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M a r c h 2 0 0 8

www.coloradoroofing.org

MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

Friday

March 28, 2008

11:30 to 1:30 pm

**Comfort Inn "Showroom"
 The Merchandise Mart ▪ 451
 E. 58th Ave. (I-25 & 58th Ave.)**

TOPIC

To Be Determined.

Keep an eye out for the speaker announcement to come across your e-mail and/or fax.

Please RSVP to the CRA office at 303-892-6966 so we can have a place for you. (One Free Lunch - \$20.00 for each additional.)



My intent as I write the monthly column for the newsletter is to grab your attention with the wit of a Woody Paige or a Dave Barry. To make my

column the first thing you look at when that familiar gold leaflet hits your mailbox. To keep your undivided attention as the profoundness of my writing offers an escape, albeit temporary, from the daily grind of the roofing business. Thankfully I have many newsletters to write this year in order to achieve that end and I promise to keep working on it. Until then, here are some thoughts and other musings for this month.

First, congratulations to all the winners from the annual Awards

Dinner. I hope all your wives/significant others truly appreciated the difficulty and craftsmanship of these projects. I know those of you who actually manage and work on these jobs on a daily basis know the time and energy that go in to them. It was great to talk to a couple of old faces from the field and see the pride they took in their work. It's good to know that good old American pride and work ethic still exist.

It was a sad day last week for me and my kids to see our backyard ice rink (yes, in Colorado) finally melt for the season. I'll take our winters here over just about anywhere. I love the snow and cold, but after spending the weekend in Fargo for a hockey tournament where the overnight low one night was -17 (-34 wind chill), I'll stick with Denver. I think we truly have it made in the roofing market here. We get enough rain and snow

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303-287-8220

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303-426-7370

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970-353-2322

John Weber, D & D Roofing
303-287-3043

Dan Zahtila, Black Roofing
303-449-5176

Past President

Amy Hawkins, Boulder Roofing
303-443-4646

Mission Statement

"To promote the ethics, education and image of the roofing industry in the State of Colorado through meetings and actions of the members."

The CRA newsletter is open for member input. We encourage you to submit items that will benefit the members, including new technical updates, community service achievements in your local communities, educational seminars/workshops, etc. (no sales oriented pieces). Contact the CRA office for more information at 303-892-6966 ext. 2.



NRCA UPDATE

Immigration issues are back on the front burner as litigation begins at the state level and the Department of Homeland Security steps up its enforcement activities.

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has launched a new I-9 inspection campaign targeting employers suspected of employing unauthorized workers. The inspections are announced by subpoena and call for a production of I-9 forms and Social Security Administration "no-match" letters received during the past three calendar years for current employees and those terminated during the past year. NRCA recently issued a Special Report about this practice, which they think is a back-door attempt to circumvent the U.S. District Court's ruling in fall 2007. Please let NRCA know whether you receive a subpoena and whether they can be of help.

Meanwhile, a federal court in Arizona has upheld that state's immigration law, which imposes severe sanctions on employers who knowingly or intentionally hire workers who are unauthorized to work under federal law. The law also requires Arizona employers to enroll in and use the federal E-Verify system. Plaintiffs in that case have appealed to the 9th Circuit Court.

And in Oklahoma, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has filed a lawsuit to enjoin that state from interfering with federal immigration law. One obvious problem with all this activity is that it makes it difficult if not impossible for employers who operate in more than one state to know what rules to follow.

Stay tuned.



NRCA UNIVERSITY INTRODUCES NEW E-LEARNING PROGRAM

Roofing 101 online, which will be available in the spring, is an

interactive online educational program addressing basic roofing terminology, roof assembly components and roof systems. The program consists of five self-paced learning modules: roofing basics; roof system basics; overview of low-slope roof systems; overview of steep-slope roof systems; and overview of roof flashings and accessories. Each module requires about one hour to complete. Animation, graphics, videos and interactive learning activities combine to create a fun, effective learning experience.

For more information about Roofing 101 online, go to www.nrca.net or contact NRCA's Customer Service Department at (866) ASK-NRCA (275-6722) or email info@nrca.net.



NEW LAW WILL PROVIDE TAX INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESSES

On Feb. 13, President Bush signed into law H.R.5140, the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008. In addition to allowing taxpayers to keep more of their money, the act also includes temporary tax incentives for businesses. Specifically, the law provides for the following:

- Section 102 increases the expensing allowance for small businesses in 2008. The expensing allowance for depreciable business assets increases to \$250,000 (up from \$128,000); and the maximum investment phase-out threshold for such expensing allowance rises to \$800,000.
- Section 103 will save businesses about \$51 billion in near-term taxes through a temporary change to the tax code that will allow U.S. businesses that buy new equipment this year to deduct 50 percent of the cost of certain depreciable property in 2008. This is intended to encourage businesses to expand

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SAFETY CORNER

Managing Claims

WHAT IS

SUBROGATION"?

Subrogation means "to substitute."

In workers' compensation, subrogation occurs when a third party - someone other than the injured worker or the employer - is responsible for the injury. In these cases, your workers' compensation provider can legally substitute itself for the injured worker to recover claims costs from the third party.

Subrogation is common with on-the-job automobile accidents in which a third party - the other driver - causes the accident. While your workers' comp provider must pay benefits to the injured worker, they use subrogation to attempt to recover benefits costs from that driver and/or the driver's insurance company. Another example might be going after an equipment manufacturer if an equipment malfunction causes an injury.

Recovering claims costs helps hold down the policyholder's premium. For this reason, your workers' comp provider aggressively pursues third parties that they believe bear responsibility for workers' injuries.

What You Can Do

If one of your employees is injured and a third party may be responsible, document everything. Take pictures of the accident scene as soon as possible.

Also preserve any evidence, such as a broken piece of equipment. And - as with any injury - contact your workers' comp provider immediately.

If you have any questions about subrogation, contact your agent or Workers' Compensation provider.

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Safety/Loss Prevention

TIPS ON AVOIDING SLIPS, TRIPS, AND FALLS

The National Safety Council estimates that, nationwide, workers' compensation and medical costs associated with employee slip and fall accidents are approximately \$70 billion per year. Even more disturbing, slips and falls are the leading cause of death in the workplace and cause more than 20 percent of all disabling workplace injuries. As a result of Colorado's recent snowstorms, there has been a jump in the number of slip, trip, and fall claims reported.

You can help educate and protect your employees from these types of accidents by viewing a Slips, Trips, and Falls PowerPoint presentation at www.pinnacol.com/employers/loss_prevention and click on "Slips, Trips and Falls PowerPoint." This four-minute presentation is full of tips about how to be safe during snowy conditions as well as general information about avoiding slip, trip, and fall injuries.

Source: www.pinnacol.com

NRCA (Continued from page 2)

investment and create new jobs now rather than later because buying equipment, software and tangible property this year will dramatically lower their taxes. "The bill will spur investment in the roofing industry by providing contractors, suppliers and manufacturers critical incentives during the slowdown in construction to purchase new equipment and provide for the long-term health of

their businesses," says Bill Good, NRCA's executive vice president. "During the early part of the decade, similar provisions included in the landmark 2001 and 2003 tax relief packages were instrumental in getting the nation's economy back on track."

For more information, contact Craig Brightup, NRCA's vice president of government relations, at (202) 546-7584 or cbrightup@nrca.net

www.nrca.net

2008 CALENDAR

Mar

Mar 4 - Pin-Point Seminar: TRI Certified Installer Program. Location: Comfort Inn at Denver Merchandise Mart. 7:30 am.

Mar 6 - CRA Board Meeting

Mar 7 - NRCA's FREE OSHA 10-hour Training Program. Hilton Garden Inn Denver Airport, Aurora, CO. 7:00 am - 6:00 pm. To register call 866-ASK-NRCA, ext. 7701.

Mar 28 - CRA Membership Luncheon; Comfort Inn at Denver Merchandise Mart. 11:30 am. Topic: TBA

Apr

Apr 3 - CRA Board Meeting

Apr 17 - CRA Safety Group Committee Meeting; Pinnacol Assurance, 11:30 am.

May

May 1 - CRA Board Meeting

May 16 - CRA Membership Luncheon; Comfort Inn at Denver Merchandise Mart. 11:30 am. Topic: TBA.

June

Jun 5 - CRA Board Meeting

July

July 25 - CRA Membership Luncheon; Comfort Inn at Denver Merchandise Mart. 11:30 am. Topic: TBD

Aug

Aug 7 - CRA Board Meeting

Aug 15 - CRA Golf Tournament; Location - TBD.

Sep

Sep 4 - CRA Board Meeting

Oct

Oct 2 - CRA Board Meeting

Oct 24 - CRA Membership Luncheon; Comfort Inn at Denver Merchandise Mart. 11:30 am. Topic: TBA.

Nov

Nov 6 - CRA Board Meeting

Nov 21 - CRA Membership Luncheon, Sponsored by the CRA Safety Group; Comfort Inn at Denver Merchandise Mart. 11:30 am. Topic: TBD.

Dec

Dec 4 - CRA Board Meeting



Gov't Relations Update

COLORADO LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

"The Construction Prompt Payment Reform Act" passed out of the House Committee on Business Affairs & Labor, with amendments and a favorable recommendation to the Appropriations Committee. Please watch for CRA e-mail alerts and follow through with the requested legislator contacts as the bill works its way through the system.

HB-1306 focuses on five key issues related to payment in construction agreements. Owner financing, payment schedules, change directives, right to stop work and retainage. For commercial contracts that exceed \$100,000 (between owner & contractor), the bill establishes clear guidelines for payment procedures between owners, contractors and subcontractors.

As drafted, this legislation would allow a contractor and subs to request in writing, a statement from the owner demonstrating its ability to fund the construction project if the construction agreement is in excess of \$250,000.

Payment schedules have been outlined so that approved portions of progress payment invoices will be due from owner to the contractor no later than 25 days after owner's receipt of the invoice. Contractors must then pay the subs within 5 days

of receipt from the owner. If the owner pays sooner than 25 days, the flow down must occur within 7 days of receipt by contractor.

Retainage would be limited to 5%. Once the contracted work is completed and approved, subcontractors can apply for payment of retainage, which will be released within 90 days, even if the project itself has not reached substantial completion.

The bill would require monthly payment of actual costs on a change directive and sets the standards for calculating the costs. HB1306 also spells out authorization and standards for the suspension of performance for the non-payment of approved portions of any progress payment invoice.

Please realize that this is a very brief description of the intent of this legislation. The bill itself is 24 pages in length, clearly defining the terms and requirements of each of these five points. While the bill may not pertain to each and every one of our companies, this is an important step forward for the construction industry in general, and the subcontracting community specifically. There has been a huge effort between builders, owners and subs in the development of this bill for almost a full year now. When called upon to communicate with our legislators, please take a moment to do so. Thank you for your involvement!

*Amy Hawkins
Legislative Chair
303.443.4646 • amy@boulderroof.com*

~ 2008 ~ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CRA would like to extend a BIG WELCOME to the following new members:

Atlas Roofing

PO Box 273122
Fort Collins, CO 80527
Ph: 970-484-7777
www.atlasroofs.com
Contractor - Residential

CEI West-Colorado, a Tecta

America Company, LLC
1881 W. 13th Avenue
Denver, CO 80204
Ph: 303-573-5953
www.ceiroofingcolorado.com
Contractor - Commercial

President's Msg.

(Continued from page 1)

to keep roof problems on peoples' radar, but we also get 300+ days of sunshine to do the work. I guess that's why there are over 20 pages of roofing contractors in the yellow pages. Speaking of hockey, how about the Avalanche getting Forsberg and Foote back!

Hopefully the spring melt will bring some good things for our companies. I am cautiously optimistic on the home building side. It seems like the level of new construction inventory has lessened (based on my very unscientific research) and that excavations have picked up a bit. It's not going to be like 2006 again for awhile, but it's also not 1990. On the commercial side the prospects look pretty good for this year, those of us that do both should be able to adapt and survive.

Thanks to all of you who have committed labor or material to Brent's Place the project is progressing finally and should be ready for roofing soon.

See you next month.

Chuck Spicer, Bighorn Metalworks



**PLEASE LOOK FOR
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
FEB 7TH
AWARDS DINNER
IN THE APRIL '08 ISSUE
OF THE NEWSLETTER!**

- NOTICE -



CRA NEWSLETTER TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY!

The CRA Board of Directors has voted to send the CRA Newsletter in **electronic format only**. *Beginning May 1, 2008, the newsletter will no longer be mailed.*

In order to receive the electronic copy of the newsletter, we ask that you please fill out the following subscription request by **April 28, 2008**.

Yes, I (we) wish to continue receiving the CRA Newsletter via E-Mail.

Name: _____

Company: _____

Email Addresses: _____

Please FAX this form by April 28, 2008 to 303-892-6322.

Or, send an e-mail to **debbie@coloradoroofing.org**.