Resolution No. 32
RESOLUTION ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE EDUCATION
Presented by the General Executive Board

WHEREAS, every four minutes someone in the U.S. dies from alcohol or drug addiction; and

WHEREAS, 20 million Americans are suffering with addictions and 23 million Americans are in recovery, affecting 1 in 3 American households; and

WHEREAS, alcohol and substance misuse in the construction and extraction industries are estimated to be two times the national average; and

WHEREAS, mental health issues, addiction and suicide are not typical conversations on construction sites and that the stigma associated with these issues can prevent co-workers from seeking help, resulting in suffering in silence and shame, or worse; and

WHEREAS, starting these conversations may be intimidating; having such conversations can help workers cope with these issues on the job site and at home; and

WHEREAS, initiating a peer to peer education program on substance abuse issues is proven effective means for training workers to help communicate with each other and their family members in methods to address these problems; and

WHEREAS, there are many unscrupulous addiction treatment centers that, at great financial cost, fail to provide the support workers and their families need to successfully recover.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the IUOE is committed to raising addiction awareness with journey persons, apprentices and union leadership. And that the IUOE is committed to developing curriculum for use at the local union level to help prevent lifestyle addiction and suicide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IUOE encourages its local unions to form partnerships with reputable third party advocates such as Facing Addiction and Labor Assistant Professionals (LAP) to assist locals in educating members about addiction.