SPRINKLER FITTERS 281 STRIKE UPDATE

As of today, the Sprinkler Fitters 281 UA members remain on strike. Negotiating committees for both the local union and the Contractors Association (NFSA) met yesterday to attempt to reach a mutually agreeable proposal. While some progress was made, complete agreement on all issues could not be reached. CISCO will keep you apprised of any further developments.

MORE THAN 4,000 ATTEND CARPENTERS OPEN HOUSE

The Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters hosted a massive crowd of more than 4,000 visitors, who attended the CRCC’s Open House on a sunny Saturday June 3rd at its Training Center in Elk Grove Village.

Some of the many industry leaders who attended were: (from left, left photo) Jorge Ramirez, President of the Chicago Federation of Labor; Dan McLaughlin, Executive Director of the Builders Association; (right photo) Joe Serpico, Mike Macellaio, Secretary-Treasurer of the Chicago & Cook County Building Trades; and Mike Simone, Amalgamated Bank of Chicago.

In addition, other highlights included a visit from gubernatorial candidate J.B. Pritzker, Elk Grove Village Mayor Craig Johnson, ABC-TV Channel 7, several local colleges, the Chicago Women in Trades; and the Carpenters “Built To Last” television program was shown by the show’s hosts.

SAVE THE DATE FOR CISCO’S ANNUAL GOLF OUTING - SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

CISCO’s Annual Golf Outing will be held on Monday, September 11, 2017 at Bloomingdale Golf Club - 181 Glen Ellyn Road in Bloomingdale, IL 60108.

Start gathering your foursomes and get ready for the fabulous barbecue luncheon, traditional prize raffle, and an event full of fun and surprises over the years! For details, call CISCO at (630) 472-9411.

US REPS ON HAND AT OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE EVENT

United States Representatives Brad Schneider and Jan Schakowsky co-hosted a job fair on June 1 at Oakton Community College.

CISCO, and representatives from four apprenticeship programs, were present to provide information about careers in their respective trades.

U. S. Representatives Jan Schakowsky and Brad Schneider took turns at the microphone greeting the participants.
CISCO ATTENDS CHICAGO VENDOR FAIR AT UIC FORUM

CISCO was one of more than 1,000 participants who took part in the 2017 Chicago Vendor Fair. The attendees represented contractors, manufacturers and suppliers of all sizes and specialties.

This was the second year the vendor fair was hosted by GPC - The Government Procurement Compliance Forum, created in 2014 by Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

Approximately 120 exhibitors were featured, including government agencies, non-profit agencies, veterans organizations, trade unions and financial institutions.

“With contractors, trade unions, veterans groups and government agencies on hand, this was an important event for CISCO to attend,” said CISCO Executive Director Dan Allen. “These are all groups that we partner with and target our message to regarding building union or promoting careers in the union construction industry.”

IBEW HELPS RAILCAR CONSTRUCTION RETURN TO CHICAGO’S SOUTH SIDE

With IBEW Local 134 leading the way, modern railcars will be built again on the south side - not far from where Pullman Company’s Chicago factory once stood.

CRRC Sifang North America, a subsidiary of a China-based railcar manufacturer, formalized plans to build a $100 million facility in the Hegewisch neighborhood during a ceremony this Spring. It will construct up to 846 of the new 7000 series railcars for Chicago’s light-rail system.

Surrounded by key stakeholders and elected officials (city, state and federal), IBEW Local 134 Business Manager Don Finn (front row, center left) holds the project labor agreement with Sheet Metal Workers Local 73 Business Manager Rocco Terranova (center right).

According to Local 134 Business Manager Donald Finn, about 110 of the plant’s 170 full-time manufacturing employees in Chicago will be represented by the IBEW. Construction will provide work for possibly another 150 members.

Finn also add that a project labor agreement is in place on the entire facility, and only union people will be working there.

AMTRAK, CITY ANNOUNCE BILLION-PLUS UNION STATION PROJECT

The City of Chicago and Amtrak have selected a real estate firm to lead an ambitious, $1 billion-plus redevelopment of Union Station and land adjacent to the historic structure for a variety of commercial uses.

Officials including Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Amtrak CEO Wick Moorman announced they’ve selected Riverside Investment & Development to be the developer of the multi-faceted project that will include renovating Union Station’s now largely empty headhouse into retail, hotel and office space; constructing two, 12-story residential buildings over the headhouse; developing 1.5 million square feet of new office space in two towers just south of the station; and constructing 500,000 sf of residential space in another high-rise on railroad air rights.

PREVAILING WAGE RULING ADDS ANOTHER BIG COURT VICTORY

Following on the heels of a late-May Cook County Circuit Court ruling that mandated that the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) post the 2016 prevailing wage rates on its website, comes news that a St. Clair County Judge has ruled again in favor of the union construction industry.

This particular ruling on June 12th orders the IDOL to do the following:

- Directs IDOL to ascertain the 2017 Illinois prevailing wages rates and post the rates on its website by July 15;
- Allows the unions to gather the information on paper forms;
- Directs the IDOL to recognize the historical worker classification codes; and
- Prohibits IDOL from gathering information on wages paid on non-public work projects to ascertain the prevailing wage.

Officials close to these cases are proceeding with cautious optimism. The battle between the union construction industry and the Rauner Administration’s attempts to eliminate prevailing wage laws in Illinois are heading into the next round of what might be 15-round boxing match.

Litigation is ongoing, and CISCO will continue to provide details on the prevailing wage issue as it develops.

In a related matter, both chambers of the Illinois Legislature voted unanimously for a bill to change the date when IDOL posts each year’s new rates from July 15 to Aug. 15. The bill awaits the Governor’s signature.