

SUBJECT: June 2012 Who's on Board & Program News

Dear Members and Supporters,

Please welcome the following contractors who made the decision to "COME ON BOARD" the Union Construction Workers' Compensation Program (UCWCP) effective *June 1, 2012*:

Albers Mechanical Services, Inc.

J&L Electrical Services, LLC

Minnesota Dirt Works, Inc.

Torrini Companies

WELCOME ABOARD!

To see a complete list of our participating contractors, unions and insurance providers please click on the following link.

<http://www.ucwcp.com/documents/Contractors%20G.%20Whos%20on%20Board.pdf>

Quotes to Note

"After we joined this program it became obvious that this is by far one of the fairest and most cost effective innovations to the workers' compensation system in many years, and a great benefit to the union construction industry and trades."

- Marv Kotek, President

Frerichs Construction Company

Member Since: 2004

"Every time one of our members can get the proper benefits paid without having to hire an attorney and go to court, they win – no legal fees to pay and no delay in payment of benefits."

- Jim Brady, Business Manager-President, Laborers District Council of MN and ND

To review or print other quotes from our participants please click on the following links:

Contractors:

<http://www.ucwcp.com/documents/Contractors%20E.%20Employer%20Member%20Testimonials.pdf>

Union Leaders and Members:

<http://www.ucwcp.com/documents/Union%20Members%20-%20Testimonials.pdf>

Insurance Agents and Carriers:

<http://www.ucwcp.com/documents/Contractors%20F.%20Agent-Insurer%20Testimonials.pdf>

Sometimes the solution is just a phone call away.

An ironworker fell while putting on corner bars fracturing a finger and injuring his right knee. The insurer accepted liability and paid for the medical treatment and wage loss benefits. When the injured worker was released to return to work with restrictions offers to provide light-duty work were communicated to the employee, but for a variety of reasons were not accepted. Both the employee and the insurer called the UCWCP to resolve the period of claimed wage loss that had grown to 3.2 weeks by the time of the call. The matter was resolved over the phone by the next day. A compromise was made on the wage loss claim and the employee returned to work with his pre-injury employer in an appropriate light-duty position.

Experience Modification Rating (EMR) Changes on the Horizon

Minnesota, along with the rest of the USA, is changing the way primary losses are used for calculating an employer's EMR. The increase in primary losses begins January of 2013, and will increase again in 2014 and 2015—going from the current \$5,000 to \$15,000. For more detailed information on this change, please contact your insurance agent.

For a brief blog post on this topic, go to: <http://www.workerscompinsider.com/2012/05/ncci-experience.html>

The Bottom Line: creating an effective light-duty return-to-work (RTW) program to avoid lost-time claims is more important than ever. The key component to that RTW program is using medical providers that understand the importance of supporting an early RTW. Therefore, proper use of the doctors in the UCWCP's Exclusive Provider Organization (EPO) is all the more important. At our upcoming Contractor training, we will provide detailed information on creating an effective RTW program, so please attend if you can.

Contractor Training Announcement

A training session for the staff of participating contractors is scheduled for **July 24, 2012**, and will be held in Room 110 at our office at 3001 Metro Drive, Bloomington, from **10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** Attendees will get a deeper understanding of workers' compensation concepts and how the UCWCP helps reduce the financial impact of injuries on employers and their employees. **Please RSVP to Stephanie Fossum by email to sfossum@wilson-mcshane.com and let her know who from your company will be attending.**

This session will also feature a presentation by Bob Seeds, Physical Therapist, PhD, Twin Cities Occupational Health & Rehabilitation, who will discuss how employers can work with health professionals in making effective light-duty return-to-work programs.

Training sessions for participating unions, insurers and insurance agencies can be arranged by contacting Kevin Gregerson at 952-851-3462.

Enjoy a busy and safe summer season.

Cordially,

Kevin Gregerson
Program Administrator