

Quarterly



Newsletter

November 2011 Newsletter

New Website – New Newsletter

Our new Chapter Website is a work in progress. Ultimately it will be a tool designed to make your life easier. Visit us on Facebook, and check out how this site can help you get informed and stay organized.

Message from the Executive Manager

Brian Sullivan – Northern Indiana Chapter - NECA

Happy Holidays:

It is once again the time of year when we pause from our workplaces to celebrate the season with our families, friends, and colleagues.

It is also a time when we reflect on the past year to assess whether we have realized the objectives and resolutions that we set for ourselves when we celebrated the dawn of the New Year. But this Christmas holds even greater meaning for America, as we remember our Sailors and Marines, positioned at the "point of the spear," and pray for their safety; and their eventual safe return home.

When we think of Christmas, our hearts turn to our families. Let our hearts also encompass the entire Nation. Christmas is a time of sharing, of reaching across all of the artificial divides in our society; and realize that Love and Hope will always prevail.

In this season of goodwill, let us also open our hearts to those Americans who have suffered personal or financial losses in this uncertain of economic times. We must always reach out to our less fortunate with our love and compassion at all times, but more so at this Christmas time. These are values that made this country great, and they will continue to be the same values that will guide us well into the 21st Century and beyond.

Let us not lose confidence in our ability to overcome the many difficulties that we face today. All of us can and will be a stronger and more prosperous in the years ahead. For this reason – and so many reasons – I would implore all of us to stay positive; to stay connected; and to keep peace in not just your hearts, but in your minds.

For World Peace and Joy to the World, Merry Christmas.

Business Law MEI

In February of 2012 – the Chapter will sponsor a very special Management Executive Institute (MEI) on

Business Law. In these uncertain of economic times, now, more-than ever, all of us need to be mindful of all of our business dealings and agreements. Jerry Katz, a Washington, DC based attorney, will give our members an opportunity to become more of an expert when it comes to running an effective business, and knowing your legal rights.

I am continually wanting to bring education opportunities to all of you. Please feel free to call me and let me know what might help your business.

Annual Silent Auction is Fast Approaching

And where this might not be Christies or Sotheby's, it certainly is the auction event of the year in our industry; and goes to a very important cause – to give our Chapter a voice legislatively.

This year, the Annual Dinner will be the platform for the Silent Auction, and will be April 2012. Information on this event will be moving be coming to your shortly.

CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT DECLINES BY 5,000 IN AUGUST AS INDUSTRY'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HITS 13.5 PERCENT

Employment Level Continues Long-Running "Zigzag Pattern" of Increases and Decreases as Sector Remains Weak and at Risk from Declining Public Sector Investments in Construction

Construction employment showed little movement in August, dipping 5,000 below the July total but remaining 4,000 higher than a year ago, according to an analysis of new federal employment data released by the Associated General Contractors of America. Association officials said the numbers are consistent with a pattern of small gains followed by slight decreases as demand for construction remains weak.

"Today's report continues a long-running zigzag pattern of minimal up-and-down changes in construction employment," said Ken Simonson, the AGC's chief economist. "The free-fall has ended, but the seasonally adjusted employment total in August—5.5 million—has been virtually unchanged for a year and a half."

The construction economist said that the nonresidential construction sector lost 9,000 jobs in August. Within the nonresidential sector, employment in heavy and civil engineering construction decreased by 1,600 for the month as work on stimulus-funded public works, military bases and hurricane-prevention projects in the Gulf Coast wound down. Nonresidential specialty trade contractors and nonresidential building contractors shed a combined 7,400 jobs, while their residential counterparts added 3,200 jobs.

In a recent interview with Simonson he noted that the industry's 13.5 percent unemployment rate was an improvement from the 17.0 percent rate of a year earlier but far above the all-industry rate of 9.1 percent. "The drop in the industry's unemployment rate clearly has more to do with workers leaving the construction industry instead of finding new jobs," Simonson observed. "Losing so many seasoned workers will make it harder for the industry to bounce back when demand finally increases."

Association officials warned that construction employment levels could rapidly decline again if Congress and the White House continue cutting vital construction programs. They urged officials to instead tackle out-of-control entitlement spending. They also urged leaders to quickly enact long-overdue highway, transit and aviation legislation that sets multi-year funding levels for a range of maintenance and repair programs.

"Cutting infrastructure programs will put tens of thousands out of work while hobbling our economy with aging infrastructure and crowded roads for decades to come," said Stephen E. Sandherr, the association's chief executive officer. "Anyone serious about creating jobs now and promoting private sector growth should have infrastructure investments as part of their jobs agenda."

Calendar of Events

November 2011

November 16 – Western Division Meeting
8:00 a.m. (CST)
Jedi Garden Restaurant - Griffith, IN

November 17 – Central Division Meeting
8:00 a.m. (CST)
Jimmy's Restaurant - Valparaiso, IN

November 17 – Eastern Michigan & Eastern Indiana Division Meeting
6:00 p.m. (EST)
Taber Hill Winery & Restaurant

November 18 – Board of Directors Meeting
8:00 a.m. (CST)
Chapter Office

December 2011

December 9 – Board Meeting and Annual Board Lunch –
8:00 a.m. Chapter Office and then
11:00 a.m. – lunch at Pottawattamie Country Club.

December 16 – Annual Holiday Gala -
5:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. at the Lubeznik Center

Future Dates

Northern Indiana Chapter NECA Office
February 2012- MEI Class - Advanced Business Law
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Please let me know if there is a topic you would like me to cover in your quarterly Newsletter. The next issue will be coming out in February of 2012.



