



# Limited Energy - Unlimited Potential

Statewide Limited Energy JATC Newsletter

Edition #6

October 2004

*Training Today's Industry for Tomorrow's Technology*

## Continuing Education

We have scheduled continuing education classes for the next several months for everyone who would like to take the opportunity to use our program to meet the continuing education requirement for the Power Limited Technician License.

### FRIDLEY LOCATION

October 6 & 13, 2004  
October 23, 2004  
October 25 & 26, 2004  
November 1 & 3, 2004  
November 13, 2004  
November 22 & 23, 2004  
December 7 & 14, 2004  
December 11, 2004  
December 15 & 22, 2004

Basic Paging Systems  
Basic Card Access  
Residential Audio/Video  
Computer Fundamentals  
Basic CCTV  
Local Area Networks  
Basic Fire Alarm  
Basic Security Systems  
Residential Audio/Video

### DULUTH LOCATION

October 19 & 21, 2004  
December 4, 2004

Basic Security Systems  
Basic Paging Systems

### ROCHESTER LOCATION

November 16 & 23, 2004  
December 18, 2004

Basic Card Access  
Basic CCTV

Weekday classes will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.. and weekend classes will be from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*You can call us or register on line via our website.*

Remember, if you are employed by a signatory Limited Energy contractor, these classes are free to you. This is true for Union and non-union employees.

If you want to refer anyone else to our website to register for classes, just let them know there will be a \$100 fee if they are not with a signatory Limited Energy contractor. Let us know if there is a subject you would like to see as an 8 hour class!

## Apprenticeship Fee

On July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, the Minnesota Department of Labor invoices all apprenticeship programs \$30 for each and every active apprentice.

This fee needs to be paid by each and every apprentice, payable to the Statewide Limited Energy JATC. We have already paid the Department of Labor on your behalf so they would not cancel your apprenticeship.

Many apprentices have paid their annual fee, but there are still many payments that have yet to be received by our office.

If this is a fee owed by you, please make sure it gets paid right away. The notices that were mailed out stated that fees were due into our office by September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Thanks, Jim

## The Answer Box

*Please keep asking questions. Remember, the question you ask is probably something that someone else is wondering.*



**Question:** I got a letter from the JATC that says I am now a Journeyman Installer and have been released. Do I still need to turn in monthly timecards?

**Answer:** No. If you completed the schooling and on-the-job hours requirements of your apprenticeship, you will be notified that you have achieved Journeyman and are no longer required to submit monthly timecards.

**Question:** Do my school hours count toward continuing education credits for the Power Limited Technician license?

**Answer:** Possibly. If you were in class during the required NEC Code portion of training then your time in class can be applied to continuing education credits. All you need to do is check our website, print out the Request for Credit form, fill it out and fax it in. We will verify the information and send out the Certificate of Completion.

Visit us at <http://www.statewidelea.org>

OPEIU Local 12

## Making a Difference!

Since we started training apprentices in the limited energy industry, it has become painfully clear that the training materials we purchase from the National JATC have not kept pace with the changes in technology.

We are required to purchase much of our materials from this resource to remain an accredited apprenticeship program. Our goal, however; remains the same – to provide our apprentices with quality training.

To help us with this goal, Jim Simpson has been appointed to the National Curriculum Committee. This committee reviews training materials in an effort to update the materials to meet current technology changes. His first meeting with this committee will be in October.

Jim has been very dedicated to up to date training for our apprentices and will carry this dedication with him to the National Curriculum Committee meetings.

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## From Jim's Desk

Apprenticeship training is a responsibility of this entire industry, and is not only done in the classroom.



Our apprenticeship programs require a minimum of 4800 hours of on-the-job training (OJT). That's in addition to classroom time. By sharing knowledge on the job, everyone has opportunity to advance into other areas and become expert in the areas they truly want to develop during their career.

When we stop learning, technology will surely pass us by. Continuing with your education can be done through continuing education classes, online courses, magazine subscriptions, internet, and manufacturer seminars just to name a few. The bottom line is knowledge is power and no one can take knowledge away from you. As this industry continues to advance technologically, the need for you to keep pace with changes will also continue to grow. The more knowledge you have the more successful you can be. We have a lot of non-union competition in our industry. We all need to strive to be better than the competition.

Where do you plan to be in five years?

## Taking the Next Step

Recently one of the JATC instructors and myself took a ten day “train the trainer” course at the NJATC that allows us to teach the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of Cisco CCNA.

The Education Committee has discussed this type of training many times over the past couple of years. The question which is always asked is “*Do we want our technicians to be network administrators?*” The answer is two fold. First and foremost CCNA stands for Cisco Certified Network Associate (not Administrator). The Cisco CCNA certification is spread out over four semesters; each containing 70 hours of curriculum. My response to this question is NO! However; evolving technology revolves around the internet and networks. To stay in the drivers’ seat in this industry we must educate our technicians to competently perform the work on the newest technology available.

The trend in the technology industry over the past two years and for the foreseeable future is networked systems. This does not mean office environment networks only. Every manufacturer is focusing on the integration of multiple systems within a building. It does not matter if these systems are on one very large network or several small stand alone networks. The information from these systems will be traveling over a network. Our focus on networking will be to educate our technicians to become network savvy not network administrators.

How can this training help? Look at the systems currently being installed; then look at the trend of technology changes. Manufacturers are focusing on systems integration. These systems include Fire Alarm, Security, Access Control, Nurse Call, CCTV, Telephone Systems, and Smart Home Technology just to name a few. To install and troubleshoot these systems you must have fundamental knowledge of how the system works and how information flows through the system. The 1<sup>st</sup> semester of the CCNA course teaches the basics of networking. It addresses types of networks, OSI layers and TCP/IP layers as well as how information flows through the network. Decimal, Binary and Hexadecimal numbering systems, IP addressing and subnets, Ping, IPCONFIG, and TRACEROUTE commands, Static IP and Dynamic IP addressing, and what the difference between a router, switch, hub, repeater, and a bridge are just a few examples of what you will learn in this course

I am extremely excited to be able to offer this course to our technicians. If we as an industry take advantage of the opportunities offered through this course it could have a very large impact on who controls this market in the very near future. To be able to install the newest technology you must be network savvy. Taking advantage of this training will help you “*Take the Next Step*”.

Jim Simpson