

DISTRICT LODGE 140 CONVENTION MONTREAL

District Lodge 140 held its Annual Convention in Montreal this year, on October 27 – 28 at the Intercontinental Hotel. The Local Lodge 764 delegation was limited to two members this year for budgetary reasons. Brothers Craig Chard and David Varnes attended as elected Delegates from Local Lodge 764. Brother Chard served on the Bylaws Committee of the Convention, and Brother Varnes served on the Budget Committee

Two issues occupied a great deal of Delegate time and debate. First was the decision by Grand Lodge to reduce the one-half salary support and pension payment for two District Lodge 140 General Chairpersons, effective October 01, 2009. This item was referred to the Budget Committee. The second issue was a bylaw change pertaining to the District Lodge 140 EAP Co-ordinator, bringing his term of office in line with the bylaw language for the rest of the District Lodge officers. This item was dealt with by the Bylaws Committee. Here is a brief description of the debates.

The Grand Lodge decision to reduce DL140 financial support produced an immediate \$200,000 shortfall in the District budget for 2010. Delegates assigned to the Budget Committee reviewed seven different proposals to address the shortfall, and selected a proposal from the DL140 Executive Board for Committee debate and recommendation. The Board proposal reduced secretarial hours, trimmed allocations in several expense categories, and called for vigorous controls on meeting expenses. Even with all these measures applied, the 2010 DL140 budget would still reflect a \$90,000 deficit. Delegates voted to approve the deficit budget, but with the clear understanding that, if Grand Lodge funding is not restored by late 2010, or DL140 revenues did not improve substantially, a General Chairperson (or two) might have to be laid off after the 2010 Convention, which by the way, will be in Vancouver.

A bylaw amendment was submitted to include the DL140 EAP System Co-ordinator in the section governing the nomination and election of DL140 officers. This amendment was seen as a "house cleaning" item, inasmuch as the EAP System Co-ordinator position was established by appointment in 2002. After much discussion, Delegates voted to refer this item to the DL140 Executive Board, and the Board was given guidelines to establish policy on the electoral term, System Co-ordinator terms of reference, and job performance benchmarks. This policy is to be in place and published by 2010, prior to the next DL140 elections.

Delegates were also accorded presentations by IAMAW International President R. Thomas Buffenbarger, Transportation GVP Robert Roach, and Canadian GVP Dave Ritchie. Hospitality was provided by Local Lodge 1751, Montreal, of which both Brothers Chard and myself were greatly appreciative.

Members who wish further details on these proceedings are invited to the next Regular Meeting of the Local Lodge on Wednesday, November 18. Call to order is at 1700 hours.

Respectfully submitted

Craig Chard, Delegate

David Varnes, Delegate