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## 2009 Legislative Conference Marks Big Gains on Specialty Construction Industry Legislative Agenda

MCAA, the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA), The Association of Union Constructors (TAUC) and other groups in the Quality Construction Alliance (QCA) welcomed 140 contractors and local association executives to Washington, D.C., May 11-13 for three days of meetings with federal agency officials, senators, representatives, and labor leaders from signatory building trades unions.

### FEDERAL GREEN BUILDING AND STIMULUS SPENDING PROJECTS DESCRIBED

The program began with a briefing on federal stimulus funded projects and green building programs. The program was moderated by Dr. Get Moy, P.E., LEED AP, associate vice president with AECOM Design and chair of the High Performance Building Council at the National Institute of Building Sciences. He introduced procurement  
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REPRESENTATIVE DIANE WATSON (D-CA-33), CHAIR OF THE PROCUREMENT SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE, COVERED ASSERTING JURISDICTION OF THE NEW 3 PERCENT WITHHOLDING TAX ON PUBLIC CONTRACTS AS A PROCUREMENT ISSUE AND OTHER ITEMS ON THE ASSOCIATION'S PUBLIC CONTRACTING ISSUES AGENDA. MS. WATSON INVITED MCAA AND THE QCA TO TESTIFY AT UPCOMING HEARINGS BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE.



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## MCAA's 2009 Pre-Fabrication Seminar Bridges Traditional Methods of Fabrication with the Latest Technologies

Two of the West Coast's most innovative companies hosted more than 100 contractors during the 2009 Pre-Fabrication Seminar in Oakland, CA, from April 29-May 1. This contractor-led program afforded management and fabrication facility personnel an opportunity to see how ACCO Engineered Systems, Inc. and Broadway Mechanical Contractors, Inc. estimate, design, schedule, lay out, fabricate, assemble, store and ship a wide range of piping fabrications.

Ron Krassensky, president and COO of ACCO Engineered Systems, a very large, employee-owned company doing business up and down the West Coast, discussed ACCO's integrated  
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RON KRASSENSKY DISCUSSED ACCO'S INTEGRATED DELIVERY SYSTEM, WHICH COMBINES INNOVATIVE ENGINEERING AND DESIGN SOLUTIONS.



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to Capitol Hill to begin roughly 180 meetings with lawmakers and staff pursuing the conference's agenda items: repeal of the 3 percent withholding tax; worker misclassification reform; accelerated depreciation for energy-efficient HVAC equipment installation; federal support for school rebuilding programs; and healthcare and pension plan reforms. As in previous years, reports back from many meetings proved very positive, with participants reporting support pickups on many issues.

#### **Labor Issues**

Wednesday morning, the program began with MCAA President Lonnie Coleman chairing the discussion. The first presentation was from Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor and Acting Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Jordan Barab, who detailed many of the DOL's planned initiatives for the coming year including OSHA, crane safety and immigration enforcement policy. Barab was standing in for Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, who was called

to Congressional hearings on the DOL budget after planning to address the conference.

#### **Procurement Reform**

President Coleman then introduced Representative Diane Watson (D-CA-33), who chairs the Procurement Subcommittee of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. She covered the various QCA procurement reform agenda items, and agreed to take up review of the looming new public contract 3 percent withholding tax as a matter of federal procurement policy. Heretofore, the debate about the demerits of the measure have centered on fiscal policy, with some neglect of scoring and assessing how the measure will impact agency procurement program costs and performance.

#### **Labor/Management Cooperative Programs**

The final panel introduced by President Coleman included presentations by UA Assistant General President Stephen Kelly on the new Federal Green Jobs training programs and the outlook for nuclear power industry building programs. The panel also included remarks

on various labor/management cooperative programs between the other QCA employer groups and their Building and Construction Trades Department (BCTD) union partners, including Bricklayers Union General President John Flynn, Iron Workers Union General President Joe Hunt, and Painters Union General President Jim Williams.

President Coleman adjourned the meeting as many conference participants set off for late-morning lobbying meetings on Capitol Hill.

#### **CONFERENCE ISSUE PAPERS AVAILABLE ONLINE**

The PowerPoint presentations on federal spending programs and the actuarial presentation, along with the conference issues sheets, are available at [www.mcaa.org/reporter](http://www.mcaa.org/reporter).

#### **PLAN TO JOIN US NEXT YEAR**

Plans are underway for a return to the same three-day format next year, perhaps with a schedule change to Tuesday-Thursday to catch more lawmakers in town. The event will take place in early May, with exact dates to be announced. ■

## **MCAA'S 2009 PRE-FABRICATION SEMINAR**

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delivery system, which combines innovative engineering and design solutions. ACCO's unique project management structure: Each manager serves as an autonomous unit responsible for selling, bidding, managing and servicing his own projects and contracts for services from the fabrication and estimating divisions. Steve Whitmer and Curtis Cady presented a case study demonstrating the clash coordination and spooling process to showcase ACCO's use of 3-D CAD and building information modeling (BIM). Mark Gallelo, fabrication manager, led a tour of the piping and sheet metal shops that included discussions of color coding pipe for project identity, double-random offloading of pipe, use of choke and pelican hooks, quality control and how a 40-foot trailer can handle a 65-foot length of pipe.

Fred Nurisso, president of Broadway Mechanical Contractors, gave an overview of the operations, philosophy and current projects of his family-owned business, which has been operating in the San Francisco Bay area for more than 100 years. Bob Nurisso, general manager and third-generation family member, led a discussion on the company's estimating process. Mike Tobin, labor superintendent, shared the "B Way" to fabricate: b-aggressive (What can't we fabricate?); b-innovative; b-flexible; b-productive; and b-profitable. Jim Scott, fabrication manager, showcased the company's customized fabrication table for cast iron and fixture assembly. Broadway is known for its exceptional service in the plumbing arena and recently expanded its fabrication facility to include a mock-up room where customers can

see how a proposed pre-fabricated plumbing application would look. Conference attendees were impressed with Broadway's three-screen CAD Smart Room, which brings projects to life in 3-D.

Labor scheduling and management are critical to delivering pre-fabricated assemblies to the jobsite. ACCO and Broadway both operate with overlapping jurisdictions that require complex labor scheduling with journeymen from multiple locals—as many as six on a project—with varying hourly rates, work rules and guidelines.

Conference facilitator George Stuller, Mechanical Construction and Consulting Services, Ltd., moderated a three-hour session where conference participants shared best practices and photos of their most interesting fabrication applications

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## MCAA'S 2009 PRE-FABRICATION SEMINAR

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and challenges. The presenters included:

- Pat Jones of Brandt Engineering Company, Inc. in Dallas, TX, who discussed a variety of assemblies including a steam-powered, hot-water generation system;
- Willie Ramos of CFI Mechanical, Inc. in Houston, TX, who showcased lavatory racks on rollers;
- John Ellis of Warwick Plumbing & Heating Corp. in Newport News, VA;
- Peter Ferrato with Vollmer Inc. in Windsor, ON, Canada, who discussed fabrication and handling of large-scale industrial stacks;
- Steve Otis of University Mechanical

Contractors, Inc. in Mukilteo, WA, who showcased the use of cranes for handling, transporting and hoisting large rooftop assemblies;

- John Panetti of Team Industries, Inc. in Kaukauna, WI, who shared ideas on securing pipe for safe welding;
- Ed Bell of Pan-Pacific Plumbing Company in Irvine, CA, who discussed the use of 3-D cut sheets for cast iron and copper pipe;
- Justin Tidwell of McAbee Construction Inc. in Tuscaloosa, AL, who shared the use of water drayage to move very large piping assemblies into position; and

- Jason Katzer of P1 Group, Inc. in Lawrence, KS, who spoke about PVC pipe fabrication.

Conference participants were intrigued and inspired by the rapidly growing use of 3-D CAD and BIM in the pre-fabrication of piping and plumbing applications. They identified pre-fabrication as their best means of increasing productivity and improving the quality of the finished product.

The 2010 Pre-Fabrication Seminar will be hosted by Kinetics on May 5-6 in Durham, NC. The seminar will focus on fabricating validatable biopharmaceutical piping systems from material receipt through kitting, tacking, weld-out, inspection and shipping. ■



ACCO'S TED TREAT LEADS A DISCUSSION ON COMPUTERIZED ESTIMATING AND FABRICATION DECISION MAKING.



CONFERENCE ATTENDEES WERE IMPRESSED WITH BROADWAY'S THREE-SCREEN CAD SMART ROOM, WHICH BRINGS PROJECTS TO LIFE IN 3-D.



FRED NURISSO GAVE AN OVERVIEW OF BROADWAY MECHANICAL'S OPERATIONS, PHILOSOPHY AND CURRENT PROJECTS.



BOB NURISSO, GENERAL MANAGER AND THIRD-GENERATION FAMILY MEMBER, LED A DISCUSSION ON THE COMPANY'S ESTIMATING PROCESS.