

**Building
Contractors
Association
of New Jersey**

MONTHLY UPDATE

January 2011

Bulletins & Attachments

Members can access all BCANJ bulletins and attachments on the “Members Only” section of our website: www.bcanj.com.

Coffee Talk Series

The next Coffee Talk in our series is scheduled for February 23, 2011, 9:30 to 11 a.m., at the Association office in Edison. Featured are New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Hal Wirths and Chief of Staff Matt McDermott, who will provide an overview of the Department’s functions as well as address such topics as Contractor Registration, Unemployment Insurance and Enforcement of Prevailing Wage Laws. There is no charge to attend the program, but pre-registration is required by February 15, 2011. Access the registration form on the “Members Only” section of www.bcanj.com and fax it to 732.225.3105 or e-mail company name and attendee information to akopin@bcanj.com.

Annual Meeting Minutes

With Bulletin #8-11, we distributed the minutes from the December 14, 2010, Annual Membership Meeting at PNC Bank Arts Center. The bulletin is posted on the “Members Only” page at www.bcanj.com.

Robert Polisano
President

James Prisco Jr.
Vice President

Eric Jensen
Secretary

Robert Gamba
Treasurer

Jack Kocsis Jr.
Chief Executive Officer

Darlene Regina
Executive Director

Construction Forecast Study

In Bulletin #4-11, we reviewed our goals for the New Jersey Construction Industry Forecast Activity Study being conducted by Jeff Otteau of the Otteau Valuation Group, who spoke at our December 2010 Membership Meeting. Through the study, we anticipate determining markets and price points in which our members might find opportunity as we emerge from the recession.

March Membership Meeting

As we announced in Bulletin #10-11, BCANJ has scheduled the next Membership Meeting for ***Tuesday, March 29, 2011, 5:30 p.m., at the Doubletree Hotel, Tinton Falls-Eatontown, NJ.*** The meeting will be held jointly with BCA of South Jersey, BCA of Atlantic County and Floor Covering Institute of New Jersey members.

We will bring you up-to-date on tools that may ultimately help union contractors compete in restricted and competitive markets, and address other timely construction-related issues. Associate Members from the affiliated organizations are invited to participate in table top displays, and all members are encouraged to show their support by visiting the displays during the cocktail hour.

BCANJ Awarded LEED Exam Reimbursement Grant

In Bulletin #9-11, we announced BCANJ was successful in its application for Grant Funding from

New Jersey's State Employment and Training Commission, in the amount of \$24,450. This reimbursable grant provides financial support to our members' employees and to those students who completed our Student Summer Work Program but are currently unemployed. The grant covers application and exam fees and materials costs directly related to LEED Green Associate, AP+ and Specialty exams. For details on how to apply for reimbursement, access the bulletin on our website or contact the Association office.

Walmart Meets With NJ Contractors

Hosted by the New Jersey Carpenter Contractor Trust, representatives from Walmart Corp. met with more than 60 New Jersey contractors, most of whom are members of BCANJ, in a successful two-day training session as part of Walmart's contractor pre-qualification requirements. Usually contractors are required to travel to Walmart headquarters in Bentonville, AR, for the training, but because the company is eager to qualify a large number of contractors for upcoming new construction and renovation projects in New Jersey, Walmart broke with tradition and sent representatives to conduct training here at the Association offices.

NJ Special School Referenda Results

Via Bulletin #13-11, we distributed the results of the New Jersey School Construction Referenda on Tuesday,

January 25, 2011. Access this information on the "Members Only" section of the BCANJ website, www.bcanj.com.

Lead Renovator Training

Per Bulletin #12-11, we told you about New Jersey's Community Colleges' new role as accredited training providers to help New Jersey contractors meet the federal and state requirements renovation, repair and painting projects that may disturb lead-based paint in pre-1978 homes, child-care facilities and multi-family dwellings. The Department of Community Affairs is subsidizing the training through the state's community colleges to reduce the training costs for contractors and their employees.

AGC/A Releases 2011 Business Outlook

In Bulletin #11-11, we reported the results of AGC of America's 2011 Business & Hiring Outlook, based on AGC's survey of 1,300 contractor members. For details, access the results at www.bcanj.com via the "Members Only" section.

AGC/A Discount Programs

Via Bulletin #7-11, we distributed a flyer of programs through which our members can receive a discount because of their membership in AGC of America. The discounts cover a variety of vehicle and business programs, such as rental cars and express shipping.

2010 Bulletin Summary

With Bulletin #2-11, we sent all members a 2010 Bulletin Summary. Members can download and read the summary and all bulletins from 2009 to the present on our website.

Government Affairs Report...

For information on key legislative and governmental issues, please refer to the enclosed report.

Safety News

OSHA Crane Qualification Courses

We distributed registration forms this month announcing two programs sponsored jointly by BCANJ and AGC of NJ. The first is the Qualified Signal Person Course scheduled for March 8, 2011, and the second is the Qualified Rigger Course scheduled for March 15, 2011. Both courses will be held at the Association offices in Edison. For a copy of the registration form, please visit www.bcanj.com or call the Association office at 732.225.2265.

AGC of America Safety Awards

We distributed to our members the call-for-entries for the National AGC 2010 Safety Awards via Bulletin #3-11. The deadline for submissions was January 28, 2011, and AGC/A will send member awards to BCANJ at a later date.

Green Job Hazards Website

OSHA has launched web pages specific to information about potential hazards in the emerging green jobs field. The jobs are categorized by

green sector – Wind Energy, Solar, Geo-Thermal Energy, Weather Insulating/Sealing and more. Visit the website at www.osha.gov/dep/greenjobs.

OSHA Drops Noise Standards Proposal

A day after President Obama told federal agencies to work on eliminating rules that place “unreasonable burden” on businesses, OSHA dropped its plans to change workplace noise standards. Numerous business groups and legislators had complained about the cost to business of the proposed change, which would have required employers to implement engineering remedies rather than provide protective equipment unless the cost of the fixes would put the company out of business.

Labor News

Construction Mass Layoffs Rise

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported construction mass layoffs nationally rose dramatically month-to-month in the last quarter of 2010, measuring 89 in September, 175 in October and 325 in November. BLS also reported 26,767 construction workers filed initial unemployment claims in November, an increase of 13,500 over October and more than 20,000 over September’s 6,137 initial claims.

Materials Costs Rise

Analyzing the December 2010 producer price index, AGC of America reported this month that nearly every

construction material rose in price while bid prices for new buildings remained flat. AGC/A anticipates the situation will worsen in 2011 as construction material demand grows around the world but construction services demand shrinks in the US. Over 2010, prices rose at a double-digit pace for diesel fuel (28%), steel mill products (12.5%), copper and brass mill shapes (12%) and aluminum mill shapes (12%).

Associate Member

We are pleased to include information from the following member:

Montecalvo Disposal Services

Keasbey, NJ

February Holiday

Monday, February 21, 2011 - Presidents’ Day: a holiday for the general construction trades. Please refer to the Contract Summary in your Labor Information Binder for provisions regarding holidays.

Save the Date

June 27, 2011 will mark BCANJ’s Annual Golf Tournament and Dinner at Eagle Oaks Golf Club, Farmingdale, NJ. Details will be distributed shortly. We urge you to return your registration form as soon as possible to reserve your spot as this event is on a first-come, first-served basis, with limited availability.