Southern States Millwrights boost training capabilities

Southern States Millwright Regional Council

The Southern States Millwright Regional Council (SSMRC) continues to ramp up training capabilities in order to continue meeting customer needs of skilled millwrights for projects across 11 southern U.S. states.

In Austin, Texas, a new $7.5 million, 27,000-square-foot training facility opened in April. In Savannah, Ga., work is progressing to build a 12,500-square-foot training facility. Both include a large millwright training shop that delivers the hallmark training curriculum all Southern States Millwrights train by, in order to deliver a work product that is fast, accurate and safe.

Specifically, classes are being added that are geared toward the region, such as advanced compressor and alignment training. The six primary training facilities of the SSMRC are now training members with VibrAlign lasers.

The new Fixturlaser NXA Pro from VibrAlign is a laser-based shaft alignment tool that utilizes the latest technology in digital signal processing, as well as other innovations, to provide faster and even more intuitive operation but with advanced functions and capabilities. Millwrights across the council’s 11-state area are actively training on the VibrAlign lasers so they can meet customer demands for precision alignment to the correct tolerances for horizontal, vertical and flanged-mounted machines, machine trains of multiple units and spacer shafts.

And at the Carpenters International Training Center in Las Vegas, a new Mechatronics technician program is underway to accommodate needs in the automation industry for millwrights trained in this skill. Mechatronics is a blend of mechanical, electronic, computing and other technical skills. The field has expanded rapidly as robotics takes hold in manufacturing plants.

“Training is at the heart of this effort to fill the jobs that are coming in the next few years. Our ability to train and the versatility we offer because of that instruction, creates a pool of productive, safety-oriented millwrights our customers require,” said Dennis Donahou, SSMRC executive secretary-treasurer.

This high level of training is producing measurable results. One example is found in Arkansas. Each year “Engineering News Record” compiles a list of the “Best of the Best” projects in 19 categories that “identify the pinnacle of design and construction achievement in the United States.” The 2013 winners were selected out of 700 projects completed between July 2012 and June 2013.