

Delegate Report 2016 IBEW Broadcasting, Manufacturing & Telecommunication Conference

The conference was held in March 2016.

Project for all to help and be proud of.

We were provided an update on efforts to save the boarding house where our founder Henry Miller occupied while working as a Lineman in St. Louis. Locals across Canada and USA contributed with financial and volunteers assisting in the effort. The museum should be open during the International Convention.

The effort is to save the building by creating a museum with it and commemorating IBEW's founder.

Organizing is the future if you are not growing your dying as more utilities contract out more and more work. Members and locals need to cooperate to organize electrical workers in all jurisdictions. Locals should have a full time organizer.

Solidarity is a them that come up sometimes and reminds us that as a socialist organization we need to build by working on issues we agree on and less on decisive issues that divide us. So we sometime agree on the big picture but fight on how we will achieve it or who does what etc. Some employers will raise attention to decisive issues to discourage workers from joining the union as we seem to be fighting among our self instead of working together. Also, we our basically an organization of volunteers, we need more engagement because we can't bye are way out of controversy.

Hold solidarity events. Rodeo, family picnic and games etc. Engage many volunteers to do this.

The poison in the united states creeps ever so close to us in Canada. The right to work states have grown in numbers, supported mostly by republicans. Unions are forced to represent and negotiate contracts for non members. That's right free representation paid by volunteers who pay dues. Unions are hurt by this law and it could happen here. Will we stop this union busting legislation?

New type of training, very cool from what I could see. It's called member to member training. We could request the training if we had a group who would participate. It was suggested to have the union's executive and table officers and chief stewards to sign up.

If you take a good look in the mirror and you are a supporter of the union, you are an activist. We should try to let people know that we want families to keep their family members from getting hurt or worst at work, we want kids to spend time with both parents having fun, we want children to have a better life then we had we want our friends at work be treated fairly. Our union exist because we can agree on these themes, it's called solidarity. I believe it has to be less about one self and more about others to be great.

Throughout the conference it is clear that many employers are switching from defined benefit pension plan and adopting defined contribution plans forcing workers to pay more and or work longer with a riskier pension plan.

Thank you for your support.

Claude Richard
Assistant Business Manager