



Wisconsin Roofing Contractors Association

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WRCA Elects New Officers, Directors
At its Annual Meeting held Wednesday, December 12, the members of WRCA elected the following slate of directors and officers for 2008:

- President Robert Fedder
 M.M. Schranz Roofing
 Milwaukee
- 1st VP Greg Petersen
 Carlson Racine Roofing/SM
 Racine
- 2nd VP Randy Christiansen
 Northern Metal & Roofing
 Green Bay
- Sec/Treasurer Dean Englebert
 Blindauer Roofing
 Green Bay
- Past President Mark Langer
 Langer Roofing & SM
 Milwaukee

The Directors, at their meeting earlier that day, selected Don Leitel of Roofer's Mart of Wisconsin (Butler) to serve as the Associate Advisor on the Board of Directors. Jeffrey J. Beiriger, CAE of Cook & Franke, SC (Milwaukee/Madison) continues to serve as Executive Director.

Mike Burns of Borsche Roofing (Appleton) was thanked for his years of service on the Board of Directors. Mike served as president in 2006. Mark Langer was thanked for his service as president during 2007.

WRCA Modifies Bylaws
At that same meeting, the members approved several changes to the WRCA bylaws. A copy of the revised bylaws is available online at www.wrcaonline.org.

Welcome New Members!
WRCA welcomes **Gen Flex** as a new Associate Member!



We also welcome **Dawes Crane** as a new Associate Member!



And we welcome **Mid-States Asphalt** as a new Associate Member!



IRS Releases New Mileage Rates
The Internal Revenue Service has announced the 2008 mileage rates for calculating deductible costs associated with using an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes. The standard mileage rates for the use of a car, van, pickup or panel truck will be 50.5 cents per mile for business miles driven, 2 cents more than the 2007 rate. The standard mileage rate will be 19 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes and 14 cents per mile driven in service to a charitable organization.

Upcoming Meetings – Mark Your Calendars!

The 2008 schedule of meetings and events is taking shape. Please note that all dates are tentative at this point...

On January 30, we are planning to have Mark Graham (NRCA) with us to do a presentation on codes and ES-1. Mark will also give us the latest on FM 1-29.

On March 19, we are planning to have Rene Dupuis (Structural Research, Inc.) with us to provide us with his insights on the latest in the roofing industry.

On May 14, Attorney David Turiciano (Cook & Franke, SC) will be with us to talk about the new ConsensusDocs and AIA contracts. Attorney Turiciano will also address the latest in liens and collections.



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On September 17, Brian Krimpelbein (HNI Risk Services) will be addressing the latest on transportation of asbestos containing materials. Brian will also provide us with an update on insurance and other risk management tools.

On November 12, we have asked for one of the Milwaukee area radio personalities, Charlie Sykes or Jeff Wagner (WTMJ –AM) to talk with our group about the implications of the 2008 elections.

On December 10, we will hold our Annual Meeting, in all likelihood returning to Saz's State House, a perennial favorite of the group.

Golf Outing – 2008

The WRCA golf outing will be held on Wednesday, July 16, 2008 at the Golf Club at Camelot in Lomira.

Be sure to mark you calendar and to keep this event in mind for sponsorship opportunities!



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Christmas Party

Once again, it snowed on the day of our Christmas Party. But unlike the past two years, the snows came during peak driving times, affecting many of our guests and their travel plans.



Still, our anticipated attendance and the actual attendance exceeded our expectations, and for that we are thankful! Most importantly, everyone arrived safely.

Those who arrived early missed a lot of the snow and also got the chance to catch up with friends in our Hospitality Suite and to get a head start on the party itself. They also got the chance to spend some time at the Heidel House, which was in full holiday trim.

The Christmas Party followed a familiar pattern with a reception, dinner, music, and door prizes, but there were a few new wrinkles added. And believe it or not, we're already getting ready for next year, taking the best of this year's and previous year's parties to give you something even better! We'll be in Milwaukee and we'll probably be on the first Saturday of the month again. Look for details in the weeks ahead.

Our many thanks to the sponsors of our Christmas Party (see right). Thanks also to Mike Burns of Borsche Roofing (Appleton). Mike served as chairperson of this year's event and did a terrific job!

See more photos from the Christmas Party at www.wrcaonline.org.

Christmas Party Sponsors

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Green Roofs

Following up to our last newsletter, green roofs continue to receive favor in Wisconsin, especially in the Milwaukee and Madison markets. Several projects that were built or will be built will include green roofs.

On the one hand, the durability of green roofs is reported to be greater than conventional roofing systems, they improve efficiency of the HVAC system, they can positively affect property values, and they reduce stormwater run-off (allowing land to be developed, rather than set aside for retention ponds).

On the other hand, green roofs can be two or three times more expensive to install. Beyond that, they may also require structural changes to the building to hold the increased weight.



Green roofs aren't going to be right for all applications, but their use will likely increase. The state, many cities, and even some counties in Wisconsin have adopted

sustainability guidelines and green building practices that encourage or require their use on public-sector buildings.

This makes sense, as government units tend to be long-term owners of their buildings. For those looking to build and sell their buildings, the cost-benefit analysis will likely be different. On the national front, the Clinton Presidential Library made the news in late November when it converted to a green roof, adding to the library's already eco-friendly design.

FM Global Revisions

Revisions to FM 1-29 can be found on the company's RoofNav website at www.fmglobal.com.

Safety News

The U.S. Department of Labor reports that the number of workplace fatalities decreased in 2006, to 3.9 deaths per 100,000 workers. The construction industry saw an increase in workplace fatalities of 3 percent, however, and it remains the most dangerous industry in the nation. Within the construction industry, fatalities among specialty contractors increased by 6 percent, with the highest number of fatalities occurring at companies doing building finishing and roofing.

OSHA Logs

Don't forget, OSHA 300 Logs need to be posted between February 1 and April 30!

Posters

And speaking of posters, this is a good time to look at your jobsite and office employment posters to make certain everything is current. There have been changes to the minimum wage, for instance, that are reflected in updated posters.

You can get information about jobsite posters from the following sites:

Federal:

www.dol.gov/osbp/sbrefa/poster/matrix.htm

State:

www.dwd.state.wi.us/dwd/posters.htm

WC Rates

Overall, WC rates decreased in the state by 2.47 percent for policies renewing after October 1, 2007. For construction, the rates dropped by 2.90 percent.

The rates for roofers (class 5551) dropped from \$43.79 per \$100 of payroll to \$37.36 per \$100 of payroll, or 14.68 percent, though each company's experience will affect their ultimate rate.

In addition, the Wisconsin Contractor Premium Adjustment Program has been made permanent. The program provides a discount for high-wage employers, recognizing that the benefits of high-wage employees are capped, so additional premium would not accrue to the benefit of the high wage employer or its employees.

Prevailing Wage Rates

New rates for roofers and other trades working on public sector projects subject to prevailing wage/benefit rates can be found at:

www.dwd.state.wi.us/pwfnl/PwfnlList.asp

Enter the county and you will see the rates in for Roofers (Job Class 133) and other trades for projects bid in 2008.

Asbestos Training

There's still no word on updated asbestos training requirements for the roofing industry. The State's Department of Health & Family Services has talked about an update for years. In the meantime, the current rules requiring training remain in effect. WRCA has two Associate Members that can help with your training needs – Good Armstrong Training & Consultation (www.goodarmstrong.com) and Milwaukee Lead & Asbestos Information Center (www.mlaic.com). Both offer discounts to WRCA members.

Apprenticeship

You can find useful information and statistics about construction-related apprenticeship at:

<http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/apprenticeship/default.htm>

You'll also find information about Executive Order 108 which requires the use of apprentices on State construction projects.

Legislative Report – News from the Capitol

The budget dominated much of the year in Madison, with agreement finally coming in late October. While it would be great to think that the entire debate was about the merits of the issues, much of the debate was really about positioning for next year's elections.

Republicans will argue that without their control of the Assembly, significant tax increases would have been passed – whether suggested by the governor or the Senate. Democrats will argue that if they had controlled the Assembly, schools, local government, and the UW system would have been enhanced and universal health care would be a reality.

One of the subtle shifts in state government is the use of fees to replace taxes. Another is more aggressive collection of taxes based on new interpretations of existing laws. In Iowa, for instance, the Department of Revenue decided that pumpkins were no longer food, but Halloween decorations. As a result, they were taxable. Fear not, if you ate your pumpkin, you could apply for a tax refund!



As for our industry, a bill has been introduced to require that contractors be registered with the Department of Commerce. Many roofing contractors,

especially those doing residential work, are already registered through the Certificate of Financial Responsibility program. Most commercial contractors are not registered at this point, but would be if the bill was to pass.

As for residential contractors, new rules go into effect on January 1 that require those pulling building permits to have completed specific course work and to maintain continuity by attending annual continuing education courses.

A bill has been introduced that would create a uniform commercial building code in the state. The bill would not specify a particular code or suite of codes that would be adopted. If passed, this would allow

contractors to design and install systems under a uniform set of rules, rather than designing systems to meet local codes that exceed state minimums. Opposition comes from those involved in fire protection, but only a handful of jurisdictions would be affected by a uniform code and they may be grandfathered, allowing them to retain their more stringent standards.

For information about the bills mentioned above or about the Wisconsin legislature, visit www.legis.state.wi.us. There, you can also find the names of your elected officials and information on how to contact them.



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Membership

Every association is interested in expanding its membership base, and WRCA is no different. We thank you for your membership and encourage you to invite others – both contractors and suppliers – to become members too. It costs you nothing to ask and with each new member that joins, the value of your own membership is increased.

Imagine if every new member got just one new member in the next year. Could we do more for you with the additional financial resources? Could we do more for you in our working with State and local government? Could we introduce you to more vendors or contractors who may have the experience or the product/service to meet one of your business needs?

We'll provide you with the letters, information, and applications you need, we just need your help making the membership request.

Roofing Tidbits

80% of all roofing contractors are out of business within 2-1/2 years after they install a residential roof. This is generally before many installation-related roofing problems surface.

95% of homes have inadequate ventilation.

On commercial projects, roofing represents just 4% of a project's value, but accounts for 50% of the litigation cost.

News from NRCA

It looks like the Department of Homeland Security will not appeal the temporary injunction against its "no match" rules, effectively ending this chapter of the immigration story. Look for this to pick up again next year when the Department proposes rewritten rules.

The Roofing Efficiency Tax Act of 2007 (HR 4126) was introduced recently to shorten the depreciation schedule for nonresidential roofing systems from 39 years to 20 years, provided they meet the requirements of ASHRAE 90.1.

The 2008 International Roofing Expo will be held February 21-23, 2008 in Las Vegas.

NRCA has established a separate, nonprofit organization to promote "green" roofing practices. Known as the Center for Environmental Innovation in Roofing, the organization will deal with energy conservation and environmental stewardship.

Advertising/Articles

This issue of the WRCA newsletter contains information from several of our Associate Members. Our thanks to each for working with us!

If you are interested in providing advertising and/or announcement for an upcoming edition, or if you have an interesting idea for an article, or if you have an interest idea for an article, please contact the WRCA office at (414) 227-1230.



Contact Us

For more information about any of the articles in this newsletter, or if there is any way that we can be of service to you, please be sure to contact our office at:

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