

SMACNA SPECS

FEBRUARY 2010

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NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ELECTED

At the SMACNA of Western PA General Membership Meeting held on December 10th, Tom Szymczak of SSM Industries and Bill Auth of Ruthrauff Sauer were elected to four year-terms on the Association Board of Directors. Following that election, the Board held a brief meeting to elect officers. At that meeting, the following officers were elected to two-year terms:

President: **Eber Verhovsek** – Eber HVAC
Johnstown, PA

Vice Pres: **John Raught** – Northstar Environmental
Beaver, PA

Treasurer: **Ray Yeager** – Ductmate Industries
Charleroi, PA

Secretary: **Dave Wingertsahn** – McKamish, Inc.
Pittsburgh, PA

Past. Pres: **Dave Meyer** – Ralph J. Meyer Co.
Pittsburgh, PA

Mike Balistreri – Limbach Company
Pittsburgh, PA

Tom Roth – James E. Roth, Inc.
Cranberry Twp., PA

Ryan Ward – C.L. Ward & Family, Inc.
Canonsburg, PA

Bill Auth – Ruthrauff Sauer
McKees Rocks, PA

Tom Szymczak – SSM Industries
Pittsburgh, PA

Our Directors for 2010 are as follows:

Richard Watkins – Overly Manufacturing
Greensburg, PA

Ray Yeager – Ductmate Industries
Charleroi, PA



6TH ANNUAL SHEET METAL INDUSTRY NIGHT SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 4TH

On March 4th, design professionals, sheet metal contractors and vendors will come together at the Sheraton Station Square for our 6th Annual Sheet Metal Industry Night. There will be food, beverages, and an educational session on SMACNA's new HVAC Duct Leakage Manual that is due out later this Spring.

Anyone interested in attending our Industry Night should contact SMACNA of Western PA at 412-922-0130 or send email to James Strother at

jestrother@smacnawpa.org with the subject line "Industry Night".

The Industry Night is sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Sheet Metal Labor Management Cooperation Committee.



SUMMARY OF THE CREDIT CARD ACCOUNTABILITY RESPONSIBILITY AND DISCLOSURE ACT

The following is a summary of the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act that was signed into law last year. The law takes effect on February 22, 2010. It is important that you understand how the law affects you and your business and the rights you now have.

Prevents Unfair Increases In Interest Rates and Changes in Terms

- Prohibits arbitrary interest rate increases and universal default on existing balances;
- Requires a credit card issuer who increases a cardholder's interest rate to periodically review and decrease the rate if indicated by the review;
- Prohibits credit card issuers from increasing rates on a cardholder in the first year after a credit card account is opened;
- Requires promotional rates to last at least 6 months.

Prohibits Exorbitant and Unnecessary Fees

- Prohibits issuers from charging a fee to pay a credit card debt, whether by mail, telephone, or electronic transfer, except for live services to make expedited payments;
- Prohibits issuers from charging over-limit fees unless the cardholder elects to allow the issuer to complete over-limit transactions, and also limits over-limit fees on electing cardholders;
- Requires penalty fees to be reasonable and proportional to the omission or violation;
- Enhances protections against excessive fees on low-credit, high-fee credit cards.

Requires Fairness in Application and Timing of Card Payments

- Requires payments in excess of the minimum to be applied first to the credit card balance with the highest rate of interest;

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HRANEC CORPORATION OFFERS SERVICES TO THE INDUSTRY

Hranec Corporation is expanding their capabilities everyday: providing spiral and oval pipe, including specialty metals such as PVC, stainless steel, aluminum, and paint grip. Hranec is in their fifth year selling spiral and oval, catering to their fellow Local 12 contractors.

Located in Uniontown, they are signatory to Sheet Metal Workers Local 12. Hranec started in 2005 with bare bones equipment, but have recently added on to their shop with two spiral machines and an ovalizer to meet the needs of the most demanding jobs. They have completed several large projects such as the Rutgers Sports Facility, which contained huge double wall spiral pipe with oval runs throughout.



- Prohibits issuers from setting early morning deadlines for credit card payments;
- Requires credit card statements to be mailed 21 days before the bill is due rather than the current 14.

Protects the Rights of Financially Responsible Credit Card Users

- Prohibits interest charges on debt paid on time (double-cycle billing ban);
- Prohibits late fees if the card issuer delayed crediting the payment;
- Requires that payment at local branches be credited same-day;
- Requires credit card companies to consider a consumer's ability to pay when issuing credit cards or increasing credit limits.

Provides Enhanced Disclosures of Card Terms and Conditions

- Requires cardholders to be given 45 days notice of interest rate, fee and finance charge increases;
- Requires issuers to provide disclosures to consumers upon card renewal when the card terms have changed;
- Requires issuers to provide individual consumer account information and to disclose the period of time and total interest it will take to pay off the card balance if only minimum monthly payments are made;
- Requires full disclosure in billing statements of payment due dates and applicable late payment penalties.

Strengthens Oversight of Credit Card Industry Practices

- Requires each credit card issuer to post its credit card agreements on the internet, and provide those agreements to the Federal Reserve Board to post on its website;
- Requires the Federal Reserve Board to review the consumer credit card market, including the terms of credit card agreements and the practices of credit card issuers and the cost and availability to consumers;
- Requires Federal Trade Commission rulemaking to prevent deceptive marketing of free credit reports.

Enhanced Penalties

- Increases existing penalties for companies that violate the Truth in Lending Act for credit card customers.

Protects Small Businesses

- Requires the Federal Reserve to study the use of credit cards by small businesses and make recommendations for administrative and legislative proposals;
- Establishes Small Business Information Security Task Force to address the information technology security needs of small businesses and help prevent the loss of credit card data.

Gift Card Protections

- Protects recipients of gift cards by requiring all gift cards to have at least a five-year life span, and eliminates the practice of declining values and hidden fees for those cards not used within a reasonable period of time.



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S E R V I N G W E S T E R N P A F O R O V E R 5 0 Y E A R S !



SMACNA of Western Pennsylvania.
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Vice President - John Raught
Secretary - Dave Wingersahn
Treasurer - Ray Yeager
Past Pres. - Dave Meyer
Directors: Richard Watkins
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Tom Roth
Ryan Ward
Tom Szymczak
Bill Auth

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