



CISCO

COMMUNICATOR

A Newsletter for Chicagoland Construction Labor & Management Professionals

Newly Appointed IDOL Director To Highlight CISCO Luncheon



Michael Kleinik,
Acting Director, Illinois
Department of Labor.

Michael Kleinik, new Director of the Illinois Department of Labor, will be the keynote speaker at CISCO's Annual Luncheon on Friday, April 26, at Maggiano's in Schaumburg. The Luncheon begins at 11:00 a.m. with registration and the program begins at Noon.

Governor JB Pritzker recently appointed Mr. Kleinik to serve as the new Director of the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL).

Mr. Kleinik's career has focused on enforcing the law. Beginning as a Vandalia police officer and followed by two terms as Fayette County Sheriff, he moved onto serving as field supervisor for the Midwest Region Foundation for Fair Contracting - an organization dedicated to ensuring the enforcement of laws governing the construction industry.

Kleinik also has experience at the IDOL, having previously held the positions of Chief of Staff and Manager of the Department's Conciliation and Mediation Division. He transitioned from the IDOL to the Chicago Laborers' District Council Labor-Management Cooperation Committee (LMCC), where he served as the LMCC Executive Director until his retirement in 2018.

"We couldn't ask for a better or more experienced person to lead this agency than Mike Kleinik. He knows the laws inside and out, and has the experience necessary to efficiently and effectively run the IDOL. We are confident he will protect Illinois workers and employers who play by the rules."

For the past four years, the Department of Labor has been virtually non-existent and contractors who violate the laws have not been held accountable. There's a lot to catch up on and Mike is the right person for the job."

*- James Connolly, Business Manager,
Chicago Laborers' District Council*

To register for CISCO's Annual Meeting, contact Julia Mulvey, Office Manager at (630) 472-9411.

George Patterson Named to CISCO Board of Directors



CISCO welcomed its newest Board Member during its Annual Meeting - George Patterson, President of Bennett & Brosseau Roofing, Inc.

The CISCO Board of Directors approved Mr. Patterson to replace outgoing Board Member and Board Secretary John

Cronin, who had served on the CISCO Board since 2014, representing the Chicagoland Roofing Council Association (CRCA).

At Bennett & Brosseau, George is responsible for managing day-to-day activities of estimating, operations, accounting, sales and marketing. His proficiency centers on the investigation, design and repair of roof and waterproofing systems, and serves as the liaison for technical information and assistance.

He served as President of the CRCA from 2013 to 2015, Secretary in 2013 and Co-Chair on the Industry Affairs Committee.

For the article and some photos of the Annual Meeting, go to page 4.

From *the* Desk of the Executive Director



Elections have consequences. What a difference we have already noticed in Springfield!

As our Board President Maurice King referenced in his column, (see page 3) bills are moving forward in our state capitol, none more important than a Capital Bill, which will have a much-needed impact on repairing

our roads, bridges and transit systems.

One of the more negative impacts of the past administration, was watching the deterioration of our regulation infrastructure. The main agency that oversaw the policing and enforcement of prevailing wage laws, employee misclassification laws and making sure that ineligible contractors could not bid on projects; was allowed to decay and crumble.

As shown on the cover of this newsletter, our new Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) Director Michael Kleinik will be speaking to our guests at our upcoming Luncheon on Friday, April 26. He will undoubtedly speak to us about how the IDOL will begin to help level the playing field through enforcement that will include putting the non-compliant contractors back on the sideline. Illinois will once again return to enforcing the laws against those that cheat to compete.

In addition, an upcoming seminar on May 13th is being planned in conjunction with the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters that will focus on Prevailing Wage laws that require construction workers be paid at the wage that prevails in the county where the work is being performed. This helps guarantee that the top

skilled and trained men and women are building the schools, park buildings and public projects that families and residents use in their daily lives.

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Speaking of residents and taxpayer value, the May 13th seminar will also touch on Responsible Bidder Ordinances (RBOs). The use of RBOs by counties, municipalities and other taxing bodies is important, because when a public entity passes such an ordinance, it requires contractors to show participation in USDOL-approved apprenticeship programs applicable to the work to be performed on a given project.

This translates into a highly-trained workforce within the safest workplace committed to producing the best construction available. In other words, work done on time, within budget and completed correctly the first time. No cost overruns and change orders means taxpayer value.

In more good news, DuPage County officials recently approved passage of their own Responsible Bidder Ordinance, adding to a list of communities with existing ordinances that now stands at nearly 100 statewide.

There's an old joke that if you play country music backwards, you get your dog back, your home back, your truck back and your wife back. We can rest assured that in 2019 and beyond, the construction industry has its prevailing wage back, its collective bargaining back and its project labor agreements back. Simply put, the union construction industry is BACK!

Dan Allen
Executive Director

CISCO Unveils In-Depth Brochure - "CISCO IS"

Kicking off the first quarter of 2019, CISCO produced and unveiled a 24-page brochure that provides our readers with an in-depth look at who we are, and what we are all about.

The brochure is titled "CISCO IS" (see center photo - brochures appear below last year's Annual Report). The brochure details CISCO's history, the makeup of its members/partners, its education-to-careers program, current recruiting efforts, organizational



outreach, legislative committee activities, recognition programs, the benefits of union construction and more.

CISCO has e-mailed a link to view the brochure to its members, and the brochure can be downloaded from the CISCO website (www.cisco.org).

To learn more or to receive a digital copy, contact Gary Karafiat, Director of Communications and Public Affairs - gary@cisco.org.

Presidential *Perspective*



Illinois is on the verge of extraordinary change. A batch of new policy initiatives - on taxes, healthcare, infrastructure and more - are moving in the legislature. Every one of these measures has an impact on our economy, our communities, and the lives of people throughout the state.

The issue I want to focus on in this column, as well as the issue that impacts the union construction industry the most, is INFRASTRUCTURE. Of course, connected at the hip of this issue, is the need to pass our state's first Capital Bill in 10 years.

After years of budget neglect, legislators are considering action to confront the growing safety problems on our roads, bridges and transit systems. An organization that is playing an integral role in providing critical, timely and evidence-based analysis is the Illinois Economic Policy Institute (ILEPI).

This may seem like a plug for this organization, but in fact, it is more of a recognition of the thorough, independent research that ILEPI provides that can enable elected officials to make informed decisions on a variety of policy issues.

Already in recent months, one of the bridges on Lake Shore Drive needed emergency repairs, another bridge on Interstate 80 in Joliet has been found to be in critical condition. Funding for the long term is a major concern. Transportation policy analysts say the answer is "the motor fuel tax and vehicle registration fees." The gas tax that's used to fund these types of projects in Illinois hasn't been increased in nearly 30 years. It has been at 19 cents per gallon since 1990. One analyst points out, "If we were to double our gas tax it would generate a little over \$1.2 billion dollars per year."

A Capital Bill is needed now more than ever. The bill would mean thousands of jobs for many of our construction industry men and women, but in the end it's about our economy, our communities and our safety.

Sincerely,

Maurice King
CISCO Board President

Scholarship Award Recipients Announced

The winners of CISCO's 2019 Scholarship Program were recently chosen by CISCO's Board of Directors, and will be formally recognized and honored during CISCO's Annual Luncheon on Friday, April 26, 2019.

An independent review of the 75 entries was conducted and the winners were certified and contacted. Eligible students were the sons and daughters of either building trade union members or union contractor employees. A total of seven (7) winners were chosen: Three in the 4-year category, two in the 2-year community college category, and two in the continuing education category (also two-year scholarships).

Four-year scholarship winners:

1) **Kaitlyn Moore** - Grayslake North HS - Her father is a member of IBEW Local 134

2) **Emilee Klemm** - St. Charles North HS - Her father is a member of Laborers' Local 68

3) **Lourdes Alvarez** - York HS - Her father is a member of Laborers' Local 582

Two-year Community College scholarship winners:

4) **Casey Woods** - Marian Catholic HS - Her father is a member of Carpenters Local 54, employed by F.H. Paschen.

5) **Andrea Feary** - Milledgeville HS - Her father is a member of Roofers & Waterproofers Local 11, employed by

Sterling Commercial Roofing.

Two-year Continuing Education scholarship winners:

6) **Rhea Rashad** - Currently attending Rowan University; Construction Management major. Rhea is employed with The Levy Co. in Northbrook.

7) **Joseph Perri** - Currently enrolled at the College of DuPage; Construction Management major. Joe is employed by the Village of Roselle Public Works, member of Operating Engineers Local 150.



Laborers' Safety Incentive Program Keeps On Truckin'

The Chicago Area LECET's 17th Annual Safety Incentive Program Awards ceremony never disappoints. Whether the first nominee opens the driver's side door, or whether it's some lucky member later, the drama is gripping as 13 finalists had a crack at the truck in the 2019 event.

This year, 30-year member of LiUNA Local 4, John Bellizzi, (photo at right) who was the 5th finalist to try a key, opened the door, and was showered with confetti and applause.



Construction Expo & Safety Conference Achieves Great Results

CISCO took part, once again, in the 2019 Construction Expo & Safety Conference last month in Oakbrook Terrace. The two-day event included more than 1,100 participants, 125 exhibitors, 25 safety sessions, and 50 gallons of coffee!



Highlighting the agenda was a Keynote Presentation by Mark Breslin, who inspired 200 persons to lead their teams today towards optimal success in the future.



Visiting Johnetta Ryan at CISCO booth (from left): Carpenters Apprentice Director Craig Triplett, Operating Engineers Local 150 Instructor Dave Bowers and Carpenters Apprenticeship Instructor Brad Rollins.

A Look Back: CISCO Annual Meeting

Many of CISCO's members said the Annual Meeting was impressive featuring guest speaker Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL), the presentation of its Pride in Construction Awards, and the reaffirmation of its 2019 Board of Directors.



In his remarks to a crowded room of 275 attendees, Senator Durbin declared that "In Illinois, the war on labor is over," he said. "We are going to start working together in this state again."

Sen. Durbin also said the creation of the middle class was due to the labor movement. He said after World War II, labor unions represented working men and women to make sure they took home a paycheck, and could afford a house, a car, a vacation, and save for their kids' college tuition.

Sen. Durbin concluded by saying, "CISCO, we need you more than ever. To make sure that we have the

men and women and contractors prepared to do the work. My job is to make sure we put that infrastructure bill together in Washington," he said.

Executive Director Dan Allen then introduced Educator of the Year Steve Cervenka, Teacher from the DuPage Tech Center (top right); Labor Advocate of the Year, Marc Poulos, Executive Director of III-FFC (bottom right); and Public Body of the Year The Chicago Transit Authority (Top left photo).



The event concluded with the recognition of the Project of the Year Award winners.



Johnetta Ryan,
Director
Education-to-Careers

EDUCATION 70 CAREERS

Surges Of Outreach Efforts Continue

The past two months have seen another flurry of education-to-careers activity as the work of attracting men and women into a career in the union construction building trades continues.

Events that were recently held:

March 1 - DuPage County Counselors Institute Day at the College of DuPage. Event notes: Panel discussion featured Johnetta Ryan and Dave Naprstek, Bricklayers Apprenticeship Coordinator with 42 counselors in attendance.

March 8 - Chicago Housing Authority Information Fair at the Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center on South Wabash in Chicago. Event notes: Trades attended were Carpenters, IBEW Local 134, Heat & Frost Local 17, Laborers, Operating Engineers Local 150, Pipefitters Local 597 and the Tilessetters. About 100 residents participated.

March 15 - Moraine Valley Career System Hands-On Fair at the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Satellite Apprenticeship & Training Center in Chicago. Event notes: Trades attended were Bricklayers, Carpenters, IBEW Local 134, Operating Engineers Local 150, Pipefitters Local 597, Roofers & Waterproofers Local 11 and the Tilessetters. Ten different high schools and approximately 125 students were present.

March 28 - 3rd Annual Career Fair sponsored by Secretary of State Jesse White and 27th Ward Alderman Walter Burnett, Jr. at the United Center in Chicago. Event notes: A large turnout of more than 500 job-seekers attended. Many different resources were featured at booths including CISCO, the Laborers, Operating Engineers Local 150, Pipefitters Local 597 and the Tilessetters as residents were informed of career opportunities.

CHA INFORMATION FAIR



Heat & Frost Local 17.



Laborers.



Operating Engineers 150.



IBEW Local 134.

MORaine VALLEY CAREER SYSTEM HANDS-ON



Pipefitters Local 597.



Tilessetters.



Bricklayers.



Carpenters.

Construction Industry Receiving Positive News From Springfield



The news from Springfield continues to be positive as two bills that have important implications for the union construction industry have moved forward in the legislative process.

In March, the Illinois Senate passed the "Collective Bargaining Freedom Act," (SB 1474) which bars local/municipal "right-to-work-for-less" zones in Illinois. The bill is expected to pass in the House and be sent to the Governor to sign into law.

If you recall, the so-called "right-to-work-for-less" zones established in Lincolnshire are also being challenged in federal court by the Operating Engineers Local 150 on several Constitutional bases.

In other news, Senate Bill (SB) 1636 seeking retainage reform passed the Senate recently with 37 yes votes, 11 no votes and 2 members voting present. SB 1636 now heads to the Illinois House where it will be sponsored by Illinois Representative Luis Arroyo.

SB 1636 amends the Contractor Prompt Payment Act and allows retainage to be withheld at a rate of 10% for the first half of a construction project, but has to be reduced to 5% once the project is 50% completed. The bill moves to the House next.


IMSCA Lobby Day: Industry Leaders Discuss Issues With Legislators

CISCO was represented in Springfield at the Illinois Mechanical & Specialty Contractors Association's (IMSCA) recent Lobby Day event. Construction industry leaders, contractors and labor representatives drove down to our state capitol to discuss important construction-related issues with legislators from both sides of the aisle.

IMSCA held their quarterly board and membership meeting prior to Lobby Day activities, which featured guest speakers Senator John Mulroe (D-10th Dist.) and Representative Luis Arroyo (D-3rd Dist.).

Sen. Mulroe and Rep. Arroyo are the principle sponsors of SB 1636/HB 2916 which amends the Contractor Prompt Payment Act in order to lessen the amount of retainage for contractors and subcontractors. (see article above)



 From left: Dan Allen, CISCO Executive Director, Rick Kuhn, R.J. Kuhn Plumbing, Heating & Cooling; State Rep. Keith Wheeler (R-50th Dist.) and Dan Yungerman, F.E. Moran. Photo courtesy of Plumbing Contractors Association (PCA) and Plumbing Council Midwest.

UAC MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

CISCO Executive Director Dan Allen was a session presenter during last week's three-day UAC (Union Affiliated Contractors) Management Conference at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace

Allen provided a 30-minute overview on the benefits of prevailing wage, as well as how the Illinois Department of Labor enforces the law and handles violations.

The program was planned by PCA Midwest, under the direction of Executive Director S.J. Peters and hosted by Illinois PHCC and Executive Director Bev Potts.





999 McClintock Drive
Suite 100
Burr Ridge, IL 60527

www.cisco.org

April 2019

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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,
or e-mail gary@cisco.org

Executive Director: Dan Allen
Education-to-Careers Director: Johnetta Ryan
Director of Communications & Public Affairs: Gary Karafiat
Office Manager: Julia Mulvey

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:

E-mail: gary@cisco.org

Fax: (630) 472-9413

**Mail: 999 McClintock Dr., Suite 100,
Burr Ridge, IL, 60527**