



TWIN CITIES
INSTALL
INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS & TRAINING ALLIANCE
FLOORCOVERING PROFESSIONALS

JANUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

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INSTALL Local 596 – 670 Olive Street, St. Paul, MN 55130

P 651.636.0091 F 651.636.0092 E-Mail lu596@mncarpenter.org Website www.tcinstall.org

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS: Start at 6 PM on the 3rd Thursday each month, at the Floorcoverers Apprenticeship and Training Center, 680 Olive St., St. Paul, MN. Food and pop are served. If you have concerns or items of interest please let this office know.

For questions on health & welfare or pension questions contact the Twin Cities Floor Covering Industry Fringe Benefit Fund Office:

Zenith Administrators
PO Box 73
Minneapolis MN 55440-0073

Office Hours
Monday – Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
Locally 651-256-1803 Toll Free 1800-788-5885

UBC 40TH GENERAL CONVENTION CALL

In August 2010 the United Brotherhood of Carpenters will be holding the 40th General Convention in Las Vegas, NV. Based on the current membership numbers Local # 596 will be allowed to send three delegates to this convention. Nominations and Elections will be held at the Regular Membership meeting in April 15, 2010 beginning at 6 P.M. at the Floor Covering Training Center – 680 Olive Street, Saint Paul.

Nomination Rules are as follows:

(Per Section 31.D, of the Constitution of United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America)

1. Must be present at time of nomination unless away on union business or prevented by accident sickness or other substantial reason.
2. Must be working at the trade (not retired), or depending on the trade for a livelihood, or employed as a full-time officer or representative, provided further that life-time members, apprentices, trainees or probationary employees are not eligible.
3. Members must have been twelve consecutive months a member **in good standing immediately prior to nomination** in this local, and a member of the UBC for two consecutive years immediately prior to nominations, and must remain a member in good standing at all times to remain in the position to which elected.
4. Employers are not eligible, nor shall a member who has been a contractor within the six months prior to nominations be qualified. (Notification in writing that he/she ceased contracting must have been received by the Local office at least six months prior to nominations.)

Voters Eligibility Rules are as follows:

(Per Section 42.J, of the Constitution of United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America)

- No member shall be eligible to vote for Officers or Delegates unless that person has been a member at least 12 consecutive months.
- You must be in good standing on your dues at time of voting. You can square up the day of the election.
- Employer members are not eligible to vote.
- Must be present at the time of the election (no absentee ballots allowed).
- Retired members can vote for officers/delegates, but cannot vote on contract ratification issues.

WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP THE ECONOMY

Unemployment in the construction trades is at levels not seen for decades. If you ask an unemployed member if they think we are experiencing a depression in our economy, their answer would probably be yes. The still employed generally view our economy as in a recession. Either way, we still need something to get consumer confidence back so our nation's businesses move to start expanding again.

As tradesmen, we have a career and an industry that cannot be offshored to foreign markets where wages are low and labor laws do not exist. People in other countries may only get paid 50 cents a day and they survive. Living in America of course, we cannot survive on 50 cents nor do we intend to just survive. Our forefathers fought and won a right to organize, to be paid a fair wage, and to retire with dignity in this country.

Big businesses and corporations that have chosen to send manufacturing of their products to other countries have also taken any chance to construct a manufacturing plant in that country. Supporting Union Made and American Made businesses is one way we may be able to show the offshore manufacturing companies that they made the wrong choice.

We're not saying that we should only buy products made in this country. Trade between countries is a centuries old tradition and has improved and advanced the world we live in. Too many items we purchase for our daily needs offer few alternatives when attempting to buy Union Made or Made in the USA. There are many Union Made and Made in the USA products if we are willing to search them out. Try doing a search on the internet and you may be surprised to find many products that are proudly manufactured or grown here in the US.

Supporting Made in America products and companies can make a difference to our local, state, and national economies. Wages paid to employees who work producing goods here increase the amount of people employed and the amount of taxes paid into government coffers. Getting people off unemployment and working will help in regaining consumer confidence and lead to economic growth in this country. Look for the Made in the America sticker when buying and shop locally when possible.

FYI

This is a message for all working members: If you are called in by your employer for a meeting of any kind you are allowed to request a Union Representative be present. Please call the Local and we will get in touch with the proper parties.

WWW.INSTALLMINNESOTA.ORG

Last month we successfully deployed our new website which combined the “public” site (flooranswer-twincities.com) and the “member” site (tcinstall.org). When you go to www.installminnesota.org you will be brought to the public site front page that is designed for potential end users, designers and architects with information on how to find an INSTALL contractor as well as what INSTALL is all about, much more. On the bottom right of this front page you will see this button, which will bring you to the member site front page. Here you will find the INSTALL contactors list, upgrade classes, Fringe Fund Office (Zenith & NCSRCC Benefits) information, newsletters, other publications and a list of important links i.e. zenithadmin.com, MN & WI unemployment websites, T.E.A.M., northcountrycarpenter.org and much more. We hope this site is a tool you will use often. If you have any questions on how to navigate the site or comments on items that would be beneficial to members that you would like to see posted please contact Danielle at the Local.



OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES.....

To family and friends of Lifetime member George. E. Carlson who passed away November 29, 2009. George was 92 years old and a member for 62 years.

Lifetime James Gibis who passed on December 17, 2009. Jim was 88 years old and a member for 63 years.

Loyd Law, also a Lifetime member, passed January 14, 2010. Loyd was a member for 50 years.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all.

SUMMER 2010 LOCAL # 596 PICNIC

Mark your calendar: At the Regular Membership meeting in November 2009 action was taken to hold a picnic this coming summer. We have reserved the pavilion at Long Lake Regional Park in New Brighton, MN. The picnic will be held on Saturday, July 17, 2010. Anyone who wishes to volunteer please notify the Local. We'll have more details as the date gets closer.



TAX TIME (WORKING DUES FOR TAX PURPOSES):

To figure how much you paid in working dues during the past year simply take your total taxable income and multiply by 3%. You can get the total taxable income from your last pay stub of the year and/or your W2. This is your legal document. A curiosity letter will be sent from the North Central States Regional Council stating the amount of working dues paid in 2009. Also for the monthly dues the 2009 rates were:

	Jan-Jun	Jul-Dec
JM	21.05	22.05
APPR	21.05	22.05
MH	51.05	52.05

EMPLOYERS OWING TWO MONTHS OR MORE FRINGES (AS OF JANUARY 12, 2010): American Contract Flr, B&B Hardwood, MaxPro Flooring, Patco Inc, Vaughan Floorcovering

2010 CALENDARS ARE IN

Stop in the office or training center to pick up your 2010 pocket calendars. We also make them available at the membership meeting and if you can't stop by, we can mail them out upon request. We can't stress enough how important it is to keep a log & retain complete, accurate records.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship applications are now available at the Local Office.

IMPORTANT SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

- Available to Local 596 members and their dependants.
- Member must be in goodstanding as of April 1, 2010.
- We will be awarding four (4) \$600.00 scholarships; which will be
- randomly drawn from those applicants with a “B” average or high.
- Must attend an accredited college (minimum of 9 credits for college students) or be graduating from high school and intend to enroll in an accredited college.
- Official sealed transcript must be included along with completed application, and
- returned no later than 4:00 PM on April 1, 2010

Stop by during regular business hours or give us a call and we'll mail an application out to you. Good luck students!

SAFETY TIP

WHEN GOING TO JOB SITES THESE ARE SOME THINGS YOU WANT TO REMEMBER:

- I. **MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets)** for materials you are using on the job, check with the employer to see if these were delivered to the jobsite already. If not, the foreman should get these from the employer and bring to job site to give to the superintendant on the project. These documents are very important and not having them could result in citation(s) from OSHA.
- II. **Proper PPE (Person Protective Equipment)** for the job. Hard hats, safety glasses, respirators (if needed) and work boots.
- III. **OSHA 10 Card.** Most general contractors are starting to require everyone on a job site to have an OSHA 10 card.
- IV. **Working Card.** Agents and fellow members are on jobs sites checking working cards; this is to protect your work, not to inconvenience you. Please carry your necessary cards with you. Thank you.

FORBO ASSOCIATE COMING IN FEBRUARY

Forbo Class will be held February 8-11, 2010. Class will be four full days and will begin at 8:00 AM (sharp). This class is intended for the experienced resilient installer. There is a limit to class size. Call the Training Center today to reserve your spot 651-221-1304.


UPGRADE SCHEDULE

January				
1/28/2010	Thursday	Custom Rug	4:30 PM	Learn the basics for rug making
February				
2/1/2010	Monday	Thermal Plastic Seam Sealing	4:30 PM	
2/3/2010	Wednesday	Intro to Wood Floors (Rochester)	4:30 PM	Rochester Training Center
2/08-2/11/2010	Monday - Thursday	Forbo Associate Certification	8:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Experienced Installers Only. Very Limited Space. RSVP NECESSARY. Class is Four Full Days
2/9/2010	Tuesday	Modified V Plug (Duluth)	Follows Duluth Union Mtg	Duluth Training Center
2/15/2010	Monday	Stretch Borders	4:30 PM	
2/18/2010	Thursday	Intro to Wood Floors	Follows Metro Union Mtg	
2/22/2010	Monday	Hardwood Board Replacement	4:30 PM	
2/24/2010	Wednesday	Heat Tape Seaming	4:30 PM	

**Floor Coverers Training Center – 680 Olive Street, St. Paul, MN 55130
651/221-1304 or 651/221-1305**

Classes that are up to 4 hrs count as ONE UPGRADE Classes that are 4-8 hrs count as TWO UPGRADES
Classes that are more than 8 hrs count as THREE UPGRADES

INSTALL Local 596
670 Olive Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55130



General Convention Call
Delegate Nominations &
Elections this April
See Pg 2 for more details.