



Ohio Construction Coalition

“News Blast”

July 9, 2007

www.ohioconstructioncoalition.org

O.C.C. ADDS MECHANICAL REPRESENTATIVES TO BOARD

Tom Joseph, Business Manager for Local 50 of The United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry in Toledo, and **Mary Gregory**, Executive Vice President of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Northwestern Ohio, have been appointed to the O.C.C. Board of Directors.

The 1,400-plus members of Tom’s Local 50 provide plumbing, pipefitting, and HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) service for the needs of homeowners, business, industry, and government installations throughout the twelve counties in Northwest Ohio.

Mary’s MCA of Northwestern Ohio, which is based in Toledo, is a trade association of signatory contractors doing business in northwest Ohio that serves as the voice of quality contractors in the region.

Also recently, **Dave Moran** was appointed to the Board to replace retired Chuck Graft as the I.B.E.W. representative. Dave is a Field Representative of the I.B.E.W. 4th District, and he is the former business manager of I.B.E.W. Local 306 in Akron and president of the Tri-County Building and Construction Trades Council.

The remainder of the O.C.C. Board consists of the following individuals:

Labor representatives: **Joe Zimmer**, Greater Cincinnati Building and Construction Trades Council; **Bob Fozio**, Northern Ohio Administrative District Council of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers; **Reggie Hohenberger**, Sheet Metal Workers Local 33; **Chuck Morton**, Dayton Building and Construction Trades Council; **Jim Rarey**, Columbus Building and Construction Trades Council; **Neil Rouse**, Elevator Constructors Local 37; and **Loree Soggs**, Cleveland Building and Construction Trades Council.

Management representatives: **Bill Brennan**, Associated General Contractors (AGC) – Toledo; **Valerie Dahlberg**, Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors’ National Association (SMACNA) – Dayton; **Brian Damant**, Central Ohio Chapter, National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA); **Randy Fox**, AGC – Dayton; **Dan Neal**, Western Ohio NECA; **Kevin Reilly**, The Builders Association of Eastern Ohio; **Jim Shoaff**, SMACNA – Cleveland; and **Bob Tiemann**, SMACNA – Cincinnati.

O.S.F.C. RELEASES DRAFT OF REVISED BIDDER CRITERIA

O.C.C. CONTINUES TO SCHEDULE PRESENTATIONS TO SCHOOLS

With input from the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council and O.C.C. legal council State Rep. Matt Szollosi, the Ohio School Facilities Commission has amended its new criteria for school districts to use to help them choose “lowest responsible bidders” for their state-funded school construction projects. The O.S.F.C. passed a resolution in February that put in place the set of “contractor qualifications.”

Modifications to the criteria, which are still subject to change, include:

- Verification of a written safety program and attendance by supervisors in OSHA courses;
- Certification of licensing for HVAC, electrical, refrigeration, plumbing and hydronics contractors;

- Certification that prime contracts for any licensed trade pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code or requiring certification of the State Fire Marshall (not just plumbing, electrical, HVAC and fire safety) will not subcontract more than 25% of the work (instead of 75%); and
- Certification that contraction trades personnel trained or are being trained in an approved apprenticeship program or have at least three years experience in a particular trade.

These changes are being added to the O.C.C.'s presentation explaining the new O.S.F.C. Responsible Contractor guidelines and their benefits to local school officials. O.C.C. representatives are making the presentations to individual school districts around the state as they come up for O.S.F.C. funding eligibility. The PowerPoint presentation includes video and media documentation of poor work at schools around the state and thorough explanations about how Responsible Bidder language can help districts avoid such problems. Presentations take 15 to 20 minutes. The next scheduled presentation is July 11 to the Hamilton School District.

To have the O.C.C. make a presentation to a school board in your area, contact Calvin Jefferson at 1-888-445-8255 or cjefferson@bmamedia.com, or Bob Verhoff at 440-366-4003 or rverhoff@lorainccc.edu.

FRONTIER SCHOOLS SET TO HAVE NEW ROOFS REPLACED

After years of fighting with the state and contractors over poor construction work done on its new schools under the Ohio School Facilities Commission – a battle strongly supported by the O.C.C. – the Frontier Local School District is finally seeing some progress in having the problems corrected. Materials and supplies arrived earlier this week in the Frontier Local district for the long-awaited re-construction on the roofs of three schools.

The roofs will be completely torn off and replaced – at no expense to the district. After years of meetings, talk of lawsuits and a refusal by the district to shoulder the cost for the shoddy work, the district was awarded \$1.7 million in state funds to repair the roofs in April. The board approved Martins Ferry-based Mansuetto Roofing to do the repairs.

“They’re going to do it the way it was supposed to have been done the first time,” Frontier Superintendent Troy Thacker recently told The Marietta Times newspaper.

The district, located in southeast Ohio, had two new elementary schools built and Frontier High School renovated, but before the doors even opened on the \$24.7 million buildings, major construction flaws were discovered and the board has been trying to get repairs since. Lawsuits against the contractors and the O.S.F.C. were discussed and board members have refused any deals where the district had to pay for the repairs, which they felt was unfair and financially impossible.

In March, the O.C.C. arranged a meeting with representatives for Ohio Attorney General Marc Dann and Frontier Local Schools District officials to further discuss the problems. Over the past year, the O.C.C. also has assisted the district with planning legal action over the faulty construction, which also includes failing masonry work.

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