

LINKS

Your Link to Lifelong Learning

Vol.9 No.2 Student Publication of the Bernard Kleiman JobLink Learning Center Dec., 2005

Building Community: A Gazebo for Tri-City



Rosemary Williams at work

by Diane Lentz

JobLink has had a long and successful history of Community Project classes. These are classes that are held at a not-for-profit location enabling students

to get a real hands-on classroom experience and also contribute something of value to the community.

This year USW Local 1011 members from the Leon Lynch Center joined JobLink in building a gazebo at the Tri-City Community Mental Health Center in East Chicago. Bill Cameon was the instructor for this project and was very

impressed with the hard work of the students. Woody Hallen actually came out on Saturday with his wife and daughter to volunteer extra time. Each student contributed to his/her best ability, and the result was a lovely gazebo that will stand in memory of their efforts.

John Hartman, coordinator of the Leon Lynch Center, was very enthusiastic about the finished gazebo, as well as, the possibility of collaborating on other projects in the future. This collaboration will enable the two centers to extend this opportunity to more steelworkers. According to John, "I think it's good for us to get involved together as it's beneficial to the members and it also gives exposure to the community as to what career development is all about."

If you are in the neighborhood, drive

by and view the gazebo. If you like it, you might want to sign up for the next class so that you can build one in your



L to R: Ruben Hernandez, Bill Cameon, Marlene Berwald, Gil Garcia, Mack Gallegos, Woody Hallen, and Rudy Schneider at the dedication.

A WINTRY BRUSH WITH DEATH by Rick Barna, #3 Cold Strip East



Here's the deal: I'll spare you the gruesome sight of my thirteen inch scar if you merely take a casual interest in my story. I ask that you please remain mercifully oblivious to my youthful naiveté in this tale of a snowball and a Cub Scout knife.

At my last tally, I've anted up more than a hundred stitches, eighty-six staples, and an internal patchwork that tenuously holds my abominable abdominals together. As a direct result of one simple act, I had to go under the knife a grand total of six times. I have been pierced by needles the size of railroad spikes, attached to tubes and wires, given knockout gas by a masked man (who might well have been an alien), then surgically sliced and skewered with a scalpel. It was then that I found out my arms were too short to spar with the entire medical profession, much less to box with the good Lord.

January, 1970. I hated that the next day would be a school day. Restless and bored, I had to escape the house, so I joined my cohorts Pete, Manuel and Cindy in front of Cindy's place on Euclid Avenue for some Sunday evening sidewalk socializing. In a driveway on the odd-numbered side of the street lurked Gary, the Pink Panther. We were erstwhile Cub Scouts in the same den at St. Patrick's, but even then Gary was a big-mouth show-off. Gary had owned all

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USWA Local 1010



In cooperation with The School City of Hammond



MITTAL



From Diane's Desk

Diane Lentz
JobLink Coordinator

One of our mottos has been **Learning to Build, Building to Learn**. Years ago, we looked at our neighboring communities and all their needs and realized that we could add a new dimension to our hands-on-classes by taking the classes to the community. Our mission was to take down the walls of our classrooms and let the community projects become the classrooms in order to provide real hands-on-learning experiences for our steelworkers. There had to be criteria for these projects:

1. The community organization had to be a **not-for-profit**.
2. The community project **MUST** be an outgrowth of a class that steelworkers had previously requested as a course.
3. The agency would provide the materials/supplies for the project. Joblink would provide the students.
4. The classroom structure was preserved. Classes met in mornings and afternoons. A classroom meeting area had to be provided.
5. Doing a community project was NOT about providing laborers. **The major goal of each project was to provide our steelworkers a realistic hands-on-learning experience.**

Take a look at the timeline of projects on the facing page. We are proud of serving the community!

. . . Viewpoints . . .

Steve Wagner
Local 1010 Representative

Your negotiated benefit just got better!

Several years ago, on behalf of Local 1010 members and with the support of Tom Hargrove, I presented an idea to the Institute for Career Development (the policy makers of the career development programs) for combining on the current tuition and customized dollar limits.

Beginning June of 2005, that suggestion became a reality as the new Issuance 14 became a one- year pilot at JobLink and the other career development sites.

You'll find the conditions of this policy on page 5 of this newsletter (issuance #14). To sum it up, if you are getting college credit toward a career goal or are in a customized national certification program, you can use money from both your TAP funds (\$1800 per year) and your Customized funds (\$2000 per year). This is a great opportunity for serious learners to obtain additional funding in order to complete their goals. I invite you to read through this new policy – it could make a difference to you and your career plans.



Joe Medellin
Management Representative

Math Made Easier Through Technology

As I look to 2006 and the future, it is evident that the field of technology impacts all of us at work and at home. As employees, we have to possess stronger skills and be able to work smarter in order to manage our jobs and the new technology for the job.

Math skills underlie many technical jobs. Math is more than math facts. Mastering math helps you master logical thinking, problem solving, reasoning, etc. The good news is that at Joblink, you can use that same *new* technology to help you master math, which in turn may help you with new technology.

JobLink has two study options for you to improve your math or learn new math skills.

Those options are TelSim and ALEKS. Both of these are on-line so you can study from your home. Call JobLink (219-399-8136) today to find out how easily you can access these programs. The future is waiting for you, and these math programs may help make your future more meaningful.



Links is a publication of the Bernard Kleiman JobLink Learning Center
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Learning to build, building to learn.

T I M E L I N E

1994 * Habitat House (1st steel-framed house in East Chicago)

1995 * Landscaped a community park

* Built 2 community decks

* Put a roof on a house for Christmas in April

1996 * Built two storage sheds for East Chicago Little League

* Built storage structure for a women's shelter.

1997 * Completely remodeled a Christmas in April home.

1998 * Rehabbed the East Chicago Girls Scout House

* Also built handicapped restroom there

1999 * Remodeled former "crack house"

2000 * Repaired computers for a local elementary school.

2001 * Built a deck for Lake County Association for the Retarded (BRIDGES)

2002 * Built an Oil Express replica for the Quad Town Safety Village

* Drywalled a gallery at IUN

2003 * Built a Local 1010 replica for the Quad Town Safety Village

* Built a replica of Ispat Admin. Bldg for Quad Town Safety Village

* Produced Ispat harassment video



Community Projects

Staff News

Who's Doing What at JobLink?

by Gil Garcia, Plt 2 Blast Furnace

Bill Cameon, one of our newest members at JobLink, started as an instructor here in 2005. He teaches various areas of the construction trades, such as contracting and home inspection. One of his classes just finished building a gazebo for Tri-City Mental Health Center.



Bill Cameon

Before Bill came to JobLink, he worked at LTV Steel for 37 years as an electrician in the line shop. But Bill's work didn't stop there – he also worked part-time doing electrical jobs on the outside. He had a non-stop job: working as a steelworker, electrical contractor and an electrical inspector, which he did for 15 years for the town of Highland.

Insecurity may have been a factor in Bill's choice of working at three jobs. "Getting laid off made it very hard to support a family." There was only one thing to do – go to school and prepare himself for other means of support. "I always thought that working in the mill was all that I needed. Come to find out, a bad economy affects everyone. My hope was if I had another job, I'd have something to fall back on. I was just lucky that the mill had the schooling I needed. If it wasn't for that, I don't know what I would do."

Now Bill enjoys sharing his experience and knowledge of the construction trade with other steelworkers. "I hope to make these areas less intimidating and give people the confidence and information needed to tackle projects on their own. Besides enjoying his pastimes – golfing, fishing and traveling – Bill likes to spend time with his three grandchildren. "I am a very proud grandfather."

Bill's two daughters, both graduates of Indiana University, are also teachers. And if they're half as dedicated as Bill is to teaching and helping his students, they

TALKING AS A FRIEND

by Tom Zmigrocki, Shop Services

Friend: choose all that apply!

- A. Someone you can depend on.
- B. One who gives freely of himself without asking for anything in return.
- C. Someone to help you find your way.
- D. A source of comfort and understanding.

Of course a friend is all of the above and a hundred other things all rolled into one. This is especially true of the "Friends of JobLink".

Friends of JobLink come in all sizes, ages, backgrounds and gender. We are your coworkers, neighbors and acquaintances. We might be someone you have seen around the mill but have never had the opportunity to meet.

Whether you know us or not, remember this, we are here to help you with all things concerning JobLink. Consider us the eyes and ears of JobLink in the mill. We go where JobLink can't, to give you personal, up-to-date information concerning JobLink and what it has to offer you.

If you have questions or issues that you would like to discuss but can't get to JobLink, come and talk to a friend. We will be more than happy to assist you any way that we can.

Remember, we are trained learning advocates who firmly believe in everything JobLink stands for (continuing education and personal growth). Our greatest reward comes from helping you achieve your learning and personal goals. The greater your success, the more gratifying it is for us to volunteer as Friends.

Make the acquaintance of a friend of JobLink today. I am sure you will find it a gratifying experience.

We are all looking forward to meeting and helping you.

Do you know...

...that you can take classes at other mills?

Check out their catalogs online:

USS (both sites): www.usscareer.com

Burns Harbor: www.isgcareer.org

Leon Lynch: www.ihlearningcenter.org

They may offer classes you need or want!

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the coolest Cub Scout gear: a compass, a canteen, a scout knife, the full Scout uniform, and camping gear enough to supply a whole troop. I felt lucky enough to buy the Scout manual and for my folks to afford pop and snacks when it was my turn to treat. Gary had real neat model cars and planes, but he got bent out of shape if someone played too long or had too much fun playing with his possessions. He had a really bad ten-speed; I had a big 27" Sears complete with baseball card and clothespin engine.

Now, nearly 18, he thought he was Mr. Cool with his shiny new ride – spoiled rotten, pseudo-rich. "My parents got divorced, so I got this real bitchin' blue Barracuda – which makes me better than anyone on the whole block." (To finish the story, go our website and click on JobLink writers, then choose "A Wintry Brush with Death")



Visit our website at: www.joblink2000.org

Computer Pathways

by *Bill Needles*



Have a **purpose** when taking computer classes!

Most students take multiple computer classes here at JobLink. Because JobLink supports repeating computer classes, students can benefit by keeping their computer skills up-to-date

as computer hardware and software technology rapidly changes. What you learned in a computer class just a while ago may already be replaced by new knowledge and techniques!

Did you know that you can also improve your computer skills and knowledge by following a learning roadmap when you take computer classes at JobLink? I recommend the following set of classes once you have basic computer and Windows® skills:

Hardware Path

Fix and Troubleshoot
PC Technician Plus!
All about Laptops
MCDST I & II
Build a PC
A+
Network+
Introduction to Linux
Server+
Security+

Software Path

Fix & Troubleshoot
CD/DVD Burning
VHS to DVD transfers
Web Page Design
Auto CAD
MCDST I & II
Photo Imaging
Home Automation with PCs
XP Registry
Desktop Publishing

Workshops

Overclock Your PC
Protect Your Privacy
Backup Your Data
Home Networking
Windows Vista (New XP)

You can also design an application roadmap using classes that explore Word, Excel, Photoshop and many more. Remember - these paths are recommendations and **NOT** requirements. Talk to any of your instructors and let us help you design a personalized computer skills roadmap just for you. See you in a class soon!

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Issuance #14:

Per the Institute for Career Development the following policy is effective immediately on a one year trial basis.

An active Local 1010 member can expend up to \$3800 of program funds for combining TAP (tuition assistance) and customized courses under the following circumstances:

Tuition assistance (TAP): If seeking a degree from a school listed in the current "Accredited Institutions of Post Secondary Education" or by private occupational/vocational schools recognized by State boards of vocational education. This will also be extended to schools approved by the ICD as "An Exception to Policy provider."

Customized classes: If courses lead to certification from a nationally accredited body. Candidates must get approval prior to registering for classes, and their expenditures may NOT EXCEED \$3800.

How to apply for this extension of funds:

- Contact the office at JobLink and make arrangements to pick up an Educational Development Plan form (EDP).
- Complete the EDP. Pay special attention to stating your career goal. This is the justification for needing expanded funds.
- **Bring in proof of your out of pocket payments over the current limits for classes you are currently enrolled in or bring in proof of future expenses that are currently not covered by the annual limits for classes you will be taking in the next session.**
- Return the EDP to Diane Lentz (JobLink coordinator) and meet with her.
- Diane will get approval from the JobLink subcommittee and the Institute for Career Development (ICD).

Once this approval is obtained, you can register for additional classes or get reimbursement for courses and books you have paid for out of pocket.

Words To Remember

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

JobLink Reminder



Our center will be closed for two weeks.

**Last day of classes: Wed., Dec. 21
Classes resume: Wed., Jan. 4, 2006!**

Happy Holidays!

Bernard Kleiman *JobLink* Learning Center
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East Chicago, IN 46312

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JobLink Friends:

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Tom Christman	[80" Hot Strip]
Jesse Flores	[Plt. 4 Maint.]
Julian Gonzales	[MHS]
Brian Graska	[3Cold Strip West]
Bob Guevara	[Plt. 1 Galv.]
Randy Hendrix	[Plant 2 Electrical]
Herman Loyd	[Int Log\Oper Yd]
Mike Nelson	[4BOF]
David Reed	[Utilities]
Gail Richardson	[3 Cold Strip West]
Phillip Rodriguez	[5 AC/Utilities]
John Shultz	[3 Cold Strip East]
Tom Zmigrocki	[Shop Services]

And the winners are...

Salsa Contest



Dorine Godinez is this year's winner of the **Salsa Contest** at our educational fair in July. And no surprise! Dorine starts her salsa the old-fashioned way—with a molcajete—the Mexican equivalent of a mortar and pestle. Even in Mexico most use blenders these days.

However you mince it, try out this recipe using Dorine's advice: "Go easy on the garlic and the jalapeños. But be generous with the cilantro! You've got to make it to taste. And make sure it looks nice—the right combination of red, green and white."

Mince and mix together:

2 med. onions
1 to 2 cloves garlic
4 to 5 lg. firm tomatoes
2 to 3 jalapeños
1/8 to 1/4 part of cilantro
bunch as desired
Salt & pepper to taste

Do you know what "pico de gallo" means? It's Spanish for "rooster beak". What relationship does that have to a salsa? ¡Quién sabe!



Build a Computer Contest

For the first time, JobLink sponsored a computer building contest at our education fair. This contest was a challenge for those who have taken "Build Your Own Computer" classes. Scoring the highest points in a variety of categories were **Dan Walters, Seretha Woods and Dorine Godinez. Excellent!**

Flowerbox Contest

Every year we ask for volunteers to beautify our center by planting flowers in the boxes on the deck. This effort is greatly appreciated because the flowers brighten our workplace. Many thanks to all the participants. The winners this year are **Yoti Kale and Diane Lentz** who tied with **Karen Farrer**.

