

National Fund Announces 2007 Instructor Training Program

General President Hunt, in writing a message to those attending the **Apprenticeship Competition** held in September of 2006, said – “Our great international union is built on the skills of our members. During this competition you will see some of the most highly skilled apprentices from our local unions across the United States and Canada. Each time we hold this competition the skill level of our Outstanding Apprentice Competitors improves. This is a result of their dedication to excellence and our continuing efforts to strengthen our apprenticeship programs. As you watch these competitors, please remember that you are watching the future of our union.”

We would not be able to produce outstanding apprentices without outstanding apprenticeship programs – and the key to effective apprenticeship programs is the preparation of skilled coordinators and instructors. One of the primary methods for preparing these coordinators and instructors is through the annual Ironworker Instructor Training Program.

The **Twenty-Third Annual Ironworker Instructors Training Program** will be held at the University of San Diego, San Diego, California from July 15, 2007 through July 20, 2007. This will be an exciting year with the third annual Apprenticeship Coordinators meeting along with a number of new and revised courses.

The Coordinator’s meeting is open to all current Apprenticeship Coordinators and will be held during July 13-14. The objective of this meeting is to update Coordinators on practices and procedures for operating an effective apprenticeship program. This year the Coordinators attending the meeting will receive the new **Ironworker Apprenticeship Coordinator’s Guide**. This new guide contains 10 “how to” modules focusing on the major roles and responsibilities of Apprenticeship Coordinators. In addition to the Guide, participants will receive a companion CD-ROM that contains a number of

important documents and photos. The photos are from a number of local unions and show not only physical facilities, but the use of mock-ups, wall-mounted training aids, tool and equipment storage, etc. All Apprenticeship Coordinators are encouraged to attend and should use the forms being sent to local unions for the Instructor Training Program to register.

In 2007 we are also offering a number of new and revised courses. Some of these courses include:

History of the Ironworkers – This 20-hour course has been updated to include the new content in the *History of the Ironworkers*.

Foreman Training for Ironworkers – During 2006 this 20-hour train-the-trainer course was held around the United States and was very well received. We will offer this course in San Diego – primarily for those locals who have yet to have instructors trained to conduct this course for their apprentices, journeymen and local contractors.

COMET Train-the-Trainer - This 20-Hour course provides material and skills to participants enabling them to deliver the Construction Organizing Membership Education Training (COMET) program for Ironworkers. This course will be conducted by Bernie Evers, Executive Director of Organizing for the International.

Union Ironworkers: Survival of the Fittest – Offered for the first time last year, this 10-hour course will be offered again due to strong interest in strengthening the work attitudes of apprentices.

Advanced Welding Techniques – This new course 20-hour offered by Lincoln Electric will focus on the latest in welding processes and equipment.

Hand Plasma Cutting and Gouging – This new 10-hour course conducted by ESAB will focus on hand plasma cutting and gouging.

Structural Steel Erection – This new 20-hour course replaces two structural courses. This new course will involve classroom and hands-on sessions and will be based on draft versions of the new structural training package.

Hoisting and Rigging Techniques and Applications – This revised 10-hour course will combine two previous courses and will be based on the new rigging and cranes training packages.

Ornamental Wall Coverings and Glass Railing – This revised 20-hour course will combine three previous courses, will include classroom and hands-on sessions, and will be based on draft versions of the new architectural and ornamental training package.

Reinforced Concrete for Apprenticeship Programs – This new 20-hour train-the-trainer course prepares Ironworker instructors to go back to their locals and teach reinforcing. This course uses dynamic teaching techniques to introduce the *Reinforcing Concrete for Ironworkers* training package now available from the National Training Fund.

Educational Planning – This 20-hour course is offered by the National Labor College for those working on their bachelor's degree. In order for the College to send a faculty member to San Diego to conduct this course, we need at least 12 participants. So if those attending the program in San Diego in July are interested in this course, sign up early. On June 1 we will make the final decision regarding this course based on the number enrolled.

Complete details regarding these and all of the other courses are being sent to local union Apprenticeship Coordinators. Locals are encouraged to review the course catalog, select courses for those Coordinators and instructors attending, and to register early. We expect that a number of these new courses will fill up fast – so sign up early.

This year's program promises to be the best ever! Coordinators, instructors, labor and management JATC members, contractors and business representatives interested in attending should look for the registration information sent out from the Apprenticeship and Training Department. You may also contact the Apprenticeship and Training office at (202) 383-4889 for more information.

See you in San Diego!

Michelle – need to include a campus photo and/or one or two photos of classroom and pit activities – I can assist with captions if needed.