UNION CONTRACTORS CELEBRATE ZERO INJURIES

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For more than forty years, Laborers’ training has set a standard for excellence, helping to supply LIUNA signatory contractors with safe, productive, well-trained Construction Craft Laborers. Last year, the International Accreditation Service (IAS), an independent, third-party accreditation body, recognized that excellence by certifying that Laborers’ training meets the highest industry standards for instructor development, curriculum development, and curriculum.

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For more information about Laborers’ training and its accreditation credentials, please contact John LeConche, Executive Director, the LIUNA Training and Education Fund, at (860) 974-0800.

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About TAUC

The Association of Union Constructors (TAUC) is the premier national trade association representing the 21st Century union construction industry. TAUC consists of more than 2,500 union contractors, local union contractor associations and vendors in the industrial maintenance and construction field. We demonstrate union construction is the best option because it is safer and more productive, and it provides a higher-quality and cost-competitive product.

Our Mission

Our mission is to act as an advocate for union contractors, advancing the cause through an educated and action-driven membership. We aim to enhance labor-management cooperation, workplace safety & health and collaboration among construction users with the greater goal of making union contractors more competitive in the marketplace.

Adaptation in the 21st Century

The Association of Union Constructors evolved from the National Erectors Association, which was founded in 1969 by the leading union steel erectors in the construction industry. Over the years, membership grew to include all types of union contractors, and, consequently, the name and structure of the association was changed to The Association of Union Constructors in 2007. The new association reflects the changing face of the construction industry and more accurately reflects the growing diversity of TAUC members.

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IF YOU HAVE not experienced it yet, the National Maintenance Agreements Policy Committee’s Zero Injury Safety Awards Gala is one of the most spectacular events in the construction industry, highlighting the achievements of and commitment to, the Zero Injury Safety philosophy of union constructors from across the country. As I write this article, I am honored that McCarl’s Inc. was recently recognized, along with the Central Pennsylvania Building Trades Council and PPL Corporation, for the work we collectively performed at Brunner Island Station in York Haven, Pennsylvania.

Our company earned the 2008 Gold Star Award by performing over a million hours with zero recordable injuries on this project. While the Gold Star Award is the highest award in the ZISA program, it is equally impressive that 72 other awards were presented, representing more than 11 million injury-free work hours on industrial construction sites. All awards supported the tripartite philosophy by recognizing the contractor, the union, and the owner for their outstanding work performed all across the United States under the NMA.

This event is but one example of what our industry needs to do much more of… market the abilities of union contractors who work safely and productively to the owner community!

With our continued focus on the safety of our employees at all of our job-sites, I look forward to attending and hopefully accepting additional Zero Injury Safety Awards from the NMA in the years to come. If your company has not participated in the past, I urge you in the strongest way possible to consider joining other successful companies in celebrating outstanding safety performance, beginning in January 2010. ZISA has solidified its title as the most prestigious safety award in the construction industry.

All awards supported the tripartite philosophy by recognizing the contractor, the union, and the owner for their outstanding work performed all across the United States under the NMA.
Facebooking for fraud

by WAYNE CREASAP
Staff Contributor

I ADMIT IT: I’m not much of a fan of social networking.

It just seems there are too many ways technology runs our lives in today’s society, and I spend so much time on a computer at work that I don’t have much of a desire to sit in front of it on my personal time.

However, I have found that sites such as Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, Classmates.com and LinkedIn offer not only great ways to keep up with friends, family and professional acquaintances, but also a valuable tool to help insurers and employers fend off bogus workers’ compensation claims.

Interestingly, some individuals who claim they are too disabled to work post locations and dates for their upcoming sports competitions, concerts or other physical activities. Additionally, they may actually boast of their injury and how they are working the system or use the site to share news of a new business they started. Often, photographs posted to the sites offer incriminating, date-stamped evidence of their physical activity.

Many union contractors I’ve worked with over the years have no problem helping out an injured worker who was legitimately injured on the job. They have processes in place to document the injury, provide immediate treatment and rehabilitation when necessary and offer return-to-work programs with full wages and benefits while the employee recovers.

For a variety of reasons, both selfish and unselfish, employers want the injured worker treated, healed and back to work as quickly as possible. In most circumstances, this is the case.

However, as in many other aspects of life, the actions of a few ruin it for so many others.

I hear the horror stories of contractors who have had to deal with ghost injuries that occurred first thing on Monday morning, or after a long, holiday weekend. We all know of the back injury that occurred within the last couple of weeks of the job.

Often, contractors have procedures in place to ensure the proper reporting and documentation of any injury or illness, no matter how trivial it may seem at the time. Regardless of the system, sometimes these mysterious injuries create costly administrative headaches that frustrate even the most patient safety professionals and claims representatives.

To help combat these fraudulent cases, employers and workers’ compensation specialists research claims and, in some cases, hire investigators to photograph or video claimants. Social networking sites are a low-cost tool to assist in these investigations. Additionally, it is often the claimant who posts incriminating material about himself and builds an investigator’s case contradicting a claim. By following online posts, investigators have an idea of where and when to find the individual for additional filming and, to build evidence, it is a good idea to print often as the postings may change frequently.

A final word of caution: social networking has its place to share information with friends and family and promote local business, however, just as in these workers compensation scenarios, it should also raise some concern as to what people choose to share with the world and how it could be used.

Wayne Creasap is the director of safety and health at The Association of Union Constructors. He can be reached via e-mail at wcreasap@tauc.org or telephone at 703.524.3336 x123.
Mixing leadership and personal responsibility to create the right safety culture

by JOHN P. SURMA
Special Contributor

At United States Steel Corporation, safety is our key core value.

That’s easy enough to say, but what does it really mean? It means safety is more than a priority for us. It is part of who we are as people and as a company.

Priorities can change frequently in both our professional and our personal lives based largely on what issue is most pressing at any given time. Values, on the other hand, do not change. A value is something that becomes part of us, guiding every decision we make and every action we take every day.

I believe there is nothing more important than the personal safety — both on and off the job — of every person who works in our industry. To that end, we closely monitor our workplace safety performance and benchmark our performance, both within the industry and externally, all-the-while focusing on continuous improvement and our ultimate goal of zero injuries.

However, the safety and well-being of our employees and contractors goes far beyond a frequency rate on a chart. Behind those numbers are real people — families, friends counting on home safely putting a safety under-importance of vigilant leadership in this critical area.

Leaders must go beyond just talking about the need to work safely; they must lead by example and demonstrate their commitment to creating an overall culture and physical work environment that will ensure everyone’s personal safety. Leaders must set high standards related to safety and reinforce the expectation that everyone meet those standards.

While leadership is a key component of our overall efforts to reach our zero injury goal, we also believe it is critical that every employee takes personal responsibility for her/his own safety, as well as that of their co-workers and others in the workplace.

Although some people may be taken aback by this statement, it is not possible to achieve a zero injury culture and physical work environment until everyone understands that zero injuries is an achievable goal. And, make no mistake: it is a goal that can be realized.

Personal safety begins by taking time to stop and assess the work that is about to be performed. Before beginning any task, we ask our employees to ask themselves the following questions:
The safety and well-being of our employees and contractors goes far beyond a frequency rate on a chart. Behind those numbers are the real faces of real people who have families, friends and co-workers counting on them to return home safely every day.

• Do I understand the hazards of the job?
• Do I have the right tools to perform the job safely?
• Do I have the proper personal protective equipment to protect against the hazards?
• Do I have the necessary knowledge and skills that will allow me to perform the work safely?

If the answers to any of these questions are “no,” we follow one simple rule: stop.

Work should not begin until every one of these questions can be confidently answered “yes” by the individual about to perform a task, as well as any others involved. There is no task too small or so urgent that it should make anyone think it is acceptable to bypass the necessary safety precautions to perform the work safely.

Personal safety also means being courageous enough to approach a co-worker or another individual in the workplace in a concerned manner when they are about to do something that is clearly unsafe and could lead to injury.

I challenge everyone to think of their co-workers and others in the workplace as family members. If you were to observe a son, daughter, spouse or other family member about to do something that was unsafe and likely to cause injury, would you turn away and do nothing? I think the answer to this question is clear. We all have a personal responsibility to watch out for the safety of others. Simply put, it is the right thing to do.

While the road to creating a “Safety First” mentality is not always easy, it makes sense for many reasons. At U.S. Steel, the most important reasons for ensuring safety remains a key core are the thousands of men and women who come through our plant gates every day. We owe it to each other, and to the family and friends waiting for our safe return each day, to reach our ambitious but attainable goal of zero injuries.

John Surma is the chairman and chief executive officer of United States Steel Corporation. Surma sits on the board of directors of the American Iron and Steel Institute and the Bank of New York Mellon Corporation, serves as vice chairman of the World Steel Association and sits on the board of trustees for Penn State University.

2008 ZISA Gold Star Award Winner

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SOLID PLATFORMS, INC.
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Stake your claim in the green revolution

by MARK BRESLIN
Special Contributor

THERE IS REALLY only one kind of “green” construction that everyone in our industry is interested in these days: the kind that generates green. The green of cash. The green of net return. The happy-CPA kind of green.

The problem with the green revolution is the hype and hope versus the reality. The problem is the promise versus the delivery. The problem is the cost to you versus the current market and economy. The answer is meeting the rate of change strategically and proactively.

A prime example our industry is facing now is the supposed green jobs revolution. Construction has been identified as one of the promised lands for green jobs. How many times have you heard the phrase “millions of NEW green jobs” in conjunction with the stimulus package, energy policy or employment social justice? The green job revolution as a part of construction has been overpromised to many constituent groups by local, state and federal legislators who barely understand the concept. I am concerned that the union construction industry may get unfairly blamed. The truth is that most green jobs are likely to be filled by current union craftsmen and women (more than 25 percent of whom are currently out of work).

Construction today truly is a potent mix of economics and politics. If you are not paying attention to politics, you do so at the risk of your business. The stimulus package was emergency safety net legislation. The construction needs of the nation and industry were not taken care of as millions of Americans mistakenly believe. It will be our efforts to secure our markets that will determine our success at obtaining the “green.” We are up against every other interest group in America loudly shouting their messages of financial priority and need. A smart businessperson, therefore, must quickly dispense with the idea that there will be a reduction or stabilization in the rate of change and the economic challenges that come with it; even when the market gets better.

Regardless of your politics, it is clear America is in a phase in which government’s definition of “doing the right thing” will be at the expense of those with the means to pay; including most of the contractor readers of this magazine. The independent businessperson will be expected to shoulder a disproportionate amount of economic and regulatory burden. Playing passive defense under these circumstances is just bad strategy.

The next five to ten years are going to be pivotal in the evolution and shake-out of the green economic revolution. It may be good for your organization and union construction market share. It may be bad. It is probably up to us to determine which.

I am certain that 20 years from now our country will be transformed and some people in union construction will grow market share and make fortunes on green innovations. But, it is in the intervening period of economic and regulatory chaos, challenge and transformation that the union contractor business model is at risk. It is both labor and management’s job to focus on long-term opportunity while promoting and protecting our interests today.

In summary, the simple concept is that profitable green construction is a product of you making your own markets. You cannot be idle or reactive and expect things to just work out. You need to be keenly aware of the rate of change in the regulatory and economic environment and find ways to meet it while acing the competition. And, finally, it means accepting change for a greener future; for the environment and your wallet.

Mark Breslin is a strategist and author who focuses on improving organizational performance, leadership and work ethic. Known for his blunt and uncompromising style, he has addressed more than 500 audiences and well over 100,000 leaders, managers and craft workers. He is the author of Survival of the Fittest, Organize or Die, Million Dollar Blue Collar and Alpha Dogs: Leading Yourself and Others.
INDUSTRY NEWS

Craft Jurisdiction Guide on best-seller list

TAUC’S CRAFT JURISDICTION Guide remains a best-seller, reflecting the increasing need for contractors to have a reference to help them properly assign work and avoid jurisdictional disputes.

To purchase your copy of the guide, please visit www.TAUC.org and select the tab “Shop,” located at the right side of the page.

Pennsylvania Powers Union Construction draws record crowd for TAUC

IN THE SINGLE largest meeting of TAUC’s history, more than 250 union contractors, labor representatives and industrial business owners from around the country convened at Pennsylvania Powers Union Construction on Sept. 9.

Despite limited travel budgets, industry leaders came from around the country to address critical safety and labor relations issues in industrial maintenance and construction.

The meeting included representatives from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Massachusetts, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Georgia, Alabama, Missouri, Oklahoma and California, according to TAUC Chief Executive Officer Stephen R. Lindauer.

“I believe this packed room is a testament to the fact that TAUC has very quickly established itself as an industry-leading association that is here to create lasting, positive change,” TAUC President Robert W. Santillo said. “When other groups and associations are seeing a decline in attendance, interest, and support . . . The Association of Union Constructors is seeing a dramatic increase!”

In his opening remarks, Santillo told the crowd that union construction’s classic business models are no longer adequate.

“Our industry is now demanding bold, innovative approaches; approaches that may not feel completely comfortable at first,” Santillo said. “However, if we can rise to this challenge and demonstrate the flexibility that these times require, union construction will see bright days again.”

Pennsylvania Powers Union Construction was generously sponsored by: Aramark Uniform Services, Blue Mountain Equipment Rental Corporation, Boilermakers Local 154, the Ironworker Employers Association of Western Pennsylvania, Manning & Napier, the Mechanical Contractors Association of Western Pennsylvania, Mobile Medical Corporation and the National Maintenance Agreements Policy Committee, Inc.

‘We want to make steel, and we want you to help us,’ U.S. Steel exec tells TAUC contractors

U.S. STEEL CHAIRMAN and Chief Executive Officer John Surma told Pennsylvania Powers Union Construction attendees on Sept. 9 that the road forward for the domestic steel industry and its union contractors will be difficult. However, he reaffirmed his commitment to a partnership with TAUC contractors.

“Let me be clear: I look forward to the day when many more of you are working in our facilities than are today,” Surma told the crowd.

He said the mission of TAUC contractors and the mission of U.S. Steel are complimentary in many ways.

He went on to describe ways TAUC contractors can improve their chances of securing future work with U.S. Steel:

• Take an active role in project planning;
• Thoroughly understand and commit to U.S. Steel’s requirements for safety and quality; and,
• Ensure that all projects are quickly staffed with sufficiently trained, qualified and committed people.

Surma said his forecasters cannot see very far out, and they will not commit to significant spending beyond a few months. But, he assured the crowd of mutual goals.

“We want the same things you want. We want to make steel, and we want you to help us do it,” Surma said.

PHOTO BY JIM POLI

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He said the mission of TAUC contractors and the mission of U.S. Steel are complimentary in many ways.

He went on to describe ways TAUC contractors can improve their chances of securing future work with U.S. Steel:

• Take an active role in project planning;
• Thoroughly understand and commit to U.S. Steel’s requirements for safety and quality; and,
• Ensure that all projects are quickly staffed with sufficiently trained, qualified and committed people.

Surma said his forecasters cannot see very far out, and they will not commit to significant spending beyond a few months. But, he assured the crowd of mutual goals.

“We want the same things you want. We want to make steel, and we want you to help us do it,” Surma said.

PHOTO BY JIM POLI

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Power generation reps give union contractors blueprint for securing work inside utilities

THE ASSOCIATION OF Union Constructors was pleased to host a power generation panel discussion on Sept. 9 at Pennsylvania Powers UnionConstructionPanel guests included Thomas Householder of American Electric Power, Kevin Reimer of Public Service Enterprise Group, David Szuch of Allegheny Energy Supply Co. and Lawrence Wargo of FirstEnergy Corporation.

The Allegheny Energy, American Electric Power and FirstEnergy panelists all confirmed that they are using internal work crews to complete at least some maintenance now as a result of the poor economy and their challenged balance sheets.

“Accept it as a challenge... offer us a better deal than [we could get by] handling things internally,” Szuch said. “In short term, it can be an opportunity or missed opportunity.”

Householder said jurisdictional squabbling only makes the business case for union contractors worse.

“Petty arguments over whose work is whose, it encourages us to try to do the work with our own people,” said Householder. “Once again, nobody’s going to get the whole apple, but everyone can get a good chunk of it.”

The panelists told the crowd their companies consider a few major factors when selecting a contractor for a project, including: cost, quality, schedule requirements, environmental impact and safety.

“If we don’t believe our next project can be worked injury-free, it shows a lack of commitment on our part,” Householder said.

The panelists called for increased random drug-testing on union jobsites, indicating existing [non-random] testing is not adequate.

“If our random testing programs are not accelerated, focused and coordinated, you fall into a situation where the numbers seem relatively low. The bad news is the more we focus on random testing, the more we find the problem is actually larger now than it was before,” Wargo said.

Householder and Szuch both promoted using a 10-panel test for construction workers, and Householder suggested leveling the playing field by requiring union and non-union workers to pass the same scrutiny.

Reimer discussed the opportunities for union contractors in supporting utilities’ alternative energy initiatives. He said the opportunities remain on a mid- to long-term horizon.

John Erickson, executive director of the National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers, moderated the panel.

ThyssenKrupp Safway wins 2009 Industry Leader Award

THE NATIONAL SAFETY Council announced that TAUC Regular Member ThyssenKrupp Safway, Inc. has been honored with a 2009 Industry Leader Award for safety performance within its industry.

The award is a component of the Council’s member-exclusive Safety Motivation and Recognition Awards Program. The award line benchmarks outstanding safety achievements among member companies based on self-reported data.

ThyssenKrupp Safway, Inc. is one of 101 companies honored with the 2009 Industry Leader Award. The Industry Leader Award recognizes the top 5 percent of member companies, units and facilities that have qualified for the National Safety Council’s 2009 Occupational Excellence Achievement Award (based on 2008 calendar year data). Winners are selected based on National American Industry Classification System code, lowest total incidence rate and employee work hours.

NMAPC launches new Web site

NMAPC.ORG OFFERS EASIER ACCESS TO YOUR COMMUNITY


The new and improved site boasts easier navigation, customized landing pages, a new site-wide search function, new social networking features, an expanded Zero Injury Safety Awards channel and an upgraded store.

NMAPC Impartial Secretary and Chief Executive Officer Stephen R. Lindauer said the new site is reflective of his organization’s commitment to excellence.

“The launch of the new NMAPC.org demonstrates how the union sector offers unparalleled customer service,” Lindauer said. “We treat the opportunity to serve union contractors, labor leaders and industrial business owners as a high privilege, and are thrilled they use us as their gateway to successful project outcomes.”

NMAPC.org received 2.1 million hits in 2007, and 2.3 million hits in 2008. The NMAPC forecasts increased growth in 2009 as a result of the improved usability of the site.

Please contact 703 841 9707 if you have questions about the new site or need a username and password.
The Construction User receives 2009 MarCom Gold Award

MARCOM AWARDS ANNOUNCED The Construction User is a Gold Winner in its 2009 international awards competition. The program recognizes outstanding creative achievement by marketing and communication professionals.

There were almost 5,000 entries from throughout the United States and several foreign countries in the 2009 competition.

MarCom entries come from corporate marketing and communication departments, advertising agencies, PR firms, design shops, production companies and freelancers.

A look at the winners shows a range in size from individual communicators to media conglomerates and Fortune 500 companies. The competition is so well respected in the industry that national public relations organizations, local ad clubs, and local business communicator chapters are entrants.

MarCom Awards is administered and judged by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals. The international organization consists of several thousand creative professionals. The Association oversees awards and recognition programs, provides judges and sets standards for excellence.

AMCP fosters and supports the efforts of creative professionals who contribute their unique talents to public service and charitable organizations. Over the past three years, AMCP’s Advisory Board donated more than $60,000 in grants to support the efforts of its members. That money was used for marketing materials for homeless shelters, orphanages, day camps, community theaters, art centers, programs for the elderly and for child care and educational endeavors for the underprivileged.

Judges are industry professionals who look for companies and individuals whose talent exceeds a high standard of excellence and whose work serves as a benchmark for the industry.

Winners were selected from more than 200 categories in seven forms of media and communication efforts - marketing, publications, marketing/promotion, public service/pro bono, creativity and electronic/interactive.

This is the first MarCom Award The Construction User has ever received. The Construction User celebrated its 5th Anniversary of publication in summer 2009.

OSHA Rescinds two de minimis policies in Subpart R

IN A RECENT Compliance Directive (CPL 02-01-046), OSHA rescinded its de minimis policies relative to fully planked or decked floors or nets and the use of pre-installed shear connectors during steel erection activities, which had been in place since March 22, 2002. The new compliance directive specifically addresses OSHA’s citation policy in regard to Question and Answer #23 and #25 in OSHA Instruction CPL 02-01-034, issued March 22, 2002. Aside from these two policy changes, the March 22, 2002 instruction remains in full effect.

The first of the revised policies addresses the standard’s requirement that employers install a floor or net within two stories or 30 feet, whichever is less. In the previous compliance directive, question #23 dealt with violations of fully planked floors or nets on multi-story structures in 1926.754(b)(3) as being de minimis provided employers required that all workers be protected by fall protection (i.e. 100% tie off). Under the new directive, the agency has rescinded this de minimis policy as there are other reasons to follow this requirement beyond 100% tie-off. Nets, for example, can provide effective fall protection for workers engaged in certain steel erection activities who, by the standard, are permitted to work without using fall protection (fall protection for connectors under 1926.760(b)(3) and controlled decking zones under 1926.760 (c)). Nets also provide fall protection in the event of non-compliance with the fall protection requirements found in 1926.760.

Additionally, while the requirement of a floor in this application does not provide adequate fall protection, it does limit the fall distance. Further, as pointed out in the SENRAC hearings, a floor can be used as a staging area for emergency rescue. And, as pointed out in the compliance directive, the installation of a floor provides falling object protection and can serve as a means of complying with the falling object protection requirement found in 1926.759(b).

The second policy change states that employers must comply with the requirement that steel studs, known as shear connectors, be installed at the worksite. Shear connectors bind concrete to the steel. In the previous compliance directive, question #25 permitted the use of factory-installed shear connectors, provided that employers implement and use a 100% fall protection system. The new directive rescinds the previous directive of allowing the use of shop-installed shear connectors while utilizing 100% fall protection to be cited as a de minimis violation. The reasoning for this change is that walking/work-surfing surfaces under 1926.754(c)(1) identified shear connectors and other similar devices as tripping hazards and failed to take into account the concern that while employees may be tied off, they could still trip and suffer a severe injury from falling onto a shear connector at the same level. While not a comprehensive means of protecting workers from falls, it is a means of reducing the risk of a fall occurring.

The de minimis policy described in the original version of Question and Answer #25 will continue to apply where the component was fabricated with shear connectors or other similar devices prior to September 30, 2009, or where the contract date for fabrication of the component with factory-installed shear connectors or other similar devices was prior to September 30, 2009. In all other instances the revised version of Question and Answer #25 is effective as of Sept. 30, 2009.

More information and a copy of the revised compliance directive can be found at www.OSHA.gov.
WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Maintenance Agreements Policy Committee presented 73 winners with the Zero Injury Safety Awards on Oct. 29. This year’s ZISA recipients represent more than 11 million injury-free work-hours on projects in 18 states around the country.

The annual awards program recognizes owners, contractors and craft personnel for applying the zero injury philosophy to projects completed under the terms of the National Maintenance Agreements. This award cycle, covering calendar year 2008, marked the second-highest total number of injury-free work-hours in the program’s history: 11,112,767.

McCarl’s Inc., PPL Corporation and the Central Pennsylvania Building Trades Council were recognized with the Gold Star Award, the highest honor in the program. McCarl’s Inc. performed 1,020,785 work-hours with zero recordable injuries, while employing union craft personnel from the Central Pennsylvania Building Trades Council at PPL Corporation’s Brunner Island Station in York Haven, Pa.

“I am extremely proud to accept this prestigious award on behalf of our most valuable asset, our employees,” said Robert Santillo, McCarl’s president. “To achieve this level of safety excellence requires the focus and commitment of each and every employee, each and every day. A safe jobsite does not happen by chance, it’s a team effort. I am honored to be part of this milestone for PPL Brunner Island, the Central Pennsylvania Building Trades and McCarl’s.”

More than 250 guests were in attendance at the 9th annual NMAPC Zero Injury Safety Awards, which were held at the National Air and Space Museum. Participants who returned this year after having attended past events noticed a
change in the evening’s schedule. This year’s program maintained a constant pace between the awards, the meal and the speaker, with the goal of keeping momentum in the award-packed schedule.

Mary Ellen Weber, Ph.D., astronaut and world record-setting sky diver, delivered a presentation describing the system of checks and balances involved in space flight. She elaborated on many triumphs as well as lessons learned from some tragedies. She also gave attendees a first-hand glimpse of what life is like in space and reiterated the importance of the safety process in all aspects of space flight.

This is the first year Zero Days Away, Restricted or Transferred (DART) cases were not included as part of the awards process. Even with the tightening of the rules, ZISA has seen nearly the same number of applications submitted and the second-highest number of injury free hours recorded for award recognition. By continuing to raise the bar on jobsite safety and health, ZISA has solidified its title as the most prestigious safety award in the construction industry.

To date, the NMAPC program has accounted for more than $300 billion of work and more than 2 billion work-hours for the building trades and contractors.

Be sure to check the www.NMAPC.org Web site for your opportunity to submit applications for the 10th Annual Zero Injury Safety Awards to be presented on October 28, 2010, at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C.

Wayne Creasap is the director of safety and health at The Association of Union Constructors. He can be reached via e-mail at wcreasap@TAUC.org or telephone at 703.524.3336 x123.
9th Annual Zero Injury Safety Awards

**Category A**

**Gold Star**

- **McCar's Inc.**
  - PPL Corporation
  - Central Pennsylvania Building Trades Council
  - 1,020,785 Work Hours
  - Brunner Island Station
  - York Haven, PA

**Silver Star**

- **Solid Platforms, Inc.**
  - BP Products North America, Inc.
  - Indiana/Kentucky Regional Council of Carpenters - Northern Office
  - 570,816 Work Hours
  - Whiting Refinery
  - Whiting, IN

**The State Group**

- **Industrial (USA) Limited**
  - Alcoa, Inc.
  - Southwestern Indiana Building Trades Council
  - 502,007 Work Hours
  - Warrick Generating Station
  - Newburgh, IN

**Bronze Star**

- **Enerfab Corporation**
  - Associated Electric Cooperative Incorporated
  - Boilermakers Local No. 83
  - 444,395 Work Hours
  - Thomas Hill Energy Center
  - Clifton Hill, MO

- **BIS Frucron Industrial Services**
  - Procter & Gamble
  - Cedar Rapids Building Trades Council
  - 339,146 Work Hours
  - Iowa City Plant
  - Iowa City, IA

- **Industrial Contractors, Inc.**
  - American Electric Power
  - East Central Ohio Building Trades Council
  - 392,343 Work Hours
  - Conesville Power Plant
  - Conesville, OH

**NMAPC Zero**

**Category B**

**Certificates of Merit**

- **APComPower, Inc.**
  - Dominion Power
  - Richmond Building Trades Council
  - 191,891 Work Hours
  - Chesterfield Power Station
  - Chester, VA

- **Chapman Corporation**
  - Allegheny Energy Supply
  - Southwestern Pennsylvania Building Trades Council
  - 169,000 Work Hours
  - Hatfield’s Ferry Generation Station
  - Masontown, PA

- **GEM Industrial, Inc.**
  - Campbell Soup Company
  - Northwestern Ohio Building Trades Council
  - 168,030 Work Hours
  - Napoleon Plant
  - Napoleon, OH

**Chapman Corporation**

- **U.S. Steel**
  - Pittsburgh Building Trades Council
  - 160,490 Work Hours
  - Irvin Works
  - Dravosburg, PA

- **McCar’s Inc.**
  - American Electric Power
  - United Association Local No. 495
  - 158,312 Work Hours
  - Cardinal Plant
  - Brilliant, OH

- **Industrial Contractors, Inc.**
  - American Electric Power
  - Tri-State Building Trades Council
  - 157,842 Work Hours
  - Gavin Power Plant
  - Cheshire, OH

- **Enerfab Corporation**
  - Associated Electric Cooperative Incorporated
  - Southeastern Missouri Building Trades Council
  - 147,108 Work Hours
  - New Madrid Power Plant
  - New Madrid, MO

- **EMCOR Nye Electric Co. of Indiana, Inc.**
  - ArcelorMittal
  - IBEW Local No. 531
  - 145,157 Work Hours
  - Burns Harbor Plant
  - Burns Harbor, IN

- **Norris Brothers Company, Inc.**
  - Alcoa, Inc.
  - Cleveland Building Trades Council
  - 133,778 Work Hours
  - Cleveland Forged and Cast Products Plant
  - Cleveland, OH

- **Industrial Contractors, Inc.**
  - American Electric Power
  - Tri-State Building Trades Council
  - 131,565 Work Hours
  - Sporn Plant
  - New Haven, WV

- **Enerfab Corporation**
  - Kellogg Company
  - Central Pennsylvania Building Trades Council
  - 123,349 Work Hours
  - Lancaster Facility
  - Lancaster, PA

**APComPower, Inc.**

- **American Electric Power**
  - Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades Council
  - 227,020 Work Hours
  - Brunner Island Station
  - York Haven, PA

- **Graycor Industrial Constructors Inc.**
  - AK Steel
  - Tri-State Building Trades Council
  - 215,753 Work Hours
  - Ashland Works
  - Ashland, KY

- **Colstrip Electric, Inc.**
  - ConocoPhillips Company
  - IBEW Local No. 532
  - 210,000 Work Hours
  - Billings Refinery
  - Billings, MT

- **Sauer Group, Inc.**
  - American Electric Power
  - East Central Ohio Building Trades Council
  - 209,500 Work Hours
  - Conesville Power Plant
  - Conesville, OH

- **International Industrial Contracting Corporation**
  - General Motors Corporation
  - Nashville Building Trades Council
  - 199,286 Work Hours
  - Spring Hill Manufacturing Operations
  - Spring Hill, TN

- **Bruce & Merrilees Electric Company**
  - American Electric Power
  - IBEW Local No. 246
  - 195,054 Work Hours
  - Cardinal Plant
  - Brilliant, OH

- **APComPower, Inc.**
  - Reliant Energy, Inc.
  - Pittsburgh Building Trades Council
  - 193,988 Work Hours
  - Keystone Station
  - Stoystown, PA

- **MC Industrial**
  - Holcim (US), Inc.
  - St. Louis Building Trades Council
  - 195,286 Work Hours
  - Ste. Genevieve Plant
  - Bloomsdale, MO

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**16 | THE CONSTRUCTION USER**
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<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Project Location</th>
<th>Hours Worked</th>
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<td>J.M. Stuart Station</td>
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<td>BP Products North America, Inc.</td>
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<td>Warren Generating Station</td>
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The International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers

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James J. Willis Craftperson of the Year Award application cycle opens

THE APPLICATION CYCLE for the 2010 James J. Willis Craftperson of the Year Award opens Jan. 1, 2010. At that point, applications will be available for download at www.TAUC.org.

The Willis Award is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding labor-management cooperation and quality craftsmanship in the construction industry. Each year, nominations are open to all crafts, on all projects completed in the previous calendar year and worked under any type of building trades collective bargaining agreement.

The Willis Award recognizes craft workers in five categories of achievement:
1. Schedule and Budget.
2. Productivity.
4. Safety and Health.
5. Outstanding Craftsmanship.

Nominations are forwarded to a judges’ panel to be evaluated and ranked in each category, and the winner is recognized at TAUC Leadership Conference.

This award was established in 1989, as the Craftsman of the Year Award, and was renamed in honor of James J. Willis, Sr. in December 2008. At TAUC Leadership Conference 2009, Garth Gruno, a member of Ironworker Local No. 25, was honored for his work in 2008 with Midwest Steel, for Barton Malow Company, on the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children’s and Women’s Replacement Hospital.

Facilities Maintenance Addendum available

DID YOU KNOW that the NMAPC offers a Facilities Maintenance Addendum for your use on industrial maintenance and construction projects?

To implement this addendum, an owner, or contractor acting on behalf of an owner, must meet with the applicable local building trades council to discuss his/her intent to utilize the addendum, and should then submit the request in writing to the NMAPC administrative office.

The request shall include the location(s) where the addendum will be used, and identify the contractor who will utilize the addendum. If approved, the addendum shall only be applicable for the contractor identified in the formal request to the NMAPC.

The ability to implement an addendum by a contractor is contingent upon approval for use by the NMAPC Labor Section, on a location-by-location basis, and the contractor’s possession of a valid site extension for the facility(s) where work is to be performed.

If you have questions, please contact Jason Hood at 703.841.9707.

NMAPC Book of Decisions now lives online

EFFECTIVE FALL 2009, the NMAPC Book of Decisions will be available exclusively at www.NMAPC.org in an electronic format, and can be downloaded and printed for free. Print copies of the Book of Decisions will no longer be published by the NMAPC.

Submit your applications for the Thomas J. Reynolds Safety Awards


The Reynolds Awards were created more than two decades ago to recognize the exceptional efforts made by TAUC members to prevent the occurrence of serious injury on the jobsite.

Each year, an award ceremony is held in conjunction with TAUC Leadership Conference. Last year’s award ceremony was generously sponsored by Nooter Construction Company (TAUC Regular member), Pioneer Pipe (TAUC Governing member) and Solid Platforms (TAUC Regular member).

Participants will be directly notified of new updates through e-mail announcements. Please contact 703.841.9707 today to provide a valid e-mail address to which you would like your announcements sent. The update announcements will advise you to download the updates from www.NMAPC.org.
Every day, on every project, we’re passionate about
Building a World of Difference

Whether providing environmental sustainability, reliable energy, clean air and water, telecommunications, safety or security, partnering with our clients to improve the quality of life for families around the world is at the heart of what we do. Visit www.bv.com to learn more about our global engineering, consulting and construction services.

BLACK & VEATCH
Building a world of difference.

The Construction User
is waiting to hear from you!

UNION CONTRACTORS (AND contractor employees): Have you been promoted? Did you join a new company? Are you retiring? Let us know. The Construction User would like to share the good news with thousands of individuals, nation-wide, in your industry.

Please contact Todd Mustard via e-mail at tmustard@TAUC.org or telephone at 703.524.3336 x112. At a minimum, please tell us:
• Your first and last name (as you would like it published)
• Your former company or educational institution (if applicable)
• Your current company
• Your former title
• Your new title
• Date of the change

Contractors:

Whether providing environmental sustainability, reliable energy, clean air and water, telecommunications, safety or security, partnering with our clients to improve the quality of life for families around the world is at the heart of what we do. Visit www.bv.com to learn more about our global engineering, consulting and construction services.

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• Your current company
• Your former title
• Your new title
• Date of the change

James Mirigliotta
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“A Women’s Business Enterprise”
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Twinburg, Ohio 44087
OFFICE: 330-425-7185
FAX: 330-425-8728
MOBILE: 216-402-1271
PAGER: 216-207-9082
www.forestcityerectors.com

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www.nationalsteelconstructors.com
Hogan named director of industrial relations

DANIEL HOGAN has been named director of industrial relations, representing The Association of Union Constructors and the National Maintenance Agreements Policy Committee, effective Dec. 1.

“We’re thrilled to welcome Dan,” Chief Executive Officer Stephen R. Lindauer said. “His arrival signals to the industry that we have the most robust team of labor relations experts available to industrial maintenance and construction contractors, labor partners and customers.”

Hogan comes to TAUC and the NMAPC from the Construction Exchange of Buffalo and WNY, Inc., where he served as the associate director, and the Construction Industry Employers Association, where he served as the assistant executive director. Prior to that, he served as the commercial assistant for W.E. Dowds, based out of the United Kingdom.

Hogan holds a bachelor’s of science degree in business management from Canisius College, with an emphasis in logistics and Spanish. Additionally, he successfully completed a semester at the Universidad De Oviedo in Asturias, Spain. Hogan is fluent in English and Spanish.

TAUC Government Affairs Committee formed

TAUC’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS approved the formation of the association’s first-ever Government Affairs Committee in July 2009. The committee representatives include:

Chair  Robert Hoover  Aker Construction  Canonsburg, Penn.
Member  Michael Bray  Shelby Mechanical, Inc.  Cinnaminson, N.J.
Member  Bruce Elliott  TCB Industrial  Modesto, Calif.
Member  Robert Hite  Scheck Mechanical  Countryside, Ill.
Member  James Walker  Great Lakes Fabricators and Erectors Association  Detroit, Mich.

The committee will assist association staff in creating policy positions. It will also monitor and inform our membership about pertinent legislative activities, and create opportunities for dialogue with all levels of government.

The group’s goal is to increase the association’s influence in public policy development as it relates to issues of critical importance to the future of the union construction industry and member contractors.

The committee is eager to begin its work, and input from association membership is always welcome. If you would like to comment on a specific piece of legislation, please contact Government Affairs Committee Staff Liaison Todd Mustard at tmustard@TAUC.org or via phone at 703.524.3336 x112.

TAUC Leadership Conference 2010 heads to Phoenix

TAUC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2010 will be held at the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa in Phoenix, Arizona, from May 11-14, 2010.

Agenda and registration details will be developing in the coming weeks and will be announced on www.TAUC.org.
IN THE CONSTRUCTION industry, most injuries on the jobsite are a result of slip and falls, misuse of equipment, equipment failure or poor judgment on the part of an employee or a supervisor.

However, on every jobsite, all across America, construction workers are exposed to various substances that could be harmful to their health. Some of these substances cause skin irritations when they come in contact with human skin. Others are more insidious. When inhaled, they may cause significant injuries to the respiratory system and cardiovascular system. Other inhalable substances may be carcinogens.

All of these substances fall under the OSHA heading of “hazardous substances.” Most construction firms are well aware of the most obvious types of dangers posed by hazardous substances.

Containers of such substances require appropriate warnings and your safety programs should be designed to teach your employees how to deal with these types of substances.

However, other dangerous substances often found on a work site may not be so obvious. As an example, on Sept. 15, 2009, OSHA published a guidance document on controlling silica exposures in construction. This document addressed the control of worker exposure to dust containing crystalline silica, known to cause the lung disease “silicosis.” Under OSHA regulations, employers are required to conduct periodic monitoring of silica exposure by testing air samples at the construction site to determine if the level of silica in the air exceeds the permissible exposure limit (PEL) outlined in OSHA’s Construction PEL Standard.

Silica is not the only type of hazardous inhalable dust or gas found on a construction site. Contractors must take reasonable steps to protect workers by evaluating potential workplace hazards. Industrial hygienists and other trained occupational health and safety professionals should be used by contractors to evaluate workplace conditions and suggest means of ensuring workforce safety.

Whether utilizing a simple process such as wet cutting to curtail dust, installing vacuum dust collection systems or providing workers with masks or respiratory devices, a contractor has an obligation to not only know what types of hazardous substances are found on the jobsite but also to take necessary means of ensuring workers’ exposure to such substances are at levels that are not dangerous.

OSHA has published a hazard communication standard, and OSHA Standard 1926 (29 C.F.R. 1926) addresses toxic and hazardous substances found in construction. OSHA has also published a draft model training program for hazard communication that outlines an employer’s responsibility to effectively train employees who are exposed to hazardous chemicals (see www.OSHA.gov).

On a typical construction site, a worker may be confronted with posted hazard warnings, signs, tags, workplace labels, material safety data sheets (MSDS), manuals explaining the company hazard communication program, lists of chemicals and information provided by various unions. OSHA recognizes that this wide variety of communications will differ in format, content and reading level. Although everything required may be available, the multiple offerings may obscure essential information.
On a typical construction site, a worker may be confronted with posted hazard warnings, signs, tags, workplace labels, material safety data sheets (MSDS), manuals explaining the company hazard communication program, lists of chemicals and information provided by various unions.

The OSHA Hazard Communications Standard includes three basic training requirements:
1. The employer must provide every employee with effective information and training on hazardous chemicals in their work area at the time of their initial assignment and whenever a new physical or chemical hazard is introduced into the work area.
2. All employees must be advised of OSHA training requirements, about any operations in their work area when hazardous chemicals are present, and the location and availability of the written hazard communication program, including the list of hazardous chemicals and the relevant MSDs.
3. Employee training, at a minimum, must include:
   • Methods and observations that may be used to detect the presence or release of a hazardous substance in the work area (such as an employer monitoring program);
   • Physical and health hazards of chemicals in the work area;
   • Measures that employees can take to protect themselves, such as work practices, emergency procedures and personal protective equipment; and
   • Details of the employer’s hazardous communication program, including an explanation of labels and MSDs, and how employees can use the program’s information.

For contractors, the key word in the OSHA Hazardous Communication Standard training program is “effective.” It is not sufficient to take a new employee to a construction trailer on the jobsite and show her a bulletin board and say, “Here is a list of all hazardous chemicals on this job. Here are all the MSDs. Here is a copy of our safety policy. Now make sure you wear your hard hat and safety glasses, and go to work.” The employer has the responsibility to provide sufficiently detailed training to ensure the employee understands the risks posed by the physical conditions and chemicals in the work area.

Steve Fellman is president of GKG Law in Washington, D.C. He is also general counsel to The Association of Union Constructors.

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Begin developing your zero injury culture today

by TONY DOWNEY
Member Contributor

RECOGNITION OF SAFE work performance is a very positive driver in attaining injury-free performance, according to the Construction Industry Institute (CII) Zero Injury Concept.

Each year the NMAPC recognizes contractors, local building trades and facility owners with the Zero Injury Safety Awards. These awards are unique because they recognize the tripartite structure: the contractor, the local building trades members and the owner, all of whom contribute to safety success on a particular project.

So you may be wondering, ‘How can my company attain the success necessary to achieve Zero Injury Performance and receive a Zero Injury Safety Award?’

As with any initiative, you must have demonstrated management commitment. This includes setting a corporate safety vision that embraces the Zero Injury Concept.

All successful companies that subscribe to the Zero Injury Concept have at least three things in common:

1) A chief executive officer who believes in and has a passion for safety;
2) Leaders who understand that the prevention of the next injury starts with themselves; and,
3) Leaders who believe all injuries can be prevented.

One of the tools that a TAUC member company used during the process of becoming a proponent of the Zero Injury Concept was the creation of a Corporate Safety Committee.

This committee was made up of operations leaders and site managers, with the president of the company serving as the chairperson of the committee. Corporate safety professionals served only as technical advisors to the committee.

This committee met monthly, developed an action plan for safety improvement, made assignments to implement the plan, distributed formal minutes of the Corporate Safety Committee throughout the organization and worked the plan. It recognized the need for safety training for all employees (supervisors, foremen and craft), employee engagement in the safety process and a safety rewards program.

Safety recognition programs can be debated at length. However, it cannot be disputed that the CII Zero Injury Concept companies with the best safety performance all use some type of recognition program.

Safety recognition programs can be debated at length. However, it cannot be disputed that the CII Zero Injury Concept companies with the best safety performance all use some type of recognition program.

The change from your existing process to a zero injury culture can take years. However the journey must start somewhere and at some time. Now is as good a time as ever. Emmitt Nelson, author of The Pathway to a Zero Injury Safety Culture, prophetically states, “The fact that injuries occur does not mean injuries must occur.” Both of Nelson’s books are available on www.TAUC.org.

If you have a burning desire to receive an NMAPC Zero Injury Safety Award in the future, consider developing a zero injury safety culture today!

Tony Downey is the director of safety for Day & Zimmermann NPS, Inc. and chairman of the TAUC Safety and Health Committee. Day & Zimmermann is a TAUC Governing Member based out of Lancaster, Pa.
When you want it done right... leave it to the professionals!

BY CHARLES A. BURNS III  
Member Contributor

I WORK FOR JJ White, Inc. based out of Philadelphia, Pa., and over the last few years we have seen a significant rise in the number of non-union contractors performing work on the same jobsites as us. Our area had historically been considered a high density union environment, and it was rare to see a non-union contractor bidding a job. Well, that has all changed. But, in this new era I think we owe it to ourselves and the industry to not look at this as an obstacle, but a challenge. One in which we can prove to our current and future customers, that if you want it built right the first time... use a union contractor!

We all know that sometimes success has bred complacency in these historically union dense enclaves, and we need to revitalize our efforts to ensure we remain on the cutting edge not only in productivity but also in the highest levels of skill sets and safety practices. This is a joint effort that we must wage with our counterparts in the local unions and building trades councils across the country, because the status quo no longer cuts it.

Some of the very issues that TAUC’s Labor Committee has worked tirelessly on could help us provide even more value to our customers, such as portability and reciprocity, and our committee remains dedicated to ensuring union contractors have the tools they need to regain lost market share. As a member of TAUC, if you have specific ideas on how we can improve management and labor practices, please send me an e-mail at info@TAUC.org.

We need to revitalize our efforts to ensure we remain on the cutting edge not only in productivity but also in the highest levels of skill sets and safety practices.

Bud Burns is the executive vice president for J.J. White, Inc. and chairman of the TAUC Labor Committee. J.J. White is a TAUC Governing Member based out of Philadelphia.
January 1–March 12, 2010
Applications Accepted:
James J. Willis Craftperson of the Year Award
Applications posted on www.TAUC.org

January 1–March 12, 2010
Applications Accepted:
Thomas J. Reynolds Awards
Applications posted on www.TAUC.org

January 1–May 7, 2010
Applications Accepted:
10th Annual NMAFC Zero Injury Safety Awards
Apply via www.NMAFC.org

February 18, 2010
Joint TAUC-NACBE Safety and Health Committee Meeting
Des Plaines, Illinois

May 11–14, 2010
Leadership Conference 2010
Phoenix, Arizona

October 28, 2010
10th Annual NMAFC Zero Injury Safety Awards Gala
Washington, D.C.

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- Keynote and Luncheon Speakers
- Contractor & Owner Panels
- Key Performance Indicator Awards
- Contractor Town Hall
- Industry Roundtable
- Construction Industry Economic Forecast
- Credit Crisis – Impact on Multi-Employer Pension Plans
- IMPACT Drug Testing
- Future Work Opportunities – Green, Wind, Solar, Nuclear, MagLev Train
- State of the Industry Report by CRSI and AISC

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