CROSS-SECTION OF ATTENDEES FILLS PREVAILING WAGE CONFERENCE

Nearly 200 public body employees, contractors, attorneys and construction industry leaders comprised the audience of an event aimed at explaining the value and taxpayer benefits of the Prevailing Wage Act and Responsible Bidder Ordinances, as well as the importance of using the Freedom of Information Act as a tool that helps level the playing field when bidding on construction projects.

The Prevailing Wage Council; Indiana, Illinois, Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting; CISCO; MARBA; Underground Contractors Association; the National Alliance for Fair Contracting; the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters; the Northwestern Illinois Building Trades Unions; and the Chicago & Cook County Building Trades partnered to coordinate this seminar.

Speakers (topics) during the seminar were: III-FFC Counsel Melissa Binetti (PW - Labor); Attorney Michael Duffee (PW - Management); Policy Director of the Illinois Economic Policy Institute Frank Manzo IV (Economic Benefits of PW); III-FFC Policy Director Josh Weger (Responsible Bidder Ordinance); and AG Office Assistant Public Access Officer Leah Bartelt.

PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARDS – DEADLINE DECEMBER 1, 2017

CISCO’s Project of the Year Award is kicking off its 13th year of accepting applications for some of the best construction projects of the past 18 months. The award gives general contractors, owners, engineers and architects a chance to submit projects in 6 different categories that includes new construction, renovation, residential construction, and infrastructure. Visit www.cisco.org/projects-of-the-year/ to download the easy three-step application form.

The deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 1st. For more information, call Gary Karafiat, Director of Communications & Public Affairs at (630) 472-9411.

NEXT BREAKING BOUNDARIES EVENT SET FOR NOVEMBER 17

The next event in the Breaking Boundaries: Career Exploration Series for Women will take place at Universal Technical Institute (UTI) on Friday, Nov. 17 from 9:00 a.m. - Noon at 2611 Corporate W. Drive in Lisle, IL 60532.

Join CISCO and WorkNet DuPage for a panel discussion about high-paying, in-demand careers. Learn about educational opportunities, visit with local employers, talk to building trade apprenticeship instructors, and tour UTI’s training labs. For more information, please contact Tia Brooks at (630) 942-2389 or via email: tbrooks@worknetdupage.org

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM KICKS OFF – APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 23, 2017

CISCO is now accepting applications for its 2018 Scholarship Program. The three different program categories enable a wider range of students of both building trade union members and union contractor employees to apply.

CISCO now offers (3), four-year scholarships ($2,000/year) to high school seniors; (2), two-year awards ($1,000/year) for seniors planning to attend community college; and (2), two-year continuing education awards ($1,000/year) to union members or contractor employees.

All applications and accompanying documents must be postmarked by February 23, 2018 to be eligible for consideration. For judging criteria, application information, and eligibility requirements, please refer to the application forms.

To download the applications, go to www.cisco.org/scholarships/. For additional information, call CISCO at 630-472-9411.

More news and photos on the back page.
NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK – NOVEMBER 13-17, 2017

As part of National Apprenticeship Week, CISCO has learned of three Apprenticeship Programs that are planning Open House events for November 15th, 16th and 17th.

1) The Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters will host an Open House both Wednesday, Nov. 15th and Thursday, Nov. 16th at 1256 Estes Avenue in Elk Grove Village. Tours start at 5:30 p.m., followed by a main presentation from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

2) A second Open House is being hosted by SMART Local 265 Sheet Metal Workers. Local 265’s event begins at 7:00 a.m. through 7:30 p.m. at 205 Alexandra Way, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

The Benefits of registered apprenticeship programs are substantial. For the industry, they diversify the workforce, improve productivity/profitability, standardize training, and reduce turnover. To register, go to http://www.chicap.org/apprenticeship-open-house/

3) A third Open House is being held by the Chicago Area Painters and Drywall Finishers. It will be held on Friday, Nov. 17th from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at 1101 N. Taft Avenue, Berkeley, IL 60163.

This Open House will feature a presentation about the Painters and Drywall Finishers Apprenticeship Program and a facility tour. The event is free and open to the public and business community. It will feature trade demonstrations and attendees will have the opportunity to meet with instructors and apprentices.

OCTOBER SCHOOL/COLLEGE ALLIANCE WORKSHOP

CISCO’s Education-to-Careers Director Johnetta Ryan attended October’s School/College Alliance Workshop in Oak Brook as Keynote Speaker Jonathan Furr talked about the new Illinois Competency Model, which has chosen pilot sites at Proviso East and Ridgewood High Schools.

The workshop, sponsored by the DesPlaines Valley Region and Triton College included breakout sessions, best practice presentations and collaboration groups.

ASA CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!

ASA Chicago will be hosting a 50-year anniversary celebration on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017 at Belvedere Banquets in Elk Grove Village from 5:30 - 9:30 pm.

Everyone is invited as 50 years in the construction industry deserves a huge celebration. To register, go to asachicago.org, email Marissa@asachicago.org, or call 847/827-8336.

UCA HOLIDAY PARTY: 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Underground Contractors Association will be celebrating its 60th anniversary in the industry on Friday, November 17, 2017.

The event begins with cocktails at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m. The party will be held at the Eaglewood Resort & Spa, 1401 Nordic Road, Itasca, IL 60143.

The Mix will be performing live music so members can dance the night away. For registration details contact Lauren Fosmoen at lfosmoen@uca.org.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

During the first week of this year’s veto session (held last week) the Illinois House failed to override Governor Rauner’s local “right-to-work” (for less) zones veto, falling one vote short of the number needed.

Had the Bill - SB1905 - become law via a legislative override, it would prevent municipal governments from setting up their own RTW zones.

It is anticipated that the House sponsor, Rep. Marty Moylan, plans to file a trailer bill that removes criminal penalties for passing local ordinances to implement the zone.

The bill could conceivably be called for another override vote the second week of the veto session (November 7 - 9).

Preventing local RTW zones is important as all unions see this as the first step toward a statewide right-to-work (for less) law.

The Operating Engineers Local 150 are the principle supporter of the bill. The union is heavily involved in litigation against the town of Lincolnshire for passing an ordinance creating a local right to work zone in the summer of 2016.