



Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2015, NCCCO documents its program of work for the year.

A year of recognition



2015 was a busy year for NCCCO as it celebrated its 20th Anniversary and took the opportunity to recognize those who had taken a leadership role in its formation and development. Here we document the most notable events of NCCCO's 20th anniversary year.

New program development

On the program development side, work continued on the development of a Pile Driving Rig operator certification in conjunction with the Pile Driving Contractors Association. Launch is on track for first quarter 2016.

NCCCO was also excited to enter into a partnership agreement with the National Wireless Safety Alliance for the development of two certification programs for telecommunications tower climbers to be known as Telecommunications Tower Technician I and II. Work began in earnest in the fall with an expected introduction date of summer 2016.

NCCCO's established programs also saw development with the launch in mid-year of the first exams in Spanish. Reaction to the translated Mobile Crane Operator program has been positive, and generated requests for similar treatment for other programs, notably rigger, signalperson and

Highlight of NCCCO's Timeline Panel at the Recognition Gala was its recognition of its "founding fathers": the first Board of Directors.

articulating crane operator.

Certification programs need near-constant review and adjustment and, to that end, all CCO Mobile Crane and Signalperson exams were revised during the year to ensure they were in compliance with the latest revision to the ASME national standard, B30.5-2014.

Program news

In certification circles, the rate at which candidates recertify is used as a barometer of the health of a program. Given the extraordinary recertification rate that CCO programs enjoyed during the year, there's every reason to be confident in their longevity. Most programs set new records for certificant retention, notably NCCCO's mobile crane program. And the rate at which certified articulating crane operators took advantage of their first opportunity to recertify since the program's launch in 2010 was unprecedented.

Many of these recertification candidates opt for computer-based testing so, not surprisingly, CBT also set a new record during the year. While CBT candidates use an online calculator for certain questions on CCO exams, those who choose the traditional paper-and-pencil method are provided a calculator free of charge. Thanks to the sponsorship by Manitowoc Cranes during the year, candidates were also allowed to keep the calculators at the end of the test.

Crane Inspectors heeded the call to step



Earl Johnson, Jr.
Carolina Crane Corporation
President

George M. Bragg
Bragg Crane Service
Vice President

William B. Heron
Duncan Machinery Movers
Secretary/Treasurer

Don E. Dickie
Construction Safety Association
of Ontario

Frank Hanley
International Union of
Operating Engineers

Carson L. Huneycutt
J.A. Jones Construction

Leon "Skip" Johnson
American Equipment Co.

up and have their skills and knowledge recognized through CCO certification, a trend that saw NCCCO's Online Crane Inspector Directory more than double in size. Almost 70 CCO-certified crane inspectors in 22 states, many of whom work nationwide, are now available to conduct third-party inspections on mobile, tower and overhead cranes located anywhere in the country.

Audit/ethics and discipline

There was good and bad news within

NCCCO's ethics and discipline program, which saw an increase in substance abuse cases but a decrease in fraud. NCCCO's online verification system VCO Online – which recorded a surge in registered users to an all-time high of almost 6,000 – is considered to have played a large part in the latter. Practical exam audits continued a pace set last year, while NCCCO's Board of Directors approved the development of a mentoring program for Probationary Examiners.

Employer/Certificant outreach

NCCCO's popular Employer Recognition Program welcomed an additional 15 employers, bringing the total number of registered participants to 70. Known as *Committed to Crane Safety*, the program is designed to recognize those employers who have taken a leadership role in addressing risk management on their sites by employing CCO-certified personnel.

Equally deserving of recognition, of course, are those who have earned the distinction of becoming CCO-certified.

The NCCCO program that has been designed to do that – the Star Recertificant Recognition Program – added a level during the year with the launch of the 4-Star program in response to the first mobile crane operators to be recertified for a fourth time. 4-Star operators have been continuously certified since 1996, the year CCO mobile crane operator certification was launched, a remarkable achievement that NCCCO is proud to honor.



Accreditation/internal audits

On the accreditation front, NCCCO secured accreditation for its Lift Director and Service Truck Crane certifications, picking up a commendation (for candidate outreach via its practical exam videos) in the process, NCCCO's seventh commendation from ANSI assessors since 2007.



Strategic partnerships

Among the industry partnerships that NCCCO has enjoyed for some time, two were renewed: The United Association for Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA) extended its agreement with NCCCO for the third time ensuring it continues to provide CCO signalperson certification to its membership; and the Washington State Department for Labor and Industries renewed its contract with NCCCO for the development and maintenance of written exams for the state's crane certifier program.

Acquisition of IAI's operations

In an effort to establish greater cohesiveness and business efficiencies, NCCCO acquired the operations of its long-time provider of test services, International Assessment Institute (IAI) in mid-year. The integration of CCO candidate processing into NCCCO's operations is designed to create a greater cohesiveness that will result in internal efficiencies and enhanced

service to NCCCO's thousands of industry stakeholders. Within the context of NCCCO's 20th Anniversary, this acquisition marks an exciting new chapter in the organization's further evolution as the leading industry provider of safety related credentialing services.

Information central

2015 also saw NCCCO mark the launch of its Safety Information, Research and Education Network (SIREN) with the NCCCO Industry



BY THE NUMBERS

- Years since NCCCO was founded **20**
- Years NCCCO has been accredited **17**
- Years NCCCO has been officially recognized by Federal OSHA **16**
- National organizations recognizing CCO certification **22**
- States requiring crane operators to be licensed **17**
- States requiring or recognizing CCO certification **13**
- Candidates taking CCO written exams **220,000**
- Candidates taking CCO practical exams **190,000**
- Candidates taking CCO recertification exams **55,000**
- Written test administrations conducted **17,500**
- Practical test sites approved for testing (current) **4,700 (2,100)**
- Cranes approved for practical testing **13,000**
- Written and practical tests administered **940,000**
- Certifications issued (currently held) **305,000 (250,000)**
- CCO-certified (current) **115,000 (88,500)**

Forum on Personnel Qualifications, a first for NCCCO and the industry, and which featured guest speakers from federal government as well as subject matter experts. Two webinars addressing, respectively, Lift Director Responsibilities and How to Host CCO Written Exams were conducted, and updated and improved Candidate Practical Exam Videos released. SIREN is designed as the new home of NCCCO's public information outreach, and it will play an active role in the development and publication of new media products in 2016.

Also on the education front, NCCCO was once again appointed to the CONEXPO Education Committee, to help develop an internationally recognized line-up of crane and rigging experts for the 2017 event.

State and federal regulation

After months of protests from industry, OSHA announced it was removing capacity from its operator certification requirements, a move that the Coalition for Crane Operator Safety (CCOS), of which NCCCO is a founding member, had strongly advocated.



The New York City Department of Buildings announced it had approved CCO Rigger and Signalperson certification. Members of a rigging crew who possess valid CCO Rigger Level I and Signalperson certifications fulfill the requirements

of Section 3316.9.2 of the New York City Building Code, as do individuals

supervising rigging work in the City with valid CCO Rigger Level II and Signalperson certifications.



Events

NCCCO took its safety message to conferences and exhibitions far and wide during the year including:

- Lift & Move USA, a co-production with SC&RA and KHL designed to attract youth to the crane and rigging industries
- National Safety Council Annual Congress, at which NCCCO shared "lessons learned" during 20 years of credentialing

- World of Concrete, where live demonstrations were a major feature
- IFCEE, the flagship event for the foundations industry and a first for NCCCO as its Pile Driving Rig Operator program nears completion
- ICUEE, where NCCCO once again reprised its Lift Safety Zone
- AGC-CA Fall Conference at which NCCCO was proud to be a Gold Sponsor well as an exhibitor.

International outreach

NCCCO participated in international events during the year such as:



- CONEXPO Latin America in Santiago, Chile where it held a Crane and Rigging Safety Conference featuring industry experts on a wide range of safety topics
- World Crane & Transport Summit in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, which NCCCO has sponsored every year since inception
- ISO TC 96 SC 8 international committee annual meeting in Sydney, Australia as the secretariat for the SC 8 committee

20TH Anniversary recognition gala

NCCCO's Recognition Gala was the high point of its year-long 20th Anniversary events and provided an opportunity for crane industry experts from across the country to be recognized for their contributions to crane safety by helping to shape the nation's first-ever professionally developed crane operator certification



NCCCO's 20th Anniversary Recognition Program is generously sponsored by:



program more than two decades ago.

The event was conceived as a way of honoring those who had helped establish CCO certification as a primary means of mitigating risk in the industry and, as a result, to help save lives and reduce injury.

Among the groups of volunteers honored during the evening for their leadership roles were NCCCO's Charter Board of Directors and Commissioners, past Presidents, former and current Committee Chairs, and past and current Board members and Commissioners.

Also recognized were representatives from several industry associations and organizations that had forged industry partnerships with NCCCO over the years. NCCCO's Anniversary Video was premiered at the Gala to a very responsive audience. The video, which documents the emergence of the nation's first professionally developed and nationally recognized operator certification program, highlights key features of CCO certification through interviews with NCCCO volunteers and industry leaders.

■ For more information on NCCCO's 20th Anniversary Program, please visit www.nccco.org/20Years.

