

LET'S GET AMERICA WORKING

A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL PRESIDENT JAMES P. HOFFA

The Teamsters have had enough of workers becoming an afterthought in Capitol Hill policy decisions. There needs to be a way to bring a bipartisan collection of lawmakers together for the good of regular working men and women who are just trying to support their families. And there is one – infrastructure investment. A better transportation network would help both truckers and the owners of their cargo more efficiently move goods across the country. It would help workers get to their jobs more quickly. And increasing the flow of energy like oil and natural gas would lower prices for consumers and businesses. Plus, construction work would create good-paying jobs. Rebuilding America is the key to the nation's future. Whether it's building new roads or fixing old bridges, the idea is a winner not only for workers but the business community. It's rare when Congress can help two constituencies with one plan. This is it. Now is the time to think big. To ignore the need for such a massive program will result in catastrophe for the



health, safety and welfare of Americans and the U.S. economy. Let's get America working and revive our nation to the shining city on the hill it once was again.

James P. Hoffa



James P. Hoffa, General President | Ken Hall, General Secretary-Treasurer | Marion (Bubba) Davis, Division Director



PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION TRAINING GOING STRONG

Demand Exceeding Supply

The Building Material and Construction Trade Division continues to offer pipeline construction trade training to members across the country. Over the past few months, trainings were held in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Minnesota, covering more than 500 workers. "We have stepped up our approach to training because of the need in the industry," said Marion Bubba Davis, Director of the Division. "Teaming up with our Safety and Health Department and our training coordinators in Illinois and California have enhanced the quality and frequency of the training courses we can offer. But despite the increases in courses, the demand is still outpacing us. For the next few months we will be assessing our training capabilities and begin offering at least as many courses in the fall when we resume

our schedule." Pipeline construction demand has nearly doubled in the U.S. due to the national focus now on developing homeland sources for fuel. The pipelines already under construction cover Nebraska, Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Texas, Missouri, Kansas, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. **West Virginia Training** The landscape at a recent training in West Virginia was cold and wet, but that didn't stop members of Local 697, 627 and 92 from the learning tools of the trade that will help them find good jobs. "I've worked heavy highway before, and this is my first time operating a Marooka (track) truck," said Todd Sisk, a 2-year member of Local 697. "The training is great because

we are all starting at the same level. We had some classroom training first but now this is all-hands-on, which is best." Sisk stood along with his

TRAINING COURSES:

- Marooka/Track Truck
- Boom Truck
- Stringer Truck
- Forklift
- Load Securement
- Certified Safety Administrator (CSA)

For information on training courses, please see: <http://teamsterspipeline.com/>

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SKILL TRAINING OUR TOP PRIORITY

Since the last newsletter, our division has been responding to a variety of member and local union requests, some of which are reported on here. The call for more training has been a persistent request from all over the country. Our staff has partnered with the Teamsters Safety and Health Department in order to keep our usual safety programs funded, but we have also been looking for ways to increase training opportunities.



The National Pipeline Fund, in particular, has been able to fill a need by funding a full complement of skill-training courses. These courses are helping members be the best equipped, and thereby most employable, for the ever-growing number of pipeline construction jobs.

We also held our third annual Pipeline Stewards Training conference where stewards from locals across the country were able to have training about the scope of work, legal provisions, and grievance procedures of the National Pipeline Agreement. More than 150 members participated in the training, which the division plans to repeat it next year.

Our local union officers are also working to win good contracts and improve working conditions for the construction members they represent. In Southern California, Joint Council 42 and local unions made sure their voices were heard during the recent negotiations over a comprehensive PLA for the city of Long Beach. This effort resulted in a success which will benefit our members for years to come.

PIPELINE TRAINING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



brother and sister members on a high ridge in rural West Virginia where they practiced maneuvering two Marooka trucks around a curving, sloping route.

Another Local 697 member, Sam Williams, has prior experience with rigs, pads, dump trucks, low boys and winch trucks, but was still getting valuable information during this course. "This type of training gives you credibility, validation in the field," Williams said.

Boom truck training was undertaken by members of Local 637 and 92 in a parking area about 20 minutes away from the Marooka training site. "I've worked pipeline in the past and I have some stringer truck training," said Eric Robertson, a member of Local 637 for the past six years. "It's definitely a plus to have this training. I also had some military experience in the Army which helped me with being punctual, following rules, etc."



Canadian Pipeline Project Opportunities

There are a growing number of job opportunities for American pipeline members across Canada. Interested candidates must fill out the Teamster Pipeline Member Online Pre-Screening Resume for Canadian Work Permits Applications. Please see this link in order to find out more information:

<http://teamster.org/sites/teamster.org/files/pipelineappformgraphform3.pdf>

★ Teamsters Military Assistance Begins Army Partnership ★

Soldiers Call Program "Outstanding"

Commercial driver's license training for military veterans is now part of the Teamsters Military Assistance Program (TMAP). Recently, Jim Hoffa, Teamsters General President, took part in a ceremony recognizing the first graduates of the program at Ft. Sill, a U.S. Army base in Oklahoma.

"The men and women who defend and protect our country deserve good, full-time jobs when they return home," Hoffa said. "I am proud that our union is working with the Army to help veterans transition to a rewarding civilian career."

Natalie Walker, a graduate of the

program, has served in the Army for nine years and will start work at ABF Freight in Nashville, Tenn., in May. "I've driven trucks in the military, but I've learned a lot from the instructors here. This is an outstanding program and great opportunity for any soldier to have."

As the core of TMAP, in association with the Helmets to Hardhats program, the Teamsters Building Material and Construction Trade Division also offers the following courses to our veteran, reserve and guard communities



at no cost to the candidate:

- 200-hour Teamsters/Military CDL Licensing Program
- Teamster Construction Apprenticeship Program

For information on TMAP, contact: TMAP@teamster.org

LONG BEACH APPROVES PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT

Unionized Workforce Mandated



The city of Long Beach, Calif., has approved a new project labor agreement (PLA) for construction projects. This agreement puts into motion an agreement to hire unionized labor for use on

construction projects costing more than \$500,000 each.

Hundreds of construction workers in Southern California are represented by Teamsters Local 952, 166 and others. "This is a strong agreement which will help our members who are local residents get good jobs," said Bubba Davis, Director of the Teamsters Building Material and Construction Trade Division.

According to the Press-Telegram newspaper, the project is historic in that it is more cover more territory than any other PLA in California. The project requires that the unions selected for project contracts must try and hire 40 percent local residents.

Fortunately, the Long Beach City Council now has a strong advocate for working families. Lena Gonzalez, the daughter of a 30-year Teamster member from Local 166

won her office last fall after having garnered Teamster support. She was instrumental in passing this legislation.

"We've been active, politically, with other building trades unions here and this agreement is a direct result," said Patrick Kelly, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 952. "We supported Lena Gonzalez, one of the city council members, in her run for office last fall and she led the charge on this city-wide PLA. It's a historic agreement as it covers the entire city of Long Beach and not just a specific work site."

Weekly News for Working Families



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