



Ohio Construction Coalition

“News Blast”

September 27, 2006

www.ohioconstructioncoalition.org

ACTION ALERT

OCC URGES MEMBERS TO JOIN EFFORT TO SAVE S.A.C.

At the request of OCC-member the Ohio State Building & Construction Trades Council, the OCC has given its full support to a grassroots campaign to help preserve the **Ohio State Apprenticeship Council (S.A.C.)**. The OCC asks its member organizations to help spread the word and take any action on preserving this vital and invaluable government entity, which for political and financial reasons is in danger of being disbanded and replaced by the less-effective Bureau of Apprentice Training (B.A.T.).

Government funding for the S.A.C., which is about \$1.5 million, will end June 20, 2007, as it has been eliminated from the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services budget for 2008/2009. In order for the S.A.C. to continue to operate, a bill for the funds needs to be sponsored or the funding needs to be attached to another bill. Also, the building trades needs to collect \$30 per apprentice as a “matching” fund (of about \$300,000) for the state funding.

These steps can be accomplished through the State Building Trades Council’s informational and education campaign. On the OCC Web site (www.ohioconstructioncoalition.org) are materials from the OSBCTC to assist anyone with this effort, including talking points, S.A.C. information and sample letters. Also, please contact **OSBCTC Secretary-Treasurer Gary Dwyer** at (614) 221-3682 for additional information.

The Ohio S.A.C. administers and sets the rules for apprenticeship training programs throughout the state, and – as we all know – apprenticeship training is important for workforce and economic development in Ohio. And because the S.A.C. knows what’s best for Ohio and its 18,000 apprentices (10,000 of which are in the construction trades), it is much more desirable to have a state council than a B.A.T. setting the rules for the state.

OCC MEETS WITH STRUCTURE, BY-LAWS, BUDGET IN PLACE; DISCUSSION ON FUND TO FIGHT O.S.F.C. CONTINUES

On Sept. 26, the Board of the OCC met for the first time under its new Code of Regulations, and it submitted and approved a proposed budget for 2007.

During the meeting, the OCC again endorsed its plan to help establish and make contributions to a community fund to help the embattled Frontier School District in southeast Ohio take on the Ohio School Facilities Commission. OSFC-sponsored construction of schools in the Frontier district has been wrought with an overwhelming and unacceptable amount of problems and shortcomings.

School officials have indicated that they would like to sue the OSFC and its contractors for the ongoing problems with the construction work – but they do not have the money to do so.

The OCC and several member organizations have already made a commitment to contribute to the fund. **Contact OCC co-chair Bill Brennan at 419-241-3601 to make your commitment to help!**

The media stories on the Frontier Schools problems are available on the OCC Web site, www.ohioconstructioncoalition.org, in the “School Construction” section.

To **report any school construction problems and successes** in your area, contact Calvin Jefferson at info@ohioconstructioncoalition.org or 1-888-445-8255.

For past News Blasts, please visit the OCC Web site, www.ohioconstructioncoalition.org, and click on “News.”