



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local • 46
19802 62nd Ave S, Suite 105 • Kent, WA 98032
253-395-6500 (voice) • 253-872-7059 (fax)
www.ibew46.com

2024 9th District Progress Meeting – Kauai, Hawaii

My experience at the 2024 9th District Progress Meeting was great for gathering information on where the IBEW has been for the last year, what our current goals are, and where we are aiming to go in the future.

On the first day of the Conference, July 23rd, 2024, I attended the RENEW Caucus first, which was ran by Brother Luke Andres of Local 48. Brother Andres spoke about the importance of involving our younger members earlier and making information and training available for these members to aid them in becoming aware of the overall aspirations of the IBEW.

Next on that Tuesday was the EWMC Caucus directed by Brother Keith Edwards. Brother Edwards wanted to make sure that everyone knows that they are welcome in the EWMC meetings and events. There was a great panel discussion during this caucus that addressed several issues, including the changing culture of the IBEW, the importance of inclusion in the IBEW, and ideas for developing stronger EWMC Chapters in our Local Unions. One fact that really stuck out to me was that the IBEW only performs around 10% of the electrical work in the United States, so we should all understand that our members are all minorities when it comes to our industry. We need to band together as IBEW members and work to bring a better life to everyone in our trade.

Day two of the Conference opened up the General Sessions of the event. It was opened with the Presentation of Colors and an inspiring version of the National Anthem performed by one of the daughters of one of the delegates from Hawaii. This session continued with 9th District IVP falling into the roll of “Host” and presenting several speakers, including the Mayor of Kauai, Derek Kawakami, US Senator Brian Schatz, the Governor of Hawaii, Josh Green, and IST Paul Noble. IP Cooper was unable to attend due to the unexpected change in the national political landscape.

IVP Reaves continued with presenting the delegates with information on several exciting subjects such as a new apprenticeship for Battery Manufacturing, a Department of Energy award in southern California which should influence a PLA for a Hydrogen Hub in our state, the fact that the Berg is Going Union Organizing Campaign has stripped over 600 employees from Berg Electric nationwide, and of course the IBEW National Endorsement for Kamala Harris for President.

The second day of the Conference also included the presentation of several organizing awards to Local Unions, discussion about safety issues, and information about the IO Veteran’s Programs – VEEP and VIPER.

The third day of the Conference was heavy on politics and organizing, and the role that technology can play in helping out with both of these areas. There were speakers representing the National Real Estate Advisors, and some introduction to the NEIBF from the Seventh District IEC Member, Leroy Chincio, Jr.

The fourth and final day of the Conference had a panel discussion with representatives from the State Associations which was a great resource for different unique and common issues that touch each of the states in the 9th District. There was a speaker on the Housing Investment Trust from the AFL-CIO

which invests Union Capital for the financing of housing across the country. There was a speaker giving us information on cyber security, another on raising money for the Henry Miller Museum in St. Louis, and another on the charity Socks for Heroes, which sends socks overseas to our service men & women. More information was presented on the NEIBF, which is a National Pension based on hours worked, not strictly how many years a member participated. New information was also presented about the NECA/IBEW Family Medical Care Plan (FMCP), which is a national IBEW medical plan.

The Conference wrapped up with the announcement that Dominic Nolan, one of our International Representatives will be retiring next March. Brother Nolan has served the 9th District for several years, and we wish him a happy retirement!

There was so much information passed along to us during these four days, and I will do my best to share this with our Membership. I am truly honored that I was able to represent the Members of Local 46 at the 2024 9th District Progress Meeting.

In Solidarity,

Ryan Paddock
Assistant Business Manager
IBEW Local 46
Seattle, Washington