

PIPEFITTERS' TRAINING FUND, LOCAL UNION 597

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January 27, 2020

Dear 597 Signatory Contractors,

As you may be aware, we have approximately 55 apprentices out of work. This is due in part to a one-time transition from the current weekly apprentice training program to a new full-time block training paradigm. We incorporated a group of roughly 40 hybrid weld apprentices from the old program into the new system in January of 2020 which has added to the current number of unemployed apprentices.

Typically, we have absorbed similar amounts of hybrid apprentices into the 597 job market prior to starting the new class of 100-200 building trades apprentices that are requested each summer. We are eliminating this large June apprentice class in favor of four smaller classes per year moving forward.

The result is that 25 - 50 apprentices are available for work each quarter rather than the traditional 100-200 being available each summer. We are attempting to front load the new system so that we do not experience a shortage of apprentices in the summer of 2020. Projections for apprentice availability are as follows:

currently available	24 new hybrids + 30 apprentices laid off	
March 23, 2020	24 new apprentices available	(now training)
May 11, 2020	8 new hybrids available	(now training)
June 22, 2020	up to 24 new apprentices pending requests	(training starts April 6)
August 10, 2020	up to 24 new hybrids pending requests	(training starts March 2)
September 28, 2020	up to 24 new apprentices pending requests	(training starts July 6)
November 9, 2020	up to 24 new hybrids pending requests	(training starts May 25)
December 20, 2020	up to 24 new apprentices pending requests	(training starts October 5)

This new system will allow us greater flexibility to regulate the number of building trade apprentices ready for dispatch each quarter, but the downside is that it requires between 4 - 6 months to process and complete the pre-apprentice orientation and hybrid training.

It is essential that you communicate your upcoming spring, summer and fall employment requests so that we can have apprentices available for employment. Maintaining compliance with the 5:1 apprentice ratio is vital, especially during this initial transition period.

We are asking that anyone not in compliance please request an apprentice from those currently available. Those in compliance are encouraged to request apprentice (s) from the availability dates listed for 2020. Dispatch dates can be reserved at <https://forms.gle/uPsKVF1GhqFic1Et8> or with the request form enclosed.

Please contact Kevin Lakomiak @ klakomiak@pftf597.org for all apprentice requests or 219 648-2430 if you have any questions. Thanking you in advance for your anticipated cooperation.

Best Regards,



Monte Kimes
Training Director
Local Union 597

Ap•pren•tice – noun,

1. A helper of a professional; a worker in training.