



Training News

Building your future

A quarterly newsletter from the Northern California Laborers' Training Center Issue No. 49 • Spring 2004

Pipe training facility undergoes major upgrade

By Russell W. Snyder, Executive Director

Making a bold commitment in support of quality instruction, the Board of Trustees of the Laborers' Training and Retraining Trust Fund approved a major upgrade of the pipe yard at the San Ramon campus.

The improvements, designed by instructors with input from contractors, will result in the most realistic instruction in the construction industry.

INSIDE:

- Spring course schedule (Horario de clases)
- Apprenticeship program grows in popularity
- New cards debut at Training Center
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To keep costs down, contractors, including Central Precast, contributed to the project, donating surplus concrete manholes. Trainees in apprenticeship and concrete classes are also pitching in, helping to create the foundations and forms that will be part of the new pipe yard. The nearly one-acre site is located in a fenced area behind the "B" instructional building.

The prime beneficiaries will be apprentices and trainees who take the Center's "Pipe Laying Techniques" class, which covers aspects of pipe laying, grade checking, trench safety, shoring, compaction and proper use of tools.



Trainees receive hands-on instruction on grade checking techniques in the refurbished pipe training area.

The Training Center's welding classes also will benefit by providing trainees an opportunity to practice pipe welding techniques in a trench similar to what they would encounter on a jobsite.

New additions to the pipe yard will be multiple types of pipe, new shoring, metal trench boxes and plates.

In addition, the Training Center is also partnering with a signatory contractor, Royal Electric, to train Laborers on cutting-edge trenchless technologies. Instructors Jerome Williams and Frank Hardman have participated in the pilot program, which has taken place in Royal Electric's yard in Sacramento. The trenchless technology uses sophisticated equipment to refurbish underground pipes with minimal trenching. ■

TERENCE J. O'SULLIVAN LABORERS' TRAINING CENTER
Schedule of Courses (Horario de Clases)
April 5 - July 2, 2004

COURSES	DATES	LENGTH	PREREQUISITE
APPRENTICESHIP Apprenticeship Follow-up Apprenticeship Initial Apprenticeship Initial, C1 Apprenticeship Initial, C2 Apprenticeship Initial Apprenticeship Initial	April 5 - April 16 April 12 - April 23 April 26 - May 7 April 26 - May 7 May 10 - May 21 June 14 - June 25	2 Weeks 2 Weeks 2 Weeks 2 Weeks 2 Weeks 2 Weeks	Completed Initial Class Registered Apprentices Registered Apprentices Registered Apprentices Registered Apprentices Registered Apprentices
CONSTRUCTION Plaster Tender/Hod Carrier Fundamentals of Construction Pipe Laying Techniques Concrete Techniques Asphalt Paving Techniques	April 26 - May 14 May 24 - June 4 May 24 - June 4 June 14 - June 25 June 14 - June 25	3 Weeks 2 Weeks 2 Weeks 2 Weeks 2 Weeks	N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A
WELDING Basic Arc Welding Advanced Arc Welding MIG & TIG Welding	April 5 - May 14 April 5 - May 14 May 24 - June 4	6 Weeks 6 Weeks 2 Weeks	1000 hours worked 2000 hours worked** 1000 hours worked
SPECIAL OSHA 500 OSHA 500 Traffic Control Traffic Control (Spanish/Español) Traffic Control (English/Spanish) Aerial Work Platform Aerial Work Platform Aerial Work Platform (English/Spanish) Aerial Work Platform Flagger Certification Flagger Certification (Spanish/Español)	April 5-April 6 & May 11-May 12 June 29 - June 30 April 7, May 13, May 19, June 16 April 9 & May 21 July 1 April 6 - April 7 April 8 April 14-April 15 & May 26-May 27 June 22 - June 23 April 9, May 14, 17, 21, June 11, 14 & 18 April 7, May 19 & June 3	2 Days Each 2 Days 1 Day Each 1 Day Each 1 Day 2 Days 1 Day 2 Days Each 2 Days 1 Day Each 1 Day Each	N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A Experience Required N/A N/A N/A N/A
** Also requires a Basic Welding Certificate from the Laborers' Training Center			



Directions to the Training Center:

Take the **ALCOSTA BOULEVARD WEST** exit off Highway 680 (see map at left). After you cross the intersection at San Ramon Valley Boulevard, the road changes to Westside Drive. Stay in the straight-ahead lane and look on your left for the large sign and gate leading to the Training Center. Proceed up the hill to the Administration building (on the left).

Our address is 1001 Westside Drive, San Ramon, California 94583-4098. Our telephone is (925) 828-2513; FAX is (925) 828-6142; E-mail: training@norcalaborers.org.

TERENCE J. O'SULLIVAN LABORERS' TRAINING CENTER
Schedule of Courses (Horario de Clases)
April 5 - July 2, 2004

COURSES	DATES	LENGTH	PREREQUISITE
SPECIAL			
Flagger Certification (English/Spanish)	June 2	1 Day Each	N/A
First Aid/CPR	April 5, May 18, June 11, 15 & 21	1 Day Each	N/A
Forklift Certification	April 8 - April 9	2 Days	Experience Required
Forklift Certification (English/Spanish)	April 12 - April 13	2 Days	Experience Required
Forklift Orientation	April 26 - April 30	1 Week	Beginner
Forklift Certification (English/Spanish)	May 24 - May 25	2 Days	Experience Required
Forklift Orientation	May 24 - May 28	1 Week	Beginner
Forklift Certification	June 24 - June 25	2 Days	Experience Required
Confined Space	April 6, 16, May 28 & June 2	1 Day Each	N/A
Rigging & Signaling	April 19 - April 23	1 Week	N/A
Rigging & Signaling	June 28 - July 2	1 Week	N/A
Scaffold User	May 10 & June 11	1 Day	N/A
Scaffold User (English/Spanish)	June 28	1 Day	N/A
Mine Safety (MSHA) & First Aid/CPR	May 17 - May 21	1 Week	N/A
Mine Safety (MSHA) & First Aid/CPR	June 28 - July 2	1 Week	N/A
Blueprint Reading	May 17 - May 18	2 Days	N/A
Blueprint Reading	June 28 - June 29	2 Days	N/A
Skid-Steer Loader (Bobcat) Orientation	May 19 - May 21	3 Days	Intermediate
Skid-Steer Loader (Bobcat) Orientation	June 30 - July 2	3 Days	Intermediate
Oxy Torch Cutting	May 20, June 11, & June 17	1 Day Each	N/A
Grade Checking	June 1 - June 4	4 Days	N/A
ENVIRONMENTAL			
Asbestos Re-Certification (Spanish/Español)	April 20, May 25, & June 22	1 Day Each	Valid Certificate
Asbestos Re-Certification (English)	April 22, May 27, & June 24	1 Day Each	Valid Certificate
Asbestos Removal (Spanish/Español)	April 26 - April 29	4 Days	N/A
Asbestos Removal (English)	May 3 - May 6	4 Days	N/A
Asbestos Removal (Spanish/Español)	June 1 - June 4	4 Days	N/A
Asbestos Removal (Spanish/Español)	June 14 - June 17	4 Days	N/A
Lead Removal (English)	April 5 - April 9	1 Week	N/A
Lead Removal (Spanish/Español)	April 12 - April 16	1 Week	N/A
Lead Removal (English)	May 10 - May 14	1 Week	N/A
Lead Removal (Spanish/Español)	May 17 - May 21	1 Week	N/A
Lead Removal (Spanish/Español)	June 7 - June 11	1 Week	N/A
Lead Removal (Spanish/Español)	June 28 - July 2	1 Week	Valid Certificate
Lead Re-Certification (Spanish/Español)	April 19, 23, May 24, & 28	1 Day Each	Valid Certificate
Lead Re-Certification (Spanish/Español)	June 21 & June 25	1 Day Each	Valid Certificate
Lead Re-Certification (English)	April 21, May 26, & June 23	1 Day Each	Valid Certificate
Hazardous Waste Re-Certification	April 5, 8, May 17, 20, June 1, 4 & 11	1 Day Each	Valid Certificate
Hazardous Waste Removal	April 19 - April 23	1 Week	200 hours worked
Hazardous Waste Removal	May 10 - May 14	1 Week	200 hours worked
Hazardous Waste Removal	June 28 - June 2	1 Week	200 hours worked

Apprenticeship Program grows in popularity

By Jeff Armstrong, Director of Apprenticeship

As word of the Laborers' Apprenticeship Program spreads, the apprenticeship office is being flooded with phone calls about how it works. Employers want to know how they can participate in it and prospective candidates want to know how they can join. Since there is so much interest in the program, I want to take this opportunity to share some information about how it operates.

For starters, there is now more than one way to join. In addition to the traditional way of becoming an apprentice laborer by attending an orientation/oral interview and learning about our trade at our training center in San Ramon, employers now have the ability to sponsor an apprentice. This method, while still in its infancy, has proven to be popular with our signatory contractors. In fact, it has accounted for one-third of apprentices coming into the program since we introduced it late last year. Contractors sponsor apprentices by bringing an individual they would like to hire to our attention. If the candidate is approved, he or she is enrolled in the program and employed by the sponsoring contractor upon graduation of the next available initial apprentice class which lasts two weeks. Employers, however, must agree to keep the apprentice for a minimum of 600 hours but may, at their discretion, keep him or her even longer. Since all graduates of the initial class have their flagging, traffic control and OSHA safety



Apprentices practice raking techniques.

cards, not to mention a basic understanding of Laborers' work, employers are beginning to see them as a sound investment who hold a great deal of promise.

Upon completion of the initial two-week class, all apprentices are registered with the State and ready to begin their on-the-job training portion of the program. Apprentices in good standing are advanced every 500 hours until they accumulate 3,000 hours. At this point they graduate from the program and become journeymen. Because the apprenticeship program places such a high value on knowledge and safety, before reaching the mid point of their apprenticeship (1500 hours) apprentices return to San Ramon for additional training. Here, they will gain experience in work such as rigging and signaling, grade checking, trench safety and pipe laying. They also receive their certifications for scaffold use, confined space and first aid/CPR.

The objective of the Apprenticeship Program is straightforward and simple. We strive to provide employers with the most qualified and competent apprentices who understand the importance of safety. By graduation, apprentices are multi-skilled craftsmen with the ability to offer their employer years of quality work — just what every journeyman should be.

If you would like more information about the apprenticeship program or if you know someone whom you would like to recommend to the program, we want to hear from you. Please feel free to contact us at (925) 556-0858. ■



Instructor Frank Hardman teaches apprentices how to properly care for and operate a pavement roller.

Secure new cards debut at Training Center

Technology is no stranger to the Laborers' Training Center. All instructors have laptop computers and frequently incorporate the latest digital media in developing lesson plans and instructional materials. All classrooms are networked for computers and internet access.

During the hands-on portion of training, trainees benefit from the latest technological advances and have the opportunity to learn how to safely work with lasers, electronic air monitors and other state-of-the-art tools of the trade.

But the latest bit of intelligent technology will be carried in the wallets of Laborers who are trained at the Center — digital photo ID cards that will contain the member's training history.

"Training is essential to success in our industry, and this new technology will help us keep track of the skills and certifications of our members," said José Moreno, Business Manager of the Northern California District



Office Manager Chave Groh (seated) and IT Support staffer Fernando Campos prepare to take a digital photo of apprentice Kara Walls from Construction & General Laborers' Local 185.



Sample training card.

Council of Laborers and Chairman of the Training and Retraining Trust Fund.

Last year the Laborers' Training Center trained nearly 5,000 LIUNA members in a variety of skills, from asphalt paving and concrete work to asbestos and lead removal. Upon successful completion of each class, a trainee is presented with a laminated card that describes the course completed.

The new cards will more closely resemble a Driver's License with the trainee's name and digital photograph. Trainees also will be issued transcript cards, which will list every class taken and, when required, renewal dates.

The cards are linked to a training database that will enable the Training Center to provide real-time information to Local Union officials about the skills their members possess, as well as verification for signatory contractors. ■

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Training News

Training News is published quarterly by the Laborers' Training and Retraining Trust Fund for Northern California. It is intended to provide information concerning training for members of the Laborers' International Union of Northern California and signatory contractors. Please submit your comments and/or suggestions by mail to Laborers' Training Center, 1001 Westside Drive, San Ramon, California 94583, or by telephone at (925) 828-2513, or by e-mail to training@norcalaborers.org.

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Frequently asked questions

- ◆ **How do I sign up for a class?**
Contact your Local Union. They will contact the Training Center and register you for a class.
- ◆ **How much do I get paid for training?**
The training stipend is \$2 per hour, plus a \$5 per day travel allowance if you are not staying on campus.
- ◆ **How often do I get paid when I attend training?**
Training stipend checks are issued every week and are mailed a week after the period covered.
- ◆ **Is there drug testing at the Center?**
Yes, for classes one week or longer in duration and for all Apprenticeship candidates. The drug-testing policies and procedures are outlined in detail at orientation.
- ◆ **How much does the training cost?**
There is no cost involved in training. All active members in good standing of the Laborers' International Union of North America in Northern California are eligible to attend classes at the Training Center free of charge. ■