



CISCO

CONSTRUCTION NEWS BRIEFS

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

3rd ANNUAL CONSTRUCTION EXPO DRAWS MORE THAN 325 PARTICIPANTS

More than 325 students and adults attended the 3rd annual Construction Expo as CISCO, St. Paul Community Development Ministries (SPCDM), the Chicago Teachers Union and CPS joined forces to showcase careers in the construction industry. The event was once again hosted by SPCDM at 4550 S. Wabash Avenue in Chicago.

With 19 different construction trades represented, participants had the opportunity to talk to a variety

of apprenticeship coordinators and instructors, as well as take part in exercises that the men and women of the trades perform on a day-to-day basis.

“The event was a united effort of organized labor, union contractors, faith and community organizations all coming together to provide young men and women the chance to learn about union construction apprentice programs, that could eventually lead to a lifetime career,” said CISCO Executive Director Dan Allen.

“The event also helped demonstrate the opportunities that are available to minorities in Chicago and the surrounding area,” he added. “We need to continue to promote the fact that the union trades in the Chicago area are OPEN to minorities and women, and ARE accessible to any qualified person.”

For more information about the skilled union trades, contact Johnetta Ryan, CISCO’s Education-to-Careers Director at (630) 472-9411.



Operating Engineers # 150



St. Paul’s Kevin Ford welcomes guests.



CISCO’s Dan Allen addresses audience.



Drywall Finishers & Painters



Heat & Frost Insulators # 17



Pipefitters # 597



Carpenters



Chicagoland Laborers



CISCO Board Member Maurice King talks of his experiences.



Plumbers # 130



Bricklayers



Roofers & Waterproofers # 11

More news and photos on the back page.

CISCO ON THE MOVE

FEWER UNIONS = LOWER PAY FOR EVERYBODY

The above headline was the featured article in the August 30th issue of *The Atlantic* that addressed the issue of income inequality.



Today's wealth inequality can be directly linked to the decline in unionization of employees. Anti-union legislation and regulations governing the minimum wage have played a big role in the decline of union membership and the eroding of the middle class.

Indeed, since 1979, the percentage of U.S. private-sector workers that are unionized has fallen from 34 percent to 10 percent.

If union density had remained at 1979 levels, non-union workers would be earning 9% higher weekly wages, or the equivalent of \$3,172 per year.

In the past, non-union employers would often be forced to keep wages on par with unionized wages. If not, they'd lose workers to unionized jobs. Employers also feared that if they didn't keep wages and benefits high, workers would decide to unionize, which would give companies less control in setting pay and benefits.

When unions are strong, they can advocate for rules and regulations that help all workers. The presence of unions help bridge other persistent economic gaps, i.e. women/minorities.

A recently published study shows that among African-American workers: Women earn 37% more than their non-union counterparts, and men earn 35% more than their non-union counterparts. - *Source: The Atlantic*

MEMBER NEWS

As we take a peek at what's happening around our six-county service area with our loyal supporters and members, there's a lot happening in September. Here's just a few events worth noting:

The **Underground Contractors Association's** Annual Dinner is planned for Thursday, Sept. 8 at Venuti's Ristorante & Banquets in Addison. The program which includes legislative networking, cocktail reception and dinner begins at 4 pm. For more information, call Lauren Fosmoen at 630-467-1919.

The **Plumbing Contractors Association (PCA) Midwest** will host its first-ever "Associate Member Night" on Tuesday, Sept. 13 at Harry Caray's Restaurant in Lombard starting at 6:00 pm. Contact Barb Bigelow at barb@plumbingcouncil.org or by phone at 312-563-9526.

The **Finishing Contractors Association of Chicago** is hosting their upcoming membership meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 14 at Maggiano's Little Italy - 516 North Clark Street in Chicago. Former Bear's Safety Doug Plank delivers the keynote speech as festivities begin at 5:30 pm. Call FCAC at 773-913-0658 for details.

The **Residential Construction Employers Council (RCEC)** will hold their Annual Economic Conference on Thursday, Sept. 22 at Maggiano's in Oak Brook - 240 Oakbrook Center. The registration and continental breakfast begin at 7:30 am. To register online, visit the RCEC website at www.RCECUSA.org.

The program includes economic updates from William Strauss, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, and Lance Ramella, John Burns Real Estate Consulting.

Hope to see you at all of these great events!

IDOL PREVAILING WAGE POSTING

After checking the Illinois Department of Labor's website, it states: "The 2015 prevailing wage rates are still in effect until IDOL publishes the 2016 rates. The Department is in the process of determining 2016 rates, and expects to have them published by late August."

As of today - Sept. 1 - IDOL has still not posted this year's rates. CISCO will continue to update you on further developments involving this matter.

COMING SOON: APPLICATIONS FOR CISCO SCHOLARSHIPS/PROJECT OF THE YEAR ENTRIES

Keep your eyes peeled for two of CISCO's popular programs: The Annual Scholarship Awards, as well as our Project of the Year Awards!



Easy to download application forms for both programs will be finalized later this month, and will be posted on our website - www.cisco.org.

HAPPY LABOR DAY!



CISCO salutes Chicagoland's working men and women in honor of our nation's

Labor Day celebration. Our union contractors and workforce are the best in the world.

Enjoy a safe and relaxing holiday with family and friends!

