

## **Ohio Construction Coalition “News Fax-Blaster” February 2005 – #2**

**To: All OCC Partners**

### **Ohio School Facilities Commission director quits**

The OCC has learned that Mary Lynn Ready has resigned her position as Executive Director of the Ohio School Facilities Commission.

The OCC and the Toledo ACP are currently involved in campaigns to shed light on the OSFC’s oversight of the state’s \$2 million-per-day school construction program. Part of each campaign is to have the OSFC adopt an effective and proactive Responsible Contracting policy and hold the OSFC accountable to its own rules.

Ready had replaced Randall Fisher, who quit as Executive Director in Summer 2002 after an investigation by the state inspector general found that Fischer had awarded nearly \$2 billion in school construction projects without obtaining commissioners’ approval, circumventing the normal bidding process. The inspector general also chastised Fischer for accepting numerous golf outings, dinners and sports tickets from companies that received the no-bid contracts.

### **OCC begins effort to save Prevailing Wage across state**

Realizing that action must be taken now, the OCC has drafted a letter outlining the specific arguments for preserving prevailing wage, drawn from numerous research studies. The letter will be sent next week to all state legislators.

As previously reported by the OCC, prevailing wage on Ohio’s public construction projects is under fire in the Statehouse. That is the word around the capital, and a Jan. 22 Cleveland Plain Dealer article declared in its headline, “Prevailing-wage law repeal has momentum again.”

The OCC urges you to contact your local legislators to tell them to save Prevailing Wage. For assistance with this and talking points you can use, contact OCC co-chairs Bill Brennan at 419-241-3601 or Brian Baker at 440-233-7156

### **REMINDER: OCC to host training on researching school construction**

The OCC is continuing to gather information on poor school construction and its calamitous results to use as ammunition in its coming 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.

We are offering our partner contractors, associations and local unions free training that will help you assist the OCC in researching school construction projects. **Training will take place on Wednesday, February 16, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Radisson Hotel, 7007 North High Street in Worthington (at I-270 and Route 23).** Contact OCC co-chair Brian Baker at 440-233-7156 to register.

### **Toledo ACP meeting with legislators to show them proof of poor school work**

On February 25, state lawmakers will see for themselves how the Ohio School Facilities Commission’s damaging handling of the state’s school construction program.

The Toledo ACP will host a group of senators and representatives from northwest Ohio to show them photographs and video of some of the construction disasters at 30 schools, documented by Al Adams and Jack Wilson. It is our hope these images open the eyes of legislators and make them hold the OSFC more accountable when it is assigning contractors to build Ohio’s schools.

(MORE)

**Next OCC meeting is March 11 in Columbus**

The OCC will be meeting March 11 in Columbus in an effort to offer a more centralized location so that more labor and management leaders can attend and give important and desired input and learn about all that the OCC is doing.

**As Ohio’s only legal, statewide, multi-craft labor-management group, the OCC depends on the input of all interested parties to make it as effective as it can be in fighting against the abolition of prevailing wage – and all issues that would adversely affect the construction industry in Ohio.**

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As the Ohio Construction Coalition works to make a substantial difference in the state’s construction industry, the OCC has sent this “News Fax-Blaster” to you to help keep you 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](mailto:cjefferson@bmamedia.com) or 1-888-445-8255.