praised delegates for five years of progress. "We are a different Brotherhood from the one that met in San Francisco in 2001," said Hill. "We have rediscovered the spirit that was within ourselves. We have had the courage to confront the truth."

Hill credited the 2004 construction business managers' meeting in St. Charles, the Code of Excellence and the "State of Our Union" message in generating a stream of reports across his desk showing that IBEW is restoring its reputation on America's work sites and organizing new members.

"Florida has been the laboratory for a new way of operating and organizing and taking on the challenges that we once thought were too tough," said Hill.

Discussing the Brotherhood's plan to hire up to 100 new organizers and set up new organizing councils, Hill said, "The idea is not to supplant local organizing, but to identify winnable targets — of which there are thousands — and go after them in a coherent, well-planned manner.

Despite the best efforts of local leaders, Hill said, the decline in the union's membership has left the union

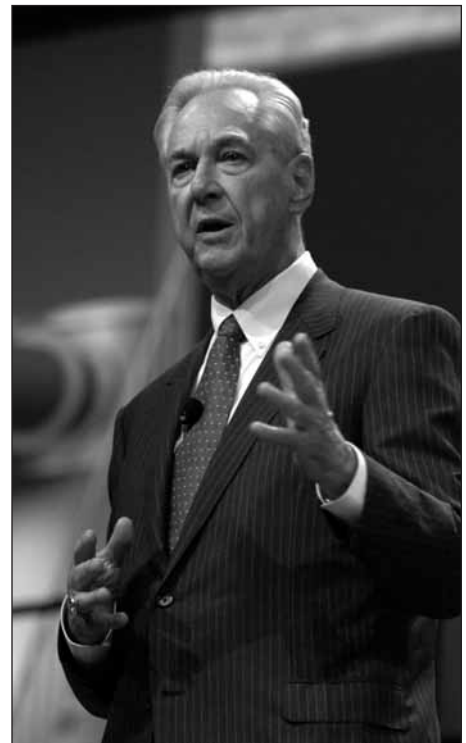
dipping into its financial reserves.

Explaining the Law Committee's constitutional amendment to increase the per capita tax three times over the next five years, Hill asked, "Will we, the union that has led the way in organizing and excellence, lose our nerve now and risk losing emerging markets in the future?"

Organizing goes hand in hand with the need to mobilize politically.

"It will be up to us this year to make some of the right-wing zealots pack their bags, sneak out of town and go collect the reward that they have bought with their votes," said Hill. "We must take back our share of political power in Canada and the United States."

Closing his keynote to resounding applause, Hill said, "I see men and women of rare and extraordinary courage who have done and are going to do great things together in the future because we are the IBEW, and we will give no less than our finest and best effort every day of our lives."



President Hill charted a progressive course for the union.



President Hill's message was well-received by delegates.

Credentials Committee Report

A total of 2,221 delegates were credentialed for the opening of the 37th International Convention. Total delegates registered were 2,065 and 156 alternates reported, as relayed to the Convention by International Executive Council Chairman Robert Pierson.

Pierson said total membership in the A division is 331,697 and total BA membership is 367,589. Total voting strength is 673,829. Total membership is 699,286.

Under the IBEW Constitution, the IEC serves as the Credentials Committee. The committee said 734 locals are represented at the Convention. Total locals without delegates are 185.

Luncheon for Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2006 (Hall D)

<i>Chicken Parmesan</i>	<i>Turkey Sandwich with Provolone Cheese on Cranberry Muffins</i>	<i>Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad</i>
<i>Salisbury Steak with Mushrooms & Onions</i>	<i>Italian Subs</i>	<i>Fresh Fruit and Cheese & Crackers</i>
<i>Vegetable Pasta Primavera</i>	<i>Baked Ham on Honey Wheat Bread</i>	<i>Chips & Pretzels</i>
<i>Club Sandwich</i>		<i>Beverages</i>

37th IBEW Convention Opens with Fanfare, Sept. 11 Tribute

Five years to the day after Sept. 11 changed the world, the New York Local 3 Sword of Light Pipe and Drum Band marched into the Cleveland Convention Center playing a medley of military hymns to usher in an emotional opening to the 37th IBEW International Convention.

“As we remember the events of five years ago, we also pray for those who died that day,” said Bishop Richard G. Lennon of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, who presented the invocation. “We pray for all of their loved ones who still carry the scars of that loss. We pray for our countries, the United States and Canada, that all people of good will work to establish lasting peace on the face of this Earth.”

A video tribute showed footage of the reaction of the 36th International Convention in San Francisco to the tragedy of Sept. 11. Secretary-Treasurer Jon Walters then led the Convention in the singing of “God



A rhythm and dance troupe entertained the delegates.

Bless America.”

IBEW Fourth District International Vice President Paul Witte opened the Convention as the temporary chairman, welcoming the delegates on behalf of the Fourth District.

“Brothers and sisters, I firmly believe that this Convention will be recorded as one of the most important weeks in the history of the IBEW,” Witte said. “We all have an obligation to fully participate in the business of this Convention and to make wise decisions as we chart the future of the IBEW.”

Linda Crawford, wife of Seventh District International Representative George Crawford, sang the “Star Spangled Banner.” Craig Flemming, nephew of First District Vice President Phil Flemming, sang the Canadian National Anthem. The Canadian Highlander Militia Regiment Pipe and Drum Band performed and presented the Canadian flag.

Finally, the hall quieted and darkened. The song “Lean on Me” played on the sound system, and on the stage, two figures —

International President Edwin D. Hill and Secretary-Treasurer Jon Walters — appeared amidst the rising stage fog. In dramatic fashion broadcast on more than 30 wide screen and plasma television monitors, they descended one story in an elevator and entered the Convention to a hall of cheering delegates.

After a presentation of two gavels from the Fourth District, President Hill then called the Convention to order.



New York Local 3’s Sword of Light Pipe and Drum Band made an emotional entrance during the opening ceremonies.

New York Sept. 11 Victims Remembered

New York Local 3 President John Marchell read the names of the 21 IBEW members who died in the attack on New York City.

Local 1212 members:

Gerard Coppola
Steven Jacobson
Robert Pattison
Isaias Rivera

Harvey Hermer
Ralph Licciardi
Michael Lowe
Charles Lucania
Lester Marino
Jose Martinez

Local 3 members:

Thomas Ashton
James Cartier
Robert Caufield
Joseph DiPilato
Salvatore Fiumefreddo

Joseph Romagnolo
Anthony Segarra
Jeffrey Shaw
Steven Strauss
Glenn Travers Sr.
Kenneth White

Sen. Harkin Assails GOP Fear-Mongering

Hope and reclamation were the themes of a powerful speech by one of labor's biggest champions in Washington, D.C.

Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) addressed delegates on Monday, Sept. 11, in his second appearance before an IBEW Convention. His first address in 1991 immediately followed his announcement that he would run for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Harkin took to the stage after a warm IBEW welcome. An unapologetic progressive, he criticized President Bush for fear-mongering, an election-year tactic the Republicans have used since 2002. "Did you hear?" Harkin asked. "Our nation is under attack — at least until Election Day."

"We believe in giving hope to all Americans and not just the privileged few and that's what makes us the kind of people we are today," Harkin said. "It's the American dream that organized labor and the IBEW have always fought for."

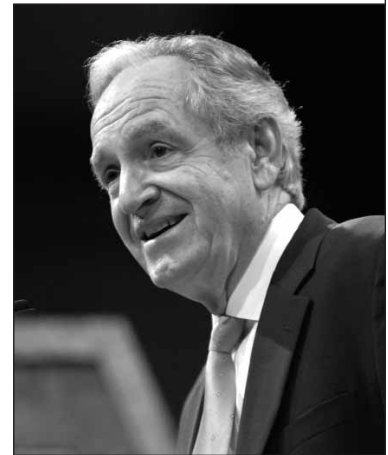
Harkin accused the Republicans of providing favors for the ultraconservatives and tax breaks for the rich.

Meanwhile, health care premiums for the rest of us have increased 70 percent, college tuition is up by 57 percent and home heating costs have increased 62 percent since 2001.

"Americans are working harder and longer and are more productive than they've ever been, and they're getting nowhere," Harkin said.

Harkin said he is pushing for working families — creating good jobs for Americans, a secure retirement and decent health care for all.

"This election is about reclaiming the ideals and values that made us proud to be American," Harkin said.



Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa)

AFL-CIO President Sweeney: Take Back America

AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney told delegates on Monday afternoon that "the entire AFL-CIO and all of our unions are ready to take back America together" on Nov. 7.

Citing the strong spirit of national unity immediately after Sept. 11, Sweeney said "our new spirit of national unity was crushed by the people who are running" our country. "While publicly praising the work of first responders and our unions, our national leaders returned to their anti-working-family agenda, slashing taxes for the wealthy, passing out no-bid labor agreements, trying to privatize Social Security and destroy the collective bargaining



John J. Sweeney
AFL-CIO President

rights of hundreds of thousands of federal employees."

Sweeney recalled that when Katrina smashed into the Gulf Coast, the federal government failed those who were devastated. The party in power in Washington "never took their eyes off their agenda,"

Sweeney said. "And while the IBEW and the AFL-CIO were responding with food, clothing, shelter — and a \$1 billion rebuilding commitment from our Investment Trust Corporation — they were responding to their corporate co-conspirators, suspending prevailing wage standards ... doling out more no-bid contracts, importing nonunion contractors, and all the while dragging their feet" on getting relief to those most in need.

Ohio AFL-CIO President Sees Political Change on Horizon

Denouncing corporate America for "cutting and running," Ohio AFL-CIO President Bill Burga said that the AFL-CIO's "Take Back Ohio" was already showing surprising strength. He expressed confidence that IBEW locals would play a key role in electing Reps. Ted Strickland and Sherrod Brown, both friends of working families, and candidates for governor and the U.S. Senate, respectively.

Ohio's catastrophic job losses have caused real pain, which the Ohio AFL-CIO is



Bill Burga
Ohio AFL-CIO President

addressing with a ballot measure to increase the state's minimum wage. But, says Burga, job creation efforts need to go further. "I applaud IBEW for looking at environmental technology and supporting the Apollo Project."