End-of-Session Legislative Activity Brings Worker’s Comp Reform

Budget Amendment Glitch Cause for Concern

There was plenty of last-minute action, but the consequences of one item of inaction has many in the construction industry concerned. First let’s take a look at what passed both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly as the Spring session adjourned May 31.

A Worker’s Compensation Reform proposal billed as significant cost savings to the business community passed and it awaits Gov. Quinn’s signature. Some of the changes to the system include cutting payments to physicians and hospitals, tightening review of injuries and limiting awards for Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. Time will tell if these changes have an impact.

The most significant change to the Worker’s Compensation Act is an entirely new section which addresses a collective bargaining “pilot program” which applies only to businesses involved in construction.

In essence, the Director of Labor shall designate two labor organizations to participate in a collectively bargained worker’s compensation agreement.

According to the bill, the agreeing parties will file with the Commission, and the State shall recognize the agreement between the construction employer and the labor organization. The terms may include alternative dispute resolution to replace the procedural function of the Commission and this will include mediation, arbitration or other dispute resolution proceedings which may be final and binding.

Other key pieces to this “pilot program” are:

1) An agreed list of medical treatment providers may be an exclusive source of all medical treatment.

2) The use of a limited list of impartial physicians to conduct independent medical examinations.

3) The creation of a specific light duty modified return to work program.

4) A limited list of individuals for the establishment of agreed vocational rehab.

(Continued on page 7)

CISCO Welcomes Four New Associate Members

CISCO would like to welcome aboard four dynamic companies that have recently joined as Associate members. This group includes:

Culloton Strategies, LLC - A media communications firm for top executives for sports, business, healthcare, nonprofits and politics with offices in Chicago and Naperville.

Delta Dental of Illinois - A not-for-profit dental service corporation that administers and underwrites dental benefit plans. It is the largest such provider in the country with offices in Chicago and Naperville.

Kovitz Investment Group - A Chicago-based investment advisory firm managing over $1.8 billion in equity, fixed income and hedge fund investments for individuals and institutions.

Navistar - Based in Lisle, the company produces International® brand commercial trucks, mid-range diesel engines and IC brand school buses, and Workhorse brand chassis for motor homes and step vans. It is a private-label designer and manufacturer of diesel engines for the pickup truck, van and SUV markets.
Since the General Assembly completed its Spring Session work, all of the talk has centered around the consequences of inaction regarding a $430 million budget amendment that has the capability of shutting down all state-wide construction projects. Let’s hope that cooler and smarter heads prevail, and a resolution is reached by the time you read this article.

On the other hand, there was news that came out of the session that could have both short-term and long-term impact on the union construction industry. A new worker’s compensation reform package contains a specific section which addresses a collectively bargained worker’s compensation (CBWC) “pilot program.”

The pilot program in the bill calls for the Director of Labor to designate two labor organizations to participate in a CBWC agreement. The agreeing parties will file with the Commission, and the State shall recognize the agreement between the construction employer and the labor organization. The terms of the agreement may include alternative dispute resolution to replace the procedural function of the Worker’s Comp Commission, an agreed list of doctors, the creation of a modified return to work program and agreed upon vocational rehabilitation.

In 2009, CISCO, and partners on its Legislative Committee, developed an educational video campaign aimed at bringing everyone in our industry up to date on just what CBWC meant and how the process could work in Illinois. If the Governor signs this bill, contractors and workers will be one step closer to a system that brings labor and management together to create a compensation model that works to the benefit of contractors and workers.

Hopefully the approved pilot program will provide much needed relief to the union construction industry. We will closely follow future developments and report back on the CBWC progress.

Other news involved passage of gaming expansion, which will provide for the construction of up to five land-based casinos; construction of a $3 billion synthetic natural gas plant on the south side of Chicago; increasing the penalties for violators of the Prevailing Wage Act; and strengthening the existing executive order by making project labor agreements the policy of the State concerning capital construction projects under state agencies.

Each of these bills will have a positive impact on the union construction industry by creating more construction jobs, ensuring that current laws are followed, and strengthening a platform for projects to be completed on time and on budget, within a high quality, drug-free environment.

John Brining
Executive Director

Mark Your Calendars for CISCO’s Last Swing Golf Outing

Monday, September 12, 2011
Registration/Range: 7:00 a.m. • Shotgun Start: 8:00 a.m.
Cocktails/Lunch: 1:00 p.m.
$85 per golfer; $340 per foursome
Bloomingdale Golf Club
181 Glen Ellyn Road • Bloomingdale, Illinois

Sponsorships/Registration
Call our office today - (630) 472-9411; space is limited to 144 golfers
or check us out online at www.cisco.org
Earlier this year, President Obama stressed the importance of education as a means of maintaining America’s competitive edge in the world. “Over the next 10 years, nearly half of all new jobs will require education beyond high school, many requiring proficiency in math and science,” Obama said.

The importance of education and the need to provide a quality workforce is exactly what we at CISCO promote as we strive to attract men and women to the union construction industry. In order to maintain our competitive edge, we need to provide our youth every opportunity to pursue their dreams. To some that may mean acquiring a degree in engineering or architecture. To others it may mean pursuing a career in the building trades, or even continuing education and training for a promising tradesmen.

The value of an education is more important than ever. At our Annual Luncheon, I was extremely proud of the fact that we continue to provide scholarships and support the dreams of young men and women, especially in today’s tough economic times. The sense of accomplishment that I witnessed on the faces of the four students was inspiring, and the pride on the faces of the parents was rewarding. I thought the moment was a fantastic reflection on our young adults and the children of our union construction workers and contractors.

We’ve got to continue to have the best trained, best skilled workforce in the world, and the CISCO scholarship program is having a positive impact and certainly doing its part.

Sincerely,

John Burns
CISCO Board President

2011 Scholarship Winners Honored at 23rd Annual Luncheon

CISCO announced its annual scholarship winners during its Annual Luncheon on April 28, 2011 at Maggiano’s Little Italy in Schaumburg, Illinois. Matthew Carlton was awarded the John E. Kenny, Jr. Founder’s Scholarship. Carlton, a graduate of Kankakee Valley High School, plans to major in Engineering. His father, Marvin Carlton, is a member of the Operating Engineers Local #150.

The three Joseph Sullivan Memorial Scholarships were awarded to: 1) Maura Connors, whose father John Connors is a member of IBEW Local #134 in Chicago, is a graduate of St. Ignatius High School. Maura will pursue a degree in English and Communications. 2) Benjamin DeVries, whose father Jeffrey DeVries is a member of the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local #21, is a graduate of Illiana Christian High School and has chosen English as his major at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. 3) Taylor Maine, whose father Richard Maine is affiliated with Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 501, plans to study Natural Resources at Colorado State. Taylor graduated from St. Charles North High School.

Matthew Carlton, Maura Connors, Benjamin DeVries and Taylor Maine were chosen from a field of 115 applicants. CISCO congratulates its 2011 scholarship winners!
Carrigan Applauds CISCO Accomplishments at Annual Luncheon

If there is one day of the year that Michael T. Carrigan, President of the Illinois AFL-CIO, sets aside for public appearances it is National Workers Memorial Day on April 28.

With 11 different events being held throughout the State on April 28 (The anniversary of the creation of the OSHA Act), Carrigan instead graciously accepted an invitation to speak to a crowded room of more than 240 CISCO members, labor leaders and guests during CISCO’s Annual Luncheon.

“I always say,” Carrigan began, “if you want to see a real professional labor-management group in action, you need to come and visit CISCO. They have set the bar extremely high.”

Carrigan’s remarks were part of a 20-minute address in which he recognized the principles that CISCO promotes, key industry leaders in the audience, and the men and women in the union construction industry that had lost their lives or had been seriously injured in a work-related accident.

Carrigan said that the anniversary of the OSHA Act should be remembered for its instituting stronger safety training laws in the United States and in Illinois, and also for the workers and their families.

As President of the Illinois AFL-CIO, one of the most important aspects of Carrigan’s office is to carefully monitor the progress of state laws by urging passage of those that will positively impact the union construction industry, or helping to defeat/minimize the negative impact of other bills.

In that role, Carrigan spoke of a variety of reform bills that were being considered that included pension, worker’s compensation, education, and public health and welfare.

He also highlighted the state legislature’s efforts regarding gaming expansion and synthetic natural gas plants that would have a positive impact on the union construction industry and would help create construction jobs.

The Luncheon was capped off with the presentation of the 2011 Scholarships Awards. To view a photo of the student winners, go to page 3. For more event photos, see insert page.
2011 CISCO Board of Directors

Executive Board

President
John Burns, Laborer’s D.C. of Chicago & Vicinity

Vice President
Dave Henderson, LCCA

Treasurer
John Zubricks, Sprinkler Fitters Local 281, U.A.

Secretary
Michael Wiedmaier, PAMCANI

Joseph Benson, IRTBA
John Boske, Sheet Metal Workers Local 265
Steven Cisco, I.U.O.E. Local 150
Jim Cronin, Jr., Chicago Roofing Council
Dan Divane, Electrical Contractors Association
Frank Furco, IBEW Local 701
Frank Lollino, Underground Contractors Association
Mark Maher, Chicago Reg. Council of Carpenters
Rich Mathis, Roofers Local 11
James McGlynn, NECA-NEIL
Tom McCravey, Northeastern Illinois LMCC
Gary Niederkorn, IBEW Local 134
Joseph Pastorino, Chicago Reg. Council of Carpenters
Richard Porter, Mason Contractors Association
Michael Prate, RCEC

Member Organizations

Architectural & Ornamental Ironworkers Local 63
Associated Steel Erectors Association of Glazing Contractors
Boilermakers Local 1
Bricklayers & Allied Craftsmen
District Council
Builders’ Association
Cement Masons Local 502
Cement Masons Local 803
Ceramic Tile and Terrazzo Local 67
Chicago Reg. Council of Carpenters
Chicago Outerbelt Contractors Association
Chicago Painting & Decorating Contractors Industry Advancement & Promotional Fund
Chicagoland Roofing Council
Chicagoland Sheet Metal Contractors Association
Concrete Contractors Association of Greater Chicago
Construction & General Laborer’s District Council of Chicago & Vicinity
Electrical Contractors Industry Association of Chicago
Electrical Contractors Industry Association of Greater Chicago
Electrical Workers Local 117, 134, 150, 461, & 701
Finishing Contractors Association of Chicago
Glaszers Union Local 27
Illinois Regional Insulation Contractors Association
Illinois Roofing Contractors Association
Insulators Local 17
Lake County Contractors Association
LMCC (IBEW Local 117, 150, 461 & NECA-NEIL)
LMCC of Chicago (IBEW 134 & ECA)
NECA-IBEW Local 701 LMCC
Machinery, Movers & Riggers Local 136
Mason Contractors Association of Greater Chicago
Mechanical Contractors Association
National Electrical Contractors Association
National Fire Sprinkler Association
Northern Illinois Chapter
Northern Illinois Sheet Metal Contractors Association
Northern Illinois Painting & Drywall Institute
OP & CMIA Local 11
Operating Engineers Local 150 Painters District Council Local 30
Plasterers Local 5
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 501
Plumbing Contractors Association of Chicago & Cook County
Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors Authority of Northern Illinois
Professional Flooring Installers Association
Residential Construction Employers Council
Roofers Waterproofers & Allied Craftworkers Local 11
Sheet Metal Workers Local 73
Sheet Metal Workers Local 265
SMACNA Chicago
Sprinkler Fitters Local 281
Teamsters Joint Council # 25
Underground Contractors Association

Associate Members

AETNA Insurance Company
AFL
AFL-CIO Building Investment Trust
Amalgamated Bank of Chicago
ASB Capital Management
AthletiCo
Benefits Management Group
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois
Bond Brothers & Co.
Brandywine Global Investment Mgmt.
Central DuPage Hospital
Chicago & Cook County Building
& Construction Trades Council
Chicagoland Construction Safety Council
CGNA HealthCare
Construction Employers’ Association
Consumer Health Services
Cullston Strategies, LLC
Delta Dental
DuPage County Building & Construction Trades Council

Fifth Third Asset Management
First Midwest Bank
Fox Valley Construction Industry
Advancement Program
Humana Health Care Plans
Hunt Insurance Group
Illinois Pipe Trades Council
I.M.P.A.C.T.
Invesco
Kovitz Investment Group
Labor Management Cooperation Committee of Chicago
Labor Management Cooperative Committee of Northeastern Illinois
Lake County Building & Construction Trades Council
M & J Trust Services
Martin Salvino State Farm Agency
Marvel Group Office Furniture
MB2 Advertising
Meggert, Inc.

Middle States Electrical Contractors Association
Midland States Bank
Missouri Valley Partners
Multi-Employer Property Trust
Navistar
NECA-IBEW 701 LMCC
Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc.
Principal Financial Group
Professional Benefit Administrators
Putnam Investments
Russell Investments
Sav-RX Pharmacy Benefit Mgmt.
ScreenSafe
Secure Services, Corp.
Segall Bryant & Hamill Investment Counsel
Tasty Catering
Ullico, Inc.
UMB Asset Management
Union Plus Mortgage

Save The Date

Mark Breslin Conference
September 27, 2011
IBEW Local 701 Training Center
Warrenville, IL

CISCO, FCAC and PAMCANI are cooperatively developing a “doubleheader” seminar featuring Mark Breslin that will be open to all interested Chicagoland Trade Associations and Trade Unions.

Seminar #1 - “The Perfect Storm” - 2 p.m. - Aimed at Union Officials and Employer/Contractors.

Seminar #2 - “Alpha Dogs” - 5 p.m. - Aimed at rank-and-file workers; Contractors & Union Officials may attend.

Ticket information available by visiting www.cisco.org
Registration Deadline is August 15.
For more information, call (630) 472-9411
Apprenticeship Coordinators Bring a Wealth of Knowledge

Since summer has arrived and the students have set their sights on fun in the sun, I thought we at CISCO should begin to feature in this column the tremendous group of Apprenticeship Coordinators who train the men and women who pursue a career in the various building trades.

Kicking off the first in a series of articles will be the Operating Engineers Local 150 and its Apprenticeship Coordinator Mike Rorex.

Michael Rorex - Operating Engineers Local 150

Michael has more than 26 years of experience as an Operating Engineer working in various aspects of this craft. He has gained a wealth of knowledge through hands on experience, and has taken advantage of the opportunity to learn directly from the most highly skilled operators in the country.

He was fortunate to start his construction career during the 1970’s in the Deep Tunnel Project - one of the largest civil engineering projects ever undertaken in terms of scope, cost and timeframe. This experience allowed him to take specific skills into the sewer and water industry. Understanding underground construction led him to the road and heavy construction arena. Using his educational experience from the Chicago Public School system and Joliet Junior College, he worked his way up to General Superintendent/Project Manager for one of the region’s top contractors.

Next, his talents and skills were requested to be used through the Operating Engineers. Michael started in the local as a business agent and then advanced himself to lead the state of the art training facility in Wilmington, Illinois. His foresight has allowed the training site to secure a training Alliance with OSHA, become an awardee of a Susan Harwood Grant, participation within multiple industry associations, and the registration of two “green” apprenticeship programs.

Michael also participates on an international hoisting and portable training advisory board, apprenticeship investment board, and serves on the Board for the Operating Engineers Certification Program. For more information, contact Mike Rorex at (815)722-3201, or visit www.asiplocal150.org.
Legislative News Gets Mixed Reviews From Construction Industry

(Cont. from page 1)

Failure to pass House Bill 2189 could have a major impact on the state’s economy and its continued recovery. The Senate attached $431 million in social service appropriations to legislation containing public works, infrastructure and highway construction projects. The House refused to approve the amendment.

Inaction would force the suspension or cancellation of thousands of projects and the immediate loss of approximately 52,000 jobs, including 31,000 highway construction jobs. Unless action is taken, new and existing projects would not move forward after June 17. As of June 30, IDOT will no longer be able to accept, administer or disburse federal, state and local funds, impacting $16.6 billion in projects.

In other legislative news, a labor-supported gaming expansion bill passed. Gov. Quinn said the bill may be “excessive,” but would not say definitively whether or not he would veto it. The bill creates five new casinos in Chicago, Danville, Rockford, Waukegan and the south suburbs of Chicago. It also contains permits for slots and harness racing nine months a year at the Illinois State Fairgrounds; slot machines behind security checkpoints at O’Hare Airport; expansion of existing gaming positions and an option for riverboats to become land-based casinos.

Two synthetic natural gas plants planned for construction passed the General Assembly. Leucadia (SB 1533), a $3 billion plant to be built on the south side of Chicago, and Power Holdings (SB 2169), planned for Jefferson County in southern Illinois, passed both chambers. Each plant will create over 1,000 construction jobs and hundreds of permanent jobs.

Project Labor Agreements will soon become the policy of the state concerning capital construction projects under state agencies. The bill, which strengthens a 9-year-old executive order moves now to the Governor’s desk for his signature.

Violations of the state’s Prevailing Wage Law will be a criminal offense if Gov. Quinn signs a bill that was approved by both chambers. House Bill 3237 changes the penalty for violating the Act to a Class A misdemeanor (carrying a maximum one year prison sentence), and requires the Department of Labor to debar (prohibit from gaining work with the State) violators for four years.

Additionally, attempts to push further public employee pension cuts were thwarted as the General Assembly abandoned that effort.

Also, the legislature passed a $33.2 billion budget that included cuts in several areas affecting working families.

And finally, state lawmakers completed its part of the remap effort by approving 18 new congressional districts, along with redrawing existing Senate and House districts.

CISCO Making the Rounds: UCA Spring Showcase

CISCO was one of more than 40 exhibitors that was on hand at the Underground Contractors Spring Showcase Tradeshow, April 14 at Signature Events in Woodridge. UCA Executive Director Dave Benjamin (right) and CISCO Board Member Frank Lollino (center), who represents the underground contractors on the board, stopped at CISCO’s booth to say hello to CISCO Executive Director John Brining as they checked out the other exhibits.
UNION CONSTRUCTION

CISCO’s Annual Luncheon
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: 2000 Spring Road, Suite 110, Oak Brook, IL 60523

Contact Us At: Toll-free 877-562-9411, (630)472-9411, Fax: (630)472-9413, or e-mail gary@cisco.org

Executive Director: John Brining
Education-to-Careers Director: Johnetta Ryan
Managing Editor: Gary Karafiat
Office Manager: Julia Mulvey

CISCO is a registered Illinois Servicemark for the Construction Industry Service Corporation.

---

**New Information**

NAME:_______________________________________
ORGANIZATION:_______________________________
ADDRESS:____________________________________
CITY:____________________________STATE:_______
ZIP CODE:__________________
PHONE:_________________FAX:_________________
EMAIL ADDRESS:______________________________

Would you like to receive any of the following items?

Just check the appropriate item and return this form!

___“Build Your Future” Apprenticeship Program Guide
___“Union Construction” Bumper Sticker
___Pre-Apprentice “Basic Skills” Training Guide ($30 per book)
___Construction Video Library ($70 per set)

---