

**2019 MOST Tripartite Conference
Full Summary**

New initiatives, carbon capture, absenteeism solutions punctuate MOST National Tripartite Alliance Conference

IN KEEPING WITH more than three decades of the tripartite alliance strategy, the 34th annual MOST Tripartite Alliance conference kicked off with a focus on solutions to issues that impact owners, contractors and Boilermakers. Topics homed in on safety, training, manpower, absenteeism and the changing work landscape.

“Because of our tripartite alliance, we’re 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. “Now we have to get to the point where we can reform many of our past practices, relationships and operational rules.”

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 them through their first two years of Boilermaker apprenticeship. The U.S. Army would provide housing and meals during the six-months of Boilermaker training.

Additionally, he announced that the re-vamped 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 re-imagined

and re-launched 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, with 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, including legislative measures won in Washington State through the Western States M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund that will boost Boilermaker man-hours; efforts underway in Illinois toward similar legislation through the Great Lakes M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund; and new work gained throughout the United States at universities and other non-traditional work sites through the M.O.R.E. Work program's job targeting strategies.

"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, noting the need to diversify as coal-fired power generation facilities continue to shutter.

In other innovative solutions, 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 turnaround 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.”

DAY 1

Hardy emphasizes critical CCUS role in stopping climate change

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 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 percent 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."

Langford stresses CCUS advocacy in affiliation

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 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."

Safety tops all caucus agendas

OWNERS, CONTRACTORS and Boilermakers met in separate caucuses, all named safety as the leading priority among opportunities for improvement and initiatives that are working well.

"We are constantly striving to meet the common goals of the construction industry now and in the future by helping to provide the industry with a safe and cost-effective workforce, while providing state-of-the-art technology to address the problems of the customer, contractor and craftsman," said MOST Programs Administrator Mark Garrett during his conference welcome remarks. "With our owner, contractor and union tripartite partnership, we continue to be able to be in an established culture that provides a safe work environment for all Boilermakers."

“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 ED-CSO Mark Vandiver. “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 members of the caucus see a need to adapt and recruit a skills-diverse workforce as the work landscape shifts and labor needs change.

Reporting for the Contractors’ Caucus, Chairman Mike Bray, executive vice president of Riggs Distler & Co., praised the Boilermakers safety record, the re-launched National Transient District Lodge model and programs like The Boilermaker Code. He highlighted absenteeism as an issue that needs to improve, and he noted that contractors can play an important role by getting rid of the bad seeds.

“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. This was the most upbeat meeting I’ve been involved with.”

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

The Labor Caucus members 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, Labor Caucus members 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 watchers and fire watchers, which makes us more competitive.”

Top safety award goes to Local 92

LOCAL LODGE 92, (Los Angeles) 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.

Absenteeism addressed in new Canadian Boilermaker film

A NEW VIDEO debuted during the conference 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). In the film, 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 goes on to stress 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.

The video will be available soon.

DAY 2

CCUS takes center stage on day-2 of MOST National Tripartite Alliance Conference

CARBON CAPTURE, USE and storage was again the focus for much of the second day's plenary session. In addition to CCUS topics, speakers also discussed the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)'s standardized task elevation program, a Bank of Labor update, a National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers (NACBE) update and a tripartite alliance success story from PBF Energy.

Great Plains Institute forging ahead on CCUS

BRAD CRABTREE, VICE president, carbon management, Great Plains Institute (GPI), brought participants up to date on their recent activities in CCUS.

The Institute's mission is to advance low carbon energy in a way that protects and grows the United States' and Canada's high-wage energy-industrial jobs. The organization's emphasis is to bring industry, labor, non-governmental organizations and others together to support CCUS policy.

Crabtree told attendees that the evolving elements of the carbon capture technology have been deployed for almost 50 years, including CO₂ capture, transportation, storage and injection. "Carbon capture is not a niche. It needs to be deployed across our entire economy," Crabtree said. "We can scale it up and we can deliver energy-industrial production, jobs benefits and emissions reductions.

"What most people don't realize is that [industries that participate in CCUS technologies] have already injected nearly 1.5 billion tons of CO₂ in the subsurface in

the United States,” Crabtree continued. That’s about 65 million tons annually, of which around 25 million tons come from industrial or power plant sources.

“And we’ve done that with no major leaks of CO₂, no fatalities and no serious injuries,” Crabtree concludes. “It works. And it works well.”

Along with the Boilermakers, the GPI was a strong proponent to reform and expand the 45Q tax credit in the FUTURE Act passed by the U.S. legislature in 2018 that provides tax credits for capturing and storing CO₂.

As a result of their work on that legislation, the Institute convened The Carbon Capture Coalition which consists of over 60 energy, industrial and technology companies; labor unions (including the Boilermakers); and conservation, environmental, clean energy and agricultural organizations.

The coalition is the most diverse energy and climate initiative in the United States and recently released a Federal Policy Blueprint (<https://carboncapturecoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/BluePrint-Compressed-Updated.pdf>). The blueprint offers a portfolio of policies that would increase carbon capture deployment in key sectors of the economy, from industries like cement and steel to electric power generation.

“Federal and state policies have succeeded in helping to scale up wind, solar and other low and zero-carbon energy technologies in the marketplace,” Crabtree said. “Carbon capture needs a similarly comprehensive and ambitious suite of policy tools and incentives to achieve economy-wide deployment in the next decade.”

In addition, the Institute is working with 15 state governors and other state officials to elevate national CO₂ pipeline infrastructure legislation to be equivalent to

that of gas pipelines, and, with several legislators across the aisle, to encourage development of technologies to reduce emissions from *nonpower* industrial sectors.

“We’re trying to build a real grassroots movement across the country to get folks engaged,” Crabtree told the audience. “This is where [building trades unions] are all connected, and this is where we need all of you to engage and partner with us to make a difference.”

Research engineer breaks down CCUS economic impact

BRUCE FOLKEDAHL, SENIOR research engineer for the Energy & Environmental Research Center at the University of North Dakota, walked through data showing the potential economic impact of CCUS projects.

Folkedahl’s research focused on North Dakota specifically and weighed financial investments, including tax incentives, against economic gains, including job creation and state and local tax revenue, for developing and implementing wide-scale CCUS technologies throughout the state. The study examined existing infrastructure in coal mines, coal power plants and conventional oil fields, as well as new construction that would result from CCUS, including CO₂ capture and compression facilities and recycle facilities, pipelines and injection wells. It also factored in the potential financial impact of enhanced oil recovery.

Projections show that carbon capture and enhance oil recovery operations would have the potential to boost North Dakota’s economy to the tune of \$2.5 billion in annual economic activity, more than \$1.4 million in annual taxes and revenue and 8,000 annual jobs.

“The gist of this is that the benefits, in the state of North Dakota at least, are very clear and very positive,” Folkedahl said. “If we can utilize carbon capture to link two of our premier energy industries in the state—lignite and oil—this is great for both of them. It’s great for the state, it’s great for coal and power generation, it’s great for the oil industry. It works well for everybody involved. And it’s a way to get out there (in North Dakota) and develop a road map so people can look at it and say ‘Hey, maybe we can do something like this in *our* states.’”

PBF Energy gives kudos to Boilermaker support of refining industry

HERMAN SEEDORF, III, senior vice president of refining, PBF Energy, thanked the Boilermakers for their continued support of common-sense renewable fuel development and dedication to decreasing turnaround times in their refineries.

PBF is one of the largest independent petroleum refiners and suppliers of unbranded transportation fuels, heating oil and other petroleum products in the United States. The company currently owns and operates five domestic oil refineries and related assets.

“It is a tough business: very cash and very capital intensive,” Seedorf said.

The evolving federal emissions regulations that require gasoline be blended with renewable fuels and the many burdensome and nonsensical requirements associated with the regulations are challenging their business model, he told attendees.

“And I have to tell you, the building and trades support in this area has been nothing less that tremendous,” Crabtree continued. “And we’re going to need your continued support in this fight to keep the policy about renewable fuels something that makes sense.”

In addition to joining forces with PBF to fight regulations threatening merchant refiners, the Boilermakers have been instrumental in keeping turnaround costs under control in PBF refineries. Seedorf said the company wouldn't be able to accomplish its turnaround goal—which allows PBF to allocate investment capital to other business areas—without the engagement, support and alignment of the tripartite partners.

“I want to compliment the Boilermakers, and the Boilermaker locals. Of all the trades we work with at PBF, I really believe the Boilermakers understand and get this [turnaround goal] the best,” he said. “I believe that's because of the leadership of International President Jones and the key international leaders in this room who have set very clear and real work standards and expectations for their membership—the Boilermakers standards of excellence.”

Seedorf concluded that the company relies on the expertise of Boilermakers, locals and contractors to be successful and looks forward to a continued strong partnership with the MOST Tripartite and its members.
