

Advanced CAS Exam Hits the Road

Transportation Infrastructure investment is a hot topic in the DC budget battles. Why? Because job creation remains a political football between parties. It is estimated that for every \$1 billion spent on transportation infrastructure, 18,000 jobs are created.

As the politicians continue to scrum on Capitol Hill over who will be credited for finally investing in our infrastructure repair and creating those badly needed jobs, the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) Finishing Trades Institute (FTI) is preparing our members to be ready and certified for that work. That is especially true for what is certain to be a very busy sector of infrastructure repair: bridges.

According to Transportation for America (www.t4america.org), 11 percent of the total highway bridges in the U.S. are structurally deficient and require "significant maintenance, rehabilitation or replacement." That work includes the abrasive blasting and application of protective coatings, and that's the

work of the men and women of the IUPAT.

In March, the FTI Board of Trustees approved a plan for the FTI staff to implement its Coating Applicator Specialist (CAS) exam beyond the International Training Center in Hanover, Maryland and into local training centers throughout the United States and Canada. It was a deliberate move to increase the qualified IUPAT workforce for this particular kind of bridgework in North America.

One of the primary goals of this initiative is to make certain that the local IUPAT training centers meet the facility requirements mandated by The Society for Protective Coatings (SSPC). The SSPC is the leading authority focused on the protection of concrete, steel and

other industrial structures and surfaces through the use of industrial coatings, and it sets the recognized industry standards. To achieve that goal, the FTI Board dedicated \$2 million to properly equip the centers and therefore allow them to deliver the CAS exam as planned.

The exam that rank and file members take to become a certified coating application specialist consists of written and hands-on testing. It is administered by what are called proctors. The FTI and SSPC CAS program trains instructors on the local level to be SSPC recognized proctors and therefore ready to over see the exam local workers.

The entire effort in the field is being led by FTI staffers Brian Gingras and John Burcaw, who are both lead pro-



In District Council 77, a council that represents IUPAT members in nearly half a dozen states in the southern United States, recently conducted an exam at their training center in Birmingham, Alabama. Training Director Chuck Hill and his team provided some southern hospitality and an extremely well equipped facility to get the job done.

tors for the CAS certification, as well as Robert Porto as lead auditor. "This team is constantly on the road and at work to make these off-site CAS exams a success," says Dan Penski, FTI director. "We've also received extraordinary cooperation and assistance from our local councils."

BUFFALO LEADS THE WAY

IUPAT District Council 4 in Buffalo, New York was the first council to administer the local CAS exam in April. Since then, other councils have rapidly followed suit with great success.

The Finishing Trades Institute is constantly upgrading its curricula and resources to ensure the IUPAT workforce is ready for the challenges of the 21st century job site. Learn more about the FTI at www.FinishingTradesInstitute.org.

IT TAKES LEADERS TO MAKE CAS A SUCCESS!

Many thanks to our provisional proctors and auditors who have actively sought lead status.

LEAD PROCTORS

Brian Gingras, John Burcaw, Anton Ruesing (DC 78), Anthony Kipen (DC 82), Glenn Wilson (DC77), Will Meyers (DC 2), Brian O'Farrel (DC 46), Rich Gabera (DC 26), Trent McNutt (DC 6), John Hamilton (DC 57).

PROVISIONAL PROCTORS

Vickie Valentine (DC51), Kevin Johnston (DC21), Dave Biggs (DC 78), Wayne Cummings (DC 35), Bill Glover (DC 11), Gord Green (LU 177), Mark Tenbroek (DC 38).

LEAD AUDITORS

Bob Porto, Art Hurlburt (DC 58), Brad Shafer (DC 53).

PROVISIONAL AUDITORS

Roger White (DC 80), Kerry Gallagher (DC 82), Ken Seals (DC 15), Bobby Hill (DC 77), Kevin Blumig (DC 711).

GRADUATION TIME

Apprenticeship graduation is once again upon us and, even in this down economy, affiliates have continued to journey out apprentices. The FTI staff is committed to personally attending these graduations to celebrate the success of our many apprentices and honor the trainers who have worked so hard to prepare these new journey workers for a successful career in the Finishing Trades.

The FTI staff has attended the following graduations:

- District Council 30 / Aurora Illinois
- District Council 14 / Chicago, Illinois
- District Council 7 / Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- District Council 82 / Little Canada, Minnesota
- District Council 77 / Aiken, South Carolina
- District Council 35 / Boston Massachusetts
- District Council 11 / West Berlin, Connecticut
- District Council 16 / Oakland, California
- District Council 51 / Suitland, Maryland

GRADUATES OF MPI ONLINE CERTIFICATION TRAINING

The FTI provides online training for several courses, and that includes the MPI Architectural Coating Specialist class. Those who successfully complete this course are officially recognized as having mastered the field of coatings for architectural/commercial structures (i.e. schools, hospitals, office complexes, multi-family residential, retail, hospitality, recreational facilities, etc.).

Both the course and the exam are entirely online, and students have three months to complete them. The final exam is offered twice, and students must earn a 75% score or better to pass.

Congratulations and a job well done to the first members of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades to complete the MPI online training.

LEVEL # 1

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|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jack Altieri, DC 21 | Jay Kolder, DC 14 |
| Scott Amey, DC 46 | Michael Krawiec, DC 14 |
| James Bentley, DC 11 | Stephen Lefaver, DC 30 |
| Terry Boyd, DC 30 | David Lopez, DC 36 |
| Scott Corsiatti, DC 30 | Edwin Mayorga, DC 36 |
| Mike DeMoss, DC 6 | Michael Nelson, DC 11 |
| Chris Fallon, DC 16 | Rodney Reeder, DC 77 |
| Lorna Fraley, DC 26 | Candice Rejmenczak, DC 88 |
| Jenny Frederick, DC 91 | Allen Sisneros, DC 88 |
| Domenic Gaeta, DC 21 | Jacob Snediker, DC 82 |
| Kerry Gallagher, DC 82 | Nick Tassinari, DC 58 |
| Tony Gammieri, DC 57 | Len Traber, DC 21 |
| Edgar Garcia, DC 14 | Kyle Trimarki, DC 57 |
| Matt Graff, DC 6 | Bryan Volpp, DC 15 |
| Matthew Grizzle, DC 88 | Joseph Weiss, DC 21 |
| Adam Holmes, DC 7 | Robert Wells, DC 22 |
| Arthur Hurlburt, DC 58 | David Widener, DC 77 |