



NextGen News: Focused on the Future

Ontario NextGen Conference—Don't Forget to Register!

On October 28-30, NextGen IBEW Members from Local Unions are encouraged to attend the second Ontario NextGen Conference. Labour leaders, activists and experts will address delegates at plenary sessions and in workshops taking place throughout the weekend. This is a Conference not to be missed for any NextGeners—ask your Local Union office for details!

October 15—United Day of Action

On October 15, NextGen Committees are encouraged to lead the United Day of Action in their area, with a focus on getting politically active. Stickers and posters will be sent out to your Local Unions, as well as a checklist to help you prepare. Check with your Local Union Hall or with [Kate Walsh](#) for additional information.

39th IBEW International Convention: Our Founding Our Future

On September 19—24, 2016, the 39th International Convention took place in St. Louis, MO—the birthplace of the IBEW. Check out the Convention website (<http://ibew.org/convention/Home>) for full coverage. A delegation of young workers representing every province, territory and state were present to observe the Convention proceedings and participate in the Caucuses and Day of Service which took place ahead of Convention. Thank you all for your participation!



When I first found out that I was going to be attending the IBEW convention in St. Louis I had no idea what to expect. I had no one to ask because this was the first time our local 1620 had a next gen committee and it's the first event that a next gen member would be attending. I started at the biggest event that the IBEW had, and it is a good way to get your feet wet. Not long after being there I soon realized how big this event was and how important it was to all members. This particular event was more important than most because it was the 125th anniversary of the IBEW which took place right where it started in the birthplace of St. Louis. It included a tour of the Henry Miller museum, which is something that I will never forget and it really hit home how important this brotherhood really is. The first few days I took in all of the caucus to find that each one was important in its own way but the next gen one stood out to me because in the panel discussions with the four next gen and renew guest everyone was different, but they were all there for the same reason. I first thought they were all professional actors, but in talking to them throughout the convention I come to learn that they were electricians, linemen etc just like myself. Wow. In the evenings they had different receptions for the members - not only did the members have respect for the union, but the union showed its respect back to its members. As the week went on and the convention got started it felt like every day the next gen/renew guests seemed to grow closer. Not only did that group grow closer, but I felt like my own local group did as well. During the conference it was nice to listen to all the great speakers and all the great speeches, but my favourite part was when they went through the resolutions and the law changes. I wish I could have been a part of, or at least seen how the voting of the officers took place. By the end of the convention, I was ready to come home and see my family, but I was also ready to come home and start sharing the experience I had gained. I now feel like I have more knowledge and ideas to grow the next gen in local 1620. Thank you all for the great experience.

Steven Stewart
IBEW Local 1620
St. John's, Newfoundland

My experience... Very Positive. Some of the Highlights I had were the numerous Delegate Receptions and wonderful Festivities put on by the IBEW. I found these valuable for the purpose of Networking, I really Drank up the knowledge and experience. During my time at the convention I was fortunate enough to associate with some great Brothers and Sisters, it was a very diverse group from US and Canada allowing me the opportunity to be educated on what goes well and what typically fails when it comes to starting a NextGen/RENEW Group in your Local. I will be taking the idea of Skype meetings forward to create a following and generate interest in our younger Brothers and Sisters with regards to NextGen. Due to our Local being spread over the entire province of Alberta I will be using the assistance of our Business Manager to locate and contact all Brothers and Sisters under the age of 35 and share all of the great information and stories I gained from my first IBEW Conference. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank Kate Walsh (NextGen) and Rachel Bryan (RENEW) for taking such good care of us and organizing the education for our morning meetings, it was very enlightening. I have to say, if you have the opportunity to get to any of the Conventions or Events put on by these groups I highly recommend attending, utilize your Locals Leadership to assist you with getting approval to show up and represent. Thanks to my Local for allowing me the pleasurable experience of representing them at the 39th IBEW Convention.

Chris Woods
Local 254
Calgary, Alberta

NextGen Charters

The International Office has created NextGen Charters to recognize NextGen Committees in Local Unions across the IBEW. To start the process contact [Kate Walsh](#) for next steps.

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!