UNIONS LEADERS APPOINTED TO ILLINOIS TOLLWAY BOARD

Ushering in a new era, Governor JB Pritzker announced last week a new board of talented and experienced professionals to lead the Illinois Toll Highway Authority. Among the 9-member Board of Directors are three very prominent labor leaders.

Serving on the Board of Directors will be Jim Connolly, Business Manager of the Chicago & Vicinity Laborers’ District Council; Gary Perinar, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters; and Jim Sweeney, President-Business Manager of the Operating Engineers Local 150.

Jim Connolly - Currently serves as the President - Business Manager of International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150. Jim joined the union in 1978 and worked for contractors on sewer, paving and deep tunnel projects. Since Jim joined Local 150 in 1987, the union’s membership doubled from less than 10,000 to more than 23,000.

The February 28th press release stated that the Governor named Will Evans, former President of Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas, as Chairman of the Board.

Gary Perinar - Currently serves as Executive Secretary-Treasurer for the more than 30,000 members of the Laborers’ International Union of North America (LiUNA) for over 48 years. Jim servers and fights to improve the lives of the 20,000 men and women who comprise the District’s 15 affiliated LiUNA locals.

Jim Sweeney - Currently serves as the President - Business Manager of International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150. Jim joined the union in 1978 and worked for contractors on sewer, paving and deep tunnel projects. Since Jim joined Local 150 in 1987, the union’s membership doubled from less than 10,000 to more than 23,000.

The February 28th press release stated that the Governor named Will Evans, former President of Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas, as Chairman of the Board.

EDUCATION-TO-CAREERS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS UPCOMING EVENTS

CISCO will be teaming up with the Chicago Housing Authority on Friday, March 8 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. to hold a Union Construction Trades Information Fair at the Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center, 4859 S. Wabash Ave. in Chicago. Among the building trades on hand will be the Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Operating Engineers and the Pipefitters.

CISCO and Moraine Valley Career System will coordinate its fourth Hands-On event Friday, March 15th. The Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters’ Satellite Apprenticeship & Training Center in Chicago will be the site of the event as students from the Moraine Valley College area will attend. Once again, several building trades will be represented to provide demos of day-to-day functions.

APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Carpenters - Beginning March 4, through April 4, 2019, applications for future Pre-Apprentice “General Construction” carpentry training classes will be accepted at the Apprentice Program Office, in Elk Grove Village, IL, Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.chicap.org.

Ironworkers Local 1 - Beginning April 8 through April 12, and April 15 through April 19, applications will be accepted from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the apprenticeship office in Forest Park, IL. For more information, visit www.iwlocal1.com.

UCA LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

The Underground Contractors Association had a very good turnout for its recent 5th Annual Legislative Reception at Medinah Country Club. Many legislators were on hand to answer questions about the upcoming legislative priorities. Much of the discussion revolved around the need to continue to invest in Illinois’ infrastructure including roads, bridges, wastewater systems and more.

During the networking portion of the evening, this group stopped and posed for the camera. From left: Nicholas Neri, John Neri Construction; Mike Wiedmaier, UCA Executive Director; Sam Henderson, J.J. Henderson & Son; Dan Allen, CISCO Executive Director; and David Henderson, J.J. Henderson & Son and CISCO Board Member.

More news and photos on the back page.
BOARD MEMBER S.J. PETERS MEETS WITH UA/UAC OFFICIALS

The United Association of Journeymen & Apprentices of the Plumbing & Pipe Fitting Industry of the U.S. & Canada (UA) General President Mark McManus and Director of Plumbing Services Tom Bigley welcomed a UAC delegation to the scheduled February 15, 2019 meeting at the International Union’s Annapolis MD headquarters.

The Union Affiliated Contractors (UAC) is an “enhanced specialty groups” of the National Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association (PHCC). The gathering also included new UAC Program Director Tim Penno; Chairman Tom Gent; Vice Chair Dave Frame; PHCC Senior Director—Member Services Elizabeth Grotos; and PCA/Plumbing Council Executive Director (UAC Trustee and CISCO Board VP) S.J. Peters. The UAC group also met briefly with UA General Secretary-Treasurer Pat Kellett and Administrative Assistant to the President Chris Haslinger, and later toured the UA facility.

The meeting marked a planned occasion to introduce Penno and renew the collaborative and cooperative established relationship between the UA and UAC.

Officials exchanged substantial ideas for continuing to work together to benefit, grow and enhance the union plumbing industry including mutual invitations to events, sharing news and information, consideration of future “summits” and joint conferences on specific issues and topics, keeping an open dialogue, and more, as Penno takes on the staff leadership role of the UAC under the guidance of its Board with support and oversight by the National PHCC office.

The “UAC Management Conference,” with the program planned by Peters and CISCO Executive Director Dan Allen as a session presenter, will welcome signatory contractors throughout the U.S. on March 21 & 22 at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace.

The event will also include the Illinois PHCC’s annual Expo & Product Show (admission is free with ticket) beginning at noon featuring over 500 exhibitors as well as the PCA’s “breakaway” area on Friday afternoon. For information, contact S.J. Peters: sj@plumbingcouncil.org.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Last year’s sponsors of SB 1636 and HB 2916 have begun to move this legislation again to amend the Contractor Prompt Payment Act. HB 2916 has been assigned to the House Executive Committee, while SB 1636 has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

As you may recall, the bills call for the retainage of 10% of payment for the first half of the construction project, but once the project is 50% completed, the retainage must be lowered to 5%. The bill only applies to private, commercial construction projects.

IMSCA LOBBY DAY - MARCH 19TH

Make plans to attend this year’s IMSCA (Illinois Mechanical & Specialty Contractors Association) Lobby Day on Tuesday, March 19, in Springfield, Illinois.

This year’s event will feature guest speakers Illinois Senator John Mulroe and Illinois Representative Luis Arroyo. As the key sponsors of IMSCA’s retainage reform legislation (see article above), they will provide their insight of industry efforts to pass this legislation this year.

The registration deadline is Friday, March 8th. For more information on how to register, email Jessica Newbold at jnewbold@boldnewstrat.com, or visit their website at www.imscia.org, where you find a registration link for your convenience.