



NextGen News: Focused on the Future

NextGen at the IBEW Women's Conference

Last month, I was fortunate to be able to attend a phenomenal conference in Phoenix, AZ, to say it was a privilege is an understatement. I never imagined being able to go somewhere that I literally only knew four other people out of hundreds and I was able to feel comfortable everywhere I went. Being part of the IBEW gives a sense of belonging, a sense of comfort and basically a second family. No one was there to judge one another everyone there was there to support. Everyone was welcoming and kind, every time you turn around you made a new contact a new friend and found a sister within the brotherhood.

This conference gave you hope, strength, so much support and comradery. There were many workshops available including RENEW:Young Workers Caucus, Who wants to be an IBEW Steward, Leadership Through Effective Communication and Conflict Mediation.

The theme for the conference this year was **Sisters in Solidarity: Making HERstory**. As I saw over the past week there are a lot of women within IBEW who have to fight for their spot in the work place. To hear that still today in 2016 some women are being told they don't belong is absurd. All anyone male or female should want is to be equal, in or outside the work place, equal pay for the same work, equal rights and benefits and to be able to be with and love whomever you choose. No one person is worth more or less, equality shouldn't be hard or still even be an issue today.

We pay union dues every pay check. They may be dues that you pay and never have to use, but be thankful for that! A wise lady told me this week to explain union dues like house insurance, you pay into it hoping you never have to use it but it's there if you need it. There were a couple sayings that really stood out to me this last week, just some food for thought:

- Unions: the people who brought you the weekend.
- If you're not there for lunch, you're on the menu.
- If you snooze, we lose. Protect your check.

There were 11 districts, and over 400 people at this women's conference. Think about that for a second, that is just a small fraction of the support system you have internationally being a part of the IBEW.

In solidarity,
Chantal Bourque,
District Support Rep in Grandview
Southwest Rep for the NextGen Committee
Local 2034

39th International Convention—Young Worker Delegation

The 39th International Convention will take place September 21-25, in St. Louis, MO, the birthplace of the IBEW. Thirteen NextGeners from across Canada are being sent by their Local Unions or Provincial Councils to attend and participate in all aspects of the Convention including the pre-Convention Caucuses and activities.

Young Worker Summit 2016

The Canadian Labour Congress is set to host the first-ever National Young Workers' Summit at the Shaw Convention Centre in Ottawa from October 23-25, 2016. This summit will bring together young workers, youth activists, and allies to build young workers' power to address the changing nature of work, empower young and new leadership in workplaces and unions, and lay the framework for a renewed and growing labour movement. There will also be an IBEW Caucus taking place at the Summit.



For more information and to register, check out their website at www.yws16.ca

NextGen Charters

Do you have an active NextGen Committee or have plans to start one? The International Office has created NextGen Charters to recognize NextGen Committees in Local Unions across the IBEW. To get yours, work with your Local Union Business Manager to write a letter to International Vice President Daniels outlining the work your NextGen Committee has done or plans to do, IVP Daniels will then approve that request and send it to the International Office for processing. Right now, there is a challenge amongst the Districts that make up the IBEW to get the most Charters—so lets show everyone why we are the First District!

NextGen Local Union Committees

Contact Kate Walsh (kate_walsh@ibew.org) to submit an article on your Local Union NextGen Committee for the next newsletter. We want to hear from you!

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