



# SIB Tips...

Issue 68, March 2021

A newsletter of ideas for UBC Sisters  
Committees to use to be more effective

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## Sisters Adapt To Change and Thrive

Welcome to our first SIB Tips Newsletter in 2021!

In 2020 we endured conditions that none of us have experienced before, as our lives were upended by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic related restrictions also impacted our SIB Committees as in person meetings were banned. Fortunately, many were able to adapt and go to virtual meetings. Some areas have even seen an increase in participation with the convenience of virtual meetings.

A highlight for the International Sisters in the Brotherhood Committee (ISIB) was the October 2020 UBC Sisters in the Brotherhood Virtual Caucus prior to the North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) Tradeswomen Build Nations event.

More than 300 participants joined the UBC Virtual Caucus. General Secretary-Treasurer Thomas Flynn reported on UBC issues and answered audience questions, and attendees had a chance to talk about their experiences as working carpenters during a breakout session.

In August the union held our 42nd General Convention, presented in a virtual format. UBC Sisters were well represented at the convention. There were 58 women delegates representing 16 councils. Congrats!

In 2021, we look forward to a return to more in-person gatherings—and we're grateful for a chance to continue doing the good work of our union.

In Solidarity,

**International Sisters in the Brotherhood Committee**

## Canadian District

### Regional Updates:

#### **British Columbia Regional Council**

- Local 1907 Sisters Barbara James and Kristine Byers participated in pilot sessions to become trainers of the new Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) training that is expected to roll out as part of mandatory training for all workers on Community Benefit Agreements.
- Sisters were active helping in local campaigns to elect NDP representatives to provincial government seats. Their efforts paid off with the first majority-NDP government in B.C. in more than 16 years.
- Sisters were active in supporting Transgender Day of Remembrance in November.
- Yuka Yoshino and Kristine Byers were featured in an article on how [“Women Play Increasingly Vital Role in Future of Construction in Canada.”](#)

#### **Millwright Regional Council of Ontario**

- Communicated with Skills Ontario about Young Women Events and volunteer opportunities for UBC Sisters. Linda Fatt, Jennifer Leyte and Rita Moore have participated on Mentor Panels at these events.
- Heather Ferguson is now chair of Local 1410’s Apprenticeship Committee.
- One-third of the students in Local 2309’s recent Mobile Crane Operator 0-8-ton training were Sisters.
- UBC Sisters will have the opportunity to help mentor youth interested in apprenticeships, through the Sisters in the Trades and the Toronto Community Benefits Network.

#### **Prairie Arctic Regional Council**

- With a provincial government that is not labour-friendly, SIB spread the word about early voting and mail-in vote options during the Saskatchewan Provincial Election in late October.
- Local 1985 Sister Donna Cameron won the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship Outstanding New Journeyperson Award for the highest marks on the Scaffolding Journeyperson exam for 2020.

Bravo Canadian District!

## Eastern District

### North Atlantic States Regional Council—Boston

- Holds monthly Tradeswomen Tuesday events via Zoom for outreach to potential members. Three current tradeswomen panelists speak at each session. An outgrowth has been separate Speakers Bureau sessions for open discussion.
- Advocated for construction workers to be included among the essential workers allowed to use state-funded emergency childcare during the pandemic.
- Spearheaded the regional council’s Stand-Out in Support of Black Lives Matter at the council headquarters in Dorchester.
- Received a grant in December 2020 to start a new carpenters pre-apprenticeship program north of Boston. The program will use Career Connections curriculum.
- Participated in a community service project with DOVE (Domestic Violence Ended), along with the council’s apprenticeship program, to rebuild five porches and a fence enclosure. The work was done in honor of Amelia Phinney, a council representative who died last year, likely of COVID-19. Phinney had been a key organizer of events to support DOVE in past years.

### North Atlantic States Regional Council—Central/Western Mass.

- Building a Policy Group on Tradeswomen Issues in this region of the state.
- Attending compliance meetings at UMass Amherst, Springfield and Worcester.
- Placed an op-ed in the Worcester Telegram on diversity and unionization in construction.

Stupendous Eastern District!



## Western District

### **Southwest Regional Council (Arizona)**

- Created a calendar of events that is given to Sisters when they join or come in to pay dues. Sisters have four opportunities each month to attend SIB Zoom events in the Southwest, some of which bring Sisters from separate states together.
- Participated in voter registration and phone banks during the general election and the Georgia Senate campaign.

### **Southwest Regional Council (Southern California)**

The SIB Committee has seen great success establishing Women's Auxiliaries within several Southern California locals. The Auxiliaries have been a way for spouses and partners to participate in local union activities and learn more about the union. Auxiliary members have taken part in political action and numerous charitable and community events. Women's Auxiliaries are in place in:

Local 661, Sylmar

Local 213, 721 and 1607, Los Angeles

Local 417 (Auxiliary to Local 714), Buena Park

Local 562, Long Beach

Local 619, San Diego

Local 909, Ontario

### **Pacific Northwest Regional Council**

#### **Portland:**

- Campaigned for bond issues in Gresham and Portland and helped with virtual get-out-the-vote activities in Montana prior to the November election.
- Assisted families victimized by the devastating Scotts Mills fires during the summer.
- Encouraged SIB members to participate in wage re-opener negotiations in 2021.

In the **North Puget Sound** area the SIB Committee helps Sisters stay connected via well-attended monthly Zoom meetings as well as by text, Facebook and phone calls to make sure members can find resources during difficult times.

The SIB Committee in the **Spokane** area is renewing efforts to convene Sisters through Zoom happy hours and meetings and has discussed with Spokane Tradeswomen an effort to boost apprentice retention in the area.

### **Northern California Regional Council**

- Made video clips with messages for UBC members in Georgia during the Senate campaign.
- Took part in a volunteer build effort in Sacramento with Local 152 members.

## Your International SIB Committee

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## Keep These Items In Mind

### **Have a tip?**

We welcome your news for the SIB Tips newsletter. Please email your news to your district representative on the International SIB Committee.

### **Looking to Start a Committee?**

There's a document on the Resources page in the UBC Sisters web site that will help you get started.

### **Don't Forget: Get in the Loop!**

Join the UBC's texting program!

Get news and information about the UBC delivered straight to your mobile phone. Here's how:

Text UBC to 855/439-1990 (USA) for UBC info

Text UBC to 877/705-2267 (Canada) for UBC info

AND

Get news and information about the Sisters in the Brotherhood program!

Text SIB to 855/439-1990 (USA) for Sisters info

Text SIB to 877/705-2267 (Canada) for Sisters info

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**is the official Facebook page of the UBC International Sisters in the Brotherhood**