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MEETING MINUTES | AUGUST 28, 2019

NEW INITIATIVES, CARBON CAPTURE, ABSENTEEISM SOLUTIONS PUNCTUATE CONFERENCE OPENING

The 34th Annual MOST Tripartite Alliance conference kicked off with a focus on solutions to issues impacting owners, contractors and Boilermakers. Topics homed in on safety, training, manpower, absenteeism and the changing work landscape.

“Because of our tripartite alliance, we are forward thinking—together, and I’m confident we are on the right track to succeed together,” Conference Chairman and Boilermakers International President Newton B. Jones told attendees.

President Jones laid out new initiatives to address issues and opportunities. He unveiled plans to begin a training and job path program planned with the U.S. Army at Georgia’s Fort Benning base. Plans call for the Army to provide a building the Boilermakers can use to train soldiers who are preparing to leave the service. Over their final six-month period of service, soldiers would begin training to advance through their first two years of Boilermaker apprenticeship. The Army will provide housing and food to the soldiers during that period of time.

Additionally, he announced that the revamped National Transient District Lodge (NTDL) structure has launched, with a National Transient Local Lodge established for each U.S. Vice Presidential section under the “umbrella” of the NTDL. The new NTDL puts the International in a hands-on position to affect critical changes, recruit more prospective members

and put more Boilermakers to work where and when they’re needed. Establishing training centers that offer traditional and boot-camp training in each section is the next step. The first center already operational in Salt Lake City.

President Jones also gave an update on the early wins catalyzed by the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund. “The M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund is the best strategic plan we could devise for an uncertain future of our craft,” President Jones said.

He also provided an overview of the new affiliation agreement between the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Utility Workers Union of America; a new Boilermaker women’s caucus, tentatively called Women At Work™; the status of Boilermaker work to advocate for CCUS; and a commitment to continue working through the National Referral Rules and Standards Committee to ensure no barriers or impediments hinder contractors from staffing their jobs.

“We will, as we have in the past, do everything possible to be the choice for owners and contractors to perform new construction, maintenance and turn-around work,” he said. “We’ve got to re-work this lumbering cargo ship into a streamlined, efficient and nimble combat ship. And that is exactly what we’re going to build going forward to meet the needs of those who entrust their labor needs to us.” ■

CLIMATE-CHANGE MITIGATION NEEDS ALL TO RALLY AROUND CCUS

Beth Hardy, Vice President of Strategy and Stakeholder Relations for the International CCS Knowledge Centre, gave attendees insight into the organization's exciting next steps to drive carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS) adoption.

Reflecting on the Boilermakers' willingness to embrace change, future-oriented enterprises and strategic alliances, Hardy commented that the Centre is excited for the opportunity to forge ahead with CCUS technology together. The Centre has made sure Boilermakers are at the table in many of their carbon capture technology outreach meetings and presentations, including at the White House, during Climate Week in New York City and potentially at an upcoming Paris Climate Agreement event in Chile.

The Centre represents the world's first post-combustion carbon capture facility on Earth, which is owned by SaskPower at the Boundary Dam Power Station in Saskatchewan, Canada. Boilermakers have been very supportive of the success of this endeavor and are full-on supportive of the second-generation study of CCUS at the SaskPower Shand Power Station in Saskatchewan as well. A recent feasibility study, conducted by the International CCS Knowledge Centre, shows a capital cost of 67% less per ton of CO₂ captured in this second-generation undertaking.



Taking the same “everything on the table” approach to mitigating climate change as the Boilermakers, the International CCS Knowledge Centre is driving multi-stakeholder initiatives by relying on partners' knowledge and resources, among many other factors.

When discussing how the Centre determines where future CCUS projects will be located, Hardy specifically addressed the owner attendees. “That’s where we rely on our partnerships with the Boilermakers to hear what facilities have potential,” Hardy said. “If nobody comes to us, we don’t know where we should be targeting.” ■

ABSENTEEISM ADDRESSED IN NEW CANADIAN BOILERMAKER FILM

A new video that debuted to explore the effects of absenteeism and “no shows” on employers, contractors and Boilermakers.

The film, commissioned by the Canadian Boilermakers and produced by Wide Awake Films, features Adel Elseri, a young 15-year Boilermaker from Local 146, Edmonton, Alberta. Elseri interviews his peers, seasoned Boilermakers and contractors in honest discussions about the reasons for and ramifications of absenteeism.

“If [people] don’t show up, others have to cover their jobs. We depend on each other. No-shows is not just not showing up...it genuinely affects us all,” he says in the video.

Elseri stresses that being a no show might seem like a little way to express frustration with a specific job or situation, but people need to realize “we’re jeopardizing our future, we’re jeopardizing our contracts



for the next gig and we’re jeopardizing our pension” when people don’t show up to work.

One contractor interviewed by Elseri in the video explains that when Boilermakers miss work repeatedly, owners blame the contractor for failing to manage their workers and “maybe we need to look elsewhere” for workers. ■

Watch for the video to be available soon.



LOCAL LODGE 92 (Los Angeles, California) was presented with the Charles W. Jones Award, which honors the local lodge demonstrating the highest use of specified MOST programs during the preceding year: OSHA 10/30, Common Arc, Substance Abuse, Scaffolding, Steel Erection, Rigging, Leadership and the Boilermaker Code. International President Newton B. Jones presented the award to L-92 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Oscar Davila.

Pictured left to right: IP Newton B. Jones, L-92 BM-ST Oscar Davila, IVP Western States J. Tom Baca and MOST Administrator Mark Garrett.

AFFILIATION AGREEMENT JOINS VOICES TO TURN UP THE VOLUME ON CCUS ADVOCACY

The Utility Workers Union of America's President Emeritus, D. Michael "Mike" Langford, stressed the value of the UWUA and Boilermakers' affiliation agreement in bringing more voices together to advocate for beneficial initiatives. He zeroed in on the need to champion carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS) in a changing power-generation and manufacturing landscape.

"I've seen more change in the last 10 years of my 41-and-a-half-year career, than I did in the total first 31-and-a-half years. And that change is not about to stop," he said.

He pointed to the need to bring an "all of the above" approach to addressing engineering challenges associated with cheap, reliable power for an ever-growing population; juxtaposed with the climate-change crisis.

"One thing is for sure: Whether it's coal, natural gas or petroleum, traditional fossil energy sources will play an enormous role in global energy production far into the future," he said. "The question we must answer then—if we are serious about providing the power we all need while still addressing the issue of our changing climate—is how to do this while reducing carbon emissions to net zero. The answer is technology. The answer is carbon capture."

Langford went on to talk about pro-CCUS opportunities in legislation that need the power of union voices to make sure the issue remains at the top of lawmakers' agendas. He emphasized that it would take



everyone's support to educate politicians and the general public about CCUS.

"This is how we build America's future—not with political slogans, but with science, innovation and hard work," he said. "American industry was built by engineers, scientists, technicians and mechanics. The kind of people who build things and get things done. The kind of people who work for our two great unions, the Utility Workers and the Boilermakers.

"I think the affiliation agreement between the Utility Workers and Boilermakers is one of the best things our two unions have ever done. There's no fight, there's no challenge I would say that we can't handle, and that's what makes this so exciting." ■

CAUCUSES ALL PUT SAFETY AT THE TOP OF THE AGENDA

Caucus Chairmen gave a “report-out” in a panel discussion, each naming safety as the leading priority.

“I noticed, listening to my colleagues here, that each caucus put safety at the top of their reports, which I think is appropriate,” said Labor Caucus Chairman Mark Vandiver, who reported last during the caucus report-out. “We had a similar discussion in our caucus, and it was our top priority. It has been evident that owners and contractors have prioritized safety over scheduling and productivity.”

Owner Caucus Chairman James Demes, Executive Director for Philadelphia Energy Solutions, pointed out that East Coast refining outages last year resulted in no incidents, “That’s a remarkable change. There’s been a tremendous and favorable trend in safety performance in the Boilermakers.”

Demes noted that the Owners Caucus hoped the Boilermakers would continue to foster and promote MOST programs and ensure new Boilermakers are exposed to those programs. He also reported that the caucus sees a need to adapt and recruit a skills-diverse workforce as the work landscape shifts.

Reporting for the Contractors Caucus, Chairman Mike Bray, Executive Vice President of Riggs Distler & Co., praised the Boilermaker’s safety record, the re-launched National Transient District Lodge model and programs like the “Live the Code” initiative. He highlighted absenteeism as an issue that needs to improve.

“We would like to see (absenteeism) addressed at the apprenticeship level,” he said. “This tripartite really works. Ten, 20, 30 years ago it was a different attitude among all three parties in general, in my opinion.

Vandiver reported that the Labor Caucus requests an increase in the use of jobs stewards daily for project safety walk-downs and to consider bring back MOST safety representatives for all major projects.

The Labor Caucus also discussed Common Arc and the need for the program to be reviewed relative to testing costs and proctor consistency.

“We want to convey to our contractors that we are willing to work together as a team to improve the program, which will improve the industry standard,” Vandiver said.

Finally, the Labor Caucus praised owners for using union contractors, but noted there are some non-union companies performing work that was historically within the Boilermakers’ jurisdiction.

“We want to reassure you that our members are trained to perform all work that has been historically claimed and performed by Boilermakers. We also want you to know we have agreements that reduce costs for your projects through reduced rates for some classifications such as Helpers, Hole Watches and Fire Watches, which makes us more competitive,” Vandiver said. ■



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Union Chairman, Mark Vandiver