

Chapter Visits Could Offer Insight On Future

In planning for the future, the Builders Association laid out three main strategic goals, one of which was to develop and implement proactive strategies that address workforce trends.

To help accomplish that goal, members and Association staff will be hitting the road.

Trips to Kansas City, Philadelphia and San Diego have been planned to meet with construction firm executives and AGC chapter representatives from those areas.

As the Association tries to stay ahead of labor trends for the benefit of member companies, research on those same trends in other markets will be beneficial.

Subcommittees formed to handle this and other upcoming labor issues are:

- Chapter Visits Subcommittee will attend the meetings and assist the Association in planning for them. The subcommittee includes John Russell of W.E. O'Neil Construction Company, Lynn Treat of Ryan Companies, Tim Sullivan of Pepper Construction Company and Steve Lenz of The George Sollitt Construction Company
- Labor/Management Task Force is charged with further enhancing communication and building rapport with the labor unions. The Task Force is composed of

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Lynn Treat, Jim Sikich of W.E. O'Neil Construction Company, Phil Diekemper of Ceco Concrete Construction and Ben Johnston of James McHugh Construction Company

- Trust Fund Task Force, which includes Ben Johnston, Bob Lessman of SmithAmundsen LLC and John Bauer of W.B. Olson, Inc. The Trust Fund Task Force will help members understand their liability regarding the Pension Protection Act, in addition to how withdrawal liability can impact a company's bottom line

BA Meets With Carpenters, Laborers Executives

By providing labor contracts and serving as an intermediary in grievances and jurisdictional disputes, the Builders Association saves its members thousands of dollars a year in labor costs. This summer, the Association took yet another step to helping its contractors by meeting with representatives of the Carpenters and Laborers unions.

In separate meetings, Builders Association members and staff discussed the issues of loading and unloading and clean-up with business managers and other executives from both unions.

The Association will continue to meet and work with unions with the objectives of identifying difficulties and finding ways to ease or eliminate those challenges.

TEMP-HEAT GRIEVANCES

Another issue keeping Builders Association Director of Labor Denise Herdrich busy this summer was a grievance filed against many contractors by Operating Engineers Local 150 regarding the use of temporary heat.

The Builders Association contacted a labor attorney to review the grievances and kept affected members in the loop with phone conversations, conference calls and items in *The Builder* and *The Builder Blast*.

The Joint Grievance Committee didn't produce a solution, indicating that the matter was likely to go to



arbitration. In August, grieved contractors received copies of a letter sent by an attorney for the Operating Engineers to the American Arbitration Association, requesting a panel of arbitrators to resolve the matter.

The Builders Association will continue to keep members updated on the status of the temp heat grievances and other issues. Call Denise at 847.318.8585 with questions about labor.