

National Safety Council Labor Division Members

Sent on Behalf of Labor Division Chairperson, Paul Chaney

Sisters and Brothers

Continuing with another in the series of NSC Labor Division blogs, please find blog #2. It is hoped that these blogs will refresh people. By the time we meet in-person in May the plan is to have three or four blogs out to people. With the blogs distributed there will be an opportunity to discuss and critique them in Tempe, AZ.

The spring Labor Division meeting in Tempe AZ agenda is now on the NSC Labor Division web page and we hope that people will give consideration to attending and to reigniting the NSC Labor Division with enthusiasm and the shared knowledge of safety and health.

Yours in Solidarity and Safety and Health
Paul Chaney, NSC Labor Division Chairperson

Blog #2

This blog is provided by the National Safety Council Labor Division and is for guidance only . Nothing in the blog overrides regulations, legislation, standards or company policies, procedures, or any other applicable and/or similar document etc.

An existential piece of the Labor Division is Safety and Health education and training. Of course, much more goes on with the work of various administrative committees, but education and training has always been a cornerstone.

Being fortunate to be composed of many unions the Labor Division leadership and members are always looking for more unions to become part of the division. Having the bragging rights to this wide variety of unions provides the division with diverse and fresh ideas. Many of these diverse and fresh ideas originate with the hallowed halls of the unions that make up the division.

Training and education is in the DNA of unions, and more broadly speaking the labour movement. The members and delegates attending the Labor Division provide so much as they have vast experience, credentials and bring with them the education and training provided within their own union.

It is important to mention this to those receiving this blog for a couple of reasons. Primarily, the Labor Division desires in the strongest terms that people feel free to bring forth and share their experience and credentials and most importantly the training and education that their home union provides. Equally as important, the Labor Division wants people to know of and to seek union training and education.

There are numerous union training and education opportunities. Most well known to Labor Division attendees, is the IBEW Safety Caucus. The Safety Caucus often runs immediately before or after

the division meetings. It is usually in the same conference center and is open to any union member, and is provided at a reasonable cost, not just to IBEW members.

Closer to home, our own unions provide training and education opportunities. The Power Workers' Union (PWU) in Ontario, Canada, provides four levels of health and safety training beyond what the government requires for members of Joint Health and Safety Committees.

Unions are embracing training beyond its traditional forms. Such examples are mental health and psychosocial safety and diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility training.

Union training and education does not endure the cookie cutter approach, but is unique, diverse and properly aligned to the needs of the membership. We must be aware that Labor is a vast mix of public and private sector workers, construction and craft workers, miners and airline workers, healthcare and first responders, and administrative and technical workers to name but only a few.

Union training and education has its traditional forms also. Things such as labor relations, violence in the workplace, apprenticeship, and technical skills to name a name portion. However, there is no more important piece in union training and education than making sure one asks to be part of it. Part of it! No matter if it is Labor Division education training, or union training such as those mentioned previously.