



TIPS SHEET

NEXTGEN COMMITTEES: GETTING ACTIVE

Now that you have a NextGen Committee started in your local and the support of local union leadership, what comes next? With their broad mandate, there are a wide range of activities that NextGen Committees can become engaged in.

It is critical that the activities of your NextGen Committee are inclusive of all members and of interest to you. Some activities you may want to get involved in might overlap with the work of existing committees, so try to communicate and collaborate when possible.

Ideas for Committee Activities:

Mentorship Program – Work with local union leadership to develop a Mentorship Program for young or new members with their peers or experienced members. The Mentorship Program could be as simple as assigning an experienced member to sit with a new member at a union meeting, or something more structured.

Training and Education – As a committee, figure out what areas of the union you would like to know more about and work with local union leadership to determine if there is already training in place or how to get it. The IBEW has a fantastic education and training department that has a wealth of resources, so ask what is available or request training you think is important.

Community Outreach and Involvement – Team up with a community or charity group to help out at an event or in a campaign. This will do well to build solidarity amongst your committee, give back to the community, and increase recognition and a positive perception of the IBEW and its members.

Organize a social event – Organize a social event that reflects your interests like a sporting event or movie night. Organize an informal gathering like “Labour Cheers” at a local pub once a month for members and non-members.

Link with Other Standing Committees – Likely, your local union has other committees already hard at work. Connect with them to see what they are working on and how you can help or add another layer of engagement with younger members.

Make links with a local high school and arrange to talk to students about their rights at work or your career as an electrical worker.

Develop/Update Communication Outlets – Create or update the local union’s Facebook page, blog, or website. Write an article for your local union newsletter or create a YouTube video that shows off what you do or an event you’re hosting. Start a Flickr account where all local union members can share photos.

For more information, contact:

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Marketing – Develop materials to promote the benefits of joining the union and highlights the positive aspects of the IBEW. This could include demonstrating the money and lifestyle benefits, a list of the “Top Five Reasons to Join the IBEW”, show off the types of work opportunities available or the coolest jobs worked on by your local union.

Political Action – Getting involved in political action is very important in every aspect of our lives. Volunteer on political campaigns, educate fellow members on campaign issues or to encourage them to come out and vote. Learn more about the IBEW and political action by having a presentation at your next union meeting.

Organizing – Organizing starts at the local level, and could be one focus for a NextGen Committee. Peer-to-peer conversations when organizing are often more effective, giving young workers an advantage when trying to organize other young workers. Get trained on how to organize, identify targets and help grow the IBEW.

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