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The 2019-2020 training season was cut short by the Covid-19 pandemic. While it affected us all, it was very detrimental to apprentices trying to get their next pay increase. We have encouraged employers to give apprentices credit for classes scheduled that they were unable to attend. The apprentices are still required to complete the classes that they missed.

Contractors also had classes scheduled at their offices for laborers. We will be working with these contractors to get these classes rescheduled as the restrictions are lifted.

We are following the lead of Governor Dewine, Ohio Department of Health, LiUNA Training, Laborers District Council of Ohio, and the International. As Always, we are directed by our Board of Trustees.

“Expect the best, plan for the worst and prepare to be surprised.” Denis Waitley.

We are preparing for the 2020-2021 training season with this quote in mind. There is no way to know what the next months will bring, but we will do the best we can with the realities at the time.

On a different note, I would like to tell you about some changes that were implemented this season. Week long classes now end at noon, instead of 12:30, except for a few environmental classes.

Also, members have the opportunity to come to the center on the first day of class to see if there is an opening. Get to the center by 7:30AM and register with the secretary. After attendance is taken in the classes, any empty seats can be filled by members waiting. You have to be prepared to stay for the entire class. So if you are planning to stay in the dormitory bring everything with you. If there is not room in the class, you go home having had a good breakfast. You will NOT be paid for mileage or receive the daily stipend.

In that same vein, call and let us know if you are unable to attend a class you have scheduled. Apprentices need to call their coordinator journeyworkers can call the center directly. At this point of the season we are averaging 8 no-shows per week. Not only are you missing the class, but you have cost another member the opportunity to have that seat. Please be considerate and call by at the latest noon on Friday the week before you are scheduled.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call us. The telephone is on auto-answer so you will need to select 2 for John Hughes. I will return your call, if I am not available when you call.

Continue to be Strong... Proud... and United as you stay safe and healthy!

JOHN C. HUGHES, JR
TRAINING DIRECTOR
Students from Knox County Career Center came and toured the facility. Their instructor is Mr. Colby Clippinger. It was great to have them come to learn the opportunities available by becoming a Construction Craft Laborer.
Covid-19

There are a whole lot of questions and not a lot of answers at this point about this pandemic. Any information in this article is about best practices as we know them and not intended to be a definitive guide on how to protect yourself at work amid this pandemic, but ultimately we hope this article will help you protect yourself at work amid this pandemic. Contact your health care professional with any specific questions you might have.

What is Covid-19? It is a virus that is spread from person to person, primarily through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. This is, of course, why it is so important to maintain social distancing and wear facial coverings at all times.

One of the particularly annoying things about this potent little virus is that people carrying the illness may not be exhibiting symptoms and may not even be aware they have it.

As of yet there is no vaccine for this Corona virus and few treatment options.

What are the symptoms? Different people are presenting different symptoms and others are altogether asymptomatic. When symptoms are presented they can be very common to those of influenza (flu): cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, chills, fever, muscle pain, and loss of taste or smell.

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms it is very important that you don’t go to work. Explain to your supervisor that you are sick. You will find your supervisor very understanding under these current circumstances.

If you are experiencing trouble breathing or pain in the chest you should call a healthcare professional immediately and get advice on your next steps. This nasty little virus attacks the respiratory system ruthlessly.

This illness affects both adults and children, though typically children more mildly. The people most harmed by Covid-19 are those that are elderly or immunocompromised or immunosuppressed, in these the effects can be deadly. In its most extreme cases Covid-19 can cause fluid buildup in the lungs, not unlike pneumonia, which can lead to acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), heart failure and death.
How might you come to be exposed to the virus at work? The Governor of Ohio has labeled the Construction Industry as an essential business, fortunately this means we can, in many cases, continue to work and support our families. What this does not mean is that we return to work “business as usual”.

For one thing, you should be seeing people on the jobsite wearing face coverings. The restrictions on returning to work require that all employees wear face coverings at all times and maintain social distancing—remember this virus is spread through respiratory droplets!

Your employer will probably be implementing new work policies that help maintain social distancing and prevent the spread of this virus: face coverings, distancing, staggered entry into a building, no more sharing the cab of a work truck, more space between workers in the breakroom. Your employer has probably assigned someone to go about sanitizing commonly touched items (door handles, hand rails, work carts), perhaps hourly. Avoid touching your mouth, eyes, nose, and face, throughout the day and particularly after touching one of these commonly touched surfaces.

You should see hand wash stations and or sanitizer at work, signs posted to remind workers of social distancing. Work should be performed in smaller groups—interior work in particular. You should also see work teams remain very consistent throughout the workday and even through the life of the project—in the event someone becomes sick the workers who have had contact with the infected person will be limited and traceable. Shared tools should be cleaned meticulously. Your company may require your temperature be taken before you are allowed to work.

You have a responsibility here, too: to follow the safety and health guidelines provided by your employer, the CDC and department of health. Use the hand-wash stations, maintain distance, wear your face-covering, and clean the face-covering regularly. Keep hand sanitizer nearby: in your car, your lunchbox, in your home and use it after coming in contact with suspect items. It is recommended that this sanitizer should be 70% alcohol or greater. With all the extra washing of your hands you may be drying out your skin and perhaps you should keep a moisturizer along with these hand sanitizers.

Your health resources also include Laborer’s Health and Safety Fund of North America. LHSFNA has information on face-coverings, why we are using social distancing and precautions for high risk groups amongst other topics.

Arm yourself with knowledge and stay safe!

Another useful resource you have access to during this time is: LiveHealth Online
How long have you been in the union?
I started in 1993, so 26 years.

Did you come up through the apprenticeship program?

How long were you in the union before you started taking classes at the training center?
Four months. It was an Asbestos Abatement Worker class. I was asked to take that class by my Business Agent, our hall needed more Laborers certified in that type of work. And I worked in that field for a short time afterward.

How did you learn/ hear about the training center?
My Business Agent,

Did taking classes at the training center help you in your specific job?
Absolutely! I learned a lot about dangers of my job that I was not aware of before. Over the years, the training I received has helped me avoid many pitfalls I might not have otherwise.

What does it mean to you to be an instructor at the training center?
It’s a wonderful opportunity to make difference in someone’s life, to share experience and training.

What would you tell an apprentice about taking classes at the training center?
This is an opportunity for you to excel in your life. Take advantage of it and you can go anywhere and do anything in this field.

What would you tell a journeyman about taking classes at the training center?
I would ask them to open their minds to new things and share their ideas with the class. The experience they can share improves the class for everyone.

Now that you have obtained the ANSI certification as an instructor, what’s next for you?
I will try to continue to improve and grow into the position.

Do you still take training classes?
As often as I can! There are a lot of instructors out there with things to share and the more I absorb the better my classes will be for my participants.
How long have you been in the union?
This is the start of my 33rd year. I Started work with Union a contractor on April 18th 1988. Went to Local 265 and signed up after.

Did you come up through the apprenticeship program?
No. But I do believe it would have benefited my career.

How long were you in the union before you started taking classes at the training center?
I started taking classes in 1997, so 9 years.

How did you learn/ hear about the training center?
I took my first class (STP) through Ohio Laborers Training Center in early 1996 at Local 265. It was required to get on the I-71 project. The instructor, Bob Chatterson, encouraged us all to take more classes at the Training Center. He sparked my curiosity slightly, but I was not sold on it yet.

Did taking classes at the training center help you in your specific job?
Well once I got on that job in 1996, I started to put what Bob said and the need to make yourself valuable together. That’s when I decided to take classes. I took over 50 classes in total. Afterward, I had a better understanding of my work, how to do it efficiently and most importantly how to do it safely. There were many positives, more hours, more work, more money, safety and to the contractor doing work efficiently and safely makes you an asset.

What does it mean to you to be an instructor at the training center?
It is an honor and a privilege. It is very satisfying to give back to the school, Union and the Laborers of Ohio. To see some members go from not believing they can do a task, to a point of confidence is great.

What would you tell an apprentice about taking classes at the training center?
Take all you have to, and then take as many as you can afterward. What you reap is for a lifetime. Even if you think you’ll never do that as a Laborer.

What would you tell a journeyman about taking classes at the training center?
The classes are very important, so take all you can. I have had 20+ year journeyman come into class and realize that they were doing that task in an unsafe manner all that time. We all need to make it home.

And then there are the upgrading classes these will assist in your advancement as a Laborer. All this goes back to taking care of your family, good career/benefits and a comfortable retirement.

Now that you have obtained the ANSI certification as an instructor, what’s next for you?
To use the tools I have learned through that process, to keep improving with every class, hopefully, you never want to become stagnant. Also, anything I can do to help the members and the new instructors.

Do you still take training classes?
Yes. We normally take 5 or 6 weeks of training per year. I have gained knowledge/skills from every class, I keep on learning.
2020 will see a lot of renovations to your Ohio Laborers’ Training Center. Most prominently, will be new cement board siding and paint on the exterior of the building. The breakroom between Labs A and B will be getting a new acoustical drop ceiling and lighting. It should facilitate better communication and overall ambience to the previously raucous and much maligned room.

All the wood siding is to be removed and replaced with cement board with a white trim to match previous updates (as seen to the right on the exterior of the newly renovated cafeteria.)

In this photo you may also note that the promise for a new breakroom table was fulfilled, largely due to the efforts and talents of Chad Lewis and Kyle Hughes

Both A and B Labs will be freshened up with new paint and improved safety with a new sprinkler system.

B Lab--please notice the newly constructed B Lab classroom. Instructors worked hard through the 2019 summer to complete this new classroom, most notably among them Scott Huck and Chad Lewis.

C Lab will see some renovations as well as exhaust hoods and ventilation will be added for four more burning bays, allowing our effective class size for our B-2 burning classes to be larger. A sprinkler system and some extra fire extinguishers will be installed here as well for better safety. A much needed heating system and better
FACILITY CHANGES

With the growth of the Ohio Laborer’s membership and its school, growth was required in our storage and maintenance work spaces as well. It is expected that this new building will serve those needs quite nicely. Primarily two storage containers with A-frames stretched between them the construction of this structure was headed up by our Chad Lewis and Scott Huck, anchoring this team with a solid foundation was Kyle Hughes. It is hoped this new building will serve us well for many years.

NEW EQUIPMENT

As we continue to upgrade and expand our Work Zone Technician and Work Zone Supervisor classes, we made sure to purchase a Wanco full size message board. Students will learn to program, position and perform routine maintenance on the board. Two training AEDs were bought to be incorporated into the First Aid/CPR class.

The Training Center has purchased new equipment recently to include a new plasma cutter for the B-2 Burning class. These acquisitions will allow us to provide hands on training with the equipment without being dependent on rental facilities.

We purchased a Multiquip-Whiteman 16 CF track buggy for use primarily in the concrete classes. It will allow us to more efficiently move concrete from the truck to the pour location. For our skid-steer class we have purchased an S650 Bobcat.
We are excited to announce the three newest instructors (listed above) to the Ohio Laborers’ Training Center

**STAFF CHANGES**

Monya has been a member of LIUNA since 1988 and is out of Local 1216 up in Mansfield. She joined the Instructor Staff in September of 2019. Her experience in the field includes Traffic Control, Demolition, and Refractory work in Steel Mills. She will be teaching the "B" and "C" classes as well as some of the Environmental classes.

Brandon is out of Local 1015 up in Canton and started working at the Training Center in September of 2019. He has been a LIUNA member since 2008. He has experience in Demolition, Asbestos Abatement, Lead Abatement, Hazardous Waste Removal, Gas Pipeline Worker, Flagging, and has been a Foreman in Building Trades. He is a second generation Laborer. He will be teaching the "B" and "C" classes as well as the Environmental classes.

Mike is a second generation LiUNA member from Local 423, Columbus. Mike has been a member in good standing for 20 years. He has experience in building trades, utility installation and repair and dirt work. The last project he did was as a grade foreman on the I70-I71 split in Columbus. He has an understanding of shop drawings and blueprints including highway, pipe and building. Mike has been a part of projects that have used various lasers and GPS controls. Mike looks forward to being a part of training future Construction Craft Laborers.

Macy joined the kitchen staff in September of 2019. She will be assisting with cooking, baking, and prepping, along with all the other various tasks performed in the Kitchen. She graduated in 2016 from East Knox High.

Mark is the Night Manager of the training center from Sunday evening through Friday morning. Tim Ellwood will be working in the Maintenance Department.