

SIB Tips...

Issue 63, May 2019

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

Do you know how SIB Committees Are helping the UBC?

Recruitment, Retention, Education, Politics, and Public Involvement – these are the five UBC strategic priorities that guide actions of SIB committees. You are likely familiar with many of these actions: recruiting women, mentoring Sisters, attending training, participating in rallies, and helping the community.

This newsletter and the [SIB website](#) contain many more examples.

As you read through this issue, make sure you check out how the committees are contributing to the UBC. They are grouped according to the strategic priorities.

And if you really want to see these priorities in action, check out this [video](#) from the Boston SIB committee.

In Solidarity,

International Sisters in the Brotherhood Committee

Canadian District

Regional Updates:

Sisters from several Regional Councils participated in a panel at the Canadian District Contractors Conference. EST Debbie Romero, along with SIB chairs Kristine Byers (British Columbia) and Amanda Leggette (Prairie Arctic), joined other panel members as they suggested ways to recruit and retain more women. Click [here](#) to see the panel members.

In the **Atlantic Canada Regional Council**, three SIB committees focused on communication and public involvement:

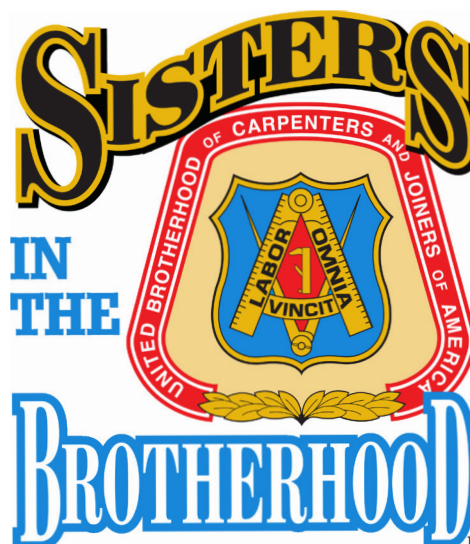
- Cape Breton worked with students to promote the UBC.
- Nova Scotia held a workshop for grade-nine students at the Carpenter Millwright College.
- New Brunswick started a chapter of “Build Together, Women of the Building Trades.” Click [here](#) to see the initial meeting photo.

Great Atlantic Canada!

In the **British Columbia Regional Council**, Sisters from Local 1907 focused on education and public involvement. One very memorable event involved the honoring of four Carpenters who lost their lives on a Vancouver construction project. Known as the Bentall IV tragedy, January 7, 2019 marked the 38th anniversary. Click [here](#) to see the photos.

Sisters also attended an International Women’s Day event that was hosted by the Vancouver District Labour Council. Additionally, SIB chair Julie Sawatsky attended the 47th Convention of the British Columbia Building Trades.

Excellent British Columbia!



Eastern District

In the **New England Regional Council**, SIB committees concentrated on several strategic priorities.

Recruitment:

- Western Massachusetts hosted their third MAGIT (Massachusetts Girls in Trades) Conference and Career Fair. With over 300 girls and 100 educators in attendance, NERCC Sisters can add another successful conference to the growing list. Their goal is to create a pipeline of women for the trades, and by all accounts they are succeeding. Click [here](#) to see highlights of the event.

- New York State held information sessions in five cities to recruit women. After successfully completing the selection process, 10 women were accepted into the pre-apprentice program. Click [here](#) to see the future Carpenters:

- In Rhode Island, Sisters participated in two events. First, Faith Tejada talked to students at her alma mater, Greater Lawrence Technical School. Second, SIB chair Anita Bruno attended the premier regional industry trade show for residential construction – JLC Live.

- In Northern New England, Caitryn Colins-Bushor and Michelle Wright volunteered for a Trades Career Fair in New Hampshire.

Click [here](#) to see the Rhode Island and Northern New England Sisters.

Retention and Education:

- Western Massachusetts pursued an initiative to determine the skills and interests of Sisters. To do this, they created a spreadsheet that profiled each Sister; then held one-on-one meetings to talk about plans and opportunities. The interviews are still ongoing, but Lisa feels positive about the process. In fact, several Sisters are signing up for extra classes – welding, ICRA, framing/drywall.

- New York State had a very successful quarterly meeting via video conference on February 23, 2019. All 5 New York Locals joined the meeting for a total of 30 Sisters. Their guest speaker was Susan Schultz, International SIB Representative for the Eastern District.

- Northern New England had Dan LeClerc as guest speaker. He explained his role as Business Representative and Vice President of Local 349.

- Northeastern and Metro West Massachusetts delivered a report at their Delegates meeting using PowerPoint slides. The report was, in part, to educate all Delegates about committees now active in the Council.

Eastern District (continued)

- Boston had Priscilla Flint Banks, a candidate for the Boston City Council-At-Large Seat, to speak at their monthly SIB meeting. Candidate Banks has worked closely with Sisters on getting more women and people of color into construction in Boston. At a separate series of meetings, SIB chair Liz Skidmore was one of several women in Canada who spoke on tradeswomen issues.

Political and Legislative:

- Western Massachusetts had Sisters turn out to protest Callahan Construction, a non-Union General Contractor who regularly engages in wage-theft as well as tax and insurance fraud. Sisters were also instrumental in having the legislature pass the Springfield HDIP (Housing Development Investment Project), an ordinance which sets hiring requirements for contractors. Click [here](#) to find out more and see photos of these two events.

Outstanding New England!

Midwestern & Southern Districts

SIB committees in the Midwest and South continued efforts to positively impact their community. They are also making an all-out push to recruit women.

Wonderful Midwest and South!

Western District

In the **Pacific Northwest Regional Council**, SIB committees concentrated on outreach and helping others.

Recruitment:

- Portland welcomed Sister Tissi Snelson, a Job Corps instructor, to their meeting. Tissi brought some of her students who are interested in joining the UBC. They were interested in career opportunities and wanted to learn more.

Retention:

- North Puget Sound and South Puget Sound continued reaching out to Sisters. They invited them to meetings, sent encouraging messages, and provided mentoring. South Puget Sound also provided childcare during meetings.



Western District (continued)

- Portland had 67 people attend their March 2019 meeting. Sisters find that the meetings are a great place to network and talk about issues. They also spend time learning how to make a difference in the Union, the industry, and the community.

Education and Development:

- North Puget Sound and Portland have many Sisters working to get their welding certification. They are attending skill advancement classes at the training center in the evening and on weekends.

Political and Legislative:

- Portland had 12 Sisters attend the I-5 Rose Quarter Public Hearing. Many spoke in favor of a \$450 million dollar project that would help fix some of Portland's outdated infrastructure. It was a great opportunity for sisters to learn about the process behind such projects and how they get to fruition.

- North Puget Sound Sisters are making their voices heard. Several called the legislative hotline to ask legislators to support bills that protect Union jobs. Additionally, an Apprentice went to Olympia to testify in support of a bill to fund trades pre-apprenticeship in high schools.

Communication and Public Involvement:

- Portland Sisters volunteered at the Portland KidsBuild event. Also, Lea Peace helped organize a Build at Agape Village – many Sisters participated.

- Eastern Washington Sisters volunteered on March 9, 2019 during Habitat for Humanity Women Build Week. Click [here](#) to see the group photo.

- South Puget Sound Sisters hosted a Spaghetti Feed/Silent Auction fundraiser on March 9, 2019. The event was to assist Local 129 member Francisco Mora who was badly injured in a car accident. Over \$3,000 was raised. Stupendous Pacific Northwest!

In the **Southwest Regional Council**, the Las Vegas SIB committee put a lot of effort into retaining women. They explored ways to improve mentoring relationships and get more women into leadership positions. Sisters also participated in two public events: Ronald MacDonald Tour and Rock the Sock Run.

Well done Southwest!

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 91990 (USA) for UBC info

Text UBC to 52267 (Canada) for UBC info

AND

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

Text SIB to 91990 (USA) for Sisters-only info

Text SIB to 52267 (Canada) for Sisters-only info

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