



FCA Update - February 2010

Highlights from FCA staff of activities and news during the previous month.

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Executive Office

- FCA staff and I participated in a conference call with the FCA Board of Directors, which approved the 2010 budget and reviewed designs for a new National FCA logo.
- I attended a meeting of the FCA Southern California Coalition, which meets every other month to share information between the different local FCA affiliates in that area and comprises painting, drywall and flooring contractors.
- Tony Darkangelo and I attended the Third Annual Midwest Regional Union Finishing Contractors Conference organized by the FCA of Illinois and co-sponsored by National FCA and FCA of Chicago. At the conference, I moderated a panel discussion between Chuck Anderson BM/ST of District Council 30, and Rick Vandegrift, FCAI president, who discussed recent changes to their collective bargaining agreement.
- Tony Darkangelo and I attended the PACE Conference, a conference co-sponsored by SSPC and PDCA. Tony and I delivered a presentation on the benefits and services of FCA to a meeting of union contractors.
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I interviewed a number of candidates for the position of FCA's Eastern Regional Vice President. We anticipate announcing our Vice President next month.

- FCA staff and I have been very busy planning for the FCA 2010 Annual Council meeting, June 16-19. We finalized the list of educational programs and you should receive detailed information in the mail about this program next week.
- Kristin Bromberg, Robin Smith, and I, met with a consultant who reviewed and gave us recommendations on how to implement our new Corporate Partnership Program.

FCA ANNUAL COUNCIL 2010

When: June 16-19, 2010

Where: Millennium Broadway
Hotel New York
145 West 44th St.
New York, NY 10036

Registration Fee: \$250
Guest Registration Fee: \$150

**Be on the Lookout:
You will receive
a copy of the FCA
2010 Annual Council
Schedule of Events in
the mail
this week!**

[Click to Register!](#)

[Click Here for the Full
Schedule of Events](#)

Tuesday, June 15

- Dinner for the FCA Board
of Directors

Wednesday, June 16

- FCA Board of Directors
Meeting
**- Young Leaders Network
Kickoff Meeting**
- Opening Reception for all
Attendees

Thursday, June 17

- Plenary Session: Panel
Discussion on Outstanding
Labor Relations
- Four Educational
Programs (*scheduled for
the morning, and then
repeated after lunch*)

- I had a conversation with our auditors who assured me that our 2009 audits are near completion and we are in sound financial condition.
- I met with Mark McCallum, the CEO of the National Association of Surety Bond Producers, to discuss our current bonding program and to determine whether we should consider offering an additional bonding program to our members.
- I, along with the rest of the staff, participated in our semi-monthly CBA conference calls. In the most recent conference call, there was an extended discussion on unfunded pension liability and negotiation tips and strategies.

Vice President Activities

Jay Weaver

- **Capitol Hill Visits** - Capitol Hill visits to Congressional offices continue in support of the following proposed legislation: "Merkley Amendment" to the Health Care bill; "Bridge Painting Amendment" to the Jobs Creation bill; "Multiemployer Short and Long Term Pension Fund Relief" legislation; "Misclassification as Independent Contractor" bills', and "Three Percent Withholding Tax Repeal" legislation.

Tony Darkangelo

- **LMCI** - FCA communicated with David Stvartak and David Ottesen on industry issues and preparations for the upcoming area round table and mini round tables. We have also been planning, and have been in discussion with bringing contractors aboard in Utah and Seattle.
- **IUPAT** - FCA worked with both Ray Price and Ray Sesma on bringing additional associations on board with FCA. Ray Price met with FCA in Cleveland and visited both the association leader Guy Gallo and the District Council leadership.

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Ohio (Cleveland) Contractors DC 6 - FCA met with Guy Gallo to discuss the Ohio contractors' affiliation with FCA. Guy has agreed to travel with me to meet with his top membership and set a date for a presentation to his

- Adjourn at 3 PM
- Dinner and Theatre for Interested Parties (*please note that there is an additional fee for this event*)

Friday, June 18

- FCA's Nine Committees Hold Staggered Meetings Before Lunch
 - Government Relations
 - Business Practices
 - Workforce Advisory
 - NEW Safety Committee
 - Drywall
 - Flooring
 - Glazing
 - Industrial Painting
 - Commercial Paint and Wallcovering
- Adjourn at 12:15 PM with Box Lunches Available
- Golfing Event
- World Trade Center Tour for Non-Golfers
- Dinner Reception for all Attendees

Saturday, June 19

- Leadership Council Meeting in the Morning
- Affiliate Executives Council Meeting in the Afternoon

membership in April.

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Madison Area Finishing Contractors Association (MAFCA) FCA had additional meetings with the MAFCA leadership and negotiation committee. MAFCA asked for FCA to participate in its negotiations and have agreed to negotiate the additional \$0.05 in the new CBA for LMCI/FCA. We also met with BM/ST John Jorgensen (DC 7) to tour the new facility and discuss ground rules and dates for the negotiations.

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Painting and Decorating Foundation (St. Louis) - FCA met with Affiliate Director Dan Wienstroer and a contractor member and discussed their upcoming negotiations. Dan also provided information on the necessity of the local affiliates to be involved with their community.

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AGMA of St. Louis - FCA met with AGMA Director Don Gerken on the issues in the area with losing work to the carpenters and iron workers. We also met with a few of the top contractors to discuss these and other issues. In meeting with the local union leadership we were made aware that there is a glazing agreement in the St. Louis area and another agreement outside of St. Louis with the same local union. The local union was meeting to propose to its members to allow the St. Louis contractors to use the rates and working conditions outside of St. Louis when traveling outside of the St. Louis area. Currently, the St. Louis contractors have to use the wage rates and conditions of the St. Louis contract outside of the area.

Products and Services

- **Labor Productivity Survey** - Contractors that fill out a minimum of three surveys will be eligible to win a 50" plasma TV, along with other prizes! Survey entries must be received no later than April 1, 2010. The winner will be announced at the FCA 2010 Annual Council. [Click here](#) to download and complete your three surveys.
- **UPS Freight 70% Discount**
 - [Click here](#) to sign-up for your 70% UPS freight discount today!

Educational Programs

- **Claims and Risk-Management webinar.** The registration fee is \$49/person. Click the link below to register.
 - [Overview of Construction Claims and Documents](#)
March 17, 2010, 3 p.m. Eastern

Government Relations

- **Health Care Reform/Merkley Amendment** - FCA will continue to visit Members of Congress on Capitol Hill and push for this amendment. As the Senate and the House work towards reconciliation legislation, we need your continued help in contacting your Members of Congress (particularly Democrats) to express your support for retaining the Merkley Amendment which states: "[Contractors] who employed an average of at least 5 full-time employees...or whose annual payroll expenses exceed \$250,000...[need to provide health care insurance]." By lowering the number of employees from 50 to 5 and from \$500,000 to \$250,000, more non-union contractors will have to provide mandatory health care, thereby further leveling the playing field. A recent visit was made to Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) to explain the rationale behind the amendment and to gain his support for adding it to the Health Care Reform bill.
- **Jobs Creation Bill (Bridge Painting Amendment)** - FCA sent out a Congressional alert for contractors to fax their Democratic Senators asking for their support in adding the "Bridge Painting Amendment" to the Jobs Creation bill. If you have not already done so, we still need your help in contacting your Democratic Members of Congress, particularly if you are an industrial painter. This amendment requires that only SSPC-certified QP-1, QP-2, and QP-3 contractors are qualified to work on these projects and that all employees be trained in a journeymen training program approved by the Secretary of Labor.
- **Multiemployer Pension Funds: Short-/Long-Term Relief** - Our Coalition's Congressional office visits also continue in an effort to gain support for H.R.3936: the "Preserve Benefits and Jobs Act of 2009," which Reps. Earl Pomeroy (D-At Large ND) and Patrick Tiberi (R-OH) introduced in the House. This proposed legislation contains our Coalition's, the National Coordinating Committee for Multiemployer Plans, comprehensive set of relief proposals designed to help mitigate the immediate effects of the current pension fund financial crises

(particularly the need to extend the amortization period to 30 years and to provide 10-year "smoothing"). The FCA, along with the other five CQC Alliance members and the IUPAT, again signed the U.S. Chamber of Congress-generated letter to Members of Congress (249 signatures) supporting both short- and long-term pension fund relief.

- **Jobs Creation Bill (Rebuilding America: Building Star Program)** - Unfortunately, a separate rebate and tax incentive program for commercial building energy efficiency retrofits (called "Building Star"), included in an earlier version of H.R.2847: the proposed Jobs Creation Bill, was removed from the current version. Concerning removal of the "Building Star" program, union contractors, labor organizations, project owners, and manufacturers are urging Senators to support the program's rebates/tax incentives by having them reinserted into the jobs creation bill. Please see FCA's website for more specifics on this program and for a sample letter to Congress urging your Member of Congress to support it.
- **Misclassification as Independent Contractor** - FCA continues to garner support for the two pending bills by visiting Members of Congress. A recent visit was made to Rep. John Barrow (D-GA) to explain the legislation in detail and its impact on both the federal, state, and local coffers.
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Campaign for Quality Construction-National Issues Conference (May 3-5, 2010) - Planning meetings continue for this annual legislative conference where contractors from six associations discuss in detail key legislative/regulatory issues, and then visit their Members of Congress to urge their support for these issues. This year's conference takes place at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. Please mark your calendars and come to show Congress that you care about legislative and regulatory issues affecting your industry.

Upcoming Events

- LMCI Trustees Meeting, March 8-9, 2010 - Sunny Isles, FL
- FCA Board of Directors Meeting - March 10, 2010, Sunny Isles, FL
- FCA/IUPAT Executive Meeting - March 11, 2010, Sunny Isles, FL
- FTI Trustees Meeting - March 12-13, 2010, Sunny Isles, FL
- FCA Webinar: *Overview of Construction Claims and Damages* - March 17, 2010, 3 PM Eastern
- FCA CBA Conference Call - March 18, 2010
- MCCA Annual Convention - March 28 - April 1, 2010, JW Marriott Starr Pass, Tucson, AZ
- Northwest Wall and Ceiling Industries Convention & Trade

Show - April 8-10, 2010, Tucson, AZ

- FCA CBA Conference Calls - April 1, 15, & 29, 2010
- American Coatings Conference 2010 - April 12-14, 2010, Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, NC
- AWCI Annual Convention and Intex Expo - April 20-24, 2010, Denver, CO
- FCA Trustee Conference Call - April 28, 2010
- Campaign for Quality Construction - May 3-5, 2010, Washington, D.C.
- FCA Annual Council - June 16-19, 2010, New York City
 - [Click Here to Register!](#)

The **more contractors** that participate, the **more accurate the results** show the factors common to all trades and locations affecting your productivity. It's as easy as 1...2...3! Simply fill out and submit the survey three times for three different projects:

1. One project that turned out well.
2. One project that turned out mediocre.
3. One project that did not turn out well.

Once you complete three surveys, you are automatically eligible to win one of three great prizes!

- Grand Prize: 50" plasma TV.
- Second Place: 4 Box-Seat Tickets to a Major League Baseball Game in Your Area.
- Third Place: Free Registration for You and a Guest at the 2010 FCA Annual Council.

FINISHING
CONTRACTORS
ASSOCIATION

Labor Productivity Study

Complete and submit at least **(3) Labor Productivity Surveys**, and your company will automatically be eligible to win one of three great prizes. Grand prize is a 50" plasma TV!



Visit FCA Online to Download the Survey Today!
www.finishingcontractors.org

8120 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 520, Bethesda, MD 20814
Phone (301) 215.7026 Fax (301) 215.7027 www.finishingcontractors.org

Fill out your three surveys before the prize drawing deadline, April 1, 2010!

[Click here to download the FCA Labor Productivity Survey](#)