



CISCO

COMMUNICATOR

A Newsletter for Chicagoland Construction Labor & Management Professionals

Speaker Madigan Highlights CISCO Annual Luncheon – Friday, May 4

Register now for CISCO’s 30th Annual Luncheon set for Friday, May 4, 2018 at Maggiano’s Little Italy in Chicago, 516 N. Clark St.

The Luncheon will feature recognition of our Labor Advocate, Public Body and Educator of the Year awards, as well as presentations to our 2018 Scholarship Award recipients.

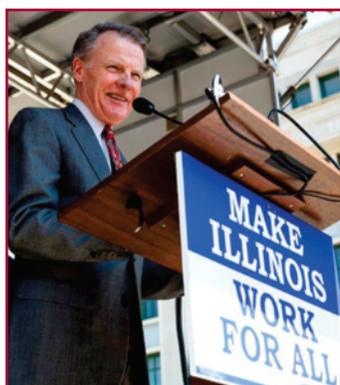


With Speaker Madigan’s leadership, the state of Illinois has passed Capital and infrastructure funding bills, and legislation that has protected and bolstered Prevailing Wage laws. In addition, passage of bills that give the middle class a fighting chance has been the hallmark of his tenure. Among his legislative accomplishments are laws that

have provided assistance to veterans, educational institutions, and people with disabilities. He has also been a champion for Misericordia and similar charitable organizations.

His staunch resistance of the current governor’s persistence to formulate “Right-to-Work” (FOR LESS) ordinances and laws in Illinois is one of the many reasons why he was CISCO’s choice for this award.

For more information about the luncheon and to register, call (630) 472-9411.



Receiving the Labor Advocate of the Year award will be Illinois Speaker of the House, Michael J. Madigan. Speaker Madigan has long been an ardent supporter of working class families, especially the men and women in the union construction industry.

CISCO Appoints New Board Member - John Daniel

During CISCO’s recent Board meeting, members officially appointed its newest Board member - Mr. John Daniel.

John Daniel is the President/Business Manager of SMART (Sheet Metal) Local 265. Since entering the industry in 1991, John has been a Sheet Metal Fabricator and Installer, an Instructor, Organizer, Business Representative, Financial Secretary/Treasurer and most recently the President/Business Manager for SMART Local 265.

John’s career path has provided him with a well-rounded perspective of the sheet metal industry and the challenges we face in the unionized sector. Having an open mind and being an active listener, leveraging assets both financial and relational; as well as leveraging technology to not only capture more



**New Board Member
John Daniel**

work opportunities but to attract the next generation of trades men and women are a few of John’s priorities.

Mr. Daniel replaces former SMART Local 265 President/Business Manager Chuck Ruegge, who retired last month, and served on CISCO’s Board since 2015.

CISCO welcomes John to the team, and wishes Chuck all the best in his future endeavors!

From *the* Desk of the Executive Director



Last month, I testified before the Cook County Board in favor of an ordinance that sets prevailing wage requirements on construction projects, where the property owners seek various tax incentives.

Mayors and economic development administrators from many of the Cook County suburbs were against the idea saying that it would drive up costs, add red tape and eliminate the viability of the tax incentive programs.

Following passage of the County ordinance on March 14, the Village of Orland Park added a resolution to its meeting agenda opposing the new prevailing wage requirement. Again I testified on behalf of the ordinance. What struck me is how much the prevailing wage law is misunderstood, and how much the law is beneficial to taxpayers, businesses and the economy.

“It was the labor movement that helped secure so much of what we take for granted today. The cornerstones of middle-class security all bear the union label.”
- Barack Obama

Who better to help explain the benefits of prevailing wage than Indiana Republican House Majority Leader Ed Soliday, who watched his state repeal prevailing wage in 2015, leading him to declare two years later, “We got rid of prevailing wage and so far it hasn’t saved us a single penny. When you have prevailing wage, you hire local people and they spend their earnings locally. When you go out of state and just chase price, you wind

up weakening your own community,” he said.

Restated that means prevailing wage keeps more tax dollars, more income and more spending in the local community, and this creates jobs across all sectors of the local economy including small businesses.

A second argument from the county mayors was that it limits the eligibility of minority, women, veteran-owned businesses. In fact, it does the exact opposite. Independent studies show that veterans are much more likely to work in construction, and are more likely to be employed in state that HAVE prevailing wage laws. Prevailing wage eliminates wage disparities for women and minorities, and results in higher segments of both groups pursuing careers in the construction trades.

Another point the local leaders used was this would lead businesses to go elsewhere. Right now, developers are flocking to Illinois as research from *IntersectIllinois* states there are currently 2,000 foreign firms investing \$100 billion in Illinois, much of that in Cook County.

Hiring the best trained, most highly-skilled workers means that the job will be done right the first time, thus saving cost overruns, staying within budget, and thus reducing burdens on the taxpayer. Well-trained also means safer work sites, as it is a fact that injuries and deaths are lower in states with prevailing wage.

If you are IN FAVOR of protecting people who work and live in your community, IN FAVOR of keeping more tax dollars and more local spending in the community, IN FAVOR of reducing wage disparity, IN FAVOR of using the best-skilled workforce, and IN FAVOR of hard-working, middle-class families, then prevailing wage is the right choice!

Dan Allen
Executive Director

Announcing New Associate Member - Eye Boutique

Eye Boutique has officially joined the ranks of CISCO’s Associate Membership rolls. The company started as one optical center in 1978. It was created to serve the optical needs of UAW Local 72 members in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and was established as a union optical company. Its members are organized by UFCW Local 1473 (formally Local 1444).



the company grew, and today it has 26 centers in Wisconsin. Expansion into six center in Indiana was followed by the purchase of an established chain of optical centers in the Chicago area.

The eyeglasses sold in these centers are fabricated in the company’s union lab in New Berlin, Wisconsin. The goal of Eye Boutique is to continue to expand and create more union jobs. To learn more about our newest member, visit eyeboutique.com.

Presidential *Perspective*



I would like to begin by stating that it is an honor and a privilege to serve as CISCO’s new Board President. As a board member for the past 5 years, I am proud to continue my commitment to the success and growth of the unionized construction industry.

When I began my tenure on the Board, I had just been appointed as Vice President of IBEW Local 134, and had been serving as the Assistant Director of the Electricians Apprenticeship Program.

Making students and young adults aware of the benefits of a career in the union construction industry has always been in my blood. This industry has provided me with a quality livelihood, and passing along that message to our next generations is critical. CISCO, and particularly its Education-to-Careers Director Johnetta Ryan, does a fantastic job conveying that message.

Replenishing our building trades’ ranks with men and women who are eager to work hard and be rewarded for that hard work is a major priority. If you follow recent news, these are both challenging and exciting times for the construction industry: 1) Chicago just announced approval of an \$8.5 billion expansion/rebuild of passenger terminals bringing tens of thousands of construction job; 2) The future Obama Presidential Center proposed in Jackson Park is expected to draw about 760,000 visitors annually, will create 5,000 construction jobs, and create \$3 billion in economic impact in its first 10 years of operation; and 3) The CTA’s \$2.1 billion modernization plan of the Red and Purple Lines will further enhance the city’s public transportation network.

I am extremely excited to take over the reins of an organization that is in the midst of so much construction activity and during a time when we are trending in the right direction.

Sincerely,

Maurice King
CISCO Board President

Five Students Chosen for CISCO Scholarship Awards

The winners of CISCO’s 2018 Scholarship Program were recently chosen by CISCO’s Board of Directors, and will be formally recognized and honored during CISCO’s Annual Luncheon on May 4, 2018.

An independent review of the 64 scholarship applications was conducted and the names of the winners were certified and contacted. The entries received were in two categories - 1) four-year scholarships (\$2,000/year) to high school seniors, and 2) two-year awards (\$1,000/year) for seniors planning to attend community college.

Eligible students were the sons and daughters of either building trade union members or union contractor employees. A total of 5 winners were chosen - three for the 4-year scholarships and two for the 2-year awards.

Four-year scholarship winners:

1) Alexia Kubas– Lincoln-Way East High School – Alexia’s father is employed by Larmco Masonry in Lynwood, Illinois, and is a member of BAC Local 21.

2) John “Jack” Bibbiano– Stagg High School – John’s father is a member of IBEW Local 134; and

3) Sophia Lopez– Whitney Young High School – Sophia’s father is a member of the Carpenters Local 13.

Two-year scholarship winners:

1) Gabrielle McDermott– Tri-Point High School – Gabrielle’s father is a member of IUOE Local 150 Operating Engineers; and

2) Christian Sifuentes– Waubonsie Valley High School – Christian’s father is a member of the Sprinkler Fitters, Local 281.



O'Hare Airport Expansion Called "Game Changer"

Calling it a "watershed moment" Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the City Council have given final approval to an \$8.5 billion expansion and rebuild of O'Hare International Airport's outmoded passenger terminals, a move that is expected to create tens of thousands of construction jobs.

"Everyone knows this is a game-changer for the city of Chicago," added West Side Ald. Walter Burnett.

With O'Hare's tenant airlines scheduled to formally sign new lease deals, the path appears clear to implementing a plan by 2026 that, if all goes as scheduled, will add 3 million square feet of terminal space and 30 to 35 additional gates for planes to load passengers, up from 185 gates now.

City aviation officials say doing so will attract an additional 20 million passengers a year to O'Hare (up a quarter from today), many of them arriving on lucrative international flights, an area in which O'Hare has fallen behind competitors such as Los Angeles International and Atlanta's Hartsfield. And if those targets are reached, the plan sets the stage for further terminals in the future.



Alderman also agreed to set up a working group, or commission, that will regularly monitor activity and report back to aldermen on whether minority businesses and workers are receiving an adequate piece of construction and related legal and financial contracts.

The gate expansion follows a decade in which O'Hare added or lengthened several runways and converted many of them from a diagonal configuration to six east-west parallel runways. Most of that work already has been completed, with more expected soon.

CISCO/Housing Authority of Cook County Hold First Ever Hands-On Fair

CISCO and the Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) worked together to organize its first joint Hands-On Fair in Chicago Heights at the Park District's Rec Center on Thursday, March 1st. Around 80 HACC residents took advantage as 12 different building trades set up booth displays for people to learn about what it takes to apply to one of the union apprenticeship programs.



Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle meets with Ralph Affrunti, President of the Chicago & Cook County Building Trades.

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle was on hand to greet residents, as well as Ralph Affrunti, President of the Chicago & Cook County Building Trades Council.

"There is a demand for skilled labor," Affrunti said. "The men and women receive top-notch training. For an apprentice to

become a journeyman it takes more time than it does to get a bachelor's degree."

HACC Executive Director Richard Monocchio added, "We have a lot of residents who have talent and just need an opportunity."



Top photo: Larry Picardi, Jr. from the Cement Masons Local 502 talks with residents about what it takes to apply for an apprenticeship in his building trade.



Bottom photo: As he explains the application process, Adam Sutter, Admissions Director, Pipefitters Local 597, listens to a resident's question.

EDUCATION 70 CAREERS



Johnetta Ryan,
Director
Education-to-Careers

CISCO/Moraine Area Career System Conduct Successful Hands-On Fair

CISCO teamed up with the Moraine Area Career System for a recent Hands-On Fair at the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters' satellite Apprenticeship & Training Center in Chicago.

Ten trades were present as approximately 125 students attended from 10 area high schools. Counselors, teacher and vocational coordinators from Andrew, Argo, Delta Learning Center, Eisenhower, Oak Lawn, Reavis, Richards, Sandburg, Shepard, and Stagg High Schools accompanied the students.

Eisenhower High School Counselor Mary Farnan agreed. "The students enjoy this because they can talk directly to apprentices, who are nearly the same age as they are. Students can relate better with those individuals in the "hands-on" setting," she said.

ISACC CONFERENCE DRAWS NEAR

The 28th **Illinois State Apprenticeship Conference** will be held **May 7 - 10, 2018** at the Holiday Inn & Suites in East Peoria, IL.

Highlights of the conference include a welcoming reception, exhibits, general sessions (Labor and Office of Apprenticeship), guest speakers, sectional meeting, golf outing, banquet and door prizes.

To register online, go to www.isacconline.org. Conference cost is \$130.00. For room reservations: 1/309-698-3333. Use the room block code: APP.



Students take their turn with basic bricklaying techniques as Apprentice Ashley Wilkins demonstrates.

In addition to the Moraine Community College Welding Program, the trades had representatives from the Bricklayers, Carpenters, Electricians Local 134, Laborers, Operating Engineers Local 150, Painters, Pipefitters Local 597, Plumbers Local 130 and the Ceramic Tile Setters.

COUNSELOR PERSPECTIVE

District 218 Vocational Coordinator Elise Mayer said "About 80% of our students will not attend college and the event is popular among students because the hands-on approach is more valuable to them than a lecture experience."

CAREER DAY OPPORTUNITIES

As another school year nears conclusion, I would like to remind teachers and counselors that CISCO is available in a number of ways during regular semesters and summer sessions.

Call or email me (630-472-9411 or johnetta@cisco.org) to arrange a presentation, tour the Apprenticeship Training Centers, or provide materials that detail the requirements for successful admission into each building trades' apprenticeship program.

START RECEIVING CISCO E-NEWSLETTER

Also, if any teacher, counselor or school administrator is interested in receiving CISCO's e-newsletter - Construction News Briefs - just contact Johnetta Ryan, Education-to-Careers Director via email (see above) and your email will be added to CISCO's database to receive the bi-monthly report.

Chicago Alderman Proposes New Sexual Harassment Ordinance



As reported last week in the *Chicago Sun Times*, Chicago Alderman Roberto Maldonado has recently proposed in City Council to require all companies seeking city business “on or after June 30” to have a comprehensive sexual harassment policy in place and provide “legal recourse” for sexual harassment victims.

According to research by PCA Midwest (Plumbing Contractors Association), if enacted as currently drafted, prime contractors with the city with more

than 15 employees would have until June 30, 2018 to have a sexual harassment policy that complies with the ordinance in place. Failure to have such a policy in place would trigger a “default” after a 30-day “opportunity to cure” the violation. If a contract has already been awarded, it would be re-bid.

There are ongoing discussions that the final ordinance may include a requirement that all subcontractors with more than 15 employees on city projects would have to have a policy in place one year later by June 30, 2019. CISCO will continue to follow this story as developments occur.

Editor’s Note: Excerpts of this article courtesy of PCA Midwest/Plumbing Council Midwest “Workflow”.

Chicago Building Congress Luncheon Highlights Obama Center

The Chicago Building Congress’ recent March luncheon provided attendees with a glimpse of the Barack Obama Presidential Center that will be a new landmark on the City’s south side. As an economic engine, it is expected to draw an estimated 760,000 visitors annually, and create \$3.1 billion in economic impact in its first 10 years of operation.

In addition, it is expected to create about 5,000 construction jobs and approximately 2,500 permanent jobs once it opens its doors.

Obama Foundation guest speakers were Mike Strautmanis, Chief Engagement Officer and Roark Frankel, Director of Design & Construction. They emphasized how the project will help to continue the revitalization of historic Jackson Park. They also focused on a list of ambitious hiring goals for diversity and inclusion.

One goal is to ensure that 50% of subcontractors are from diverse firms. Another goal includes working with labor unions to build a pipeline of talent.



 **Obama Foundation presenters Roark Frankel, (left) Director of Design & Construction and Mike Strautmanis, Chief Engagement Officer, answer audience questions.**

CISCO’s many outreach efforts have been successfully laying the foundation to increase awareness and enrollment of minorities into careers in the union construction industry.

The Obama Foundation and CISCO share a common goal - to be a catalyst for generational change.



Post-Primary Election Appreciation Event

The Illinois AFL-CIO’s recent event highlighted many of the Primary’s victorious candidates. At left, Attorney General hopeful Kwame Raoul thanks attendees for their support as (from left) Senate President John Cullerton, Lt. Governor candidate Juliana Stratton and Illinois U.S. Senator Dick Durbin listen to his remarks.



CISCO COMMUNICATOR

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CISCO Communicator is published by the Construction Industry Service Corporation (CISCO). CISCO is a labor-management group bringing together unions of the building trades and construction contractor associations representing more than 140,000 construction workers and 8,000 contractors in the six county Chicago Metropolitan area.

CISCO MISSION STATEMENT

It is the primary mission of CISCO to strengthen the unionized construction market in the greater Chicago Metropolitan area. In support of this mission, CISCO will perform three major roles: 1) Serve as a forum to facilitate dialogue between contractors and building trades union leaders concerning mutual problems and concerns; 2) Serve as a clearinghouse for information on the local construction industry; 3) Serve as a promotional group to encourage union construction with the user community and the general public. As a joint labor-management organization, CISCO will focus on cooperative efforts to reduce problems and conflicts and enhance the competitiveness of union construction. Through its activities, CISCO will build trust between the parties and will foster the joint commitment of local contractors and union labor to high quality, on-time, within budget delivery on all projects.

**Suggestions, story ideas, or comments should be directed to
CISCO at: 999 McClintock Dr., Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527**

Contact Us At: (630)472-9411, Fax: (630)472-9413,
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CISCO is a registered Illinois Servicemark for the Construction Industry Service Corporation.

Survey

1) What, if any, information or sections would you like to see included in future newsletters?

2) What, if any, sections do you think should be removed from the newsletter?

3) What, if any, programs would you like to see CISCO offer to its members in the future?

We value your input! Respond by:

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