



Ohio Construction Coalition

“News Blaster”

March 13, 2006

FIRST PRESENTATION DETAILING ‘NEW’ OCC A SUCCESS; MORE SCHEDULED FOR LOCATIONS AROUND THE STATE

About 35 Butler County- and Dayton-area management and labor individuals interested in the welfare of the state’s construction industry attended the OCC’s first presentation to lay out plans for the formation of a “new” and “stronger, more inclusive and improved” statewide labor-management group for taking on industry issues. The presentation was held March 7 in Hamilton and was hosted by the Butler County Building and Construction Trades Council.

Attendees included **Jerry O’Leary** from the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters; **Mike Thomas**, president of the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council (OSBCTC); **Bob Pope**, executive director of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Greater Dayton; **Ed Reynolds**, president of the Butler County Building and Construction Trades Council; and former OSBCTC head **Gary Schaeffer**.

“The presentation was received with a positive response,” **Bob Verhoff**, OCC facilitator, reported. “Mike Thomas addressed the group as the president of the OSBCTC and announced the OSBCTC commitment.”

OCC Transition Committee members who participated in the presentation included **Mike Hren** of the Central Ohio Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) in Columbus; **Chuck Morton** of the Dayton Building and Construction Trades Council; and **Chuck Graft**, board member for the OSBCTC.

Several other presentations have been scheduled for the following areas:

- **March 21 in Cleveland**
- **April 7 in Youngstown/Warren**
- **April 27 in Lima**

Additional presentations are being planned for areas all over the state, including **Columbus, Akron/Canton, Cincinnati** and **Southeast Ohio**.

Presentations consist of a brief but very informative PowerPoint show, followed by a comment and question/answer session led by OCC labor and management representatives.

To schedule a presentation or to receive an invitation for a planned presentation on the formation of a “stronger, more inclusive and improved” OCC for your industry group, organization or association, please contact Bob Verhoff, executive director of Union Construction Industry Partnership and “new” OCC Board facilitator, at 440-366-4003.

OCC MONITORING NEW BILL THAT WOULD AX PREVAILING WAGE

Ohio State House Rep. Bill Coley, a Republican who represents the 55th District out of West Chester, recently introduced House Bill 521, which would change the state’s Prevailing Wage Law so that it would, among other things, only apply if a public project is funded not less than 50% by public money and if the threshold level on a project is \$1 million. It would also remove from the Prevailing Wage Law the procedure for interested parties to file compliance complaints and violations.

The OCC **OPPOSES** passage of this type of legislation, because it would result in a drop in construction quality and proper workers’ compensation, benefits and training.

The OCC asks that all those interested in the welfare of the state’s construction industry contact their local senators and representatives to make sure they have received and reviewed the OCC’s Prevailing Wage booklet! For copies of the booklet and more information, contact Calvin Jefferson at cjefferson@bmamedia.com or 1-888-445-8255. (An electronic version is available, enabling you to print the booklet whenever needed.)

To **REPORT SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROBLEMS AND SUCCESSES** in your area, contact Calvin Jefferson at cjefferson@bmamedia.com or 1-888-445-8255.