

Ironworker Instructor Training Program a Success

The National Ironworkers and Employers Apprenticeship Training and Journeyman Upgrading Fund held the 21st Annual Ironworker Instructor Training Program this past July at the University of San Diego. Over 600 instructors, observers, guests, employers and special presenters participated in the program. Over 40 courses were offered including four new courses. The new courses were rigger train-the-trainer; OSHA clarifications, interpretive letters and administrative law decisions; training and certification of field personnel for bonded post tensioning; and mathematics for Ironworkers.

The new rigger train-the-trainer course taught by outstanding instructors from Crosby Group Inc. was so popular that the 60 slots were filled within weeks of the registration materials being sent to local unions. To respond to the interest in this course, courses are being scheduled for later this year at our regional training centers in St. Louis, Missouri and Benicia, California.

This year for the first time a meeting of apprenticeship coordinators from the United States and Canada was held in conjunction with annual program. Some of the topics discussed during this two-day meeting of about 100 participants included the Ironworker core curriculum, new format for training materials, the Ironworker Apprenticeship Certification Program, IMPACT initiatives, linkages with colleges for credit for apprenticeship courses, and working with students for whom English is not their native language. Participants received copies of the new guide entitled "Limited English Proficient Students: A Guide for Ironworker Instructors." Participants also were able to see the new online system for ordering Ironworker training materials. This system will be operational within the next month or so.

Executive Director of the Apprenticeship and Training Department Michael White addressed the participants during the opening session held on Sunday evening, July 17. He commended the participants saying "Because of your dedication to excellence, we have stronger apprenticeship programs throughout the United States and Canada."

During the opening session on Sunday evening, General Secretary Michael Fitzpatrick, General Treasurer Walter Wise, Victor Cornellier (President of TSI/Exterior Wall Systems and National Fund Trustee), and Eric Waterman (IMPACT CEO) addressed the participants. John Pasqualetto (President and CEO of SeaBright Insurance Company) addressed the participants regarding the alliance between IMPACT and SeaBright Insurance and how this will benefit the Ironworkers.

The highlight of the opening session was the presentation by Gil Garcetti. The former Los Angeles County District Attorney turned photographer shared photos from his book entitled "Iron: Erecting the Walt Disney Concert Hall." His book

(now in its 3rd printing) contains approximately 100 photographs and focuses on the Ironworkers and the beauty of the geometric forms created by the 12000+ different shaped pieces of raw steel in the concert hall. Gauging by audience reaction, Mr. Garcetti's presentation was very well received.

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 Applied Bolting, Bar Splice Products, Conextec, Crosby Group Inc., Dennington Safety Gear, Inc., DSI, Erico Inc., ESAB Welding and Cutting, EZE Bend, Genie-Lift, Harris Calorific, Hilti, HYTORC, Klein Tools, Lincoln Electric, Max USA Corporation, Merkel, Miller Electric, Petrogen, Red-D-Arc, SI Equipment Services, Inc., Smith Equipment Company, and the Bristol Division of Strongwell.

The skilled Ironworkers we develop in our apprenticeship programs go to work for our employers and contractors. Given that the needs of our employers and contractors shape what we teach in our apprenticeship programs, it is always a pleasure to have them join us for the annual instructor training program. This year we had representatives from the National Erectors Association (NEA), the National Association of Reinforcing Steel Contractors (NARSC), and the National Association of Miscellaneous, Ornamental and Architectural Products Contactors (NAMOA).

In an effort to recognize trained instructors, the National Training Fund implemented a Qualified Ironworker Instructor Certificate program for the first time this year during the annual program. The objective of this program is to recognize those Ironworker instructors who have completed specific professional and technical courses as part of their instructor training. During the opening session, 29 instructors received their Qualified Instructor Certificates. These were presented by General Secretary Michael Fitzpatrick, General Treasurer Walter Wise, and Executive Director of the Apprenticeship and Training Department Michael White. For more information on this new program, contact the Apprenticeship and Training Department.

Participants in the pre-engineered metal buildings course were pleased to learn that they were the first recipients of the new metal buildings training package. The new package is part of a major initiative by the Apprenticeship and Training Department to update all of our training materials. The package included a color reference manual, instructor guide, student workbook, blueprint book and CD-ROM that includes presentations with video and Internet links imbedded in the slides. Look for more information on this and other training packages soon.

Attending the program this year were the Trustees of the National Fund including:

Management:

- Bill Brown, President of Ben Hur Construction Company
- Victor Cornellier, President of TSI/Exterior Wall Systems
- David McEuen, President of the California Erectors Bay Area, Inc.

Labor:

- General Secretary Michael Fitzpatrick
- General Treasurer Walter Wise
- Dick Zampa, General Vice President and President of the California District Council
- Ron Gladney, General Council for the National Fund

By all accounts the 21st annual Ironworker Instructor Training Program was a success. The Apprenticeship and Training Department is now busy working on the 22nd annual. So please mark your calendars and join us July 16-21, 2006 for another exciting program dedicated to strengthening our apprenticeship and training programs.

Apprenticeship and Training Department and National Fund Mission Statement

The mission of the Ironworkers Apprenticeship and Training Department is to ensure that our contractors and employers have union Ironworkers with the skills, knowledge, and training necessary to be safe on the job site, competitive in the workplace, and satisfied in their careers.

We accomplish this mission by providing training and training materials, leadership, accreditation, and certification in order to uphold union values and the principles of service and professionalism.

We stand for:

- Unionism
- Safety
- Leadership
- Service
- Integrity
- Professionalism

Possible photos with captions:

#76: General Secretary Michael Fitzpatrick addresses the participants

#81: General Treasurer Walter Wise addresses the participants

#108: Gil Garcetti praises Ironworkers with his photos

#120 or 121 or 136 or 142 (select one): General Secretary Michael Fitzpatrick, General Treasurer Walter Wise and Executive Director of the Apprenticeship and Training Department Michael White present instructor certificates

#71: Hands on training with pre-engineered metal buildings

#21: Competitor in a welding contest

#51: Demonstration of architectural and ornamental construction