



NEWS RELEASE

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BCANJ HONORS BUILDING TRADES LABOR PARTNERS AT GALA DINNER

Edison, NJ – More than three hundred members and guests turned out as the Building Contractors Association of New Jersey (BCANJ) honored its labor partners in the General Construction Trades at its Annual Gala Dinner on October 27, 2011, at The Palace at Somerset Park in Somerset.

Recognized for their cooperation in working toward change in these challenging economic times were the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers ADC Locals 2, 4 & 5, the Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters, the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers, the Laborers International Union of North America and the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local #825.

BCANJ Chief Executive Officer Jack Kocsis spoke of the “positive, progressive dialogue” between labor and management during the past 18 months, discussions that resulted in “wage and benefit freezes, annuity shifts, elimination of costly provisions, and contract concessions to go after endangered work. Together, we did what we had to do, changed what we had to change. We still have tough decisions to make, but we’re very proud to have the building trades with us, not only here tonight but on the road ahead.”

Beginning in May 2010, after three years of downturn in construction starts, several of the general building trades agreed to a freeze in wage and benefits packages in an effort to lower labor costs, stimulate the construction industry and create work opportunities for New Jersey contractors and construction workers. Other concessions followed, including a shift in annuity benefits to prop up the ailing benefit funds and market recovery agreements that positioned contractors more favorably in diverse construction market segments.

About BCANJ

Established in 1937, Edison-based Building Contractors Association of New Jersey (BCANJ) is made up of some 225 active and associate members who are engaged in commercial, institutional and industrial construction. BCANJ works to unify the construction industry in terms of labor relations, improved business methods and standards, high safety standards, and overall project efficiency and productivity. Through an exchange of services and information, BCANJ members are made aware of issues that directly impact the construction industry in New Jersey.

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PHOTO CAPTION:

Building Contractors Association of New Jersey recently honored its partners in the General Building Trades for their cooperation in working toward change in these challenging economic times. Pictured here at the recognition dinner on October 27, 2011, at The Palace at Somerset Park, Somerset, NJ, from left: BCANJ President Robert Polisano of Network Construction Co., Inc., Pleasantville, NJ; Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters Executive Secretary-Treasurer Michael Capelli; LIUNA Vice President and Eastern Regional Manager Raymond Pocino; Bricklayers’ Administrative District Council Director Richard Tolson; Operating Engineers, Local #825 Business Manager Greg Lalevee; and BCANJ CEO Jack Kocsis.