



December 2009

"Training for the Future"



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*Eric Packard*  
*Mike Poston*  
*Laurie Shadrick*

*Season's Greetings and Best Wishes to you this  
Holiday Season and throughout the New Year.*

## Message from Our UA Director of Training

By Mike Arndt, Director of Training

As 2009 is coming to a close, we in training have had a very demanding year. Our economy has caused a slowdown in many of the fields for which we train. But as we have experienced in the past, when work slows down the demand for training will increase. Men and women who provide training for the UA have again shown that they are ready and willing to do whatever it takes to make sure that their Brothers and Sisters are prepared to meet the challenges that face us now and in the future. This year we have started many new programs, notwithstanding the slowdown in our

industry, training has grown again. There is no better training anywhere than that performed by the UA. This year, more so than most, has shown the dedication that the UA has to training.

So as we look ahead to 2010, I know we are prepared to meet whatever challenges come our way. We in the UA Training Department look forward to working with all of you next year.

In closing, on behalf of the entire UA Training Department, I would like to wish all of you a great Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year. ■

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"Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man."

*Benjamin Franklin*

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# Safety Talk

## Weather

From Laurie Shadrick, Health and Safety National Coordinator

### Why talk about the weather?

Actually, we have no control over rain, snow, wind, lightning or sunshine. But we can control what happens on our job as a result of the elements. Some of the biggest problems on construction jobs are caused by wind and lightning. Wind probably causes the most accidents; lightning can be deadly.

### Watch out for wind

Don't let the wind catch you off guard. I'm not just thinking of tornadoes or hurricanes, but of everyday winds and unexpected gusts. Wind just loves to pick up anything it can and sail it away. So when it's windy, securely tie or weight down supplies and materials. It's amazing what a little wind can do. Some gusts can pick up a 4 x 8 sheet of plywood from the top of a high rise building and carry it several blocks. Or blow you off a scaffold.

It seems the higher you go, the stronger the wind. When working on tall buildings, stay away from roof edges, floor openings, and similar drop-offs where the wind could blow you over if possible. Weight down or otherwise secure material or equipment that can be blown down.

### Lightning hurts

Every so often we read about workers being struck by lightning. They usually come out second best.

We all like to keep things moving until we're rained out. But when lightning is around, it's safer to take shelter early. Very often an electrical storm occurs without rain. Or a lightning storm precedes the rain. So if you're working with a crane, on top of steel frame-work, or around other projecting equipment the safest thing to do is to seek shelter when you see lightning.

You'll be reasonably safe from lightning inside the structure, particularly when it's equipped with lightning rods. You'll also be fairly safe in an automobile or truck. But never take shelter under an isolated tree or where you're in contact with a crane

or other equipment. If you get caught out in the open, stay as low as you can. It's much safer to be down in a ditch than on top of the ground.

### Rain can ruin a job

Rain may be good for the farmer but it can play havoc with a construction job. It can turn it into a gigantic mud pie. Water seems to get in everywhere. Rain can ruin building materials and supplies and generally make things down right messy. Steel gets slippery, equipment gets stuck, and we get wet.

By covering equipment, materials, tools, supplies and ourselves, we don't give rain a chance to do as much damage as it could. We can eliminate slipping hazards by sweeping water out of low areas used as passageways inside of buildings under construction.

Common sense usually dictates the right thing to do in any weather situation. ■

## Local 392 Member Promotes Free Medical Screenings

### Free exams by Building Trades program could save your life

"A deadly secret." "A creeping Chernobyl." "A nuclear cemetery." These are just a few of the many references used in place of the plant's actual name: Fernald. The Fernald Plant, also known as the Feed Materials Production Center (FMPC), was a work-site located outside of Cincinnati, Ohio that was involved in the production of nuclear weapons during the Cold War. UA Local 392 member Lou Doll went to work there every morning for 21 years.

His familiarity with the dangers of working around extremely hazardous materials convinced him of the need to get checked regularly to make sure his health hadn't been affected. It has also led him to do what he does now—currently run the Building Trades National Medical Screening Program's (BTMed) outreach office for construction workers who have worked at Fernald, Mound, or GE Evendale.

"If you worked construction on a Department of Energy site, there's no reason not to receive a medical screening...not when everything is free," encourages Lou. "There were definite exposures to asbestos and radioactive materials that take awhile to develop. So these things need monitoring, and that's why it's important to get checked periodically."

The free medical screenings offered at the sites listed below are run by the BTMed program, and most offices are staffed with former construction workers. Enrolling is an easy process consisting of two steps: a work history interview and a medical exam. In step one, a specially trained building trades worker, such as Lou, or a work site expert conducts a work history interview to determine what exposures to hazardous material the former worker may have had and the types of illnesses that could result.

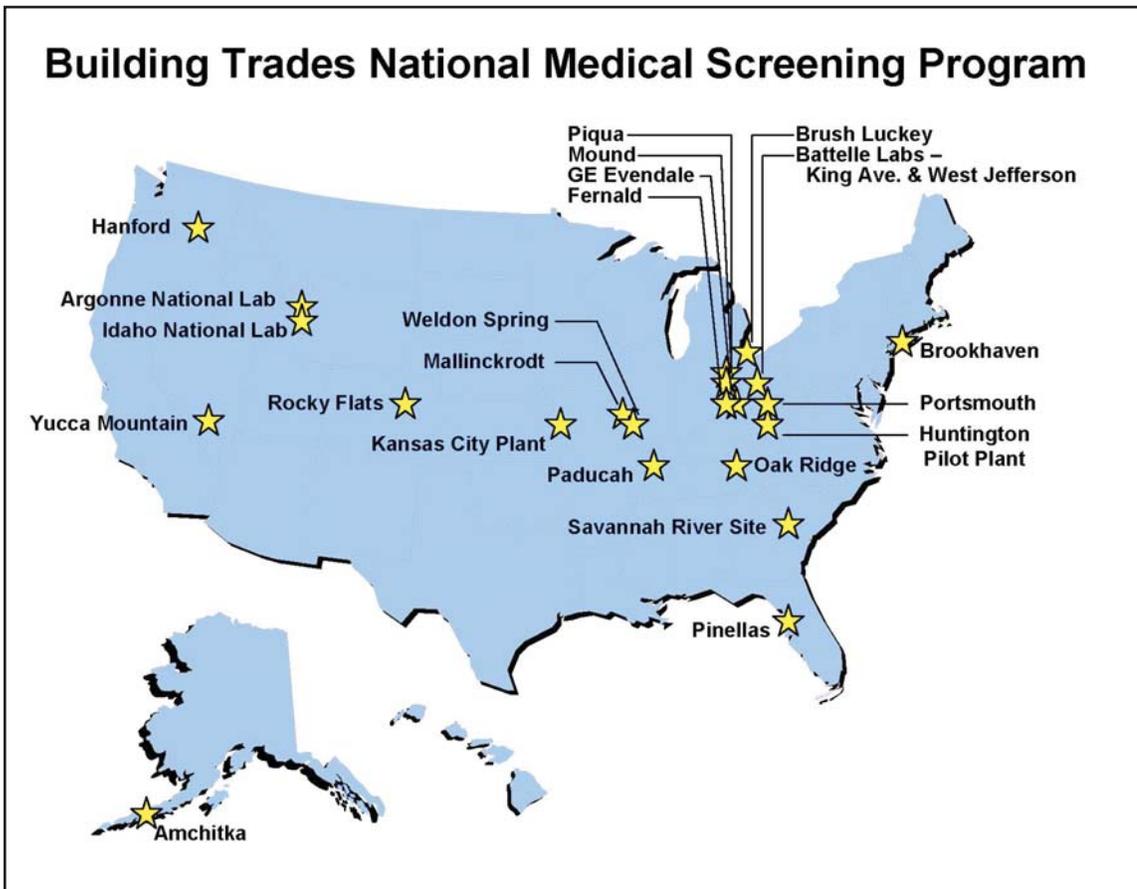
This is the part in which Lou lends his years of first-hand experience.

"I can identify with the guys coming in," explains Lou. "I've worked 36 years in construction, 21 of them at Fernald. I worked with them every day – I'm one of them."

Step two is the medical exam to test for illnesses that may have developed from exposure risks, as well as other health problems. Following the exam, the participant receives a results letter that indicates which findings could be work-related.

"If you have a health problem you don't know about," Lou elaborates, "the program will offer you an opportunity for early detection. Then you'll be able to file a claim and, if approved, all of your related medical bills get covered and have a better opportunity to receive compensation. But it all starts with this program."

Many BTMed participants have discovered illnesses they would not have known were present and then gained access to government-funded benefits to treat those problems relating to their work at DOE sites. The screening program has enabled many workers to file a claim with the U.S. Department of Labor under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA). The EEOICPA offers workers medical



coverage for the illness from the date the claim was filed and a compensation lump-sum payment.

That's a program Lou feels very fortunate he hasn't had to utilize. But after 21 years on a site described as "a nuclear cesspool," he's going to continue to make sure he doesn't.

#### Covered DOE/AEC Sites

- Amchitka
- Argonne West
- Battelle Labs (King Ave & West Jeff)
- Brookhaven
- Brush Luckey
- Fernald
- GE Evendale
- Hanford
- Huntington Pilot Plant
- Idaho National Laboratory (INL)
- Kansas City Plant
- Mallinckrodt
- Mound
- Oak Ridge
- Paducah
- Pinellas
- Piqua
- Portsmouth
- Rocky Flats

- Savannah River Site
- Weldon Spring
- Yucca Mountain

If you have worked at one of the covered DOE/AEC Sites listed above, please contact the Building Trades Medical Screening Program at 1-800-866-9663 or [www.btmed.org](http://www.btmed.org).



Lou Doll sporting a golf award. Lou, who worked at the Fernald Plant, currently runs the BTMed screening program for construction workers who worked on a DOE site.

## Quality Control Council of the United States of America

By Phillip Martin, Technical Administrator of Certification Programs

A partnership between the United Association and the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers could bring union representation to some 70,000 Americans working in the field of nondestructive testing (NDT). Named the Quality Control Council of the United States (QCC/USA), the partnership is a coalition based on the Quality Control Council of Canada which has served the Canadian NDT industry for more than three decades.

The Nondestructive Testing Industry plays a key function within the Construction Industry in North America. The industry is comprised of highly skilled technicians who ensure that building materials, fabrication and joining processes and repairs meet strict industry standards. Specialized means such as radiography (x-ray), ultrasonics, magnetic particle and liquid penetrant inspection are used to evaluate areas that are difficult or impossible to examine using the naked eye. This equipment

allows the technicians to detect such things as internal corrosion or evaluate the integrity of a welded structure.

The objectives of this council are to upgrade the nondestructive testing field through the establishment of training, qualifying procedures and through collective bargaining with the Nondestructive Testing Contractors' Association (NDTCA). Through collective bargaining, the NDTCA and the council will mutually establish and stabilize wages, hours and working conditions in the nondestructive testing industry so the work may proceed in an expedient and economic fashion.

With the QCC/USA, the UA and Boilermakers unions hope to organize technicians and trainees in the field of quality control throughout the U.S. These workers ensure the safety and reliability of everything from river dams to airplanes to piping systems. They conduct tests on materials and parts

that can weaken over time and they work in diverse fields and industries with a variety of state-of-the-art technologies.

A number of NDTCA contractors became signatory to the QCC/USA Nondestructive Testing Agreement when the council was formed in November 2001. The QCC/USA also received a boost from its Canadian counterpart, as many QCC/USA contractors are active in both Canada

and the U.S., or are interested in expanding their work into the U.S. Both unions are now recruiting trained workers in hopes of representing a substantial portion of America's 70,000 NDT technicians. The new council hopes to be as successful as its Canadian counterpart in establishing and stabilizing wages, hours, and working conditions for NDT workers. ■

## 2009 United Association Instructor Training Program

By Sean Cleary, IPP, Region 7 Director  
IAPMO Field Manager

One of the Plumbing and Mechanical Industry's most important yearly events took place on August 8<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> this year. The location was Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The event was the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA) Instructor Training Program. This event brings apprentice and journeyman instructors, training coordinators, industry representatives, labor officials and educators, from both the United States and Canada, together to improve and continue what is widely recognized as the best training program in the building trades.

The UA Instructors Program's beginnings go back to 1954 at Purdue University in Indiana. It was there on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1954 that the tradition began, with less than 200 instructors attending the week-long training sessions. The vision of 1954 UA General President Martin Durkin, has continued through the years, and it is clear that his commitment to training continues with current General President, William Hite. The program has grown from several hundred attendees each year to more than 2,000 attendees in its current form. The United Association's commitment to training is undeniable. The organization spends over 150 million dollars annually on training at its 400 plus training centers in the United States and Canada. With certification programs ranging from Med-Gas Installation to Backflow Prevention Testing, to Industrial Rigging and Orbital Welding, the UA offers its members and contractors the training and skill level they need to be

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**"The United Association's motto is 'We do it right the first time.' When it comes to the UA Instructor Training Program, I think it is safe to say, 'They have done it right every time, for the last 56 years.'"**

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the most productive, safest and quality-driven workforce in the plumbing and mechanical industry.

Graduation from the Instructor Training Program requires a five year commitment. Over the five years, instructors are required to successfully complete a structured schedule of classes which include Professional Classes to improve and refine their basic teaching skills. These classes, taught by the Washtenaw Community College Faculty, include courses in Structures for Learning, PowerPoint for Instructors, Foundations in Teaching and Learning and others which ensure that the apprentice or journeyman instructor is well-versed and comfortable in any classroom situation. The second part of their education is in Applied and Technical Courses. These classes allow the instructor to develop lesson plans and teaching techniques that they can use in the training programs at their local training centers.

After completion of the five year program the learning does not stop. Instructors can return to Ann Arbor to attend post graduate classes in topics which include subjects from Labor History to Foreman Certification, to Green Awareness and Building Information Modeling (BIM) for the Pipe Trades. The United Association, working with Washtenaw Community Col-

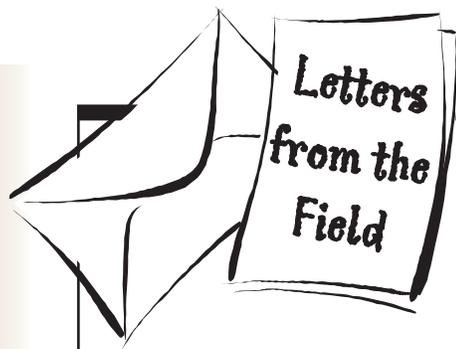
lege (WCC), also provides its members the chance to earn Associate Degrees either at WCC or through online classes. Members willing to continue further can achieve a Bachelors Degree at the George Meany Labor College in Maryland. Each year more and more instructors are receiving these advanced degrees, in addition to their instructor certifications.

It is clear that the UA is committed to providing its membership the training and skills needed to remain competitive in our ever-changing industry. The dedication of the UA Training Staff, from the Director of Training Mike Arndt, down to the receptionist who answers the phone at the National Office in Maryland, is evident even at first glance. These people work year-round to ensure that the UA remains number one in training. At the Instructor Training week, it is clear to both attendees and visitors alike that they have met that goal. The UA motto is "We do it right the first time." When it comes to the UA Instructor Training Program, I think it is safe to say, "They have done it right every time, for the last 56 years"

I am sure that come August of 2010, Ann Arbor, Michigan will again be the location for the most up-to-date, well-run, training program in the plumbing and mechanical industry. I look forward to being there. ●

July - September 2009

Plumbing Standards 13



November 2, 2009

Michael Arndt  
UA Director of Training  
United Association Building  
Three Park Place  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Brother Arndt,

I would like express a special thank you on behalf of the members from Local Union 9, 274, 322, and 373 who completed UA Course Number 353, ASME Section IX Welding Code at Local 322's Training Center on October 30, 2009.

UA Course Instructor Dale Glavin's attention to details to the course materials was incredible. Dale guided us through ASME section IX Course using his well organize course materials with the ease of a symphony conductor. Dale provided the students with an abundance of reference materials from his personal library which he placed on a DVD for everyone. Accompanying Dale with the course work was Jim Sekley, a consultant with Welding Services, who has impeccable welding credentials and provided the class with valuable code interpretations. We were fortunate to have such a high caliber guy like Jim present to share his enormous wealth of welding and code knowledge with us.

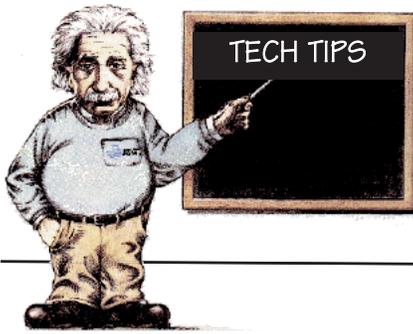
We are grateful to have had the opportunity to take advantage of this United Association's share resource program, especially in times when our education fund contributions are soft.

Thank you UA.

Fraternally yours,

Walter F. Emerle  
Training Coordinator

Local Union 322  
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# Tips for Welding P-91 Heavy Wall Pipe

By Randall Gandy, Journeyman Welder - Local 123

- ☑ Preheat and Inter-pass control is absolutely critical. (400°F to 600°F Range)
- ☑ All contaminants (esp. grease & oil) must be removed from the weld zone.
- ☑ P-91 acts a lot like stainless steel in that it concentrates and holds heat.
- ☑ It's easier to burn-thru the root pass in P-91 than in P-22.
- ☑ Stringers with a slight weave should be used.
- ☑ Bead shape is very important. A little convexity (crown) can prevent hot cracking.
- ☑ P-91 has about 110,000 psi tensile strength (P-22 has about 70,000), so P-91 is brittle.
- ☑ High tensile steels are very sensitive to under bead cracking due to moisture pickup.
- ☑ Post heating can help prevent cracking due to moisture (hydrogen) pickup.
- ☑ Post heat welds to about 700°F for about 15 minutes & wrap for a slow cool down.
- ☑ The most critical places for preheat are at the tack welds and root passes.
- ☑ Spools that have not been stress relieved should be handled with care.
- ☑ Always slow cool by wrapping, even when welding is interrupted.
- ☑ Do not move spools with weld joints less than 1/3 full.
- ☑ Root passes must be purged for at least 1/4" of weld thickness.
- ☑ After purge dams are installed, the purge supply can be placed either in the root opening or in gamma plugs opening when they are installed.

Because P-91 acts a lot like stainless steel, it is very easy to suck back the root pass. A good practice is to put in a heavier root pass to avoid cracking and suck back. When welding with the SMAW process, rod angle and amps are very critical. The rod must be at the proper angle to assure complete fusion to the beveled angles (side walls). Because of heat transfer from the bottom to the top of the weld joint, amps may need to be adjusted starting from the bottom position.

Due to the thermal expansion of heavy wall pipe, it is important to use a 5/32" gap for the root opening and 5/32" filler wire for the root pass and the hot pass. Using 5/32" filler wire will increase productivity as well as protect the root pass. Using the 5/32" root opening should help prevent the opening from closing all the way and allow for the use of the proper size filler wire which will result in a consistent penetrated weld. Because these welds are very costly, it is recommended to have a competent person looking the welder in while the root pass is in progress.

It is also very critical to use the proper size gas lens and lava cone for the root and hot pass. The proper size will depend on the wall thickness and joint design. For example, 37/10 or 37/20 degree bevel and a wall thickness of 1" to 3", a medium 1/8" gas lens with a 3" long #6 lava cone is recommended for the root pass. For the hot pass, a large 1/8" (Jumbo) Gas lens with a #8-10 lava cone is recommended. For larger and longer lava cones, consult your nearest welding supply store. When using the SMAW process the stringer bead placement should not be oscillated more than 2 to 3 rod diameters in width. Amps will be determined by the procedure specifications.

These are only recommendations, always read and understand the procedure specifications that are unique to each job site. ■

# 2009 Apprenticeship Contest Ring Presentation at Plumbers and Gas Fitters Local Union 5

By Eric Packard, UA Training Specialist

I had the pleasure to present an apprenticeship contest ring at Plumbers and Gas Fitters Local Union 5 on December 9th, 2009.

Located north of Potomac River and situated between Virginia and Maryland you will find Local Union 5 with its membership of 1,600 plus plumbers and gas fitters. And as Article One, Section Eight, of the United States Constitution states a "District (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of particular states, and the acceptance of Congress, become the seat of the government of the United States" that is Washington, D. C.

In this city known for its politics, and a metropolitan region of 5.3 million people one of our own

stood out from the rest. Apprentice Jarrad Taylor competed at the UA International Apprenticeship Contest this past August in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Jarrad worked hard to win his local unions contest

and then to win at the state and regional levels too. Jarrad then went on to win the International Apprentice Contest!!

Congratulations go out to Jarrad for his hard work and studies which got him to the winners circle at the International Apprentice Contest. The membership of Local Union 5 showed their support at the ring presentation ceremony for Jarrad for

all of his hard work at the December 9th meeting too. Again, congratulations Jarrad! ■



Pictured from left to right is Business Manager John McKee, Jr., Jarrad Taylor, Training Specialist Eric Packard and Training Director Gary L. Printz, Jr.

## Upcoming 2010 CWI Class Dates and Locations

<u>Class Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
March 27 - April 3, 2010 . . . . .	LU 636, Detroit, MI - <i>Paperwork Deadline: February 4th</i>
April 24 - May 1, 2010 . . . . .	LU 577, Portsmouth, OH - <i>Paperwork Deadline: March 4th</i>
May 15-22, 2010 . . . . .	LU 716, Augusta, ME - <i>Paperwork Deadline: March 25th</i>
July 10-17, 2010 . . . . .	LU 430, Tulsa, OK - <i>Paperwork Deadline: May 19th</i>
July 31 - August 7, 2010 . . . . .	UA GLC, Ann Arbor, MI - <i>Paperwork Deadline: June 9th</i>
October 16-23, 2010 . . . . .	LU 100, Dallas, TX - <i>Paperwork Deadline: August 25th</i>
November 13-20, 2010 . . . . .	LU 447, Sacramento, CA - <i>Paperwork Deadline: September 22nd</i>

# Pam Ellis Retires after 36 Years of Service with the UA and the International Training Fund



We would like to extend our best wishes for a long and healthy retirement to Pam who will be retiring on December 31st.

Pam started her career with the United Association on May 21, 1973.

Over the many years, Pam worked for several UA General Officers and administrations. In 1998, she transferred into the Training Department. Pam's

responsibilities were to coordinate local union grants and to assist management with the International Training Fund's financial obligations.

We wish Pam and her husband (who recently retired) a fun and relaxing time on their beautiful farm in Southern Maryland.

Below are pictures that were taken during an office party in her honor for her 36 years of service. Again congratulations Pam on a well deserved retirement. You will be missed very much! ■





**UA TRAINING DEPARTMENT  
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*Glenda Quade  
Suzanne Ellis-Tiburzi*

**Publishing**

*Noreen Moucheron*

**Certification Department**

*Carrie King, Office Manager  
Kristyn Beavers  
Angie Moltz  
Toni Perry*

**UA Registrar's Office**

*Cathy Merkel, Registrar  
Tracey O'Leary*

**Recruitment**

*Kiva Straser*

**ITF Grants/Accounting**

*Pam Ellis, Office Manager  
Jocelyn Dorsey  
Tammie Parezo  
Rachael Sponseller  
Pat Vallandingham*

**IPTJTC Bookstore**

*Anna Raulerson, Office Manager  
Mike Ficcaglia  
Peggy Jarrett  
Darlene Lee  
David Parmenter*

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on behalf of myself and the UA Training Department, I would like to wish each and everyone of you a joyous holiday season and a very happy new year.

Director of Training

*Mike Arndt*

UA Training Representatives

*Larry Staney  
Anne A. St. Eloi  
Randy Ward*

Administrative Assistants to the Training Director

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*Angie Moltz* *Anne Raulerson*  
*Toni Perry* *Mike Ficcaglia*  
*Cathy Merkel* *Peggy Jarrett*  
*Tracey O'Leary* *Darlene Lee*  
*Kiva Straser* *David Parmenter*  
*Pam Ellis*

