

# LOCAL 110 NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF LABORERS' LOCAL 110



**LiUNA!**  
*Feel the Power*

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# WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS!



Local 110 Members...Send us your jobsite photos! Use the Jobsite Photo feature in the Local 110 app.

Be sure to include details including names and work being performed!



## COVER PHOTO:

**THE COALITION OF BLACK TRADE UNIONISTS HOSTED THEIR 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS BANQUET ON JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>. LOCAL 110 PRESIDENT RONNY GRIFFIN RECEIVED THIS AWARD FOR HIS ADVOCACY FOR BUILDING DIVERSITY IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING TRADES. CONGRATULATIONS RONNY, WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!**

# Missouri Capitol Report

The Missouri General Assembly started its session in January and will run through mid-May. Each year the leaders in the House and Senate set their priorities for the issues they want to see passed.

Labor related bills, bills impacting our industry, and bills that directly impact your pocketbook and family are always on the agenda. This year is no different.



## Unemployment Compensation

Bills have been filed that seek to significantly lower the number of weeks you could be eligible to receive unemployment compensation. One bill of interest is **HB 1291** filed by **Rep. Justin Hill (Republican-Lake St. Louis/St. Charles County)**. HB 1291 could **reduce the current 20 weeks of eligibility down to 13 weeks.**

## Asbestos Exposure Compensation

**SB 575** filed by **Sen. Bill Eigel (Republican-St. Charles Co.)** would add new burdensome requirements to the process that individuals must undergo when seeking compensation for exposure to asbestos. These added requirements could impact a person's ability to win a claim for asbestos exposure.

## Transportation & Infrastructure Funding

Funding needed repairs and expansion to our roads and bridges is a real need for our state. Bills have been introduced aimed at providing needed funding for our state's roads and bridges. However, transportation and infrastructure funding measures are not anticipated

to move during this session. Most in the capitol are seeing this issue as one that is being tee'd up potentially for consideration in future sessions.



# DEFEND THE WIN

*to clean up Missouri politics*

## CLEAN Act Modifications (Legislative District Lines/Campaign Contributions/Lobbyist Gifts)

In 2018, Missouri voters overwhelmingly passed the CLEAN Missouri initiative by a wide margin (62%). CLEAN Missouri (Constitutional Amendment 1) made Missouri one of the toughest states on ethics and campaign contributions. It did so by lowering campaign contribution limits; eliminating almost all lobbyist gifts; requiring politicians to wait two years before becoming lobbyists; require legislative records to be open to the public; and create a fairer system of drawing legislative district boundaries.

Now, **Sen. Dan Hegeman (Republican-northwest Missouri)** has introduced **SJR 38** that would dramatically **undercut the provisions of Clean Missouri passed by an overwhelming majority of Missourians.** Among other things, it would take the responsibility for drawing legislative districts away from the non-partisan mapmaker and return it to a political process. SJR 38 has passed the Senate and is pending in the House of Representatives. If passed, SJR 38's provisions will be sent to a statewide vote.

These are a few of the issues impacting working men and women in Jefferson City. LiUNA is working hard to stay on top these issues and many more that can have a direct impact on our industry, our work, and our families.



# SHOW US YOUR **HARDHAT**

*Post a photo of your hardhat on social media with the hashtag #OUSfromMO and tell us how the union has impacted your life!*



LECET OF EASTERN MISSOURI

## Ever Considered Being an Instructor?

The Laborers-Contractors Training Center is currently accepting applications

The Training Center is seeking candidates with the following experience and qualifications:

- ✓ Experience in Trenching/Shoring; Laying of gravity flow pipe; Installation of forcemains, watermains, and/or pressure lines for utility line construction.
- ✓ Minimum of 10 years working experience as a construction craft laborer employed by a contributing contractor working within EMLDC; or completed the Construction Craft Laborers' Apprenticeship Program.
- ✓ Have a solid knowledge of the construction craft laborer scope of work and substantial knowledge in the proper application of tools/equipment used by laborers.
- ✓ Applicants should have a thorough understanding of construction site safety and health requirements.



Contact the Laborers-Contractors Training Center for more information and to get an application.

636-585-2391

[www.laborers-highhill.org](http://www.laborers-highhill.org)

# Trench Safety Awareness Still a Big Issue for Laborers and Contractors

Laborers spend a lot of time working in open trenches. Understanding the dangers of this work is important to both you and your employer. OSHA's decades-old trenching and excavation standard requires trenches to be shored, sloped or benched. It also requires employers to determine the potential for cave-ins and assess the need for shoring or other protective systems before allowing anyone to begin work in trench projects.

After trench-related deaths tripled between 2011 and 2016, OSHA instituted a National Emphasis Program to reduce the number of trench fatalities in construction. To take a closer look at the rise in trench fatalities and find solutions, the CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training commissioned a study to look at the rise in trench fatalities. They found:

- \* When construction demand increased following the last recession, many new companies entered the field. Some of these employers may not have the experience and skills to do the work safely.

- \* Most fatalities occurred on small residential water and sewer repair jobs. These are short-term jobs that often take a day or less. These types of projects tend to fly under OSHA's enforcement radar.

- \* Of the OSHA citations analyzed over this period, only one-third were willful citations (i.e., a purposeful disregard of the standard), although anyone in this business would know the requirements to protect workers in trenches.

In addition to the study, the CPWR also surveyed employers, including foremen and supervisors, workers, safety and health professionals, trainers and other construction stakeholders about trench safety. The results, which were reported at the National Safety Council's 2019 Congress, showed the following:

- \* About 75 percent of respondents said they see no trench protection in place "Frequently" or "Occasionally."

- \* Only 1 in 4 respondents said there was "Always"

sufficient pre-planning for trench work. About 1 in 3 said sufficient pre-planning happened "Occasionally."

- \* Only 37 percent of those surveyed said there was "Always" a competent person on site. Having a designated competent person on site is a major requirement of OSHA's trench standard.

- \* About half of those surveyed have refused to enter an unsafe trench at some point during their career.

- \* One third of those surveyed said they have witnessed, been involved in or inspected a trench collapse.

- \* Many of those surveyed admitted to having an inadequate understanding of the OSHA standard's requirements, particularly the section on sloping/benching.

- \* Lack of training, the production schedule and an "It won't happen on my watch" attitude were overwhelmingly cited as the biggest contributing factors for trench incidents.

- \* A majority of those surveyed believe that increased penalties (including criminal sanctions), more frequent inspections, renewal training for competent persons and permitting requirements could all have

a positive impact on compliance and safety.

These results highlight a need for more pre-planning before work begins and additional training for workers and supervisors surrounding OSHA's trenching and excavation standard and the risks present in unprotected trenches. Based on the number of workers who have refused to enter a trench or seen a trench collapse, the hazards are very real. Companies digging trenches simply must do it properly and have the trained personnel to do it right, including a competent person to ensure it is done safely.

Your training school (The Laborers & Contractors Training Center) in High Hill, MO offers Pipelaying classes that include instruction on trenching and shoring. Contact the Training Center for more information on classes and working safely in open trenches. (636-585-2391. <https://www.laborers-highhill.org/>).

Source: LHSFNA Lifelines article "Alarming Trench Survey Highlights Risks for Workers and Employers" by Scott Schneider.

Published: February, 2020; Vol 16, Num 9





# Upcoming Member Events



## Sporting Clay Shoot

April 11, 2020

Blackhawk Valley Preserve

Old Monroe, MO

For more information and to register:

[www.molecet.org/sporting-clays](http://www.molecet.org/sporting-clays)

## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Crappie Tournament

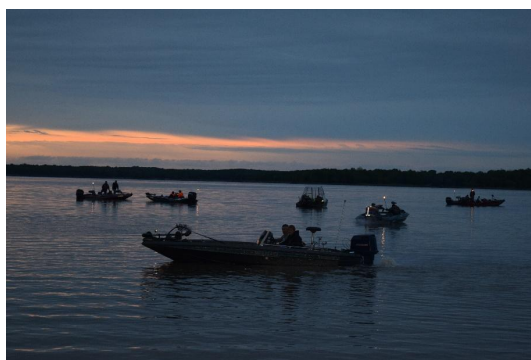
May 9, 2020

Buzzard's Roost

Mark Twain Lake

For more information and to register:

[www.molecet.org/crappie-tournament](http://www.molecet.org/crappie-tournament)



# TRAINING

It only takes one spark  
to light a fire inside of  
you.

Start your training  
today!



Sign up for classes at [www.laborers-highhill.org](http://www.laborers-highhill.org)

# Local 110 Annual Events

## Scholarships - May 1<sup>st</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup>

Available to college age children on the member's insurance. Scholarship applications are available on these dates. July and December scholarships are awarded by Local 110 in the amount of \$500 for the first 30 qualifying applicants. May 1<sup>st</sup> is awarded by the EMLDC in the amount of \$1500 to one winner of an anonymous essay contest. Previous applicants will continue to receive applications, new applicants must call and request or go online the day of availability.

## Member/Spouse Meeting - June Union Meeting

Local 110 recognizes that our union is made not just of our members but of the families that support them. Each member is allowed to bring their significant other. Post cards will be sent along with digital reminders. RSVP's are requested for this event.

## School Supply Drive - Typically the 1<sup>st</sup> week in August

School age children on the member's insurance qualify for this event. Backpacks with supplies for grades K-12 are given to each qualifying child. There are other activities such as sand art making, haircuts, raffles as well as educational materials. All at no cost to the member. Post cards will be sent along with digital reminders for this event.

## Labor Day Parade - Labor Day

Every Labor Day each labor local in the St. Louis area (42,110,660) gathers downtown to walk in the Labor Day parade. T-shirts are generously provided to the member's and their families by the EMLDC (Eastern Missouri Labor District Council) as well as a hot dog cookout at the end of the parade. The meeting time and location is typically announced 2-3 weeks prior. Social media posts and app notifications will be sent for this event.

## Membership Picnic - Typically the last Saturday in September

This picnic is given for the member and their immediate family. This includes the member, their significant other, and children under the age of 21 on the member's insurance. All other guests/family members not fitting the above criteria will be subject to an entrance fee equivalent to what the Local pays per head for the day. NO EXCEPTIONS. This is by design a membership exclusive event. Invitations will be sent by mail. RSVP's are required for this event.

## Christmas Party - December Union Meeting

There will be no written notice as the union meetings are always held on the second Wednesday of the month. Just like every other union meeting this is for MEMBERS ONLY. This means no spouses and no children. Members must be in good standing before they will be permitted to enter. You must be in attendance the day of the meeting in order to receive any gifts being given by the local. There is only one exception and that is if you are working 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> shift and will not be able to attend and you meet the following requirements:

*You have a letter on letterhead from your company stating which shift you are working during the party AND you appear in person between the hours of 6am-3:30pm the DAY OF THE EVENT*

But what if?... Illness, injury, emergencies, being unaware of the party, forgetting about the party, mixing up the dates, working out of town, prior obligations, vacations, etc... do not qualify a member to receive the gifts. It is attendance only. This is the ruling of the Executive Board.

Dues Assistance - Available to members out of work due to illness or a non-work related injury.

Request an application from the office to apply for dues assistance. The distress committee meets every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month to review applications. They recommend to the Executive Board that Local 110 pay the monthly dues for up to three months for anyone who qualifies.

Temporary Disability - Available through the Benefit Office to insured members out of work due to illness or a non-work related injury.

Contact the St. Louis Laborers' Benefit Office - 314-644-2777

*Please keep in mind that Local 110 is proud to provide our membership with all of these perks, but they are not required. Any of the above rules are in place to respect the use of the membership's money.*

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## Local 110 Calendar

Union Meetings held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

### HELPING THOSE IN NEED

Retiree Mike Sellman (right) delivered a truckload of can-goods and a check for \$2,600 to the St. Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Louis City.

Retiree Council Member Dan Fox (below) took a truckload of can-goods and a check for \$2,600 to the Bonne Terre Senior Center Food Pantry.

The funds donated were raised by the Local 110 Retiree Council and matched by the Local 110 Membership. Can-goods and monetary donations are collected at each of the Retiree Council monthly meetings April-December then divided between two nominated food pantries chosen at random.

A big thanks to all members that donated to this cause!

