



# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Vancouver Island

Quarterly Newsletter Since 1902

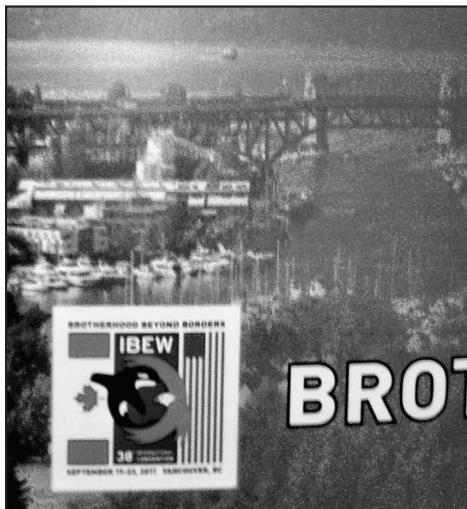
## Brotherhood Beyond Borders

On September 19th -23rd over 2000 Delegates to the IBEW 38th International Convention came together in Vancouver, British Columbia. This is the fourth time in the history of our Organization to hold our Convention in Canada, (Montreal 1923, 1962, Toronto 1986).

The Vancouver Convention Centre was wired by IBEW Local 213 members two years ago in preparation for the 2010 Winter Olympics and it was also the only facility large enough in the City to accommodate us.

Ten official union hotels were obtained by the IBEW housing bureau; it was an incredible opportunity to show Delegates from around North America Canadian west coast hospitality, spirit and brotherhood. *"The Convention is the place for our solid leaders to take stock of where the IBEW is today, while laying the groundwork for our efforts moving forward. Our Delegates understand the challenges we face as a movement, and I look forward to the discussions we will have in the next few days."* expressed International President Ed Hill.

The Convention began with a Political Conference held the preceding Friday, focusing on recent anti-worker politicians and governments like those in Wisconsin, and how they have squeezed middle class families and attacked collective bargaining rights, like Bill C-51 which robbed our Dockyard members of their arbitrated decision of a 5.2% increase.



There were Young Worker, Women and Minority Caucus events as well. The Electrical Industry Exposition featured over 70 vendors highlighting renewable energy, advances in technology, tools and equipment, training and benefit providers, along with software, media firms and apparel vendors.

First place finishers from the eleven Vice-Presidential Districts of the IBEW Has Talent Contest took the stage on the Saturday during a picnic at the PNE to show off their talents. The afternoon whittled the entertainment down to three member groups, A rap group

called the Safety Boys from Richmond, Virginia, a Hard Rock group Joe Maraio and the Whyte Trash All-Stars from Boston, and a singing duo of Rob James and Greg MacFarlane from Winnipeg. All three took the stage inside at the Coliseum later in the day. Greg and Rob from Winnipeg took first place with their original song "IBEW Fights for me" a salute to the sacrifices made by past generations of IBEW members.



Greg MacFarlane (LU 2085 Winnipeg) and Rob James, winners of the IBEW Has Talent.

## Autumn 2011

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[www.ibew230.org](http://www.ibew230.org)

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## News/Notes:

Office closed for Christmas Holidays from Friday December 23rd at 12:30 to Monday January 2nd.

**For those smart phone users:**  
**Shepell – fgi your Employee Assistance Program Administrator has an App, search "My EAP" on your BlackBerry App World or iPhone App Store for your free download.**



# Business Manager's Report



Philip M. Venoit  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Just prior to the Conventions close President Hill approached me to ask if I would serve as one of the two Metal Trades Delegates on behalf of our International Union. The Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labour represents the interests of unionized shipyards throughout North America. It is my understanding that I am the first Canadian to be elected to this position, ever. With a decade as Local 230's Business Manager, 6 years as a Representative to the public and private shipyards in our jurisdiction and 8 years actually working on the tools in shipyards I will bring the labour relations knowledge and shop floor experience to proudly

fill out this position, which will require me to be away from the Local one week per year. The biggest work news to hit Vancouver Island was the announcement that Seaspan Marine, Vancouver/Victoria Shipyards was awarded the non-combat portion of the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy (NSPS) worth \$8 Billion dollars. What the west coast will be building is three fisheries vessels, naval supply

vessels, an ocean sciences vessel, and an ice breaker already named after John Diefenbaker. This is a great win for BC's Metal Trades Unions as we put a tremendous amount of effort into securing this work over the past two years, including hiring lobbyists in Victoria and Ottawa, meetings with Provincial politicians from both sides of the partisan fence, as well as Members of Parliament, creating a new entity the Pacific Coast Shipbuilders Association made up of unions (including Local 230) and shipyard companies to help facilitate the strategy, press releases, radio shows full newspaper ads, and so much more without mention.

I was invited to a Vancouver Board of Trade luncheon to hear Premier Christy Clarke present her BC jobs plan, which to date has been old announcements of private projects like the Kitimat LNG, which the IBEW Local 993 has been in discussions with the construction manager KBR for about a year now. The emphasis was on attracting outside investment into BC. Now, that's exactly what every country has been doing since the heightened emphasis on global trade in the 80's. Actually, we could really go back to the birth of our

Introducing the...

PACIFIC COAST SHIPBUILDERS ASSOCIATION

A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP OF STAKEHOLDERS TO PROVIDE VALUE TO THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL SHIPBUILDING POLICY

Country with the fur trade. I guess everything old becomes new again, (other than beaver pelt hats!). So what was this really about? The jobs plan was/is a province wide tour to get voters excited about a fall

election, a fall election which will no longer happen due to the results of the HST referendum and the poor standings of the BC Liberals in the polls.

I sat with Labour Minister Stephanie Cadieux to discuss improvements to the Employment Standards Act specifically for the construction industry in BC, and how that enforcement would essentially pay for the proper policing of unscrupulous contractors in the Province. Construction Bargaining has hit another bump with the contractors chief (and only official) negotiator having a stroke, which will delay meetings a few more weeks while he recovers and brings a possible replacement up to speed. We wish him well in his recovery and I hope we are back to the bargaining table this month and have news back to the membership as soon as we have something ironed out in writing.

Finally, this is the last Newsletter to Local 230 members for 2011. From my family to yours, and on behalf of the Local 230 Staff, I wish you all the very best throughout the Christmas Holidays!

In Solidarity, Phil Venoit

## Report of the Law Committee

In early August I received correspondence from IBEW President Hill appointing me to the Law Committee to represent the First District, Canada. An extreme honour I will never forget, a portion of our Report to Convention was as follows:

*Your Law Committee for the 38th International Convention convened in accordance with the mandate as described in the IBEW Constitution. The members selected to serve on this Committee represent a broad cross section with respect to the branches of our Brotherhood and geographic locations. This diverse experience, gained while servicing their own memberships, makes them particularly aware of the problems that face the Brotherhood and our two nations. Their experience with the rules and regulations of the IBEW and its local unions has guided their work on the proposals to be presented to the IBEW 38th International Convention.*

*The Law Committee thoroughly discussed and researched every proposed amendment, mindful that we have just gone through a period of historic economic challenges and that there are a multitude of corporate, political, and economic adversaries that continue to threaten our union. Foremost in our minds at all times was the interest of the entire Brotherhood, and the necessity to ensure that as we move forward we maintain our standing as the premier union, able to do the work that needs to be done in representing our current and future members at the highest level. In addition, and in keeping with the basic premise that we all believe in, that organizing is the lifeblood of our organization, we also kept in mind that the IBEW needs the resources to grow our membership in all branches of our union.*

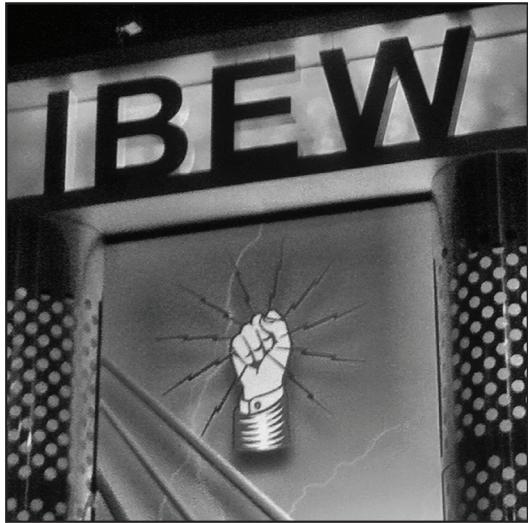
I can say, the legal, accounting, and every department of the International staff provided us with an incredible amount of information pertaining to every request made by the Committee in fulfilling our obligations to the membership.

# Constitutional Amendments

The Law Committee originally considered 26 Resolutions which proposed to amend the IBEW Constitution, we merged two (2) of those that were similar to bring 25 Resolutions to the Convention floor. Our Report stated the reasons why we concurred or non-concurred on each Resolution. We attempted to provide clarification where we thought prudent, and provided synopsis of the actual information obtained through our research, all of this was done to assist the delegates in judging the merits of each proposed amendment to our Constitution.

The first resolution helped to clarify Delegate selection to the International Convention in the event a Delegate retires, gets sick or by some other means is unable to attend the Convention allowing for his or her replacement. The second resolution worked to clarify that Delegates elected by the Convention to serve on Building, Metal, Maritime, Union Label and Service, Trades Councils along with

Delegates to the American Federation of Labour and Canadian Labour Congress are and maintain business manager



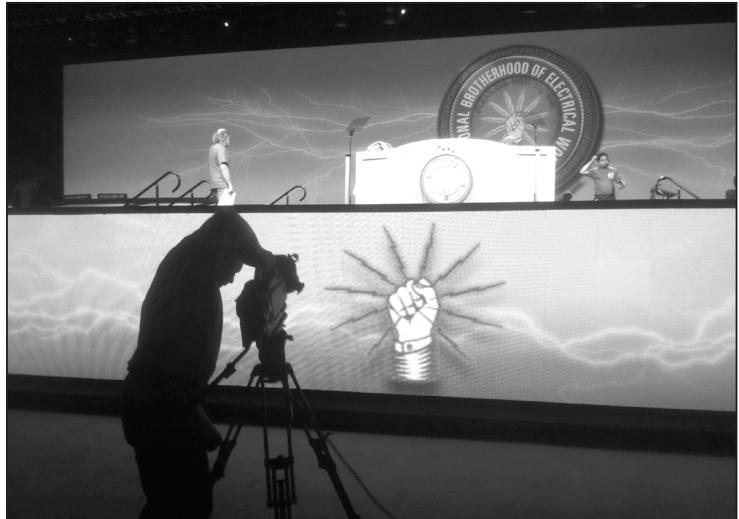
status of a local union. The third and fourth resolutions worked to clarify the process and voting structure of elections for Vice-Presidents and members of the International Executive Committee within their Districts, and how they are dealt with in the event of successive tie votes.

Resolution five intended to increase the value of pension payments to retired officers, representatives and assistants. Resolution six was an increase to the per capita tax (International dues portion) by \$2.00 in 2011, another \$2.00 in 2013 for all members. Resolution seven was an increase remittance to the Pension Benefit Fund of \$1.00 in 2013 and another \$1.00 in 2015 for all "A" members to help ensure solvency of the Plan. Resolution eight called for an increase to the monthly payment to retired members. Resolution nine called for the full payment of the death benefit in every case. Resolution

ten seeks to clarify retired members coming back into full service just prior to a local union election. Resolution eleven deals with benefits and membership status of those brothers and sisters of the IBEW who serve in the Military. Resolution twelve expands the managerial description of those who are not allowed to attend union meetings, vote on union issues or local union elections, or hold office. Resolution thirteen provides for all proposed bylaw changes to first go through the local union's District Vice-

President for assistance prior to proceeding to the International President for amendment.

that a local union employ an independent public accountant to prepare their annual audit. Resolution nineteen proposed that expenditures of a local union exceeding \$5,000 be first approved by the International President. Resolution twenty constitutionally reaffirms a member can only be a member of one local union at any one time. Resolution twenty-one affirms the standing of a member while charges are pending through the appeal process. Resolution twenty-two provides for charges against stewards to follow the same process as officers and representatives. Resolution twenty-three prohibits a charging party to an appeal process. Resolution twenty-four proposed a select committee on the future of the brotherhood. Resolution twenty-five called



Resolution fourteen, fifteen and seventeen clarifies the roles and responsibilities for members sitting on a local unions Examining Board. Resolution sixteen further declares that apprentices may not serve as election judges or tellers for local union elections. Resolution eighteen clarifies

to change all references to our discontinued magazine the "journal" and replaced with "monthly publication".

All resolutions passed with the exceptions of numbers five, eight, nine, nineteen, and twenty-four which failed on the Convention floor due to lack of voting support.



Law Committee Secretary R. Galbraith and Chairman J. O'Rourke get ready to take the stage.

# Municipal Elections Saturday November 19th

The following list of municipal candidates have been interviewed and endorsed by their local Labour Councils, then forwarded to the Canadian Labour Congress for distribution within the labour movement. I'm passing on the names of these individuals to you so you can be better prepared knowing the pro-union candidates in your communities. I know for many of you that may not be enough, so I urge you to contact these candidates in your area to discuss the issues that are important to us, like good apprenticeships, red seal certificates on all municipal and school board work, a sensible approach to building permits in the area, to name just a few.

## SOUTH ISLAND

|   |  |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <b>VICTORIA LABOUR COUNCIL</b>  | <b>CITY OF LANGFORD</b><br><i>Council</i><br>Grant A. McLachlan      | <b>DISTRICT OF SAANICH</b><br><i>Mayor</i><br>David Cubberley | <b>CITY OF VICTORIA</b><br><i>Mayor</i><br>Dean Fortin  | <b>SCHOOL DISTRICT #61 (GREATER VICTORIA)</b><br>Catherine Alpha<br>David Bratzer<br>Edith Loring-Kuhanga<br>Diane McNally<br>Deborah Nohr |
| <b>DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH</b><br><i>Council</i><br>Liam Cooper<br>Zeb King<br>Sue Stroud | <b>DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH</b><br><i>Council</i><br>Elsie McMurphy | <i>Council</i><br>Judy Brownoff<br>Dean Murdock               | <i>Council</i><br>Marianne Alto<br>Lisa Helps<br>Lynn Hunter<br>Ben Isitt<br>Philippe Lucas<br>John Luton<br>Pam Madoff | <b>SCHOOL DISTRICT #62 (SOOKE)</b><br>Donald Brown<br>Denise Riley   |
| <b>CITY OF COLWOOD</b><br><i>Council</i><br>Gordie Logan                                      | <b>DISTRICT OF OAK BAY</b><br><i>Council</i><br>Michelle Kirby       |   |   |  |

## MID ISLAND

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>PORT ALBERNI &amp; LABOUR COUNCIL</b>  | <b>NANAIMO, DUNCAN AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL</b>  | <b>DISTRICT OF NORTH COWICHAN</b><br><i>Council</i><br>Robert Douglas<br>Roger Hart<br>Jon Lefebvre<br>Kate Marsh                                 | <b>SCHOOL DISTRICT #69 (QUALICUM)</b><br>Julie Austin<br>Lynette Kershaw  | <b>NANAIMO REGIONAL DISTRICT AREA "A"</b><br>Laurie Gourlay   |
| <b>CITY OF PORT ALBERNI</b><br><i>Mayor</i><br>Ken McRae  | <b>CITY OF DUNCAN</b><br><i>Council</i><br>Tom Duncan<br>Jen Holden<br>Sharon Jackson   | <b>CITY OF PARKSVILLE COUNCIL</b><br><i>Council</i><br>Sue Powell   | <b>SCHOOL DISTRICT #79 (COWICHAN VALLEY)</b><br>Duncan Brown<br>Deb Foster<br>Eden Haythornthwaite<br>Ellen Oxman<br>Hannah Seymour | <b>COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT</b><br>Angela Auchincloss<br>Ian Morrison<br>Kelly Musselwhite<br>Dara Quast |
| <i>Council</i><br>Hira Chopra<br>Myron Jespersen<br>Jack Mcleman<br>Richard Pesik<br>Bill Randles | <b>CITY OF NANAIMO</b><br><i>Council</i><br>Diane Brennan<br>Gordon Fuller<br>Ted Greves<br>Zeni Maartman<br>Darcy Olsen<br>Fred Pattje<br>Rob Zver | <b>SCHOOL DISTRICT #68 (NANAIMO - LADYSMITH)</b><br>Donna Allen<br>Andrea Bonkowski<br>Nancy Curley<br>David Murchie<br>Dot Neary<br>Noah Routley |   |   |
| <b>ALBERNI - CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT</b><br>(AREA E - BEAVER CREEK)<br>Patty Edwards          |   |   |   |   |

## NORTH ISLAND

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|--|---|--|---|---|
| <b>CAMPBELL RIVER, COURtenay &amp; DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL</b> | <b>CITY OF CAMPBELL RIVER</b><br><i>Council</i><br>Larry Samson | <b>SCHOOL DISTRICT #72 (CAMPBELL RIVER)</b><br>Michele Babchuk<br>Joyce McMann | <b>CITY OF COURtenay</b><br><i>Council</i><br>Doug Hillian<br>Ronna Rae Leonard | <b>VILLAGE OF CUMBERLAND</b><br><i>Council</i><br>Roger Kishi |
|--|---|--|---|---|