

## **TRAINING UPDATE**

### **FAQ: Apprenticeship (continued from February)**

**Frequently Asked Questions:** Last month, we dealt with Frequently Asked Questions about becoming an apprentice (and thus a member of Local 506). This month, some other information usually provided when we invite applicants for an Assessment session.

#### **How long is the training?**

The Construction Craft Worker apprenticeship consists of 16 weeks of in-school training and 2400 hours of work experience. Because the apprenticeship is comparatively short, in-school time does not count as part of the 2400 hours. 2400 hours work time normally takes about two years.

The 16 weeks in-school consists of 8 weeks Basic and 8 weeks Advanced. Basic is ordinarily taken **before** apprentices go to work. Advanced may be delivered as a block (8 weeks) or in shorter 2-week modules, a year or more after Basic.

#### **What does it cost?**

There is no charge for the training itself. The main cost is the necessity of supporting oneself for eight weeks. That means rent, meals (including lunch at Ambercroft), clothes and transportation to and from the Training Centre. Individuals who are EI-eligible may collect benefits while training. Sometimes Social Assistance or Ontario Works will help. Otherwise, it's parents, spouses, in-laws, or personal savings.

Trainees must provide their own safety boots and work clothes. (Other required safety equipment is provided.) Upon successful completion of the 8-week Basic, apprentices must pay apprentice initiation as a member of LIUNA (presently \$400.00) and three months' working dues (presently 3 X \$24.00). The total would be \$472.00 and must be paid before being dispatched to work.

#### **What are apprentices paid?**

Different sectors have different collective agreements. Apprentices with forming contractors are paid 75% of the journeyperson rate for 1200 hours, then 90% for 1200 hours, then full rate. The starting rate is approximately \$19.00 per hour.

#### **Anything else I should know?**

Before you get a Certificate of Qualification as a Construction Craft Worker, you will have to pass the trade exam with a mark of 70% - which is why you should be sure to attend Advanced in-school training when invited.