

PRESIDENT JONES CITES SHARED VISION, SHARED SUCCESS

“WE HAVE RE-IMAGINED AND RE-INVENTED A RELATIONSHIP”

CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN and International President Newton B. Jones opened the 32nd MOST National Tripartite Alliance conference October 3 with a salute to the shared vision and shared success of the tripartite partners. He said Owners, Contractors and the Boilermakers have reaped numerous benefits by re-imagining and re-inventing a past relationship that was once adversarial and counterproductive.

Jones praised tripartite-developed programs that save money, improve performance and reduce injuries in a competitive and often dangerous industry.

He spoke about major pressures on the industry, including climate change, shifts in fuel sources and environmental rules that have impacted the energy

markets and man-hours. Those changes, he said, will require reaching out to new markets and new industries to sustain the workforce and urged Contractors to aggressively pursue new work.

Jones discussed major initiatives in recruiting, training and organizing aimed at ensuring Boilermakers are ready and capable to man Owner projects. He also announced that Boilermaker Code training is now mandatory and that the union expects to have all field construction members trained on the Code within three years.

Jones emphasized that Boilermakers are continuing to push for CCUS research, development and deployment as a solution to global carbon emissions and a necessity for the continued use of fossil fuels.

PHOTO: Conference Chairman, IP Newton B. Jones



“No matter what company, Contractor, or Owner you are representing, we are all on this path to succeed together.”

— NACBE Executive Director Ron Traxler

NACBE LEADERSHIP ADDRESSES SAFETY, MAN-HOURS

NACBE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Ron Traxler reviewed the Boilermakers’ safety record over time, as recorded by NACBE, observing an impressive trend in fewer injuries. He spoke about how serious injuries change the lives of an injured worker and the worker’s family, and urged all Tripartite Alliance members to make every workplace accident-free.

Traxler also addressed the drop in Boilermaker man-hours, with 2016 missing anticipated targets, coming in at just under 23 million man hours, the lowest since 2013 and second lowest in 10 years.

He said new recruiting and training initiatives will make the Contractors more cost competitive by providing safety trained, drug-free, highly skilled Boilermakers and that all tripartite partners have a vested interest in the outcome.

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ALLIANCE PRESENTS CHARLES W. JONES AWARD

THE CHARLES W. Jones Award, which honors the local lodge demonstrating the highest use of specified MOST programs during the preceding year, went to Local Lodge 4 of Page, Arizona. International President Newton B. Jones presented the award to L-4 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Louis Dodson, Jr.



International President Newton B. Jones presented the Charles W. Jones award to L-4 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Louis Dodson, Jr.

Local 4 is the seventh lodge to receive the award since its inaugural presentation to Local 154 (Pittsburg), in 2011. Other recipients have included Local 85 (Toledo, Ohio), 2012; Local 433 (Tampa, Florida), 2013; Local 11 (Helena, Montana), 2014; Local 29 (Boston), 2015; and Local 108 (Birmingham, Alabama), 2016.

WORKING GROUP REPORTS ON HUMAN PERFORMANCE INITIATIVE

A WORKING GROUP established last year to explore how human performance can be included in MOST programs reported its findings. The group is led by James Fitzgerald, Manager, Major Projects, First Energy, and Mark Garrett, MOST Safety Representative.

Garrett reported on the committee’s efforts. He explained elements of human performance such as “self-checking” and “peer-checking,” and related how many of these elements are incorporated in Boilermaker Code training modules.

Garrett said MOST five-hour refresher training now incorporates human performance information, and the Boilermakers National Apprenticeship Program is considering such training for apprentices.





Committee chairman Richard Greenweld, Manager of Business Development, Sterling Boiler & Mechanical

WORKING GROUP ANNOUNCES TEXAS GULF COAST INITIATIVE

DEVELOPING OPPORTUNITIES FOR work outside of the energy industry was the subject of a working group headed by committee chairman Richard Greenweld, Manager of Business Development, Sterling Boiler & Mechanical, and committee secretary Mike Murphy, SVP and General Manager for Nooter Construction.

IBB and NACBE consultant Kim Flowers described the committee’s research and strategic planning efforts, which have narrowed the initial market focus to an area along the Texas Gulf Coast, where there is a considerable presence of petroleum refineries. Flowers stressed that recruiting and training initiatives will be critical in offering owners in the area a workforce that has the capacity, skills, competitive cost and availability to engage in the Texas refinery market.

IVP Warren Fairley and Lone Star District Lodge BM-ES Clay Herford also spoke about the Texas Gulf Coast initiative.

LINDAUER CITES MAN-HOUR DECLINE, OFFERS HOPE FOR FUTURE JOBS

STEPHEN LINDAUER, TAUC CEO and NMA Impartial Secretary/CEO, noted the decline of National Maintenance Agreement work since 2011 while offering hope for future job opportunities.

Since NMA began in 1971, union labor has worked a total of 2.4 billion man-hours; however, work has steadily declined since 2012, Lindauer said. From 2006-2011, unions in the NMA averaged 33.5 million work hours per year, the equivalent of 20,000 full-time union jobs. From 2012 to 2016, those numbers



Stephen Lindauer, TAUC CEO and NMA Impartial Secretary/CEO

plummeted to 16.8 million hours, or the equivalent of just 9,600 full-time jobs. He said the loss of man-hours is the result of various factors, most notably the decline of coal-fired power plants.

Looking ahead, Lindauer said there are promising new opportunities for shale gas development in Pennsylvania and throughout the Ohio Valley, as additional cracker units will be needed to process oil from fields like the Marcellus formation.

“We ought to be talking to these people about maintenance,” he said. “It’s a challenge, and I think we’re all up for that challenge. Let’s look five years down the road and look at those opportunities.”

ANGIELSKI SPEAKS ON CCUS TECHNOLOGY

SHANNON ANGIELSKI, EXECUTIVE Director of the Carbon Utilization Research Council (CURC), provided an overview of the coal-fired power industry and the various factors that impact its future, such as competition from other fuel sources and public policy.

She said CURC seeks to help reverse the trend of lost man-hours in the construction and maintenance of coal-fired plants by promoting CCUS technology development and more equitable government support such as tax credits to put coal generation on a more even footing with renewable energy.



Shannon Angielski, Executive Director, CURC

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Angielski discussed a report that has been commissioned to examine the potential economic benefit of CCUS, including the use of CO2 emissions for enhanced oil recovery. She said estimates of oil accessible by EOR is more than double what was originally estimated.

“We believe that technology and technology solutions are what will enable coal to be competitive with some of these other generation sources in the future.”

HISTORY PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS PROJECTS

CHARLES JONES, DIRECTOR of the Boilermaker History Preservation Department, closed out the session with a tribute to Boilermaker craftsmanship, showing three films produced by BHPD and created by Wide Awake Films.

The projects included a 4,000-ton modular HRSG, which was floated by barge down the Hudson River to a power plant site in New Jersey, a new coal-fired



Charles Jones, Director of the Boilermaker History Preservation Department

plant built in Alaska during winter and one of the nation’s largest combined cycle gas plants under construction in Pennsylvania, near the Marcellus shale field. ▲

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE VIRTUAL REALITY TRAINING DEMOS IN THE BOILERMAKER APPRENTICESHIP DISPLAY ACROSS THE HALL FROM THE GENERAL SESSION.



**STATE
OF THE
ART!**