

**Building
Contractors
Association
of New Jersey**

MONTHLY UPDATE

November 2009

Labor Binder Update

So as to ensure your labor binder contains the most updated information, please make certain you received and replaced the following:

- B-#92-09 NJ Regional Council of Carpenters
 Wages & Fringe Benefits
 Effective 11/1/09 - 4/30/10

- B-#93-09 Flooring Carpenters
 Local Nos. 2212 & 29
 Wages & Fringe Benefits
 Effective 11/1/09 - 4/30/10

- B-#94-09 Dockbuilders, Local No. 1456
 Wages & Fringe Benefits
 Effective 11/1/09 - 4/30/10

- B-#96-09 Fringe Benefit Fund Trustees &
 Administrators Directory

Carpenters' Blended Rate Program

On Thursday, November 19, 2009, the New Jersey Regional Council of Carpenters hosted a meeting with BCANJ and DISCA members where they discussed their "Blended Rate Program." Carpenters Executive Secretary/Treasurer Michael Capelli explained the blended rate would be used for the purpose of expanding and preserving market share in New Jersey and achieved by commingling carpenters of different rates to achieve the blended rate established for that particular job. He discussed the types of projects where the blended rate could apply and reviewed the procedures for moving forward with this program. Ample time was allowed for questions and answers on not only this program but other issues of concern to contractors.

Special Labor Agreement

BCANJ and other management associations have met with the Building Trades to address reducing labor costs. The last meeting with the Building Trades was held on October 15, 2009, at which time the trades agreed to work at creating a Labor Agreement for private work that would reduce labor costs by 15%. Unfortunately, as of this date Labor has not reached consensus on how this can be accomplished. BCANJ plans to move forward with the general construction trades if an industry-wide agreement cannot be attained.

SDA & BCANJ Host Contractors' Fair

In an effort to help Small, Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (SMWBEs) position themselves for work on school construction projects, the NJ Schools Development Authority and BCANJ hosted a very successful Contractors' Fair on October 30, 2009. The event provided information on the SDA's procurement process and upcoming projects, and offered SMWBEs the opportunity to network with prime contractors and officials from contracting state agencies.

NJ EDA Presentation

On November 9, 2009, BCANJ held a program where Caren Franzini, CEO of the NJ Economic Development Authority, reviewed the various business incentive programs New Jersey is offering. Her presentation was very informative and is

available on a PowerPoint presentation. Please contact the Association office at 732.225.2265 if you would like a copy.

Final Reminder: BCANJ & AGC of NJ Annual Meeting

The final membership meeting of the year, held jointly by BCANJ and AGC of NJ, will be on Tuesday, December 15, 2009, at the Robert Meyner Reception Center at the PNC Bank Arts Center. Stephen Sandherr, CEO of Associated General Contractors of America, will be our guest speaker for the evening and will address how the new Stimulus Act will affect our industry, both nationally and locally. For reservations, please refer to Bulletin #98-09 on the "Members Only" section of our website, www.bcanj.com, or contact the Association office at 732.225.2265.

NJ Alliance for Action 2009 Construction Forecast Seminar

As we reported in Bulletin #97-09, the New Jersey Alliance for Action forecast a surprisingly optimistic total at its annual Construction Forecast Seminar in November: \$36.2 billion in public and private construction in New Jersey over the next two years, only slightly revised downward from 2008's projection of \$36.8 billion. The major construction plans from public agencies for 2010 and 2011 are primarily for transportation infrastructure projects and improvements, while private-sector plans

come from utilities, pharmaceuticals and medical technology firms. For a complete report of the findings presented at the seminar, access the bulletin on the "Members Only" section of our website, www.bcanj.com, or visit www.allianceforaction.com.

George Laufenberg Elected to Benefits Group

George Laufenberg, Administrative Manager of the New Jersey Carpenters Funds and Chairman of the New Jersey Alliance for Action, was recently elected Secretary of the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans. The foundation is a nonprofit organization that serves as a leading objective and independent global source of employee benefits, compensation and financial literacy education and information.

BCA of Atlantic County Meeting

Members are invited to join BCA of Atlantic County for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and dinner at the annual meeting on Thursday, December 17, 2009, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Linwood Country Club, Linwood, NJ. For reservations, please call BCANJ at 732.225.2265.

NJBIA's New Good Neighbor 2010 Awards

The Annual New Good Neighbor Awards competition, sponsored by the New Jersey Business & Industry Association,

recognizes organizations that have worked to bring about an improved business climate in New Jersey by building or renovating a commercial facility. All nominations must be received by the NJBIA no later than February 1, 2010. *A nomination form, along with full details of the competition, has been enclosed with this mailing.*

AGC/A Annual Convention

The Associated General Contractors of America will host its 91st Annual Convention and Constructor Expo in Orlando, March 17-20, 2010. The three-day event will focus on survival in this tough economy, and will offer participants an opportunity to help a newly disabled veteran in the Orlando area. For details and to register for the convention, visit www.agc.org.

2010 Dues Invoices

We recently issued dues invoices for 2010. In our letter, we encouraged you to review the one-page summary of membership services and use BCANJ to its fullest potential. We look forward to your financial support in the coming year and assure you BCANJ is prepared to effectively represent the interests of the construction industry.

Government Affairs Report... Election Results

In Bulletin #95-09, we provided a recap of the results of the November 3rd elections, in which NJ Attorney General Chris Christie defeated incumbent Gov.

Jon Corzine by a four-point margin. The recap will also appear in the next issue of *BUILDING CONTRACTOR* Magazine, scheduled for distribution in December. You can access the bulletin on the "Members Only" section of our website, www.bcanj.com.

Leadership Changes

In Bulletin #99-09, we detailed the leadership changes that occurred in the New Jersey Legislature on November 23, 2009. Senator Stephen Sweeney was elected by fellow Senate Democrats to become the next Senate President, succeeding current Senate President Richard Codey, while Assemblywoman Sheila Oliver will take over as Speaker of the Assembly from Speaker Joseph Roberts. The new leaders will be officially confirmed when the 214th NJ Legislature convenes on January 12, 2010, followed a week later by the inauguration of Governor-Elect Chris Christie on January 19, 2010.

National Labor News...

Healthcare Bill Amendment

As we posted on the Hot Topics page on our website, www.bcanj.com, a consortium of union contractors pushed for a construction-specific amendment in the Senate version of the national healthcare bill that allows only construction companies with less than six employees and payrolls totaling \$250,000 or less to take advantage of a compliance-relief proposal for small businesses. As written, the proposed

Senate bill would require all employers with 50 or more employees to provide healthcare coverage for their workers, or pay penalties. However, the union contractors group claims non-union contractors could fall into the small-business, less-than-50 workers category, and be exempt from providing coverage, gaining a competitive advantage.

Immigration Reform Update

Two November forums, one hosted by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the other by two Republican lawmakers, pushed for immigration reform. Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-Ill.), chair of the CHC, told thousands of teleconference participants he plans to introduce a comprehensive reform bill in December that includes a path to citizenship and increased protections for workers. Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Texas) and Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa), speakers at a November 19th forum, called for more enforcement targeting undocumented workers, saying such action could help open jobs for unemployed US workers.

Safety News...

For information on key safety issues, please refer to the enclosed report.

Christmas Day

New Year's Day Holidays

Christmas Day, on Friday, December 25, 2009, and New Year's Day, on Friday, January 1, 2010, are holidays and will be observed by the general construction trades on those days.