

I am writing on behalf of the CEM Board of Directors and the entire Founding Convention to thank you for your contribution to making it the unforgettable energizing and bonding experience that it was. Over 250 delegates from the U.S. and more than 10 countries met first in the International Broadcast Standards Summit and then in the Convention itself. I am very proud to report that, thanks largely to those who helped to secure scholarships for many participants, we were able to assemble the most diverse representation of leaders and activists in the field of culture and communication that ever met in the U.S., or anywhere else for that matter.

Your presentation provided both information and inspiration. It was a significant part of the Convention's living demonstration of what it means to have all liberating voices speak for themselves, and to share stories that have something to tell instead of only things to sell. It helped generate unity within diversity and much personal networking. And it sent a significant message to the Working Groups developing an action program.

As you may know, the Convention approved by unanimous vote an organizational structure, elected a Coordinating Council consisting of all delegates present, and elected a Steering Committee consisting of all those who were nominated. Suggestions for the Peoples Communication Charter, the Viewers' Declaration of Independence, the Working Group action reports, and other recommendations presented to the Convention were referred to the Steering Committee for review and eventual submission to the Coordinating Council.

Thanks to you in no small measure, the Convention accomplished a task that, as was pointed out, seemed at times almost impossible. CEM is now formally launched as a broad coalition with a representative Council to guide its work. I hope that we can count on your help and support in moving forward to continue to do the "impossible."

Sincerely yours,

George Gerbner