

# *Union Construction Workers' Compensation Program*

## **Newsletter**

*Summer 2015*



**Dear members and supporters,**

### **New Members**

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

**Landmark Concrete, Inc. (effective April 1, 2015)**

**3D Mechanical, Inc. (effective June 1, 2015)**

**Grazzini Brothers and Company (effective June 1, 2015)**

**Reiner Contracting, Inc. (effective June 1, 2015)**

**Sheet Metal Connectors, Inc. (effective June 1, 2015) (Returning Contractor)**

**Superior Painting & Decorating, Inc. (effective June 1, 2015)**

WELCOME ABOARD!

You can see our current list of Participating Contractors by clicking on the following link:

[http://www.ucwcp.com/docs/Employer\\_Participants.pdf](http://www.ucwcp.com/docs/Employer_Participants.pdf)

You can see our current list of Sponsoring Organizations (labor & management) by clicking on the following link:

[http://www.ucwcp.com/docs/Sponsoring\\_Organizations.pdf](http://www.ucwcp.com/docs/Sponsoring_Organizations.pdf)

You can see our current list of Sponsoring Insurance Providers by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.ucwcp.com/docs/Insurance%20Providers.pdf>

### **Quote to Note**

*"When I began my job here in 2001, I was pleased that my employer was already a member of the UCWCP and that they already knew how the UCWCP works to reduce the costs of workers' compensation for the company. Being involved with the hiring of new employees, I have the opportunity to get to know our employees before an injury even takes place, which I think is crucial. When an injury occurs workers already know to report it to their foreman and get immediate care from the program's network of doctors.*

*Due to the UCWCP Contractor trainings that our safety coordinators and I have attended we know how to properly answer a worker's questions and avoid misunderstandings. When there is an issue about the claim, I know that all of us can depend on a reliable source of information and procedures to resolve disputes. While there can be disagreements with the results, the program gives everyone a fair shake. Contractors and their workers achieve better outcomes because of this program's services."*

**-Mike Sturgeski, Safety Director/Employment Coordinator  
Olympic Companies, Inc.  
Member since 1999**

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

Contractors:

<http://www.ucwcp.com/docs/Employer%20Member%20Testimonials.pdf>

Union Leaders and Members:

<http://www.ucwcp.com/docs/Union%20Member%20Testimonials.pdf>

Insurance Agents and Carriers:

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

## **Work Comp Insurer and Union Health & Welfare Fund Coordinate Payments**

**A carpenter suffered dizziness and chest pains while performing strenuous work** on the job site. The employer called 911. The ambulance took him to the nearest hospital where he stayed overnight for observation. The reported incident was deemed compensable by the insurer. Medical and wage loss benefits were paid until his return to work three weeks later.

The doctor had the employee wear a heart monitor that would detect any abnormal activity. When the monitor's alarm went off during work he immediately went to the emergency room. An angioplasty was performed to address the blockage that was causing the symptoms. His recovery went well and he returned to full duty work with the employer.

When the insurer refused to pay for bills associated with the second event, the employee had the medical providers send the bills to his union's Health and Welfare insurance plan. The bills were denied by the union plan as being related to a work injury. The employee called the dispute resolution facilitator to assist in getting the bills paid.

After reviewing the medical records the facilitator called both payers to discuss how the bills should be resolved. It was clear from the records that the workers' compensation insurer was responsible for the first incident as an aggravation of his pre-existing heart condition. It became clear that the second event was not related to any work activity, but was entirely related to the employee's pre-existing heart condition. The union's plan agreed to pay the outstanding bills.

## **Subscription Fees: 7/1/2015 to 6/30/2016**

The Board of Trustees approved NO INCREASE in the payroll assessment rate (union labor payroll x .0013) used to calculate annual subscription fees paid by participating contractors. They also approved NO INCREASE in the minimum assessed payroll (\$807,692.31) or the maximum assessed payroll (\$6.5 million).

## **By the Numbers**

As of July 1, 2015 the UCWCP has the highest number of participating contractors (338), trade union employees (18,380) and participating payroll (\$990,460,000) in the program's history. Our successful track record is being recognized by more insurance carriers and insurance agents, resulting in increased membership and our recovery from the industry depression of a few years ago.

## Meet Our Newest Labor Trustees

**Barry Davies** is a Business Representative for Iron Workers Local Union No. 512 for the Southern MN area. Barry became an ironworker in 1990 and worked in all aspects of the trade during his career. After his appointment as an Organizer in January 2013, he was elected to his current position in September 2014. He also serves as a Trustee on the union's Pension and Health and Welfare Funds. Barry lives in Faribault, MN and enjoys golf and billiards.

**Steve Piper** is an Organizer for the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local Union #49. He was hired in 2006, and is responsible for activities in MN, SD and ND. Steve serves as a Trustee/Auditor for Local #49, as well as a trustee for Local #49's Health and Welfare fund. Additionally, he serves as a trustee for the Fair Contracting Foundation of MN. Steve likes to hunt and fish on Leech Lake, and ice fish on Lake of the Woods. He resides in Lakeville, MN with his wife and daughter.

## Training Opportunity

The contractor training event on April 22, 2015 went very well and those attending the session gained further insights in using the program's services to reduce the negative impact of work injuries on their company and union workers. The Occupational Medicine Specialist's presentation on return to work planning generated some good discussion on a challenging topic.

**The next training event for contractors is currently scheduled for 9:30 am, Thursday, July 23rd here in Bloomington. Mark your calendars so you can join us!**

***Thank you for your continued support and confidence in the program. Stay cool and safe during these busy summer months,***

Kevin Gregerson  
Program Administrator  
Making Work Comp Work Right

[www.ucwcp.com](http://www.ucwcp.com)

