Message from
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Director of Training

Spring is here, and as we move toward summer, the Instructor Training Program is rapidly approaching. Registration is scheduled for Saturday, August 13, and industry-sponsored vendor displays will be up and running all day. The Instructor Training Program (ITP) operates throughout the week, culminating with our completion ceremony on Thursday, August 18, at Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center.

Once again, the coveted International Apprentice Contest will begin on Saturday, August 13, and will run the entire week, with the winners announced at our completion ceremony. The Instructor Training Program has been responsible for helping mold our instructors and coordinators/directors into who they are as industry-leading educators. The hours of preparation that goes into preparing and orchestrating this program rises every year, and it is no surprise that the department’s efforts have resulted in a program that is world-renowned.

This year I am excited about the new and revised course offerings. We’ve worked hard to rise to the challenge of incorporating new technology and to support the use of advanced equipment in all sectors of our

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.
there is a rising use of electronic and digital resources, such as mobile devices and tablets, CAD, BIM and 3-D imaging, and we have addressed them. Our comprehensive programs are what keep our members competitive and valuable to our contractors and owners. Some of the new or revised class offerings include: Infection Control Risk Assessment (ICRA), Improvement of Technical and Professional Relationship Skills for Supermarket Applications, REVIT, Fire Alarm Panels, Fire Pump ITM and Repair Class, and Emerging Welding Technologies, to name just a few. There is also Administration of a Joint Apprenticeship Training Program that has been designed for new coordinators/directors and JATC members. We have also included our first continuing education course for instructor program graduates, Reviewing the Essential Aspects of Effective Teaching and Learning. Every year the program becomes more in-depth. I know how impressed members are, who have taken advantage of the program, so encourage everyone who can, to do so.

The Ann Arbor Visitors Bureau will once again host the much-anticipated UA Block Party in downtown Ann Arbor on Monday night, August 15, as well as the fifth-annual UA 5K Run and Pub Crawl that benefits the Semper Fi Fund. Also, don’t forget to cheer on those teams that have entered our crowd-drawing toilet bowl races scheduled for the same evening. Entertainment that night with “Tool Shed” by Milwaukee Tools will complete this event. They have played for us before, and everyone is anxious to hear them again. Wednesday, August 17 is Industry Day, which creates a venue for all of us to showcase what we do on a daily basis to our contractors and owner partners.

August is an exciting time for our department. I look forward to seeing many of you there, so that we can continue our legacy of providing the best training in our industry for our UA members.

Instructor Training Program Safety Primer

The current administration of the United Association has worked to create a culture of safety. General President Hite has often stated that “safe practices should be second nature to every UA member, and all UA members should demand such practices of one another.” This important initiative must be remembered as plans are made to attend the UA Instructor Training Program in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

All of the UA instructors who report for training must behave on the Washtenaw campus as they would on the job site. The Instructor Training Program is a creative mix of classroom and hands-on education. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be applied at appropriate times during the training program. While in the classroom, PPE is required only at the direction of the UA Instructor in the class. However, any area requiring hands-on activities, such as weld shops, equipment service exercises, brazing or soldering tasks, etc. will follow OSHA standards. PPE that fits well and is comfortable to wear will encourage every participant to use PPE. Most protective devices are available in multiple sizes and care should be taken to select the proper size for each.

OSHA requires PPE to meet the following ANSI standards:

- Eye and Face Protection: ANSI Z87.1-1989

For hand protection, there is no ANSI standard for gloves, but OSHA recommends “that selection be based upon the tasks to be performed and the performance and construction characteristics of the glove material.” The ITP does not provide gloves for any activity during the Instructor Training Program. The attendees must plan and prepare for a successful experience in August. Everyone enrolled in a course that includes hands-on activities must bring properly selected gloves to complete the required course materials.

The UA commitment to safety during the Instructor Training Program will not be compromised. Compliance in all shop areas will be monitored every day. While walking through the campus all attendees must adhere to safety warnings, marked walkways, and wear appropriate PPE.

The ITP brochure describes the expectations of all UA members during the week of August 13-19, 2016.

More information is available on the OSHA website: https://www.osha.gov.
Earn Your Construction Management Bachelor’s Degree!

New Offered at Rowan University

The United Association is rightfully proud of its commitment to providing a path for members who want to earn degrees from higher education institutions. For many years, members could earn degrees from the National Labor College, but since 2014, with the closing of the college, that path has been more difficult for many members.

Now, a new program is available for members seeking to earn a Bachelor’s degree in Construction Management (CM). Rowan University’s CM program has been endorsed by North America’s Building Trades Unions (NABTU, formerly the BCTD), and UA members seeking this degree should consider enrolling now in this program. Rowan University is accepting students for Fall 2016. The deadline to apply for the fall semester is July 1, 2016.

The B.A. in Construction Management is a partnership between Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering, a nationally ranked college of engineering education that prepares students for local, regional, and global industries through innovative technologies and engineering practices and the Division of Global Learning and Partnerships. Rowan University’s vehicle is to serve the needs of working adults and lifelong learners through innovative academic programs and industry partnerships.

This online program is ideal for journeypersons and seasoned construction professionals, as well as apprentices interested in combining building and construction trade experience with knowledge and requisite skills necessary for career advancement as a professional tradesperson. With an emphasis on honoring students lifelong learning experiences and prior college credits, the B.A. in Construction Management Online program offers students the opportunity to apply specialized union training, apprenticeship program knowledge and prior college course work to complete their degree within as little as two years. All courses are delivered through Rowan Online, a nationally ranked provider of online education to ensure a top quality online learning experience for students.

The program is structured as follows:

- General Education Requirements: 46 Semester Hours
- Electives: 38 Semester Hours
- Core (Major) Courses: 36 Semester Hours

Rowan University is a highly ranked public university, part of the New Jersey State University system. The B.A. in Construction Management will consist of 120 credits. Students accepted into the program will need either an Associate’s Degree or other college credits with at least five years of relevant work experience in the building construction industry, including the completion of a skilled-craft-registered apprenticeship program. The CM program is designed specifically for Building Trades members. Students who are members of NABTU unions will have the opportunity to convert part of their work experience, military service, and prior learning into credits. This program is clearly degree-completion oriented, which works to the benefit of UA members. The program is offered online, making it accessible anywhere in the U.S. and Canada. It is also affordable, at $400 per credit hour for Building Trades members.

You can find more information at www.RowanU.com/Construction, or email at global@rowan.edu, or via phone at 856-256-4747. To apply, you can reach Admissions at 877-787-6926.

50 STRATEGIES FOR JOBSITE SUCCESS

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Here are Breslin Strategies’ Fifty Strategies for Jobsite Success to share with your superintendents, foremen, journeymen and apprentices to keep them reminded throughout 2016. Hand it out, post it, or put it in their paychecks.

Hand Out at Your Meetings and Classes
How is the UA Staying Ahead of Advances in Welding Technology?

Anyone who fabricates pressure piping by welding knows that welds are only as good as the welder who makes them! One of the major issues welders have to deal with is the introduction of new complex welding equipment and processes being developed for use in the piping industry. Companies are constantly seeking out new welding technologies to help them stay competitive. As a result, enhancements in welding technologies are being designed by manufacturers to give skilled welders more efficient tools to support a higher level of quality and improve productivity. The integration of advanced welding processes, like Mig waveform control, friction-stir, keyhole-tig (K-Tig) and the electron/laser beam process into the new generation of welding equipment is helping to further maximize welder training and performance efficiencies. In addition, the demand for new welding technology is also being driven, in large part, by the introduction of new materials for use in piping systems. Years ago no one ever heard of P-91 piping. Today this material is commonplace in the power industry. The welding of these types of new alloys brought about challenges in how they were welded. Welding equipment manufacturers responded to the challenges by providing dedicated welding systems for specific materials, as well as more advanced welding processes. Wave control Mig welding is a good example of how industry addressed the more specialized needs of emerging materials.

As in all new advancements in technology, the individuals tasked in working with the equipment need to be properly trained and educated in their effective use. The United Association (UA) views these advancements as an opportunity to showcase how our industry-leading educational program is able to adapt and react to meet the needs of the piping industry. With this in mind, the UA Training Department is pleased to announce a new “Emerging Welding Technologies” training course to introduce our members to these new technologies. Participants in this course will have the opportunity to learn about these advancements through a combination of lecture, demonstration and hands-on practical exercises. A portion of the course will provide an overview of our existing welder training courses, such as: orbital wire feed welding systems, remote video welding systems, orbi-mig welding systems, tip-tig welding systems, advanced GMAW waveform control systems, orbital tube welding and related courses, such as the Ohio State University Weld Engineering Certificate program.

Under the leadership and direction of General President Hite, the UA continues to lead the way in updating its training courses in order to incorporate the very latest technologies and equipment in training UA members. In offering new advanced training classes, UA members and our signatory contractors will have a significant advantage in the pipe welding industry. With plant owners expectations of a high level of personnel qualifications and increases in production, these improved classes will allow the UA member and contractor to be successful for many years to come.

Prepared for Acceptance Testing?

A functional performance test of a mechanical system is an “Acceptance Test.” This is an adjunct function to start-up, testing, balancing, adjusting, and commissioning of mechanical equipment. In fact, the Acceptance Test is performed after all other requirements of the project are fulfilled. The functional performance test is intended to ensure the building owner receives the energy efficiency of the mechanical devices that were designed into the project. The Acceptance Test Certificate is completed by the UA technician and given to the building inspector. The building inspector issues a Certificate of Occupancy to the building owner.

As you can see, the functional performance test is a very important step in closing out a renovation or new construction venture. Keep in mind that Acceptance Tests can be required for any job that requires a building permit—not just green, sustainable, or “labeled” buildings such as LEED™ Certification.

The good news is that many UA training centers already have the tools and resources to prepare members for the skills required for Acceptance Testing. In addition to basic HVACR, plumbing and electrical courses, there is a four-step process to get UA Technicians ready for Acceptance Testing:

1. HVACR Star Exam
2. UAT 231 – GPRO Fundamentals Plumbing Mechanical
3. UAT 266 – Start, Test, and Balance
4. UAT 336 & 337 – Energy Audit Practices
Who needs to track and benchmark Acceptance Testing? Many UA locals are being called to action. For example, UA locals in California are already responding to Title 24, which legislatively mandates Acceptance Testing on January 1, 2017. Currently, Michigan requires third-party verification where state stimulus was provided to improve energy performance. Colorado is now crafting language for legislation to be voted on soon. New York, through NYSERDA, is very active in promoting and confirming energy savings in the state-owned buildings and universities. Thirteen states in the Midwest will soon follow the examples of these states. Check with your local building inspectors to see if functional performance testing of mechanical systems is on the horizon in your state.

Acceptance Testing offers many man-hours to signatory contractors that recognize the opportunity in this fast-moving market. Start planning now to fulfill the manpower needed by sending local instructors to get properly trained and/or certified. Take local training to the next level—Acceptance Testing!

Infection Control Risk Assessment (ICRA) Practitioner

Infection prevention and control is a serious issue for healthcare facilities, and they have identified renovation projects as an infection risk to the patient that must be monitored. While most hospital representatives understand the implications of larger renovations, facility managers often overlook infection control when planning smaller projects. The risk to patients and employees remains, regardless of the project’s size, and medical centers must enact infection control protocols accordingly. The UA member tasked with breaching a sanitary line, extending a sprinkler system, or cutting into a duct to install and pipe a VAV device is also at risk.

The ITF will launch an ICRA course in August that will include materials developed by CPWR and ASSE. The materials presented will be an all-hazard approach for both patient protection and worker protection. The ICRA Practitioner will learn to work within appropriate barriers, define waste removal procedures, and monitor areas of construction adjacent to where patients are located. The participants will be introduced to critical elements of ASSE 12000 – Health & Safety of Construction and Maintenance Personnel.

In the January 2016 issue of “Backflow Prevention & Plumbing Standards” (BPPS), Scott Hamilton, Executive Director of ASSE International, offered the following information:

To address the critical nature of pathogens and other infectious diseases that play dangerous roles throughout the construction industry, ASSE International has developed the one-of-a-kind, voluntary consensus ASSE/IAPMO/ANSI Series 12000, Professional Qualifications Standard for the Health and Safety of Construction and Maintenance Personnel. This unique standard series sets minimum criteria for the training and certification of craftspeople and maintenance personnel on how to safely work in an environment with potentially deadly diseases. The Series 12000 addresses the need for all construction and maintenance personnel to become proficient in identifying and managing potential situations where there may be exposure to pathogens and infectious diseases.

Making this standard more encompassing and valuable, the Series 12000 also sets minimum criteria for training and certifying construction and maintenance personnel on the proper methods of protecting a facility’s occupants. The standard acknowledges that during construction and maintenance activities, tradespeople are not the only individuals exposed to hazards and addresses the responsibility of personnel to protect occupants and operations from pathogens, diseases, and hazards that may be present; especially within healthcare facilities.

The ASSE Series 12000 is the only industry developed, ANSI-approved standard and certification program.

More information can be found at http://www.asse-plumbing.org.

For UA locals interested in providing this important training for their members, enroll an instructor in UAT 241 at the Instructor Training Program in Ann Arbor, MI.
The following is a NEWS RELEASE that was issued from Xylem, Inc., Morton Grove, IL.

Bell & Gossett Little Red Schoolhouse, UA Union Team Up to Train the Trainers
Pump repair and maintenance now part of nationwide education offering

Xylem’s Bell & Gossett Little Red Schoolhouse and the United Association union of plumbers, fitters, welders, service techs, and roofers have formed a training partnership to equip trade professionals in the HVAC field with the technical expertise to service and repair pumps in an HVAC system.

“Both Bell & Gossett and UA are well respected in the United States and around the world for their comprehensive premier skills training programs,” said Larry Konopacz, manager, training and education, Xylem. “This partnership gives us the opportunity to share our industry-leading training with UA craftsmen who are just as dedicated to delivering the best outcomes for facility owners.”

The Pump Service and Maintenance class debuted during UA’s 2015 Instructor Training Program, which draws 2,000 instructors from UA locals across the U.S., Canada, Australia, and Ireland to Ann Arbor, Michigan, for weeklong instruction in the latest teaching methods and emerging technologies in the trades. Participants then take their newfound knowledge and expertise back to their UA locals to train journeymen and apprentices.

Little Red Schoolhouse instructor Stan Kutin delivered key curriculum to 30 craftsmen from HVAC, plumbing and other fields on pump selection and performance, followed by interactive exercises on actual B&G pumps in repairing mechanical seals and other service techniques. In addition, UA Instructor John Hopkins visited the Little Red Schoolhouse in Morton Grove, Illinois, for instruction prior to the class.

UA will offer the 20-hour course again at its 2016 Instructor Training Program, scheduled for Aug. 13-19. “Sharing our expertise in hydronic heating systems with UA’s members is a natural extension of our LRSH classes and our Online Little Red Schoolhouse curriculum,” Konopacz said. “We are pleased to continue this valuable training with UA in 2016.”

“UA is committed to providing its members with the best teaching tools available, and this partnership with the Bell & Gossett Little Red Schoolhouse helps achieve that goal,” said Chris Haaslinger, UA Director of Training. “Demand for HVAC service technicians is growing and the field is becoming ever more technical in nature, making partnerships with manufacturers like Xylem essential to enhancing our members’ knowledge of the scientific and technical aspects of the trade.”