

LINKS

Your Link to Lifelong Learning

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2010—Prepare Now, Earn Later

By Dorine Godinez
Union Training Coordinator



Starting in January 2010, employees who have scored at least a 55 on the Ramsay test will have the opportunity to sign up for additional focused training in the craft area of their choice. If you are interested in the mechanical trades you will want to prepare for the MTM test.

Likewise, if you are interested in electrical you will want to prepare for the

MTE test. You should call and make an appointment with your union training coordinator at 1-219-398-3100 ext. 141, so that you can schedule an appointment and find out if you have scored at least 55 on the Ramsay. Additionally, your training coordinator will be best able to help you focus on the areas where you need improvement.

If you're interested in the MTM and successfully enroll in the class at JobLink you can expect to attend classes once a week for ten weeks. The class will be given both in the morning and in the evening so that you may attend whichever class fits your schedule best.

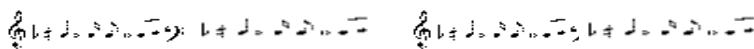
If your interests lie in the MTE arena and you are successfully enrolled in the

class at JobLink you can expect to attend classes once a week for twenty-six weeks. These classes will also be provided for your convenience both morning and evening to accommodate shift workers.

These are JobLink classes and the monies to pay for these classes will come out of your JobLink funds. The classes will be filled on a first-come first-serve basis.

Additionally, JobLink has online classes through ISA which you can take at home and will help you focus on both the electrical and mechanical crafts. These courses only cost \$12.00 each and take roughly one to three hours to complete.

A Life Changing Lesson



By Marty T. Popagain

Retiree, #3 Cold Strip Mechanical

I guess I'm kind of fortunate being a person who was never bothered by things that people said about me, even when I was a young, fat, little kid. Talk was just talk, and it was out of my mind within minutes like water rolling off a duck's back.

One time in my life I was hurt by something my Grandpa Miller (my mother's father) said, and it took me three years to see him eat his own words. Grandpa was Transylvanian Saxon. Born in the "Old Country", his ways and mannerisms made him live like he was still there at the turn of the century. To give you a rough idea, he made Archie Bunker look like Snow White. He hated everything and everyone but his own kind. I think you get the drift.

In May of 1976, after being married for five and a half years and not being able to have children of our own, my wife Paula and I got a tiny, chubby, dark-haired gorgeous four-month-old girl to adopt. We named her Jennifer Michelle. The only thing that bothered Grandpa was that she was Hispanic. His exact words were: "How can you bring that "Thing" into the

family?". On one hand, I was elated that we had this lovely child to raise as our own, but this statement from a man that I had loved my entire life cut me to the quick.

When I was a young child, Grandpa would set me on his knee, put my finger into his shot of Windsor Canadian Whiskey, and sing "Du, Du Liegst Mir Im Herzen" to me. (In our family, children loved sucking the "strange burning liquid from their fingers.)

As I got older we would sing it together. Grandpa had a strong and vibrant singing voice. His voice would echo from the sheer volume that he could produce. You could hear him over a church full of people when hymns were sung. I grew up with that voice ringing in my ears and so much did I love the sound of it that I in my younger days would sing just like him. We would stand together and sing whenever we could. I knew that someday I would teach that song to my child, and then we would be three.

After Grandpa's remark about my new daughter, not only was I crushed but I saw my dreams dashed to pieces in an

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From Diane's Desk

Diane Lentz
JobLink Coordinator

Never think never...

When bad things happen, our parents always taught us that there is a lesson to be learned from the bad experience. For many, 2009 brought many "bad" experiences into our lives.

What did 2009 teach us? May I offer some examples?

- Never take your present situation for granted.
- Never put all your money in one spot, be it a CD, bank, or stock.
- Never spend more than you earn on your 40-hour work week.
- Never think that what you know today is enough for tomorrow. Never think never...

This brings me to my favorite lesson learned during the last 19+ years working at JobLink. That lesson is **that Joblink is one of the best opportunities that steelworkers have.** Being part of a program that gives steelworkers a free education which can translate into future financial security has given me great satisfaction. Whether it's a college degree, a small business opportunity, a test preparation for a job change, a fitness opportunity, etc., it's all here waiting for Local 1010 members.

Let 2010 secure your future on your current job, retirement job, or by bringing in extra income when needed. We're all here to help steelworkers apply any lessons learned.

Have a safe and happy holiday. Enjoy your time with family and friends.

...Viewpoints...

Steve Wagner
Local 1010 Representative

Get ready... the future will be here before you know it!

The year 2009 has presented significant challenges for all of us. More importantly it has taught us that the only thing that stays the same is change. We have seen our economy collapse causing ArcelorMittal to downsize facilities. Hopefully, this recent spark in the economy will allow us to see other facilities start back up! Are you ready for another year of change?

Our attrition rate here at Indiana Harbor East has provided ample opportunity for many 1010 members to change jobs. Be prepared because 2010 will more than likely provide additional opportunities for all of us. Use your union negotiated career development benefits and sign up for classes that will help ready you for tomorrow's challenges. With an eye on the future we have developed Maintenance Technician Mechanical and Maintenance Technician Electrical introductory classes. Joblink has a vast number of computer classes from beginner to expert certification. Let's get ready for additional challenges and new job opportunities because the future is right around the corner!



Roger Hughes
Management Representative

A simple truth: the only constant in life is change. Change surrounds us each day in our family lives, our personal relationships and our professional careers. The ability to embrace change and parlay it into a positive is grounded in PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE.

The dictionary defines preparation as: **"the action or process of making something ready for use or service or of getting ready for some occasion, test or duty."** This definition would be a fitting replacement for the name given to JobLink. Please do not misunderstand; I am not proposing a new name. Besides it would be impossible to place the definition on the current marquis anyway. Please take a moment and re-read the definition of preparation. Done? What you have just read is the fundamental essence of the service JobLink provides. JobLink readies people for use or service; it gets you ready for any occasion, test or duty that you might be facing. The staff and instructors at JobLink are more than professionals at the service they perform; they are "change agents." They are there to prepare you when change "comes a knockin' on your door" allowing you to earn the future you deserve – The Best!



Links is a student publication of the Bernard Kleiman JobLink Learning Center
Student Editor: Recently retired (!)Tom Zmigrocki **Editor:** Marcia L. Taylor
JobLink Subcommittee: Diane Lentz, Roger Hughes, Steve Wagner
A big thanks to Bill Staniec for many of the photos.

Can you give us a few minutes of your time?

JobLink is here to meet your educational needs. When you want to learn something you turn to us. Now we are asking you to help us better achieve this goal by filling out this questionnaire. Let us know how we can best help you reach your goals and attain your full potential. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Thank You !

1. Circle one: Active 1010 member Retiree Spouse
If Active 1010 member, what deptment? _____

2. Do you think you will be taking classes in 2010? Yes No (*If no, please explain*)

3. Why would you take classes? *Circle as many as you wish.*

- For improvement on the job •For skills to be used at home •Skills for retirement
- Complete a degree or certificate • Earn a side income • For personal reasons

4. Are the class schedules convenient? Yes No (*If no, please explain*)

5. What is the best way for us to tell you about classes? *Circle one.*

- catalog on the website (www.bkjoblink.org) • Flyers in the mill • catalog mailed to you

If none of these is good for you, please explain:

6. Do you know who the advocate (Friend of JobLink) from your department is? Yes No

7. When we have just a few openings to fill in a class, what is the best way to let you know about them?

Circle one: • email • facebook • twitter • your advocate

If you are not on Diane Lentz's email list and would like to be, please write your email address here

If you have taken classes any time in the last 19 years, ***we would love to hear from you***. Please share a positive experience. If you allow us to quote you, please print your name clearly after your comment.

How to return this form: Drop it off at JobLink's front desk, complete the online form at www.bkjoblink.org, fax to Diane at 219-399-8137, or mail it to JobLink, 3210 Watling St. MC 7-200 East Chicago, IN 46321

Staff News:

Who's Doing What at JobLink?

Cecelia Wagner

By Barbara Tazbir

I recently interviewed Cecelia Wagner, a program specialist and JobLink's liaison to the Institute for Career Development or I.C.D. She feels that I.C.D. is a great benefit that only a few workers have. The country would be better off if every company had it, she says.

The position of Job Program Specialist requires coordinating a few of the 70 different career development programs. She got the job by answering the want ad in "Americas Job Banks" for the "curriculum development" position. As an ICD Program Specialist she helps coordinate training and provides whatever assistance is needed by the coordinators and touches base with them on projects.



She also shares networking opportunities, and facilitates training for members (people that run the programs).

I asked her what she likes about JobLink, and her response was that it's like family- "It's inviting." She feels that a good adult education center should be a place that caters to the needs of the learner. "Adults need a program that adapts to their lives." It should be flexible and meaningful for them. Students of I.C.D. (JobLink) should appreciate the opportunity to a free education and to direct it as they wish. No one else gets a free education without any strings attached, so the steelworkers are lucky in this respect, she believes.

I asked Cecelia how the students and teachers can help her to make the I.C.D. better. She said, "Spread the word, let them know of the OPPORTUNITY they have. The students should take the time and come and see what is being offered."

Cecelia Wagner is also one of us; she is a life-long learner. She received her undergraduate degree in Anthropology and her love for museums evolved into educating people. She worked at the Shedd Aquarium for eight years educating the public that came there. She has a Master in Social Science from the University of Chicago, which cost her lots of money. She is currently working on another degree. She is an animal lover and has a cat and a dog. (And through the grapevine I learned that this past October she ran the Chicago Marathon!)



What is the ICD, anyway?



By Cecelia Wagner

For those of you who may not know, ICD stands for the Institute for Career Development. ICD was created in the late 1980s, along with JobLink, as a result of negotiations between the leadership of the United Steelworkers and several large steel companies. Like now, it was a time of economic crisis for steel and manufacturing, and the USW wanted to create something that could help. The idea was to give Steelworkers an opportunity to enhance skills outside the immediate application of the workplace. That way, in case they were laid off, or chose to retire, they would be better prepared to seek employment once they left the mill.

JobLink was the first ICD program created, even before ICD's national staff and office was established in Merrillville, and it's now part of a large Career Development family. Since its inception, ICD has expanded into the tire and rubber industry, and there are programs from coast to coast, from California to Massachusetts, and from the Iron Range in Minnesota to southern Alabama. The main focus of the national program is to oversee and provide technical assistance the 70 local Career Development Programs (including JobLink) that are in existence today throughout the United States.

I'm one of 10 people on staff in Merrillville and my job is to liaise with and support those local programs across the country. As JobLink's "Program Specialist," I make sure JobLink Coordinator Diane Lentz is connected with the

national network of people and information in our program. We also provide training for Coordinators, Local Joint Committee members, and Learning Advocates (Friends of JobLink); we do research, develop new programs, provide resources, negotiate discounts with national education providers, and we even come out to help with open houses when called upon; we do all this, as well as provide oversight on spending and curriculum policy.

The ICD is unique. It's a system for accessing learning opportunities customized for Steelworkers' particular needs. The USW has worked hard to create something that will endure even after a worker has left the mill. I think Fred Gipson (one of your brothers from Local 2122 in Fairfield, AL) described it best when he said that education is a benefit that can't ever be taken away from you once you have it. ICD is your program. *Last year, the ICD was named the Malcolm Knowles Award winner for The Outstanding Adult Education Program of the Year by the American Association for Adult & Continuing Education!*

Words To Remember!

It's better to be prepared and not have an opportunity,
than to have an opportunity and not be prepared.

Les Brown

ALL THE BEST, DORINE!

By Diane Lentz, Coordinator

Saying good-bye to a good JobLink advocate is always difficult. Dorine Godinez has decided to retire to a life that she surely deserves. Our contact with Dorine has been at many levels; mostly as a strong advocate of JobLink and education.

When a class needed 1 or 2 people to run, Dorine could be counted on to know someone who was interested in taking that class. When steelworkers had a class in mind, Dorine was an advocate by bringing in that idea to JobLink so a class could be designed. If a student was not happy with a class and they told Dorine, she made sure that Diane heard about it.

Dorine truly understood that no one can take your education away from you. Earning her degrees through JobLink, taking a variety of certification programs, upgrading her computer skills, participating in home-improvement courses, and enjoying a few personal development courses kept Dorine an active participant. She has quite a history with Joblink. **She has taken 129 customized courses and 63 TAP courses.** (*Did I mention that she did this while working full time, raising her children, as well as a family of nieces and nephews?*)

Since we cannot clone Dorine with her love of learning and goal setting; instead, we are sharing her story as a way of inspiring other steelworkers. Dorine, enjoy your retirement; take some time for long walks, listening to music, quilting, gardening, time with family and friends...all the things that working men and women often have to give up when they work long and hard at the steel mill.

You will be missed!



Congratulations to the winners of the window box contest



Tina Villareal



Ronnie Rogers

**Thanks To All Our Windowbox Artists
For Helping Beautify JobLink:**

Hilario Gonzalez
Joe Magura and Art Martinez

(Continued from page 1) *A Life Changing Lesson*

instant. Knowing that I could never say anything that would change the old man's mind, I proceeded to still keep my dream alive. I now was the teacher of the song to a tiny, dark-complexioned Hispanic child. I worked with my daughter on the song for about 2 years. I made sure that she had it down pat. This was going to be my coup-de-gras. I knew that with one fell swoop, I would remove all of Grandpa's prejudice.

I waited for the right time, and it finally came one Saturday afternoon when Jennifer and I went to visit Great-Grandpa and Grandma Miller. We would visit every weekend but this one would be special. Even though Grandpa had accepted Jennifer by now, I knew his prejudice would forever prevent him from truly accepting her as "family".

So, on this Saturday, we arrived to the hugs and kisses a plenty from Grandma, and the routine of Grandpa pouring out his shots. One for me, and a double for him.

To finish reading this selection go to: www.bkjoblink.org and look for Student writings under Items of Interest.

July 14, 2010



JobLink
celebrates
20 years
of serving
you!

Joblink Reminder



Happy Holidays!

JobLink will be closed from

December 19 until
January 3.

Bernard Kleiman *JobLink* Learning Center

Mittal Steel Indiana Harbor
3210 Watling Street (7-200)
East Chicago, IN 46312

JobLink Friends:

Rick Barna	[3 C/S E 80" Tandem]
Ken Bogucki	[Utilities 5A/C]
Jaime Calderon	[#2 Cold Strip]
Tom Christman	[80" Hot Strip]
Julian Gonzales	[MHS]
Bob Guevara	[Plt. 1 Galv.]
Kevin Kelly Sr.	[IN Harbor Coke]
Ed McHaskell	[Coke Energy]
Mike Nelson	[4BOF Mech Turn]
Gail Richardson	[3 Cold Strip West]
Phillip Rodriguez	[5 AC/Utilities]
John Shultz	[3 Cold Strip West]
Genfu Tai	[R & D]
Jerry Torres	[MEU]
Nick Valle	[Union Hall]
John Walker	[#4 S.P.]

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Tips for the holiday, or how not to tip the scales



By Kathy Long, Our Weight Watchers Leader

TIP ONE: Remember, the holidays are just that—days, not weeks. It's important to enjoy the holidays, and food is certainly part of the enjoyment. Have the foods you really want to make that "day" what you want it to be.

TIP TWO: Let's consider options available. For example, if I can have mashed potatoes all year round, do I want to have them for my special holiday meal? Consider choosing foods you don't get to enjoy other times of the year.

TIP THREE: Exercising portion control can go right out the window at a special meal. Most people pile their plates full and then go back for seconds and thirds! To help you control your portions, use the spoon from your table setting instead of that large serving spoon in the bowl to dish out your portion, or arrange the food on your plate so that nothing can touch. Use 1/3 of your plate for your main dish and the other 2/3 for fruits or vegetables.



TIP FOUR: Lighten up the homemade dishes whenever you can. For example, opting to use the fat free cream cheese in that famous dessert you make could save you lots of calories and usually won't alter the taste. When using sugar in the recipe, cut back half of the amount or switch it to a sugar substitute. The more you save yourself those expensive calories, the more your waistline can benefit.

TIP FIVE: Remember to MOVE. Don't spend the whole holiday on the couch or sitting at the dining room table. Get moving. Exercise is a great way to begin the day. When your family and friends arrive, move around the room and socialize. Consider a game of football on your lawn or go for a walk after the meal.

TIP SIX: Focus on the meaning of the holiday. Is it really all about the food? Have fun, be thankful, reflect, rekindle relationships, connect with friends and enjoy.

To your health!