

## **LABORERS' BEING PROFESSIONAL**

*In recent months we have been getting calls from contractors concerned with some of our members' behavior and not showing professionalism on the job sites. There have been situations on job site which have caused some embarrassments to the Laborers' as a whole. There have been some of our members arguing and gossiping with one another and not doing their jobs correctly or incomplete. Also, not showing up for work and leaving early has been a problem. These are some of the issues that need to be addressed as a whole. We all are Professional Laborers', construction is a profession. Please let's remember that next time when we walk onto the job sites.*

### **Excellence is the Goal**

Excellence is the driving force of professionals. They live to excel at what they do and do it in the best possible way. They put in their maximum efforts in getting the task done without holding back, as they do it for themselves! For them, a job is more than just a means of livelihood it is something that overlaps with their passion.

### **Get Your Basics Right**

To excel, a professional works hard on the basics that are required to do his job well. They never forget their basics and keep polishing as well as updating the basic skills that make them professionals!

### **Take Your Job Seriously**

"Pros" take their jobs seriously, follow disciplined routines and take pride in their work. The seriousness is reflected through their punctuality and sincerity at work. They believe in maintaining the quality of their work. I am not saying a professional must take everything too seriously and not have a laugh. Professionals are the kind of people who enjoy themselves when they want to enjoy and only work when they are working! They do not mix business with pleasure. Nothing comes in the way of their workplace ethics. They know that nothing is owed to them and they must work for what they want.

### **Switch Off Personal Problems**

To be a professional, one must master the art of switching off everything else; including personal problems, when one enters the workplace. This does not mean that you should stop caring but keep those thoughts aside for a while. Worrying about personal problems is not going to solve them nor is it going to help you get your work done! Not focusing on your task will add incomplete work to your problem? In fact, when you have a lot of personal problems, losing yourself in work can be therapeutic.

### **When at the Job Site, Focus on the Work**

Professionals do not waste time at the job site, indulging in things which are unrelated to their work profile. You won't find them complaining, gossiping or engaging in unnecessary arguments. They understand that they are present at the "job sites" to work first and socialize later. I'm not saying you should be cold and uncommunicative, but let there be a balance!

**Be Willing to Learn**

Professionals learn to identify positive constructive criticism from their seniors and learn from it. They take negative criticism in stride and let their work do the talking! For professionals, learning is a continuous process.

**Earn your Salary & your Respect**

First earn your respect from your union brother's, union steward's, superintendent's, forman's. This is one rule a professional follows. They like to earn and justify their salary completely and do not take the easy way out. They do not compromise when it comes to their work.

**Be a Team Player**

Professionals gel in a team and are always willing to adapt according to what the team needs!

*Respectfully yours,*

*Les Williams Jr.*

*Vice-President/ Field Representative*