

**Ohio Construction Coalition “News Fax-Blaster”
January 2005**

To: All OCC Partners

As the Ohio Construction Coalition looks forward to making a substantial difference in the state’s construction industry into this New Year and well beyond, it will continue to work on improving and opening vital lines of communication with its partner contractors, associations and local unions. The OCC also continues to work to develop a plan for it to partner with the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council so that a more concentrated effort can be made to affect positive change in the industry. So as part of these expanding missions and goals, the OCC will be sending out a “News Fax-Blaster” at the beginning of each month, beginning with this introductory issue, to help keep all of our partners informed and involved. Please submit information for and questions about News Fax-Blasters to Calvin Jefferson at BMA Media Group, the OCC’s communications firm, at cjefferson@bmamedia.com or 1-888-445-8255.

OCC keeping up fight for Prevailing Wage

While the Ohio State Legislature was unable to put together a Capital Budget by the end of 2004 that included the abolition of Prevailing Wage on public projects, there will most certainly be much discussion on such a budget bill when the General Assembly reconvenes this month. The OCC has been waging a letter-writing and informational campaign for the past year to deflect lawmakers’ desires to do away with Prevailing Wage, and we have continued to monitor the situation and make every effort to have our position more deeply considered in Columbus. Most recently, the OCC has made its utter dismay that local press coverage has not included the union side of the issue (a December article in the Plain Dealer included only the slanted and incorrect comments of a non-union lobbyist) be known – and we are in direct contact with the state’s mainstream media to ensure when the issue comes up again in the near future, our side of the matter is heard loud and clear. We are armed with the information and studies to keep up the fight to preserve Prevailing Wage – and as Ohio’s only legal, statewide, multi-craft labor-management coalition, the OCC needs all of our contractors, associations and local unions to make their voices heard in Columbus on the need for Prevailing Wage.

OCC has School Facilities Commission in its sights

The OCC is preparing a plan of attack for an all-out public awareness campaign aimed at changing the unsafe and unfair manner in which the Ohio School Facilities Commission directs the building of the state’s schools, and we are asking our partner contractors, associations and local unions to be active, contributing participants in order for our efforts to succeed. Please be sure to contact OCC co-chairs Bill Brennan, 419-241-3601, or Brian Baker, 440-233-7156, to submit information for and to be a part of the campaign.

Keeping on top of ABC

Last year’s OCC-sponsored conference featuring Peter Cockshaw that examined the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) was a great success, and the OCC is following-up on it. While the National Building and Construction Trades Department (BCTD) is working on a legal and marketing campaign against ABC, the OCC has enlisted BMA Media Group to work with the BCTD to assist it locally with research and bringing the campaign to Ohio. Recently, Calvin Jefferson of the OCC met in Washington, D.C., with Allen Smith of the BCTD to discuss strategies. The OCC is looking forward to sharing more information about this effort in the very near future.