



CISCO

COMMUNICATOR

A Newsletter for Chicagoland Construction Labor & Management Professionals

CISCO Annual Meeting Set For February 11, 2022

CISCO's Annual Meeting will return to its regular annual time-frame and be held on Friday, February 11, 2022. The event will also return to a familiar venue - Maggiano's Little Italy restaurant in Schaumburg, 1901 E. Woodfield Road. Invitations will be sent out in December, so members should watch their mailboxes, email boxes, social media and other outlets for the official notice.

In addition, the event will feature the presentation of CISCO's Pride in Construction Awards - now in its 17th year. The awards recognize three individuals who have made positive impact on the union construction industry. Those individual recognitions include Educator of the Year, Public Body of the Year and Labor Advocate of the Year.



Last year's Labor Advocate of the Year - State Rep. Marcus C. Evans, Jr. accepts his award.

Lastly, the Board of Directors chooses (in December) top construction projects in six different categories to round out the awards - The 2021 Projects of the Year.

These awards highlight top-quality projects built by union contractors across Northeastern Illinois.

Winners are selected based on the projects' design, quality of construction, safety record, and impact on the surrounding community.

Stay tuned for event details in December.

Two New Board Appointees Replace Outgoing Members



The CISCO Board of Directors approved the nomination of Michael Kresge, Recording Corresponding Secretary of Local 150 Operating Engineers, replacing Steve Cisco, upon his retirement.

Mike joined Local 150 as a dozer operator in 1994. He became Director of Organizing in 2014, and oversees more than a dozen Organizers and Task Force members.

In December 2018, Michael was appointed as Vice President, and in 2021, Michael was appointed Recording-Corresponding Secretary after the retirement of Steven Cisco.

Steve Cisco began serving on the CISCO Board in 1990 (two years after CISCO was created), and he was the longest tenured Board member (31 years) upon his retirement. Thank you Steve for your service!



The CISCO Board of Directors approved the nomination of Joel Pyle II, Business Manager/Financial Secretary of IBEW Local 461. Joel, who also is Board Chairman of the LMCC - PowerUp Now, has been both Business Manager and

a PowerUp Now board member for the past 10-plus years.

IBEW Local Union 461 and its signatory contractors have been serving southern Kane and Kendall counties since 1913. The local has more than 350 members covering the Inside Wireman, Residential Wireman & Voice/Data/Video Installer classifications.

Joel replaces Tom McTavish who began serving on the CISCO Board in 2007, and CISCO wishes to thank him for his leadership and 14 years of service!

From *the* Desk of the Executive Director



As you probably read on the first page of this newsletter, CISCO's Board named two new board members to replace two long-term board members who announced their retirement.

One board member, Steve Cisco, had served on the board for 31 years, while the other, Tom McTavish, had served for 14 years.

No words can describe the gratitude that the other members of the Board and myself have for the dedication and commitment that these two gentlemen provided to our organization.

As a non-profit, CISCO relies on this kind of volunteerism and their service can be described as almost heroic. Servant leadership, as detailed in Robert Greenleaf's book of the same name, has experienced a rapid shift in recent decades in many businesses and non-profit organizations.

Servant leadership seeks to involve others in decision making, is strongly based in ethical and caring behavior, and enhances the growth of workers while improving the caring and quality of organizational life.

Union groups praised the bill's language requiring that all major renewable construction projects must have project labor agreements in place to hire union labor, while non-residential projects, with few exceptions, would be required to pay a prevailing wage.

Strong leadership is essential in other sectors of society as well - including government.

This summer, the Illinois General Assembly passed and Governor Pritzker signed into law the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act.

The bill's clean energy and efficiency highlights are:

- Invests \$580 million/year to increase the state's clean energy from 9% to 50% by 2040 and creates thousands of new jobs.
- Community solar programs increase from \$10 million to \$50 per year.
- Expands labor standards in clean energy projects throughout the state.

On the transportation front, the bill also provides \$78 million a year to electric transportation, with 45% of benefits going to low-income communities.

Union groups praised the bill's language requiring that all major renewable construction projects must have project labor agreements in place to hire union labor, while non-residential projects, with few exceptions, would be required to pay a prevailing wage.

The entire energy package with labor standards was made possible as entities such as environmental groups, the Illinois AFL-CIO, and other labor leaders spent countless hours negotiating a model for the country.

So as you can see, leadership in government can usher in dramatic change, while leaders such as Steve and Tom had a profound impact on their former respective organizations, as well as CISCO's.

Dan Allen
Executive Director

CISCO Announces Scholarship Program Underway for 2022 Awards

CISCO has begun to accept applications for its long-standing Annual Scholarship Awards Program.

Applications for this program are available by visiting CISCO's website (www.cisco.org) and clicking on one of the three types of scholarship award links that you see in the article featuring the scholarship program.

The three scholarship program categories are: 1) Four-year college scholarships for high school seniors; 2) Two-year awards for seniors planning on attending a community

college; and

3) Two-year continuing education awards to union members or contractor employees.

There are three awards in the four-year category, two awards in the community college category and two awards available in the continuing education category.

The deadline to submit an application is Friday, February 18,

2022. For more information or questions, call CISCO at (630) 472-9411.



Presidential *Perspective*



Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and the union construction industry has many reasons to be thankful.

Even though some projects were put on hold during the pandemic, many projects continued on their way to completion, while more are breaking ground. Optimism remains high and recent groundbreakings and contractor updates sent a strong signal to the industry. These projects will provide thousands of construction jobs and hundreds of permanent jobs according to projections.

Some of the projects I am speaking of all got significant press coverage - the **Obama Presidential Center**, Sterling Bay's first **Lincoln Yards** building, and the third tower (Wolf Point South) of the **Wolf Point** project being financed by the AFL-CIO Building Investment Trust ("BIT") and the AFL-CIO Investment Trust Corporation ("ITC").

The BIT is the equity investor for all three phases of the Wolf Point development, investing union pension capital to generate over \$1.5 billion in total development in downtown Chicago. In addition, the BIT's comprehensive labor policies will generate over 6 million hours of work for union construction trades on the site.

I have mentioned Sterling Bay as one of our newer Associate Members in this column before. They are the developer of the dynamic Lincoln Yards project, a vibrant new multi-billion dollar, multi-phased development that will connect Lincoln Park and Bucktown on 50 acres of riverfront property. Just as significant, CISCO and Sterling Bay have partnered to recruit a diverse new generation of young adults and present them with the opportunity to apply to a building trades apprenticeship program.

The same approach is being conducted for the Obama Presidential Center as the project encouraged a diverse construction pipeline prior to the Center's construction, and continues to push that effort during and after.

Other projects are moving forward such as **The 78**, a project set on 62 acres with 13 million square feet of office, residential and retail space, and the \$8.5 billion **O'Hare 21** modernization project.

As CISCO receives submittals for its annual Project of the Year awards, we will continue to be reminded of how our union contractors and building trades members collaborate on constructing some of the top projects in the country, which further demonstrates the success of CISCO's labor-management model.

Sincerely,

Dave Henderson
CISCO Board President

CISCO Accepting Project of the Year Applications

CISCO'S Project of the Year Award is kicking off its 17th year of accepting applications for some of the best construction projects of the past 18 months. (May 2020 – December 2021)

The award gives general contractors, owners, engineers and architects a chance to submit projects in six different categories that include the areas of new construction, renovation/rehabilitation, residential construction and infrastructure.

The Project of the Year Award is part of CISCO's Pride in Construction Award Program developed to not only recognize top projects but also individuals who advocate for the union construction industry. Those awards are the Educator of the Year, Public

Body of the Year, and the Labor Advocate of the Year.

The deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, 2021. The application form for the program can be found on CISCO's website - www.cisco.org. For more information, contact Gary Karafiat, Director of Communications & Public Affairs at 630.472.9411.



 ***Navy Pier Hotel & Rooftop Venue - last year's winner in the category of New Construction Chicago submitted by James McHugh Construction.***

A Final Thank You To Our Generous Golfers



Although it has been nearly two months, the opportunity to celebrate success and the generosity of our members and supporters, is important to CISCO.

Many thanks to all those who helped us donate \$6,500 to our

charity - Gateway to Learning:

Lunch Sponsors:

DuPage County Building Trades

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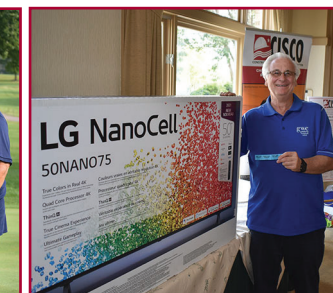
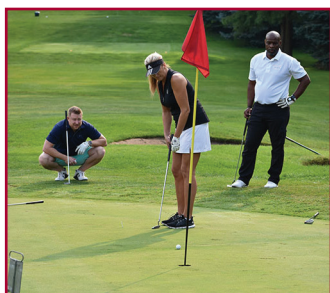
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2021 CISCO Board of Directors

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Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters
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Chicagoland Roofing Council
Concrete Contractors Assoc. of Greater Chicago
Construction & General Laborers' District Council of Chicago & Vicinity
Great Lakes Construction Association
Illinois Road & Transportation Builders Association
LMCC (IBEW 117, 150, 461, & NECA-NEIL)
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Operating Engineers Local 150
Professional Flooring Installers Assoc.
Teamsters Joint Council No. 25
Underground Contractors Association

Member Organizations

Architectural & Ornamental Ironworkers Local 63
Associated Steel Erectors
Association of Glazing Contractors
Boilermakers Local 1
Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers District Council Local 1
Cement Masons Local 502
Cement Masons Local 502-B
Chicago Reg. Council of Carpenters
Chicagoland Associated General Contractors
Chicagoland Roofing Council
Chicagoland Sheet Metal Contractors Association
Concrete Contractors Association of Greater Chicago
Construction & General Laborers' District Council of Chicago & Vicinity
Electrical Contractors Association of City of Chicago, Inc.
Electrical Workers Local 117, 134, 150, 461, & 701

Finishing Contractors Association of Chicago
Finishing Contractors Association of Illinois
Glaziers Union Local 27
Great Lakes Construction Association
Heat & Frost Insulators Local 17
Illinois Regional Insulation Contractors Association
Illinois Road & Transportation Builders Association
International Assoc. of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Local 126
Ironworkers Local 1
LMCC (IBEW Local 117, 150, 461 & NECA-NEIL)
LMCC of Chicago (IBEW 134 & ECA)
Machinery, Movers & Riggers Local 136
Mason Contractors Association of Greater Chicago
Mechanical Contractors Association

National Electrical Contractors Association
Northeastern Illinois Chapter
Northeastern Illinois Sheet Metal Contractors Association
Operating Engineers Local 150
Painters District Council Local 30
PCA of Greater Chicago
PowerForward DuPage
Residential Construction Employers Council
Roofers & Waterproofers Local 11
Sheet Metal Workers Local 73
Sheet Metal Workers Local 265
SMACNA Chicago
SMACNA/SMART #265
Sprinkler Fitters Local 281
Teamsters Joint Council No. 25
Underground Contractors Association

Associate Members

AFL-CIO Building Investment Trust
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Chicago Area Painting & Decorating JATC
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IBEW Local 9
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Labor Management Cooperation Committee of Chicago
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ScreenSafe
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Community Partners

Boy Scouts of America
Christmas Without Cancer

Exploring Real World Career Experiences
Gateway to Learning

St. Paul Community Development Ministries, Inc.

NEWS BRIEFS/UPDATES

ILEPI FUNDRAISER

The Illinois Economic Policy Institute (ILEPI) will be holding its 5th Annual Fundraiser Monday, February 7, 2022 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at the Banquet Hall located at 6240 Joliet Road in Countryside.

In order to protect the health of all attending, ILEPI is asking that all attendees show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test within the previous 72 hours. **For more information, go to www.illinoisepi.org/fundraiser**

Happy Thanksgiving!

CISCO extends our heartfelt good wishes to the thousands of men and women of the building trades, the hundreds of contractors and their respective families as we celebrate Thanksgiving 2021.

To all of our members, stay safe, healthy and enjoy this time with friends and family!



Jamillah Muhammad,
Director
Education-to-Careers

EDUCATION TO CAREERS

“CISCO In The Loop” To Keep Students Informed of Upcoming Events

In my first six months as CISCO’s Education-to-Careers Director, I have noticed an area of our outreach to students that can be strengthened - communication about upcoming events.

CISCO has forged many partnerships with educational entities, (high school, community colleges) community groups, faith-based organizations and more.

CISCO works with these groups to plan events that can be described, in general, as resource fairs where some involve hands-on activities and others provide information on how to apply to one of the building trades’ apprenticeship programs.

Getting that information about upcoming events to our audience of students and young adults is a challenge, and this new platform on CISCO’s website (www.cisco.org) hopefully can make a difference.

“CISCO In The Loop”



The new platform, called ***“CISCO In The Loop”*** is a way for the Education-To-Careers audiences to access information about upcoming resource fairs, apprenticeship opportunities and view virtual tours of several of the building trades’

apprenticeship programs and training centers. These videos highlight interviews with current apprentices, instructors and apprenticeship directors/coordinators.

In addition, a QR code has been created that will link the user directly to the platform’s main website page that features a subscription sign-in option enabling interested students and young adults to receive email notices about upcoming events and other Education-to-Careers news.

Call or email me **(630-472-9411 or jamillah@cisco.org)** to arrange a presentation, tour one of the Apprenticeship Training Centers, or provide materials that detail the requirements for successful admission into each building trades’ apprenticeship program.

PINK HARD HAT SYMPOSIUM A SUCCESS

Last month, *Polished Pebbles* welcomed 30, 8th-grade student leaders from Shoop Academy to the Chicago Women in Trades headquarters for the organization’s Pink Hard Hat Symposium.

CISCO Education-to-Careers Director Jamillah Muhammad moderated a panel discussion during the “Every Girl Is A CEO” Conference.

The female participants had the opportunity to see a reflection of themselves in the women who spoke and shared their personal career journeys, and their advice for success as leaders in construction, manufacturing and the trades.



The girls ended the day by testing their trades skills (see photos above) as carpenters and electricians in workshops led by mentors at the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters, IBEW Local 134 and CISCO.

Legislative Update - End of Veto Session Roundup



The Illinois General Assembly convened in Springfield during the last week of October to wrap up the final week of the 2021 fall veto session. While the first week of veto session was relatively quiet with a light workload – the second week

of veto session was the complete opposite.

Lawmakers worked long hours and approved many of their top legislative priorities, including approval of the new congressional map (HB 1291) and legislation clarifying the intent of the Health Care Right of Conscience Act (SB 1169).

CONSTRUCTION-RELATED BILLS

Legislators also debated bills of particular interest to the construction industry including approval of the Reimagining Electric Vehicles in Illinois Act (HB 1769). However, the issue that received the most discussion was legislation seeking to amend the Wage Payment and Collection Act (HB 3293).

An amendment was filed to HB 3293 (Sen. Castro/Rep. Gong-Gershowitz); seeking to hold general contractors and subcontractors liable for wage claims at any tier on a private construction project.

The amendment is an initiative of the Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council and is supported by the Illinois AFL-CIO.

Proponents of the amendment argue the bill:

- Is aimed at protecting workers from wage theft by bad-actors/subcontractors.
- Levels the playing field as documented cases of wage theft have occurred when a subcontractor misclassifies a worker in order to dodge proper wage payment and benefits. This puts union signatory contractors at a disadvantage for competitively bid projects.

Those opposed to the legislation identified potential unintended consequences of the legislation:

- In an effort to limit their liability, general contractors may be incentivized to self-perform more work and not hire subcontractors – resulting in diminished project and employment opportunities for subcontractors.
- Creates a barrier of entry for small businesses by encouraging general contractors to work with more financially established companies.

HB 3293 as amended was approved by the Senate the same day it was introduced, and arrived in the House the following day. The amended bill was approved by the House Executive Committee and sent to the House floor for consideration in the evening.

However, the Illinois General Assembly adjourned without passing the bill. HB 3293 awaits a concurrence vote in the House, and it will likely be addressed when lawmakers return in January.

“Construction Talks” Features Painters District Council #14

“Construction Talks” most recent visit was to the Training Center of the Painters District Council #14 in Berkley. This was the 9th episode in the series which began in 2020.

The webinar featured Dan Penski, Jr., Director of Training (pictured above), Instructor Veronica Leal, and second year apprentice Rahm Jointer. Also involved in the panel discussion were CISCO’s Education-to-Careers Director Jamillah Muhammad, and Brandy Phillips and Sam Hunt from the CTA.

The 50-minute webinar featured Dan Penski explaining the requirements needed to apply to the program, as well as a description of the trades’ duties.

In addition, Ms. Leal and Mr. Jointer explained how they got interested in the trade and their experiences during training and how it changed their lives.



 **Dan Penski, Jr., Director of Training for Painters DC #14 explains application requirements.**



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November 2021

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CISCO Communicator is published by the Construction Industry Service Corporation (CISCO). CISCO is a labor-management group bringing together unions of the building trades and construction contractor associations representing more than 140,000 construction workers and 8,000 contractors in the six county Chicago Metropolitan area.

CISCO MISSION STATEMENT

It is the primary mission of CISCO to strengthen the unionized construction market in the greater Chicago Metropolitan area. In support of this mission,

CISCO will perform three major roles: 1) Serve as a forum to facilitate dialogue between contractors and building trades union leaders concerning mutual problems and concerns; 2) Serve as a clearinghouse for information on the local construction industry; 3) Serve as a promotional group to encourage union construction with the user community and the general public. As a joint labor-management organization, CISCO will focus on cooperative efforts to reduce problems and conflicts and enhance the competitiveness of union construction. Through its activities, CISCO will build trust between the parties and will foster the joint commitment of local contractors and union labor to high quality, on-time, within budget delivery on all projects.

Suggestions, story ideas, or comments should be directed to CISCO at: 999 McClintock Dr., Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527

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

Executive Director: Dan Allen
Education-to-Careers Director: Jamillah Muhammad
Director of Communications & Public Affairs: Gary Karafiat
Office Manager: Julia Mulvey

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

Survey

1) What, if any, information or sections would you like to see included in future newsletters?

2) What, if any, sections do you think should be removed from the newsletter?

3) What, if any, programs would you like to see CISCO offer to its members in the future?

We value your input! Respond by:

E-mail: gary@cisco.org

Fax: (630) 472-9413

**Mail: 999 McClintock Dr., Suite 100,
Burr Ridge, IL, 60527**