

VOLUME 3, 2025

LOCAL

110

*Drone Technology
Takes Off in the
Construction
Industry*



Don't miss our
upcoming member
events.

Scan to learn more.

LiUNA!

MISSOURI AND KANSAS LABORERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Feel the Power

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Union Meeting Dates

2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm in the union hall *unless otherwise noted (*)*.

November 12

December 10

January 14

February 11

March 11

April 8

Interested in volunteering?

The VOC Meets on Union Meeting Nights at 5:30pm

Cops & Bobbers



Our 6th Annual Tournament

The Cops & Bobbers tournament hosted by Local 110 in partnership with the St. Louis County Police Welfare Association was a success. We had over 100 boats enter and broke our previous fundraising record. In addition to supporting the Welfare Association we were able to support an officer going through cancer treatments and make a sizeable donation to Variety St. Louis – The Children's Charity.

Part 1 – Drone Technology Takes Off in the Construction Industry

Much of the 21st century's technological revolution has been centered around miniaturization. As computer chips, batteries, camera sensors, and display technology have become smaller and smaller, it has created unbelievable opportunities. Mobile phones have now become digital Swiss army knives. Recently, the tech industry has been fixated on miniaturizing aviation technology, driving the popularity of consumer drone devices. Now, for as little as \$100-200, consumers can get their hands on a drone with 20 minutes of flight time and a 4K camera. Amateur pilots use them for recreation, photography, videography, inspections, and the unique aerial views they offer.

As drones have become more accessible, they have also become more prevalent in the

construction industry, and their use is about to surge in our sector. Drones are most widely used to survey sites and monitor construction projects right now. But as industry demand grows, drone manufacturers are continuing to tailor their products to our market and adding new technologies that could transform jobs.

Drones can be used to create 3D models and maps of construction projects and the grounds they will be built on, and real-time progress can be illustrated and shared across departments. Material movement and storage can be tracked across larger job sites and better accounted for. Safety inspections can be completed aerially, particularly of areas that are hazardous to workers such as those that pose a fall risk.

DJI, the largest consumer drone manufacturer in the world, has recently added LiDAR cameras to their drones. LiDAR cameras emit lasers, not

visible to the human eye, to measure distance and create a 3D, digital representation of the environments it captures. The addition of LiDAR cameras allows contractors to easily create models of their buildings and allows them to accurately track construction progress. These cameras are currently used on large tripods on the ground, but the addition of them in the air could be game changing. These manufacturers are also adding cellular chips, thermal cameras, and loudspeakers to their drone offerings, along with other construction tailored accessories like RTK receivers that refine GPS accuracy down to the centimeter.

As the use of drone technology advances, so too will the labor and skill set needs to operate them. ***These skill set demands are also what our members will want to keep an eye on as new opportunities emerge.*** The first thing Laborers should know is that all drone operating for professional use, including within the construction industry,

is regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration. All drone pilots must obtain what the FAA calls a Part 107 Remote Pilot Certificate by completing a 60 question, multiple choice exam. This certificate must be renewed every two years. The FAA expects remote pilots to understand basic weather and micro-meteorology concepts, airspace, air traffic regulations, and operations management concepts.

For Laborers interested in pursuing this field, our organization is excited to start offering resources to help prepare our workforce for the new technology and its use in construction. Our Training Center in High Hill hopes to roll out its own resources in the next calendar year and the Missouri LECET is beginning to ramp up its efforts to explore opportunities for our members and contractors. For updates, please keep an eye on our social media channels and upcoming newsletter issues.

More as this story develops...



Capitol Beat:

Stepping Up to the Moment



There are moments throughout history when working people don't get to choose the fight—they're chosen by the fight itself.

This is one of those moments.

In Jefferson City, politicians have once again ignored the will of the people. During the recent extraordinary session, lawmakers pushed through an unconstitutional congressional map that carves up communities, weakens working-class voices, and stacks the deck to protect their own power. These gerrymandered maps weren't drawn to represent us; they were drawn to silence us.

For generations, working men and women have built Missouri from the ground up. It was the working families that paved the roads, poured the concrete, laid the pipes, and raised the skylines. Our work connects Missouri, and our values keep it strong. Now, that foundation is under attack.

This extraordinary session wasn't just about lines on a map. It was about who gets to have a voice in government. It was about power, and taking it away from the people who earn their living through hard work and honesty. When politicians choose their voters instead of voters choosing their politicians, democracy itself erodes.

But that wasn't the only attack. At the same time, legislators advanced dangerous changes to Missouri's initiative petition process. For more than a century, citizens have had the right to take issues directly to the ballot: whether it's raising the minimum wage, expanding Medicaid, or protecting

workers' rights. Now those same politicians want to make it nearly impossible for regular Missourians to have a say.

Under these new rules, a handful of voters could block initiatives that have overwhelming public support. They're rewriting the rules to make sure working people can't win again. It's the same playbook they've used before: attack unions, attack wages, attack our ability to organize, and when all else fails - rig the system to keep us quiet.

But if there's one thing they should know by now, it's this: Laborers don't back down. We don't sit out the fight. We show up. We stand together. And when it counts, we get the job done.

This moment demands the same strength. We can't afford to look the other way. The fight for fair maps and a fair voice is a fight for every LIUNA member, every family, and every working Missourian.

Here's what we need you to do:



Laborers protesting in Jefferson City on September 10, 2025.

1. **Sign the referendum** to reject these unconstitutional maps. Your signature is your voice, use it.
2. **Attend a training** to help gather signatures in your community. We need volunteers on the ground who can talk to neighbors, co-workers, and friends about what's at stake.
3. **Spread the word.** Talk about this fight at the job site, in your union meetings, and around your dinner table. Let your family and your brothers and sisters in labor know that our democracy, and our livelihoods, are on the line.

Every signature, every conversation, and every act of courage adds up. We've faced tough fights before—"Right to Work," attacks on prevailing wage, cuts to unemployment and health insurance—and every time, we stood our ground.

We don't choose when these fights come to our door. But we do choose how we answer. And LiUNA members have never turned away from a fight.

This is our moment to step up once again. To

fight not just for ourselves, but for every worker who believes in fairness, in democracy, and in the power of solidarity.

Together, we'll remind those in Jefferson City that the people who build Missouri deserve to be heard. We've built this state once, and we'll rebuild its democracy, too.



Scan the QR code to step up and get involved today.

LEAN STL Mental Health Check-In

Coming out of September, which is Suicide Awareness Month, it's important not to let that awareness of struggle and mental health slip our minds—especially as our membership heads into the winter months. Winter can be a very difficult season for our members, not only because of slowdowns in the industry, but also because of the approaching holidays. As the weather cools down, Aaron Walsh and James Pursell from LEAN STL (Laborers Escaping Adversity Now) encourage our members to slow down and consider how they are feeling.

In this article, Walsh and Pursell have offered two mental health checklists that members can use on and off the jobsite to help them identify how they are doing and when might be a good time to ask for a little help.

If you, or somebody you know, is struggling with mental health issues, please do not hesitate

to reach out to LEAN STL. LEAN STL is a peer support program, offered at no cost, to help Laborers battling mental health and addiction related issues. You can reach our hot-line anytime by dialing **1-844-691-5326**. It is available 24/7 and 100% confidential.

Mental Health Checklist

At Home

- ☐ What's going on at home (good and bad)?
 - ☐ What's been weighing heavy on me or what's been feeling heavier than usual lately?
 - ☐ What am I carrying that's not mine to carry? (How do I handle this)
 - ☐ What do I need that I've been avoiding?
 - ☐ How can I set myself up for better work/recharge balance?
 - ☐ Who can I reach out to if I need help?
- (union rep, EAP, MAP, 988 hot-line, trusted co-worker, LEAN)**

In the Field

- ☐ What's going on at work? (good and bad)
 - ☐ How am I doing?
 - ☐ What helps me cool off before I react to a hot situation instead of responding?
 - ☐ Who on the jobsite keeps the day lighter, who can I talk to about the day-to-day?
 - ☐ Who do I need to check in on because I think they might need it?
 - ☐ Who can I reach out to if I need help?
- (union rep, EAP, MAP, 988 hot-line, trusted co-worker, LEAN)**

Meet Your Instructor

As the winter nears, and construction work begins to slow down, now is an excellent time to visit the Training Center to renew your certifications and expand your skill set to become an even greater asset out in the field. To help encourage our members to continue their training, we are running a series called Meet Your Instructor to help familiarize our membership with the friendly faces they will see at the training center and what you can learn from them.



Bert Henke Local 660

Instructor

Masonry Scaffold, Mason Tending, General Scaffold, Power Tools 1, Power Tools 2, OSHA 30, Hoisting and Rigging, Traffic Control, Construction Math, Aerial Lifts, Rough Terrain Forklift

Bert Henke has been working in construction for ten years and previously served in the U.S. Army. Now in his third year at the training center, Bert says the most gratifying part of being an instructor is seeing the development in his students. For Bert, being a Laborer is more than a job. As soon as Laborers step onto a job site, they become family. Bert tries to ingrain that fact into his students and takes pride in seeing them embrace the work ethic and camaraderie unique to construction life.

Bert's philosophy is that the work he does and aspires to do is bigger than the sum of its parts. He attributes his success to putting in the hard work when the going gets tough and always striving to improve. For new students, Bert always emphasizes the importance of a positive attitude, integrity, taking pride in one's work, and prioritizing safety. At the end of the day what matters most is getting home to your loved ones.

Because the training center operates within a federally recognized apprenticeship program, Bert was able to **draw full benefits from the G.I. bill**. This is a great added benefit for our apprentices who come from military service, as it provides a great cash supplement while they finish their apprenticeship. Given that the apprenticeship program is completely free for our members, this means that any money received from the G.I. bill can be pocketed by beneficiaries.



LOCAL MATTERS

Nearly a Century of Service

This year marks a rare and extraordinary milestone for one of Local 110's members. We are honored to celebrate Brother Bob Wilmoth's 75th year of service with the Laborers International Union of North America. More than ever, we need role models that show the next generation what it means to be a Laborer and what the commitment and contributions can and should look like.

Since he was 18 years old, Wilmoth has weathered a changing world and stayed committed to his brothers and sisters. Being a union member doesn't end after the job. In fact, your best contributions can come from all you contribute off the job site.

"Your dedication has been a cornerstone to our success" said Local 110 Business Manager, Jose R. Gomez. "[His] constant example of commitment will continue to inspire new generations of LiUNA brothers and sisters in the years to come."

"On behalf of all of us," Gomez added, "we thank Bob for 75 remarkable years of service and solidarity."

As we celebrate this milestone, his story should remind our membership what union pride truly means: showing up for one another and leaving the job site, and your community, better than you found it. Bob has repeatedly illustrated this ideal over seven decades.



Tradeswomen Build Nations Conference

The annual Tradeswomen Build Nations Conference was held in Chicago September 19-21. TWBN is the largest annual gathering of tradeswomen in the world and one of the largest convenings of union construction professionals in North America. It's a powerful celebration of sisterhood, solidarity, and opportunity in the unionized building trades. BreeAnna McKinney, Delicia Simpson and Heather Leaders were there proudly representing Laborers Local 110.



MKLDC SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Nicholas Abel, son of member Jeff Abel was the recipient of the annual \$1500 scholarship given by the Missouri Kansas Laborers District Council to each local. The winner is chosen blindly by the Local 110 Executive Board based on their academic achievements, letters of recommendation and a one-page essay they submit outlining their goals and aspirations and how they intend to achieve them.



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Celebrating the donation is (from left) Welfare Association Secretary Amy Abkemeier; Variety CEO Brian Roy; retired St. Louis County Police Lieutenant Leslee Tate; Welfare Association President Dean O'Hara; Welfare Association Treasurer Zac Sigler, Local 110 Office Manager Sarah Schwartz; St. Louis County Officer Kevin Helldorfer; Welfare Association Vice President Ricky Kranz; Local 110 Secretary-Treasurer Rob Reed; and Local 110 President Mark Bielickie.

STL Children's Charity

Laborers Local 110 recently donated \$5,000 to Variety the Children's Charity of St. Louis using proceeds raised during the union's annual Cops & Bobbers Fishing Tournament benefiting the St. Louis County Police Welfare Association. Variety assists local children with disabilities by providing access to vital medical equipment and therapies as well as the opportunity to participate in innovative recreation and performing arts programs.

Find us on Social Media



Find us on social media

Facebook: LIUNA 110

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