

COURSE SYLLABUS

COMET – *Construction Organizing Membership Education Training*

Course Description:

This course provides apprentices and journeymen with useful information about the challenges facing the Ironworker union and provides thought provoking questions and suggestions for how to navigate the world of construction in the 21st century. Participants will be encouraged to think about important issues facing them and their peers and to brainstorm and identify short-term and long-term solutions.

Course Rationale:

The COMET program was developed for a number of very important reasons:

- Organizing is the right thing to do. It is the mission of the union to meet the needs of construction workers and to elevate their conditions of life and labor.
- Organizing is the most effective way to rebuild declining bargaining strength. Increasing the percentage of workers organized in any jurisdiction increases the market share and enhances bargaining power. Organizing enables the union to win better wages and benefits for our members
- COMET is an important prerequisite to an effective construction organizing campaign in that it emphasizes membership awareness and enlists broad support for organizing activities.

Course Objectives:

At the conclusion of the COMET course, each participant should be able to:

1. Explain why every local union must organize unrepresented construction workers.
2. Describe why it is important that union members support organizing within their local's jurisdiction.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, the participant will be able to describe:

- What happens when we do not organize
- The construction industry
- Why we organize

- Our Founders' wisdom
- Collective bargaining
- The collective bargaining strength of organizing
- What went right
- What went wrong
- The union/non-union gap
- What is to be done to build the future

Target Audience:

This course is designed for all Apprentices and Journeymen.

Course Materials

The COMET instructor and/or the local union organizer will provide to the course participants with the course handouts. These handouts are found in the **COMET for Ironworkers Manual**.