Message from
Chris Haslinger
Director of Training

As we come to the close of 2015, I want to take this opportunity to thank the entire UA Training Department staff for everything you do all year long. I believe this year was the busiest year our department has ever experienced. I have listed what you have all accomplished below, and you can be very, very proud.

- Training Directors/Coordinators Meeting in February
- Pipe Trades Training Conference in February
- New Training Directors Meeting in March
- Office Professionals Seminar in August that had a record number of attendees.
- Instructor Training Program in August that also had a record number of attendees and first-time participants.

I cannot ask anything more from the Training Department staff—you bring your A-game every single day. You believe in what you are doing, and the welfare of the UA’s mission statement

The mission of the UA Training Department is to equip United Association locals with educational resources for developing the skills of their apprentices and journeypersons. By thus facilitating the training needs of the membership, we maximize their employability and prepare them for changes in the industry. We are committed to making training opportunities available across North America, allowing members to acquire new skills and remain competitive in the industry regardless of geography. In this way, we are determined to meet the needs of the piping industry and enhance employment opportunities for our members, while remaining fiscally responsible to the beneficiaries of the fund.
membership is always your number-one priority. It is evident—all yearlong—that you are committed to the betterment of each UA member, so that they are prepared and ready to go to work each day. Your mission of helping the UA be the most highly skilled workforce in the industry is duly noted.

Vince Lombardi once said, “Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence.” This quote is a great example of what the Training Department works towards every day, and as the head of the Training Department, I could not be more proud or ask for anything more. I hope that each and everyone of you has a very happy holiday!

**NEWS BRIEF**

**Editor’s Note:** The following is a letter received on 8/30/2015 by Phil Martin. He has asked to have this letter shared.

**Chris Gee**
Steamfitters Local 439 East St. Louis, IL

Good morning Mr. Martin,

It was a pleasure talking with you during the UA Instructor training week. Per your request here’s a little background on how the UA has shaped my life and career. First I’m a 2nd generation UA fitter/welder, and when my grandfather asked me to tack that piece of old metal for him while he held it, I was hooked. The UA and my local, Steamfitters Local 439, have given me so many different opportunities to learn as much as possible in this unbelievable changing trade. I am currently a project manager for GRP Mechanical; the owner is a UA member that was taught through the UA apprenticeship.

I have worn many different hats within the trade; I have accomplished so much because of the great men and women of the UA that have passed down so much knowledge. Because of them I have an incredible resume. The following are some of my accomplishments—Welder/Fitter, Foreman, General Foreman, Superintendent, nine-year CWI, college graduate, and project management, but my most fulfilling job of all has to be teacher.

I have been teaching now for over 8 years, and along with a lot of other good teachers in my local, we are training some of the best craftsmen in the UA. I believe we can’t just say we’re union, so that makes us better—not true. We are only better because of training and our willingness to learn and teach new technology. We have to continue to encourage these important things. We as UA members have to intelligently engage the ones that know nothing of our trade, or unions.

When brother and sister members move up into leadership roles, we must be supportive, why wouldn’t we want a brother and or sister in those roles? When young men and women—hell, any UA member—shows that they want to go the supervision and or inspection way we must be supportive. This is how we gain market share; we must think outside the ever shrinking box.

In my small but industrial local, we are going after the CWI jobs and getting them; we must continue to explore other avenues as well. Our vision is to flood every corner of the construction industry, from CAD, CWI, Project Management, and Owner—why not? I truly love the trade and look forward every morning to what this great trade has in store for me, and my brothers and sisters.

Best Regards,

Chris Gee
UA Steamfitters Local 439
East St. Louis, IL.
The Accreditation Process

By Anne A. St. Eloi, Training Specialist

The UA Training Accreditation, a self-accreditation, was started in 1997 and was completed in 2000. The process had been ongoing every five years since then, and the current UA Training Center Audit will reflect the period 2017 to 2022. The initial purpose of the accreditation process was to facilitate the growth of our accreditations, including the third-party certifications, such as our welding certifications and the awarding of college credits for UA Apprenticeship Training through organizations such as the American Council on Education (ACE).

According to the U.S. Department of Education: “The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality.”

Some Functions of Accreditation

• Establishing criteria for professional certification and licensure and for upgrading courses offering such preparation, and;
• Providing one of several considerations used as a basis for determining eligibility for federal assistance.

The benefits of the Accreditation Process have been numerous and include sharing local resources; promoting new and better instruction methods; formalizing our educational plans; furthering and creating partnerships with industry, higher education, and government; and ensuring complete and accurate student records, while maintaining consistency to our high standard of training across the UA.

This Accreditation Survey with 100 percent on-site evaluations has been very successful to date, and when required, the UA Training Department has provided assistance with updating outdated Apprenticeship Standards and other governing documents critical to the ongoing success of our training programs. The process has allowed us to share the best and most-successful resources with sister training programs and created a local online document library for your use.

Many surveys and site visits have been completed, but before we can approve your local training center’s accreditation, we require the necessary up-to-date documents be uploaded to the document section of the survey site. These documents include your updated Apprenticeship Standards, current Audited Financial Statement, Training Plan, Training Center Photos, Training Budget, Curriculum Outline and current Articulation Agreements.

I look forward to working with you on this important process, and if you have questions, or if you require assistance completing the survey, or with updating your documents, please feel free to contact me at annes@uanet.org.

New Technology in Orbital Welding Training Classes

By Phil Martin, Administrator of UA Certification Programs

The following is a letter of support that the E. H. Wachs Company sent to the UA in order to provide orbital training assistance to our Local Unions.

The construction of micro electronics manufacturing facilities relies heavily on the orbital welding process. As the demand for increased chip yield at a higher quality level and lower cost grows in the market, the orbital welding process must “step up” as well. Microchip plant construction is driving demand for the highest quality orbital welds coupled with the need for greater productivity. The Orbitalum (formerly +GF+ Georg Fischer RVT) OM 165CA orbital welding systems incorporates the latest technological advances designed to simplify operation, produce higher weld quality with full traceability and record ability, while delivering dramatically improved productivity.

To help ensure the newest technological advances are integrated into the UA training system, Orbitalum (a unit of E.H. Wachs) is pleased to offer a free, orbital cutting/facing/welding class for UA members. This training will focus on the Orbitalum OM 165CA and related OW enclosed weld heads.

Time allocation is about 30% classroom with a full 70% hands-on in the weld lab. In addition, the participants will also learn and utilize the industry leading Orbitalum GF series tube saws, and the RPG facing tools working with 2” and .75” (the UA 18A standard) OD tubes. All machines, consumables and workpieces are supplied at no cost by Orbitalum.
The UA Training Course will cover the following topics and procedures:

- GF saw tube cutting and RPG facing intro and safe operation
- OM 165CA introduction, setup and safe operation
- New technology orbital welding software navigation
- Simplified position based weld program development and modification
- New technology ID purge pressure control through the OM 165CA
- ZL and Step welding, improved weld quality simplified
- Oxygen monitoring and logging with the ORBmax
- Orbitwin increased productivity, (2) calibrated weld heads operated from (1) OM 165CA
- Testing and certification by Orbitalum

The new Orbitalum training facility is located at E.H. Wachs in the Chicago suburb of Lincolnshire, IL, less than 30 minutes north of O’Hare International Airport. Open class dates are typically held on the first Tuesday of each month (subject to availability). Classes in 2016 include:

- January 5
- February 2
- March 1
- April 5
- May 3
- June 7
- July 6 (Wednesday)
- August 2
- September 6
- October 4
- November 1
- December 6

This is a great opportunity to enhance your orbital welding training skills with the latest offering in orbital welding technology. UA members and their affiliates wishing to attend this complimentary program are required to preregister with Orbitalum/E.H. Wachs. While every effort will be made to accommodate last minute requests, we suggest booking in advance to lock in your spot. Complimentary lunch will be served on both days, but please note that participants will need to make their own travel and hotel arrangements. The registration is simple, just email your name, UA local number, class date you would like to attend, email and phone number to bbonow@ehwachs.com

Should you have any questions or are looking for other info related to Orbitalum products & services, please contact:

Bill Bonow,
Orbitalum Product Manager – Americas
E.H. Wachs
600 Knightsbridge Parkway
Lincolnshire, IL 60069
847.484.2517 office
815.715.3253 cell
bbonow@ehwachs.com

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The U.S. building industry is under increasing pressure to deliver high performance buildings to meet the needs of owners, occupants, and government. Owners and contractors are looking for opportunities to improve certainty in schedule, performance, and cost while managing risks. At the same time, there is an increasing concern from multiple segments of the industry on the availability of a skilled workforce, as well as the productivity of the buildings workforce today and into the future. Efforts are underway on a variety of fronts to address productivity challenges, including the expansion of off-site techniques; development of enhanced tools and processes, such as building information modeling (BIM); enhancing mid- to long-term forecasts of workforce needs; and attracting new, technology-savvy entrants to the workforce through development of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education programs.

In recognition of the impact the productivity and availability of a strong workforce has on all aspects of the building industry, the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) conducted a representative hearing on productivity and the workforce on September 25, 2015. The MCAA and UA participated in the hearing, because it provided an opportunity for representatives from the planning, design, construction, operations, ownership, finance, insurance, regulatory, manufacturing, academia and other segments of the U.S. building industry to speak about the challenges they face and offer potential solutions.
Productivity and the Workforce: Creating a “Think & Do” Mindset

Testimony was offered from a wide assortment of organizations: Autodesk, Construction Institute, International Code Council, and the University of Utah. The most compelling discussion centered on the recruiting of the millennial student and how to prepare them for the challenges of the modern construction site. Millennials are digital natives, while those of us who entered the workforce during the 1980s and ‘90s are digital immigrants. To attract the best talent, a couple of speakers urged training programs to connect the curriculum content to the millennial expectation of less lecture, collaboration with their peers, and more use of multimedia. Also, presented were opinions promoting the idea of virtual reality and augmented reality as supplemental tools to enrich the experience in the classroom. In addition, a demonstration in the use of building information modeling, robotic layout, and laser scanning was shown to the audience.

In October, a written statement was filed with the Pipe Fabrication Institute (PFI) for the hearing record to assist with the fact finding process. A subsequent NIBS report is planned by the end of 2015. The MCAA, UA, and PFI testimony was developed under the auspices of the UA/Employers Labor/Management Cooperative Committee, which was formed in 2014 and is funded under the PFI’s Yellow Label Pipe Fabrication Agreement. A copy of the report is available on the MCAA’s website. (Taken from MCAA web announcement from October 26.)

About NIBS

The following is taken from the NIBS website.

The National Institute of Building Sciences was authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1974 because it recognized the need for an organization that could serve as an interface between government and the private sector. The Institute’s public interest mission is to serve the nation by supporting advances in building science and technology to improve the built environment.

The Institute is a non-profit, non-governmental organization bringing together representatives of government, the professions, industry, and labor and consumer interests to focus on the identification and resolution of problems and potential problems that hamper the construction of safe, affordable structures for housing, commerce and industry throughout the United States.