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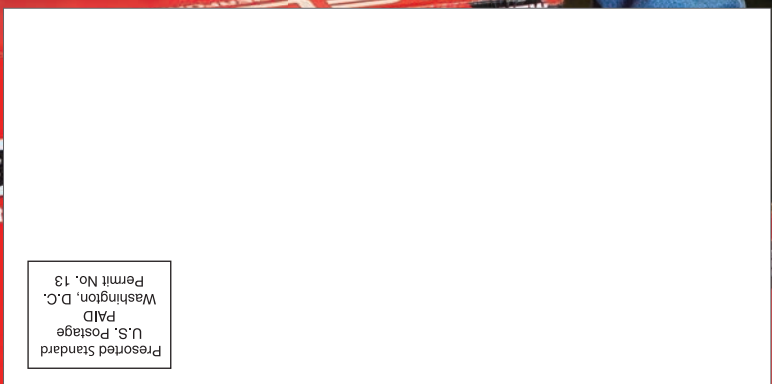
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CONSTRUCTION USER

ADVANCING UNION CONSTRUCTION MAINTENANCE

Craftperson Of The Year

Page 14



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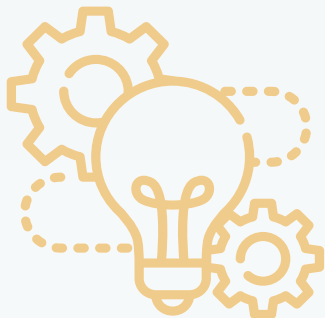
PUBLISHED AUGUST 2021

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Good Trouble



BY STEVE JOHNSON,
PRESIDENT, GEM, INC.



As you know, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the National Maintenance Agreements Policy Committee, Inc. A couple of issues ago, we devoted a special section to celebrating the NMAPC's history and accomplishments (Winter 2021, available online at www.tauc.org/archive). This time around, I wanted to talk more specifically about the NMAPC's legacy, and how the past and present remain connected in ways many folks new to our industry may not realize.

In the early 1970s, union contractors, especially those who worked closely with the Ironworkers, were facing stiff competition from the Steelworkers for the right to perform maintenance work in steel facilities across the U.S. It was a rough time for the building trades and unions in general, many of which were still mired in the destructive "us vs. them" mentality when it came to dealing with management and owner-clients. Massive strikes were common. In fact, in 1970 alone, a staggering one in six union workers went on strike!

It was obvious something had to change. In the spring of 1971, leaders of TAUC's predecessor group, the National Erectors Association, teamed up with the Ironworkers and unveiled the National Maintenance Agreement (NMA), a new kind of project labor agreement that would reinvent the way industrial maintenance was performed across the country. The NMA offered customers a streamlined process and preset rules for some of the most contentious elements of traditional labor contracts, including overtime pay and potential job disruptions. Most important, it was built on labor-management cooperation. Rather than fight one another, contractors and labor union representatives would instead actually work together to oversee and administer the Agreement and bring owner-clients into the conversation as well. The tripartite revolution had started.

The industry had never seen anything like it — but they liked what they saw. While originally designed to help Ironworkers and their partner contractors with steel facilities, it was quickly adopted by other building trades as well. Today, the NMA is used on projects in virtually every industrial and nonresidential construction sector in the United States. More than 2.7 billion work hours have been completed under the Agreement, and the 3-billion-hour milestone is just around the corner.



No one likes tough times. But whether it's nationwide labor unrest, a global pandemic or an uncertain economic future, there are always opportunities hidden within these disruptions.

So, what's the point of this trip down memory lane? It's important to remember that like most great inventions, the NMA was forged during a time of great stress and uncertainty — even desperation. Just as pressure can turn coal into diamonds, the dire situation in the steel mills forced contractors and Ironworkers to think outside the box and abandon their comfort zones. They were in trouble, but in retrospect, it was “good trouble” because it pushed them beyond the expectations of the era. It made them realize that the old way of doing things just wasn't going to cut it anymore.

Here's a thought experiment: would the NMA have even been created if things had been going great in the early 1970s — if there had been no looming problem to solve, no crisis to avert? Would the tripartite philosophy have ever found its way into the mainstream of our industry?

No one likes tough times. But whether it's nationwide labor unrest, a global pandemic or an uncertain economic future, there are always opportunities hidden within these disruptions. After a year and a half of COVID-19, I'm sure most readers are thinking, “Thanks, but I've had enough opportunity to last a

lifetime!” Still, as things slowly return to normal, I encourage all our contractors to take some time and reflect on what this latest disruption taught us about our strategies, our companies and our entire industry.

Crises have a strange way of stripping away the B.S. and showing us where and how we need to change. Fifty years ago, the steel mill crisis put union contractors and unions on the spot. They rose to the challenge, and out of that struggle, the NMA was born. In the depths of the pandemic, I'm sure many of us found ourselves digging deep and accomplishing things that at any other time would have been seen as nearly impossible. Like our predecessors in the 1970s, we were forced to pivot, reposition and become more flexible than a team of Olympic gymnasts. And in doing so, we evolved. I know GEM isn't the same company it was in December 2019; we're better, and our team has learned so much. Now it's time to apply that knowledge to the new business landscape and to reap the rewards of our hard-earned wisdom.

SEVEN YEARS

BY DANIEL HOGAN, TAUC CEO

In late spring, TAUC published its seventh annual Union Craft Labor Supply Study, which analyzes the results of a nationwide industry survey conducted in January. You can read more about it on Page 22 and download a copy at www.tauc.org/laborsupply. This year's edition was highly anticipated. Not only was it the first to measure the impact of COVID-19 on worker availability across the country, but it also tracked growth projections for 2021 and beyond based on hundreds of responses from contractors, union officials and owner-clients.

Since we launched the survey/study in 2015, it has become a respected and highly valued source of information for the union construction and maintenance industry. Our original goals were simple. First, we wanted to bring some much-needed clarity to one of the most important issues in our industry: union labor supply and the availability of skilled craftworkers in different regions of the country. In the past, finding reliable and accurate data on which areas were experiencing union labor shortages or surpluses was next to impossible. The only real option was to pick up the phone and call as many people as you could to try to piece together what the labor supply landscape looked like in a particular city or state.

By partnering with Carey Peters and his team at the Construction Labor Research Council (CLRC), we were able to create a statistically sound and scientifically accurate survey tool that put an end to guesswork and “so-and-so said this or that about welders in Chicago.” In 2015, we sent out our first survey and crossed our fingers, wondering if construction executives would respond. Turns out we didn't have to worry: the initial response was overwhelming. More than 900 construction professionals completed the survey. We were on our way.

Secondly, we wanted to provide our members with up-to-date business intelligence so that they could better plan for the future. After all, labor supply is intrinsically linked to the ups and downs of business cycles. Therefore, each survey respondent is asked to project overall growth or contraction in the industry over the coming year, based on his or her own experience and market analysis. These projections are then

Dan Hogan is the CEO of The Association of Union Constructors and also serves as Impartial Secretary and CEO of the National Maintenance Agreements Policy Committee, Inc. (NMAPC).



sliced into a number of demographic data cuts, including role (contractor, owner, etc.), region, company size, etc. The aggregate results provide all members of the tripartite community with valuable insights they can use to navigate the next 12 months.

BUILDING MOMENTUM

Now that the seventh consecutive annual study has been published, it feels like a good time to pause and take stock of what we've learned. Here's a fact I find especially gratifying: in 2015, our first survey had 939 respondents. In 2021, we had 1,129, just over a 20% increase. This proves our initial thesis was correct: the industry is hungry for accurate, high-quality labor-supply data. Construction executives are busy, and our survey is quite detailed – it can take up to half an hour to complete. The fact that so many are willing to invest that kind of time in our product shows that they trust the numbers.

Annual surveys are like savings accounts: they accrue value slowly over time. It takes many years to build up rich, historical datasets that can be used to track industry trends, identify and analyze patterns and, most importantly, make informed projections for the future. Thanks to the loyalty and continued participation of our industry respondents, we're finally on the cusp of doing just that. In the coming years, our partners at CLRC will be able to dive into the ever-growing sea of data and provide deep, multidimensional insights for our members.

I encourage everyone reading this to check out this year's Union Craft Labor Supply Study. It's over 100 pages of charts and analysis, so there's something in it for everyone. More importantly, let us know what you think about it. What can we do to improve next year's survey? What questions or topics would you like to see addressed? What information would help you do your job even better? Email Executive Editor David Acord at dacord@tauc.org with your suggestions.

I hope you enjoy the last days of summer. Until next time, stay productive and safe!

Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence



2021 marks the 50th anniversary of the National Maintenance Agreements (NMA) and the National Maintenance Agreements Policy Committee, Inc. (NMAPC). We are excited to celebrate this milestone with our signatory contractors, building trades partners, owner-clients and the entire union construction and maintenance industry! Thank you for helping us make history – and here's to the next 50 years!

Learn more at www.nmapc.org/50

Thomas J. Reynolds Awards for Excellence in Construction Safety & Health 2021 Winners

Category One

Over 1 Million Hours Worked Without a DART Case

AZCO Inc.
BHI Energy I Specialty Services LLC
Harder Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
Industrial Contractors Skanska
Matrix North American Construction Inc.
Nooter Construction Co.
Sargent Electric Company
Walbridge Aldinger Company

Category Two

500,000–1 Million Hours Worked Without a DART Case

Corval Constructors, Inc.
Fluor Constructors International, Inc.
Gallagher-Kaiser Corporation
MPW Environmental Services, Inc.
Stevens Engineers & Constructors, Inc.
Superior Electric Great Lakes Co.

Category Three

100,000–499,999 Hours Worked Without a DART Case

All Crane Rental of Pennsylvania
Amex Nooter LLC
APComPower Inc.
Bell Electrical Contractors, Inc.
Black & Veatch Construction Inc.
Burnham Industrial Contractors
Construction & Turnaround Services, LLC
Enerfab Power & Industrial, Inc.
F.E. Moran, Inc.
Special Hazard Systems
Fluor Maintenance Services (FMS)
George V. Hamilton, Inc.
Grand River Construction, Inc.
Hardman Construction Inc.
Henderson Services, LLC
Madison Industrial Services Team, Ltd.
McCarl's Inc.
Mecon Industries, Inc.
Monarch Welding & Engineering, Inc.

National Steel City, LLC
Performance Mechanical, Inc.
Pioneer Pipe, Inc.
Piping & Equipment Company
Rand Construction Company
Simakas Company, Inc.
Stevenson Crane Service, Inc.
StructSure Scaffold Solutions LLC
Superior Electric Tennessee Valley Company
Superior Mechanical Tennessee Valley Company
Swan Electric Co.
Thermal Solutions, Inc.
Triangle Enterprises, Inc.
Tron Mechanical, Inc.
Universal Piping Industries, LLC

Category Four

Less than 99,999 Hours Worked Without a DART Case

Chemsteel Construction
Concorp, Inc.
Delta Nooter
Hayden Wrecking Corp.
Michigan Mech. Insulation
Norris Brothers Company, Inc.

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Abel Construction Company, Inc.
Alberici Constructors
API, Inc.
Aristeo Construction
Atlantic Plant Maintenance
Atlas Industrial Contractors, Inc.
Avalotis Corporation
Beltline Electric Co., Inc.
BMW Constructors, Inc.
Broadway Electric Service Corporation
Bruce & Merrilees Electric Company
C.R. Meyer and Sons Company
Capital Electric Construction Co., Inc.
Commercial Contracting Corporation
Conti Corporation
EMCOR Hyre Electric Co. of Indiana, Inc.

Enerfab Power & Industrial, Inc.
Fisher Tank Company
GEM Industrial Inc.
Genesys Industrial Corporation
Ideal Contracting, LLC
Imperial Crane Services, Inc.
Independence Excavating, Inc.
JJ White, Inc.
Mascaro Construction Company, L.P.
McGraw/Kokosing, Inc.
Niles Industrial Coatings LLC
Performance Contracting, Inc. (KS)
Piqua Steel Corporation
Progressive Mechanical, Inc.
Ryan & Associates, Inc.
Scheck Mechanical
Solid Platforms, Inc.
Superior Construction Company, Inc.
The Boldt Company
The State Group Industrial (USA) Limited

About the Awards

Established in 1983, the Thomas J. Reynolds Awards for Excellence in Construction Safety and Health were named in honor of a long-serving member of TAUC's predecessor organization, the National Erectors Association (NEA).

A U.S. Navy veteran, Thomas J. Reynolds spent more than 40 years in the construction industry, starting out as a union ironworker, boilermaker and millwright. From 1955 to 1976, he held a variety of high-level safety positions at Bethlehem Steel, culminating in his appointment as Supervisor of Plant Protection and Safety at the company's Burns Harbor, Indiana, facility. He went on to serve as Corporate Manager of Safety for Morrison Construction Company for many years.

In 1980, Mr. Reynolds assisted in writing proposed construction safety standards for OSHA. In 1986, he was invited by Labor Secretary William Brock to join OSHA's Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health, becoming the first NEA member to participate on this prestigious panel. The appointment was a fitting capstone to a career dedicated to advancing worker safety.



LEGACY.

We laid the bricks bearing the name of our departed founder Paul J. Songer in the middle of a working jobsite—right in the thick of things.

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a no-nonsense heavy industrial contractor that gets at it every day; obsessed with excellence done right, on time, on budget and safely.

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Paul's refractory bricks are a few in a series of many—a part of something greater that will deliver reliable high performance for years to come.

A fitting tribute for a company, and a man, that stands the test of time.

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Online Grad Program Helps Aspiring AEC Pros Reach the Next Level

BY KAREN LAYNG

Editor's Note: TAUC is constantly on the lookout for ways that union contractors — especially those in the junior and midlevel ranks — can increase their industry knowledge and advance their careers. We invited Karen Layng, Adjunct Professor for Northwestern's M.S. program in Executive Management for Design and Construction, to tell us more about this unique online educational opportunity.

The mission of the Northwestern University Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science's professionally oriented Executive Management for Design and Construction (EMDC) graduate program is to holistically develop an elite cadre of engineers, construction managers and architects who are uniquely positioned to serve as C-suite executives and leaders in the architecture, engineering and construction (AEC) industry in the United States and around the world.

This innovative postgraduate educational program transcends the tactical engineering, design and construction operational skills needed to perform and instead emphasizes the strategic competencies and insights required to lead an organization. It imparts the requisite managerial skills and real-world know-how to midlevel construction and engineering executives, thereby fostering the development of well-rounded future leaders in the AEC industry.

The 12-course online EMDC program consists of four core courses and eight electives (Northwestern is on the quarter system and a course spans 10 weeks). The four core courses are Leadership and Organization, Finance and Accounting for Executives, Human Resource Management, and Communication and Negotiation. Popular EMDC elective courses include Advanced Business Strategy, Construction Law and Risk Management, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Due Diligence Considerations in Engineering, Creating a Firm-Ambassador Culture, Information Systems in Construction, Ethics in Construction and Engineering, Systems Thinking for Sustainable Design, Strategy for Corporate Sustainability, Commercial Real Estate Investment and Development, and a number of others which can be found on the program website at www.emdc.northwestern.edu.

In addition, it is possible to transfer up to three courses taken at another institution. After matriculation, each student is encouraged to develop a proposed selection of courses for the entire program rather than proceeding course by course each quarter.

A key differentiating factor — and one of the many reasons the EMDC program is considered by many as the preeminent engineering leadership M.S. program in the country — is its distinguished faculty of practicing professionals who are all industry leaders and bring a wealth of business savvy and strategic acumen to their course offerings. Students in the completely online EMDC program are employed and live throughout the United States and the world, including military outposts. The EMDC program specifically, and Northwestern University more generally, have a long history of being military-friendly and attracting veterans. For example, a veteran eligible for 9/11 benefits and supplemented by financial aid from Yellow Ribbon and the EMDC program can earn an M.S. degree with very little out-of-pocket tuition cost.

The EMDC program has been tailored to fit into busy professional lives and has produced noteworthy examples of professional achievement by its graduates. It boasts small class sizes wherein future industry leaders are afforded the opportunity to collaborate and network with professional colleagues. Without exaggeration, almost every student and graduate has explicitly expressed an extremely high degree of satisfaction with the content of the EMDC program, the competence and caring attitude of the faculty, the unanticipated benefits derived, and the role the degree has played in their professional advancement.

Recently Melissa Meade, a current EMDC student halfway through the program, wrote that she had been promoted. In her words, "I credit my

"The EMDC program has been tailored to fit into busy professional lives and has produced noteworthy examples of professional achievement by its graduates."

Karen Layng is an Adjunct Professor in the EMDC program at Northwestern and the President of M.A.I.T. Co. Learn more at www.mait-co.com



recent advancement in my company to the executive leadership topics we have been studying in the EMDC program. I've already implemented leadership techniques, communication skills, financial understanding, and knowledge of the bigger picture strategies quite a bit over the last year — and my C-suite has noticed! Thank you so much for your continued support and for running a program with such amazing content and instructors!"

In turn, Mohammed Elkhmissy, a 2020 graduate involved in managing a \$1.4 billion international project in Qatar, states: "My pursuit of an M.S. degree in the EMDC program was indeed a long road, but it was worth every sleepless night waking up at 2:30 AM [the interactive class discussions are scheduled at 6:30 PM CST]. The value of the program is definitely geared towards individuals like myself. I have already utilized a lot of the lessons learned about Joint Ventures, Enterprise Resource Planning implementations, facility management, and so forth. This program allows you to understand the company from a global perspective versus a project-based mentality. I'm ever so grateful for this opportunity and I am now looking forward to continuing my career in my favorite industry."

An M.S. degree from Northwestern's EMDC program provides the arrows in the quiver of midlevel managers to

accelerate their move up to C-suite leadership and provides a preview of the solutions to future AEC problems in addition to the managerial tools needed to address the problems of today. A Northwestern Wildcat M.S. in EMDC education awaits you! Are you ready to accept the challenge?

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In Memoriam

Recently, the TAUC family said goodbye to several longtime members. Here is a look back at our valued friends and colleagues:



Paul Songer, Sr.
Nov. 2, 1928 – May 20, 2021

Paul Songer, Sr. was a union construction pioneer and a longtime TAUC member. He was a founding member of our predecessor organization, the National Erectors Association, and served as its president from 1994 to 1996.

Paul was a proud World War II veteran. At age 16, he quit school and joined the Navy using an altered birth certificate. He served in China, Japan, Hong Kong and the Philippines and was honorably discharged before his 18th birthday.

He began his construction career as a journeyman bricklayer. At International Chimney, he rose through the ranks to become foreman, general foreman, project manager and general superintendent. "With tenacity, determination and pure grit, he became a captain of industry and founded Furnco Construction Company, Serstel Corporation, and Songer Construction which was acquired by Trafalgar House and became Davy Songer," his obituary noted. "At age 73, he formed Songer Steel Services where he served as CEO and Chairman until he was

in his mid-80's. He retired at age 89. He was steadfast, disciplined and committed to being the best in the business. His companies were the premier experts in planning, engineering, construction, maintenance and repair of blast furnaces, coke ovens, and boiler and pressure vessels for the steel industry."

Like many successful businessmen, Paul was "a risk-taker who loved challenges," his obituary also noted. "He was never afraid of failure and always said, 'As long as I have my tool kit and my trowel in my trunk, I can earn a living.' He was extremely disciplined. He set goals, and when obstacles got in his way, with pure determination he would figure out what he needed to do or what he needed to learn in order to achieve his goals."

But Paul's legacy extends far beyond the business realm. He is survived by his wife, Shelley, 11 children, 30 grandchildren and 36 great-grandchildren. TAUC sends its condolences to them and the rest of his family.



Jack Geer
June 9, 1929 - June 7, 2021

Edward "Jack" Douglas Geer passed away on June 7 at the age of 91.

Jack was a legend in the union construction industry and served as president of TAUC's predecessor organization, the National Erectors Association, from 1992 to 1994.

Jack was born in Portland, Oregon, and earned an engineering degree from Oregon State College in Civil Engineering in 1952, which "set him on a path to pursue his career passion in construction," his obituary read. "He joined the Army in 1952, serving as a platoon leader for the Engineer Construction Battalion in the Korean Combat Zone and retired honorably from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel. After his tour of duty, he took a job with Bethlehem Steel where he was exposed to a variety of projects and most notably where he discovered his true calling in the steel industry."

Jack's engineering and construction accomplishments are too numerous to list, but here are a few. "He was integral to the construction

of the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge in San Francisco, the Fremont Bridge in Portland, the Snake River Bridge in Twin Falls, Idaho, and the Mississippi River Bridge at Vicksburg Miss. ... In 1974 he joined Tokola Corporation where he managed key projects all over the world. He took over as president of Tokola in 1982. Jack was most proud of his involvement with the four different retrofit projects on the Golden Gate Bridge, including the replacement of suspender cables. He was also a key member of the team that performed the rapid repair of Chicago's landmark Michigan Avenue Bridge."

Jack is survived by his son, two daughters, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. TAUC sends its condolences to his family.



Daniel Day
July 23, 1961 - June 28, 2021

Dan Day, Vice President of External Relations with the Mechanical Contractors Association of Chicago, passed away in late June at the age of 59. Dan was also a longtime and valued member of TAUC’s Local Employer Organizations (LEO) Committee.

“Dan made everything more fun,” MCA of Chicago said in a statement. “You only had to meet him once to know that. And if you met him once, you didn’t forget him. He liked golf and Scotch, and having fun. Dan was a great trumpet player — He was part of the Cavalier Marching Band in his younger days, and more recently played in a band, Sine Wave. He was a member of the Groundhog Club and was a past-President of the Western Trades Association.”

The MCA continued, “Dan was a very social person. If you went to a bar or restaurant with Dan, you would soon know almost everyone in the room. It even worked like that on a plane! Sometimes you would walk into a restaurant or bar in a city while traveling and people would run

over and say ‘Dan, Dan!’ One thing not everyone noticed about Dan was his generosity. He was always quick to buy you a drink or a meal and didn’t even think about it for a second, he just did it.”

“Dan was one of the nicest people I have met in this industry — warm, friendly, outgoing and frequently hilarious,” added David Acord, TAUC Director of Communications and LEO Committee Liaison. “He always made you feel like you were a part of things, that you were ‘one of the group.’ He will be sorely missed.”

Dan is survived by his wife, two daughters and four siblings.

Join TAUC and NMAPC On Social Media!

Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn to stay connected to TAUC and NMAPC, get the latest union construction news and updates, learn about upcoming events and more!



www.tauc.org/social



www.nmapc.org/social



Sean Oberholzer Named 2021 TAUC Craftperson of the Year

BY DAVID ACORD, TAUC DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS



Sean Oberholzer

"Sean never, ever brought just a problem to us. He always brought a solution."

**Timothy Goodson,
LyondellBasell**

Sean Oberholzer has been named the 2021 TAUC James J. Willis Craftperson of the Year, sponsored by TAUC Legacy Partner Milwaukee Tool.

Sean is a member of Steamfitters Local 420 in Philadelphia. He was nominated by JJ White, Inc. for his exemplary performance on the EDO Catalyst Expansion Project in Edison, New Jersey, for client LyondellBasell.

The goal of the project was to erect a new process unit to dramatically increase the client's ability to produce the catalyst used in the production of polypropylene. It had a relatively small, vertical footprint. This represented a complex challenge for Sean, who had to manage around 100 steamfitters working on the project.

In addition, the scope of work was daunting, and included 55,000 linear feet of piping; 22,000 piping welds; 2,600 valves; 11,000 individual pipe supports and welded attachments; 30,000 square feet of grating; and 300,000 feet of power, communication and instrument cables.

"This was a very large project," said Doug Creighton, Project Manager for JJ White. "Nominating Sean was a very easy decision for us internally due to his exceptional performance with all facets of construction management."

"He built a lot of confidence, which made things really go pretty smooth for us," noted Timothy Goodson, Project Manager for LyondellBasell. "This is really the measure of a true craftsman to me. You can

build something, but whenever you run into problems out in the field, how do you react? Sean never, ever brought just a problem to us. He always brought a solution."

"I'm really proud of Sean and his team to be able to execute that work," said Joe Crowley, Vice President of Health, Safety and Environment for JJ White. "We had zero OSHA-recordable injuries, no lost time on a project of that magnitude. That says a lot about the leadership of Sean and the rest of the team."

"You get curveballs here and there, but you just go through it – you just keep going," Sean told TAUC. He added, "You've got to figure out what people you have and how to use them to the best of their abilities. These are people who are dedicated to their particular profession. That's why I like union labor so much better on a job. It's not even close. I worked non-union when I was really young, and I'm going to tell you right now, that's not where I wanted to wind up."

"I want to thank JJ White for nominating Sean for this award as it gives us an opportunity to recognize the personification of what truly makes the union construction and maintenance industry tower above its competition," said Daniel Hogan, CEO of TAUC.

In addition to the impressive award statue, Sean also received a large array of cutting-edge tools from TAUC Legacy Partner Milwaukee Tool.

From everyone at TAUC, congratulations to Sean on this incredible honor!

About the James J. Willis Craftperson of the Year Award

The James J. Willis Craftperson of the Year Award honors outstanding labor-management cooperation and quality craftsmanship in the union construction and maintenance industries. It is given to building trades members who have a gift for recognizing the vision of a project and can bring that vision to fruition in a professional manner.

The recognition program was originally created in 1989 as the Craftsman of the Year Award. TAUC changed the name in 2008 to memorialize James J. Willis Sr. He was a dear friend and supporter of TAUC and an authentic leader in the union construction industry for more than five decades. Jim started out as an apprentice ironworker in 1945 at the age of just 16 and eventually rose to the rank of First General Vice President in the international union. He also served as President and Labor Co-Chairman of the National Maintenance Agreements Policy Committee, Inc. (NMAPC) from 1988 to 2000.

Jim was hugely influential within the union construction industry, and his steadfast commitment to fairness and cooperation was legendary. It is fitting that the award bearing his name honors a union worker who demonstrates unparalleled leadership and professionalism, because Jim exhibited the same qualities throughout his life.

The James J. Willis Craftperson of the Year Award recognizes five categories of achievement:

- Safety and Health
- Schedule and Budget Productivity
- Cost Savings
- Innovation
- Outstanding Craftsmanship

Projects must be completed in the calendar year of the award. Nominations are forwarded to our judge's panel to be evaluated and ranked in each category. This year, the members of the James J. Willis Award Task Force were: Rusty Brown, Kiewit; Timothy Hoch, APM; Don Austin, Worley Industrial Services; and Dave Daquelente, Master Builders' Association of Western Pennsylvania.

Choosing the Craftperson of the Year is a tough job because we receive so many incredible nominations from our contractors. TAUC would like to honor this year's runners-up for the prestigious award. We salute their hard work and dedication to safety and wish to thank the nominating contractors, their labor partners and the owner-clients for assisting in the nomination process.



First Runner-Up (Second Place)

Lee Meiring, nominated by the Rudolph Libbe Group for his work on the Iron Units/ Cleveland-Cliffs foundation package in Toledo, Ohio. Lee is a carpenter with Local Union 351. "As a result of Lee's efforts, Rudolph Libbe was known as the contractor that met its schedule dates," Rudolph Libbe said. "This was a direct result of Lee's management efforts in scheduling. Daily, weekly and lookahead scheduling efforts by Lee were critical to Rudolph Libbe's ability to meet each of its schedule obligations for the project."



Honorable Mention (Third Place)

Rob Gadson, nominated by the Barton Malow Company for his work on Ironunits LLC's hot briquetted iron facility in Toledo, Ohio. Rob is an ironworker with Local Union 147. "Eager to learn new things, Rob embraces challenges that require collaboration and creativity during planning and execution," Barton Malow said. "He is a detailed planner that looks beyond the ironworker scope to identify efficiencies throughout the project's entirety. Rob's dedication to developing a positive and productive team culture is shown through the successful relationships he builds with clients, subcontractors, and all individuals on site."

TOP NMA CONTRACTORS

2020	2019	Change	Contractor	Website	City & State	Work Hours
1	2	+1	Enerfab Power & Industrial, Inc.*	www.enerfab.com	Cincinnati, OH	1,295,802
2	9	+7	Barton Malow Company*	www.bartonmalow.com	Southfield, MI	1,263,851
3	14	+11	Industrial Contractors Skanska*	www.usa.skanska.com	Evansville, IN	1,000,384
4	11	+7	GEM Industrial Inc.*	www.rigbuilds.com/companies/gem-inc	Walbridge, OH	996,468
5	10	+5	BrandSafway Industries LLC	www.brandsafway.com	East Hazel Crest, IL	932,995
6	4	-2	BMWC Constructors, Inc.*	www.bmwc.com	Indianapolis, IN	846,130
7	38	+31	Conti Corporation	www.theconticorporation.com	Sterling Hgts, MI	838,239
8	6	-2	Chapman Corporation*	www.chapmancorporation.com	Washington, PA	786,953
9	26	+17	Superior Electric Great Lakes Co.	www.seg/c.com	Troy, MI	720,555
10	16	+6	SSS, Inc.*	www.songserservices.com	Washington, PA	626,419
11	49	+38	Giffin, Inc.	www.giffininc.com	Auburn Hills, MI	599,383
12	3	-9	RMF Nooter, Inc.	www.rmfnooter.com	Toledo, OH	583,724
13	31	+18	The Jamar Company*	www.jamarcompany.com	Duluth, MN	572,832
14	N/A		F.M. Sylvan, Inc.	www.sylvan-inc.com	Pontiac, MI	567,888
15	17	+2	Motor City Electric	www.mceco.com	Detroit, MI	546,220
16	19	+3	Lakehead Constructors, Inc.	www.lakeheadconstructors.com	Superior, WI	539,115
17	5	-12	Graycor Industrial Constructors Inc.*	www.graycor.com	Oakbrook Terrace, IL	508,192
18	37	+19	JJ White Inc.*	www.jjwhite.com	Philadelphia, PA	492,681
19	34	+15	Brock Industrial Services	www.brockgroup.com	Joliet, IL	490,401
20	33	+13	The Boldt Company	www.theboldtcompany.com	Appleton, WI	460,812
21	7	-14	Solid Platforms, Inc.*	www.solidplatforms.com	Portage, IN	459,237
22	21	-1	Sterling Boiler & Mechanical, Inc.*	www.sterlingboiler.com	Evansville, IN	446,850
23	N/A		Commercial Contracting Corporation*	www.cccnetwork.com	Auburn Hills, MI	445,888

The National Maintenance Agreements Policy Committee, Inc. (NMAPC) is proud to showcase the top signatory contractors and owners that used the NMA in 2020.

Here are the top 50 signatory contractors that performed the most construction and maintenance work hours under the NMA last year. **TAUC Governing Members are denoted by an asterisk next to their name.** Work hours figures are based on data received through mid-June 2021.

If your company is signatory to the NMA and is not on this list, but you did a significant number of work hours under the program, it may be due to the fact that you are not adequately reporting your work hours on NMAPC.org. For assistance in reporting work hours, please feel free to contact the NMAPC office at (703) 841-9707 ext. 118.

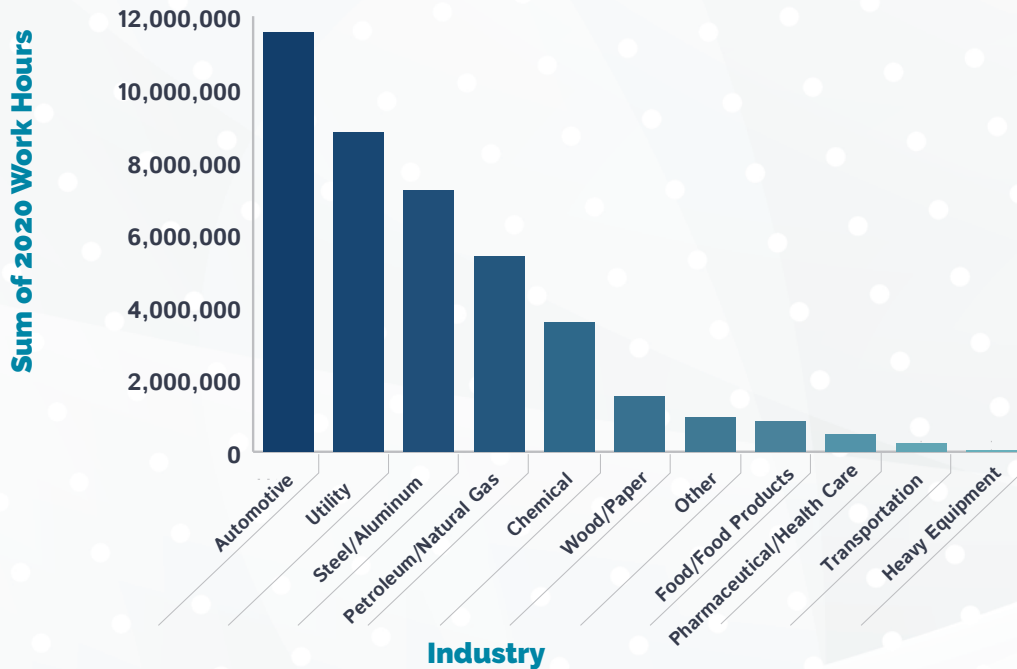
After the Top 50 list, you will find a listing of the top owners that utilized the NMA, as well as breakdowns of NMA work hours by craft, industry and state.

24	8	-16	International Industrial Contracting Corporation*	www.iccusa.com	Sterling Heights, MI	445,826
25	N/A		Riggs Distler & Company, Inc.*	www.riggdistler.com	Cherry Hill, NJ	441,684
26	20	-6	C.R. Meyer and Sons Company*	www.crmeyer.com	Oshkosh, WI	440,603
27	42	+15	McAbee Construction, Inc.	www.mcabeeconstruction.com	Tuscaloosa, AL	416,840
28	44	+16	Alberici Constructors*	www.alberici.com	St. Louis, MO	389,022
29	13	-16	AZCO Inc.*	www.azco-inc.com	Appleton, WI	385,016
30	N/A		The State Group Industrial (USA) Limited*	www.stategroup.com	Evansville, IN	383,666
31	15	-16	Hayes Mechanical Inc.	www.hayesmechanical.com	Chicago, IL	375,467
32	N/A		Dearborn Mid-West Company	www.dmwcc.com	Taylor, MI	358,781
33	25	-8	MPW Environmental Services, Inc.	www.mpwservices.com	Hebron, OH	331,480
34	22	-12	Aristo Construction*	www.aristo.com	Livonia, MI	318,094
35	28	-7	M.J. Electric	www.mjelectric.com	Iron Mountain, MI	312,615
36	N/A		Amex Nooter LLC	www.cicgroup.com/nooter/	University Park, IL	308,035
37	40	+3	Fluor Constructors International, Inc.*	www.fluor.com	Greenville, SC	300,880
38	30	-8	Morrison Construction Company*	www.mcccoco.com	Hammond, IN	292,951
39	N/A		Minnotte Contracting Corporation*	www.dayzim.com/minnotte	Pittsburgh, PA	290,709
40	N/A		Ideal Contracting, LLC*	www.idealcontracting.com	Detroit, MI	279,258
41	45	+4	Rudolph Libbe, Inc.	www.rigbuilds.com/companies/rudolph-libbe-inc	Walbridge, OH	266,253
42	N/A		Gallagher-Kaiser Corporation*	www.gkcorp.com	Troy, MI	246,900
43	N/A		Fluor Maintenance Services (FMS)*	www.fluor.com	Sugar Land, TX	239,713
44	N/A		Universal Piping Industries, LLC	www.universalpiping.com	Troy, MI	237,997
45	N/A		Advantage Industrial Systems, LLC	www.aisystemsgroup.com	Frankfort, IL	231,710
46	24	-22	Stevens Engineers & Constructors, Inc.*	www.stevensec.com	Middleburg Heights, OH	230,252
47	46	-1	Apache Industrial United, Inc.	www.apacheip.com	Houston, TX	224,874
48	47	-1	ACMS Group, Inc.	www.acmsgroup.com	Crown Point, IN	211,325
49	N/A		Overhead Conveyor Company	www.ocsystems.com	Ferndale, MI	209,248
50	N/A		John E. Green Co.	www.johngreen.com	Highland Park, MI	206,952

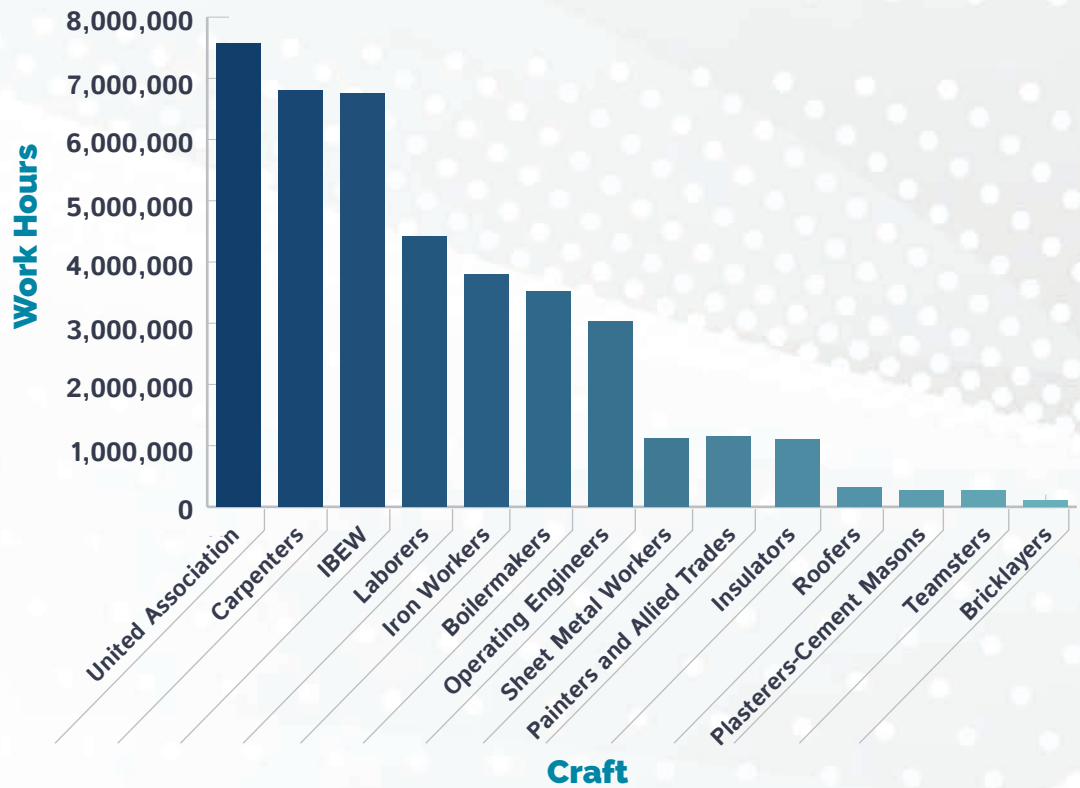
TOP 10 NMA Owner-Clients Ranked by 2020 Work Hours

Rank	Owner	Work Hours
1	Stellantis (formerly Fiat Chrysler Automotive)	5,192,936
2	General Motors Company	3,966,098
3	United States Steel Corporation	2,016,765
4	Ford Motor Company	1,814,662
5	ArcelorMittal	1,665,612
6	American Electric Power	1,475,869
7	Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.	1,250,205
8	BP Products North America, Inc.	1,109,728
9	Husky Energy, Inc.	882,321
10	FirstEnergy Corp.	872,722

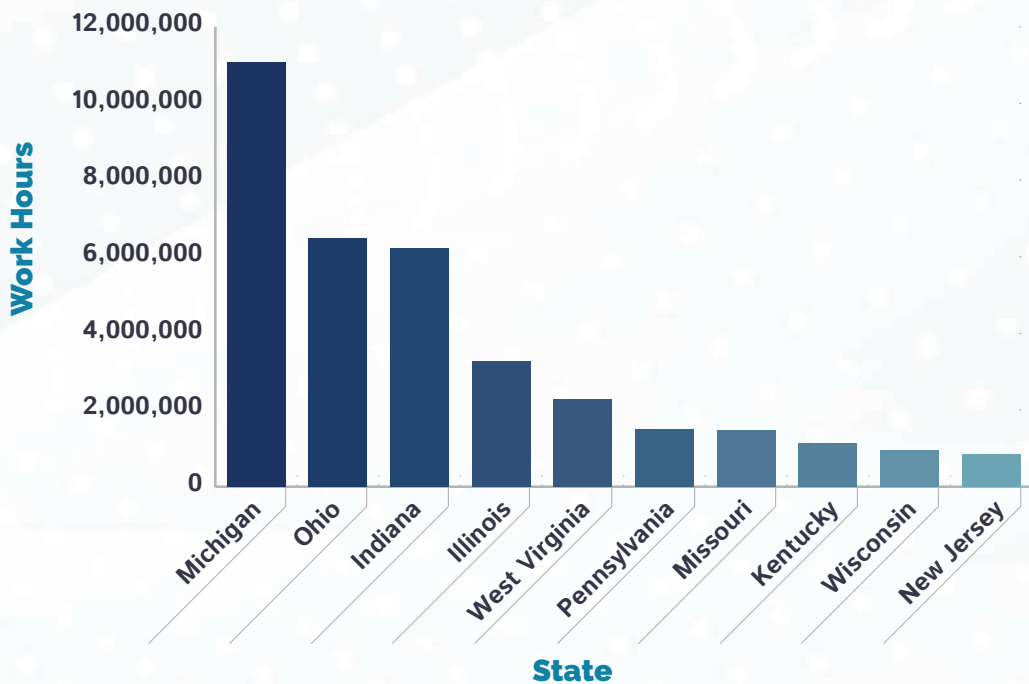
NMAPC 2020 Work Hours Reports by Industry



2020 NMA Work Hours by Craft



Top 10 NMA States Ranked by 2020 Work Hours



Top 10 NMA Contractors - Steel/Aluminum Sector Ranked by 2020 Work Hours

Rank	Contractor	Work Hours
1	SSS, Inc.	502,254
2	GEM Industrial Inc.	380,578
3	Barton Malow Company	338,655
4	Lakehead Constructors, Inc.	326,282
5	Graycor Industrial Constructors Inc.	315,814
6	Solid Platforms, Inc.	270,755
7	The State Group Industrial (USA) Limited	245,453
8	Morrison Construction Company	222,417
9	ACMS Group, Inc.	191,437
10	Fluor Constructors International, Inc.	187,254

Top 10 NMA Contractors - Automotive Sector Ranked by 2020 Work Hours

Rank	Contractor	Work Hours
1	Conti Corporation	813,476
2	Superior Electric Great Lakes Co.	714,935
3	Barton Malow Company	703,490
4	Giffin, Inc.	599,383
5	F.M. Sylvan, Inc. (MI)	559,138
6	International Industrial Contracting Corporation	445,826
7	Motor City Electric	424,672
8	Commercial Contracting Corporation	419,931
9	Dearborn Mid-West Company	358,781
10	Ideal Contracting, LLC	269,930

Top 10 NMA Contractors - Utility Sector Ranked by 2020 Work Hours

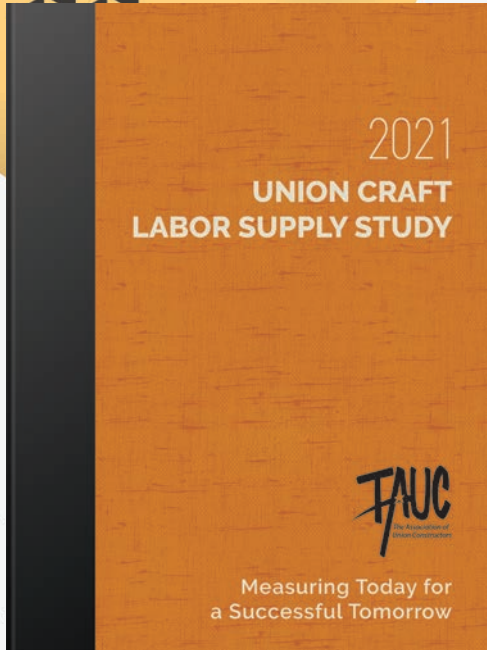
Rank	Contractor	Work Hours
1	Enerfab Power & Industrial, Inc.	875,398
2	BrandSafway Industries LLC	611,627
3	Industrial Contractors Skanska	413,755
4	BMWC Constructors, Inc.	375,840
5	Sterling Boiler & Mechanical, Inc.	335,066
6	Hayes Mechanical Inc.	322,936
7	MPW Environmental Services, Inc.	299,840
8	The Jamar Company	284,802
9	Minnotte Contracting Corporation	260,324
10	Fluor Maintenance Services (FMS)	239,713

Top 10 NMA Contractors - Petroleum/Natural Gas Sector Ranked by 2020 Work Hours

Rank	Contractor	Work Hours
1	Chapman Corporation	559,236
2	RMF Nooter, Inc.	370,380
3	Amex Nooter LLC	308,035
4	Brock Industrial Services	281,283
5	M.J. Electric	202,960
6	Weldtech Services Inc.	194,365
7	BMWC Constructors, Inc.	174,272
8	Lakehead Constructors, Inc.	161,445
9	Graycor Industrial Constructors Inc.	149,179
10	Sanchez Group	131,793

Study: Growth Projections Dip, But Labor Shortage Eases

BY DAVID ACORD, TAUC DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS



ALTHOUGH FINDING SKILLED AND QUALIFIED CRAFTWORKERS IS STILL A CHALLENGE FOR CONTRACTORS, FEWER EMPLOYERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY REPORTED LABOR SHORTAGES LAST YEAR.



A year after the COVID-19 pandemic fundamentally altered the business landscape, professionals in the union construction industry are slightly less optimistic about growth in 2021, but given the circumstances, it's not as bad as you might expect. Another bright spot: although finding skilled and qualified craftworkers is still a challenge for contractors, fewer employers across the country reported labor shortages last year.

These are just a couple of the interesting takeaways from TAUC's seventh annual Union Craft Labor Supply Study, based on a comprehensive survey of 1,129 industry respondents conducted in January 2021. Once again, TAUC commissioned the Construction Labor Research Council (CLRC) to conduct the survey and compile the resulting study and analysis. Contractors, building trades representatives, owner-clients, construction managers and association professionals of every size and from every geographic region weighed in and gave their perspectives, creating a truly one-of-a-kind dataset.

Last year's survey was conducted prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, the data reflect nearly a year of living with the pandemic. Thus, the results from last year's study compared with this year's provide a clean "before and after" look at the data.

There was strong consistency across all nine U.S. geographic regions, with fewer people indicating a shortage of

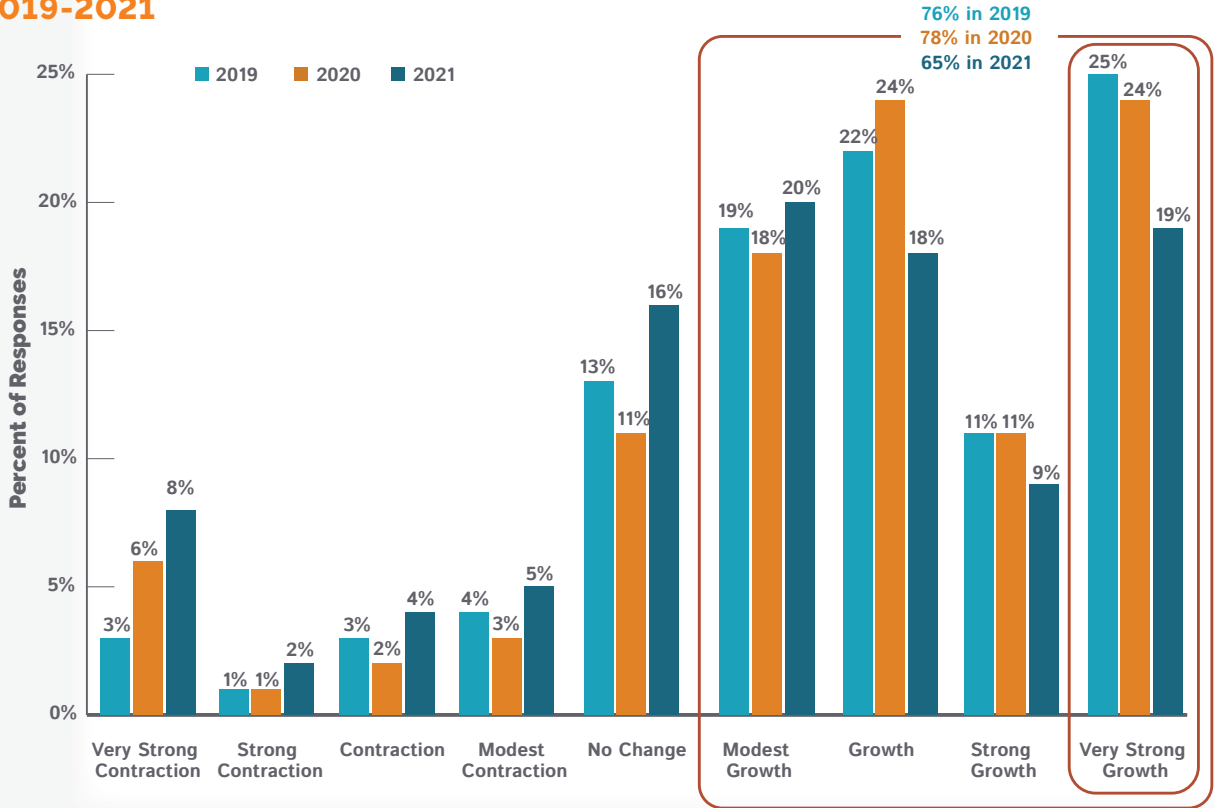
union craftworkers in 2020 than in 2019 for every region. The largest gains (i.e., fewer reporting a shortage) were in the South Central and Northwest Regions.

And while we also found reduced optimism regarding growth, even in the midst of a pandemic, about two-thirds of the study participants projected growth. In other words, what makes the findings about growth projections stand out is that they are not lower than they are, given the challenges the construction and maintenance industry faces: a pandemic, union craft labor shortage, increasing cost of materials, logistics challenges, etc.

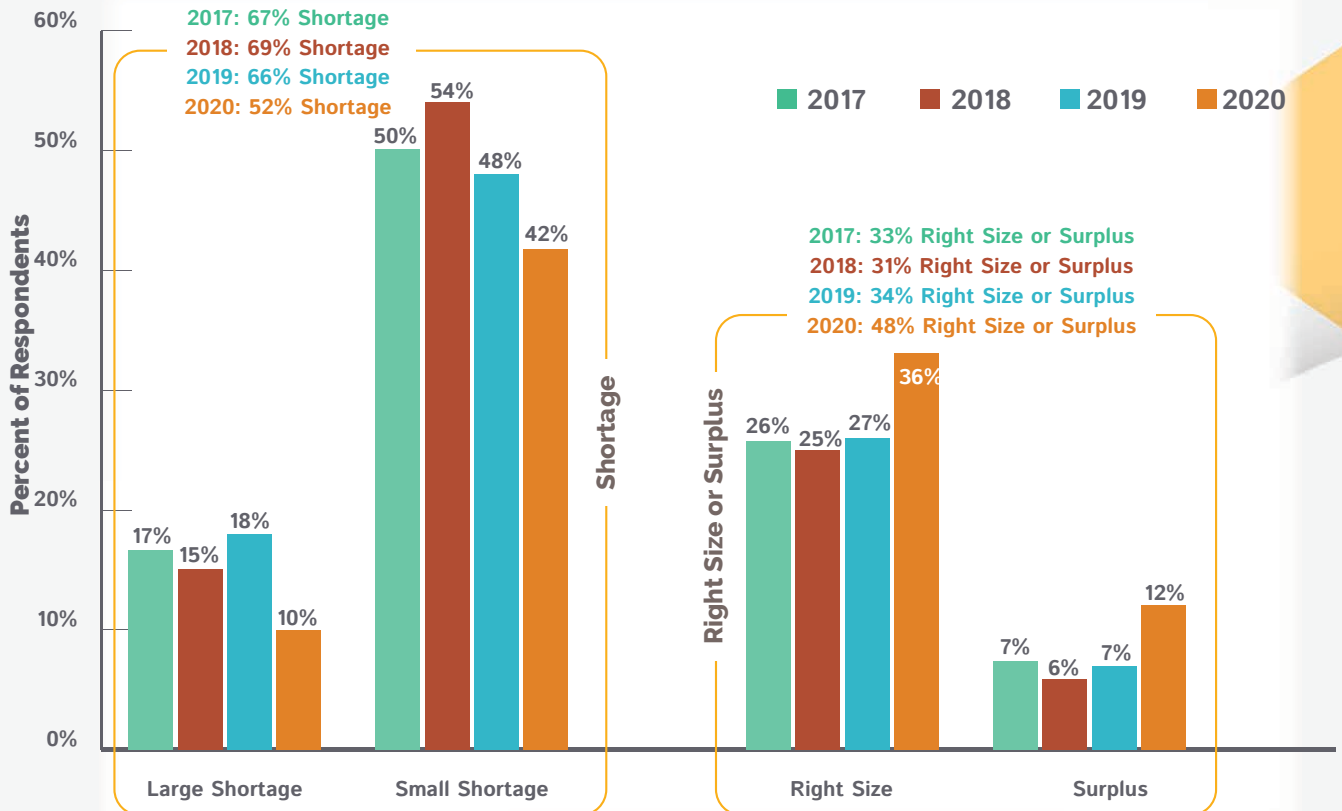
Each year, we include a new set of custom questions as a one-time event (previous questions are rotated off). These questions focus on emerging issues or topics critical to the construction and maintenance industries. This year's questions focused on funding status of union pension funds, union craft labor portability, and (of course) the impact of the pandemic on construction and maintenance. You'll find some interesting, and in some cases, quite surprising, responses and data points.

All of this information and more is waiting for you in TAUC's 2021 Union Craft Labor Supply Study — more than 100 pages of charts and in-depth analysis. And the best part is, it's completely free. Just go to www.tauc.org/labor-supply and download the PDF. You can also download previous studies there as well.

GROWTH/CONTRACTION PROJECTIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE INDUSTRY: 2019-2021



UNION CRAFT LABOR SHORTAGE: 2017-2020



Joseph R. La Rocca Union Project of the Year Awards 2021 Winners

TAUC is pleased to announce the winners of this year's Joseph R. La Rocca Union Project of the Year Awards.

The La Rocca Awards recognize outstanding work performed under labor-management cooperation and are judged under four criteria: collaboration/teamwork; construction quality and craftsmanship; project execution/scale; and safety. There are three award categories, for projects of less than \$5 million; \$5 million to \$50 million; and above \$50 million.

The 2021 winners are:

Category One: Less than \$5 Million

Winning Project: Calciner Refurbishment Project at Lake Charles Plant, Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Contractor: TMI Contractors

Owner-Client: Alcoa

Labor Partner: Southwest Louisiana BTC

The tripartite team for this year's winning Category One project had to deal with extreme weather and a tight schedule, among many other challenges. Not only did Hurricane Laura blow through the area a week before the project was scheduled to start, but Hurricane Delta arrived during the scheduled outage. The area was flooded and the plant had lost power, so TMI brought in temporary power and trailers for the workers (all the hotels were either destroyed by the hurricane or filled with displaced local residents).

"The team was able to overcome obstacles around living conditions, supply chain challenges, and new safety hazards created by the storms, and all of this was done on schedule and within budget," said TMI CEO Jacob Snyder.

Category Two: \$5 Million - \$50 Million

Winning Project: #25 Paper Machine Rebuild Project, Biron Mill, Biron, Wisconsin

Contractor: The Boldt Company

Owner-Client: Nine Dragons Paper

Labor Partner: Northeast Wisconsin BTC

This winning project involved extensive modifications and additions to the paper machine at the Biron Mill, including converting it from handling coated lightweight paper to linerboard/medium corrugated stock. Boldt safely demolished and removed 8,900 tons of concrete, fill and steel while the mill was operating with no interruptions to production; another 1,800 tons was removed during a later shutdown phase. In addition, 2,700 yards of reinforced concrete was placed and 140 tons of structural steel installed to reinforce the machine and building. The project involved seven different trades and was completed in multiple phases, including two pre-shutdown phases followed by a 35-day shutdown.



Joseph R. La Rocca
**Union Project
of the Year Awards**

2021

Category Three: Greater than \$50 Million
Winning Project: Central Energy Project at DTE
Central Energy Plant, Dearborn, Michigan
Contractor: Walbridge
Owner-Client: DTE Energy
Labor Partner: Greater Detroit BTC

DTE's Dearborn Central Energy Plant (CEP) project involved building a 100,000-square-foot facility over the course of two years. A new combined heat and power plant (CHP) and a chilled/hot water plant for the combined generation of power and steam were built to serve buildings at Ford's Dearborn Research and Engineering Campus. These upgrades now provide cleaner, ultralow energy emissions.

All 14 building trades were used for this massive undertaking. "The skilled trades were key to the success of this project," Joe Castellano, Walbridge Senior Vice President, said. "They were active stakeholders, quick to action and continually innovated with our team to create the best action plan for the customers."

Castellano added, "This was a complex project, but a testament to the skill and cooperation of the union trades. We're honored to receive this award alongside them for the hard work to complete this project for DTE Energy and Ford."

About the Awards

Joe La Rocca is a true pioneer in the union construction industry. He served as Executive Vice President of TAUC's predecessor organization, The National Erectors Association, from its inception in 1969 until his retirement in 1986. In addition, he also served as the first Impartial Secretary of the National Maintenance Agreements Policy Committee, Inc. (NMAPC) and was instrumental in spearheading its creation and shepherding its unprecedented growth throughout the 1970s and 1980s.

The impact Joe made on TAUC, and the industry as a whole, is still felt today. His passion for the business and the people who are served by it are a vital part of his legacy. His philosophy was simple: you don't just serve the contractors, the participating unions and/or the owner; your service is an even higher calling to the union construction industry as a whole. That is a true testament to his — and TAUC's — approach to leadership, and the reason why this award is named in his honor.

The Double-Edged Sword of Technology

BY MARK BRESLIN

No matter where you fall on the tech spectrum of love vs. hate, rookie vs. expert, or early-adopter vs. dragged-kicking-and-screaming, our industry and people are now facing a rapid technology evolution. For many who are younger, it is very welcome. For those a bit older, it feels like too much, too fast. But the low-hanging fruit of tech innovation has already been claimed in other industries such as manufacturing, distribution, transportation, logistics, telecom and entertainment. Now the time has come for construction to do the same.

In many ways, the pandemic forced us to turn to technology to fill in various gaps. We probably moved ahead and advanced our capabilities by five years in the space of just one (2020) because we had no choice. But now that we have regained some perspective, the question becomes, "Where to next?"

Here are four practical, actionable areas of a technology strategy that every TAUC member organization must start thinking about.

"In many ways, the pandemic forced us to turn to technology to fill in various gaps."

The Great Transition

For a recent speaking program, I brought a time capsule for the contractors to contribute their predictions for 25 years from now. Almost all of them referred to robots doing the work and artificial intelligence (AI) driving the process. All of them saw prefab as the future and predicted significant reductions in the workforce. The key question for our industry is, "How are we going to prepare for this (starting now) with our union partners? And how is this going to affect pension programs and other financial factors that are leveraged by stable union worker populations? Union negotiations are already addressing these technology challenges, and they are going to become the No. 1 labor-management challenge in the not-too-distant future.

Contactors Security Is No Joke

Every day, all day we are all hit with scams. Fake Social Security cell calls. Email phishing from our fake bank. Warranties we never bought. Nigerian dollars waiting to be transferred. These are pretty recognizable — but heads-up on another level of industry concern. Several TAUC members I know have been hit by ransomware. As in full data shutdown, full stop. Another recent story was an intercepted six-figure electronic progress payment. Because construction has never been on the cutting edge of tech, it makes us very vulnerable and a prime target. It is strongly suggested that every contractor have a full IT security audit immediately to avoid such a scenario.



Mark Breslin is a strategist and author of several books, including most recently, *The Five Minute Foreman: Mastering the People Side of Construction*. Visit his website at www.breslin.biz or contact him at 925-705-7662.

Tech for Training and Development

Ask a young person where they learn new things and they will tell you, "YouTube." It is a small indicator but illustrates powerfully that the era of on-demand, tech-based training and development is here. Yes, it is less personal. No, it does not contribute to team cohesion. But it is superconvenient and more cost-effective, meets the new generation where they are and can be adapted quickly. This runs from apprenticeship training to PMs and more. The trend now for my clients is to invest in Learning Professionals as staff members and install Learning Management Systems (LMS) for this very purpose. It looks like overhead to some, but it is an investment that most medium to large contractors will have to make in one way or another in the next several years if they want to remain relevant. From a labor-management standpoint, a transition to both an online platform, including virtual reality, is just around the corner. Management needs to be fully engaged and willing to invest to meet that challenge.

Get Engaged With TAUC

TAUC has been focusing on the importance of technology for several years now. From the annual Industrial Grade Innovation Conference and Expo (look for complete coverage next issue) to its new Innovation and Technology Committee, it has never been easier to learn more about the high-tech changes coming to our industry. For more information, contact TAUC Vice President Todd Mustard at (703) 524-3336, ext. 112 or tmustard@tauc.org.

New OSHA Hazcom Standard Could Hurt Small Contractors, Groups Say

OSHA's planned changes to its Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) could result in increased costs to small businesses, a group of more than 30 construction trade associations told the agency in late May.

The HCS "provides a standardized approach to workplace hazard communications associated with exposure to hazardous chemicals," OSHA said. Earlier this year, the agency announced it planned to amend the HCS in order to maintain conformity with the United Nations' global chemical classification system, "align certain provisions with Canada and other U.S. agencies, and address issues that have developed since implementation of the 2012 standard....OSHA expects the proposed updates to the HCS will increase worker protections and reduce the incidence of chemical-related occupational illnesses and injuries by further improving

the information on labels and safety data sheets (SDS) for hazardous chemicals."

But the Construction Industry Safety Coalition (CISC), which includes TAUC as a member, submitted comments to OSHA and raised red flags about some of the proposed changes. While CISC generally supports the agency's decision to update the HCS, "the Coalition is concerned that OSHA underestimates the costs of familiarization, training, and compliance with the updated standard, particularly for small employers in the construction industry," the group said. "The CISC has further concerns that, while acknowledging that all employers will incur some costs, OSHA does not address specific costs to the construction industry."

CISC said that ongoing updates to the HCS "make it difficult for small businesses to keep track of current standards. Each update has a significant impact on small businesses, and particularly on small

construction contractors, who may use any number of chemicals manufactured by others at their jobsites. These employers are additionally concerned by any language in the proposal that may result in costs for downstream users associated with chemical reclassification resulting from mixtures created from commonly used chemicals on jobsites."

The Coalition requested that "OSHA recognize the full impact of its proposal, including its reach in the construction industry, and provide significant compliance assistance to construction companies. Alternatively, the CISC requests that OSHA clarify that a final rule would not impact construction and construction contractors would not be obligated to change their written hazard communication programs accordingly."

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TAUC News Briefs

TAUC Announces New Board Members

TAUC recently announced several changes to the Board of Directors and related member leadership positions. Four members were elected to the Board of Directors: Kathleen Dobson, Alberici Constructors; Todd Begerowski, Dearborn Mid-West Co.; Chad Cotter, Burns & McDonnell; and Troy Sundbom, The Jamar Company. Ms. Dobson will also serve as the new chair of the TAUC EHS Committee.

TAUC wishes to thank the following outgoing Board members for their time and service: Rusty Brown, Kiewit; John Stevens, Thermal Solutions; Tom Ensminger, Day & Zimmermann NPS; and Jeff Brinker, Central Conveyor Co. ■



Welcoming Mascaro Construction As New Governing Member

TAUC is excited to welcome Mascaro Construction as a new Governing Member! Pittsburgh-based Mascaro is one of the largest contractors in the region, performing a variety of industrial work in the metal, oil/gas and power sectors as well as commercial and residential construction. Learn more at www.mascaroconstruction.com. ■

DOL Announces New ACCSH Members

Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh recently appointed 15 individuals to serve as members on the Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health, which provides advice and assistance to OSHA on occupational safety and health in construction standards.

Members will serve two-year terms and represent a variety of stakeholders, including employees, employers, the public, and state and federal government. Notable members include the Ironworkers' Wayne Creasap, who previously served as EHS Director for TAUC, and NABTU's Christina Trahan Cain, who will serve as Chair of the committee. ■

Cleveland-Cliffs Celebrates \$1B Toledo Plant Built Under NMA

On June 9, 2021, Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. celebrated six months of continued operation and production of hot-briquetted iron (HBI) at the company's new state-of-the-art Direct Reduction plant in Toledo, Ohio. Cliffs' Chairman, President and CEO Lourenco Goncalves hosted Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and other dignitaries for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the plant, which employs nearly 160 employees.

"Today we are celebrating a new era for the iron and steel industry in the United

States," Goncalves said. "This event formally marks the culmination of our \$1 billion investment to build and operate the world's most modern and environmentally friendly Direct Reduction plant, and the first plant of its kind constructed for the present and for the future."

The HBI plant was built under the auspices of the National Maintenance Agreements (NMA), the premier project labor agreement for the industrial construction and maintenance industry. As a

"Yellow Card Project," the NMA was used for all aspects of the job, which was completed using union labor.

A total of 28 NMA signatory contractors worked on the HBI project, including Barton Malow, GEM Industrial, RMF Nooter, Rudolph Libbe, J.T. Thorpe & Son and Lake Erie Electric of Toledo. TAUC joins with NMAPC in congratulating valued client Cleveland-Cliffs on the new plant, and all the union contractors and craftworkers who made it possible! ■



NMAI.Q.

eLearning Resource Center

The National Maintenance Agreements Policy Committee, Inc. (NMAPC) has been serving the union construction and maintenance industry for more than 40 years. We negotiate and administer the National Maintenance Agreements (NMA), a series of collective bargaining agreements utilized by more than 2,000 industrial construction and maintenance contractors employing members of fourteen international building trades unions.

Now, the NMAPC has created a comprehensive web-based resource center to help contractors, clients and crafts more effectively utilize the NMAPC Program.

The NMA I.Q. eLearning Resource Center is the web-based resource for “all things NMA.” It is designed for newcomers and industry veterans alike, and equally useful to all members of the tripartite community – contractors, building trades unions and owner-clients. It offers easy-to-follow online tutorials and short videos on virtually every aspect of the NMA, from a “How does it work?” general overview to detailed instructions and explanations on more technical aspects of the Agreements.

Try it today – it’s free!

www.NMAIQ.org

Riggs Distler Acquired in \$855 Million Deal

Centuri Group, a wholly owned subsidiary of Southwest Gas Holdings, is purchasing Riggs Distler & Company and affiliates in an \$855 million cash deal, the parties announced in June.

New Jersey-based Riggs Distler is a TAUC Governing Member. Founded in 1909, it “has extensive relationships and long-term Master Service Agreements (MSA) with nearly all of the major investor-owned electric utilities in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions and provides unionized installation and repair services to its utility customers,” Centuri said in a release.

“The addition of Riggs Distler provides Centuri a strong union electric platform

and allows the Company to provide new service offerings to combination utility customers. The acquisition expands Centuri's geographic reach and union electric platform with virtually no overlap in existing customer base,” Centuri added.

Paul Daily, President and CEO of Centuri, said, “Riggs Distler is an exceptional company with a seasoned, energetic leadership team and substantial growth opportunities in electric services, renewable energy, and 5G telecom. This is a transformational transaction for Centuri that adds a unionized electric services platform to our current utility infrastructure portfolio, significantly advancing our goal to encompass our customer's

growing needs by providing 360 degrees of service.”

“We are proud to join Centuri, a company that shares our century old core values of commitment to safety, operational excellence, and delivering high-quality, competitive, and essential services to customers,” said Riggs Distler President and CEO Stephen Zemaitatis, Jr. “United, we will benefit from greater financial strength, growth, and diversification. We look forward to deepening our customer relationships and creating meaningful opportunities for our employees as part of the Centuri family.” ■

Pharma, Building Trades Partnership Drives Billions in Construction Investment

Between 2015 and 2020, a partnership between the biopharmaceutical industry and the skilled craft unions has helped drive more than \$20 billion in investment in major construction projects in 14 states, according to a new report from the Institute for Construction Economic Research (ICERES). “Major projects” were defined as being over \$5 million in value, and states included in the study included California, Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania.

Over the same time period, that investment resulted in union craftworkers from 14 trades working at least 22.3 million hours and earning more than \$774 million in wages, not to mention tens of millions more in health insurance and pension benefits.

“Following one of the worst economic downturns in our nation's history, this data reinforces how we are driving critical investment that supports middle-class families with good jobs, while taking cutting-edge science from concept to reality,” said Joseph Sellers, General President of the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and

Transportation Workers (SMART) and chairman of the Pharmaceutical Industry Labor-Management Association (PILMA). “We are particularly proud of the role our members have played in saving lives and bringing back America's economy with their work on jobsites that researched, developed, and delivered the COVID-19 vaccines and treatments. This report shows the tremendous impact of the partnership between skilled craft unions and the life sciences sector on regional economies throughout the country and on America's skilled union workers.”

Additional key findings of the report include:

- Electricians, instrumentation technicians, and plumbers and pipefitters accounted for more than half of the 22 million total union labor hours analyzed.
- When all construction projects active between 2015 and 2020 were considered across the 14 states (rather than only \$5+ million projects), the total investment rose to nearly \$29 billion.

- In 2020, even during the most dramatic economic collapse since the Great Depression, the biopharmaceutical industry invested more than \$6.1 billion in construction spending, providing work for skilled craft workers at a time of unprecedented work stoppages in other sectors.

“The medical breakthroughs that our industry's scientists are focused on every day would quite simply not be possible without the help of skilled craft union workers,” said Chris Lepore, Vice President, US State Government Affairs for Johnson & Johnson and Co-Chair of PILMA. “The state-of-the-art labs and manufacturing facilities that we have built together require a level of precision and exacting specifications that only comes from a combination of experience and training.”

The full report is available at www.pilma.org/unionjobs.



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