

Union Construction Workers' Compensation Program

Fall 2020 Program News



Dear Members and Supporters,

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New Members

Please welcome the following contractors who made the decision to "COME ON BOARD" the Union Construction Workers' Compensation Program (UCWCP):

Castrejon, Inc. | September 1, 2020

Benson-Claugherty Contracting, Inc. | September 1, 2020

WELCOME ABOARD!

You can see our current lists by clicking on the following links:

[Participating Contractors](#)

[Sponsoring Organizations](#)

[Sponsoring Insurance Providers](#)

Quotes to Note

“The Union Construction Workers’ Compensation Program produces a timely resolution for each claim. This allows my members to know where they stand during a very trying time in their lives.”

-Jamie McNamara, Business Manager/Financial Secretary
I.B.E.W. Local Union #110

“Our companies’ work comp litigation costs decreased by 75% the first year we joined and has continued to decline. This has resulted in improved employee relations, better cooperation between the injured workers, the claims representatives and the medical providers. The program is highly successful in all measures; response time, service, resolution and financial results.”

-Mark Hubbard, Former Owner
Lakehead Constructors, Inc., Member since 1997

To review or print quotes from all our participants please click on the following links.

[Contractor Testimonials](#)

[Union Leaders and Member Testimonials](#)

[Insurance Agents and Carrier Testimonials](#)



**From Sandy Stoddard
Member Services Director**

WELCOME OUR NEWEST UCWCP STAFF PERSON: AMES GASCOIGNE

We are pleased to welcome Ames Gascoigne to our team as a *Member Services Advisor*. Ames has worked with the program over the last few years, from within Wilson-McShane’s Administrative Services unit. After undergoing additional education and training, he will now be dedicated full-time to serving the needs of our employer, insurer and injured worker participants.

Ames has extensive experience in managing call-center customer service operations, and has recently completed Minnesota’s Workers’ Compensation Claims Adjuster training program. He will be assisting in the areas of Dispute Intervention & Resolution; Exclusive Provider Organization (EPO) physician research and selection; and surveying all parties who have used our Qualified Rehabilitation Consultants to assess outcomes and satisfaction.
Welcome Ames!

NEW Contractor Webinar: Coming in November!

Ensure a Successful Return to Work through Light Duty

- Resolve obstacles to a successful return to work.
- How does a prompt return to work impact a contractor.
- How does a prompt return to work impact a union employee.

Learn how to develop and promote a successful return to work process that benefits both contractors and their union employees. Get resources that will help you achieve results.

An invite for the webinar will be coming soon!

Alternative Dispute Resolution: Case Study

A union tradesman injured his knee in a work-related accident. He immediately reported the injury to his employer who sent him to an Exclusive Provider Organization (EPO) occupational medicine doctor. He was referred to an EPO knee specialist for further care and given light duty restrictions for which the employer provided light duty.

The orthopedic knee specialist performed surgery, work restrictions were given and the employer continued to provide light duty. Physical rehabilitation progressed slowly so the insurer assigned a program-approved Qualified Rehabilitation Consultant (QRC) to assist with medical management and a plan for return to full-duty. A functional capacity evaluation eventually determined that some restrictions were permanent.

Unfortunately, the employer had no permanent light duty work so the injured worker faced the prospect of leaving the trade after a long career. He told his QRC that was not acceptable. The QRC, the employer, the union and the injured worker teamed up to find a new position with another union employer that was within his permanent restrictions. His determination, along with the support of his former employer, the union and the assistance of the EPO doctor and the program's QRC, created a return to pre-injury wage with fringe benefits.

Need Program Assistance?

Call UCWCP Members Services at **952-851-5943** or email ucwcp@wilson-mcshane.com and UCWCP Staff will assist you.



**From Kevin Gregerson
Program Administrator**

Exclusive Rehabilitation Consultant (QRC) Network Update:

The program hand picks the exclusive Qualified Rehabilitation Consultants

(QRC) that are allowed to serve our injured participants. Their task is to ensure that our injured workers receive medical treatment from the most appropriate physicians; that all the parties to the injury receive timely and accurate information regarding medical and vocational status; that a prompt and safe return to union work, wages and benefits is achieved whenever possible; and, if a return to the trade is no longer possible, that assistance is provided to allow for a successful transition into other gainful employment.

When considering whether to add, keep or remove a QRC from the Network the trustees annually review data gathered by the Program, which they did in September. The trustees also reviewed applications to join our network, and chose to add Laura Tykeson and Robert Otos. Welcome Rob and Laura!

We would also like to congratulate Michael Kahnke and Audrey Schlong on their retirements. Thank you for your dedicated service!

The updated approved QRC listing is found on our Web site by clicking the following link: [QRC Network](#)

NEW: Satisfaction Surveys: The trustees also asked us to begin surveying all parties to a rehabilitation plan to assess the quality and satisfaction of the services rendered by program QRC's. Beginning in 2021, the program will be contacting injured participants, employer members, and claim adjusters with sponsoring insurance carriers for all rehabilitation plans closed during the year.

Please Welcome Our New Labor Trustee: Virgil Christoffersen

Virgil Christoffersen is a Business Agent for Teamsters Local 120, which serves Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Iowa. He began his career with Local 120 in 1989, working at Yellow Freight, Inc. He became a Business Agent in 2014 and represents members working in trucking, bakery, construction and warehousing. He lives in Maplewood with his wife and 2 youngest children. During his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, watching his sons play sports, and spending time outdoors.

Virgil will serve on the UCWCP Board of Trustees as a Labor Trustee representing the Teamsters (Heavy/Highway).

Welcome Virgil. We look forward to your contributions and service to support our mission:

“Making Workers’ Compensation Work Right for Minnesota’s Unionized Construction Industry”.



Kevin Gregerson, Program Administrator

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