

23rd Annual Ironworker Instructor Training Program a Success

The National Ironworkers and Employers Apprenticeship Training and Journeyman Upgrading Fund held the 23rd Annual Ironworker Instructor Training Program this past July at the University of San Diego. Over 700 instructors, observers, employers, contractors, guests, and special presenters participated in the program.

During the opening session Executive Director of Apprenticeship and Training Mike White welcomed the participants. General President Joseph Hunt challenged the participants to maintain the excellence of our apprenticeship programs. General Secretary Michael Fitzpatrick welcomed the participants to the annual training program. General Treasurer Walter Wise addressed the participants focusing on the recently announced Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and highlighting the roles and responsibilities of JATCs, apprenticeship coordinators, and instructors in ensuring that local unions meet their KPIs.

Eric Waterman, IMPACT CEO, Bill Brown, President of Ben Hur Construction Company, and Vic Cornellier, President of TSI/Exterior Wall Systems also addressed the participants during the opening session held on Sunday evening, July 15.

C. Brian Little, Deputy Assistant Secretary for OSHA spoke during the opening session. Mr. Little provided an update on OSHA activities that relate to construction.

Each year there are a number of observers who attend the program to learn more about how we train our instructors. This year Dr. Gail Palmisano from the US Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) sat in on a number of our courses. Other special observers included Steven Witt, Directorate of Construction for OSHA and Sean O'Neill, Special Assistant in the Department of Labor Office for Public Liaison.

Apprenticeship coordinators from the United States and Canada held their third annual meeting in conjunction with training program. Participants received a copy of the new ***Ironworker Apprenticeship and Training Programs: A Guide for Coordinators and Directors***. This comprehensive guide (and two CD-ROMs) is designed to help local union apprenticeship coordinators to manage their programs.

During the opening session 17 local unions received certificates indicating their successful completion of the **Ironworker Apprenticeship Certification Program** (IACP). In addition, 19 individuals received their **Qualified Ironworker Instructor Certificate** indicating completion of required courses as part of the annual training program.

Approximately 40 courses were offered during the annual program including eight new or revised courses. These courses included:

- COMET Train-The-Trainer

- Foreman Training for Ironworkers
- Hand Plasma Cutting and Gouging (taught by ESAB)
- Advanced Welding Technology (taught by Lincoln Electric and Harris)
- Structural Steel Erection
- Hoisting and Rigging Techniques
- Ornamental Wall Coverings and Glass Railings
- Reinforcing Concrete

One of the reasons the annual program continues to be a success is the participation of our supporting vendors. These vendors conduct courses, give demonstrations with state-of-the-art equipment, offer training materials, run contests, and have become an integral part of the program. This year our vendors included Bar Splice Products, Crosby Group Inc., ESAB Welding and Cutting, Harris Calorific, Smith Equipment, Hilti, Klein Tools, Lincoln Electric, Miller Electric, Red-D-Arc, GTI, Conextec, Applied Bolting, CI Solutions, Hydratight, 3M, and Max Rebar.

General Secretary Michael Fitzpatrick addressed the participants during the closing session held on July 20. In addition, there were presentations of prizes by vendors to participants based on hands-on events held during the Wednesday evening vendor demonstrations. The final event during the closing session was a “week in review” slide show with music that highlighted key events from the training program.

By all accounts the 23rd annual Ironworker Instructor Training Program was a success. The Apprenticeship and Training Department is now busy working on the 24th annual. So mark your calendars and join us July 13-18, 2008 for another exciting program dedicated to strengthening our apprenticeship and training programs.

Possible photos with captions:

- #1: Mike White addresses the Apprenticeship Coordinators
- #2: Kevin Bryenton receives the IACP certificate for Local 721 from the General Officers
- #3: Paul Martinez from Local 416/433 receives his Qualified Instructor Certificate from the General Officers
- #4: Participants at the Apprenticeship Coordinator’s Meeting
- #5: Hands-on practice at the Hilti display
- #6: Ironworker learning to use new welding equipment
- #7: Donny Grayman (Local 416) and Juan Trevino (Local 263) work together in a course