

## CHIEF OF STAFF REPORT



**Rick Halford**

If you are that person of ethical character, the benefits will go further in life than the job site; it will be instilled in your children, grandchildren and your great grandchildren.

**S**ome people say ethics and morals are one and the same, and I agreed, until I started educating myself. I now see where the experts break it apart, and I want to share with you what I found:

"The difference between ethics and morals can seem somewhat arbitrary to many, but there is a basic, albeit subtle, difference. Morals define personal character, while ethics stress a social system in which those morals are applied. In other words, ethics point to standards or codes of behavior expected by the group to which the individual belongs. This could be national ethics, social ethics, company ethics, professional ethics, or even family ethics. So while a person's moral code is usually unchanging, the ethics he or she practices can be other-dependent."

So, are ethics taught or learned? By and large, most of our ethical beliefs are learned from both parents and society in itself, and this is my belief. Some people believe different, that you are born with a conscience and know the different between right and wrong.

When you get ready for work each morning and look in the mirror, ask yourself these questions:

- Are you going to be there on time, ready to go to work at the start of shift, or are you the one who comes in 5 minutes later, just because 5 minutes does not make a difference to you?
- Are you a positive or negative person?
- Do you give your employer 8-hours' work for 8-hours' pay?
- Do you maintain your personal integrity, professional conduct and appearance?
- Do you strive to be productive, efficient and provide craftsmanship at the highest quality?
- Do you respect the equipment, property and abide by all rules of the customer/owner while on the jobsite?

- Do you treat people as you would want to be treated: With respect!

This demonstration of fine ethical character will catch on to others. People notice your actions. People follow someone with ethical character, which in turn makes you a leader.

Ask yourself (and be honest), would you follow an ethical person or the one who just gets by?

If you are that person of ethical character, the benefits will go further in life than the job site; it will be instilled in your children, grandchildren and your great grandchildren.

I ask each and every one of you to really look at your actions on the job site. Then, see who doesn't reflect great ethical behavior, because that person may make this the last time you, your brothers or sisters, your local, and the Union as a whole are on that site.

Until next time, everyone be safe, be productive, and produce quality work. It's the ethical thing to do.

