

PARTNERS MEET IN CAUCUS SESSIONS

TRIPARTITE PARTNERS MET in caucus sessions Monday to identify opportunities and challenges in keeping with the alliance's goal of continually improving industry performance and solving problems.

Each caucus group began its session with a moment of silence in recognition of the Las Vegas mass shooting that has claimed at least 58 lives. Boilermakers also remembered two members who died in an accident in August at the Bruce Mansfield Power Plant in Shippingport, Pennsylvania.

OWNER CAUCUS REPORT

LEADING THE OWNERS' caucus was Joe Hegendeffe, Maintenance Supervisor, KCP&L.

The Owners opened their meeting with a safety topic — active shooter training — which was tragically timely considering the Las Vegas shootings. They addressed how different facilities and companies handle the training and the FBI's "Run, Hide, Fight" directives.

[Continued on next page →](#)

*PHOTO: Owners Caucus Chairman
Joe Hegendeffe, KCP&L.*



Wilfred Connell, Illinois Power (retired) participates in the Owner caucus discussion.

The group went on to discuss how the Boilermakers play a vital part in Owner business plans. They examined the regional nature of issues and how Business Managers at the local level and International Vice Presidents at the regional level hold the key to strong relationships with Owners and Contractors, stressing that such issues should be addressed at regional tripartite meetings.

Caucus participants provided examples where the Boilermakers have been able to man jobs that other building trades could not. The Owners stressed that this was only possible through great communication and the continued efforts put forth by the Boilermakers. The group also expressed their appreciation of the Union's stance on more aggressive scheduling of Boilermaker Code training and noted that the Union's position aligns with the Owners' position and belief in the initiative.



Consultant Kim Flowers addresses the caucus on the listening tour she recently completed to assess marketing opportunities in Texas.

CONTRACTOR CAUCUS REPORT

LEADING THE CONTRACTOR caucus were Michael Bray, VP and CEO, Shelby Mechanical, Inc.; Robert Gabrysiak, SVP, Hayes Mechanical; and Ron Traxler, Executive Director, NACBE.

The Contractors observed that the tripartite conferences are seeing improvements in the balance of Owner-Contractor-Union participation. They also cited continued advances in working relationships between Contractors and the Boilermakers.

The caucus cited two areas of training that are critical to the success of the partners, especially with the aging of the workforce. The group stressed that MOST Project Management Training should include Contractor representatives as well as Boilermakers. They also saw a need to expand opportunities for MOST Leadership Training to ensure that foremen



Pictured left to right: Ron Traxler, Executive Director, NACBE; Robert Gabrysiak, SVP, Hayes Mechanical; and Michael Bray, VP and CEO, Shelby Mechanical, Inc.

have the tools and skills they need to properly oversee the day-to-day work. The group also discussed selectivity and portability, which they felt should be part of all agreements, allowing Contractors to carry crews from one job to another to enhance competitiveness.

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UNION CAUCUS REPORT

LEADING THE UNION caucus was Mark Vandiver, Executive Director – Construction Sector Operations.

During the meeting, Business Managers offered examples of how Owners and Contractors have worked in a positive collaborative way, for example, in providing advanced notice for outages or moving outage dates to accommodate high demand for workers.

Several Boilermakers said that Contractors are now calling for specific skills sets, such as riggers or mechanics, instead of focusing entirely on welders, which helps lodges dispatch members more efficiently. Progress was also reported in which some Contractors have been calling early for workers rather than waiting until just before a job start-up.

The caucus also addressed the need to make adjustments for better Common Arc participation and discussed the effort and scheduling that would be needed to rapidly expand Boilermaker Code training should it become mandatory for all field construction members. ▲



Mark Vandiver, Executive Director - Construction Sector Operations.

BOILERMAKER CITES TRIPARTITE SUCCESS

TIM TIMMONS, BUSINESS Manager of Local 85 (Toledo, Ohio), speaking at the Boilermaker caucus Monday, related a positive tripartite outcome his local lodge experienced with BP-Husky Toledo Refinery in Oregon, Ohio, recently.

He said that in 2016, the refinery had its largest maintenance turnaround in 40 years, with renovations and equipment upgrades. After a meeting that included Boilermakers, the Owner and Contractors, BP-Husky decided that to improve labor availability they would move their outage from March to June. Timmons said the firm's scheduling flexibility helped ensure that over 1,000 Boilermakers were available to man the refinery work, and the job finished on time and under budget.

Timmons attributes excellent tripartite communication for one of the reasons BP shifted its schedule.

"I've been coming here four years, and I can see a true change in the way we interact with Owners and Contractors," he said.

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Tim Timmons, Business Manager Local 85, Toledo, Ohio

