Unite to offer information of engineering construction employment opportunities directly to its members

Dear colleague

Unite has taken a major step forward with the formation of a dedicated team of officers working exclusively in the construction sector. The team will work with shop stewards to improve our on site organisation across all trades and agreements. Unite also aims to complement the service it provides to its members by providing them with news of employment opportunities directly, via text messaging and email.

Research from the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB) predicts significant growth in the industry on major engineering projects to build and maintain new power stations, wind farms and plants to process renewable energy sources over the next 10 to 15 years.

There are expected to be over 20,000 new job opportunities and Unite is keen to ensure that our members have the opportunity to access the right training in order to ensure that their skills and validation are as up to date as possible so as to capitalise on these new jobs.

In order to do this we need to ensure that our records about you are up to date and are regularly updated to maximise the benefits to you that Unite membership can bring.

If you are not already a member of a trade union then we urge you to join Unite. Unite is the only union that represents construction and contracting workers across all trades and agreements. We want to organise all sites from the very start of the contract to the very end. We have members in Civil trades under the working rule agreement. Mechanical and Electrical under either the NAECI, JIB, Plumbing JIB or the HVAC agreements, crane drivers and workers in the felt roof industry.

Have a voice in Unite
Unite is a democratic union and encourages members to get involved in deciding the union's policies. A new Construction National Industrial Sector Committee and a Construction Industrial Sector Committee in each region have been formed for this purpose. These committees consist of shop stewards from all aspects of the construction and contracting industry. They meet regularly to discuss solving the problems facing our members and offer direction and guidance to our construction officers. Members can submit resolutions to these committees via their union branch or shop steward. Talk to your steward if you would like to get involved.

Unite recently held its first Construction sector conference and the important issues facing workers such as health & safety, organisation, the Blacklist and the recession were debated.
Legal assistance and representation

Unite offers its members an excellent range of benefits which are particularly useful to construction workers as sadly there are many cases we take up when employers have behaved unfairly. All members have access to specialist advice about employment rights, or help if there is a problem at work. Legal representation and assistance is provided to all members with 6 months or more of membership. This can prove invaluable in situations such as unfair dismissal / unfair selection for redundancy, illegal deductions from wages, failure to give holiday pay etc. The union’s officers and solicitors have won millions of pounds for our members. Don’t rely on no win, no fee solicitors - union solicitors are free and usually get you a better settlement.

What is the cost of membership

Unite membership is just £2.53 a week for a full time worker and only 25pence a week for apprentices. If you find yourself in-between jobs or off sick, instead of resigning from the union you can call your local union office and go on to significantly reduced subs. Thereby not losing out on union membership benefits. When you are taken on again contact the union so that you are covered as a working member.

Our construction sector website address is
http://www.unitetheunion.org/sectors/construction.aspx

We are asking that you complete the short questionnaire enclosed to update our records.

Derek Simpson and Tony Woodley
Joint General Secretaries