



# CISCO

## CONSTRUCTION NEWS BRIEFS

Construction Industry Service Corporation - [www.cisco.org](http://www.cisco.org) - 630.472.9411 - Dan Allen, Executive Director

### WATER REC. DISTRICT APPROVES MULTI-PLA FOR COOK COUNTY



The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) approved a 5-year Multi-Project Labor Agreement

during the district's Thursday, August 3rd meeting.

The MWRD Board's adoption of the new MPLA is on behalf of itself and each of its contractors and subcontractors and the Chicago & Cook County Building & Construction Trades Council.

The new MPLA eliminates the "Site-Specific" loophole that would have allowed contractors, who **do not** pay fair wages and use inadequate training standards, to bid on future projects.

"The new MPLA was a matter of serious discussion here on the Board of Commissioners, and CISCO's guidance on this issue was valuable to us," said MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore. "I was happy to cast a vote that ensures a level playing field for contractors who have made a permanent commitment to treat their workers fairly," she added.

"The collaborative voices and letters from contractors and trade unions helped make this happen. The passage of this MPLA means that the District will continue to use only the most skilled union labor force to build critical, complex infrastructure projects, that will in turn, provide stronger worker safety conditions, and just as importantly, protect the health and water safety of the District's residents," said CISCO Executive Director Dan Allen.

### GROWING COALITION BRINGS INDUSTRY LEADERS TOGETHER

*Building Our Communities*, a one-year old coalition of labor industry leaders and elected officials, held a meeting in Chicago last week to discuss important issues facing the middle class, and to formalize its organizational structure and take the group into a more active role.

Keynote Speaker Professor Bob Bruno, University of Illinois, presented on "Issues Affecting the Middle Class", and Karyn Charvat, Executive Director of Power Forward DuPage spoke on "Marketing the Middle Class".



*Professor Bob Bruno addresses the audience at the recent Building Our Communities coalition meeting.*

Professor Bruno stated that the United States is no longer a middle class nation as less than 50% of households fit within that spectrum, and he cited a dozen examples of why the middle class continues to shrink.

Bruno mentioned decreasing productivity, reductions in jobs that don't require a college degree, domestic job outsourcing, income inequality, and the fall in hourly compensation as some of the reasons.

When asked about solutions, he said investment in education, increases in infrastructure spending, raising the minimum wage, increases

in research and development spending, and eliminating "right-to-work" (for less) laws were priorities.

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. For more information, call (773) 234-4309 or email: [george@buildingourcommunities.com](mailto:george@buildingourcommunities.com).

### REGISTER TODAY FOR CISCO'S ANNUAL GOLF OUTING - SEPT. 11th



CISCO's Annual Golf Outing will be held on Monday, September 11, 2017 at Bloomingdale Golf Club - 181 Glen Ellyn Road in Bloomingdale, IL.

Start gathering your foursomes for golf, fabulous barbecue luncheon, prize raffle, and more!

Each year your donations allow us to contribute a portion of proceeds to a local charity. This year's beneficiary



will be *Gateway to Learning* - a special education and training center in Chicago that provides services for individuals with intellectual disabilities so they can reach their full potential.

To register and/or sponsor, click on this link: <http://cisco.org/wp-content/pdf/Golf-flyer17.pdf> or call CISCO at (630) 472-9411.

**More news and photos on the back page.**

# CISCO ON THE MOVE

## 4th ANNUAL CONSTRUCTION EXPO THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

CISCO, St. Paul Community Development Ministries (SPCDM), the Chicago Teachers Union, the Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Federation of Labor and the Chicago & Cook County Building Trades will once again join forces to showcase careers in the construction industry to students and adults. This year's event will be held on Thursday, August 24 from 8:00 a.m. to Noon at SPCDM, 4550 S. Wabash Ave. in Chicago.



*During last year's event, Pipefitters Local 597 Apprenticeship Instructor Calvin Gordon walks an attendee through a computer welding exercise.*

**FREE** parking will be available at a parking lot at 4526 S. State Street.

During the Expo attendees will get a chance to learn first-hand what it takes to become an electrician, carpenter, bricklayer, operating engineer, pipefitter or other union building trades careers.



*During last year's event, Carpenters Asst. Apprenticeship Coordinator Kina McAfee measures during an exercise.*

For more information about the skilled union trades, contact Johnetta Ryan, CISCO's Education-to-Careers Director at **(630) 472-9411**. To register: Click on the link: <https://spcdm-4thannualexpo.eventbrite.com>

## SAFETY, HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE - SEPT. 18-21

The Chicagoland Safety Health and Environmental Conference is being held Sept. 18-21, 2017 at the Naperville campus of Northern Illinois University. Conference registration is now open at [www.chisafetyconf.org](http://www.chisafetyconf.org)

Conference attendees include plant managers, professional and civic association members, project managers, safety committee members, shop foremen, and more.

This year's wide ranging training topics include OSHA Record-keeping Rule, Employment Testing, Illinois EPA's New Industrial Stormwater Permit, Are You Complying With OSHA, OSHA Inspections and Reporting Requirements, and others.

Promotional support of the conference is being provided by dozens of organizations including CISCO. For more information, contact Ken Orms at [k.orms@att.net](mailto:k.orms@att.net).

## CISCO AND SELECT TRADES ON HAND FOR CAREER FAIR IN LEMONT

CISCO, the Bricklayers, Operating Engineers Local 150 and the Pipefitters Local 597 participated in a Jobs Fair at CORE Fitness in Lemont. The event was sponsored by State Reps. Jim Durkin and David S. Olsen, and State Senator John Curran.

In addition, a workshop titled "How to Navigate through the State Employment Process" was available for people with interest in state jobs.



*State Sen. John Curran (center) meets CISCO's Johnetta Ryan and Operating Engineers Local 150 Apprenticeship Instructor Derrick Tolbert.*

## OPERATING ENGINEERS # 150 RAISES \$500,000 FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150 President/ Business Manager James M. Sweeney presented a check for \$500,000 to the Navy SEAL Family Foundation at Local 150's charity golf fundraiser, the James M. Sweeney Classic.

The event drew more than 500 golfers to four golf courses in Lemont, and the check was presented to retired SEAL Captain Mike Argo, who serves on the SEAL Family Foundation's Board of Directors.

Prior to the check presentation, the large audience heard from Cindy Axelson (pictured at left), the widow of Navy SEAL Matthew Axelson, who lost his life in Afghanistan in 2005. Her moving speech focused on how the Navy SEAL Family Foundation provided her with the emotional support to help her overcome adversity and rebuild her life.



*Axelson (pictured at left), the widow of Navy SEAL Matthew Axelson, who lost his life in Afghanistan in 2005. Her*



*IUOE Local 150 President-Business Manager James M. Sweeney (center) presents a check for \$500,000 for the SEAL Family Foundation to retired SEAL Captain Mike Argo (left) and Family Foundation Secretary Craig Cassel at the James M. Sweeney Classic Golf Tournament on August 7th.*

