Members Log 350,000 Man Hours and $7 Million in Wages at Turk Power Plant Project

THE JOHN W. TURK, JR. POWER PLANT in Fulton, Arkansas (left) will provide energy to a three-state area with environmentally-responsible coal-based fuel. It also has already succeeded in providing work and millions of dollars in wages for our members.

Hundreds of carpenters and millwrights worked on the multi-year project. Scaffolding was done for contractor Performance Contracting International. Members worked for Marley Cooling Towers to help erect cooling towers, and for Commonwealth Constructors for silos and smokestacks. Continued on page 8

Members Finish Seabrook Gate Complex, Log Almost 160,000 of Man Hours

CARPENTERS & PILEDRIVERS LOCAL UNION 1846 recently completed a $162 million flood protection project with Alberici Constructors that provided almost 160,000 man-hours. The project, the Seabrook Gate Complex (right), finished up in August of 2012 after two years of work.

The Seabrook Gate Complex now prevents the storm surge from entering the canal. And Mother Nature wasted no time in testing the work of our members. The new Complex was put to its first test and played a critical role in protecting the city this past August when Hurricane Isaac hit the City of New Orleans. Continued on page 9

Chesapeake Energy Headquarters Project Provides Hundreds of Jobs to Members

A PROJECT THAT BEGAN MORE THAN EIGHT YEARSAGO continues to provide hundreds of work opportunities for members of the Central South Carpenters Regional Council.

Chesapeake Energy, the second-largest producer of natural gas, a top 15 producer of oil and natural gas liquids, and the most active driller of new wells in the United States, is developing its Oklahoma City headquarters (left) with critical help from Council carpenters and signatory contractor, Smith and Pickel. Continued on page 19

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2012 HAS BEEN A VERY PRODUCTIVE YEAR for our Regional Council on many fronts, including how we communicate effectively with you. The UBC recently conducted a poll that showed 84% of our members under the age of 50 utilize smart phones. In response, CSCRC developed an interactive website that you can easily navigate. The website includes:

- up-to-date training schedules for Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma
- a schedule of benefits for the Arkansas/Oklahoma and Louisiana Health Benefit Funds
- contact information for the Regional Council, local unions, training offices, and trust fund administrators
- current work opportunities
- jobsite photos
- political events
- MX 20/20 available-for-work instructions
- links to many affiliates, such as the UBC, Register of Voters, political figures, state agencies, etc.

Please take the time to browse the site, and utilize the email feature for your suggestions, and/or comments. Also, while visiting the site, I encourage you to register your email address, so that we may provide information to our members in a timely, unobtrusive manner in the future. Your Regional Council is also on Facebook, and Twitter, for those members that use these social media outlets for communication. We also developed a Q.R. code that will be included on various communications to provide quick access to the web site or other significant topics.

The above-mentioned UBC poll also showed that 42% of members would still like to receive a printed newsletter; therefore, the Regional Council will continue to provide one on an annual basis.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the newly elected Delegates to the CSCRC. Contained in this publication, you will find the Delegates listed by their respective local union. Delegates are a vital part of the Regional Council infrastructure. Their jobs are to establish and carry forward the objectives of the Council, as well as implement policies and procedures concerning business development, our financial commitment to area standards programs, political and legislative initiatives, establish work rules, and ratify collective bargaining agreements, to name just a few. Each delegate to the Regional Council is a member of one, or more, of the following committees: Financial Oversight, Organizing, Political Action, New Member Education/Retention, and the Newsletter/Community Involvement Committee.

As you read the articles within this issue, and view photos of projects built by the hands of our union brothers and sisters, join me in recognizing our CSCRC members for their safety, work ethic, productivity, attitude, and skills that are the attributes to the current and continued success of our local unions and the Regional Council. It is extremely important that our employers are the most safe, productive, and efficient in the industry, considering the masses of competition, and in many instances, substantially less economic packages. We want our employers to make more money, because in return, our members make more money.

The way to ensure success for our members and employer partners has not changed...through our TRAINNN! It is imperative that every member takes advantage of the most innovative, technologically-advanced construction-related training material produced by the Carpenters International Training Fund. The two training funds within the Regional Council employ instructors that have vast knowledge of the many aspects of our trade.

Speaking of training, your Regional Council and the affiliated training programs are focusing on Construction CPA: Best Practices in Healthcare Construction. In the current economic environment, many hospitals are remodeling existing facilities instead of building new structures. This creates new challenges and potential risks, including exposing patients to contaminants that lead to infections, which kill more than 100,000 people annually. To learn more about ICRA, please visit carpenters.org, or contact your local training center.

Our Regional Council affiliate training programs have purchased the training material, have instructors certified through the train-the-trainer program at the Carpenters International Training Center, and courses are now available. The Regional Council staff is marketing this program to existing medical facilities, hospitals, architects, and our signatory employers. The Regional Council membership has an enormous opportunity for increased work hours in this industry, with billions of dollars allocated to remodels and new construction of health care facilities in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. Please register for this class, as well as the many other journeyman upgrade courses offered to expand your knowledge and marketability, and help increase our Union market share. Our members have worked 1,807,555 man-hours through August 2012, and by the end of the year, we expect to near 3 million. In the articles that follow, you will read about projects that produced many of these work hours for our members and upcoming projects for Regional Council.

Many of the projects in Arkansas and Oklahoma are credited to the members’ dedication, and valued contributions to the market recovery fund. Our members have secured commercial projects from Little Rock, Ft. Smith, and Northwest Arkansas to Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Also, the Regional Council’s area standards programs and political initiatives have,

Continued on next page
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The many initiatives previously mentioned - training, safety, political involvement, and market recovery - all work in unison to ensure the success of our Council; however, they are also detrimental to the integrity and solvency of our Health, Pension, Annuity, Supplemental Pension, Vacation and Training Funds. Pension Funds - Investment income does play an extremely important role of our pension funds' ability to maintain current benefits, but man-hours are equally as important. As you are all aware, the Wall Street investment world of equities, fixed income, international equities, etc. is fluctuating. Increasing investment income produced through our members working can provide additional stability in a relatively uncertain investment market. It is also important to note that the investment income (the assumed rate of return to the fund, coupled with contribution income, used to calculate the ongoing stability of the fund annually) and man-hours are down, the funds then have to monitor and continually adjust contribution rates and benefit schedules to comply with the Pension Protection Act (PPA), based upon the pension plan’s funding percentage. In other words, all of the CSCRC’s initiatives are designed to create man-hours, which in return, benefit the Pension Funds greatly. The CSCRC has had ceased benefit

- New Orleans Pension Fund
- Little Rock Pension Fund
- Baton Rouge Pension Fund
- Western Louisiana Carpenters Pension Fund
- Currently, the New Orleans and Western Louisiana Pension Funds are certified in the “Green Zone” in accordance with the Pension Protection Act, which basically means these Funds are at least 80% funded. The Little Rock and Baton Rouge Pension Funds are certified “Yellow Zone,” or less than 80% funded status.

All of these plans’ Trustees had to make modifications to the future contribution rates, as well as benefit modifications to adhere to the mandates of the PPA, and to continue the longevity of successful retirement benefits for our members. For more detailed information on your specific Pension Fund, please contact the administrator of the Fund, or refer to the Annual Funding Notice mailed to all participants. The main point to take from this brief synopsis is that all facets of our Regional Council must continue to work together for the betterment of the CSCRC. Rest assured that your Regional Council is committed to continuing to provide the best Pension Plans for you and your family’s future.

Health Benefit Funds – The CSCRC currently has two health insurance plans within the three-state Council: The Louisiana Carpenters Health Benefit Fund and the Arkansas/Oklahoma Health & Welfare Fund. Both Funds are fiscally secure and continue to provide added benefits to the participants. Also, both insurance plans utilize the UBC/LtdExpress Scripts prescription drug program that has saved UBC members and their families more than $500 million in prescription drug spending thus far since the contract inception, and even more during the renegotiated contract. The UBC leadership proved that by collectively combining our greatest resource, its members, that our bargaining power was much greater with the drug companies together rather than individually, and the economic savings speak volumes to what our Union can achieve.

As a reminder, please contact the appropriate Insurance Plan Administrator for more information. Also, for quick reference, you may visit centralsouthcarpenters.org for a schedule of benefits located under the insurance header. Please keep in mind that the CSCRC intends on keeping the most up-to-date information on health benefits on the website, but they are subject to change by the Trustees of the plans at any time.

Canada Work Opportunities – For CSCRC members who may be interested in the abundance of scattered work opportunities in Canada, please contact Council Representative Edward Gauthreaux, and/or visit carpenters.org (left), and click on the link for further information. In closing, I encourage each of you to take advantage of the information available to you electronically, but I also recommend that you make a diligent effort to attend your local union meeting every month. Initiate constructive dialogue with the officers and delegates at your local meetings, because the more knowledge we all have, the more we can effectively communicate a uniform message about what our Union stands for; why it’s important to attend training, why we must be productive and safe, why we will not be able to succeed, why market share and man-hours are so important, and why all carpenters should be in our Union. Again, I ask that each of you get involved with one or more of the committees on the local union level, or consider running for an officer or Delegate position.

As 2012 comes to a close, I am optimistic about the opportunities that exist for the members of the CSCRC in 2013. I look forward to visiting with all of you throughout the coming months, as I will be attending another round of local union meetings in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. Keep in mind that it is difficult to provide all information, on all topics, in a single newsletter; therefore, please contact the Regional Council or local union offices for any questions or concerns.

Finally – thank you, to each of our 2,972 members of the CSCRC, for your hard work and dedication day in and day out. Remember, you are the Union!

Jason B. Engels
Executive Secretary Treasurer

UBC Member Survey Summary

Recently, the UBC conducted a survey of more than 500 members regarding a number of items, including how they prefer to receive information. Here’s a snapshot of the survey’s results:

- Gender: 97% Male, 3% Female
- Current work status: 60% Journeyman, 25% Retired, 12% Apprentice
- Race: 73% White, 11% Hispanic, 9% African-American, 2% other, 5% declined to answer
- Age: 20% 18-34 years old, 32% 35-50, 28% 51-64, and 20% 65+
- Education: 47% High School or Less, 39% Some Vo-Tech or College, 11% College Graduates
- 3% declined to answer
- Marital Status: 60% Married, 38% Not Married, 2% declined to answer
- Home Location: 30% City, 24% Suburban, 43% Small Town or Rural Area
- Geographical Area: 12% West Region, 33% Midwest Region, 28% East Region, 6% South Region
- Gun Ownership: 53% Gun In-Household, 40% No Gun In-Household
- Registered to Vote: 87% Yes, 9% No, 4% declined to answer

and will continue to, level the playing field for our members and employers. In a recent report of this newsletter, you will learn about two successes in 2012, in both the Louisiana and Oklahoma Legislatures, regarding employers who improperly classify workers to avoid payments to workers compensation, unemployment benefits, overtime, etc. The enforcement of Oklahoma HB 2258 and Louisiana SB 472 is crucial to ensure the integrity of our trade and equality of competitive bidding among employers.

Through business development programs of the Regional Council, the staff is working tirelessly in Oklahoma City and New Orleans to secure our Union’s “standard of excellence,” including protecting our wages and benefits, and making sure our members have a fair chance at a comfortable retirement and wealth for their families. These programs, coupled with the political initiatives, have already made a positive impact on work opportunities in these areas. The Regional Council goal is to implement this throughout the area of the Council, and it is now being utilized in Little Rock, Ft. Smith, Russellville, and Northwest Arkansas.

The CSCRC officers and delegates sole purpose is to allocate the resources you provide in the most effective manner possible to create future work opportunities/man-hours for our members and employer partners, protect OUR area standards, and service our members with the decency and respect you deserve.

The many initiatives previously mentioned - training, safety, political involvement, and market recovery - all work in unison to ensure the success of our Council; however, they are also detrimental to the integrity and solvency of our Health, Pension, Annuity, Supplemental Pension, Vacation and Training Funds. Pension Funds – Investment income does play an extremely important role of our pension funds’ ability to maintain current benefits, but man-hours are equally as important. As you are all aware, the Wall Street investment world of equities, fixed income, international equities, etc. is fluctuating. Increasing investment income produced through our members working can provide additional stability in a relatively uncertain investment market. It is also important to note that the investment income (the assumed rate of return to the fund, coupled with contribution income, used to calculate the ongoing stability of the fund annually) and man-hours are down, the funds then have to monitor and continually adjust contribution rates and benefit schedules to comply with the Pension Protection Act (PPA), based upon the pension plan’s funding percentage. In other words, all of the CSCRC’s initiatives are designed to create man-hours, which in turn, benefit the Pension Funds greatly. The CSCRC has had ceased benefit

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Executive Secretary Treasurer
The Council’s focus is to level the playing field, not only for companies that operate on a fair standards basis, but also to ensure that our members work in a trade that allows them to provide a dignified, respectable living for themselves and their family. Our Arkansas staff is investigating the market and the players, because identifying the unfair standards employers is one of the first steps. Addressing unfair standards issues with owners, employers, state and federal enforcement agencies, and the workforce is also a priority. Arkansas already has good laws in place that protect the workers and fair employers. However, one of the biggest problems the agencies in Arkansas are facing is manpower to police these laws. Therefore, the CSCRC will work closely with political leaders and enforcement agencies and provide credible information to assist these agencies and law makers.

As you may know, recently the state of Oklahoma passed bill HB2258, which places strict penalties on employers that knowingly misclassify employees, or are involved with the action of misclassifying employees. This new bill will work hand-in-hand with the goals of the Council in securing fair competition for fair standards for employers, and fair wages and benefits for trade carpenters.

The staff works closely with the Council political director in providing detailed information about misclassification, the impact on the community, the workforce and the industry as a whole. In doing so, political leaders have taken notice over the past few years, primarily due to the fact that local, state and the US economy have all suffered financial hardships and budget shortfalls.

For years, the construction industry has been plagued with labor brokers, undocumented workers, payroll fraud, misclassification and just about any other scam you can imagine. Unfortunately, it has taken the US economy crisis to motivate action by these leaders. But rather fear, big business will continue to try and undercut labor cost and drive wages and benefits down for working class Americans.

And we will continue to address employers, owners, political leaders, enforcement agencies and the general public when our standards our threatened.

By Charlie Manning
Business Development Director & Director of Organizing

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES some activities that council members and staff have been and are currently working on within the Central South Carpenters Council, which includes Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. The Area Standards program is in operation, or being implemented across the Council. Major cities include New Orleans and Baton Rouge, LA; Oklahoma City and Tulsa, OK; and Little Rock, AR. The Council’s focus is to level the playing field, not only for companies that operate on a fair standards basis, but also to ensure that our members work in a trade that allows them to provide a dignified, respectable living for themselves and their family.

Louisiana made significant improvements in enforcement of laws created to protect the industry and workers. However, those laws and agency enforcement did not come easy. Our staff spends countless hours performing private visits with employers, interviews with workers, and meetings with potential clients and members. These are daily staff activities that continue to move the Council and the membership forward.

All parties involved can see the progress. Unfair labor brokers are diminishing slowly due to the unwarranted attention by state and federal authorities. We have now track wage increases for the non-union sector, as well as some employers beginning to offer insurance plans, as minimal as it may be. In any case, these are positive signs of growth for the industry.

Our Arkansas staff is investigating the market and the players, because identifying the unfair standards employers is one of the first steps. Addressing unfair standards issues with owners, employers, state and federal enforcement agencies, and the workforce is also a priority. Arkansas already has good laws in place that protect the workers and fair employers. However, one of the biggest problems the agencies in Arkansas are facing is manpower to police these laws. Therefore, the CSCRC will work closely with political leaders and enforcement agencies and provide credible information to assist these agencies and law makers.

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And we will continue to address employers, owners, political leaders, enforcement agencies and the general public when our standards our threatened.

By Gary H. Warren
Political Director

PAYROLL FRAUD is one of the biggest problems facing the construction industry. Corrupt construction firms knowingly engaged in payroll fraud, including on large public and private projects, in order to underbid and steal work from honest contractors. When corrupt construction firms commit payroll fraud they may:

- Misclassify their workers as independent contractors to avoid paying workers compensation, unemployment insurance, and federal and state taxes.
- Pay workers with unreported cash
- Avoid paying overtime

How does this affect you? Companies committing payroll fraud take work away from the legitimate contractors who employ our members. These corrupt companies are able to underbid your employer by not paying the insurance premiums and taxes owed on your behalf.

What can be done? Our Council staff and members educate and work with elected officials, legislators, agencies & law enforcement, honest contractors and construction industry groups, civic groups, healthcare providers and insurers, workers comp insurers, and the media.

What your Council is actively doing. We have had success in combating payroll fraud and misclassification of workers. The following is legislation that we introduced and lobbied for at all the three state capitols within our Council. Both of the following pieces of legislation passed and were signed into law in 2012:

Oklahoma Bill Summary: HB 2258
An Act that requires these state agencies - The Oklahoma Tax Commission, Oklahoma Workers’ Compensation Court, Department of Labor, CompSource Oklahoma and Oklahoma Employment Security Commission - to create a secure database of information, to share information and coordinate investigative and enforcement efforts for the purpose of detecting those contractors who intentionally misclassify individuals as independent contractors rather than employees. Any contractor that intentionally misclassifies individuals as independent contractors rather than employees shall be fined by the Oklahoma Tax Commission an amount not to exceed ten percent (10%) of the contractor’s total bid, which shall be in addition to any other penalties allowed by law.

Louisiana Bill Summary: SB 472
An Act:
1. To provide for employers’ who not knowing or willfully failed to properly classify their workers as employees under the Unemployment Insurance Code.
2. First Offense of Misclassification: All contributions, interests and penalties are due.
3. Second Offense of Misclassification: All contributions, interests and penalties are due and a fine of up to $250 per individual with subsequent offenses of up to $500 per individual.
4. Criminal penalties may also apply if the employer (after a written warning) on two or more separate occasions has misclassified a worker, with a fine of up to $1000 and up to 90 days in prison or both.
5. If an employer knowingly or willfully misclassifies an individual, then in addition to all of the above penalties, the employer shall be prohibited from contracting with the state on public projects for a period of three years. A violating employer shall be placed on a list and the list shall be made available to all state agencies.

Arkansas The state of Arkansas is our next target in filing legislation to combat payroll fraud.
Seabrook Gate Complex
Continued from page 1

“We are incredibly proud of our members for their expert work on this project,” said Central South Regional Council Executive Secretary-Treasurer Jason Engels. “Every project that we do has a critical level of importance for our contractors and their customers, but this project is expected to provide life-saving measures well into the future.”

Engels said that Council pile drivers, carpenters, and millwrights combined for 159,582 man-hours.

About the Project
The Complex spans the 500-foot-wide Inner Harbor Navigational Canal near its mouth on Lake Pontchartrain. In August 2005, the storm surge from Hurricane Katrina entered the canal from Lake Pontchartrain, causing the canal’s walls to fail, sending water into the Lower 9th Ward and other areas of the city.

To construct the project, a cofferdam was built across the canal and had about 50,000 cubic yards of concrete and 2,000 tons of reinforcing steel placed in it. Another one of our signatory contractors, Richard Goettle Inc., was instrumental in the building of the cofferdam, which blocked off the water. That enabled our brothers and sisters to work on the foundation, which is 28 feet below sea level, as well as the top of the foundation for the base of the lift gates, which sits at minus 18 feet. The structures’ three large gates were fabricated by Alberici at its yard in St Louis and were shipped to the project on a barge. The complex has two vertical gates, one on each side of a sector gate. A central gate is composed of two pie-shaped leafs that swing into place to close the Canal’s 95-foot wide main channel. Each sector gate weighs 220 tons, and each vertical gate comes in at 135 tons.

Alberici also constructed control rooms for operation of the gates, and installed two 250-kV generators to operate the gates in case of power failure.

Turk Power Plant Project
Continued from page 1

“Our members did a great job on this project,” said Council Executive Secretary-Treasurer Jason Engels. “We were able to capture 350,000 man-hours over these last four years, which totals more than $7 million in wages for union carpenters and millwrights.”

The plant is a new construction for the Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWPeco). According to the SWPeco web site, the John W. Turk, Jr. Power Plant will be one of the cleanest, most environmentally responsible and efficient coal-fired plants in the United States, and the first of its kind in operation in the country. The Plant will use low-sulfur coal and state-of-the-art emission control technologies to meet stringent emission limits. And, the plant’s advanced coal combustion technology will use less coal and produce fewer emissions, including carbon dioxide, than traditional pulverized coal plants. The Turk Plant will serve SWPeco customers in Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana.

The facility is located on a 2,800-acre tract north of Fulton, Arkansas, in Hempstead County, about 15 miles northwest of Texarkana.

To the foundation, which is 28 feet below sea level, as well as the top of the foundation for the base of the lift gates, which sits at minus 18 feet. The structures’ three large gates were fabricated by Alberici at its yard in St Louis and were shipped to the project on a barge. The complex has two vertical gates, one on each side of a sector gate. A central gate is composed of two pie-shaped leafs that swing into place to close the Canal’s 95-foot wide main channel. Each sector gate weighs 220 tons, and each vertical gate comes in at 135 tons.

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The Delegates of the Central South Carpenters Regional Council

Local 71
Arthur R. Cooser
Michael B. Sabatucci
Michael Dwayne Young

Local 329
Joseph Danny West
James L. Stacey
John West, II
Richard J. Beauchamp (alternate)
Earl W. Keller (alternate)

Local 690
Terry L. Edwards
Sidney M. Garrott
William E. White
Kenneth W. Creasy (alternate)
Leslie G. Moore (alternate)

Local 943
Garland G. Masters
Michael D. Pendleton
Dominic F. Smith
Charles H. Knapp (alternate)
Douglas Wilkinson (alternate)

Local 1098
Joseph M. Ardoin, Jr.
Ricardo Bertiiez
Jason B. Engels
Edward J. Gautreaux
Jeremy B. Lavers
Kevin R. Henderson (alternate)
Chad B. Woods (alternate)

Local 1836
Michael David Kelly
Wiley G. Lee, Jr.
Tommy Sipay
Jeremy Hughes (alternate)
John Ernest Truex (alternate)

Local 1846
Oscar L. Brown
Rayford H. Calamari, Jr.
John W. Edwards
Adios O. Espiricosa
Ross Janczak
Robin D. Arnold (alternate)
Emanuel Mitchell (alternate)

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Robin D. Arnold (alternate)
Emanuel Mitchell (alternate)
By Dwayne Young
Arkansas

Carpentry and Bull Riding Go Hand-in-Hand for Local 690 Member Justin Koon

JUSTIN KOON OF GRAPEVINE, ARKANSAS is into his second decade as a member of Local 690. He’s also his second decade of professional bull riding.

“I love being a bull rider, and I love being a carpenter. They’re both in my blood,” Koon says. Koon competes in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) and Professional Bull Riders (PBR) tours all over the country, and is ping up the awards and accomplishments. Justin logged nearly 20 PBR touring pro event wins or places in 2011, and qualified for the PBR World Finals. He is a three-time champion of the Southeastern circuit, twice won the Arkansas Rodeo Association championship, was named the rookie of the year for both the Arkansas Rodeo and Central Regional Rodeo Associations; and is a four-time qualifier to the national circuit finals. He has climbed as high as 14th in world rankings, and has participated at the Tamworth International Competition in Australia, where he placed third.

“I was raised around a farm and when I was 10, we had a steer riding contest at the fair in my hometown. I don’t know how I got entered into it, but that’s what got all of this started,” Koon said. Koon is able to draw some critical parallels between his dual careers in bull riding and union carpentry. Training. The best way to get better at riding is to get on the bulls and physical fitness training. The best way to keep up with new technologies in carpentry is to keep-up on skill-enhancement coursework. Ironically, he says that the physical nature of the carpentry trade is usually enough exercise to keep physically fit for bull riding.

Mental acuity is also important in both industries. “Bull riding requires a lot of mental preparation, as does carpentry,” he said.

But unlike carpentry, the safety factor is a lot more serious inside the riding arena. Koon has rods in his legs from past bad breaks and spent a few weeks in a coma when he lost a bull vs. Justin head butt that shattered his skull “like a broken windshield,” he said. Unfortunately, he was also injured in his most recent competition.

Justin said that since his hard work and determination on bull riding has finally paid off, he has put working as a carpenter on hold for now. He said he knows bull riding will not last forever, but being a carpenter will and he sincerely appreciates all that the Union has done for him.

Rollins Place 1st and 2nd Grade Elementary School

ROLLINS PLACE 1ST AND 2ND GRADE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, located in the northern part of East Baton Rouge Parish in Zachary, Louisiana, sits on 62 acres and has more than 100,000 square feet under roof. The building is comprised primarily of brick, concrete block, metal framing, and drywall.

This project is one of several educational projects that are being constructed in the state by our signatory contractors. Contractors from Local 1098 have been on this site from the very beginning of construction, amassing large amounts of man-hours. At this stage of the job our carpenters are forming driveways, sidewalks, and patio areas around the site. Local 1098 carpenters are also installing expansion joints and doing trim work inside the school. Buquet & LeBlanc, Inc., the oldest General Contracting firm in Baton Rouge (established in 1945), is the General Contractor on this project, which started in December of 2011 and is nearing completion.

Ronnie Mitchell, a former 1098 carpenter, is the superintendent for Buquet & LeBlanc, while Calvin Wells is his carpenter foreman. Calvin has been a member of Local 1098 for 36 years, and being a former apprenticeship instructor, Calvin knows the value of professionalism on the job and leads by example. Local 1098 carpenters onsite were Carl Ardoin, Phil Allen, Dustin Wells, Jason Zachary and apprentice Johnathan Naibone.

By Ed Gautreaux
Local 1098
Louisiana

HELLO AGAIN BROTHERS AND SISTERS. There have been some changes since our last newsletter. Carpenters Local 1075 and Carpenters Local 764 have merged into Carpenters Local 1098 in Baton Rouge. Local 1098 now covers the entire state, from Baton Rouge west to Lake Charles, and north to Shreveport and Monroe. We now have 782 members as of October 29, 2012.

Commercial work in Baton Rouge has been pretty steady for the majority of our contractors, as they have been building schools, restaurants, and other office buildings. In Lake Charles, Levien Construction is the major contractor there and he has been doing well. Shreveport had been slow the first part of the year, but we picked up an interior systems job and work at the GM Plant the last quarter.

Industrial jobs in Baton Rouge area have been steady with Turner Industrial Maintenance, Fluor Maintenance Industries, and Shave Stone and Webster leading the way. There will be several turnarounds and outages at these three sites beginning in the fall of 2012 and into the spring of 2013.

Both Brothers has been working on the I-10 section in Baton Rouge, and they are employing a lot of our members. They also have some work in chemical plants in the Geismar area.

With all of this work we have and the new work coming up, you need to be prepared to go on the job when called upon. This means you need your safety cards and your scaffold erectors qualification card up-to-date. If you want to work at the nuclear facilities, you will need your NURET training. In order to work at some sites you will need a TWIC.

If you are interested in the Canada, contact Ed Gautreaux at canadawork@cscouncil.net. If you have any questions visit our web site at www.centralsouthcarpenters.org.
By John Edwards, Local 1846
Louisiana

CARPENTERS & PILEDRIVERS LOCAL UNION 1846 has really been busy these last several months, after a slow summer. At the end of September we had 199 people out on the convention center floor at the 9 Hall Water Environment Federation Show. During that same time we were manning-up the shutdowns at Waterford III and C.F. Industries. We had 80 people with Turner at C.F. Industries, 94 with Stone & Webster, and 93 with SGT/URS at Waterford III. The Waterford shutdown will run into mid-December with some of our members working until the first part of 2013. After the first of the year there are several shutdowns that are tentatively scheduled at Cornerstone, previously called “Cytec”, and at C.F. Industries, which Turner will be manning-up at both plants. At Cornerstone they are estimating they will need an additional 35-45 people above their normal maintenance crew of 25 carpenters. If the schedule is not changed, they will start hiring around the end of January or the first part of February with the shutdown starting around the first of March. C.F. Industries has tentative shutdowns scheduled in February, April and September 2013. If nothing changes, Turner will need about 45 more carpenters to complete the outage work that will take place during those shutdowns. Please keep in mind that any carpenter or apprentice who would like to work on any non-nuclear scaffold job is required to have a current Building & Trades Safety Council Card, the OSHA 10 card that you receive with that class, or the Greater New Orleans Industrial Educational Council “GNOIEC” card. Along with either of those cards, you also need to have a TWIC card, a 40-hour scaffold card and in most cases the 16-hour hanging scaffold card. As a reminder, our union meetings are the second Monday of every month, starting at 7 pm. They are held on the second floor of the Plumbers & Pipefitters union hall, located at 3815 I-10 Service Rd., Metairie, LA. Please enter through the door on the Northwest side of the building. Hope to see you at our next meeting!

Finally, please do not hesitate to contact the office if you have any questions or concerns. I sincerely hope all of our members and their families have Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

By Doug Wilkinson
Oklahoma

THIS YEAR HAS BEEN STEADY in the State of Oklahoma. The majority of the work is happening in Oklahoma City, which is contributing to the growth of man hours and membership.

For example:
- Midwest Drywall and a new contractor completed the largest project in the Southern District this year: The Devon Tower. This project employed more than 100 interior systems members, producing more than 300,000 man-hours. This is a big boost to the area and the Local Union. Presently, Midwest Drywall has eight different projects in Oklahoma City. Their newest projects are two 18-story hotels in Thackerville at the WinStar Casino. The future is very bright with this signatory contractor!
- At the Chesapeake Complex, Smith and Pickel is putting 200 members to work on concrete and interior work on the Chesapeake complex, a project that shows no signs of slowing down any time soon. American Glass signed a PLA agreement for this project, putting 12 members to work installing window trim and panes.
- Lipert Construction has successfully finished the Hobby Lobby project. They are holding steady with their usual crew, and they are looking for more work.

In Tulsa...
- Williams Construction continues to work with their maintenance contracts, and have work at GPFA in Pryor, cement plants, PSIO in Oologah, and work in Muskogee.
- Tracey’s Wood Shop has work in Catoosa Industrial Park, and is looking to start work in hospitals.
- General Acoustics is picking up work at the Williams Center, downtown Tulsa, with help from our market recovery program. General Acoustics is now looking out of their comfort zone for more work and is bidding work on a more consistent basis.
- St. John’s Hospital is going steady with continued maintenance.
- Midwest Drywall is working on several projects in Tulsa, including Oral Roberts University which put 15 interior systems carpenters to work.

C.R. Myers has just recently started a project at the Kimberly Clark Factory. They are putting in a new line for the plant, which is a 75,000 square foot warehouse. Currently they have 13 members working two shifts, with more to come.
- Boldt Construction just finished up a new Broken Arrow Middle School and is currently starting on the elementary school next door. Boldt Construction is also strong in Bartlesville with two schools, a church and at Western University.

Local Union 329 signal another PLA with McCarthy Construction, and several members are working on the Mercy Hospital in Edmond, OK. Local 329 and the apprenticeship sold their respective buildings and are combining their resources to purchase property. The plan is to create a facility that everyone will be proud of, and that Oklahoma City will respect!

Our progress in politics has also been successful. Our Political Director, Gary Warren, together with some of our friends at the Capital helped get a new bill passed, Senate Bill 2258, which became effective Nov. 1, 2012. The legislation holds all sub-contractors responsible for misclassifying employees, paying taxes and workers comp. The penalties for breaking this law is 10% of the cost of their part of the project. These penalties are some of the toughest in the Southern District.

In short, Oklahoma has been able to hold its own through these rough times, and work is looking stronger every day. Each of us have a duty to keep each other going, and build these Locals day by day. The tide is turning, keep the faith!
Central South Carpenters Regional Council Training Reports

By Rayford Calamari, Jr.
Louisiana Training Director

WE CURRENTLY OFFER TRAINING in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and satellite training in Shreveport. Journeymen upgrade workshops are being offered in Commercial Concrete Forms, OSHA Safety, Interior Systems, and Scaffold. Additional workshops are held based on contractor needs and upcoming jobs. For a complete list of scheduled workshops, contact the local training center in your area.

We have been busy at the Baton Rouge and New Orleans Training Centers with 40-hour scaffold training, scaffold refreshers, 16-hour supplemental hanging scaffold, and construction fall protection. In addition, over 110 members have received NANTeL training for the Waterford III steam generator outage. Workshops are offered through the Apprenticeship Program weekly. Journeymen and apprentices who want to hone their skills are welcome to attend these workshops.

We currently have 302 apprentices enrolled in the apprenticeship program. We completed nine apprentices so far in 2012. Congratulations to our new batch of journeymen as they continue their careers. The Central South Carpenters Regional Council Training Fund of Louisiana is proud to have two of our apprentices participate this year in the Southern District Apprenticeship Competition held in Augusta, Georgia. Reginald McKnight and Lloyd Norton were able to display their skills and compete against their peers within the district. Both apprentices make our Apprenticeship, Locals, Regional Council, and District proud. Congratulations on a job well done!

Pre-Apprenticeship Partnership

I am proud to announce that our Pre-Apprenticeship Program was approved by the Louisiana Workforce Commission Apprenticeship Division as the first pre-apprenticeship program to become registered in Louisiana. The Apprenticeship & Training Program has been a partner with The Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR) since 1998. The program is tasked with completing 20 participants per year that are unemployed or under-employed and are looking for a career in carpentry. The Fall Session is currently ongoing. Ten participants are receiving job-readiness training, construction safety, green building awareness, four weeks of hands-on carpentry, and scaffold training. Upon completion of the Pre-Apprenticeship Program, graduates will be given the opportunity to join the Apprenticeship & Training Program with credit, depending on their performance and attendance. If you know of any friends or family members that would like to participate in the next session of Pre-Apprenticeship, please contact the New Orleans Training Center at 504-945-3127.

Louisiana Course Choice

The Central South Carpenters Regional Council Training Fund of Louisiana is currently working with the Director of Apprenticeship for the State of Louisiana to craft a course curriculum outline in carpentry for the Louisiana Course Choice program. This will be in partnership with our Pre-Apprenticeship Program and the Louisiana Technical College. The Course Choice program will enable families to choose publicly-funded course offerings that best match each student’s abilities and needs. Beginning in the 2013-14 school year, The Course Choice program will expand academic course options for all Louisiana students who want to enhance their academic performance and job readiness. The program will provide students with educational opportunities to grow our state’s economy, create new jobs, and best position Louisiana’s families, businesses, and communities for success in the 21st century and beyond. Course Choice will help Louisiana students achieve ambitious academic and job readiness personal goals, while contributing to the Louisiana Believes goal of preparing our students to obtain post-secondary degrees or to graduate workforce-ready for high-quality, high-paying 21st Century jobs.
Training Reports (continued)

By Ed Wright
Arkansas/Oklahoma Training Director

AFTER THE MAJOR LOSS of Dick Patkowski in April, the Apprenticeship Trustees approved the hiring of Charles "Joey" Brown as the new carpenter instructor in Oklahoma City. Joey has been in the carpenters union for 30 years. He has taught classes for Job Corps and the Carpenters Union. We are looking forward to working with Joey so that we can move the apprenticeship to the next level.

The Apprenticeship Trustees are looking for a new building in OKC. We found several building that would suit our needs, only to have companies in the petrochemical field to buy them first. The search continues.

Joey Brown will be attending the ICRA Best Practices in Health Care in Las Vegas in November. A major issue in hospitals today is secondary infections that are contracted during hospital stays. This results in approximately 100,000 deaths per year due to cross contamination from construction work. As a result, hospitals are looking for contractors and workers that are trained in keeping secondary infections to a minimum. The training trust funds will be working together to present these classes for our apprentices and journeymen. This should open up markets to the carpenters, resulting in more man hours.

On a personal note, Dennis Curtis, carpenter instructor for Tulsa, OK and Russellville, had to put his youngest daughter, Ashley Campbell, in the hospital for a brain hemorrhage. Ashley is 29 with three children of her own and is having a very tough go right now. Please keep Ashley and her family in your prayers.

Finally, don’t forget to check out the Council website at www.centralsouthcarpenters.org

Remember: We are all of our brother’s keepers. Look out for each other. Stay safe on the job.

Upon successful completion of this workshop the participant should be able to:
• Describe why health-care facilities are unique work environments and why extra precautions must be taken while working in them.
• Explain the differences between positive, equal, and negative air pressure and how air pressure affects contaminants.
• Recognize how airborne contaminants are isolated and controlled.

Thousand die annually from secondary infections contracted during hospital stays. Health-Care officials are concerned that cross contamination incidents increase during renovations, and they’re acting to prevent this from happening. Inadequate safety procedures on construction projects can release contaminants trapped above ceilings, behind walls, or under floors, allowing them to infiltrate patients and staff environments via HVAC systems, foot traffic, and other conduits.

In consultation with medical industry experts in pathogen containment during occupied facilities construction work, the Carpenters International Training Fund assembled vital, up-to-date technical material for initial training, and established protocols for consistent curriculum review and updates as new technology emerges.

The new workshop promotes awareness of infection control in health-care facilities and outlines protection methods in safe work practices for UBC members when working in these facilities. The entire workshop focuses on renovations and additions to existing, occupied buildings.

Upon successful completion of this workshop the participant should be able to:
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• Explain the differences between positive, equal, and negative air pressure and how air pressure affects contaminants.
• Recognize how airborne contaminants are isolated and controlled.

Workshop Showcase: Healthcare Construction

Two of Local 1836’s carpenter apprentices, Jonathan Crofts and Bradley Davis, and with instructor Dennis Curtis, exhibit their carpenter skills with this Cabinet project. Both share the same determination and hard work that demonstrates what the carpenter apprenticeship is about.

Good job guys, well done.
Chesapeake Energy Headquarters Project
Continued from page 1

Plans for the six-block campus includes a 42-story office building, six additional buildings, three parking decks, a daycare center, and an exercise facility. The Complex is found west of Highway 335 to Western Avenue and N.W. 63rd St. South to Highway 44.

The project began by employing just 20 members, but now employs well over 200. Work primarily involves concrete form and interior work. In 2011, man-hours topped 280,000. Estimates for 2012 promise to meet or exceed that number.

The ongoing project is also providing work for additional interior system signatory contractors, as well as Project Labor Agreements with other companies who are tapping the expertise of Council members to complete the work according to budget and schedule.

“We will continue striving to get qualified members and provide focused training for them, to help keep up with the demand of manpower,” said Council Executive Secretary-Treasurer Jason Engels.

Members quickly completed the UBC’s new rigging qualification courses and OSHA 10 and 30 courses to make sure all needed manpower had the credentials to work at the site. “Smith and Picket is accustomed to getting top-notch crews from the carpenters union, and the Chesapeake job is no different,” Engels added. “Our members performed their technical skills well, had a great attitude, and kept this project running smoothly, which allowed our contractors to remain productive and turn in excellent work to the customer.”

And, Chesapeake has now started a new complex in El Reno, Oklahoma off of Highway 44, which will consist of six buildings, including two hotels. In fact, the state will be adding an exit off of Highway 44 for access to these facilities. Eventually, a private airport will also be built.
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Staff Gains Training from National Construction Leadership Expert

Recently, The Regional Council invited Mr. Mark Breslin to provide competitive training for the Council staff. Mr. Breslin is a renowned author and the CEO of United Contractors, one of the largest and most innovative contractor organizations in the Western United States. He is noted as the #1 speaker in the nation on construction leadership, strategy and labor-management relations. As a strategist, speaker and author, he has addressed more than 250,000 business labor and construction-owner leaders.