



CISCO

CONSTRUCTION NEWS BRIEFS

Construction Industry Service Corporation - www.cisco.org - 630.472.9411 - Dan Allen, Executive Director

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT TO BUSINESSES AND WORKING FAMILIES WITH REPEAL OF PREVAILING WAGE ACT

Business, religious and community leaders as well as veterans joined elected officials on Friday, October 30 to discuss the impact that Gov. Rauner's so-called "turnaround agenda" would have on working families and businesses; and how the current budget impasse is affecting local communities in DuPage County.

The discussion was moderated by Bill Habel, Business Representative for IBEW Local 701. Panelists included CISCO Executive Director Dan Allen, State Representative Deb Conroy (D-46th Dist.), State Senator Tom Cullerton (D-Villa Park), Nancy Chen, Former US Department of Labor Official, Ron Allen, Retired Small Business Owner, Dr. Lynn Pries, United Methodist Church and Dave Menchetti, Attorney.



CISCO Executive Director Dan Allen talks about the value of apprenticeship programs.

Bill Habel began the discussion by saying that the Governor's turnaround agenda has received a "lukewarm response" across the state; the budget impasse created by his demand to pass this agenda has left \$5.9 billion in unpaid bills; the state will likely miss its next pension payment; and social services are crumbling.



Pictured from left: Moderator Bill Habel, Panelists Dave Menchetti, Dr. Lynn Pries, Nancy Chen, Ron Allen, State Rep. Deb Conroy, Dan Allen and State Sen. Tom Cullerton.

TURNAROUND AGENDA FAILING

To date, only 29 governing bodies within the state have passed his agenda (representing 7% of the state's population), while 32 jurisdictions have rejected the agenda or passed a pro-middle class resolution representing 7 million people/49% of population. Furthermore, 44% of communities refuse to entertain the motion as it is viewed as an assault on working families.

State Senator Tom Cullerton said the Governor is still in campaign mode. Mayors in his district are very unhappy about the prospect of losing their state revenue, from sources such as motor fuel taxes and gaming, and he said the mayors worry about being able to perform basic city services this winter such as salting/plowing streets.

State Rep. Deb Conroy said that the Governor is telling his GOP legislators not to vote on a bill that she and fellow state representative Marty Moylan have co-sponsored that would allow these revenues to be forwarded on to municipalities.

The budget impasse is also having a devastating effect on the providers and recipients of services such as child care assistance, with a disproportionate effect on low income women. Dr. Lynn Pries added that his cuts to social service programs are so draconian that it is "an issue of morality," in his opinion.

Dan Allen provided a passionate explanation of what would happen if the Prevailing Wage Act and collective bargaining rights would be taken away. Repeal of the Act, according to independent research has shown it would cause harm to the economy, and to public safety due to the unskilled construction workers, who would be hired to build our schools and infrastructure. In addition, an average of 7 more workers would be killed each year and thousands more injured due to their lack of training.

Retired business owner Ron Allen went as far as to say that the working families of this state are being attacked by the 5% of people who own 80% of the wealth. He said that the Governor's plan enhances their bottom line by cutting the wages of the working families. "We are facing the greed of the wealthy," he said. Unionized workers have always been able to achieve greater wage gains and to more equitably distribute the wealth of this nation.

Nancy Chen, who served for 14 years as the Midwest Regional Director for the Department of Labor Women's Bureau, characterized the Governor's turnaround agenda as "anti-women, and anti-family".

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CISCO BEGINS TO ACCEPT PROJECT OF THE YEAR APPLICATIONS – DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 2, 2015

Calling all General Contractors, Architects, Engineers and Builders: CISCO's Project of the Year Program is off and running and has begun to accept applications for its annual award. CISCO has initiated a new, more convenient electronic submittal process. Your application can be completed in three easy steps.



You may submit your project in one of six different categories: New Construction Chicago (above \$20m); New Construction Suburbs (above \$20m); New Construction – Chicago or Suburbs (below \$20m); Infrastructure; Rehabilitation or Residential. For specific details, please contact Gary Karafiat, Public Relations Director via email - gary@cisco.org.

CARPENTERS APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM SETS OPEN HOUSE – NOVEMBER 5, 2015

As part of the first-ever National Apprenticeship Week, the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Apprenticeship Program will offer an Open House at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 5 at its Training Center, 1256 Estes Avenue in Elk Grove Village. There is still time to register by using the following link: www.chicag.org/Register.aspx

Apprenticeship is a proven path for workers into the middle class and an effective strategy for businesses to train for the skills they need. For decades, the skilled trades have led the way in developing and refining apprenticeships in America.

To “support and encourage apprenticeship programs that will help rebuild our middle class” and “rededicate ourselves to educating more of our people, retraining our workforce, and renewing our nation’s promise to put the American dream within the reach of the determined,” President Obama proclaimed November 1-7, 2015 National Apprenticeship Week.

There are more than 445,000 active apprenticeships across the country, with more added every day. These programs not only offer an education — in many cases at no or low cost to participants — but also provide a clear career path forward through new skills, higher wages, and opportunities for advancement.



For more information about apprenticeship programs, please contact Johnetta Ryan, CISCO's Education-to-Careers Director at 630-472-9411. To view CISCO's Apprenticeship Guide, visit www.cisco.org and go to the Home Page and click on the “Apprenticeship Guide” button and you can download the booklet.

CISCO BOARD EXPANDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – APPLICATION DEADLINE FEBRUARY 19, 2016

CISCO's long-standing Scholarship Program has begun to accept applications in three different categories.



Recently, the CISCO Board added a third, 4-year scholarship for high school seniors who are planning on attending a 4-year university or college. The other two categories are for seniors who plan on attending a two-year community college, and for building trade or contractor employees who are returning to school for continuing ed purposes.

For more information, contact Julia Mulvey - julia@cisco.org. Or to simply download the application form of your choice, go to www.cisco.org/scholarships/.

CISCO HAS MOVED ITS OFFICES



CISCO has just moved to a new location in Burr Ridge. Our new address is

999 McClintock Drive, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527. Staff emails remain the same. Our phone number is 630-472-9411. Visit www.cisco.org to view a map of our new location, and stop by and see us.

