



Illinois Chapter

MERIT UPDATE

JULY 28, 2009

COMPULSORY UNIONISM BANKRUPTING STATES: WORKERS FLEE TO RIGHT TO WORK STATES FOR JOBS

Inside this Issue: Page

COMPULSORY UNIONISM BANKRUPTING STATES: WORKERS FLEE TO RIGHT TO WORK STATES FOR JOBS	1
GOLF OUTING REMINDER	1
DOL DISTRIBUTES SECOND PHASE OF WEATHERIZATION PREVAILING WAGE SURVEY	2
EIC SAVE THE DATE!	2
SAFETY TIP	2
EVENTS	3

AS THE CURRENT ECONOMIC DOWNTURN CONTINUES, MANY STATES ACROSS THE NATION ARE STARTING TO FIND IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO STAY AFLOAT AFTER HAVING CAPITULATED TO THE UNION BOSSES' EXTORTIONATE DEMANDS. LAST WEEK, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL CITED THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LABOR RELATIONS RESEARCH (NILRR) -- AN ANTI-COMPULSORY UNIONISM THINK TANK THAT EXPOSES THE HARM FORCED UNIONISM INFLECTS ON WORKERS -- WHEN DISCUSSING BIG LABOR'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE SEVERE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES CALIFORNIA, NEW YORK, AND NEW JERSEY ARE EXPERIENCING AND THE MIGRATION OF WORKERS LEAVING THESE FORCED-UNIONISM STATES:

POWERFUL UNIONS. MR. OBAMA BELIEVES UNION POWER IS A TICKET TO THE MIDDLE CLASS. THE MIDDLE CLASS IS GETTING CREAMED IN ALL THREE OF THESE "PROGRESSIVE" STATES, WHERE ORGANIZED LABOR IS KING. THE UNIONIZED SHARE OF THE WORKFORCE IS 20% IN CALIFORNIA, 19% IN NEW JERSEY AND 27% IN NEW YORK COMPARED TO 13% ACROSS THE COUNTRY. ALL THREE ARE NON-RIGHT-TO-WORK STATES, HAVE SUPER-MINIMUM WAGE REQUIREMENTS AND PROVIDE AMONG THE NATION'S MOST GENEROUS PUBLIC-EMPLOYEE PENSIONS.

WORKERS IN THESE PARADISES ARE INDEED UNITING -- BY LEAVING. NEW YORK RANKS FIRST, CALIFORNIA SECOND AND NEW JERSEY THIRD IN MOVING VANS LEAVING THE STATE. A STUDY BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LABOR RELATIONS RESEARCH FOUND THAT OVER THE PAST DECADE THESE AND OTHER HIGH-UNION STATES (MOSTLY IN THE NORTHEAST) HAD ONE-THIRD THE JOB GROWTH OF STATES WITH LOW UNION PENETRATION.

NILRR RECENTLY FOUND AN ESPECIALLY STRONG CORRELATION BETWEEN A STATE'S RIGHT TO WORK STATUS AND ITS JOB GROWTH, WHILE EMPLOYEES IN RIGHT TO WORK STATES ARE BENEFITING FROM FASTER JOB GROWTH AND HIGHER REAL PURCHASING POWER THAN THEIR COMPULSORY UNIONISM COUNTERPARTS.

PERHAPS IT'S ALSO WORTH REVISITING A WALL STREET JOURNAL ARTICLE PENNED LATE LAST YEAR BY NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK PRESIDENT MARK MIX, REMINDING US THAT A MASSIVE EXPANSION IN FORCED UNIONISM POWER PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN MAKING THE GREAT DEPRESSION LONGER AND DEEPER.

SOURCE: BY Anthony Riedel, NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK

ABCIL ANNUAL CHICAGO GOLF OUTING



THE 2009 CHICAGOLAND GOLF OUTING IS 2 DAYS AWAY!
DON'T WAIT, SIGN UP TODAY!

NOT A GOLFER? JOIN US FOR DINNER!

\$165 FOR INDIVIDUAL GOLFER

\$600.00 PER FOURSOME

\$40.00 DINNER ONLY

CALL THE ABCIL OFFICE TODAY TO SIGN UP!

ELK GROVE VILLAGE OFFICE

1541 ELMHURST RD,
ELK GROVE VILLAGE, IL
60007
847-709-2960
847-709-2970 FAX

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE

526 E. ALLEN
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
217-523-4692
217-523-4752 FAX



**GET A MEMBER,
GET SOME CASH !**

**ANY MEMBER WHO
RECRUITS A NEW
MEMBER THAT
PAYS IN FULL IN
JULY WILL RECEIVE
\$100.00 CASH!**

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT
ALICIA MARTIN AT
217-523-4692**



SAVE THE DATE!

**EXCELLENCE IN
CONSTRUCTION IS JUST
AROUND THE CORNER!**

**EIC PACKETS WILL BE
MAILED ON AUGUST 17, 2009
AND ALL PROJECT ENTRIES
WILL BE DUE
OCTOBER 19, 2009.**

**SHOWCASE YOUR BEST
WORK TO ALL OF ABCIL!**

**EIC PROJECT WINNERS WILL
BE ANNOUNCED AT THE
ANNUAL DINNER ON
NOVEMBER 19, 2009.**

DOL Distributes Second Phase of Weatherization Prevailing Wage Survey

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (DOL) WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION JULY 22 DISTRIBUTED THE SECOND PHASE IN A PREVAILING WAGE SURVEY OF RESIDENTIAL WEATHERIZATION WORK THAT ENCOMPASSES THE REMAINING 35 STATES. ABC IS ENCOURAGING ALL MEMBERS THAT HAVE PERFORMED WORK THAT MEETS THE DEFINITION OF WEATHERIZATION TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY.

DOL HAS SET AN **AUG. 14 DEADLINE** FOR ABC MEMBERS TO RETURN WAGE DATA ON RESIDENTIAL WEATHERIZATION WORK THEY HAVE PERFORMED IN THE ALASKA, ALABAMA, ARIZONA, ARKANSAS, COLORADO, DELAWARE, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, HAWAII, IDAHO, INDIANA, KANSAS, KENTUCKY, LOUISIANA, MARYLAND, MISSISSIPPI, MONTANA, NEVADA, NEW MEXICO, NORTH CAROLINA, NORTH DAKOTA, OKLAHOMA, OREGON, RHODE ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, SOUTH DAKOTA, TENNESSEE, TEXAS, UTAH, VERMONT, VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA, WYOMING OR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

MEANWHILE, AT ABC'S REQUEST, DOL EXTENDED THE DEADLINE FOR THE FIRST PREVAILING WAGE SURVEY SO ABC MEMBERS THAT HAVE PERFORMED APPLICABLE WORK IN CALIFORNIA, CONNECTICUT, IOWA, ILLINOIS, MAINE, MASSACHUSETTS, MINNESOTA, MICHIGAN, MISSOURI, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, OHIO, PENNSYLVANIA, AND WISCONSIN STILL HAVE UNTIL JULY 31 TO SUBMIT WAGE DATA.

WEATHERIZATION WORK IS DEFINED AS SEALING, REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT OF A DUCT; AIR SEALING; INSULATION INSTALLATION, INCLUDING BATT, BLOWN AND FOAM; VENTILATION WORK; MINOR OR INCIDENTAL STRUCTURAL REPAIRS; WINDOW AND DOOR REPAIRS TO INCLUDE SOLAR FILM INSTALLATION, CAULKING, AND WEATHER STRIPPING; TUNE UP OR MINOR REPAIRS TO AIR CONDITIONING, HEATING, OR HOT WATER SYSTEMS; FULL REPLACEMENT OF DOORS AND WINDOWS; MAJOR OVERHAULS, REPLACEMENT OR INSTALLATION OF FURNACE OR COOLING SYSTEMS; ELECTRICAL WORK; AND PLUMBING WORK. IN ADDITION, TO QUALIFY, ALL WORK MUST BE PERFORMED ON EXISTING RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES.

THIS SURVEY WILL DETERMINE THE PREVAILING WAGE RATES FOR WEATHERIZATION WORK ON EXISTING RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES NATIONWIDE. QUESTIONS OR COMPLETED SURVEYS CAN BE SENT ELECTRONICALLY TO 09WEATHERIZATIONSURVEY@DOL.GOV. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ALTERNATE CONTACT INFORMATION, READ THE APPROPRIATE LETTER FOR EITHER [SURVEY I](#) OR [SURVEY II](#), OR REVIEW THE [DEFINITION AND INSTRUCTION SHEET](#). TO FILL OUT THE SURVEY, [CLICK HERE](#).

SOURCE: ABC NEWSLINE

SAFETY TIP: BACK TO BASICS

YOU STAND A FAR BETTER CHANCE OF REMAINING FIT AND PAIN-FREE IF YOU'LL STICK WITH THE BASICS IN LIFTING AND HANDLING MATERIALS. MANY PAINFUL INJURIES HAPPEN TO CONSTRUCTION WORKERS BECAUSE THEY FORGET SEVERAL BASIC MANUAL MATERIAL HANDLING SUGGESTIONS. HERE ARE A FEW POINTERS ABOUT LIFTING AND HANDLING:

- **FIRST, THINK OF YOUR TENDER TOES, IN CASE SOMETHING HEAVY DROPS. ALWAYS KEEP THOSE TOES OF YOURS UNDER PROTECTIVE STEEL COVER; WEAR SAFETY SHOES.**
- **THINK OF YOUR HANDS. WEAR GOOD TOUGH GLOVES WHEN YOU HANDLE ANYTHING ROUGH, SHARP OR SPLINTERY.**
- **BEFORE YOU HEAVE-HO, BE SURE YOU'VE GOT A SECURE GRIP AND SOLID FOOTING.**
- **KEEP THE LOAD CLOSE TO YOUR BODY, TO MINIMIZE THE STRAIN. LIFT SMOOTHLY—DON'T JERK AS YOU LIFT.**
- **SEE THAT FINGERS AND TOES STAY IN THE CLEAR WHEN LIFTING AND HANDLING.**
- **DON'T TWIST YOUR BODY WHEN CARRYING A LOAD; PIVOT WITH YOUR FEET INSTEAD OF YOUR SPINE.**
- **WHEN A LOAD IS TOO HEAVY OR AWKWARD TO HANDLE ALONE, BE QUICK TO ASK FOR HELP.**
- **PLAN YOUR PATH OF EXECUTION AND MAKE SURE IT IS FREE OF DEBRIS AND OBSTACLES.**
- **PUSH RATHER THAN PULL.**
- **USE EQUIPMENT (DOLLIES, CARTS, TWO-WHEELERS, HYDRAULIC/ELECTRICAL HOISTS OR LIFTS) TO MOVE LOADS WHENEVER POSSIBLE.**
- **MAKE SURE WORK LEVELS ARE AT WAIST HEIGHT WHEN STANDING AND ELBOW HEIGHT WHEN SITTING WHENEVER POSSIBLE.**
- **IF YOU HAVE TO WORK IN ONE POSITION FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME, TAKE STRETCHING BREAKS.**

SOURCE: WWW.TOOLBOXTOPICS.COM

DON'T MISS THESE EVENTS!

PAGE 3

ABCIL'S ANNUAL CHICAGOLAND GOLF OUTING



COST:

- ⇒ INDIVIDUAL GOLF & DINNER \$165
- ⇒ FOURSOME GOLF & DINNER \$600,
- ⇒ DINNER ONLY \$40

COST INCLUDES:

- ⇒ GREEN FEES
- ⇒ LUNCH
- ⇒ ALL BEVERAGES AND ITEMS FROM THE BEVERAGE CART/KEG HOLE
- ⇒ DINNER BUFFET
- ⇒ ONE HOUR OPEN BAR AT DINNER
- ⇒ DOOR PRIZES

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER/SPONSOR PLEASE CONTACT LISA AT LISA@ABCIL.ORG

JULY 30, 2009

ABCIL ANNUAL CHICAGOLAND GOLF OUTING

THE EVENT WILL BE HELD AT PHEASANT RUN RESORT, 4051 EAST MAIN ST. SAINT. CHARLES, IL 60174. REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN AT 11:45 AM, LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT 12:00 PM, FOLLOWED BY A 1:00 PM SHOTGUN START. DINNER WILL BEGIN AT 6:00 PM. (PLEASE SEE THE COST LIST IN THE LEFT MARGIN)
FOR MORE INFORMATION OF TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT LISA AT LISA@ABCIL.ORG

JULY 29-31, 2009

CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

EACH YEAR ABC NATIONAL HOSTS THE CHAPTER PRESIDENTS' MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AS A OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CHAPTER PRESIDENTS OF ALL ABC CHAPTERS TO HONE THEIR ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT SKILLS, SHARE EFFECTIVE PRACTICES AND NETWORK.. THE EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE RENAISSANCE SEATTLE HOTEL IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

AUGUST 6, 2009

MAKING TECHNOLOGY WORK FOR YOU

ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS IS EXCITED ABOUT ANNOUNCING THE NEWEST EXPANSION OF OUR EDUCATIONAL OFFERING. WORKING WITH ONE OF OUR CURRENT MEMBERS, DECISION SYSTEMS PLUS, INC (DSP), WE'RE BRINGING AN ENTIRELY NEW SET OF CLASSES THAT WE FEEL WILL HELP YOU IN YOUR BUSINESS AND WITH YOUR CLIENTS. WE'VE LISTENED TO YOU ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT FROM US. FOR ALL CURRENT MEMBERS, HERE IT IS: **MAKING TECHNOLOGY WORK FOR YOU: HOW TO INCREASE YOUR PROFITABILITY, GIVE YOU A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE & PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS.** WE ALL KNOW HOW CRITICAL IT IS TO GET THIS RIGHT, YET WHERE DO YOU GO TO UNDERSTAND THIS WORLD AND HAVE IT PRESENTED IN CLEAR, EASY TO UNDERSTAND LANGUAGE.

WE ENCOURAGE ALL OF YOU TO TAKE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES, WHICH WERE CUSTOMIZED FOR ABC MEMBERS:

PROTECT YOUR NETWORK. HOW TO KEEP YOUR COMPUTER NETWORK SAFE FROM CRIPPLING POP-UPS, VIRUSES, SPYWARE, HACKERS, AND SPAM; WHILE AVOIDING EXPENSIVE COMPUTER REPAIR BILLS.

YOUR PHONE SYSTEM CAN MAKE OR LOSE YOU MONEY. THINGS YOUR PHONE SYSTEM CAN DO TO MAKE YOU MONEY, IMPROVE YOUR IMAGE AND PRODUCTIVITY, AND GIVE YOU HAPPIER CUSTOMERS

AVOID COMPUTER AND PHONE PROBLEMS PUTTING YOU OUT OF BUSINESS. STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO KEEP YOUR BUSINESS FUNCTIONING AND SERVING YOUR CUSTOMERS WHEN YOU HAVE A DISASTER – AND YOU WILL ALL HAVE ONE!

OFFICE RELOCATION. 12 IMPORTANT ISSUES TO AVOID MAKING COSTLY MISTAKES. (THIS WILL HELP YOUR CLIENTS TOO)

CONTROL TECHNOLOGY EXPENSE. HOW YOU CAN MAKE TECHNOLOGY NOT ONLY WORK BETTER FOR YOU BUT BE A PREDICTABLE COST AND AVOID THE UPGRADE TREADMILL.

IF YOU HAVE SOME OTHER TOPICS YOU'D LIKE COVERED, THE THINGS ABOUT TECHNOLOGY THAT KEEP YOU UP AT NIGHT, LET US KNOW SO WE CAN ADDRESS THEM.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT KARI SELK AT KARI@ABCIL.ORG

AUGUST 7, 2009

GETTING PAID IN A DOWN ECONOMY WEBINAR

THIS WEBINAR WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2009 BY CHAPTER ATTORNEY JEFF RISCH. THE WEBINAR WILL BE FROM 7:30 AM TO 9:00 AM AND IS FREE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT KARI AT KARI@ABCIL.ORG