



CISCO

COMMUNICATOR

A Newsletter for Chicagoland Construction Labor & Management Professionals

IBEW Local 134/Explorer Partnership Reaps Dividends

News articles have chronicled the national labor shortage, especially in the construction industry, for several years now. Here in northeastern Illinois, the shortage is not as severe.

CISCO's Education-to-Careers Program is one of the main reasons, as well as efforts that involve partnerships with several different entities, including groups such as the Boy Scouts Explorers Program.

In the case of IBEW Local 134, the labor union was thinking ahead of the curve when it started a relationship with the Explorers almost two years ago.

Local 134 began sending flyers to local schools promoting the opportunity for students to meet its union instructors in a youth group setting that meets the third Thursday of every month.

The program helps improve life skills, public speaking, team leadership, and problem solving. It also could lead to a career in the electrical trade via an apprenticeship.

Reaching out to the students in this manner has



CISCO Board Member Maurice King, IBEW 134 Vice President (far right) works with a group of apprentices and trainees on a circuit board exercise. They include (from left) Trainee Louis Hernandez, First-year Apprentice Jake Polewaczyk, Trainee Maximo Hernandez, and First-year Apprentice Greg Winters.

produced positive results as four students (see photo above) are working their way toward a career as an Electrician. Two of the young men are Trainees and are graduates of Juarez High School and two are now first-year apprentices.

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Board President Change/Project Awards To Highlight Annual Meeting

If you haven't registered for CISCO's Annual Meeting, you've still got time as this year's event is Friday, February 9, 2018 at the familiar location of Maggiano's Little Italy in Schaumburg. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with the program beginning at 9 a.m.

Outgoing Board President Loretta Molter will present recommendations for the 2018 Board of Directors, including Executive Board positions for review and confirmation.

The recommendations include changes for President and Vice President. Pending confirmation, CISCO's Board President will be Maurice King, Vice President of IBEW Local 134, and Vice President will be S.J. Peters, Executive Director of PCA Midwest and the Plumbing Council Midwest.



Outgoing Board President Loretta Molter will "pass the gavel" to Maurice King on February 9, 2019.

In addition, the Annual Meeting will feature the public recognition of the seven winners of the 2017 Project of the Year Awards. The winners are listed in the article that appears at the bottom of page 3.

From *the* Desk of the Executive Director



As we recently ushered in the new year, I was struck by something I saw in my 2018 calendar produced by Chicago Area LECET and LiUNA.

Each month contains a quote from a former national leader and fittingly in January appears a quote from Martin Luther King Jr.

January's quote reads:

"In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as 'right-to-work'. It provides no 'rights' and no 'work'. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining."

- Martin Luther King Jr.

What struck me the most about this statement from Dr. King is how relevant it still is today. Labor unions will continue to come under attack from several state and local sectors; a national Right-to-Work (For Less) law is being considered by conservative lawmakers on the federal level, and even the U.S. Supreme Court, this year, may overturn a 40-year-old ruling that allows public sector unions to collect fees from non-members to cover the costs of negotiating contracts for all employees.

Since the new make-up of the Supreme Court has a 5 - 4 conservative edge, experts are concerned that the Court will rule against public sector unions in this case, known as *Janus v. AFSCME*.

Because of this assault against unions, and in turn, the middle class and working families, the counter message must be from a unified, collective voice.

There is cause for optimism as this collective voice is expanding to include businesses, contractors, religious organizations and newly formed coalitions.

CISCO continues to partner with many of these voices. One such group is a one-year-old coalition called *Building Our Communities*. The mission of *Building Our Communities* is to create a collective voice to advocate, educate and create awareness about preserving workers' rights and the middle class.

Another such voice is from an organization called *Arise Chicago*. This organization was founded in 1991 by a diverse group of religious leaders who created a model to combat some of poverty's root causes (workers being paid improperly, workers receiving less than a living wage, etc.) by bringing the moral voice to union workplace struggles.

The Executive Director of *Arise Chicago* is Rev. CJ Hawking, who has organized faith-labor coalitions in five U.S. cities, and who also lends her expertise and voice to the *Building Our Communities* initiative.

Furthermore, United Way has formed a union career outreach association called *Access United*. In partnership with the Chicago Federation of Labor, CISCO and the Chicago Building Trades Council, *Access United* was created to connect job-seekers in under-served communities with a roadmap to union apprenticeships.

As Dr. King stated, we must come together to overcome the forces that are trying to destroy not only our way of life and well being, but our basic rights.

In the end, it is this kind of unified voice that can make a difference for all workers and their families.

Dan Allen
Executive Director

CISCO Scholarship Program Deadline One Month Away

CISCO is now accepting applications for its 2018 Scholarship Program. CISCO offers three (3), four-year scholarships (\$2,000/year) to high school seniors; two (2), two-year awards (\$1,000/year) for seniors planning to attend community college; and two (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. The scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of academic performance, faculty recommendation, extracurricular activities, employment experience, and a demonstrated interest in a productive career.

For more information, call CISCO at (630) 472-9411, or visit www.cisco.org and look for the scholarship article on our Home Page and click on any of the application links.

Presidential Perspective



My two-year term as President of the CISCO Board of Directors comes to a close at our Annual Meeting on February 9th. Both 2016 and 2017 have been extremely interesting and busy years, marked by growth for this organization.

When I began as President, I stated in this newsletter, that I was impressed with our organization's leadership in working with both contractors, labor representatives and various government agencies. As I step down and return to my regular board position, I can truthfully say that I am struck by how much more impressive CISCO is for its members and the industry that it fights for every day.

What is particularly noteworthy is how CISCO continues to build a foundation of strong partnerships reaching out to various entities which include the business community, educational institutions, municipal/county economic development arms, faith-based organizations and state and local elected officials.

CISCO is now in greater demand than ever, and will play an integral role in serving as an advocate for everything that the union construction industry stands for. As I hand over the reins, I want to thank our members and supporters for their continued involvement. I am confident that CISCO's excellent staff will continue to provide the service you depend on. As we all know, our people are our greatest resource and everyone involved at CISCO strives to be the best possible asset for the union construction industry.

Sincerely,

Loretta Molter
CISCO Board President

Top Choices for 2017 Projects of the Year Announced

CISCO's Board of Directors recently determined which construction projects were winners in six different categories. The closeness of the voting was an indication of the quality of the competition. The Board also recognized a 7th project - The Plumbers 130 JAC Training Center - choosing that structure for a Special Mention Award. The top choices were:

New Construction – Chicago (+ \$20 m): **McCormick Place Hotel & Event Center**; Submitted by Clark Construction Group – Chicago.

New Construction – Suburbs (+ \$20 m): **Zurich North America HQ**; Submitted by Clayco, Inc.

New Construction – City/Suburbs (Under \$20 m): **Peoples Gas Training Center**; Submitted by Ujamaa Construction, Inc.

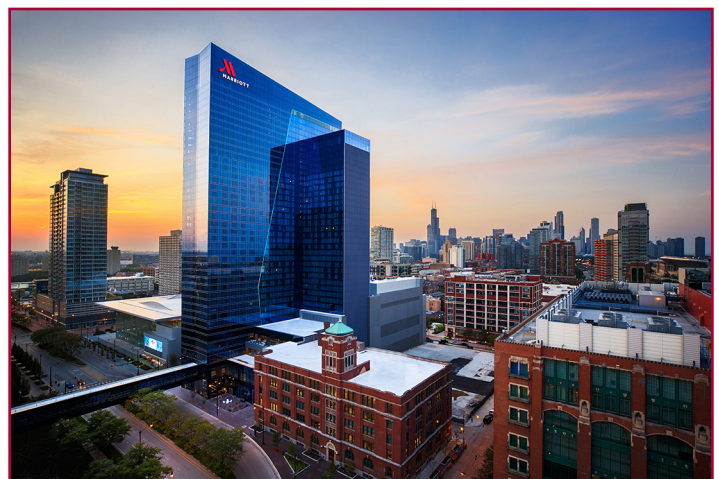
Infrastructure: **Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) Rebuilding and Widening Project**; Submitted by Illinois Tollway.


Rehabilitation: **The Yard at Chicago Shakespeare Theater**; Submitted by Bulley & Andrews.

Residential: **SixForty North Wells**; Submitted by Lendlease (US) Construction, Inc.

Special Mention: **Plumbers Local 130 JAC Training Center**; Submitted by W.E. O'Neil Construction.

These projects will be highlighted during the Annual Meeting which begins at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, February 9, 2018 at Maggiano's Little Italy in Schaumburg, Illinois. **To register, please contact Julia Mulvey at (630) 472-9411, or by email: julia@cisco.org.**



 **The McCormick Place Hotel & Event Center (Wintrust Arena) will be one of the featured winning projects at the February 9th Annual Meeting.**

CISCO “TAPS” Into The Magic

CISCO has once again partnered with local organizations in order to highlight career opportunities through apprenticeships and other business initiatives. The latest joint venture involves the Chicago Public Schools and SodexoMAGIC – a facilities management company led by Earvin “Magic” Johnson, Hall of Fame basketball player turned successful businessman.



Johnson, who is Chairman and CEO of SodexoMAGIC, spoke recently to about 100 CPS students at the inaugural event of the T.A.P. (Trades Apprenticeship Pipeline) Program. The goal of the program is to create a pipeline to careers with SodexoMAGIC

that will result in productive citizenship for the community.

During the event, Will Jones, ABC Channel 7 Reporter was the Master of Ceremonies that included Magic Johnson speaking directly to the students, which was followed by Johnson speaking to Gala attendees. The evening wrapped up with a T.A.P. Program overview presented by Jakki Dace, of CPS’ Career & Technical Education Department, followed by a panel discussion that included CISCO Executive Director Dan Allen.



Top photo: Earvin “Magic” Johnson poses with a group of students. **Bottom photo:** CISCO Executive Director Dan Allen, (right) discusses the importance of training to (from left) Apprentice Stephen Excellent, Robert Christleib, CPS Senior Manager of Construction, and Jim Coates, Training Director at IUOE Local 399.



New Joint Training Center Opens Its Doors

The new Bellwood Training Center to be used by the Cement Masons Local 502 and Plasterers Local 5, began training sessions for apprentices on Monday, January 8th.



Pat LaCassa, President/Business Manager of Local 502 (right) and Larry Picardi, Local 502’s Secretary-Treasurer, roll out the welcome mat.

The new 20,000 square-foot facility will be officially unveiled during a ribbon-cutting ceremony sometime this Spring once the weather breaks.

The structure was built next door to the Cement Masons Union Hall in Bellwood, and it will provide a campus feel to its members and apprentices who have been using facilities in Alsip for the past two years.

The new Apprenticeship Training Center contains 10,000 sf of space dedicated to the instruction of pouring, finishing and removing concrete, as well as areas where work on floors, curbs, stairs and other aspects of the trade will occur.

On the Plasterers side, additional space was constructed where apprentices will be instructed on the latest techniques; with an emphasis on critical life-safety applications, and current fire-proofing methods.



Johnetta Ryan,
Director
Education-to-Careers

EDUCATION 70 CAREERS

Partnership With St. Sabina Church Latest ETC Venture

As students reluctantly headed back to school after their winter break, we at CISCO got back to the job of exploring different ways to spread the word about career opportunities in the union construction building trades. Many students and young adults are clearly in need of career guidance, and we are here to announce another partnership that may help.



CISCO began working with St. Sabina Church's "Strong Futures Program". The Strong Futures Initiative first began in June 2016 as a pilot program of the City of Chicago and Department of Family and

Support Services (DFSS) in partnership with St. Sabina.

The Strong Futures model was designed to create a more efficient way to service young adults by connecting them to existing workforce options, creating a successful pathway into the work place.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1) The Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC), CISCO and the Chicago & Cook County Building Trades

will be hosting a Hands-On Fair at the Chicago Heights Center in Chicago Heights on Thursday March 1st for HACC residents. This is the first ever event being held with HACC as CISCO works with Timothy Kollar, HACC Manager of Workforce Initiatives. Several instructors from the various building trades will be on hand to talk to residents about apprenticeship qualifications along with hands-on demonstrations.

2) CISCO and Moraine Area Career System will team up for the third time on a Hands-On event Friday, March 16. 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 demonstrations of customary day-to-day functions.

SAVE THE DATE

The Illinois State Apprenticeship Conference (ISAC) will be held the week of May 7, 2018 in Peoria, Illinois. Check CISCO's website - www.cisco.org - as more details unfold.

IBEW 134's Youth Outreach Idea Paying Off

(Continued from page 1)

One of the first-year apprentices is **Greg Winters, a graduate of Urban Prep High School**. Greg said that while he was a junior, he wasn't sure of his options, but saw the flyer that was left at the school and decided to give it a chance.

"I focused on the trainee idea for one year, and enjoyed it, and took the apprentice test and passed," Winters said. "I've always liked to work with my hands, and this has taught me to problem solve with lighting around the house. I feel like I have a great opportunity ahead of me."

The other first-year apprentice is **Jake Polewaczyk, a graduate of Mount Carmel High School**. Jake said he initially got excited about the trades from watching the TV show *Dirty Jobs*.

"That show gave me insight into construction and lighting was interesting to me," Polewaczyk said. "Maurice offered to be my sponsor, and this became an instant chance to advance my career. Now I am working with circuits, checking voltage and amperage and all because of this class."

Legislative Update



CISCO held its last Legislative Committee meeting of the year on Monday, November 7th.


Much of the meeting's discussion centered on the veto session action and failed attempts to override the Governor's veto of SB1905 and the follow-up trailer bill SB770. Both override votes came up one vote short. The bills, in essence, would have preempted local municipalities from creating "right-to-work" zones.

The Committee discussed how public sector unions were bracing for the impact of the *Janus v. AFSCME* case. A recent article in the *Labor Paper* stated that the Justice Department formally told the Supreme Court to kill union "agency fees" for public workers who are in union workplaces but not union members, effectively making every state and local worker in the U.S. a potential "freeloader".


Concerns of an attack on the federal Davis-Bacon Act were debated, but members mentioned recent attempts to change the law have been thwarted as Republican Congressman in Illinois have been in favor of the Act and have held steady and not shown any signs of changing their stance.

Events That Closed Out 2017 With Photos You May Have Missed




 **National Apprentice Week: Instructor at Painters District Council No. 30 looks on as an apprentice practices using a rope to descend down the side of a training tower.**




 **Prevailing Wage Conference: Attorney Mike Duffee discusses the specifics of the Prevailing Wage Act to an audience of 200. The Prevailing Wage Council, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting, CISCO and many other organizations sponsored the event.**



 **George Meany Award: CISCO Board Member Jim Allen, BAC ADC1 President is recognized by Boy Scouts of America. Flanking Allen are (left) Jorge Ramirez, CFL President and Jeff Isaac, Scout Executive/CEO.**



 **Breaking Boundaries: The second event in the series of Career Exploration for Women was held at Universal Technical Institute in Lisle. Lisa Schwach, DuPage Workforce Development Director greets the participants.**



999 McClintock Drive
Suite 100
Burr Ridge, IL 60527

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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

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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**