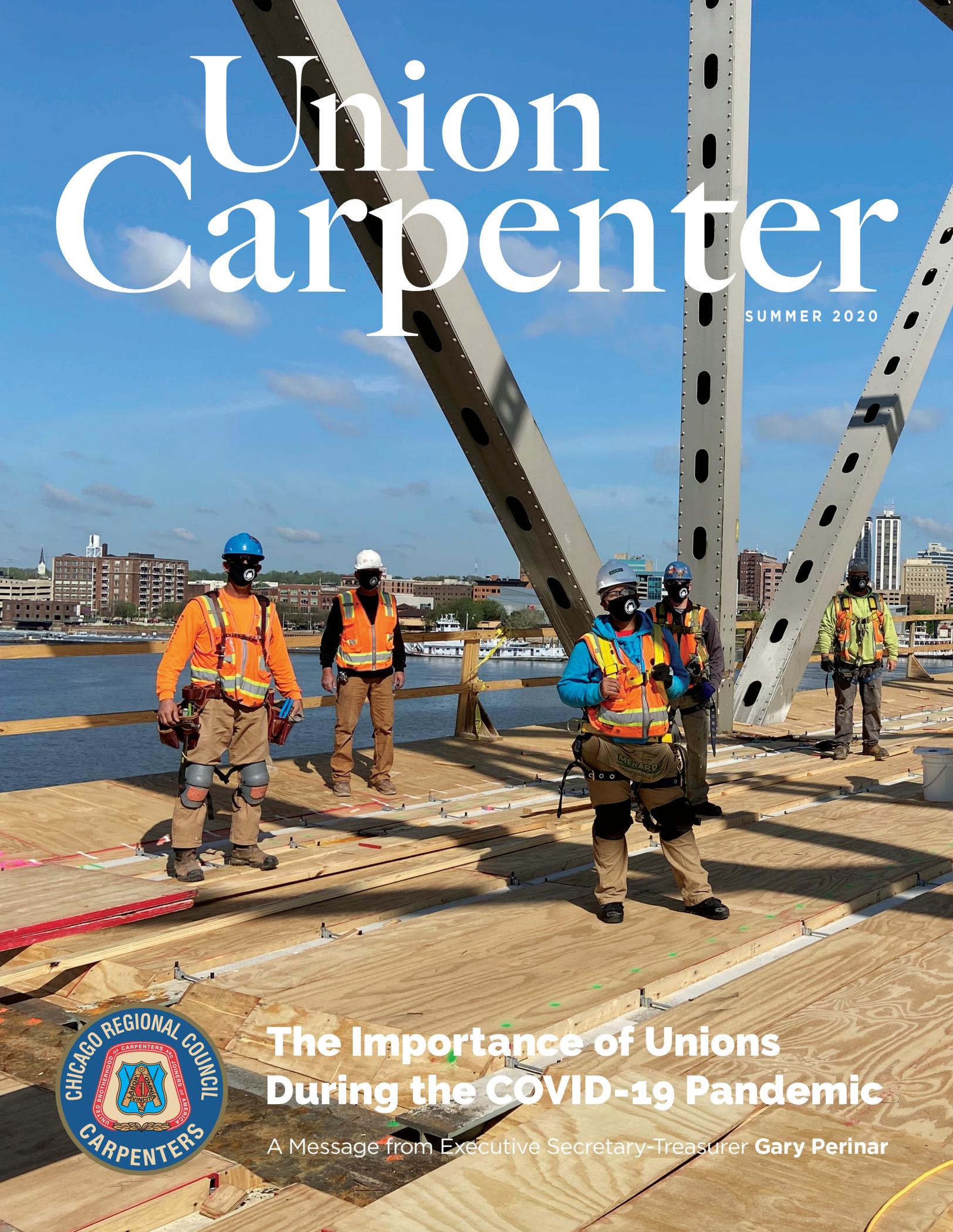


Union Carpenter

SUMMER 2020



The Importance of Unions During the COVID-19 Pandemic

A Message from Executive Secretary-Treasurer Gary Perinar

Gary Perinar

The Importance of Unions is More Obvious Than Ever During the COVID-19 Pandemic

In the space of just over a few months, the coronavirus outbreak has become an all-encompassing global crisis, whose economic ramifications, though still developing, are certain to be catastrophic.

As spring turns to summer and then fall, and we're able to take fuller stock of the devastation, we'll know which industries came out stronger, which need to reinvent themselves, and which unfortunately will never come back. With the benefit of hindsight, one thing that will be made abundantly clear is the need for organized labor in times of crisis.

In late March, when Gov. J.B. Pritzker issued stay-at-home restrictions for Illinois residents and required most operations to close, he exempted essential businesses and encouraged them to remain open. Construction workers, many of whom were building hospitals, long-term care facilities and other vital infrastructure, were asked to stay on the job.

The hardworking men and women of the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters answered the call. This was not a decision members took lightly. They knew of the health risks involved with projects such

as converting McCormick Place into a 3,000-bed alternate care facility. But, as our members said, "Sometimes you have to look past yourself."



But it's not just a sense of duty compelling the thousands of union carpenters doing their part to help contain the spread. They go to work knowing their union has their back every step of the way. Among the

many lessons we will learn from the COVID-19 pandemic is its demonstration of the importance of union membership for essential workers.

Of all the injustices exposed by the pandemic, the risks faced by non-union workers have become the most apparent. Non-union workers are being asked to risk their safety with little or no protections of their own. This is why we're seeing a groundswell of strikes and walk-offs from delivery drivers and other workers on the front lines.

The construction industry is no different. Many non-union construction workers do not have health insurance – about

54 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Because they often are paid under the table, non-union workers also can struggle to access unemployment benefits. Their unemployment insurance, Social Security and other benefits are not withheld from their paychecks.

Compare the experience of non-union construction workers with what building trades unions across the country are providing for their members. The Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters has a dedicated safety department and staff working round the clock answering questions and visiting

job sites to make sure they are compliant with CDC health and safety guidelines. We've also extended health insurance eligibility for members who lost coverage due to a reduction of hours worked and are providing

100 percent coverage for testing, office visits, ER and urgent care visits relating to COVID-19, among other benefit adjustments.

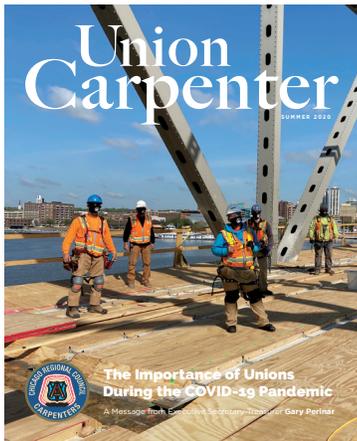
Our number one priority will always be fighting tooth and nail for our members.

They go to work knowing their union has their back every step of the way.

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UNION CARPENTER

C O N T E N T S



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Peoria, IL

Union Carpenter

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EDITORS NOTE:

You may have noticed a new title for our magazine. The Carpenters Forum had been our title going back several decades. Though we appreciated that name and our magazine's rich history, we thought it was time for a change. Union Carpenter conveys both the bonds we share as a Brotherhood as well as our differentiators as trades specialists who produce the highest quality of work to improve our communities. The heroism displayed by our brothers and sisters during this unprecedented global pandemic has been a source of tremendous pride to this council's leadership and served as the impetus to try something new with our magazine. In forthcoming issues we will have new features and sections for your reading pleasure that we hope you will enjoy. Thank you for your continued support as we embark on the next chapter.

To watch EST Perinar's recent TV commercial, scan QR Code.



Jeffrey Isaacson

Serving Our Members in Times of Crisis

The COVID-19 crisis struck every business around the globe. While other articles in this newsletter address the impact on construction jobsites and our signatory employers, this article explores how your Regional Council and local union have continued to operate the business of representing, defending and advancing the interest of our members. The operations have adjusted to our new reality, but the effectiveness of our operation continues.

The Regional Council headquarters in Chicago has always remained open during our normal business hours. The Council leadership maintains safety protocols, but the Council officers and staff remain engaged in their normal work in these abnormal times representing our members and working to address the jobsite issues that arise because of the health crisis. We are monitoring the daily and even hourly developments on CDC guidelines, testing procedures, unemployment guidelines and federal COVID-19 legislation. As new rules arise, we are working to educate our members and signatory employers. We remain in constant contact with our political and community leaders. We coordinate with our

fellow labor leaders to provide a consistent and coherent message that protects the health and rights of our members.

Our local unions are also at the forefront of representing our members. Business Representatives ensure compliance with the contracts and with health protocols. While the office hours may be adjusted, local unions remain active behind the scenes. However, for the safety of

all concerned, members are encouraged to pay dues through the mail or over the telephone. If you need to speak with a Business Representative, please call rather than simply stopping by the local union office.

As you know, the local union meetings for March and April were cancelled. Many local unions did not hold meetings in May in order to protect members, but the business continued through the diligence of the local union executive boards, who continued to meet either in person at safe distances or through electronic means. Rest assured, members will be briefed on the actions of the executive boards when our general membership meetings resume. Local unions set to conduct nominations and elections for

officers implemented procedures that balanced the need for union democracy with the need to keep our members safe. Just like we always do, we will get the balance correct and get the job done. One local union even conducted their UBC General Convention Delegate Election in a parking lot using the Organizing Department's trailers. This was an example of how the Regional Council and local unions are using creative approaches to serve our members.

The Regional Council understands the importance of making sure our team is armed with the latest information and proceeds in a uniform fashion. This efficiency is helped by monthly meetings of Regional Council officers, business representatives, organizers and our legal team. While we were not able to meet in person since the COVID-19 crisis took hold, we have used the advancements of technology to allow for these meetings - and the education and advancement of our officers and agents - to continue.

In a similar fashion, the work of the Delegate body has continued through the health crisis. The April and June meetings took place as scheduled, but were done in a virtual setting rather than in the Regional Council headquarters.

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Carpenters Secure Unprecedented Payout for IL Workers

Union behind \$1.1 million win for Illinois taxpayers

The Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters in February announced a major victory in the fight against wage theft in the building trades.

Thanks to the Council's efforts, the Illinois Department of Labor required the developer of a senior living center in Northbrook and its subcontractors to pay more than \$1.1 million back to workers for failing to meet state-certified prevailing wage and benefit rates.

The case involved the Lodge of Northbrook, a 164-unit development funded by bonds issued through the Illinois Finance Authority. Named in the case were the Lodge of Northbrook's developer Essex Corp.; general contractor McShane Construction Corp.; carpentry contractor Horizon Carpentry, Inc.; and drywall contractor Russ's Drywall, Inc. The Department of Labor (DOL) ordered the contractors to provide back pay to their employees after the Regional Council filed charges alleging violations of the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act.

Under DOL's terms, Horizon was forced to pay its workers an

additional \$692,000, Russ's was forced to pay an additional \$249,000 and Essex has to pay a penalty of \$188,000.



"Wage theft and the loss of tax revenue affects everyone," said CRCC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Gary Perinar.

"It takes advantage of workers, many of whom are unaware of their right to receive fair wages and benefits for themselves and their families. It puts signatory union contractors at a disadvantage for competitively bid projects. And it cheats communities out of tax dollars to increase future growth, new projects and public services. Thanks to our research team for discovering this injustice and to the Department of Labor for enforcing the law."

The Prevailing Wage Act requires contractors and subcontractors to pay laborers, workers and

mechanics employed on Public Works construction projects no less than the general prevailing rate of wages (consisting of hourly cash wages plus fringe benefits) for work of a similar character in the county where the work is performed.

The CRCC filed charges against McShane Construction Company and its subcontractors in early 2018 but they were never investigated under former Gov. Bruce Rauner despite the fact that the Illinois Finance Authority issued bonds to fund the project.

This is the largest back pay award we've facilitated in our Council's history. We have a new department dedicated to combatting wage theft.

"We appreciate Gov. J.B. Pritzker's Department of Labor for addressing wage theft with the seriousness

it deserves," Perinar said. "This is the largest back pay award we've facilitated in our Council's history. We have a new department dedicated to combatting wage theft and are putting unscrupulous contractors on notice that cheating workers and taxpayers will not be tolerated."

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We've been doing that since 1881 and will never let up.

It's important to remember that union efforts don't just benefit the members we represent. Unions raise wages for everyone, especially the middle-class. A recent study

done by researchers from the Illinois Economic Policy Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and University of California, Irvine found that labor unions boost worker incomes by lifting hourly wages by an average of 11 percent.

The Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters is proud of our

record of service, protecting our members' health and welfare, and raising the standard of living for the middle class. We look forward to new members joining the union movement and having a collective voice.

While we're strong alone, we're unstoppable together.

Members Receive Three Months' Dues Credit

The Regional Council's Union Carpenters & Contractors Labor & Management Committee passed a resolution in March to pay ALL active journeyman and apprentice members monthly union dues for three months as a show of appreciation for the essential work they're doing during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Members who already paid their dues in advance received a credit for three months of union dues. EST Gary Perinar, who is also the Labor and Management Committee's Chairman, said the dues credit was a significant but important expenditure for union solidarity.

"Our members will always be our number one priority and we want to put forth every effort to make sure no members risk suspension and loss of benefits because of the hardship caused by this pandemic," Perinar said. "This resolution also ensures that our signatory contractors will have the best and highest-skilled workforce available once work is back to full capacity."

Carpenters Help Build Care Facility at McCormick Place

Members of the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in April to convert exhibition halls at McCormick Place in Chicago into medical wings as part of the ongoing efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. The union carpenters helped build 500 makeshift hospital rooms in the convention center's Hall C in just over 2 days.

In total, McCormick Place was converted into a 3,000-bed hospital by end of April, making it the largest healthcare facility in Illinois. The

Army Corps of Engineers was in charge of the project and Walsh Construction served as general contractor. Carpenters worked on the project building the infrastructure.

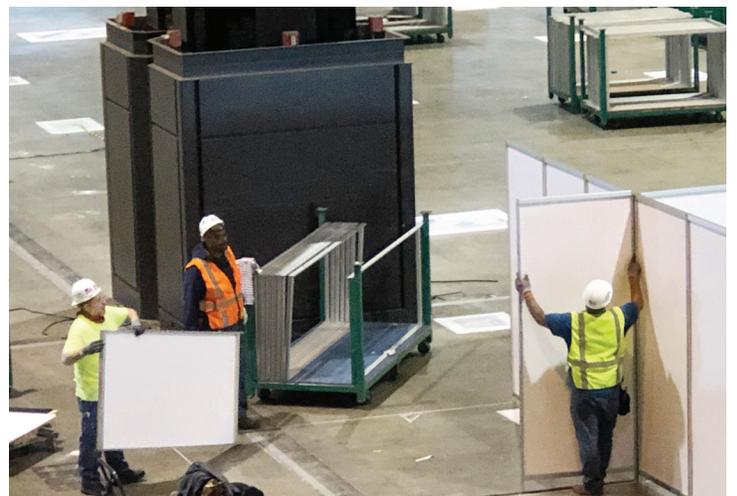
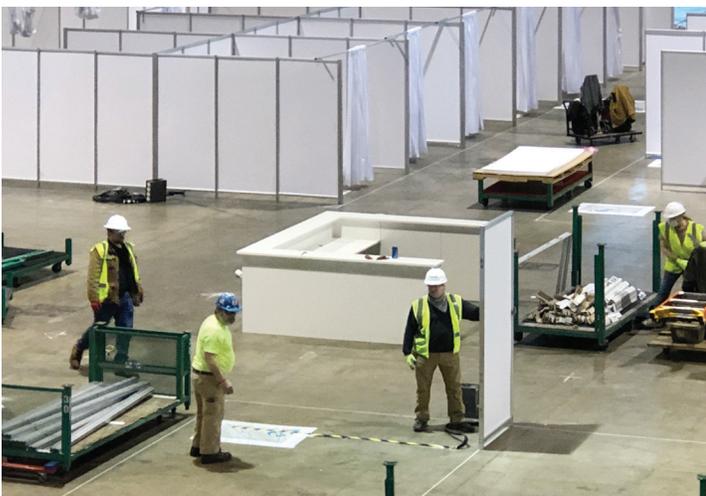


"These are incredibly difficult times for everyone right now as the COVID-19 global pandemic takes its toll on public health

and the economy," said Executive-Secretary Treasurer Gary Perinar. "In order to contain the spread as much as we can and help save lives, we all need to band together and do our part.

Thank you to the Army Corps of Engineers and our partners at Walsh Construction for leading this innovative project. I'm proud of our carpenters for their selfless actions to perform this work in the face of so much uncertainty. They are taking every precaution to protect their health and safety."

The overhaul was paid for in part through federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The makeshift hospital rooms, which are 10-feet by 10-feet, were built to help accommodate what health officials said would be a peak in coronavirus diagnoses in Chicago around mid-April.



Carpenters Work Through COVID-19 Crisis

In April, the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters and the Union Carpenters & Contractors Labor & Management Committee purchased thousands of face coverings for Business Representatives to distribute to members at job sites across the region to help protect their safety and make sure they are compliant

with Governor Pritzker's Executive Order. We asked members to send photos of themselves wearing masks on the job, and we've been posting them on social media. The response has been great and covers local unions across our jurisdiction.



External Organizing

Joel Pogose
Organizing Director

I hope this article finds you and your family well. In this turbulent time, I hope

you are connecting with them by driving by to say hello, dropping off a little something, face-timing or any other external form of

connection. Let them know you are thinking about them and that you are well. It is important to stay interconnected with our loved ones and our community. As you recall, in the last article I discussed "Internal Organizing," which is how we organize within our union. In this article I will discuss ways we can organize externally (outside our union) during normal times as well as creative ways to do this type of organizing during let's say... not normal times. If there ever was a time for creative thinking, it is now. Albert Einstein was right when he said, "A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new."

A creative way to spread information about our organization without being out in the community is by sharing our digital Union Carpenter magazine with family, politicians, and community leaders. Our community is a powerful place for us to organize. When it is safe, get out in the community, participate



in local events or volunteer wearing a simple t-shirt or hat that can get a conversation started.

Once someone inquires about the union, there is a chance for you to talk about all different initiatives the Brotherhood works on. Maybe a young person is looking to get into the apprentice program, or someone is looking for a new career. Either way, it is a chance for you to start spreading positive ideas and the values about our union.

Working with our politicians is not for everyone, I understand that, although it is another form of external organizing. Attending a townhall meeting, a rally, or a meeting in person where politicians are present allows us to tell them who we are and what we stand for. The carpenters union has a story to tell and they need to listen because we vote for them or against them. An easy way to contact them without being out in the public is through email or phone. Better yet as of late I have been learning all about the virtual meetings conducted on the internet. Why not try to set up a virtual meeting with a politician or attend one of their virtual city

council meetings? Working with our politicians is vitally important to the future of the brotherhood.

The ultimate point regarding external organizing is connecting groups together. Many of us belong to other organizations whether it be animal groups, working with people with disabilities or youth groups. This is a great way to spread the word about the carpenters union to other groups with causes. You never know, maybe a partnership can form on common goals and values. Many of these meetings are probably being done virtually right now because of the pandemic. Take advantage of the time we have to communicate with these important groups. Organizing externally is so important to help people and other groups/causes understand what we are about.



The best thing about these external organizing actions are, like internal organizing actions, they are free of charge and do not cost a dime except your time and effort. Your time and effort go a long

way in keeping the brotherhood strong and unstoppable while also taking care of our most prized possessions: our family. In these trying times please try to communicate with all your loved ones and your community.

Stay connected, stay safe and stay healthy.

Elected Officials Laud Carpenters' Professionalism

*Kevin O'Gorman
Political Director*

I would like to begin on behalf of our UBC General President Doug McCarron, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Gary Perinar, the entire Regional Council and myself in expressing the deepest concern and care for the well-being of our members, their families, neighbors and friends.

As an organization bonded in Brotherhood we not only embrace, but truly embody the tenets and precepts of fellowship. These past months have presented everyone with the most challenging difficulties and disruptions of our lifetime. Although unpredictable and unforeseen, the response from our organization was immediate and decisive. The number one priority from the onset was the health and safety of the membership and their families. Relying on the consensus protocols of the CDC, the federal Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the combined Departments of Health for the State of Illinois, the City of Chicago, and local counties, the Regional Council instituted and initiated those recommended guidelines and safeguards for the members. The objective of the Brotherhood of Carpenters is, along with the welfare of the members, assisting the communities in which we



reside in and serve. This was exemplified with the construction, erection and installation of the alternative field hospital at McCormick Place. Governor Pritzker contacted EST Perinar requesting the assistance of the Carpenters Regional Council members in tasking the endeavor in concert with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In what had been projected as a two-week buildout by the federal government, the carpenters and respective unions of the Chicago Building Trades Council had it available and operational in three days by working in a coordinated fashion. The commanding General of the Army Corps of Engineers remarked how impressed his engineers were and respected and applauded the skill, professionalism and compassion that was demonstrated by the trade crafts unions. Governor Pritzker, Mayor Lightfoot, and Senators Durbin and Duckworth supported this project and mandated that it was performed in accordance and adherence to the Project Labor Agreement.

Governor Pritzker's Stay-at-Home Executive Order exempted emergency, medical, and public service employees and essential businesses and workers from the outset. The governor's order

further included the construction industry and the union trades that guarantee the quality, expertise and professionalism of the women and men within organized labor. Since the quarantine order has been in effect, the governor has remained in consistent communication with organized labor in an effort to bring a resolution and conclusion to the stay-at-home order that not only benefits the citizens but assures their health and safety in the best possible way.

In addition to the McCormick Place installation, there was a response of equal ardor to restore Westlake Hospital in Melrose Park, Advocate Sherman Hospital in Elgin and Metro South Medical Center in Blue Island to compliment the anticipated need for additional patient care space and reduce the demands on area hospitals. Again, it not only demonstrated the importance of our presence as essential, it confirmed the dedication of our members and level of skill required to perform our craft in perilous conditions. Community involvement and the compelling will to contribute to the whole is the trademark character of our members. This sense of unity and participation personifies our union. It is with great pride that in this period of uncertainty the membership has received such high accolades from House Speaker Michael Madigan and Senate President Don Harmon. It is reassuring to know that your contributions and efforts are recognized and acknowledged.

Carpenters Welfare Fund Extends Temporary Relief

*Kristina Guastaferrri
Administrator,
Chicago Health, Welfare &
Pension Funds*

The Board of Trustees of the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Welfare Fund was quick to act to extend benefits to carpenters and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic. Here is a summary of the additional measures taken to support you in your time of need.



Your Future — Our Focus

- **Extension of Eligibility Coverage**

Eligibility for active carpenters eligible for benefits under the Active Plan for the Coverage Quarter of March 1, 2020 through May 31, 2020 will automatically be extended for the June 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020 Coverage Quarter. This extension does not include Participants currently continuing coverage under COBRA, the Low Cost Medical Plan, the Self-pay option or Retired Participants still eligible for benefits under the Active Plan.

- **Temporary Reduction in Hours Requirement**

Effective with the June 1, 2020 Coverage Quarter, the 4 Calendar Quarter look back hours requirement is reduced from 1,000 hours to **750 hours**. For apprentices, the four Calendar

Quarter look back hours requirement is reduced from 760 hours to **500 hours**. This will remain in effect through the Coverage Quarter ending November 30, 2020. This provision excludes Retired Participants still eligible for benefits under the Active Plan.

- **Temporary Reduction in Cobra and Low Cost Premiums**

There is a temporary 25 percent reduction in the premiums due for COBRA and the Low

Cost Medical Plan for the coverage months of April, May, June, July and August, 2020. If you were under the COBRA or Low Cost Medical Plan prior to the premium reduction, you should have received a separate notice detailing the temporary premium reductions. Overpayments will be applied to future months or, in some cases, direct refunds may be issued.

- **Short Term Disability Benefits Expanded to Include Covid-19 Diagnosis**

Effective March 1, 2020, for an Employee who is eligible for benefits, the definition of Non-Occupational Illness under the Short Term Disability benefit has been temporarily expanded to include coverage for imposed quarantine or self-quarantine of an eligible Employee who is unable to work because his attending physician has certified that

such quarantine is (1) medically necessary or appropriate because the eligible Employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19; (2) had exposure or suspected exposure to COVID-19; and/or (3) a member of the eligible Employee's household has been diagnosed with COVID-19 according to the accepted guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and/or the respective state Department of Health. The Plan is further amended to waive the seven calendar day waiting period for benefits to start for qualifying COVID-19 Disabilities. This benefit change does not apply to Employees currently continuing coverage under COBRA, the Low Cost Medical Plan or the self-pay option.

Members are strongly encouraged to seek emergency sick pay relief (10 days) for COVID-19 related events through their employers before applying for short-term disability benefits. Emergency sick pay through your employer is at a higher rate of pay than the short term disability benefits.

- **Temporary Additional Coverage under the Active and Retiree Plans of Benefits**

Effective March 1, 2020, the Plan provides the following additional temporary coverage as follows:

- **COVID-19 Claims:** 100 percent coverage for PPO and Non-PPO COVID-19 testing, office visits, ER and urgent care visits relating to the treatment of COVID-19.

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YOUR BENEFITS

continued from previous page

To the extent permitted by law, all Non-PPO COVID-19 claims are subject to the Reasonable & Customary Allowance. Deductibles and coinsurance do not apply.

- **Telehealth & Virtual Visits:** 100 percent coverage for all PPO and Non-PPO medical and behavioral health virtual office visits and telehealth visits. Non-PPO charges

are subject to the Reasonable & Customary Allowance as allowed by applicable law. Deductibles and coinsurance do not apply.

- **In-Network Hospital Claims:** 100 percent coverage for **in-network** hospital charges for individuals hospitalized and receiving in-patient care for COVID-19. Deductible and coinsurance do not apply. This temporary benefit change does not apply to separate medical charges

you may receive relating to in-patient treatment, for example, for physician fees, readings of x-rays & CT scans, etc. This does not apply to Non-PPO hospital claims.

This information contained herein is provided at a summary level and is not intended to be a legal binding document. Contact the Fund Office at 312-787-9455 Monday – Friday 8:00am-4:30pm for additional information.

Victory for Labor - Ruling Prohibits IRAPs in the Construction Sector

Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Executive Secretary-Treasurer Gary Perinar announced that the Construction Industry has been carved out of the new Industry Recognized Apprenticeship Program (IRAP) ruling. Organized labor's position has always been that our registered Apprenticeship & Training Programs funded by our signatory contractors are highly effective and do an outstanding job meeting industry standards and demand.

The Regional Council gives a sincere thanks all our local unions and those pro-labor politicians that helped protect the future of our trade and the standard of education that our apprentices receive. However, we may not be done fighting on this front if a lawsuit is filed by the

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) against the Department of Labor over the construction carve-out. But for now, the rule prohibits SREs from recognizing IRAPs in the construction sector, which has the greatest existing utilization of registered apprenticeship programs.

§ 29.30 Scope of Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs Recognition by Standards Recognition Entities (SREs). (a) *The Administrator will not recognize as SREs entities that intend to recognize as IRAPs programs that seek to train apprentices to perform*

construction activities, consisting of: the erecting of buildings and other structures (including additions); heavy construction other than buildings; and alterations, reconstruction, installation, and maintenance and repairs. (b) *SREs that obtain recognition from the Administrator are prohibited from recognizing as IRAPs programs that*

seek to train apprentices to perform construction activities, consisting of: the erecting of buildings and other structures (including additions); heavy construction other than buildings; and alterations, reconstruction, installation, and maintenance and repairs.



The Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Apprentice and Training Center

1256 Estes Ave. Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

(847) 640-7373

For more information: www.chicap.org



Essential Work Continues in the Quad Cities and Other Western Regions

Bruce Werning
Western Region Director

The new world we live in today has brought changes in the way we go about our personal lives and how we go about working on jobsites with our fellow brothers and sisters. Taking precautionary steps in everything we do is now Rule #1! Fortunately, there has been minimal work stoppages occurring in the Western Region.

- The most notable stoppage was on the new \$1.2 billion Interstate 74 bridge over the Mississippi River in the Quad Cities. A member of one of the other trades tested positive and the site was closed for two weeks. This coincided with the annual spring flooding so not much work was taking place at the time anyway.
- I'm pleased to report the arch for the westbound traffic from Illinois into Iowa has now been connected and will lead toward the raising of the five road deck sections, which will lead to additional carpenters being hired to install formwork for the roadway. While the westbound artery continues toward completion by the end of this year, arch work

will begin on the eastbound direction. This work will be very complicated since it will be located between the new westbound roadway and the existing two spans.



- The precast shell of the new \$100 million Ferrara Candy distribution center located behind the DeKalb Oasis on Interstate 88 is in place and we are working to secure the machinery and conveying setting for our millwrights.
- Negotiations are underway for a new \$1 billion data storage warehouse to be built on property adjoining the candy factory. We are researching other warehouses to be built at that location and in the Quad Cities.

- Meanwhile, solar fields are being marked out and popping up like dandelions. Please notify your local if you see solar activity. We are monitoring the progress through state and local authorities for approval of the largest solar field to be built in Illinois. Duke Energy Renewable Solar wants to build a \$450 million 500-megawatt, 4000-acre site in Dixon, Illinois, with a targeted completion in 2023.
- Retirement/Senior Living projects have been proposed in each of our markets, whether it is the remodeling of an existing building or a brand-new complex. There are countless work opportunities in these projects.

This year has gotten off to a slow start but has the potential to finish strong. Stay safe and be vigilant of your surroundings.



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The technology allowed the delegates to hear the reports and participate in the meeting electronically.

When the shutdown orders first started, local unions were in the process of completing the election of delegates to the UBC General

Convention. Originally scheduled to take place in August in Las Vegas, the General Convention will now be held virtually. The local unions in our Regional Council will be represented at the upcoming convention.

The COVID-19 crisis has upended and drastically changed the world in which we live. One thing that

remained constant is the ability of your Regional Council and local union to continue to enforce the contract, represent your interests and advocate for the union. Despite the challenges that await us as we return to a new normal, your union will remain fighting for you and open for business.

Work Going Strong in Southern Illinois

Nathan German
Southern Region Director

Considering the strange new environment that has encompassed everyone, carpenter man-hours in Central Illinois have held up very well. Most jobs continued to work through the initial transition to COVID-19 safety standards. A few others stopped, reassessed the situation and restarted within a brief period.

Governor Pritzker's declaration of construction as an essential business has allowed us to look forward to a successful construction season!

- In Champaign, Carpenters Local 243 is virtually out of carpenters. They are looking for interior system carpenters. Likewise, Millwright Local 1693 has experienced nearly full employment throughout the spring in its Southern Region area. Industrial and powerhouse work is ongoing



and should provide good work opportunities for our Millwright members.

- Carpenters Local 237 encompassing the Galesburg, Peoria, and Bloomington areas has maintained a steady reduction in their out of work list. Strong heavy and highway work has employed many members and created a demand for experienced concrete form carpenters.

Also the need for piledrivers with welding certification has driven an increase in journeyman upgrade classes for welding. Once again this area is currently looking at a solid construction season.

- Springfield Carpenters Local 270 is also seeing their out of work list shrink. Heavy and highway work again is looking strong across the entire area. In addition, school work is beginning with the early closures.

- A new four-year contract has been negotiated for the Southern Region. This will provide stability for upcoming years as the delayed construction work comes to fruition.
- Congratulations are in order for Randy Johnson, who retired in April after 26 years as carpenter and 4 years as a Business Representative for Local 243. Business Representative Houston Kirby will be stepping up to fill his shoes.

Be careful and be safe.



Ted Kenney / George Vest, Jr. Scholarship Application

Deadline July 1, 2020

Provides financial support to college-bound children of members of local unions affiliated with the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters. For an application form for the Ted Kenney - George Vest, Jr. Scholarship Award contact your local union or go to: www.carpentersunion.org and click on Members Tools.

#StaySafe

John Horak, CHST, STSC
Safety Director
Assistant to EST

Wow! There is so much to talk about in safety these days. What everyone has experienced over the last few months has been

something that we will never forget in our lifetime. I can empathize with the people who experienced the 1918 pandemic and the changes to our society.

In 1918 the pandemic claimed 50 million lives or 2.5 percent of the world's population at that time. Those numbers applied today would mean approximately 195,000,000 people would be taken by the current virus based upon today's population. Think about that for a minute. Imagine how bad the flu could have been in 1918 if we had open travel as we do now. Much of the spread at that time was due to soldiers returning from battle and bringing the flu with them.



In early March this year we were talking about safety and the upcoming plans for the Annual OSHA Safety Stand Down for Fall Protection in the first week of May. Two weeks later we were discussing ways to protect our members and keep the projects open. The big discussion was over how to apply the CDC guidelines to our jobsites including 6' physical distancing, more frequent cleaning and sanitizing, checking

temperatures before starting work, hand wash stations and hand sanitizer to name a few. As most of us who have been on a typical site have experienced, this was NOT a standard practice in construction prior to the virus. In a few short weeks our entire process of construction mutated.

On March 21, 2020 Governor Pritzker issued a stay at home order for residents and some businesses throughout the state.

Construction workers were granted an exemption from the order and considered "essential" workers, but construction companies must follow the state, local, and CDC guidelines for protecting the workforce in order to remain open. The very beginning weeks of the order had our members asking why we would be considered essential and put our members at risk. The workforce was very much on edge and had concerns over how to stay safe while working. We had those same concerns and worked feverishly to ensure, to the best of our ability, that if a member was to work, the project must follow all the requirements for providing a safe site and not just business as usual. Our council and safety department responded to many calls with concerns day, night, and weekends. The key was to stay on top of the latest guidelines as they evolved, at some points almost daily it felt like.

In response, I stand amazed at the collaboration between our owners, general contractors, contractors, and members in working together to create a safe place to work.

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When Can I Return to Work?

Q: If I am sick and NOT going to get a test how soon can I return to work?

A: Current CDC guidelines indicate no fever for 3 days without help from medication, symptoms have improved, and at least 7 days since first symptoms.

For more information, contact
CRCC Safety Department at 312-787-3076

Not Feeling Well?

Q: If I am not feeling well what should I do?

A: Stay home, inform your employer, and contact a medical professional.

For more information, contact
CRCC Safety Department at 312-787-3076

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Prior to the virus safety was a struggle on occasion but everyone's focus on safety was truly a gamechanger in keeping us safe and working. Without this effort, we could have ended up in a much worse situation with projects shut down, members and their families sick, and a dire outlook for the future. It has shown that in Chicago we can accomplish a task, even one as monumental as combating this virus when we work together, labor and management. I am proud of all our heroes for battling



day after day and especially in the face of danger showing up for work. I cannot express enough your heroism shown in this war. For those that could not work due to lack of work or a shutdown we have learned more each week and have implemented processes to ensure the work will come back safely and hope to have employment for everyone sooner rather than later.

March 4, the guidance was masks were not required for everyone. Some companies looked ahead and saw that it was a better practice to offer the workers a

mask if they wanted to wear one. As of May 1, most projects now require everyone on the site to wear a mask. We have come a long way from the beginning, but we must not let our guard down for a minute. Complacency can infect us just like the virus. By continuing to work together, everyone, we can win this battle also. As the numbers continue to decline, we must stay vigilant. The lessons learned in safety during the pandemic can have a positive effect for the future. Are we willing to stay the course or fall back into our old ways? Each of us are faced with the choice.

#StaySafe

Sound Advice and Parting Words

*Bob St. Clair,
Assistant Safety Director*

Members can use the Carpenters International Training Fund's Learning Management System to take an online course to be trained in ICRA (Infection Control Risk Assessment) Awareness and/or COVID-19 Preparedness Qualification. These courses are especially important right now because members who are trained provide much needed expertise in this crisis to ensure that proper protocol is followed and proper containment measures are being taken. It's possible that contractors could require these qualifications sometime down the road so take advantage while you have the opportunity. See the back page of this magazine for more information.

Moving on...

In my lifetime I have come to a point where it is time to pass the

baton and pursue other avenues in life. So, I will be retiring in a few months.

Here's some advice I would give younger members:

- 1.) Do the best you can and present yourself well;
- 2.) Get involved with your local;
- 3.) Take every class you can (especially the free ones);
- 4.) Treat people like you want to be treated; and
- 5.) Never forget where you came from.

You have endless opportunities with the carpenters union. So seize the moment!

I would like to thank to EST, Gary Perinar and the past ESTs and Executive Boards for seeing the value of the Safety Department.

I would like to thank Dan Bark

who encouraged me to become an instructor and to pursue a position with the Carpenters Health and Safety of North America.



Bob St. Clair

Thanks to OSHA in both Iowa and Illinois for the countless OSHA Partnerships and consultation visits we did together.

Thanks to the Executive Board of Millwright Local 2158 for all their support.

Special thanks to all the contractors and members who practiced safe work methods.

The most valued lesson I learned is to always build relationships. If you find yourself or your partner in a precarious or unsafe situation ask yourself, "What would Safety Bob Say?"

Stay healthy, safe, and strong.

Financial Assistance for Workers Impacted by COVID-19

*Karen Rioux,
McGann, Ketterman & Rioux*

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (“FFRCA”) and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (“CARES”) are important new laws recently enacted to provide critical economic assistance to workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This provides an overview of the economic assistance that may be available to you and your family if you are unable to work due to COVID-19 related issues.



The FFRCA provides two forms of paid leave to workers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic: the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act.

Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act

The Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act covers both public employers and private employers with fewer than 500 employees. The Act requires employers to provide 80 hours of paid sick leave to employees who are unable to work due to one or more of the following reasons: (1) the employee is subject to federal, state or local quarantine; (2) the employee has been advised by a health care professional to self-quarantine; (3) the employee is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis; (4) the employee is caring for an individual who is

subject to an order a quarantine or isolation order; (5) the employee is caring for a son or daughter whose school or place of care has been closed due to COVID-19 precautions, or (6) the employee is experiencing any other substantially similar condition specified by the secretary of health and human services in consultation with the secretary of the treasury and the secretary of labor.

Under the Act, paid sick leave is available to each employee regardless of how long they have been employed by the company. It is important to note that an employer may not require employees to first use other forms of available paid leave, such as vacation time, before implementing emergency sick pay under this Act.

The amount of sick pay an employee receives under the Act depends upon the reason for the requested leave. For sick leave related to categories 1-3 above, the employee must be paid their regular wage, not to exceed \$511/day or \$5,110 in aggregate. For sick leave related to categories 4-6 above, the employee must receive two-thirds of their regular rate of pay.

Emergency Family Medical Leave Expansion Act

The Emergency Family Medical Leave Expansion Act applies to

companies with fewer than 500 employees and covers employees who have been employed by a company for at least 30 calendar days in circumstances where the employee must leave employment to care for a minor child whose school or place of care has been closed due to the virus.

The first 10 days of leave under this Act are unpaid, however, the employee may use paid vacation or other paid time off, if available, or sick leave under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act to cover the first 10 unpaid days. After the 10-day period, the employee should be paid two-thirds of their regular rate of pay, not to exceed \$200/day or \$10,000 in aggregate.

Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act

The CARES Act provides federal funding to the Illinois Department of Employment Security (“IDES”) and requires states to provide expanded unemployment benefits to individuals who become unemployed for COVID-19 related reasons, including individuals who would not normally be covered by unemployment insurance.

Under the CARES Act, eligibility for unemployment has been expanded to include individuals who: (a) have already exhausted their state’s unemployment benefits and are out of work; have been quarantined or because their place of work is closed due to a closure order (it does not include those who can telework);

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Getting Ready to Become a Stay-at-Home Parent

*Victor Ancich
CPA, Partner
Legacy Professionals, LLP*

Many parents may have, at some point, considered the pros and cons of having one parent take a career break to care for their children full-time. The thought of switching from a family where both parents bring home salaries to a single-income family can be intimidating to many parents.



The reality is that the move to one income will impact a family the household budget in numerous ways.

If you or your spouse or partner are weighing whether you can manage the transition to a one-income family for any length of time, you may want to first consider several important issues.

Review Your Family Budget

Go over your family budget carefully and separate essential spending items and nonessential or discretionary items. Essential items include: Housing (can include homeowner's/renters insurance, property tax, and utilities); Food; Health care; Child care; Transportation; Debt repayment (include student loans, credit card debt, and other consumer debt). Draw up a budget to see if it might be possible to live on only one salary while still meeting your essential expense obligations. During this trial run, you may be able to identify areas in which

you can reduce your spending. For instance, you may be able to cut back on your food expenses or renegotiate some loans at a lower rate of interest. You may be able to reduce your heating and cooling expenses by adjusting your thermostat. And remember to deduct the cost of child care since it won't be a day-to-day expense if one parent stays at home.

Take a Look at Housing Costs

If you currently carry a mortgage, see if you can refinance at a lower interest rate and free up some cash. Even then, it may be a stretch to cover a mortgage and other essentials on one salary. If you are renting and hope to buy a home, consider applying for a mortgage based on one income. Doing so will give you a more realistic view of what type of home you can afford.

Evaluate Your Health Care Coverage

Health care coverage is essential. If you currently obtain your health care coverage through your spouse and that spouse intends to continue working, you need to assess whether you can continue paying the same amount. Living on one salary may require you to switch to a less-expensive plan. It's important to compare your current plan with other plans to see what you might have to pay in total for premiums, copays, and out-of-pocket expenses.

Don't Ignore Your Retirement Security

Giving up one salary can place a strain on most budgets and

may tempt some couples to stop saving for retirement. That can be a mistake. You do not want to do anything that could threaten your future retirement security. If money will be tight while living on one salary, consider scaling back but not eliminating your retirement plan contributions. You can always consider using some or all of a tax refund or a bonus to add to your retirement savings.

Maintain Life Insurance

Another budget item that may seem ripe for cutting when cash flow is tight is life insurance premiums for the spouse who remains at home. However, the death of a stay-at-home parent could place financial pressure on the surviving parent and potentially impact his or her ability to continue working full-time.

You want to be sure that were the unthinkable to happen, your family would be financially protected. Maintaining life insurance coverage for both the stay-at-home parent and the working parent should be an essential budget item when trying to decide if you can live on one salary.

Consult With a Financial Professional

Before making a life-altering decision like exiting the work world to care for your children full-time, it might be helpful to consult with a financial professional. Together, you can run some numbers and examine various scenarios to determine whether what you and your spouse or partner plan to do is feasible from a financial standpoint.

Our Training Instructors' Paths to Fulfilling Careers

Vince Sticca,
Training and Apprentice Director

Jeremiah Hall, Instructor

Being raised in a union household and always having a passion for building things,



I've always known that I wanted to become a union carpenter.

Jeremiah Hall

After serving in the United States Marine

Corps, in 2001 I was given the opportunity to attend the Carpenters Apprenticeship Training Program in Elk Grove Village. This was the beginning of the most incredible career that I could have ever imagined.

I spent the first nine years of my career building scaffolding and was given the opportunity to advance and became a General-Foreman. I absolutely enjoyed the work I did and the camaraderie with my co-workers.

Early on in my career I began to understand the importance of safety in the workplace, so I began taking safety classes on nights and weekends. I was able to apply the knowledge on the job and it didn't go unnoticed.

In 2009 I was recognized for my proficiency in safety and given the opportunity to become a safety technician.

I continued to take additional safety classes to further my education and eventually worked my way up to becoming a Safety

Director for a large general contracting company. I went on to earn my CHST (Construction Health and Safety Technician) certification, and later was blessed to have the opportunity to become a full-time instructor in August of 2019.

At this time my teaching is focused on safety, ICRA, scaffolding, labor management, layout, and solar.

There are so many resources here at the training center and I am very fortunate to be surrounded by these instructors. They all have a great wealth of knowledge and enjoy sharing it.

It is truly a privilege to have this opportunity to share my experience and knowledge to assist in the success of my fellow union carpenters.

Looking back on the past 20 years, I have had a great career. I am so grateful and proud to be a member of the UBC and look forward to my future here at the Carpenters Training Center.

John Husnick, Instructor

I began to realize my passion for carpentry during high school. I was very fortunate to attend a school that offered a building trades program. In class, we worked on building a house in our community that culminated in the house being sold. I was able to take that class junior and senior year, discovering that I not only enjoyed it, but did quite well. My teacher at the time knew a little about the Carpenters Union and gave me information about the apprenticeship program. Upon

graduation, I entered the 9-week pre-apprentice in August 1996 and completed it on time.

Union pride ran deep in the house I grew up in - both my parents were Teamsters so entering the union seemed only logical to me.



John Husnick

During this same time I spent my days working and attending classes four days a week at Harper College to maintain full-time student status. I'm proud to say that I did complete my Associate's Degree in Small Business Management.

I became a Foreman shortly after completing my four-year apprenticeship and had the privilege of leading my fellow carpenters in the construction of single family homes, apartments, townhomes, and senior living facilities.

I was lucky to be trained by some great journeymen during my apprenticeship. I look back with great admiration at the men who helped me to become the carpenter that I am today.

In 2002, I married an amazing woman, who happens to be a union teacher. Together we have two beautiful daughters who unwillingly become my apprentices when I'm working around our house.

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CARPENTER TRAINING CENTER

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I have always enjoyed being active in my local union. I started by attending the meetings and soon began volunteering in various capacities.

Eventually, I became an officer and worked very hard to ensure that our members were cared for to the best of my ability. I have also used my skills to volunteer at our church's Father Daughter/Father Son camp that my children and I attended for several years. I helped to build buildings that will benefit many other dads and their children for years to come.

Three years ago I applied, interviewed and was given the opportunity to become an instructor at the Carpenters Training Center. Not only was this a full circle moment for me, but I feel truly blessed to have the chance to train the next generation of carpenters. I love watching the students accomplish tasks and realize their potential. As I mentioned previously, I am beyond grateful to have learned from some amazing instructors when I was a part of this program. I strive to be the very best instructor that I can be as I teach my students. My hope is to make as good of an impression on them as my instructors made on me!

Jim Martinek, Instructor

I am a cabinetmaker in Local 1027. I received my bachelor's degree in Product Design from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in 1992. After graduating, I was unsure of the career direction that I was planning until I learned of the Carpenters Training Center's Mill-Cabinet program. My thought

was that I would learn cabinetmaking skills and eventually produce my own furniture designs.

I completed the 10-week pre-apprenticeship program in April 1995 after which I was hired by Bernhard Woodwork Ltd. This is where I developed my passion for the trade. Over the next 21 years, I developed skills in material handling, veneering, product assembly, machining and shipping. I was lucky enough to learn the trade from many skilled craftsmen. I truly enjoy the processes of cabinetmaking and woodworking.

In January 2016, I started my employment as the Mill-Cabinet Instructor at the Carpenters Training Center. For the past four years, I have been teaching in the same shop and classroom where I began my career in the trade. I train apprentice cabinetmakers during the day and I teach journeyman and apprentice carpenters in Carpenter Skill Advancement Program classes during the evening and on weekends. I truly enjoy teaching the fundamentals of the trade as well as introducing new technology and techniques to the students. We develop skills that are the building blocks for the industry.

Brad Rollins, Instructor

I started my career soon after graduating high school in 1996. I was raised in Chicago. My father was a carpenter with Local 58, so I'm from a family with a strong union presence. It was all I had ever known. We had every major



Jim Martinek

trade in the family. While I may have toyed around with the idea in the beginning, deep down I knew I'd become a carpenter. Now



Brad Rollins

looking back, I couldn't be more proud. I was privileged to have worked for Denk and Roche Builders my entire career. I had the opportunity to work on many different job sites over the years, from the hospital my daughter was born in to high-rise buildings that changed the Chicago skyline, and from lavish mansions to the subdivision I live in. The experience I had on so many varying scopes of work was immeasurable. I loved the challenges, the camaraderie, and especially walking away from a finished project that would stand for generations to come.

After nearly 20 years in the field, I had the privilege of being asked to work at the Carpenters Training Center, as an instructor. It was a humbling experience, and I was eager to pass on what I could. Having been at the Training Center for five years now, I am proud of how our curriculum has evolved and I am excited to see what challenges and adaptation is in store for the future.

Through the years many people have been influential in my career as a carpenter and I look forward to passing the information and techniques on to the next generation as it was passed on to me.

While I have many people to thank

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for teaching and training me as a carpenter. I would not be where I am today without my wife, Anna. She has been by my side encouraging me in any endeavor I chose. We have raised a beautiful

family and through a lot of hard work and dedication, have had a comfortable living, thanks to my union carpentry career and benefits.

What motivates me now are the challenges of pushing the

technological advancement of our members, and keeping our program up-to-date with the most current training, striving to push the limitations for our trade, both now and in the future.

The Key to Your Safety and Health is Training

*Craig Triplett
Assistant Training and Apprentices
Director*

The world that we knew was turned upside down back in March 2020. COVID-19 came into this state and forced non-essential businesses to close and our families to stay at home to protect ourselves from this terrible virus. It made us aware that we are fragile humans when up against a virus. This virus may be a new virus but it is not the first virus we have had to deal with.

Now that our Carpenters Training Center has reopened, we have been offering safety training for all types of situations that someone in this trade may run across: Confined

Space Entry Program, Construction Fall Protection, Ergonomics, Hazardous Waste Worker, Lead Safety for Renovation and Repair, First Aid/CPR/AED, OSHA 30 Construction, Scaffold Erector, and Infection Control Risk Assessment. Everyone should look at what we have to offer and take classes that will allow you to stay healthy, protect your loved ones, go home in one piece, and possibly save a life. Be trained and prepared to act in a safe and calm manner for anything that may occur.

Members that have taken ICRA: Best Practices in Healthcare Construction learned how deadly bloodborne and airborne pathogens can be. In this class, we teach the members how to protect

themselves from being affected by the environment they are working in. Members learn about how important it is to use gloves, the right respirator, and personal decontamination. ICRA training has been mandatory for all of our apprentices for the past five years.

We have added Skill Advancement classes during the summer to replace some that cancelled due to the school closing. Multiple ICRA classes have been added to the schedule. This is one class that will help everyone understand how to protect your health and safety from this invisible virus that can be deadly. It's not just for those that work in a hospital, it's for everyone right now.

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(b) have been diagnosed with or are seeking a diagnosis for COVID-19; (c) have a household member who has been diagnosed with COVID-19; (d) are providing care for a household member, relative, or relative's household member who has been diagnosed with COVID-19; (e) have a child who is unable to attend school or daycare due to a COVID-19 closure order; (f) cannot go to work because they have been quarantined or because their place of work is closed due to a closure order (it does not include those who can telework); (g) had to quit their

job as a direct result of COVID-19; or (h) are self-employed, seeking part-time employment, or would not have a sufficient work history under state law to otherwise qualify.

Under the Act, a covered individual is entitled to the amount they normally would have received under their state's unemployment law, plus an additional \$600 per week. The availability of the additional \$600 per week expires on July 31, 2020. Additionally, the Act expands regular unemployment benefits from 26 weeks to 39 weeks when unemployment is due to the COVID-19 categories set forth

above. The COVID-19 related unemployment expires after 39 weeks or on December 31, 2020, whichever comes first. It is important to note that individuals receiving pay under the Emergency Family Medical Leave Expansion Act or the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act will not be eligible for unemployment benefits.

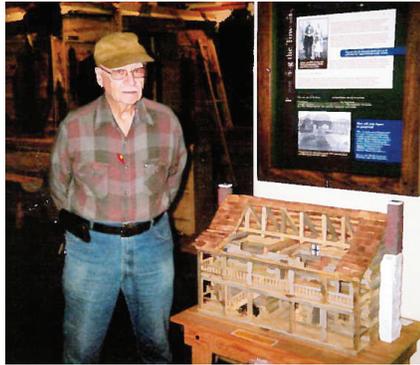
For more information regarding the economic assistance discussed in this article, including answers to frequently asked questions, please visit the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters website at www.carpentersunion.org.

Recreating a Piece of History

When it comes to staying busy in retirement, few are busier than Bob Marcotte, retired member of previous Local 496 (now Local 174).

Bob joined the carpenters in 1960 and worked his way to a vice president position, which he served for two terms down in Kankakee, IL.

He was also a carpenter apprentice instructor for several years and had the opportunity to create a building trades program for high school students at the Area Career Center in Bourbonnais, IL in 1971, which he ran for six years.



Bob continued his career as a project manager for a St. Louis Architectural Design/Building Corporation.

His retirement has allowed him to do many woodworking projects for his children, his grandchildren and his church. He also is a board member of the Green

Paragould, Arkansas.

Bob researched and constructed a model display of a historic home located in Norfolk, Arkansas - a project that took him more than 100 hours to complete. It is the

oldest surviving building in the United States that had ever been used for government purposes. Two-thirds of the second floor was used as a courtroom. Its unique construction consists of a "dog trot" on the main floor. It has been used over time as a stagecoach stop, residence and trading post. This model display is currently being shown at Davidsonville Historic State Park located near Black Rock, Arkansas.

Bob recently turned 89 and says he's in good health, which allows him to do what he loves the most, woodworking.

Thank you Bob for sharing your story and journey with us!

Bannering Efforts Pay off at River North Restaurant



Last year Business Representatives, Organizers and members of Carpenters Local 1 took action against Anchor General Contracting for jeopardizing area standards at River North restaurant Avli Taverna, which is partly owned by Fox32 Sports Anchor Lou Canellis. We're happy to report that the restaurant decided to use union labor for the buildout of its outdoor

seating area this spring. This is another victory for our Regional Council and a great example of what we can accomplish when advocating for fair wages and benefits for workers.

Thank you to all our brothers and sisters whose efforts on the line helped make this happen.

"I can't tell you enough how joining the carpenters union was the best decision I've ever made for myself and for my family."

Local 1 Steward Rick Haisler





Renewable Energy and Nuclear Power Maintenance Ramps Up

*Tony Janowski, LEED AP BD+C
Marketing Director*

Renewable energy in Illinois has been the market most resilient to COVID-19 lockdown measures. This has presented a rewarding opportunity for the Carpenters Union. No stone has gone unturned identifying every aspect of the wind and solar projects evolving in our jurisdictional area and creating ongoing strategies to secure renewable energy contracts.

Our Regional Council staff continues to follow developments in the renewable energy industry on a daily basis to help us gain market share. We have demonstrated that we are well-versed in renewable energy project needs, trained on installing components and maintaining renewable energy systems, and are the trade of choice among the energy developers. It is imperative that we continue to build relationships to secure man-hours and opportunities for our membership and build on our record of success.

Wind, solar, and nuclear power generation are the only carbon-free energy sources set for growth in 2020.

The COVID-19 slowdown has had limited delays on residential and commercial rooftop solar projects starts. Community solar ground mount developments have been the least affected and are moving full throttle. The wind turbine developments are at a record pace throughout our Regional Council's jurisdiction as well.

The current pace of additional renewable power may decline nationally this year as supply chain disruptions and social distancing measures could significantly delay construction starts, but it has not affected the Regional Council's jurisdiction throughout Illinois. We are seeing a tremendous uptick in renewable energy project starts and the Council is on pace to have its best year yet throughout the Illinois market.

This could not have been accomplished without the leadership and vision of our Executive Secretary-Treasurer Gary Perinar and the hard work of all the Business Representatives. Our Business Representatives have been working diligently collecting project information, researching contractors, and making the connections with the decision makers to establish our strong

presence in the renewable energy market.

We are currently working on legislation that will help secure man-hours for our members and building business cases that will expose the out-of-state tax cheating contractors and renewable energy developers. We will expose any clean energy association that supports these cheating renewable energy developers and contractors that negatively impact our members and Illinois communities.

We are delivering a consistent message that the Carpenters Union is the best renewable energy trade in the construction industry. Working with the Carpenters Union provides economic sustainability in the school districts and communities where we live, work and learn.

Through our targeted strategy and continued collaboration with industry representatives, we are servicing our membership in full capacity and building a stronger future for the next generation of clean energy union carpenters.

COVID-19's Impact on the Insurance Industry

Larry Hunt, CIC, CRM
 Matt Hunt, CRIS
 TheHuntGroup.com

Insurance in the News...

P.T. Barnum once said "There is no such thing as bad publicity", but the American Insurance industry might have a slightly different opinion right about now. The publicity causing distress in the board rooms of insurers from coast to coast is about Business Interruption insurance claims from businesses forced to close due to various governments' efforts to deal with the Covid-19/Corona Virus.

Our previous articles have provided advice and information for the insurance needs of individuals and families. We hope a brief detour to shine some light on the expanding battle over Business Interruption (BI) insurance as it relates to the coronavirus might be interesting. Following this we will share news about terrific but under-publicized insurance options now available for homeowners.

Imagine...

Imagine for a moment you own a successful restaurant and bar and business has been steady for several years. That changes overnight when a kitchen fire causes serious interior damage and you close the restaurant for two months until the damages have been repaired. Your Property coverage pays for the repairs, and the Business Interruption (BI) benefit in your policy reimburses you for your lost profits and ongoing expenses for rent, utilities,

payroll and so forth until you re-open.

Now Imagine A Different Scenario...

The government orders the closure of all restaurants as of March 17th (the worst day imaginable if you own an Irish pub!). You have almost nothing put aside for this unforeseeable nightmare so you have to lay off your loyal employees, stop paying your vendors, rent and utilities. But you have Business Interruption coverage and report the closure as a claim.

Within days you receive a letter from the insurance company, but no check! The letter informs you that your BI claim is not covered because your business closed in compliance with the government's closure order. Physical damage - No. Financially damaging - Yes!

Outrage...

After being notified that their lost income and ongoing expenses would not be covered by their Business Interruption insurance, the owners of a New Orleans restaurant hired a Chicago law firm to sue their insurance company. That same Chicago law firm was retained by a renowned California establishment whose claim had also been denied on the very same grounds - their business had not suffered damage. The flames of outrage & misunderstanding spread fast and lawsuits continue to be filed, often claiming that the suspected presence of the virus constituted physical damage.

Bad News...

Developments have been reported daily in the insurance trade press, not widely read believe it or not folks, so the issue has drawn little public notice. However, restaurant owners and their trade associations in several states have brought the Business Interruption problem to the attention of their state legislators. Legislators in various states soon are considering legislation to redefine 'damage' to include the coronavirus and forced business shutdowns.

If the final outcome is that insurers are required to pay coronavirus BI claims, the projected total cost is about \$5 Trillion, seriously destabilizing or bankrupting the American Property & Casualty insurance industry. That is unimaginable but we do expect painful rate increases for personal, industrial, and commercial property insurance in the near future!

Now how about some positive news!

A handful of new Homeowners insurance options have been developed and in our opinion these are two of the best:

1. Service Line: if the underground piping or lines that provide water, sewer, natural gas, and electrical power to your home were damaged, you might have to pay thousands of dollars in repair costs. If you can add Service Line coverage all you would have pay is a \$500 deductible. Limits vary but some of our insurers provide \$24,000 for \$45 a year.

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Carpenter Volunteers Restore Cantigny VFW in Joliet

In January, Carpenters from Local 174 and Local 1185 volunteered their time and skills at the Joliet VFW Cantigny Post 367 and removed and replaced flooring and ceiling tiles in the main banquet room. Both Local 174 and Local 1185 carpenters were proud to support Commander Lou Smith, former Commander John Farr, and all of our veterans to improve their VFW facility.

Carpenter members from Local 174 who volunteered their time were: Randy Walsh; Dave Bell; Jamie Kennedy; Derek McElroy; Joe Rossmiller; Tom Thomas; Marc Rousonelos; John Dzurney; Scott Santerelli; Dan Delaney; Scott Ness; Jake Kucera; Dane Procarione; Josh Cameron; Jason Painter; Nicholas Costa; Mark Costa; Tony Raia; Tony Honiotes; Brian Bain; Matt Hudson; Mike Ellena; Jake Costenaro; Tony Viglielmo; Eric Heinz; Mike



Pictured left to right: Bryan Eliszewski, Carpenter Local 13; Lou Smith, Post Commander; and David Tuttle, Carpenter Local 1185.

Kramerich; Ed Riley; Ray Greene; Daumont Valentine; Sergio Guzman; Kevin Killian; David Corneli; Chad Valentine; Ryan Proffitt; Frank Sieracki and D.J. Polovina and several Business Representatives and Organizers from Local 174.

Local 1185 members and union flooring contractors who volunteered were Timco Commercial Flooring Maintenance,

Steve Starcher and his crew, as well as Antonio Davis, Rayvon Crowell and Raven Crowell who all worked non-stop to make the floor shiny and new again!

The cost of the flooring work was covered by the Professional Flooring Installers Association. Without the leadership of Tom Sheridan, President of PCI Flortech, and Mr. David's Flooring International, LLC, replacing and resurfacing the flooring would not have been possible. Not only did Local

1185 do the flooring, but the stage was also redone at no charge to the VFW.

When this opportunity came up everybody jumped on the chance to give back, not only to take care of a historical building, but also to help those who have protected our freedom.



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2. Mechanical Breakdown: The benefit of this optional coverage is payment for repairs or replacement of your personal property if it is damaged by a power surge, or sudden mechanical breakdown, not caused by normal wear & year or corrosion. Covered property includes washers & dryers, dishwashers, computers, the electrical service

panel, refrigerators & freezers, HVAC, and televisions. It does not cover lightning damage because your basic Homeowners policy already covers that. The premium is about \$50 a year, with a \$500 deductible.

We hope the look into the commercial side of insurance was interesting, and be sure to check with your insurance agent or broker if the optional coverages above are

available. We encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or suggestions for future topics.

Hunt Insurance is located at 12000 S. Harlem Ave., Palos Heights, IL 60463-1153. You can call them at 708-361-5300 or toll-free at 800-772-6484. You can also fax them at 708-361-5316 or email Matt at mhunt@thehuntgroup.com or Larry Hunt, CIC, CRM at lhunt@thehuntgroup.com. In case of after-hours emergencies call 708-699-5300 or 708-341-5300.

Third-Year Apprenticeship Program a Success for All

The Midwestern District Third-Year Apprenticeship Program was held January 30 - February 2, 2020 at the UBC's International Training Center in Las Vegas. The program included apprentices from all of the Regional Council training centers. The program is designed to give third-year apprentices a better understanding of the brotherhood and our industry.



Anthony Janowski, Local 1693; Jeffrey Lee, Local 272; Anthony Martinez, Local 1185; Terry Matlock, Local 790; Jeffrey McKee, Local 243; Shawn Pearson, Local 54; Alexander Riessen, Local 4; Miguel Rodriguez, Local 237; Grant Roeske, Local 1185; Juan Santana, Local 174; Nathan Shreve, Local 792; Omar Smith, Local 58; Carlos Sotelo, Local 58; James St. Paul, Local 1185; Andrew Strawbridge, Local 1051; Adam Utermark, Local 174; Bryan Van Hook,

Apprentice participants included: David Bezak, Local 1; Tracey Boyd, Local 250; Michael Doronzo, Local 13; Natavias Ervins, Local 792; Jeremy Fox, Local 270; Jack Gordon, Local

272; Nicholas Guerrero, Local 141; Nicholas Hathon, Local 558; Phillip Headlee, Local 790; Mark Hogan IV, Local 2158; Daniel Hyde, Local 13; John Jamicich, Local 141;

Local 237; Stephen Vermeulen, Local 4; and Michael Wilsens, Local 166.

Congratulations to All!



A New Discount Program for CRCC Active Members

The Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters (CRCC) is pleased to introduce Perkspot, a new program for Midwest Coalition of Labor members that provides exclusive discounts for local and national merchants – whether shopping in a store or online from your desktop, tablet or phone.

This discount advantage helps your dollars go further on purchases large and small – from apparel to

automotive, education to entertainment, toys to travel, and more.

As a Midwest Coalition of Labor member, we want to let you know you have access to tens of thousands of discounts available to you, and if you don't see what you're looking for, you can ask for merchants to be added.

Enroll in this program TODAY by visiting: mcl.perkspot.com

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Property Tax Appeals, Criminal & Family Law, Financial & Business matters, Immigration, Personal Injury, Unemployment, Social Security & Disability Claims, Credit Repair, Real Estate Closings and Trust & Estate Plans to name but a few.



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www.coalitionoflabor.org

2019 IN MEMORIAM

On this page we honor our brothers and sisters who passed away in 2019.

Please pause to reflect on the lifelong contributions that all these members made on your behalf toward the betterment of our trade.

Each brother and sister is an inspiration for us to carry on their legacy and to elevate the noble profession of the working carpenter.

The projects of their labor will stand as a testament to their dedication and commitment to our craft.

May they rest in peace.

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COVID-19 Preparedness Qualification



Eligible UBC members can now use the CITF's Learning Management System to take an online course to be trained in *ICRA (Infection Control Risk Assessment) Awareness* and/or *COVID-19 Preparedness Qualification*. UBC members who are trained provide much needed expertise in this crisis to ensure that proper protocol is followed and proper containment measures are being taken.

Eligible members can now complete this training on their own computer or tablet through the Carpenters International Training Fund's Learning Management System.



Here's How:

Visit the UBC website at www.carpenters.org or scan QR code with your phone for all the information with steps on how to register!

PLEASE NOTE: Make sure you have your UBC Member I.D. number ready to register

*Address changes or death notices should be reported to the appropriate local union, not the CRCC or Union Carpenter Magazine.
This is a publication for members of the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters.