

ROOFERtoROOFER

by International President Kinsey M. Robinson

Preparing for the Future Demands of Our Industry

After two years of the worst recession in decades and unprecedented stagnant growth in the construction industry, the nation's economy is expected to slowly improve in 2011. As the overall economy recovers, construction activity will improve dramatically and with it there will be a corresponding demand for skilled workers, including highly skilled roofers and waterproofers. Over the coming years that demand will be greater than ever before, offering thousands of new, good-paying job opportunities.

While the nation sputtered and many of America's working men and women sat idle over the last two years, roofers and waterproofers and our union have been busy preparing for the future through increased training and preparedness programs. When construction activity picks up and the need for skilled workers expands, the members of our union will be ready to meet the challenge. To accommodate the demand, the Research and Education Department has been overseeing an array of new and upgraded training programs.

The **Foreman Training Program** debuted in 2009 and has delivered fourteen seminars to date, training hundreds of foremen from across the country. This program consists of seven modules that are activity-directed and revolve around shared experiences and interaction rather than straight lecture.

The **Train-the-Trainer Program** was developed specifically for local union apprenticeship instructors. The objectives of this program are to improve the teaching effectiveness of each instructor and to help standardize the quality of training provided by apprenticeship programs across the country.

The **Green Roofing and Waterproofing Manual** is currently being developed by the Research and Education Department. This comprehensive state-of-the-art training manual will address vegetative roofs, cool roofs, waterproofing and photovoltaic application in both low-sloped and residential roofing, and will become a component of our national apprenticeship curriculum.

Armed with the best training programs in the industry and the **Professional Code of Conduct** we will be the most conscientious, best trained and productive roofers and waterproofers in the workforce. Contractors will know

that they get better value by hiring skilled union craftsmen who belong to the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers. When the demand for increased numbers of skilled roofers and waterproofers comes, we'll be ready!



The National Health and Welfare Program Announces New PPO Network

The Trustees of the National Roofers Union and Employers Health and Welfare Fund have announced that effective January 1, 2011, Fund participants will have access to the CIGNA PPO Network for all provided services. As one of America's major health care carriers, CIGNA offers a seamless, national network of more than one million provider locations throughout all fifty states, giving participants coverage at home as well as when traveling. This includes hospitals, physicians and a broad variety of specialty providers such as hospices, Centers of Excellence and home health care providers. The quality of care for you and your family continues to get better and better under the National Health and Welfare Program. See page 20 for full details

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

As 2010 draws to a close and the holiday season is upon us, I'm reminded of all we have been able to achieve because of the exceptional work ethic exhibited by the members of our union. I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every member and our local leadership for their dedication to the unionized roofing and waterproofing trade.

On behalf of International Secretary-Treasurer Robert Danley and all the officers and staff at the International Union, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. As you kick back to enjoy holiday festivities with friends and family, please don't forget to keep in your thoughts and prayers our brave and dedicated servicemen and women, who forgo family, friends and comforts of home while on assignment in hostile countries located halfway around the world.