



# Training News

*A quarterly newsletter from the Northern California Laborers' Training Center*      *Issue No. 48 • Winter 2004*

## Training Center maintains the highest standards

The demand for learning has never been stronger at the Laborers' Training Center, which trained more Union members last year — 4,600 — than during any time in its 30-year history. The Center, which is one of the busiest of its kind in the nation, is on track to break its own record for attendance this year. But more important than numbers is the quality of instruction that is delivered.

“Union Laborers are the most versatile workers on any construction site, and they need the best training available so that they are prepared for whatever task is required to get the job done,” says José Moreno, Business Manager of the Northern California District Council of Laborers.

“A Union Laborer who can do many different things is more valuable to our signatory contractors and also more likely to stay on the job,” says Moreno, who is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Laborers' Training and Retraining Trust Fund for Northern California. “That’s why we say, ‘The more you learn, the more you’ll earn.’”

Making sure the training Laborers receive is of the highest caliber is a continuing challenge for new Training Director, Vic Macias, and his corps of veteran instructors.

Each year the Laborers' Training Center spends tens of thousands of dollars to certify and re-certify its instructors to teach many of the more than 40 classes the Center offers. In addition, substantial investments are made in the facility,



**Apprentices learn asphalt techniques during their training at the Center.**

equipment and materials utilized by trainees during their training.

Complicating the challenge is the fact that standards and techniques for the construction industry are constantly changing, requiring instructors to stay current with the latest developments.

“Every contractor knows that if you don’t keep up with the times, you’ll quickly be left behind,” says Gil Crosthwaite, Vice President of Industrial Relations for A. Teichert & Son, Inc., a signatory contractor. “Having employees who are trained in the latest techniques and safety standards saves a contractor money and makes him more competitive.” Crosthwaite is Co-Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Laborers' Training and Retraining Trust Fund for Northern California.

The goal of the Training Center is to deliver training that is as good or better than anything in the industry, and oftentimes that means having courses and instructors certified by governmental agencies or nationally known organizations.

Among the certifications the Laborers' Training Center receives are from the Occupational Safety & Health Administration, the National Safety Council, the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA), the California Department of Health Services, the California Department of Industrial Relations and the Bay Area Training Corporation (BATC). The Training Center also accesses curriculum and trainer certifications from the Laborers-AGC Education and Training Fund. ■



**Trainees learn how to safely dispose of simulated hazardous materials.**

**TERENCE J. O'SULLIVAN LABORERS' TRAINING CENTER  
SCHEDULE OF COURSES (HORARIO DE CLASES)  
January 5 - April 2, 2004**

<b>COURSES</b>	<b>DATES</b>	<b>LENGTH</b>	<b>PREREQUISITE</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION COURSES</b>			
Apprenticeship Follow-up	January 12 - January 23	2 Weeks	Completed Initial Class
Apprenticeship Initial	January 26 - February 6	2 Weeks	Registered Apprentices
Apprenticeship Follow-up	February 9 - February 20	2 Weeks	Completed Initial Class
Apprenticeship Initial	February 23 - March 5	2 Weeks	Registered Apprentices
Apprenticeship Follow-up	March 8 - March 19	2 Weeks	Completed Initial Class
Apprenticeship Initial	March 22 - April 2	2 Weeks	Registered Apprentices
Concrete Techniques	January 5 - January 16	2 Weeks	N/A
Pipe Laying Techniques	February 9 - February 20	2 Weeks	N/A
Plaster Tender/Hod Carrier	February 23 - March 12	3 Weeks	N/A
Fundamentals of Construction	March 8 - March 19	2 Weeks	N/A
Concrete Techniques	March 22 - April 2	2 Weeks	N/A
<b>WELDING COURSES</b>			
MIG & TIG Welding	January 5 - January 16	2 Weeks	<b>1000 hours worked</b>
Basic Arc Welding	January 26 - March 5	6 Weeks	<b>1000 hours worked</b>
Advanced Arc Welding	January 26 - March 5	6 Weeks	<b>2000 hours worked**</b>
MIG & TIG Welding	March 8 - March 19	2 Weeks	<b>1000 hours worked</b>
<b>SPECIAL COURSES</b>			
Grade Checking	January 5 - January 9	1 Week	N/A
Oxy Torch Cutting	January 5, Jan. 23 & March 25	1 Day Each	N/A
Flagger Certification	January 6, Jan. 19, February 2 Feb. 9, March 22 & March 26	1 Day Each	N/A
Traffic Control (English/Spanish)	January 19, Feb. 11 & March 19	1 Day Each	N/A
Flagger Certification (English/Spanish)	January 21, Feb. 10 & March 17	1 Day Each	N/A
Bobcat Orientation (Intermediate)	January 5 - January 7	3 Days	Some Experience
Forklift Certification	January 7 - January 8	2 Days	Experience Required
Aerial Work Platform	January 8 - January 9	2 Days	N/A
First Aid/CPR	January 9, Jan. 16, Jan. 20 Feb. 10, March 5 & March 23	1 Day Each	N/A
Traffic Control	January 20, Feb. 3 & March 24	1 Day Each	N/A

**\*\* Also requires a Basic Welding Certificate from the Laborers Training Center**



**WHERE IS THE TRAINING CENTER?**

Take the **ALCOSTA BOULEVARD WEST** exit off Highway 680 (see map at left). After you cross the intersection at San Ramon Valley Boulevard, the road changes to Westside Drive. Stay in the straight-ahead lane and look on your left for the large sign and gate leading to the Training Center. Proceed up the hill to the Administration building (on the left).

Our address is 1001 Westside Drive, San Ramon, California 94583-4098. Our telephone is (925) 828-2513; FAX is (925) 828-6142; E-mail: [training@norcalaborers.org](mailto:training@norcalaborers.org).

**TERENCE J. O'SULLIVAN LABORERS' TRAINING CENTER**  
**SCHEDULE OF COURSES (HORARIO DE CLASES)**  
**January 5 - April 2, 2004**

<b>COURSES</b>	<b>DATES</b>	<b>LENGTH</b>	<b>PREREQUISITE</b>
<b>SPECIAL COURSES</b>			
Forklift Certification	January 21 - January 22	2 Days	Experience Required
OSHA 500	January 22 - January 23	2 Days	N/A
Blueprint Reading	January 22 - January 23	2 Days	N/A
Bobcat Orientation	January 26 - January 30	1 Week	N/A
Forklift Certification	January 29 - January 30	2 Days	Experience Required
Forklift Orientation	February 2 - February 6	1 Week	N/A
Confined Space	February 2, Feb. 11 & March 16	1 Day Each	N/A
Aerial Work Platform	February 4 - February 5	2 Days	N/A
Scaffold User	February 9 & February 12	1 Day Each	N/A
Blueprint Reading	February 12 - February 13	2 Days	N/A
Grade Checking	February 17 - February 20	1 Week	N/A
Mine Safety (MSHA)	February 23 - February 27	1 Week	N/A
Rigging & Signaling	March 1 - March 5	1 Week	N/A
Forklift Certification	March 1 - March 2	2 Days	Experience Required
Aerial Work Platform	March 3 - March 4	2 Days	N/A
Grade Checking	March 15 - March 19	1 Week	N/A
Bobcat Orientation	March 29 - April 2	1 Week	N/A
Aerial Work Platform	March 25 - March 26	2 Days	N/A
Forklift Certification	March 29 - March 30	2 Days	Experience Required
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL COURSES</b>			
Asbestos Removal (Spanish)	January 5 - January 9	1 Week	N/A
Lead Re-Certification (Spanish)	January 16 & February 20	1 Day Each	Valid Certificate
Hazardous Waste Removal	January 19 - January 30	2 Weeks	<b>200 hours worked</b>
Lead Removal (Spanish)	January 19 - January 23	1 Week	N/A
Lead Removal (English)	January 26 - January 30	1 Week	N/A
Hazardous Waste Re-Certification	February 3, Feb. 6 & Feb. 13	1 Day Each	Valid Certificate
Asbestos Removal (Spanish)	February 2 - February 6	1 Week	N/A
Asbestos Removal (English)	February 9 - February 13	1 Week	N/A
Hazardous Waste Removal	February 17 - February 27	2 Weeks	<b>200 hours worked</b>
Asbestos Re-Certification (Spanish)	February 17	1 Day	Valid Certificate
Lead Re-Certification (English)	February 18	1 Day	Valid Certificate
Asbestos Re-Certification (English)	February 19	1 Day	Valid Certificate
Lead Removal (Spanish)	February 23 - February 27	1 Week	N/A
Asbestos Removal (Spanish)	March 1 - March 5	1 Week	N/A
Asbestos Removal (English)	March 8 - March 12	1 Week	N/A
Hazardous Waste Re-Certification	March 15 & March 18	1 Day Each	Valid Certificate
Asbestos Removal (Spanish)	March 15 - March 19	1 Week	N/A
Hazardous Waste Removal	March 22 - April 2	2 Weeks	<b>200 hours worked</b>
Asbestos Removal (English)	March 22 - March 26	1 Week	N/A
Asbestos Removal (Spanish)	March 29 - April 2	1 Week	N/A



LABORERS' TRAINING AND RETRAINING  
TRUST FUND FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
1001 WESTSIDE DRIVE  
SAN RAMON, CA 94583-4098

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CONCORD, CA  
PERMIT NO. 473

## Signatory contractor impressed with training

Even experienced Laborers can benefit from refresher training, as was the case with a recent project awarded to Nibbi Brothers General Contractors of San Francisco. The firm was doing extensive concrete work but wanted to be sure that everything went smoothly.

A Nibbi superintendent, Jim Girk, immediately dispatched the trainees to the Laborers' Training Center for refresher concrete training. He requested that special emphasis be placed on vibrating concrete wall forms, and the Training Center was happy to accommodate the request.

Senior Instructor Jerome Williams ordered a custom-cut Plexiglas panel, which was placed in one of the many panels that made up an 8-foot wall form, so that trainees could see what happens to the concrete as it is poured among the rebar and vibrated. Instructors Mel May and Frank Hardman, III, also demonstrated to the trainees various techniques to ensure that the finished wall will be sturdy and free of defects.

Girk was so impressed that he invited the Laborers' Training Center's representatives to attend a meeting of Nibbi job superintendents at a Foster City construction site. In attendance was Michael Nibbi.

Williams, joined by Laborers' Training Center Executive Director Russell Snyder, gave an overview of the various classes offered at the Center and how the training can help them succeed in the competitive construction industry. All in attendance agreed that Nibbi Brothers' employees would be paying regular visits to the Laborers' Training Center to keep their skills sharp. ■



**The Plexiglas barrier on the right provides trainees a clear view of the concrete being poured.**