

# SMACNA SPECS

APRIL 2009

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## 5TH ANNUAL SHEET METAL INDUSTRY NIGHT IS A BIG HIT

Over 100 design professionals, contractors and suppliers made their way to the Sheraton Station Square for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sheet Metal Industry Night hosted by the Western Pennsylvania Sheet Metal LMCC.

As the attendees munched on turkey, beef and other treats, they mingled and talked with the ten suppliers who had their table-top booths displayed to show all the great things they have to offer.



Eli Howard

SMACNA National's Executive Director of Technical Services, Eli Howard, gave a 75 minute presentation on HVAC Systems Duct Design.

Prior to the technical session, Steve Alauzen, President of the Pittsburgh Chapter of ASHRAE, thanked SMACNA for inviting their group to join in on the evening. He said he hopes that the two organizations can continue to do things together

in the future.

"We had four people from our company attend this year. I hope to have more come to the next one," said one attendee.

"I thought this was the best...Industry Night ever! I think you should always include the ASHRAE group with the SMACNA group for this affair," responded another.



Travis Croll and LuAnn Orcutt - Renick Brothers Construction

Following Mr. Howard's presentation the group came back out for coffee, dessert and some door prizes. Although not everyone took home a door prize, everyone seemed to enjoy the evening!



## NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

SMACNA is pleased to announce that during the General Membership Meeting held on December 3, 2008, two new directors were elected to the Board. Tom Roth of *James E. Roth, Inc.*, and Ryan Ward of *C.L. Ward & Family, Inc.*, were offered as the slate by the Nominating Committee. These gentlemen were elected by affirmation of the membership in attendance to replace outgoing directors Ken J. Kotchey from *K&I Sheet Metal*

and Mark Patrizia from *Rabe Environmental Systems*.

The Board and membership of SMACNA of Western PA would like to thank Ken and Mark for their four years of service to the association and we look forward to working with Tom and Ryan for the next four!

Thank you to our outgoing directors, Mark Patrizia and Ken J. Kotchey!

## SMACNA OF PA CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN JUNE

SMACNA of Pennsylvania will hold its annual convention this summer at the Hotel Hershey ([www.thehotelhershey.com](http://www.thehotelhershey.com)) in Hershey, PA. Many of Pennsylvania's sheet metal contractors will attend the three-day event being held **June 18-20**.

The keynote speaker for this year's convention is Catherine Sheane from local architectural/engineering firm *Astorino*, who will discuss LEED Certification: What Is It, How Do I Get It, Do I Need It? on Friday morning.



The Hotel Hershey

On Thursday morning, tee times have been set aside at the *Hershey Links Golf Club*. Thursday night will find the group headed to Penn National Racetrack and Casino. Don't worry, kids are still invited. We will have a private room upstairs where we can watch the races and even place a bet or two if you want.

There is a family style breakfast on Friday morning and then the General Membership Meeting where things such as current legislation are discussed. All members of SMACNA of PA are invited to attend. Lunch will follow the meeting, with Arlyn Katzen Landow of Navigant Consulting speaking about "How to Make a Profit in a Down Economy." This is probably something all of us need to hear.

On Friday night, the annual reception, dinner and PAC raffle will be held at the hotel. Each year a number of very nice prizes are given away via Chinese auction. All of the money raised will be used by our state association for the purpose of lobbying efforts on your behalf. We all know that the wheels of government are greased with cash!

There is another family breakfast on Saturday morning and then attendees can be on their way! However, anyone wanting to stay an extra night or two to enjoy Hershey Park or any of the exciting things to do nearby can get the group rate by requesting it when you make your reservations.

Children are welcome to attend the state convention as it is always family friendly. There will be special functions for children ages 4 and up during the dinner and PAC auction on Friday night. This will include dinner and games to keep them occupied. Children are broken up according to ages so your 12-year old will not be doing the same thing as the 5-year olds.

More information about the state convention will be coming in the mail shortly. If anyone has questions, please contact SMACNA of Western PA.

**"How to Make a  
Profit in a Down  
Economy"**



**FROM HARRISBURG: ANTI-UNION BILLS PILING UP**

Each session numerous legislative proposals are introduced that would make it harder for the unionized construction industry.

In the past couple of weeks, a slew of such bills have been offered. Many of them amend the Prevailing Wage Act. For example, **Senate Bills 646 through 649** would do everything from redefine what constitutes “maintenance” under the Act to allowing local governments to opt out of paying prevailing wages. The maintenance bills are an attempt to reverse a PA Supreme

Court decision that determined that road milling work is covered by prevailing wage law. **House Bill 787** does the same thing. The “opt out” bills are just another way of narrowing the scope of the Act.

Another recently introduced bill, **Senate Bill 677**, mandates that the apprenticeship ratio for all industries and all trades be set at one to one. Add to the list **Senate Bill 563** which would amend the mechanic’s lien law by undoing some of the hard won improvements enacted in 2006.

There is also a package of bills that increase public advertising and bidding thresholds for local governments. The bills raise the thresholds from \$10,000 to \$25,000 for virtually any type of political subdivision, from boroughs to school districts.

As the bills are currently written, this threshold increase would apply to construction projects. But, our lobbyists expect an amendment exempting construction from the new thresholds to be adopted before the bills pass the Senate.

**Senate Bill 677 mandates that the apprenticeship ratio...be set at one to one**

**CONSTRUCTION LAW UPDATE HELD IN FEBRUARY**

A small crowd attended this year’s Construction Law Update on February 27<sup>th</sup> at the Pittsburgh Marriott North.

Attendees were offered a full breakfast upon arrival, then Joe Vater and Josh Lorenz, attorneys from Meyer, Unkovic and Scott, LLP, began their presentations.

Mr. Vater discussed a number of employment law issues, including changes to the Family Medical and Leave Act, amend-

ments to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, amendments to



**Joe Vater discussing employment law issues at the February 27th program**

the COBRA law and more.

Mr. Lorenz outlined contract issues relating to sustainable “green” building and provided information about Building Information Modeling, or BIM.

SMACNA would like to thank both of these gentlemen for taking time out of their busy schedules to help us out early on a Friday morning!

If any member would like copies of their presentations, please contact the association office.



**SMACNA PROJECT MANAGERS INSTITUTE COMING SOON**

Experienced SMACNA contractors know that their best project managers take ownership of their projects. SMACNA’s new program, the Project Managers Institute aims to help

them build existing skills.

Participants will work in teams during the 2 1/2 day program on interactive, industry specific, exercises designed to help them strengthen their skills in

communication, planning, leadership, and business.

The program is scheduled for June 22-24 in Tempe, AZ. Contact the SMACNA office for more information.

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