Dear Sasha,

The 45th Annual Metal Building Contractors and Erectors (MBCEA) Conference was held at the Hyatt Regency Cambridge, MA May 1-3, 2014. For those of you that were not there - you missed a great opportunity to network, meet new and old friends and learn about new products and innovations.

The Exhibit Hall opened to a great crowd. Contractors and Erectors were there to learn new applications, see new products and make new contacts. ATAS International, Inc., Metallic Building Company, AutoMAK Assembly, Inc., Metl-Span, Bay Insulation Systems, Northern Building Systems, Butler Manufacturing, Novagard Solutions, Chief Buildings, Plyco Corp, Dynamic Fastener, PowerLift Hydraulic Doors, Guardian Laminated Building Products, Inc., Roof Hugger, G.W.Y. Inc., Sealex, Inc., IMPACT, SFS Intec, ITW Buildex, ITW Polymers Sealants North America, Tell Manufacturing, TopHat Framing Systems, METALCON International and Wood's Powr-Grip Co., Inc. were all on display. There was a definite buzz in the air as Contractors discussed upcoming projects and explored new MBCEA initiatives.

Hockey legend, Derek Sanderson presented a stimulating key note speech. Often witty, sometimes wistful he spoke not only about growing up as a hockey protégé in Canada but about the problems athletes face when they suddenly are cast in the spotlight and paid millions of dollars. He spoke to a full room and answered many questions afterwards. Anyone that asked a question received an autographed book or hockey memorabilia.

Friday night's Awards ceremony was a lot of fun. I updated the crowd on several new MBCEA initiatives such as the newly revised Safety Handbook, a new module on Insulated Metal Panels for the Quality and Craftsmanship Series and the Accreditation Program. I firmly believe this new program will be a game changer for the industry. I had the pleasure of formally inducting Wes Young, NCI to the Board of Directors and swearing in Steve Olson of Rigid Global Buildings as Treasurer and Andy Huber of A.L. Huber Construction as Secretary.
The Building of the Year Awards were magnificent as always. This year's judges were Ronald Albert, AIA of RHA Architects and Jim Lichty, AIA of Archetype Design Group, Inc. All winners were quite impressive but the judges ultimately chose The Field House as Building of the Year. This 46,800 SF building from Star Buildings/Structural Steel had eaves from a low of 30' to a high of 38.4'. It had a standing seam roof, with R 30 Simple Saver Insulation and 2" Insulated wall panels. It was built by Burk Erectors and Morelock Ross Builders in Springfield, MO.

Marty Barnes, of Barnes Building and Management Group was inducted as a Pioneer. The distinct purpose behind the creation of this important Pioneers Club is the association's determination to give credit and recognition to metal building contractors and erectors who have been such for at least 25 consecutive years. Marty graduated in 1973 from Wentworth Institute and went to work as a structural detailer for a local metal building manufacturer. In 1982 he decided to open his own company and specialized in design build projects using pre-engineered metal building systems. Due to the poor economy in 1990 he closed the company and went to work for Metallic Building Company out of Houston as their first District Sales Manager for the New England area. Six years later he decided it was time to go back out on his own again and since founding BARNES buildings in 1996 he has been their President and the driving force behind their continued success. He is a Past President MBCEA New England Chapter 2007, 2008; Current Member Board of Directors; Former PAC member (President's Advisory Council) for Metallic Building Company, former Board of Director ABC (Associated Builders and Contractors). In addition he was recently featured and profiled in July 2013 issue of Metal Construction News, 2002 President Award Metallic Building Company, Consistent Member of Metallic "M" Team (Top 25 builders in the Nation), 2002 MBCEA National
Building of The Year Award, 2003 ABC Eagle Award, 2005 MBCEA National Building of the Year, and Numerous Design-Build Awards.

Shannon Fowler received the Oil Can award. This prestigious honor is given in recognition of those who work behind the scenes for the good of the industry. Ms. Fowler has been attending MBCEA conferences and helping to make them run smoothly since she was a young girl. Many know her as the face of the registration desk. She has also been instrumental in the development of the Midwest Chapter.

Day 2 of the Conference was very informative. Bill Beals, of Therm-All explained Insulation and Energy codes to a rapt audience. He managed to make a dry subject fascinating. Members of the audience wanted more and quickly convinced him to speak at future chapter meetings so their foremen and project managers could also hear what he had to say. Gene Mitchell demonstrated bolt tightening techniques. Mitchell was very engaging and informative. Attendees also received a copy of the Metal Buildings Institute Turn of Nut Guide. Sandi McCracken and I presented an overview of the Accreditation Program titled Crafting a Standard to recognize Metal Building System Assemblers that are committed to excellence. A copy is included in this newsletter. We explained that the MBCEA intends to develop an independent accreditation program that differentiates those contractors and erectors that are committed to safety, training and education; that perform at a higher level. The IAS supports this endeavor and has assigned Sandi to assist in the development of a program. The criteria are being developed in concert with industry to ensure a program that is meaningful and relevant to industry. The MBCEA recognizes that this accreditation program needs to be sufficiently meaningful to carry weight at all levels of the metal building systems industry. Accredited entities complying with this criterion will need to have demonstrated that they have the personnel, organization, experience, knowledge, quality procedures and commitment to assemble metal building systems in accordance with specified requirements.

It is important to note, the ultimate goal of program is for the MBCEA, with the support of metal building manufacturers, to educate the industry and its influencers regarding the importance of accreditation as a quality standard in the construction of metal buildings. This accreditation will provide a benefit to the public by helping to identify contractors who are committed to quality workmanship and maintain a high level of integrity. Accredited Assemblers will be able to market themselves as having achieved the qualifications of a contractor specialist in the metal buildings industry.

Midwest News

Rigging 1 and Signal Person Training - May 23, 2014
Harrah’s, 1 Riverboat Dr, North Kansas City, MO
8AM - 4:30PM Lunch Provided

Craig Shaffer, CSP of SafetyWorks, Inc. will bring core principles of rigging safety and relevant OSHA compliance into focus for discussion and demonstration. OSHA requires all persons who use rigging to be trained in the proper selection, inspection, use, limitations, and care of the rigging equipment, as well as in safe rigging practices. For some activities, OSHA even requires employers to identify riggers who they deem "qualified" for the task based on the individual's training, experience, knowledge, ability, and expertise. This level of training would easily cost the average erector well over $500. We are pleased to bring this quality program to MBCEA members for just $40/attendee. Please see flyer for details. We hope to see you there!

Thank you for your support of the Midwest Chapter!
Shannon Fowler
Following our presentation, Jeff Henry and Arnold Corbin, Metl-Span gave an important update from the MCA Insulated Panel Council. Capping off the day was the Contractor and Erectors Round Table. Special thanks to Mark Heffron, Construction Safety Specialist for the Boston Regional Office of the US DOL OSHA and Kenny Waugh, IMPACT for joining our panel. This sometimes heated discussion yielded several great ideas and topics worth exploring. Stay tuned for more information.

I want to thank everyone who participated in the survey we did just before Conference. A copy of the results are attached. You have given the Board lots of good feed-back. This coupled with some of the topics from the roundtable will help us focus our efforts on new initiatives and projects for the coming year.

Planning for next year's Conference is already underway. We will be in San Diego April 30-May 2, 2015. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Gary T. Smith
President, MBCEA
gtsmith@thomasphoenixintl.com

P.S. We kicked off a new Referral Program at the Conference: For every new member you refer, you will receive $100 off the price of next years Conference. Sign up 5 new members and attend the Conference for free!

Mid-Atlantic News

8th Annual Mid-Atlantic Division Golf Tournament - Tuesday, June 17, 2014
Sponsored by Chief Buildings
Burlington Country Club, 170 Burrs Road, Mt. Holly, NJ 08060

Sponsorship opportunities available. Click here
Registration form - Click here

Contact Sasha Graver at aae_sasha@msn.com with any Mid-Atlantic Event questions.

Carolinas News

"It's Great to be Part of the Carolinas"
Time is moving fast these days and the Summer Meeting is just around the corner so mark your calendars for June 19th - 22nd, 2014 at the newly renovated Westin Resort & Spa.

Forms: registration form, sponsor form, credit card authorization.

Room rate is $199.00 plus taxes per night for Island View rooms; ocean view rooms and suites are available through hotel reservations (additional charges may be incurred). Please make your own reservations at the Westin by calling 1-888-627-

Find Andy

Remember "Where's Waldo?" well we have our own version - the first person to email jmeiluta@comcast.net with the correct number of times Andy Huber appears in the Conference photo album will receive a bound copy of the new Safety Handbook!
Got something on your mind, we want to hear from you.

Sasha Graver, Executive Director  sgraver@mbcea.org
Gary Smith, President  gtsmith@thomasphoenixintl.com

Interested in being the next member spotlight? Have content or news to share with your fellow members? Do you want to advertise to MBCEA members and readers? Contact Jackie Meiluta at jmeiluta@comcast.net

Quote of the day:

Leadership is a potent combination of strategy and character.
But if you must be without one, be without the strategy.

Norman Schwarzkopf

9107 and ask for the Metal Building Contractors & Erectors room rate before May 19th, 2014.

You can also register for rooms online: https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/ASF18A

Golf tournament will be held on Saturday, June 21, 2014. Fees of $120.00 must be paid with registration and includes cart and beverages. We will be playing the Robbers Row at Port Royal Plantation Club.

We hope to see you there!

Thanks, Meredith