

2008 IBEW® International  
Women's Conference  
Leadership Manual

*Mobilizing  
for a  
Stronger IBEW®*



# 2008 IBEW® International Women's Conference Leadership Manual

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**July 17–19**

**Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill**

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers®  
900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001



# 2008 IBEW® International Women's Conference Leadership Manual

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# **GREETINGS FROM INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT EDWIN D. HILL**

Sisters and Brothers, welcome to the 2008 IBEW International Women's Conference. This conference is a place to celebrate, recognize, and learn more about the strong leadership exhibited by the women and men of the IBEW. It is an opportunity for you to come together to make connections, learn strategies for overcoming barriers and develop ways to turn ideas into action. Now more than ever, your union needs you.

Our opponents have been working to trade away our jobs, take away our health care, cut back our pensions, and thwart our organizing efforts. These are our basic union rights. To protect these rights, we need to mobilize, to reach out to unrepresented workers who share our interest in workers' rights, fair wages and a safe workplace. The more members we bring in and the more workers we expose to our union principles, the stronger we will be when we face challenges not only at the bargaining table, but also in the political arena.

A lot is at stake on Election Day 2008 and it will be here before we know it. And with your support, women's voices will again be heard. The economy, health care, and the balance of work and family responsibilities are some of the issues of major concern to working families in the United States and Canada. For these reasons and many others, we hope the importance of the 2008 elections will motivate you to become active leaders not only in the political process, but also in your local union.

It is my hope that you leave this conference inspired to work to make change in your local union and serve your community. We need to keep this feeling alive throughout the year and remind everyone of their power to "mobilize for a stronger IBEW."

Now, let our conference begin!

Edwin D. Hill  
International President

Washington, D.C.  
July 17, 2008

**GREETINGS FROM  
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER  
LINDELL K. LEE**

Sisters and Brothers, I join President Hill in welcoming you to the 2008 IBEW International Women's Conference. I am honored and privileged to attend this conference as your recently-appointed International Secretary-Treasurer.

I know you are working hard every day to make the IBEW a stronger and more effective union. This conference aims to focus those efforts into more innovative and effective ways that women and men can make a mark in all aspects of their lives – from their home to their communities to their local union and beyond. It is important for us to continue this momentum after this conference and to keep moving forward for the working families of the United States and Canada.

If we all work together, we can bring about great change. And the 2008 elections will give us the opportunity to make the changes that are so badly needed in this country. Gas prices are increasing, wages are stagnating, and jobs are leaving. To counter these crises, the IBEW is working on building its largest member mobilization ever and we are counting on you to play a significant role in these efforts. We need the strength of all of our members to ensure that the politicians listen and deliver the real changes that we have been working for during the past eight years.

I hope this conference will inspire you to become involved in the leadership of your unions and your communities. I hope it will inspire you to work to make change happen. We are depending on you, Sisters and Brothers, to mobilize and get our message out to the working people.

Enjoy the conference!

Lindell K. Lee  
International Secretary-Treasurer

Washington, D.C.  
July 17, 2008