

Partying with the Party:

Vincent Lighting Supplies Convention Events in Cleveland

Elsewhere in this issue, you can read about the Democratic and Republican National Conventions. Both events require intensive design and an enormous amount of gear. But convention time is also party time, and when a convention comes to town, local gear suppliers can have their work cut out for them handling the many ancillary events—parties, concerts, meet and greets—that accompany the conventions. For example, Vincent Lighting, a Cleveland-area-based lighting supplier (with additional offices in Erlanger, Kentucky; Pittsburgh; and Westland, Michigan) provided gear to two major events related to the Republican National Convention in July.

A welcome-to-the-convention party for media was held outdoors in Voinovich Bicentennial Park in downtown Cleveland. Headlining the event was the classic rock band Three Dog Night, performing on a Stageline 320 stage. Bordering on the park is the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, which, for the event, was lit (in red, white, and blue) using a combination of four Philips Color Kinetics ColorReach PowerCore units, six Clay Paky A.leda B-EYEs (in Igloo Easy dome enclosures), six Philips Vari*Lite VL3500 Wash units (in Tempest Lighting Tornado 2300 enclosures), and 64 IP-rated Elation Professional SIXPAR 100s.

Lighting gear for the concert stage included 24 Clay Paky

Sharpys Washes, 12 Sharpys, 12 VL4000s, eight Chroma-Q ColorForce 72s, and three Lycian 1.5K followspots. Control was handled by an MA Lighting grandMA2 light console.

Derek Hons, production manager at Vincent Lighting, notes that the event made for “an interesting situation. The band originally lined up to appear cancelled two days before the event. Three Dog Night didn’t have a lighting designer, so we had Scott Latham from our staff handle the lighting for them.”

A second event, The Buckeye Bash, was held for the 700 delegates, alternates, staff, and donors affiliated with the convention’s Ohio delegation; the guest of honor was Ohio House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger. This time, Rascal Flatts provided the entertainment. The party was held at Cleveland Public Auditorium. Overhead, an enormous truss arrangement, spelling out “Ohio,” was toned by Elation Professional Epar QAs (RGBA color-mixing units) as well as 18 VL3500 Spots. This portion of the lighting was handled by an MA Lighting grandMA1 light console.

The stage featured 12 VL2500 Spots, eight VL3500 Wash units, and 12 Color Kinetics ColorBlaze TRX units. Control was via a grandMA2 light. Andy Knighton, Rascal Flatts’ longtime lighting designer, was on hand to run the show.

Hons notes that both events benefited from decent time frames; the Buckeye Bash loaded in over the course of one day, with four days to set up the welcome. Hons also notes that the RNC was the first political convention in Cleveland since the early 1930s. One imagines that it won’t be such a long time until the next. 📶



Top photo: Derek Hons; Bottom photo: Sean Mangano

