

Winter 2022

SMACNA GREATER CHICAGO

METAL PRESS

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

**RECAP:
2021 HOLIDAY
DINNER DANCE**

P. 23



**3 BIG THINGS:
2022 BUSINESS TRENDS**

P. 3



**MENDEL RADIATES CARING
CULTURE TO CLIENTS
AND EMPLOYEES**

P. 5

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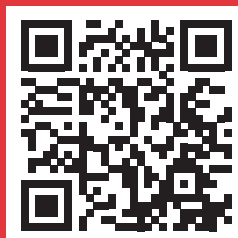
CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Immediate Past President Joe Passannante reflects on the initiatives achieved during his term on the Executive Board and welcomes new President Hank Artlip.

- 2 LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
- 3 3 BIG THINGS: BUSINESS TRENDS HEATING UP IN 2022
- 5 **MEMBER FEATURE:** MENDEL PLUMBING AND HEATING
- 7 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: WINTER 2022
- 9 SMACNA COLLEGE OF FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
- 9 NEW SMACNA GREATER CHICAGO OFFICERS FOR 2022
- 10 WESTSIDE MECHANICAL GROUP RECEIVES SAFETY AWARD
- 11 **ASSOCIATE MEMBER FEATURE:** IMBERT INTERNATIONAL
- 13 BUILDING BETTER LEADERS AND MANAGERS
- 14 BREATHE EASY UPDATE
- 15 GUIDANCE FOR THE OSHA EMERGENCY TEMPORARY STANDARD
- 17 RECAP: MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS BACK TO IN-PERSON
- 19 RECAP: 2021 SMACNA ANNUAL CONVENTION
- 21 RECAP: SMACNAPALOOZA - 2021 INDUSTRY NIGHT
- 23 RECAP: 2021 HOLIDAY DINNER DANCE
- 25 PLAY IT SAFE: 2022 SAFETY STUFFER PROGRAM
- 26 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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You'll find QR codes throughout the newsletter that take you to additional content online, including relevant links or event and class registration.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

PASSING THE TORCH TO NEW LEADERSHIP

Another busy holiday season has passed and we're looking forward to the bustle and excitement a new year will bring. No doubt challenges lie ahead with continuing labor and supply chain shortages, but I'm confident we'll move beyond those lingering issues together as we work to find solutions that benefit us all as industry partners. That's why this association exists — to give members every opportunity to stay informed of the latest industry news and continually push us to find ways to do business better.

With my role as president coming to an end, I'd like to reflect on all we've accomplished these past three years. First and foremost, we're always working to improve relationships with our labor counterparts. To that end, we successfully negotiated a four-year contract with Local 73 in 2019 and Local 265 in 2020, and all parties involved were pleased with the outcome. Additionally, we eliminated the local pension fund withdrawal liability with our trustees at the pension and welfare office. We're energized to continue "Building the Future Together" — the theme of the 2022 Partners in Progress conference, set for March 1-2 in Las Vegas. Check out more information on the event on page 26.

The global COVID-19 pandemic caused our already busy professional and personal lives to both veer wildly off the rails and come to a screeching halt at the same time. For a while, no one in any industry was sure what to do, but we used the resources and technologies at our disposal and soon got back on track. Now, we're more resilient than ever, and certainly more prepared for the complexities of a hybrid work schedule and remote office workforce.

It's been an interesting few years, to say the least, but change is on the horizon. SMACNA Greater Chicago is left in the very capable hands of incoming President Hank Artlip, along with Jeff Lukitsh as Vice President and Tom Coonan as Treasurer, who will continue to lead our association into a bright and successful future.

Joe Passannante
Outgoing President, SMACNA Greater Chicago



3 BIG THINGS: BUSINESS TRENDS HEATING UP IN 2022

Hybrid work environments, the benefits of data tracking and analysis and networking are three trends we see impacting SMACNA Greater Chicago members in the coming year.

3 BIG THINGS

BUSINESS TRENDS HEATING UP IN 2022

Keeping up on the latest trends and forecasts for the construction and HVAC industry will give you an edge in the market. Here are three big things we see impacting SMACNA Greater Chicago members in 2022.

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REMOTE WORK/HYBRID WORK ENVIRONMENT

We proved we could adjust business as usual via video chat platforms, and the technology isn't going away in a post-pandemic world. In fact, a 2021 Gartner survey reports 49% of HR leaders will let employees work remotely on certain days and 32% will allow remote work every day. Virtual meetings and trainings have kept companies across all industries on track to meet strategic goals and have given us the capability to remain flexible in the face of any future uncertainties.

There's no one-size-fits-all approach to a remote or hybrid working environment, so do what works best for your company and team. It helps to make sure you have policies in place that clearly outline communication expectations and help develop a supportive culture for employees and managers.



DATA ANALYSIS/ CONNECTIVITY

By tracking real-time data and analytics, company leaders can see where to save money — and make more. When you're able to track relevant data like material and equipment usage, change orders, worker productivity and more, you can better forecast future work and make your bids more competitive. Predictive analytics are another useful tool, particularly in the maintenance arena, to identify and prioritize maintenance tasks for customers.

Data from a marketing perspective gives you a pulse on consumer spending habits, and can help tailor your strategy on product and service improvement. Plus, you can leverage that technology as added value for your customers, like how-to videos for products or making video chats available for equipment troubleshooting.



NETWORKING

Now that we're back to in-person events, it pays to make the effort to connect with other business owners (especially if you're a smaller business). That's part of why your membership in SMACNA Greater Chicago is so important. Our meetings, conferences, training workshops and events are great opportunities to connect with and learn from the experiences of your peers and form professional relationships that can be mutually beneficial.

No doubt your workday is consumed with meetings and tasks to keep the company moving forward, but don't forget to check in with past customers, service providers and vendors. A quick touch-base can help rekindle past relationships and keep you in the loop on any industry trends and challenges — and any potential opportunities to showcase your expertise.



MEMBER FEATURE: MENDEL PLUMBING AND HEATING

Mendel Plumbing was born out of a small St. Charles garage in the 1980s and has since grown to a 30+ fleet operation with a commitment to quality service. Not only do they work to build strong customer relationships, they value their employees and work to create a strong company culture and vibrant community.



The Mendel team with their fleet of signature blue service trucks.

MEMBER FEATURE

MENDEL RADIATES CARING CULTURE TO CLIENTS AND EMPLOYEES

The Mendel Plumbing and Heating journey started out of a small garage in St. Charles. The company purchased its first service truck in 1985, outfitted it in the signature Mendel blue and has meticulously maintained the growing fleet of 30+ ever since.

From its humble beginnings, Mendel has come to be known as the highest quality provider of repair, installation, new construction and renovation work in the Fox Valley area. The range of services they provide not only includes heating, cooling and plumbing, but also electrical, remodeling and maintenance support.

“Most of our work is residential with about 25% commercial,” said Tom Mascari, president of Mendel. “We operate under the guiding principles of faith, family, integrity, respect and excellence and we work hard every day to be the firm our customers trust.”

During the pandemic, that meant ramping up their communication and keeping clients informed of safety protocols, as well as products and services to promote better indoor air quality in homes and businesses.

“We knew clients still needed services and we needed to show that they could continue to trust us as they always had,” Mascari said. “Indoor air quality products became front and center to our marketing pieces and to conversations with our clients.”

Mendel stands behind the quality of their service every day, something that’s apparent in the company’s nearly 9,000 overwhelmingly positive online reviews.

It all starts with their company culture. Generally, performance gets a boost when employees are happy. To keep their employees happy and well-balanced in both their work and personal lives, Mendel leadership implemented what they refer to as “weekly hours goals” among their technicians to better accommodate all generations of workers.

“When we perform well as a support team, people are happy

In addition to their unwavering support toward their own employees, Mendel is a strong advocate of creating a strong, vibrant and diverse community through financial and in-kind contributions of local schools, churches, park districts and other organizations.

“Something we do that seems to be unique is, when we have trucks that still have some life left in them coming off service, we custom paint them for local community charities,” Mascari

**“WE HAVE A VERY HIGH COMMITMENT TO MAKING OUR CLIENTS HAPPY
AND BUILDING STRONG CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS FOR THE LONG-TERM.”**

Tom Mascari | President, Mendel Plumbing and Heating



“As far as the client experience, we’re very consistent across our entire team,” Mascari said. “Regardless of who you talk to on the phone or who comes to perform a service in your home, you can expect a top-end experience with us. We have a very high commitment to making our clients happy and building strong client relationships for the long-term.”

We have some young folks, some middle-aged folks and some older folks in the field and we recognize different people in different life stages have different values,” Mascari said. “Rather than a one-size-fits-all situation, we’ve started allowing our technicians to set weekly hour goals for themselves to better fit their needs and schedules — but our expectations for performance don’t change.”

said, noting they’ve helped support organizations for cancer research, first responders and more. “They have our logo on them, but they’re colored and co-branded to the partnering organization to help create some visibility in town in a way they might not have otherwise.”

Mendel has been a proud member of SMACNA Greater Chicago for more than two decades.

LEARN MORE ABOUT
MENDEL PLUMBING
& HEATING



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: WINTER 2022

IMSCA Executive Director Jessica Newbold Hoselton shares information on important legislative initiatives affecting the construction industry.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

WINTER 2022

Jessica Newbold Hoselton | jnewbold@boldnewstrat.com

In October, the Illinois General Assembly convened in Springfield for fall veto session when lawmakers approved many of their top legislative priorities. However, the most concerning issue to IMSCA was legislation seeking to amend the Wage Payment and Collection Act (**HB 3293**).

IMSCA, along with our design and construction industry partners, was surprised by an unexpected amendment filed to **HB 3293** (Sen. Castro/Rep. Gong-Gershowitz). The amendment seeks to hold general contractors and subcontractors liable for wage claims at any tier on a private construction project. The legislation is an initiative of the Mid-American Carpenters Regional Council and is supported by the **IL AFL-CIO**. IMSCA and various other construction industry associations oppose **HB 3293**. The proponents of the legislation argue that it's aimed at protecting workers from wage

theft, but IMSCA contends **HB 3293** will result in unintended consequences that will negatively impact the Illinois construction industry:

- General contractors may be incentivized to self-perform more work and not hire subcontractors, which will result in diminished project and employment opportunities for subcontractors.
- The amendment creates a barrier of entry for smaller and minority-owned businesses by encouraging general contractors to work with more financially established companies.
- Litigation between general contractors and subcontractors at various tiers over who has the liability of wage claimants will increase, ultimately leading to higher construction costs.

The bill awaits a concurrence vote in the Illinois House of Representatives and will likely pass when legislators return to Springfield in January.

Governor Pritzker unveiled a package of tax credits and incentives aimed at kickstarting the electric vehicle industry in Illinois. **HB 1769** (Sen. Stadelman/Rep. Vella), also known as the Reimagining Electric Vehicles in Illinois (**REV**) Act, provides tax credits for large business development and allows businesses to claim some income tax withholdings attributed to new employees. In addition, the legislation provides for construction job credits for building facilities, creates a streamlined permitting process and establishes a state government procurement price preference for electric vehicles built in Illinois.

In response to the continued debate and struggles over COVID-19 vaccine mandates, the Democratic majority also approved **SB 1169** (Senate President Harmon/Assistant Majority Leader Gabel), which proponents argue clarifies the intent of the Health

Care Right of Conscience Act (**HCRCA**). The language recently approved provides that it is not a violation of the **HCRCA** for any person or public official, or for any public or private association, agency, corporation, entity, institution or employer to take measures or impose requirements intended to prevent the transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

IMSCA's top legislative priority in 2022 will be a continuation of our previous work on retainage reform. As members are aware, IMSCA worked hard for many years seeking a reduction in retainage on private, commercial construction projects, which became law in 2019. IMSCA will again pursue legislation aimed at eliminating retainage on some public construction projects. Retainage is still withheld at an unreasonably high rate of 10% for most local government construction projects, even though a payment and performance bond is also required to protect local governments from defects and delinquencies. The combination of the two is excessive and creates unnecessary cash flow burdens. To ease this financial burden, IMSCA will seek an amendment to the Public Construction Bond Act to provide that a local government entity may not require retainage when a contractor has furnished a surety bond or its equivalent. Our proposed legislation will be sponsored by Assistant Senate Majority Leader Linda Holmes.

Legislators will return to Springfield on January 4 to start the spring 2022 legislative session.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Newbold Hoselton by calling 217-523-4361 or emailing jnewbold@boldnewstrat.com.

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SMACNA COLLEGE OF FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Applications for the 2022-2023 academic year are now being accepted, and must be postmarked by February 28, 2022.

NEW SMACNA GREATER CHICAGO OFFICERS FOR 2022

We're excited to welcome a new slate of officers to our Executive Committee, effective January 1, 2022.

WESTSIDE MECHANICAL GROUP RECEIVES SAFETY AWARD

Congratulations to Westside Mechanical Group, a SMACNA Safety Excellence Award winner!

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SMACNA COLLEGE OF FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The SMACNA College of Fellows Scholarship Program is now accepting applications for the 2022-2023 academic year. Applicants are encouraged to pursue a field of study relating to the sheet metal industry, however, it's not a requirement.

The mission of the program is to recognize academically talented youth and potential future leaders within the SMACNA extended family and provide them with an opportunity to further their education, develop their talents and encourage them to be positive contributors to their community.

Scholarship applications must be postmarked by February 28, 2022.

VIEW DETAILS AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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NEW SMACNA GREATER CHICAGO OFFICERS FOR 2022

On November 9, the SMACNA Greater Chicago Board of Directors unanimously elected the following slate of officers to the Executive Committee:



HANK ARTLIP
Artlip and Sons, Inc.
President



JEFF LUKITSH
Westside Mechanical, Inc.
Vice President



TOM COONAN
Admiral Heating & Ventilating, Inc.
Secretary-Treasurer



JOSEPH PASSANNANTE
Cleats Manufacturing Co., Inc.
Past President

Join us in welcoming our new leaders, whose terms become effective January 1, 2022. We'd also like to thank our outgoing officers and Board members for their dedication and service!



WESTSIDE MECHANICAL GROUP RECEIVES SAFETY AWARD

SMACNA National recently announced winners of its 2021 annual Safety Excellence Awards. The recognition program stems from SMACNA's yearly safety survey and celebrates members who report the lowest injury and illness rates and who continue to adopt and promote a culture of safety in the office and on the jobsite.

Congratulations to SMACNA Greater Chicago member Westside Mechanical Group, a second-place winner in the 100,001-200,000 hours category.

A total of 27 member companies received awards for overall safety performance based on man-hours worked and OSHA incidence rates as reported in the annual safety survey. Thank you to all members who participated in the survey. Your efforts continue to make SMACNA a leader in promoting quality and excellence in the sheet metal and air conditioning industry!





IMBERT INTERNATIONAL INC.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER FEATURE: IMBERT INTERNATIONAL

For 70 years, Imbert International has been a leader in providing their clients with innovative solutions to their most pressing HVAC challenges. From strategically growing their business to networking, the Imbert team is excited for the future.



ASSOCIATE MEMBER FEATURE

GROWING WITH IMBERT INTERNATIONAL

Imbert International, Inc. has been a leader in the Chicagoland construction industry since 1950. Clients throughout the city — including healthcare facilities, data centers, high rise residential spaces, offices, K-12 schools, higher education facilities and manufacturing plants — have enlisted Imbert’s expertise for innovative solutions to their most pressing HVAC challenges.

Representing 25 manufacturers, Imbert is staffed with a team of 30 professionals. These equipment, design and sales experts bring more than 300 combined years of experience in the mechanical engineering field.

“Not only are the people on our team experts in problem solving, they’re personable and really wonderful to be around,” said Jason Winter, vice president and partner. “These are the people you want on your job. We also have some amazing manufacturers and we’ve got the best products on the market, but at the top of it is the people on our team.”

Winter, part of a leadership team that also includes Gary Stern and Bill Toth, came to Imbert in 2016 after 13 years as a project executive at SMACNA member F.E. Moran. Armed with nearly two decades of knowledge, he’s excited to continue Imbert’s legacy of innovation and help keep the company at the leading edge of the HVAC industry. Part of that involves keeping up with the changing Chicago skyline. A result of the pandemic, Winter’s team has seen countless offices reduce their floorplans as much

of the workforce continues to be remote. Energy efficient and clean air solutions also remain high priorities among customers.

Winter’s team has also strategically begun pursuing clients in the commercial cannabis industry.

“In the short term, the future is in cannabis,” Winter said. “Pun intended, the cannabis industry is one of the fastest-growing across the country, and grow facilities

potential. Existing facilities can also be easily retrofitted with solutions installed and maintained by the Imbert team.

To date, the company has helped execute more than 300,000 square feet of grow facilities throughout the U.S., which is on track to double in 2022. Their custom solutions can be found in active facilities in central Illinois, Nevada and West Virginia, with facilities in Michigan, Florida, New Mexico and Pennsylvania

set to become operational in the coming year.

In addition to growing the cannabis side of the business, the Imbert team has a

renewed focus on networking to boost other facets of the company.

“I got us re-involved with SMACNA Greater Chicago about three years ago because nothing can replace that face-to-face networking with key customers,” Winter said. “The events put on by the association give us many wonderful opportunities to spend time with the members and learn about new topics and things happening in construction and business in general.”

“NOT ONLY ARE THE PEOPLE ON OUR TEAM EXPERTS IN PROBLEM SOLVING, THEY’RE PERSONABLE AND REALLY WONDERFUL TO BE AROUND.”

Jason Winter | Vice President & Partner, Imbert International, Inc.

need a very specific environment for their crops to thrive. Imbert is well suited to respond to the unique challenges of these growers.”

To meet the complexities of a high-yield growing environment sought after by large-scale commercial clients, Imbert is the single source for access to a full line of custom HVAC solutions. With consistent temperature and relative humidity, plus remote monitoring and control, growers are able to optimize grow

LEARN MORE
ABOUT IMBERT
INTERNATIONAL

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BUILDING BETTER LEADERS AND MANAGERS

To be the best in the industry, contractors need to cultivate the best leaders to continue to move their companies forward. To help develop your future leaders, join other SMACNA Greater Chicago members for our annual leadership workshop program, Leadership Without Limits.

BREATHE EASY UPDATE

We're excited to build upon the foundation of the Breathe Easy Illinois program throughout 2022.

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BUILDING BETTER LEADERS AND MANAGERS

Professionals in the sheet metal and HVAC industry are essential to the health and comfort of our communities — not just during the pandemic, but every day. Our skills are needed across every facet of American life, from designing, installing and maintaining systems for schools, hospitals and office buildings, to creating beautiful accent work on buildings that adorn the Chicago skyline.

To be the best in the industry, we need to cultivate the best leaders within SMACNA Greater Chicago member companies. Why? According to Harvard Business Review, high-potential employees rise to the opportunity to excel and deliver 400% more productivity than “average” performers.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BECOME A BETTER TEAM LEADER?

- The ability to manage your own time, prioritize daily activities and make effective decisions that make workflow more efficient
- Confidence and effective communication skills
- A willingness to tackle the complex demands of today's business environment through continued leadership training
- A commitment to develop team members, sharpen their skills and boosting performance

Great teams and great leaders don't just happen. It takes work. That's why SMACNA Greater Chicago is once again offering our annual leadership workshop program, Leadership Without Limits. This four-part series will give attendees the tools they need to become more effective team leaders, prepare for challenges and thrive within their organizations.

Registration is limited to the first 30 participants. For more information on the classes or to register, visit SMACNAGreaterChicago.org/Annual-Leadership.



 **BreatheEasy**
ILLINOIS
BreatheEasyIllinois.com

BIG THINGS HAPPENING WITH BREATHE EASY

We've built a solid foundation with the Breathe Easy Illinois program and are excited to expand on our clean air initiatives throughout 2022.

This program was designed exclusively for you, our contractors, to fill a need within our communities. To continue the forward momentum and better guide our decisions, we need your input.

An all-hands-on-deck meeting will be scheduled after the new year. We strongly encourage all participating members to attend. Stay tuned for details coming soon!

GUIDANCE FOR THE OSHA EMERGENCY TEMPORARY STANDARD

We've compiled some FAQs on OSHA's emergency temporary standard for vaccines — and how it could impact SMACNA Greater Chicago members.



GUIDANCE FOR THE OSHA EMERGENCY TEMPORARY STANDARD

FOR FULL DETAILS ON THE OSHA ETS



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To help minimize the spread of COVID-19, President Joe Biden issued an executive order in September requiring federal contractors to vaccinate their employees. In November, OSHA followed suit by issuing their own emergency temporary standard (ETS). Although Biden's mandate was halted in a December 7 decision by a federal district court judge, it's in the best interest of member contractors to proceed as if the ETS will carry on as originally planned.

Following are some highlights contractors should know. This is not intended to be a comprehensive document.



WHAT CONTRACTORS ARE COVERED UNDER THE OSHA ETS RULE?

The ETS only applies to employers with 100 or more employees regardless of whether they work in their home office or on a jobsite. Employers in unionized workplaces with 100 or more employees must, like all covered employers, follow the minimum requirements established by the ETS. Nothing in the ETS, however, prevents employers from agreeing with employees and their representatives to implement additional measures, and the ETS does not displace collectively bargained agreements that exceed the requirements of the ETS.

DO CONTRACTORS NEED TO MANDATE THE VACCINE FOR EMPLOYEES?

No, employers don't have to require employees to be vaccinated as a condition of employment; however, contractors must implement a "soft" vaccine mandate. That means employees have the option to become fully vaccinated or submit to weekly testing. If an employer gives the option of weekly testing, all unvaccinated employees must begin weekly testing in January 2022.

- Tests may NOT be self-administered unless observed by an employer or telehealth doctor or representative.
- Employees who test positive must be immediately removed from the workplace according to the written company process.

WHAT RECORD-KEEPING IS INVOLVED?

The ETS requires employers to make available an employee's COVID-19 vaccine documentation and any COVID-19 test results to that employee and to anyone having written authorized consent of that employee.

All information is up to date as of this writing. Due to the ever-changing nature of the COVID-19 situation, SMACNA Greater Chicago will continue to monitor and report on any OSHA updates as they arise.

RECAP: MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

We're back and in-person! We kicked off our regular membership meetings this fall with noted cybersecurity expert Nick Espinosa and guest speakers from the New Horizons Foundation.



FIVE MAIN LAWS OF CYBERSECURITY
ACCORDING TO ESPINOSA

- 1 IF THERE IS A VULNERABILITY, IT WILL BE EXPLOITED
- 2 EVERYTHING IS VULNERABLE IN SOME WAY
- 3 HUMANS TRUST EVEN WHEN THEY SHOULDN'T
- 4 WITH INNOVATION COMES OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPLOITATION
- 5 WHEN IN DOUBT, SEE #1

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS BACK TO IN-PERSON

This fall, we were able to resume in-person membership meetings. Both were well-attended, and great speakers kicked off each event.

In September, cybersecurity expert Nick Espinosa joined us with an engaging and informative version of his TEDx talk on how and why companies need to protect their digital footprints.

Although technology exists to bring us together in amazing ways and make our companies stronger, all that good information can be hacked and used against us. To stay safe online, it's important to have a management program in place that will help identify and mitigate potential vulnerabilities.

In November, Guy Gast and Tom Soles of the New Horizons Foundation joined us to talk about their mission of delivering innovative, cutting-edge research and practical, real-world education for every level of management. New Horizons exists to:

- Build key relationships with allied industry partners and academic institutions to identify, monitor, and analyze major workforce-related trends that affect the HVAC and sheet metal industry.

- Provide education and information that will position HVAC and sheet metal contractors as positive, knowledgeable, participants in the construction process.
- Encourage career participation in the HVAC and sheet metal industry, and improve and develop the capabilities of the current and future workforce through leading edge educational programs.

SMACNA has been a donor of the organization for many years, contributing to their library of well-researched projects for the mutual benefit all SMACNA members.

Hope to see you all for our next membership meeting on January 11 at Gibson's Steakhouse in Oak Brook!

CHECK OUT ALL OF OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

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RECAP: SMACNAPALOOZA – 2021 INDUSTRY NIGHT

The 2021 Industry Night took on a fresh new theme this year – SMACNAPALOOZA! The event was full of energy and saw members come together for a great night of networking.

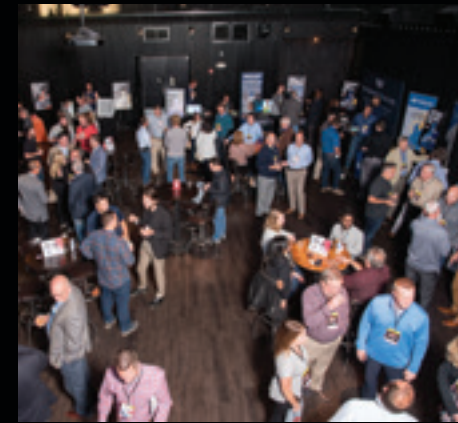


SMACNAPALOOZA INDUSTRY NIGHT A ROCKIN' SUCCESS

In September, we got the band back together for our SMACNA Greater Chicago 2021 Industry Night with a fresh new theme — SMACNAPALOOZA!

More than 120 contractor members and Associate Members got VIP access to our premier networking and social event of the year. Joe's Live in Rosemont hosted, and members enjoyed food, drinks and a rockin' lineup of exhibitors. It was a great night for everyone to reconnect after a year off.

At the end of the night, we were excited to give away a pair of Elton John floor tickets for his February 4 concert at the United Center. Tim Foster on behalf of Long Supply, Inc. was the lucky winner!



THANK YOU TO OUR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS WHO PARTICIPATED AS EXHIBITORS DURING THE EVENT

Albany Steel & Brass Corp.
Breathe Easy Illinois
DeWALT
Energy Improvement Products,
Inc.
Imbert International

Long Supply, Inc.
Mestek Machinery, Inc.
Midwest Applied Solutions
Milwaukee Tool
Nationwide Coils, Inc.
SMART Local 73

SMART Local 265
Thermosystems, LLC
Topcon Solutions Store
Trimble

VIEW MORE INDUSTRY NIGHT PHOTOS

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RECAP: 2021 SMACNA ANNUAL CONVENTION

A number of member contractors were excited to attend the 2021 Annual Convention in Hawaii. We came home with a wealth of knowledge and great new ideas from talking with industry peers.



2021 SMACNA ANNUAL CONVENTION RECAP

SMACNA Greater Chicago members and their families had a great time during the 2021 SMACNA 77th Annual Convention in beautiful Maui, Hawaii, in October.

This year's event was a high-quality networking and educational experience for all attendees. One of the big highlights is always the Product Show, which includes informative exhibits and hands-on demonstrations of some of the industry's latest technology and vendor products. Members also attended a lively Chapter Night, spouse breakfast and an after-party featuring a terrific Motown tribute band.

Angie Simon received recognition for her years of service as SMACNA's first female president before passing the torch to Al LaBella, who will represent SMACNA at the national level through 2022.


All in all, the convention was a great place to reconnect with old friends and industry leaders, while preparing for another exciting year in the sheet metal and HVAC industry!



VIEW MORE ANNUAL CONVENTION PHOTOS



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RECAP: 2021 HOLIDAY DINNER DANCE

We were thrilled to host our annual Holiday Dinner Dance at Park Ridge Country Club again this year and had a wonderful turnout. It was a great party to end a successful year.



2021 HOLIDAY DINNER DANCE RECAP

December is always a busy time of year, but we were excited to give our members a chance to socialize, connect and let loose during our Holiday Dinner Dance. More than 165 people turned out for the festivities.

This year's event took place at the Park Ridge Country Club, which was beautifully decked out for the holidays. Everything was top-notch, from the food and service to the elegant décor. After dinner, our outgoing and incoming presidents gave thoughtful speeches during the installation of officers.

To round out the evening, our favorite band, Talk of the Town, was invited back this year and they didn't disappoint! They kept the atmosphere lively and got most people on the dance floor until the party stopped around midnight.



Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the party and make it another successful SMACNA Greater Chicago event!



VIEW MORE
HOLIDAY DINNER
DANCE PHOTOS

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PLAY IT SAFE: 2022 SAFETY STUFFER PROGRAM

In our efforts to keep safety top-of-mind with workers, we've released new sports-themed safety stuffers, now available to order.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Save these dates for some of the most anticipated chapter and industry events to start the new year.

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MEMBERS ONLY - FREE PAYCHECK SAFETY STUFFER PROGRAM



“PLAY IT SAFE” ON THE JOBSITE - OR RISK THE CONSEQUENCES

This year, we're going head-to-head with safety in our sports themed “Play It Safe” FREE Paycheck Safety Stuffer program for members. Five different sports are featured throughout the year — hockey, basketball, baseball, golf and football — and switch out to coincide with what's being played in real time each season.

Our paycheck safety stuffer program satisfies OSHA's requirements for ongoing safety education and is a popular way for contractors and workers to be reminded of important safety topics in a fun way. After all, getting everyone home safely at the end of the day is our top priority.

There's still time to order digital PDFs of the safety stuffers! Email Laurie@SMACNAGreaterChicago.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



ANNUAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Regency Towers Conference Center
Oak Brook, IL
February 16, March 16, April 14 & May 18
8 a.m. – Noon
Breakfast provided at 7:30 a.m.

Register for Sessions 1-4 of SMACNA Greater Chicago's Annual Leadership Workshop Program — a program conducted by The Carroll-Keller Group for everyone from young professionals to aspiring leaders in the field. As a four-part series, we encourage you to attend all four sessions to gain the most impact.

Register online at SMACNAGreaterChicago.org/Annual-Leadership by February 2.



APPRENTICE FOR A DAY

Sheet Metal Workers' Local 265 – training facility
Carol Stream, IL
February 24
7:30 a.m. – Continental Breakfast
8 a.m. to Noon – Program
Noon – Lunch

Engineers, estimators, project managers and office staff are encouraged to attend this FREE member event (\$35 for non-members) to learn about the union's award-winning sheet metal and service technician apprenticeship programs, hosted by the YES Steering Committee.

Space is limited! Register online at SMACNAGreaterChicago.org/ApprenticeForADay by February 8.



2022 PARTNERS IN PROGRESS CONFERENCE

March 1-2, 2022
Resorts World Las Vegas
Las Vegas, Nevada

SMACNA Greater Chicago member companies are invited to attend the 2022 Partners in Progress Conference in Las Vegas. This year's theme is “Building the Future Together,” and keynote speakers include New York Yankees pitcher Jim Abbott and former USS Benfold commander Mike Abrashoff.

Cost for SMACNA and SMART members is \$950. Visit PinP.org for more details or to register.

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