

CONFERENCE NEWS

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Safety tops NACBE agenda

The job site injuries chart shows a clear picture of what happens when labor, contractors and owners put safety first as a priority. From 2000 to 2021, Boilermaker injury rates (OSHA recordable rates) have shrunk from 7.17 to .49.

“Our number-one priority is not to get anyone hurt,” said Ron Traxler, Executive Director of the National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers. “We want to prevent injuries.”

Traxler announced that there have been no reported fatalities or serious injuries in the past year.

“I’m very proud to represent our NACBE safety committee,” he said. “We are working with some of the greatest safety professionals in the industry. Something is working. We want to get to zero. That’s our goal, but it takes all of us working together to do that.”

“We need your help. NACBE and contractors are working with MOST programs, and we need to continue to work together, communicate and keep everyone informed of safety and any issue that happen on job site so we can get better.”



Ron Traxler, Executive Director of the National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers



THE CHARLES W. JONES AWARD, which honors the local lodge demonstrating the highest use of specified MOST programs during the preceding year, was awarded to Local 237 (Hartford, Connecticut) for 2020 and Local 363 (Belleville, Illinois) for 2021. MOST programs qualifying for the honor include OSHA 10/30, Common Arc, Substance Abuse, Scaffolding, Steel Erection, Rigging, Leadership and the Boilermaker Code. Boilermakers International President Newton B. Jones presented the awards to (above) L-237 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Chris O'Neill and (below) L-363 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer William Mulconnery.



M.O.R.E. Work programs position Boilermakers for success

Legislation, recruitment, marketing and state legislative initiatives were M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund strategy highlights outlined during the 2022 MOST National Tripartite Alliance conference.

Director of Government Affairs Cecile Conroy outlined the latest opportunities and challenges with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

“Later this fall the thought is that we’ll be seeing a ‘tsunami’ of announcements from the Department of Energy on supporting carbon capture projects and other technologies. The money has to get out the door in five years, and DOE is essentially drinking water out of a fire hose with the level of funding they’ve received.”

Conroy gave an overview of the potential opportunities coming down the pike with IIJA and IRA. She also outlined the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 that provides major incentives for semi-conductor manufacturing in the United States and loosens the stranglehold China has had in this space for years.

She also gave an overview of the new 45V hydrogen tax credits and the enhanced 45Q carbon capture tax credits. She noted that currently both tax incentives can’t be taken together.

More information:

- Guidebook for the entire IIJA – very informative about the scope of the infrastructure bill:
https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/BUILDING-A-BETTER-AMERICA_FINAL.pdf
- DOE-specific IIJA information:
<https://www.energy.gov/bil/bipartisan-infrastructure-law-homepage>
- Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management:
<https://www.energy.gov/fecm/office-fossil-energy-and-carbon-management> (You can sign up here to receive emails.)

In the arena of recruiting, Boilermakers have been using new sales lead and analysis technology to pull in recruitment leads and monitor them for potential job staffing.

“We want to be sure we’re staffing your jobs at 100% from day one,” said Marketing Manager Johnny Baca.



Martin Williams, National Coordinator of State Legislative Initiatives

He reported that the most leads are coming into California and Texas. In recruiting initiatives, over 5,000 people have signed on to receive more information about the Boilermakers. The Boilermakers are using an international sales program called Salesforce to identify job leads, carefully monitor leads and position leads to be available to address jobs in need of a skilled workforce.

“We are selling a membership in our union, and that’s ultimately what we’re doing,” said Baca.

Director of Communications Amy Wisner gave an overview of marketing initiatives aimed at increasing work for owners and contractors, Boilermaker membership and pride of membership among existing Boilermaker members.

She reminded participants about existing video spots and other marketing materials available to all local lodges.

Martin Williams, National Coordinator of State Legislative Initiatives gave updates on state-level campaigns. He gave updates on Illinois HB 3437 and Minnesota SF 4091. He noted that Illinois HB 3437 passed the Illinois Statehouse last year but got stalled in the state Senate and is currently stuck in executive committee.

Minnesota SF 4091, which targets refineries with parameters for apprenticeship and other pro-union attributes, is also “stuck” but the Boilermakers and other allies will continue advocating to move it forward.