Texas’ Motiva Project Puts Thousands of Man Hours into the SSMRC & UBC Books

Big projects have the capacity to spur big opportunities. That’s the reality UBC millwrights are experiencing as hundreds of millwrights from around North America, led by the Southern States Millwright Regional Council (SSMRC), are finding work at an immense, record-setting refinery expansion project in Texas.

Houston-based Motiva Enterprises LLC, refines, distributes, and markets oil products in the eastern and southern United States. Motiva’s 109-year-old Port Arthur, Texas refinery is undergoing a multi-billion dollar comprehensive Crude Expansion Project (CEP).

Continued on page 22

Grand Gulf Supplies Big Opportunities for Work

A history-making building project in the deep South is not only attracting global attention for its size and scope, but it is also providing an equally impressive amount of work for members of the Southern States Millwright Regional Council.

More than 200 millwrights are going to work everyday at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, which sits near the Louisiana border in the southwestern Mississippi town of Port Gibson and is operated by Entergy Nuclear. The 27-year-old plant already made history by becoming the first and only nuclear power plant to produce electricity in Mississippi.

Now, thanks to the skills and productivity from SSMRC members, Grand Gulf is undergoing a power upgrade that will make it the largest single-unit nuclear power plant in the country and the fifth largest in the world. The upgrade, itself, is the largest expansion of a nuclear power plant in U.S. history.

Millwrights are working on turbines, the boiler reactor heat pump, and as bridge crane operators. They are doing all rigging.

Continued on page 15
Dear Member,

The first quarter of 2012 for the SSMRC has had continuous improvement throughout, and has out-performed the first quarter of 2011 and 2010. Our man-hours have seen the biggest increase in several years. We have continually gained membership and the percentage of those members in arrears has dropped steadily since this council was formed.

OUR MEMBERS are doing more work and have more work available to them than they have had in years. When the first three months of this year are compared with the first three months of 2011, man-hours have increased from 1,456,293 to 1,703,302 across our 11 states, a 17% gain. This means we have had an average increase of 92,336 man-hours per month. The summer months are anticipated to be stronger than summers before when work decreased sharply after the big outage seasons were over. The council’s business representatives have secured additional work to give our members a better chance of employment during this traditional downtime.

One of the reasons this increase of work is happening is that we are acquiring more signatory contractors. This, in turn, opens up more and more opportunities for work. This is the result of the members, who go to work every day, do a good job, and earn a reputation for themselves and the council. From the most experienced journeyman to the first-year apprentice, we are working with a good attitude, showing up on time, and getting the job done the Union Millwright way.

We are getting positive feedback from our contractors. One of our largest contractors relayed to me that this has been one of their most productive outage seasons ever. An official from Universal Plant Services made this public comment at the recent millwright leadership conference: “The only thing we sell is millwrights, and that’s what you (the UBC/SSMRC) provide. We are very happy with how well UBC millwrights are trained and ready to show up and go to work. You help us stay ahead of the game.”

Rule #3: To be eligible for referral:
   a) member must be a member in good standing of a Local Union affiliated with the SSMRC, with all dues paid current
   b) Have a valid dues authorization card on file at the Local Union.

Rule #4: members asked to be offered work in their Local Union Service Area first.

Rule #5: Members shall not unreasonably refuse jobs. If a member refuses two consecutive jobs, that member’s name will be moved to the bottom of the Referral List.

Rule #15: Violations of these rules shall subject the violators to charges under the UBC Constitution in addition to other penalties contained in these Rules.

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And form those at Central Conveyor Company at that same conference: “We haven’t gone anywhere where we haven’t gotten support from the millwrights. Specifically, Central’s official cited an example in Alabama: “We needed 25 guys and we got them in two days. We’ve never seen the level of cooperation and support from the union millwrights that we are seeing today.”

Rule #15: Violations of these rules shall subject the violators to charges under the UBC Constitution in addition to other penalties contained in these Rules.

Showing up under the influence of drugs or alcohol shreds that compact and puts a nearly indelible stain on our Brotherhood. The industries we serve are insular. Everyone knows everyone else, and there is no such thing as an isolated incident.

Our union has worked hard to get owners and contractors to give us a second look. By overhauling our training and demonstrating our commitment to top-flight skills and can-do attitude, we have been able to win work in environments that had long been hostile to unions.

Developing a reputation as a union full of unreliable and unsafe workers would put that effort at risk.

Members who fail drug tests can face more than the humiliation and loss of pay that comes from being thrown off a job. They risk fines, suspension, or possible expulsion from the Brotherhood for creating dissension among members by putting them in danger, violating Section 51(a) of the UBC Constitution.

Bringing charges against fellow members reflects the seriousness with which the Brotherhood takes this issue. It is not something done lightly or with malice. In fact, in many cases, the process leads to members seeking professional help.

Still, the best way to deal with a failed drug test is for it never to occur in the first place.

While drug testing might seem a nuisance, it is essential to ensure a safe and productive workplace. Think about it: Would you hire someone if you knew he or she was going to be under the influence at work?

Substance abusers are less productive and more likely to be late, absent, or involved in a workplace accident. Unfortunately, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, the construction industry has one of the highest rates of workplace drug and alcohol abuse, making a dangerous job even more dangerous.

Our members need to beleading the way in combating this problem. After all, it puts their lives and their livelihoods at risk.

Failing a Drug Test Means Failing More Than Yourself

A Message from UBC General Vice President Doug Banes

Dear Member:

If you put a pencil to the financial cost of that misguided decision to abuse drugs or alcohol, members cost themselves and their families thousands of dollars in missed work opportunities. Also, those working impaired can injure themselves, brother or sister members, or others, in the UBC, that is unacceptable. Brotherhood members earn superior pay because we provide superior performance. Our contractors reasonably expect that when a UBC member comes on a job, he or she will be trained, motivated, and ready to work. Showing up under the influence of drugs or alcohol shreds that compact and puts a nearly indelible stain on our Brotherhood. The industries we serve are insular. Everyone knows everyone else, and there is no such thing as an isolated incident.

Doug Banes
UBC General Vice President
Western Region Report
Representing Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, & Texas
By Rick Halford, Director

ANOTHER BUSY SPRING SEASON has now wrapped up and we are now working toward a busy summer. Your business representatives are continually working on future growth as far ahead as 2018. The Western region of the SSMRC is seeing ongoing work in the petro-chemical industries, hydro power generation and all other areas of the millwright spectrum.

The work is there for us for the taking, but we must have all our credentials to work these jobs. Contractors and owners continue to be strict on hiring only people with all certifications met. This could include having your TWIC card and Miller Welding Qualification.

The biggest reason for us securing these jobs is contractor satisfaction, which can be attributed to the member who is out on the job every day. Contractors are reporting that absenteeism is getting better and tardiness has improved by a significant amount. Our apprentices are performing well above average. The performance of our apprentices is a reflection on our exceptional training centers. Our professionalism is really showing through.

Our apprentices are succeeding and making a name for themselves. The mentoring that our fellow journeymen give them says a lot when it comes to performance on the job. The most notable men in history all have someone that they can attribute a part of their success to. Did you know that the famous conqueror King Alexander the Great was mentored by The Greek philosopher Aristotle, who was there to guide this famous conqueror.

In our specific industry we are constantly encouraged to “compete” for our market share. Our market share is what controls our ability to have a job, provide for our families and earn fair wages and benefits. It means we have to compete against other providers of millwright services to be employed. We have to compete collectively as a group in order for us to be successful in obtaining work through our contractors. We have always been keenly aware that our contractors pay more in wages for our services than their non-union counterparts. We are also very aware, for decades, of the cost of our fringe benefit packages, which most non-union contractors do not provide or provide only a token amount. There are many factors involved in the cost of a millwright and we always have to give our best to make up the differences and be recognized as the best value to our contractors and owners.

When we consider all the ways we can bring the best value to the users of our services - training, great attitudes, competitive rates, flexible schedules, portability and anything else cost driven safety is the most important factor on every job today. It is easily understood that we all want to go to work every day healthy and come home healthy. What is not so well understood is how important it is that we have absolutely no safety incidents of any type occur on our jobsites every single day. Any and all incidents involving safety on a project has huge implications on our contractors and owners. We, for sure, don’t ever want anyone hurt on a job but when our members are observed performing tasks without the proper safety equipment or not following proper safety rules, it has serious ramifications. The observance of proper safety procedures is paramount in today’s workplace.

Work in the Eastern District of our Council has really been busy this year as it was last year. It looks like work will continue to improve in the foreseeable future. In Tennessee, our union continues to gain man-hours in the automotive field, nuclear power, hydro power, light manufacturing and other fields.

The main lines of importance I hear from our contractors are:
Safety First, Quality Second and Performance Third.

Have a safe and productive summer!

P.S. Members of Local 1000, please note that your Local Union office now has the capability of accepting a credit card for dues and merchandise. Please call the office for details.

Eastern Region Report
Representing Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, & Tennessee
By Steve Cotton, Director

COMPETING IN THE 21ST CENTURY.

When we hear the term “competing,” all kinds of meanings, suggestions, thoughts, impressions and so forth go through one’s mind. However, virtually every day on the news pertaining to the local, state, federal, and world economies. We hear it in manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, transportation and just about every facet of commerce.

In our specific industry we are constantly encouraged to “compete” for our market share. Our market share is what controls our ability to have a job, provide for our families and earn fair wages and benefits. It means we have to compete against other providers of millwright services to be employed. We have to compete collectively as a group in order for us to be successful in obtaining work through our contractors. We have always been keenly aware that our contractors pay more in wages for our services than their non-union counterparts.

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Work in the Eastern District of our Council has really been busy this year as it was last year. It looks like work will continue to improve in the foreseeable future. In Tennessee, our union continues to gain man-hours in the automotive field, nuclear power, hydro power, light manufacturing and other fields. Georgia and the Carolinas continue to increase work with projects at the Savannah River site, nuclear plants, new tire plants, airports, breweries and paper mills. The two new nuclear reactors for Plant Vogtle were recently awarded licenses to be built and that project should bring years of work. In Florida we continue to gain more jobs in the paper mills, merchant power plants, airports, chemical plants, fossil and nuclear plants and airports. Overall, work in the Eastern District of our Council appears to be steady building for the future.

The recent news regarding the enormous reserves of natural gas discovered in the United States has created a lot of talk about a huge number of new gas-fired power plants to be built in the near future. These plants, which typically use gas turbines in various configurations to produce electricity, are normally less expensive to build than other types of power plants. The interesting part for our trade is they require more maintenance to maintain. Various publications are speculating that possibly huge numbers of coal and other type plants could be replaced with the gas-fired plants. That can mean years of work maintaining this new fleet of plants.

With all the potential for work in the future, we must focus on the main topic of this article which is “Competing in the 21st Century.” For us to compete, we must make sure that we make every effort to have our jobs performed safely. The main lines of importance I hear from our contractors are: Safety First, Quality Second and Performance Third.

With the opportunities we have, it is imperative that we all try to increase our efforts in remembering safety first, for the benefits of all parties involved. This is our membership, our contractors, and our owners. Please, let’s all work safe.

P.S. Members of Local 1000, please note that your Local Union office now has the capability of accepting a credit card for dues and merchandise. Please call the office for details.

Regional Director Reports
Local 216
By Donnie Newton, Business Representative

BROTHERS AND SISTERS: I hope you are all doing well. It was a very busy spring and a challenge manning jobs with so many of our members working at Grand Gulf. Looking down the road, I see the necessity for more of our members to get Millwright Qualification cards and Transportation Workers Identification Credentials (TWIC) cards. You can look on our website, www.southernstatesmillwrights.org, or call your local training center for scheduling of test for qualification cards. You can make an appointment online for TWIC cards at http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/layers/twc/twc_faqsp.hrhtml#twic_process, or by calling 1-866-547-8942. The TWIC card is an out-of-pocket expense, but can be made up quickly with employment at sites that require them.

We should all take advantage of the vast amount of available training to help keep increasing our market potential. Your hard work is already creating more work opportunities with contractors like C.R. Meyer they are gaining work in the Georgia Pacific plants in Crosssett, AR and Muskogee, OK. We have members working at the Green Country Energy Plant in Jenks, OK with PGS and with Siemens in the Mooreland Power Plant. These are plants we have been able to return to from time to time because of your efforts. Miron continues to pursue more work in our area at the Kimberly Clark plants in Conway and Maumelle, along with our local contractor CCC. Keep up the good work. It is paying off.

We have also been working on new work referral rules. The changes made should help us to send out the very best we have to offer our contractors and customers. We will all benefit from addressing absenteeism on job sites and staying current on our dues. These changes are helping us put forth a workforce that is every more responsible and dependable. The credit card machine in Ft. Smith makes it more convenient to pay dues when working from home. If you haven’t signed a 4% card and have it on file with us, you may contact the Ft. Smith office and get one mailed to you. With your help, we will do well on complying with the rules to get our reimbursement from the Regional Council so that we can continue to keep dues to a minimum. I hope all of our members will strive to make this work out for themselves and all of their brothers and sisters alike.

Remember, each time you go out on a job you represent the local, the Southern States Millwright Regional Council, and yourself as well. Let’s maintain a good reputation.

Local 729
By Kevin Curley, Business Representative

2011 WAS AN OUTSTANDING YEAR FOR WORK for Millwright Local Union 729, with more than 500,000 man-hours worked. A special thanks to all members of the local who worked in 2011, and for all of their hard work. It’s because of them, and the finances and guidance that we received from the Southern States Millwright Regional Council, which laid the ground work for 2012 to be another outstanding year.

Work Overview: In the first quarter of 2012, Siemens worked outages at Nelson Power Plant in West Lake, LA and at Waterford 16B Power Plant in Killona. Pru Con started a new construction job at Folgers Coffee whole bean plant located in New Orleans, LA which should be worked through the fall of 2012. The second quarter of 2012 saw Flour Maintenance Services working the turbines at Big Cajun II Power Plant in New Roads, LA along with their regular outage work. CF Industries, a fertilizer plant in Donaldsonville, LA, had their spring outage.

Different Payment Methods to Pay Your Dues:
We have also been working on new work referral rules. The changes made should help us to send out the very best we have to offer our contractors and customers. We will all benefit from addressing absenteeism on job sites and staying current on our dues. These changes are helping us put forth a workforce that is every more responsible and dependable. The credit card machine in Ft. Smith makes it more convenient to pay dues when working from home. If you haven’t signed a 4% card and have it on file with us, you may contact the Ft. Smith office and get one mailed to you. With your help, we will do well on complying with the rules to get our reimbursement from the Regional Council so that we can continue to keep dues to a minimum. I hope all of our members will strive to make this work out for themselves and all of their brothers and sisters alike.

Remember, each time you go out on a job you represent the local, the Southern States Millwright Regional Council, and yourself as well. Let’s maintain a good reputation.

Most of the contractors in the SSMMC will require a millwright qualification card

Apprenticeship: Congratulations to Joseph Howard and Jeffrey Johnson, who recently graduated from the Central South Carpenters Regional Council Apprenticeship and Training Program. Presently, daytime training is available at the Training Center in New Orleans. In the very near future, we will have daytime training at the Training Center in Baton Rouge. You will be notified by the Central South Carpenter Regional Council Apprenticeship and Training Program when daytime training will start in Baton Rouge.

SSMMC Website: Please don’t forget to fully utilize the SSMMC website, www.southernstatesmillwrights.org, for information on jobs, training and other important information about the council.

Millwright Qualification Card: For the last SSMMC newsletter, I wrote an article on the importance of all journeymen millwrights in Local 729 having a millwright qualification card to go to work, since there were very few millwrights that had acquired qualification cards. It won’t be very long before most of the contractors in the SSMMC will require a millwright qualification card for you to go to work for them. Therefore, please make every effort to acquire one as soon as possible if you don’t already have one. To check to see if you received a current qualification card and not an expired one, you can either call the local union office or the training center. To get a millwright qualification card please call either the training center in New Orleans or Baton Rouge and they will explain in detail what you need to do.

Local 1192
By Wayne Jennings, Business Representative

TO ALL BROTHERS AND SISTERS: I would like to thank all of you for your hard work through this past outage season. I would like to hit on a few of the high profile projects where our members were successful.

Grand Gulf Nuclear is the largest and most scrutinized, and millwrights there received great reports from all contractors involved with this outage. The Browns Ferry Nuclear Project kicked off well. We had four outages with Southern Company with great success. We closed out the construction phase of Toyota in Blue Springs, MS. While continuing to perform work at the Toyota facility in Huntsville, we completed the project at Matsu Stamping Facility in Huntsville and picked up work at the Nissan Plant in Canton, MS.

We also had a very busy schedule with Siemens and Atlantic Plant Maintenance on the fossil fuel side of power generation, and we put a crew of members at TVA’s Wheeler Dam. We continually support our contractors at Honda, Mercedes, US Steel and various other plants throughout Alabama, Mississippi and the pan handle of Florida.

With these jobs, our members came through in good shape with positive feedback from our contractors. I would also like to thank you for your willingness to be mobile throughout your council’s area and support our contractors where they needed it most. Remember, it takes a team to be successful. With the spring season coming to a close we can take comfort in knowing that we have upcoming projects at Honda, Mercedes, and both the Birmingham and Huntsville Airports. I’m positive the fall outage season is going to be as active as this spring was.

Besides work, I believe we should always talk about what you, the members, can do to put yourself in the best possible condition for employment. Everyone should have received the new Out of Work Rules voted on and approved by your delegates at the last Council Meeting. If you did not receive these, please call your local office to get a copy. Being aware of these rules and adhering to them should be a major priority for employment.

To be employable we must also strive to take advantage of our ongoing and unmatched training. We must be the best trained millwrights within our job market. Our leaders sell our contractors on this, and we must back our leaders with our commitment to be the best trained millwrights available. We must then go to work and perform at the most optimum performance level we can to ensure the success of all team members involved.

Contractor success is vital to your success. I would also like to point out the commitment the SSMMC is making to its members. Some of these commitments include those commitments that have already been fulfilled, such as major contracts that had received the new Apprenticeship card. We must therefore put forth the effort and be the best team possible.

All in all, it has been a successful spring. It is my pleasure to serve you, and again, thanks for the opportunity.

Business Representative Updates

Green Country Energy Plant in Jenks, Oklahoma

Matsu Stamping Facility equipment

Matsu Stamping Facility equipment

Matsu Stamping Facility equipment

Matsu Stamping Facility equipment

Matsu Stamping Facility equipment
Local 1263
By Mike Hamilton, Business Representative

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
So far, 2012 looks like it will be an even better year for work than 2011. We currently have members working in Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi and Florida and we believe that our new council is directly responsible for the increase in opportunities for the members of all the locals across the southern United States, and that we are thankful.

In Georgia and the Carolinas this spring, we had nuclear outage work at Plant Hatch, Plant Vogtle, Plant Farley, H.B. Robinson Nuclear and Shaw/Arctic Nuclear. Additional millwrights have been employed at the Savannah River site due to signatory contractor Topps Field Services, a turbine maintenance company out of Huffman, TX that has several small jobs in Georgia and South Carolina. We hope that the construction of two new units at Plant Vogtle will need millwrights later this year. Bridgestone Tires is expanding two plants and building a third plant in South Carolina, but we yet to have a schedule for when millwright work will begin. There has been work bid at the Charlotte, NC Airport, but we have not yet heard if any of our contractors got the work.

One thing that is certain is the rapidly increasing demand for members to have Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) cards. You can learn how to get a TWIC card by either calling our office or going to our Local 1263 web site (www.southernstatesmillwrights.org) and reading the article on TWIC certification. On our Council website, there is a link where you can sign up to take the TWIC test on line. You must type in your personal information as required, create a user identification name (your email address), receive a PIN number, and then you can log in. Read the instructions and set up an appointment (date and time) at the closest TWIC enrollment center. After you have set up your appointment, get all of your information together and take it to the enrollment center. The enrollment center will then contact you when your card is ready. You can also get your TWIC card as a link you can click on to take you directly to the TWIC web site. You can easily pre-enroll on the TWIC web site. You must type in your name (your email address), receive a PIN number, and then you can set up your appointment.

Choice in the metric division of the Easyriders Bike Show in Atlanta, GA. He did most of the work himself, including design, fabrication, and assembly. We want to thank James Blyeu for his hard work and dedication to the bike show.

Locally, I am always reminding our members to send in a “Reciprocal Form” to the area “away” fund(s) when traveling to other jurisdictions. The Reciprocal Form is necessary for any fund administrator to transfer your hours/money to your “home” fund(s). Without this form, your funds will not be transferred (reciprocated).

In summary, work has been good since our last newsletter. We are currently finishing up a large, long-term Federal Express project; we have other ongoing work at Love Field and Dallas/ Ft. Worth airports, some turbine work, and various other projects. Although we have had some slow times, our millwrights have been more than willing to assist other locals with their manpower demands during those times.

By David Bonds, Business Representative

WHEN THE SOUTHERN STATES MILLWRIGHT Regional Council was formed, a utilization and streamlined coordination of SSMRC millwrights within the council was established to cover manpower requirements during peak times. Along with this coordinated effort of traveling members throughout the council is the matter of reciprocating Health and Welfare (insurance) and pension money/hours to your “home” funds.

In Georgia and the Carolinas this spring, we had nuclear outage work at Plant Hatch, Plant Vogtle, Plant Farley, H.B. Robinson Nuclear and Shaw/Arctic Nuclear. Additional millwrights have been employed at the Savannah River site due to signatory contractor Topps Field Services, a turbine maintenance company out of Huffman, TX that has several small jobs in Georgia and South Carolina. We hope that the construction of two new units at Plant Vogtle will need millwrights later this year. Bridgestone Tires is expanding two plants and building a third plant in South Carolina, but we yet to have a schedule for when millwright work will begin. There has been work bid at the Charlotte, NC Airport, but we have not yet heard if any of our contractors got the work.

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BE INFORMED, BE ACTIVE, ATTEND YOUR LOCAL UNION MEETINGS!
Business Representative Updates

Local 1554
By David Park, Business Representative

In January we had a toolbox raffle for members who paid dues through the end of the year. This raffle was well received and the winners are: Charles Boruff Sr. (Oak Ridge), Eric Measel (Nashville), William Williams (Chattanooga), Charlie Barlow (Nashville), Norman Morgan (Chattanooga), Athel Blankenship (Nashville), Sonny Helton (Memphis), Robert Cherry (Nashville), Henry Pierce (Nashville) - who donated his to an apprentice - and Darrel Miam (Nashville). Next year, hopefully we can increase to 20 boxes. Thanks and congratulations to each of you.

Congratulations to the following millwrights for achieving 40 plus years of service: Charles E. Byrd (49), Albert F. Warren (47), William Chastain (46), Claude Garland (46), Philip Lampley (45), Bobby J. Moses (45), Paul Stayton Jr. (45), Leroy Hubbard (45), Chas H. Valentine (44), Albert Lough (43), Jim Westbrook (43), George T. Foshee (42), Henry Pierce (42) James R. Rogers (42), Larry W. White (41), William Beavers (41), Jimmie Debity (40), Richard Hanson (42), Ronnie Charlton (41), Ronald Jacobs (41), George T. Foshee (42), Henry Pierce (42) James R. Rogers (42), Larry W. White (41), William Beavers (41), Jimmie Debity (40), Richard Hanson (42), Ronnie Charlton (41), Ronald Jacobs (41), George T. Foshee (42), Henry Pierce (42), Sonny Helton (Memphis), Robert Cherry (Nashville), Henry Pierce (Nashville) - who donated his to an apprentice - and Darrel Miam (Nashville). Next year, hopefully we can increase to 20 boxes. Thanks and congratulations to each of you.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS, this spring has been busy in every sense. Millwrights across Tennessee had several major projects in the last year. General Motors in Springhill is adding a new engine line and reworking areas in assembly and body panels. Bridgestone in Lat Vergue and Warren County are expanding, adding new tire presses and tire building machines. Carlux is making changes to their glass manufacturing plant in the Middle Tennessee area. Nissan is adding a new paint shop, battery line and retooling for production of the Nissan LEAF. NKC Conveyor Installations employs just over 30 millwrights at the Nissan plant in Smyrna. NKC currently has several projects at this site and received an Outstanding Contractor Safety award.

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Local 1554
By Tim Brown, Business Representative

ON FRIDAY APRIL 5TH, 2012 TVA released the findings of a seven-month construction review at the TVA - Watts Bar Nuclear Plant Unit 2, detailing cost and time estimates. TVA’s senior vice president for Nuclear Construction, said, “The emerging estimate to complete Watts Bar Unit 2 will require additional funding of $1.5 billion to $2.0 billion, putting the total estimated cost of completion in the range of $4.0 billion to $4.5 billion. The estimated time to complete is between September and December of 2015.” Since the construction review started last October, corrective actions taken will address root cause findings and help deliver on the cost and time estimates. The construction shows that management was misaligned and planning was poor. After changes were implemented by TVA, new management is now in place. The project now has a high confidence cost estimate and milestone schedule in place, and TVA has added allowances for addressing Fukushima impacts. When Watts Bar Unit 2 comes online, it will produce more than 1,100 megawatts of energy.

There is a measure of trust that the new team has earned. However, TVA will follow the “trust but verify” approach going forward at Watts Bar Unit 2. This means that TVA will verify the decisions being made, the money being spent, and will verify that the flow of information is accurate in an effort to ensure transparency.

In addition to Watts Bar Unit 1, TVA operates three nuclear units at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant near Florence, AL and two units at Sequoyah Nuclear Plant near Chattanooga, TN. The nuclear units generate about a third of TVA’s total power supply for the Tennessee Valley region. TVA’s vision for the future is to add a cleaner and more balanced mix of energy sources, including more nuclear energy, renewables, natural gas and energy efficiency, in addition to the traditional coal and hydro power.

We capture work in nonunion areas because we provide skilled manpower when needed. The members have to keep their end of the bargain and be ready when called.”

- UBC General Vice President Doug Banes
When our contractors have a special project or a hot job that has to be done and they need the right crew or training for the job, the SSMRC, the JATC’s, and the locals will all pull together to make it happen.

It comes to landing the outage and project work, Local 2232 and our local JATC continually work to satisfy the contractor and customer needs for these sights to keep our membership available year round.

So my definition of a “big” job would be one that nets our membership the most man-hours. Period. In 2232’s case, having 30-50 people in a facility, year round, every year, for the last 15-to-20 years would equal quite a bit of man-hours. Once again, having that base crew onsite also helps us land the project work adding to the man-hours for that site.

To the members of the SSMRC, I say keep doing a professional quality job and good things will continue to happen.

"The crews are doing well and the job is going well."

- Atlantic Plant Maintenance Site Superintendent, Chris Jones

Local 2232
By Mike Hines, Business Representative

IN THE HOUSTON AREA we have had several large jobs this spring. Lyondell had a job in Channelview; Wood Group worked for British Petroleum Amoco in Texas City; Universal Plant Services and Total Industrial Specialty Services worked for Exxon Mobil in Baytown; Universal Plant Services did a job for Gregory Power in Gregory; Atlantic Plant Maintenance worked for STP in Bay City; Siemens worked in the Inversta plant in Victoria and they worked with Power/Tec and Motiva in Port Author, as well as Total Industrial Specialty Services and Universal Plant Services.

Every one of these projects had a minimum of 30 millwrights on the job with some of them using as many as 200, with the majority being SSMRC members on these projects. There are several reasons we have these major projects in the Houston area, and these will help us continue to grow market share, which leads to more jobs for our members.

1. Of the many things we have to offer, our superior training, is the biggest tool the contractor uses to get them into the door to those sites. The UBC spends more than $200 million each year on training. This documented training that our members receive at our training facilities such as OSHA 10, OSHA 30, Rigging, Welding, Alignment, along with seal, pump, and turbine training is what gives us and the contractors the advantage over the competition.

A good example to show is our project with Motiva. When the project started, they were not impressed with the open shop millwright’s skill level who installed the equipment in their expansion. Therefore, council and contractor teamed up and presented a training program to meet their needs. With this joint effort, both the council and contractors agreed that everyone going to Motiva would receive refresher seal training.

2. The SSMRC can easily adapt to the new demands of owners. In the Houston area, the owners set basic qualifications for any contractor entering their facility, such as: TWIC cards, DISA program, Hair follicle testing, Basic Plus, criminal background check, and minimum skill levels of workforce. The council, while working with contractors, has addressed these issues through negotiations by covering the cost of TWIC Cards, drug test programs, Basic Plus, and by putting incentives in the contract for raises if we meet percentage levels for the journeymen of local 2232.

3. Safety isn’t just a goal for our contractors, but a necessity. In the pre-chem field it will make you or break you, because a contractor’s recordable injury rate must be below a 2 on the Personal Injury Rate (PIR) or a contractor is not even allowed to bid on a project. Realistically the recordable injury rate must be below a 1 to actually get the work. Union millwrights are #1 in the field of safety. Many of our training courses focus exclusively on safety and nothing else. There are many other things to be listed, but none of these can be accomplished without the good attitude that a union millwright brings to the jobsite. Our record of showing up on time, never quitting early, ability to work with our fellow tradesmen, and putting forth the effort to work hard with skill and know-how is stellar and unmatched by any other in the business.

With the teamwork we have with all parties involved, including members, contractors, and council, we will move forward, capitalizing on all owners that use us presently and going after more market share along the Gulf Coast with owners who use open shop for mechanical needs. Here is a list of some bigger projects that will be coming up this fall in Houston area: Exxon in Beaumont, STP in Bay City, Motiva in Port Author, Dow in LaPort, Exxon in Baytown, and Dow in Freeport. We can safely say the fall is looking good for our members.

Our record of showing up on time, never quitting early, ability to work with our fellow tradesmen, and putting forth the effort to work hard with skill and know-how is stellar and unmatched by any other in the business.
SSMRC Welcomes New Business Representative

The SSMRC has hired a new business representative to further the progress in the Mississippi and Alabama areas. Jeff Smith began employment on June 11, 2012 and will be working out of Mobile, AL. Smith is a 16-year member of Local 1192. He has worked as an industrial millwright for several contractors across the SSMRC, helping to organize, supervise, and lead many key projects. Jeff is known for his onsite efficiency and safety.

Along with the skills and training the SSMRC has given him, Smith brings to the table classes in management, supervision, and construction studies from Wallace State College in Hanceville, AL and Bessemer State in Bessemer, AL. Smith resides in Warrior, AL with his wife and their two children.

Continued from page 1

Jeff Smith

Siemens Westinghouse Generation Services President Michael F. McCormick explains Siemens’ Safety Manager Stan Lawrence. “It’s instead asking for clarification or guidance, or suggesting a better way to complete the task.”

Grand Gulf Nuclear Generating Station Mississippi

Grand Gulf Supplies Big Opportunities for Work

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SSMRC Welcomes New Business Representative

2012 HAS TAKEN OFF HERE in North Florida and South Georgia. The outage season has been good with an increase in the amount of papermill outages, which our contractors have been awarded. C.R. Meyer has a project at ITT Rayonier in Fernandina that has been slow getting started and eliminated any delay in the delivery of the turbines they are installing.

For us, this is really a blessing because it will stretch the project into the late part of summer, when turbine outages slow down.

As we continue to move forward, we continue to increase our membership. We are growing our membership and our skill level. Taking every journeyman upgrade class available, it is essential in making ourselves the very best millwrights we can be. It is not ‘business as usual.’ We have all heard it, “I have been doing this for 15 years.”

I don’t need training. It’s a waste of my time.”

My fellow millwrights, I have been doing this for 40 years and I have learned something in every class I have taken. Is it just a coincidence that the millwrights who continue train are the ones who seem to be working more? The ability to adapt to ever-changing industry standards has definitely put us in a great position to supply a qualified millwright with the right attitude to our contractors. Our contractors have the confidence to go after the technical work knowing that he will be supplied with a trained millwright. When our contractors complete their jobs on time and under budget, they bring value to their training; when our contractors complete their jobs on time and under budget, they bring value to their training; when our contractors complete their jobs on time and under budget, they bring value to their training.

The crews are highly productive, with few non-recordable and zero recordable injuries. For logging 100,000 hours worked on the job so far, that’s not too bad.”

“Human Performance” - or HP - is a big reason for the outstanding safety performance that SSMRC millwrights provide. HP teaches members to stop and think before workers can perform most jobs at a nuclear power plant. Jones credits the SSMRC for not only coordinating the process of getting crews the necessary qualification cards needed to work at the site, but to make sure competent man power was delivered. “Just because you have the qualification card doesn’t mean you’re a qualified turbine hand, but this is a great core of professionals that we can take from station to station based on their demonstrated experience,” Jones said.

Most projects like this are not this big in scope, but our members did a nice job of making sure all of their qualification cards were current and their training was completed so that we could staff the job with well-trained manpower,” said SSMRC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Donahou.
CERTIFIED CWI INSTRUCTORS WHO TEACH WELDING AS WELL AS CERTIFY THEIR LOCAL TRAINING CENTERS TO SCHEDULE TRAINING. SECTT HAS THREE ADVANCED WELDING CLASS SCHEDULE. MEMBERS ARE URGED TO CONTACT SECTT PROVIDES WELDING CLASSES ON A DAILY OR WEEKLY 40-HOUR LOCAL UNIONS TO ENABLE OUR MEMBERS TO DEVELOP THEIR WELDING SKILLS. WELDING HAS AN ANCIENT HISTORY, WHICH WAS DEVELOPED DURING SEVERAL PERIODS THROUGHOUT MODERN TIMES. THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IN LATE 1800 AND WORLD WARS I AND II WERE KEY TIMES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF WELDING STANDARDS AND SAFETY PRACTICES THAT ARE STILL USED TODAY. WELDING IS USED IN MANY FORMS OF MANUFACTURING, FROM AEROSPACE TO FUSION PRODUCTION. IN EVERYDAY SOCIETY, WELDING PLAYS AN ESSENTIAL PART IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES. IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, WELDING TECHNIQUES, PROCEDURES, AND CUSTOMER DEMANDS FOR INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY HAVE CHANGED AND DEVELOPED OVER THE YEARS.

THERE IS AN EVER-GROWING NEED FOR CERTIFIED WELDERS IN OUR UNION. THE UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS, MILLWORKERS FROM THE SSMRC, AND THE SOUTHEASTERN CARPENTERS TRAINING TRUST (SECTT) ARE MAKING A VALIANT EFFORT TO TEACH OUR MEMBERS TO WELD. ALL UBC MEMBERS MUST BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE CHARGING PROCEDURES AND SUPPORTING TECHNOLOGY TO MEET THE JOB REQUIREMENTS.

THE UBC HAS INTRODUCED MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT, TOOLS AND PROCEDURES NEEDED BY MEMBERS ON THE JOB. INCREASING THE SKILLS OF OUR MEMBERS AND ENABLING THEM TO DO THEIR VERY BEST WORK ON THE JOB REMAINS OUR TOP PRIORITY.

THE UBC CONSIDERS SKILLS, TRAINING, AND PRODUCTIVITY TO BE THE KEYS TO SUCCESS FOR OUR MEMBERS, OUR CONTRACTORS, AND OUR UNION. WELDERS SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH OXYFUEL CUTTING, PLASMA ARC CUTTING, CARBON ARC GOUGING AS WELL AS SHIELDED METAL ARC WELDING (SMAW), GAS METAL ARC WELDING (GMAW), FLUX CORED ARC WELDING, AND GAS TUNGSTEN ARC WELDING (GTAW). ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS ASTM, ASAB AND ASME HAVE BEEN CREATED TO IMPROVE WELDING STANDARDS AND SAFETY.

THE UBC HAS PURCHASED WELDERS AND AIR FILTER SYSTEMS FOR MANY OF THE JOBSITES, IMPROVING THE SAFETY AND EFFICIENCY OF OUR WORKERS. LOCAL 729 APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING IS OFFERED AT BOTH THE BATON ROUGE AND NEW ORLEANS TRAINING CENTERS. THE NEW ORLEANS APPRENTICESHIP IS A DAYTIME TRAINING PROGRAM, ALLOWING APPRENTICES TO ATTEND 40 HOURS PER WEEK OVER THREE MONTHS. BATON ROUGE APPRENTICESHIP CLASSES ARE CURRENTLY HELD AT NIGHT ONCE A WEEK FOR THREE AND A HALF HOURS. BOTH PROGRAMS ARE WORKING ON APPRENTICESHIP CORE SKILLS, WHICH INCLUDE PUMP REPAIR, STEAM TURBINES, CONVEYOR, METAL FABRICATION AND WELDING, MACHINE INSTALLATION, AND ALIGNMENT. BOTH TRAINING CENTERS HAVE ANSI & API PUMPS, BOTH SINGLE- AND MULTI-STAGE, ALONG WITH HALF-MEGAWATT STEAM TURBINES, AND FULL WELDING SHOPS.

ENTERGY DONATED TWO SMALL NASH COMPRESSORS AND TWO SMALL WORTHINGTON PUMPS TO THE MILLWORKING PROGRAM. DONATIONS LIKE THESE ARE MUCH NEEDED, AND WE THANK ENTERGY FOR THEIR GENEROSITY. THE PLAN FOR THE TWO COMPRESSORS IS TO BUILD SKIDS TO MOUNT THEM ON. THIS TYPE OF PROJECT INVOLVES ALL BASIC CORE SKILLS INCLUDING MATHEMATICS, LAYOUT, METAL FABRICATION, WELDING AND ALIGNMENT. BUILDING TRAINING PROPS LIKE THESE ARE THE CORE OF TRAINING AND ARE NECESSARY FOR SUSTAINING LONG-TERM PROFESSIONAL SKILLS.

WORK HAS BEEN STEADY FOR MOST OF THE JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES TO ATTEND 40 HOURS PER WEEK OVER THREE MONTHS. JOURNEYMEN ARE REQUIRED BY THE CONTRACTOR TO HAVE THE HUMAN PERFORMANCE, 16-HOUR MILFORD SAFETY, UBC RIGGING, BOLTING/HYTORC, AND GE GAS TURBINE FAMILIARIZATION WORKSHOPS TO QUALIFY FOR EMPLOYMENT.

THE NEW ORLEANS APPRENTICESHIP IS A DAYTIME TRAINING PROGRAM, ALLOWING APPRENTICES TO ATTEND 10 HOURS OVER EVERY WEEK OVER THREE MONTHS.
Arkansas & Oklahoma
By Edward Wright, Training Director

IT’S TIME ONCE AGAIN for the third-year apprenticeship program that is held at the International Training Center in Las Vegas, NV. We are in the process of organizing the details to make this year better than the last. The program is intended to give third-year apprentices a greater understanding of the Brotherhood and our industry. Our third-year apprentices will have discussions with one or more general officers and the District Vice President and EST. They will participate in a comprehensive tour of the International Training Center. By the end of the week they will have a better understanding of the history and heritage of the UBC, our industries and our contractors, and most of all, taking care of our customers with productivity, skill and attitude. This will instill the qualities of a dedicated millwright with the abilities to mentor younger millwrights to carry on an excellent tradition.

Our third-year millwright apprentices for this year are:

Local 216: Paul Fergueson, Dustin Bingham, Aaron Hall & Steven Mitchell
Local 729: Ronald Dupuis, Jeremy Gates, Broderick Lancaster, David Mendenhall, Joshua Pilant & Vincent Libert
Local 1554: John Kinas Jr., Joseph Sanders, & Kristopher Carpenter
Local 1102: Joshua Robertson, Judson Fulford, Frank Montoya, Mark Fountain, & Daniel Goodwin
Local 1000: Regional Tucker, Brian Rhodes & Gustavo Hernandez
Local 1293: David Baker, William Garner, David Baker Jr., Christopher Fossett, George Duncan, William Harris, Joshua Skiper, David Nichols, Jason Griffin, Tyler Hand, Kenneth Vlieges & Carla McDoliden
Local 2232: Mycord Carter, Anthony Collard, Joseph Desselle, John Gray, Cody Harmon, Anthony Jones, Ignacio Lerma, Nicholas New, Justin Smith & Robert Reeves III
Local 1421: Zachry Richards & Nathan Liles

We congratulate each one of these hard-working millwrights on receiving this opportunity.

Due to the sticker guidelines, millwrights are being required to present a Millwright Qualification card before being assigned certain jobs. Nuclear power plants require this card. Millwrights traveling into other millwright local union jurisdictions may also be required to present this card. UBC millwrights can qualify for a Millwright Qualification card by:

1. Providing proof of completion of a UBC Millwright Apprenticeship

2. Providing documentation of 10,000 hours of millwright experience prior to January 1, 1996.

3. Completion of Millwright Qualification Testing. The qualification testing consists of passing six (6) written exams and two (2) manipulative projects. The millwright qualification card has a four-year expiration period and must be renewed prior to the date printed on the card.

**Clarification on testing for rigging qualification**

It is important to understand that an assessment-based certification program is not a certification program. The primary focus of an assessment-based certification program is education/training, with assessments being used to confirm that participants have achieved the intended learning outcomes.

Consequently, UBC members who hold this certification may state they hold a Rigging & Signaler Qualification certificate. They must not make claims or imply that the certificate is a professional certification, or make misleading or unauthorized statements about the purpose and scope of the certificate.

**Effective immediately**

- Candidates cannot observe other candidates taking the practical test.
- Candidates must wait at least 30 days before they are eligible to retest.

**Effective March 1, 2012**

- All candidates must complete an Instructors Evaluation Form.
- Qualification Course will be limited to 12 students per instructor.
- Refresher course will be limited to 16 students per instructor.
- Written test is required for all refresher classes.
- New Sequence of Instruction (SOI) with last 2 hours for written test.

**Effective May 1, 2012**

- Qualification course changes from 32 to 40 hours.

Third-year apprentices will have a better understanding of the history and heritage of the UBC, our industries and our contractors, and most of all, taking care of our customers with productivity, skill and attitude.

Mid-South Regional Council
By James Hulsey, Director

**The Mid-South Training Department** has been busy over the last three months delivering Hydro cavitation welding repair procedures to our members. This training is in response to the upcoming TVA scheduled repairs within the very near future. We have had good member response in attending this welding procedure training, which translates into qualified millwrights for our contractor needs. This training is offered in the Chattanooga and Knoxville Tennessee and Florence Alabama facilities since they are in the heart of the TVA watershed area. This upcoming work should provide substantial work hours for several of our members.

The Mid-South training department is proud to report that our staff delivered 3,378 hours of millwright upgrade training in the 2011 calendar year. However, we remain disappointed at the class cancellation numbers due to lack of participation. We are currently taking proactive steps to reduce our number of class cancellations and we continue to urge members to take advantage of our class offerings to ensure their employability. More contractors and owners are requiring additional training as a requirement of employment.

In 2011 the Mid-South Training Fund trustees authorized $200,000 for training equipment upgrades. To date, we have installed eight additional Clean-Air welding stations, purchased a platform crane for rigging training, purchased an additional Hytorc pump and wrench, purchased three new automatic band saws for coupon preparation, purchased a new Optiline Smart instrument, and purchased an additional industrial forkift. We also purchased miscellaneous hand tools and precision measurement equipment.

The entire Mid-South training department full-time staff is authorized to administer and proctor third party NATEL and Powersafe training. This allows members to obtain the training in their local training center before they report to work. The demand for this training has been especially high for the past six months and is expected to continue.

In closing, I urge members again to take advantage of class offerings. However, it is very important to call the training center and register for upcoming classes. It is equally important to attend the classes you registered for. If you cannot attend a class you are registered for, please call the training center to cancel as soon as possible. Many classes are mandated by the International Training Fund or GHSA to require minimum and maximum class participants. If we receive no registrations or minimums are not met, the class will be cancelled 3-4 days before the scheduled class, and the training staff will be re-directed to other duties and/or other training centers.

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**“We made promises about the quality of our members, and the membership kept those promises.”**

- UBC Southern District Vice President
  [Name]

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**Mid-South boiler feed pump**
We are planning to schedule more OSHA 30 classes this summer to meet the requirements of several of our customers and contractors. We are planning to schedule more OSHA 30 classes this summer to meet the requirements of several of our customers and contractors. We also will be giving apprentices more options on class times. We are also proud to announce the completion of the foundation work for our Westinghouse steam turbine. This allows apprentices to have more access to every aspect of the turbine. This will allow us to give more complete training on several elements of millwright craftsmanship, including rigging, crane operation, machine centerline, equipment layout, precision optics, machine elevation, and seal and bearing work. Increasing training options, classes and curricula will give our millwrights more opportunity to increase their skills on the job by having more working knowledge. We are prepared and ready to go more in-depth in the classroom by giving the apprentice classes that are more available to suit the needs of the industry. We are planning to schedule more OSHA 30 classes this summer to meet the requirements of several of our customers and contractors. We also will be giving apprentices more options on class times. We are also proud to announce the completion of the foundation work for our Westinghouse steam turbine. This allows apprentices to have more access to every aspect of the turbine. This will allow us to give more complete training on several elements of millwright craftsmanship, including rigging, crane operation, machine centerline, equipment layout, precision optics, machine elevation, and seal and bearing work. Increasing training options, classes and curricula will give our millwrights more opportunity to increase their skills on the job by having more working knowledge. We are prepared and ready to go more in-depth in the classroom by giving the apprentice classes that are more available to suit the needs of the industry.

Training shows how delicate seals are, how many factors are acquiring more signatory of work is happening is that we are doing something different. While the seal is out of the machine, basic checks can be quickly and easily performed in the field. By doing this, there is a higher probability the repair will bring the longer service life that our employers demand. If potential problems arise during the repair job, the time to notify supervision is while the machine is apart. This is a way we offer service to our contractors like they have never had before.

The course is mandatory training for those working on the Motiva Refinery in Port Arthur, Texas. This training, coupled with the other related training, and our vast experience base is the difference we bring to the table. Future contracts depend on our ability to perform. Therefore, it is vital that we exceed expectation. Our work that saves the employer time and money will be a good memory for them.

"One of the reasons the increase of work is happening is that we are acquiring more signatory contractors."

SSMRC EST Dennis Donahou

It is important to remember that the training we receive will get us results that our employers have come to expect. If we continue this trend of knowing more about our business and doing our job better than our competition, we can look forward to staying busy. This is the recipe that will assure us a brighter future.
The project currently converts about 275,000 barrels of crude oil each day into gasoline, jet, tanker and diesel fuel, heating oil, propane, butane and other chemical products. It’s also home to the largest single lubricant plant in the USA.

The CEP will hike daily production by 325,000 barrels, making it one of the largest refineries in the United States and among the 10 largest in the world. The expansion includes a new three-unit naphtha processing complex, a catalytic reformer, 725 pumps, 19 compressors, 514 heat exchangers and 54 new tanks. The CEP is equivalent to building the first new refinery in the USA in nearly 40 years.

Construction for the CEP began with site prep in 2006 and groundbreaking in 2007. Since then, SSMRC millwrights have had a steady presence there, joining about 400 contractors and 900 company employees at the plant. At times, SSMRC millwrights find themselves among 5,000 other construction workers employed because of the CEP. The expansion is projected to generate about 300 new full-time jobs upon completion.

Mr. B.C. Ashley, now 94, has spent a lifetime working as a member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, and most of the time his chosen craft was as a millwright. His mark can be found at the former Houston Light & Power (now NRG Energy, Inc.), at several plants where he was known to expertly help install new turbines, and most of the time his chosen craft was as a millwright. Mr. Ashley says he is proud of his time as a union member–it’s said that once a person becomes a union member–his blood. In Waco, Texas, a member who just received his 65-year member pin is living testimony to that fact.

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Mr. Ashley says he is proud of his time as a union man, and wouldn’t have spent his career any other way. Mr. Ashley also thinks young people should take a look at being a union member as a viable profession, especially in today’s economy. “Whatever craft you are good at, get recognized for those talents and let the union help you,” he said. “You won’t get anywhere near as far on your own.”

Texas’ Motiva Project Puts Thousands of Man Hours Into the SSMRC & UBC Books

The project currently converts about 275,000 barrels of crude oil each day into gasoline, jet, tanker and diesel fuel, heating oil, propane, butane and other chemical products. It’s also home to the largest single lubricant plant in the USA.

This is traditionally a plant that uses nonunion labor, but we were able to illustrate the skills of our millwrights and the level of training they possess to stay at peak performance for this job.

“Any plant that uses nonunion labor, but we were able to illustrate the skills of our millwrights and the level of training they possess to stay at peak performance for this job,” said SSMRC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Donahou. “It opened a door and we took advantage of the opportunity.”

In fact, exceptional union millwright skills helped keep the project on track. Open shop millwrights originally had the work, but project officials found that installations were not done properly. Based on relationships built by SSMRC representatives and the solid history of union millwright contractors when given the chance to work there, the UBC was given a shot to come in and restore productivity.

“We are commissioning all of the units that the open shops handled, verifying that the units were installed properly and fixing issues that we find,” said SSMRC Representative Mike Hines. “A majority of the equipment needed to be addressed for one reason or another.”

Good commissioning led to more work. Union millwrights are now doing new unit construction as well as a host of other duties.

Bill Warren is president of Total Industrial Services Specialties (TISS), which is one of the contractors employing UBC millwrights at Motiva.

“It’s a good opportunity for labor and contractors alike to help quality craftsmen such as this industry,” Warren said. “The Gulf Coast is traditional non-union territory, but the groundwork was already laid from doing past projects with Motiva.”

Donahou also points to a commitment made by the UBC to hold mechanical seal refresher training as a key lure to capture the work. “We, along with our contractors, made a pledge to Motiva that we would seal train workers slated to work on this project and ensure that each millwright had the most up-to-date training to be productive on mechanical seals.”

Quickly, a 40-hour class for apprentices and an 8-hour refresher for journeymen was underway by Local 2322 of the SSMRC. And when a need for rotor alignment refresher training surfaced, the SSMRC responded with coursework again.

In addition to the commissioning, millwrights are getting dormant units open, putting them to use. “We’ve been in the middle of finding the qualified millwrights that we need,” said Shane Ferguson, labor coordinator for another union contractor busy at the site, Universal Plant Services.

Expansion to the 3,600-acre refinery, which sits about 90 miles east of Houston, is expected to reduce nitrogen oxide and volatile organic compound emissions via advanced technology in new system installations. For successful operations, those new system installations need to be completed flawlessly, and SSMRC millwrights are in the driver’s seat to deliver.

Donahou continued productive work from the SSMRC and traveling millwrights will pave the way to compete for maintenance work at the refinery. And, as the Keystone Pipeline’s construction comes through Port Arthur, Donahou hopes to capture that work, as well.

65-Year Member: Life in the Union Is the Only Way To Go

Mr. Ashley says he is proud of his time as a union member–it’s in his blood. In Waco, Texas, a member who just received his 65-year member pin is living testimony to that fact.

Mr. B.C. Ashley, now 94, has spent a lifetime working as a member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, and most of the time his chosen craft was as a millwright. His mark can be found at the former Houston Light & Power (now NRG Energy, Inc.), at several plants where he was known to expertly help install new turbines, and as helping to start ADA Maintenance (now Atlantic Plant Maintenance – APM). He also started his own shop, Ashley Maintenance Service.

Mr. Ashley says he is proud of his time as a union man, and wouldn’t have spent his career any other way. Mr. Ashley also thinks young people should take a look at being a union member as a viable profession, especially in today’s economy. “Whatever craft you are good at, get recognized for those talents and let the union help you,” he said. “You won’t get anywhere near as far on your own.”

Act Now to Get Your Credentials!

THE MOTIVA CRUDE EXPANSION PROJECT (CEP) is attracting millwrights from around the country to Port Arthur, Texas to capitalize on work opportunities. Individuals considering applying for work there are urged to take the steps now to prepare themselves.

Millwrights must have a current Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) in order to work at Motiva. The process to get a TWIC takes several weeks - crucial man hours that could be lost if millwrights wait until getting called to Port Arthur before starting the TWIC process.

Mike Hines, a business representative for the SSMRC, said their members started preparing four years ago to get credentials in order for the Motiva job.

“We have an 800-member working local (Local 2232), and most have the credential, but we are seeing that millwrights coming from other areas don’t have it. They aren’t applying until they’re assigned, and it could take up 12 weeks to get the credential,” Hines said.

The TWIC web site describes the program as an “identification credential for all personnel requiring unescorted access to secure areas of facilities and vessels” identified by the Maritime Transportation Security Act. Those required to have a TWIC include port facility employees, long shore workers, truck drivers, and construction workers.

Wikipedia explains that “to obtain a TWIC, an individual must provide biographic and biometric information such as fingerprints, sit for a digital photograph and successfully pass a security threat assessment conducted by TSA.”

“Motiva would like everyone to have a TWIC card,” said Shane Ferguson, labor coordinator for Universal Plant Services, a union contractor working the Motiva job. “If I put out a call for manpower, it could take up to two weeks if SSMRC millwrights don’t have a TWIC card.”

“Anyone who has an interest in working the petrochemical industry should get their TWIC card,” said UBC Vice President Doug Banes. “We capture work in these nonunion areas because we are able to provide skilled manpower when needed. The members have to keep their end of the bargain and be ready when called, and that includes having this credential.”

For more information, go to the TWIC Program web site at www.tsa.gov/twick or call 1-888-CHS-TWIC.
Southern States Millwright Regional Council

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Mike Hines  Conductor
Mitchell Ford  Warden
Rick Halford  Executive Committee Member
Kevin Curley  Executive Committee Member
David Bonds  Executive Committee Member
Matt Olaire  Trustee
Steve Cothron, Sr.  Trustee
Mike Valentine  Trustee

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This painting was donated to millwright Local 1000 from the mother of Matt Kunzelman (pictured along with Steve Cothron, Director Easter Region, on the left). Sarah Wilson, of Stockbridge, Michigan was inspired to paint this by her son’s enthusiasm for his union and his trade. Matt, originally from Michigan as well, has been with Local 1000 for almost five years. We want to send a thank you to Ms. Wilson, and this painting is now proudly hanging in the office for Local 1000.