


2008 IBEW® International Women's Conference

*Mobilizing
for a
Stronger IBEW®*



Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
Washington, DC
July 17-19, 2008

July 17, 2008

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Welcome to the 2008 IBEW International Women's Conference! Today, working women make up more than 40 percent of union members and are a vital source of growth for the union movement—nearly 55 percent of newly organized workers are women. This conference is an opportunity to use your energy and enthusiasm to build on those numbers and to encourage the skills and talents of all IBEW members.

The IBEW is committed to increasing the number of women in leadership positions and believes that one of the best ways to achieve this goal is to actively organize, train and encourage women in the field. I am counting on your leadership in advancing women's roles in their local unions. This conference is meant to foster leadership development, so that when you return to your local union you will be inspired to generate excitement about the labor movement with your friends, family and fellow members.

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

Best wishes for a successful conference.

Edwin D. Hill
International President

Lindell K. Lee
International Secretary-Treasurer

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Preconference Agenda

8 a.m.–11 a.m..... Registration
Regency Foyer

10 a.m.–3 p.m..... Call Center Forum*
Columbia B

Martha Pultar

Director, IBEW Telecommunications Department

Gina Cooper

International Representative, IBEW Telecommunications Department

Juanita Luiz

International Representative, IBEW Membership Development Department

Linda Mathews

International Representative, IBEW Utility Department

10 a.m.–3 p.m..... Congressional Lobby Day*
Concord/Lexington/Bunker Hill

Sherilyn Wright and Bruce Burton

International Representatives

IBEW Political/Legislative Affairs Department

1 p.m.–2 p.m..... 1-Hour International Office Tour**

2:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 2-Hour International Office Tour**

3 p.m.–6 p.m..... Registration

3:30 p.m.–5 p.m. Preconference Workshops*

Conflict Resolution..... *Columbia A*

Helping Working Families Survive the Credit Crunch..... *Valley Forge*

Tools for Retirement Planning..... *Columbia C*

* At the back of this program you can find descriptions of these preconference activities.

** Persons wishing to participate in the International Office Tour should meet in the lobby of the International Office, 900 Seventh Street, NW, 10 minutes prior to the start of the tour. Please bring picture I.D.

Friday, July 18, 2008

7 a.m.–10 a.m..... Registration
Regency Foyer

8 a.m..... *Opening Plenary Session*
Regency A

Welcome. *Carolyn Williams*
Director, IBEW Human Services Department

Pledge of Allegiance
Canadian National Anthem
United States National Anthem

Invocation..... *Kevin Burton*
Journeyman Wireman and J.A.T.C Instructor, Local Union 26

Keynote Address..... *Edwin D. Hill*
IBEW International President

Conference Address *Lindell K. Lee*
IBEW International Secretary-Treasurer

Guest Speaker..... *Arlene Holt-Baker*
Executive Vice President, AFL-CIO

Political Speaker *To Be Announced*

Friday, July 18, 2008

(continued)

**Navigating the Path to Leadership
Panel Discussion**

Moderator

Martha Pultar

Director, IBEW Telecommunications Department

Panelists

Mary Jo Arcuri

Business Manager/Financial Secretary, IBEW Local Union 2213
Telecommunications

Shannon Skinner

Executive Board Member, IBEW Local Union 396
Utility

Diana Limon

Assistant Business Manager, IBEW Local Union 11
Construction

Robbie Sparks

Business Manager/Financial Secretary, IBEW Local Union 2127
Manufacturing

Corina Hicks

President, IBEW Local Union 804
Utility

IBEW Grassroots 2008

Brian Baker

Director, IBEW Political/Legislative Affairs Department

Sherilyn Wright

International Representative, IBEW Political/Legislative Affairs Department

Friday, July 18, 2008

(continued)

Workshops*

(all will be presented at 10:30 a.m and repeated at 1:30 p.m)

Cervical Cancer—Prevention Works!..... *Columbia C*

Carolyn Jacobson
Trustee, Berger Marks Foundation
Director, Cervical Cancer Prevention Works

Expanding Our Career Opportunities..... *Ticonderoga*

Angelina Howard
Vice President, Office of the President, Nuclear Energy Institute
Jane Templin
Outreach Coordinator, Electrical Training Institute Southern California
IBEW Local Union 11

Health Care and the 2008 Elections:

Laying the Ground Work for Reform..... *Valley Forge*

Katie Gjertson
AFL-CIO, Health Care Reform Campaign
National Field Coordinator

Meeting Protocol: What's Robert Got to Do with It?..... *Yorktown*

Eula Tate
Ph.D Student/Retired Political Legislative Representative UAW

Pathways to Leadership *Columbia B*

Jan Schwingshagl
Director, IBEW Education Department

Politics: Why It Matters and

What We Can Do *Concord/Lexington/Bunker Hill*

Sherilyn Wright
International Representative, IBEW Political/Legislative Affairs Department

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m **Reception**

Regency A

*At the back of this program you can find descriptions of these workshops.

Saturday, July 19, 2008

8 a.m. Plenary Session
Regency A

**What You Don't Know Could Hurt You:
New Technology Creates Unanticipated Job Hazards**
Jim Tomaseski
Director, IBEW Safety Department

Diversity and Full Inclusion Committee Update
Karen Stoshnof
Assistant Business Manager, IBEW Local Union 254
Member, IBEW Committee on Diversity and Full Inclusion

Women as Leaders and Agents of Change
Lynn Marie Smith
Motown Diva

IBEW Membership Development Program
Brian Ahakuelo
Director, IBEW Professional and Industrial Membership Development
Kirk Brungard
Director, IBEW Construction Membership Development

Congressional Speaker
To Be Announced

**Bridging the Gap through Constituency Groups and
Community Organizations**
Robbie Sparks
Business Manager/Financial Secretary, IBEW Local Union 2127

Saturday, July 19, 2008

(continued)

Workshops*

(all will be presented at 10:30 a.m. and repeated at 1:30 p.m.)

Charting the Future of the IBEW: The Membership Development Voluntary Committee *Columbia A*

Carmella Cruse

International Representative, IBEW Membership Development Department

Juanita Luiz

International Representative, IBEW Membership Development Department

Kitty Prouse

Lead Organizer, IBEW Membership Development Department

Election 2008: Understanding the Process..... *Ticonderoga*

Sherilyn Wright

International Representative, IBEW Political/Legislative Affairs Department

Going Green to Power the Future..... *Concord/Lexington/Bunker Hill*

Bruce Burton

Linda Mathews

Jack Heyer

IBEW International Representatives

Preserving the Voices of Union Women *Yorktown*

Lynda DeLoach

Archivist, George Meany Memorial Archives

Speak with Confidence:

Conquering the Fear of Public Speaking..... *Columbia B*

Jan Schwingshaki

Director, IBEW Education Department

*At the back of this program you can find descriptions of these workshops.

Saturday, July 19, 2008

(continued)

3:10 p.m. Closing Plenary Session
Regency A

Working Family Issues Advocacy

Rachna Choudhry, Policy & Advocacy Coordinator
National Partnership for Women & Families

The Power of Humor: Make Room for Laughter

Rosemary Verri
The Verri Idea

Closing Remarks

Carolyn Williams

Preconference Activities

Call Center Forum

All representatives and delegates who work or represent members in call centers should attend this forum, but all conference delegates are welcome. The focus of the forum will be mobilization techniques, communication methods and creative solutions to balance work and family life.

This workshop is designed to help locals and employees in all types of call centers develop ways to communicate effectively with members and engage their support to become union activists. The goal is to create a platform for our local unions and members to address all aspects of the call center environment, where the work is typically demanding and stressful. Call center organizing will also be discussed.

Congressional Lobby Day

Join your IBEW sisters and brothers in learning how to make our voices heard on Capitol Hill. As a private citizen and constituent, your legislator wants to hear from you. Legislators know that you will be personally affected by the outcome of their vote on a bill and, as a voter in their district, will hold them accountable.

Participants who have preregistered for this activity will participate in an orientation and lobbying activities on Capitol Hill. To prepare for visits to the Hill, participants will learn about important legislative topics, receive talking points and engage in role plays. Appointments with your congressional delegation prior to arriving on Capitol Hill are strongly encouraged.

Preconference Workshops

Conflict Resolution

Most of us experience some kind of conflict on a daily basis. Yet how many people understand what they need to do to resolve it? This workshop will identify the main categories of conflict and provide the tools needed to address each type.

Helping Working Families Survive the Credit Crunch

It is said that the current financial crisis will enter the record book as the second worst in the last 100 years. This workshop will explore the current crisis facing the country, its impact on working families and the various Union Privilege programs available to assist IBEW members who find themselves on the verge or in the middle of a fiscal emergency.

Tools for Retirement Planning

Retirement planning is the process of establishing a retirement income goal and gathering information about your potential sources of retirement income. For most of us, the nuances and time involved in putting together a strategy for a comfortable retirement can be quite intimidating.

Whether you are 18 or 60 years old, and regardless of your economic status, there are steps you can take to plan your retirement. This workshop will help you in preparing a plan that will allow you to support yourself and your family and enjoy a comfortable retirement.

Friday Workshops

Cervical Cancer—Prevention Works!

The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2008 more than 11,000 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer, while more than 3,800 will die from it; yet cervical cancer is one of the few types that can be prevented by getting the human papillomavirus vaccine and regular screening. Participants will learn important information that will empower union women to be proactive in the prevention of this deadly disease.

Expanding Our Career Opportunities

Nontraditional occupations are defined by the U.S. Department of Labor as jobs in which 25 percent or less of the workforce is female. Careers in the construction and utility industries are a prime opportunity for women to earn family wages and become economically self-sufficient. These industries also need more women to meet the shortage of skilled workers that we now face.

As IBEW members, part of our responsibility is to actively recruit and retain women in these occupations. Hear what some local unions and industry partners are doing to make this a reality.

Health Care and the 2008 Elections: Laying the Ground Work for Reform

Health care costs are climbing, millions of people remain uninsured and it is getting worse. This workshop will cover the AFL-CIO's campaign to win universal health care reform and the immediate task on hand—how to make health care a defining issue in the 2008 elections.

Meeting Protocol: What's Robert Got to Do with It?

"I hereby call this meeting to order." What would you do if someone said these words, handed you the gavel and left? *Robert's Rules of Order*, known as parliamentary procedure, can seem overwhelming and puzzling. This workshop will demystify the rules on to how to conduct a meeting in an expedient, fair and orderly fashion, as well as how to make a motion, vote and follow proper procedure.

Friday Workshops

(continued)

Pathways to Leadership

In this interactive workshop participants will learn the traits of a leader; explore the obstacles to leadership; and gain the tools needed to pursue leadership positions.

Politics: Why It Matters and What We Can Do

We hear every political season that “this is the most important election ever.” This year will prove to be no exception. Find out why the IBEW is building its largest member mobilization to date and how you can play a role in this most important effort.

Saturday Workshops

Charting the Future of the IBEW:

The Membership Development Volunteer Committee

Organizing nonunion workers is the IBEW’s priority, but at the same time, we must keep a strong connection with existing members. This can be challenging for the local union. The Membership Development Volunteer Committee (MDVC) concept was developed to help a local union achieve its goals. In this workshop we will discuss what the MDVC program is, why we need it and how you can be a part of it.

Election 2008, Understanding the Process

Do you fully understand terms like “caucus,” “super delegate” and “electoral college?” This workshop will help answer questions regarding the political season ahead, including a discussion on where the presidential candidates stand on the issues.

Going Green to Power the Future

Are you ready to go green? The IBEW is at the forefront of “green” jobs, technology and legislation. This workshop provides insight into the issues that revolve around renewable energy and its effect on conventional methods of producing power. Explore how the “green effort” is affecting the utility, construction, political and legislative fronts.

Saturday Workshops

(continued)

Preserving the Voices of Union Women

It is imperative for the legitimacy of labor's historical record that union women write and preserve stories about the quality and content of our lives on and off the job. Come and explore the strengths of diary-keeping as an eye-witness link between the past and the present—and as a process to spur individual assessment and change. Make a personal commitment to voice what it means to be a union woman.

Speak with Confidence:

Conquering the Fear of Public Speaking

Are you terrified at the thought of speaking in front of people? Do you break out in a cold sweat when you take center stage? If so, this is the workshop for you. Learn the tips and tricks professionals use to conquer fear and speak effortlessly to groups of any size.

Acknowledgements

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for hosting the rooftop reception!

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departments for their assistance:

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Utility

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