30,000 NEW MEMBERS IN 5 YEARS

General President Rigmaidens opens convention with goal for IUPAT’s BOLD FUTURE

With gavel in hand and arm held high above his head, General President Kenneth Rigmaidens was greeted with thunderous applause as he officially opened the 31st General Convention of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Monday morning.

Early in his speech, General President Rigmaidens echoed a phrase used in opening remarks by Executive General Vice President William D. Candelori, Jr. who described the actions planned for the week as a “pivotal moment” for the IUPAT.

The General President went on to highlight material covered in the State of the Union video including the benefits attained through full affiliation and the resources the IUPAT has on hand.

The energy emoted by General President Rigmaidens throughout his speech kept the crowd engaged as he transitioned from looking back to the BOLD FUTURE he and the executive board want to implement.

He praised the strong efforts to survive a hellish economy and the quick actions taken by previous leaders to put the union back on a corrective course.

“I want us to build on that foundation,” he said. “To go forward into a BOLD FUTURE. Build off that foundation to grow.”

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IBEW President agrees with plans for a BOLD FUTURE

Coming together as a union to plot a BOLD FUTURE is the ‘Right Answer at the Right Time’

“I couldn’t agree more,” International President Edwin D. Hill of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers told the IUPAT delegates during the Monday morning session of the 31st General Convention.

During his introduction, General President Kenneth Rigmaiden described President Hill – a colleague on the governing board of presidents of North America’s Building Trades Unions and on the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO – as an “outstanding trade unionist; a real practitioner.”

Since he started as an IBEW apprentice in 1956, President Hill has the unique perspective and understanding of how the labor trades have changed over the past half-century. He spoke about how unions have lost a “sense of community” in America.

“People knew who we were,” he said. “They didn’t always agree with us, but they trusted us. We weren’t some strangers.”

Moving forward, President Hill stressed that unionization is the only proven tool to, “get us back where we belong.”

President Hill concluded with a challenge to the IUPAT delegates to have the vision to plot a BOLD FUTURE and, “prove you are all equal to that task.”

ULLICO President explains company strategy to delegates

Using union dollars to support unions

That is the general principle behind the Union Labor Life Insurance Company (ULLICO) and the message Ed Smith shared with IUPAT delegates attending the Monday morning session of the 31st General Convention.

Now the President and CEO of the only labor-owned insurance and investment company, Smith came to ULLICO after a long and distinguished career with the Laborers’ International Union of North America.

He now works with union members from multiple trades and encourages them to exercise economic clout that also strengthens the Labor Movement.

ULLICO provides insurance products for union members, as well as innovative risk management solutions for contractors and employers. This includes investments in infrastructure that have created thousands of union jobs around the country.

By working with ULLICO, labor unions like the IUPAT have the opportunity to control our own destiny, mainly by pooling resources and leveraging those resources to generate new work opportunities, Smith explained.

“The power is in the numbers,” he said. “The power is in this room.”
GVP Kucheran provides updates from Canada

Working from the West Coast across to the East, General Vice President Robert Kucheran provided delegates with multiple highlights and a few challenges our Canadian IUPAT Brothers and Sisters have experienced.

The report on the Canadian provinces from Pacific to Atlantic included details on a new computer system to help members track hours and other critical information, to new industry partnerships and collaborations that are creating more worker opportunities.

General Vice President Kucheran’s report went on to discuss in detail efforts underway to expand the CAS certification efforts for IUPAT industrial painters. The efforts involved meetings with numerous industry executives and associations.

“We are establishing that the IUPAT is the premier supplier of CAS certified employees,” he said. “We can become synonymous with the certified workers the industry demands.”

Government Affairs team strives to maximize clout

Fellow IUPAT Brothers and Sisters are currently painting the Dome of the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C.

And IUPAT Director of Government Affairs Christopher Sloan explained to the delegates of the 31st General Convention how he and his team are using that fact to leverage time and conversations with key leadership officials.

Director Sloan called the painting of the iconic Dome an educational tool that can have a dramatic impact on our presence in Washington.

Sloan’s speech also detailed how the Government Affairs team is setting the tone for new campaigns and helping organizers across the U.S. and Canada. The effort includes training on how to run a “21st Century campaign” that utilizes an expanded number of tools that are now available.

He also provided details about their “Campaign in a Box” initiative, an effort that involves a “Nimble Team” that is able to engage and mobilize anywhere in a matter of hours.

“We are now in a position to drastically increase our impact,” Director Sloan said.
That growth must come in three different areas: 1.) Membership  2.) Market Share  3.) Impact

In charting the course for membership growth, General President Rigmaiden introduced what he described as an “ambitious goal” for the IUPAT: To add 30,000 members over the next five years.

In order to achieve that goal, General President Rigmaiden said every delegate in attendance must work at it every day. He went on to challenge each delegate to sign up one new member every month for the next 65 months.

The goal was extended further, calling on every union within every District Council to add 17 members every month. Doing so would allow the IUPAT to recoup the members lost in the past five years.

When detailing plans to expand market share, General President Rigmaiden emphasized the importance of developing and expanding corporate partnerships coupled with traditional campaigns.

The effort also will involve becoming the dominant force in the Industrial Coatings Market as well as pushing for a national certification for Glaziers. The final area of focus involved expanding the recently launched PAT-VP program; demonstrating a commitment to American veterans and helping them transition into post-military careers in the Allied Trades.

“We have got to do it,” General President Rigmaiden said. “We have got to go get it!”

To address the third initiative of growing the IUPAT’s impact, General President Rigmaiden explained the importance of increasing the union’s influence with important decision makers at all levels in both the United States and Canada.

As he concluded his opening remarks, General President Rigmaiden brought the crowd of delegates to their feet a final time. Amidst loud cheers of support he shouted, “God Bless the IUPAT” and encouraged all in attendance to move, “FORWARD!”

“Forward, forward, forward to a BOLD FUTURE!” he said. “No one can stop us but us.”

Labor Legend Bill Lucy entertains, motivates delegates

One of the “Lions of the Labor Movement,” Bill Lucy saved his biggest roar for the person who called his cell phone and momentarily interrupted his speech to the delegates of the IUPAT 31st General Convention.

With an apology and a few terse words to the person on the other end of the phone, the former Secretary-Treasurer of AFSCME and founder and former President of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists had nothing but praise for the IUPAT and its vision for a BOLD FUTURE.

Calling the IUPAT one of the great unions of the AFL-CIO, Lucy credited the membership for always being there when fellow labor members were in need of assistance.

“There has never been a struggle where you have not answered the call,” he said.

With experience in both the labor and civil rights movements going back to the 60s, Lucy called upon today’s delegates to have the resolve to keep on fighting and not let our adversaries put an end to the New Deal and 80 years of labor history.

“Nothing is new with our modern day battle,” Lucy said. “It’s the same old battle against the same old enemy.”

And after scolding the person calling his cell phone, Lucy concluded his remarks by encouraging the members of the IUPAT to continue the fight.

“Labor must be the core of the fight, a fight for a better way of life,” he said. “The fate of our communities is tied to Labor and the fate of Labor is tied to our communities.”
Day 1 Resolutions

Here are the results of the resolutions presented by assorted committees on the first day of the IUPAT 31st General Convention. A page number is provided where you can find the full resolution on your Kindle tablet.

Resolution No. GEB 1
(Page 2 of Kindle)
Amending Section 17 of the Constitution
– PASSED

Resolution No. GEB 2
(Page 4 of Kindle)
Amending Section 39 of the Constitution, effective immediately
– PASSED

Resolution No. GEB 3
(Page 5 of Kindle)
Deleting Section 44(b) of the Constitution
– PASSED

Resolution No. GEB 4
(Page 6 of Kindle)
Amending Section 46 of the General Constitution by deleting Subsection (i)
– PASSED

Resolution No. GEB 5
(Page 7 of Kindle)
Amending Section 60 of the Constitution
– PASSED

Resolution No. GEB 13
(Page 29 of Kindle)
Amending Section 195 of the Constitution
– PASSED

Resolution No. GEB 15
(Page 31 of Kindle)
Amending Section 213 of the Constitution
– PASSED

Resolution No. GEB 22
(Page 42 of Kindle)
Amending the Constitution by deleting Sections 145 and 200
– PASSED

Resolution No. GEB 23
(Page 43 of Kindle)
Amending members’ obligation
– PASSED

Resolution LU - 2
(Page 82 of Kindle)
Amend Section 142, Subsection (g) of the Constitution
– PASSED

Resolution LU - 5
Employment assistance to veterans within 18 months of separation from military service
– PASSED

Resolution No. RC-2
Reverse 3/12/14 decision pursuant to Section 70(b) of the Constitution
– PASSED

Resolution No. RC-4
Raftery Family Recognition
– PASSED

Resolution No. RC-5
Building Labor – Community Partners
– PASSED

Committee Reports

The following committees submitted reports to the delegates of the 31st General Convention:

• Rules Committee Report
• Laws and Constitution Committee Report
• General President’s Committee Report
• Finance Committee Report

Union Privilege donation tied to text messages

Union Privilege, the non-profit founded by the AFL-CIO in 1986, has a lot to provide union members, but President Leslie Tolp had a more specific offer for the delegates at the IUPAT 31st General Convention.

By sending a simple text, the organization promised to make a donation to the IUPAT’s Organizing Fund – $5 for every text. Members are strongly encouraged to text the word, “IUPAT” to the number 22555, to maximize this financial opportunity.

Meanwhile, the Union Plus benefits provided by Union Privilege - including a credit card portfolio and auto, phone, financial services, mortgage and insurance products - can be used as a valuable tool in both recruiting and retaining members.

More details about all the services and potential benefits can be found online at www.unionplus.org/.