

## **Ohio Construction Coalition “News Fax-Blaster” April 2005**

**To: All OCC Partners**

### **Talks continue on formation of new OCC**

Building on the promise of a productive initial meeting in March, the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council’s Statewide Labor-Management Steering Committee and OCC leaders again assembled in Columbus on April 25 to continue hammering out details of forming a new, more all-encompassing OCC. The results of these efforts will be an OCC to be used as a vehicle to develop a “stronger, more inclusive and improved process” for taking on important industry issues, such as prevailing wage and school construction. The new OCC will focus on being an educational entity for decision-makers and the public at large.

Gary Dwyer, secretary-treasurer of the OSBCTC, remarked during the April 25 meeting that cooperation and communication is the key in driving the new OCC. “What we all need in the state of Ohio ... is a labor-management committee that works ... to get the message out,” he said.

The resulting entity will retain the name “Ohio Construction Coalition.”

During this second meeting, discussions first revolved around formation of a “new” OCC Board of Trustees. It was decided that a “transitional” board would be put in place during the initial period of the new OCC, comprised of the current OCC board and the Statewide L-M Steering Committee. It was then decided that the “final” board will consist of 20 members (a number that could fluctuate over time if there is a need), 10 of which will come from labor and 10 of which will come from management. The president of the State Building Trades will appoint the labor side of the board; the management side will meet in the near future to determine how it will select its representatives.

The OCC board and the Steering Committee then went through the current OCC “Code of Regulations” – article by article – to incorporate changes that will best fit the new OCC. Those suggestions will be put forth to the group at a future meeting for approval.

The L-M Steering Committee was formed under the direction of Dwyer to explore the opportunity presented by the OCC to cooperate with the Ohio Building Trades.

Bob Verhoff, executive director of Union Construction Industry Partnership, is facilitating the discussions. He has been retained for six months as a labor/management process consultant to assist with the process of exploring this effort; the OCC will compensate Bob for the first three months and the Ohio Building Trades will compensate him for the remaining three months.

### **OCC distributes Building Trades report on ABC training ‘failures’**

After the National Building and Construction Trades Department (BCTD) of the AFL-CIO issued its report last week showing Ohio chapters of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) fail to provide proper training to the majority of their construction-trades apprentices, the OCC circulated the data to statewide media outlets and is preparing to send it to state elected officials, including Gov. Taft.

The study is titled “A Final Report on Associated Builders and Contractors Apprenticeship Training: Flawed and Failing Programs.” The report states, “That the ABC could graduate only an average of 1,431 apprentices a year (nationally) during the greatest construction boom of our generation (1995-1999) demonstrates the non-union sector’s failure to make training a priority, a failure the rest of the construction industry is being forced to bear.”

Among the findings, only 24% of Central Ohio ABC apprentices that registered between 1995 and 1999 completed their program by 2004 while 70% cancelled; only 57% of Northern Ohio ABC apprentices that registered between 1995 and 1999 completed their program by 2004 while 43% cancelled; and only 30% of Ohio Valley ABC apprentices that registered between 1995 and 1999 had completed by 2004, while 35% had cancelled.

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*As the Ohio Construction Coalition works to make a substantial difference in the state’s construction industry, the OCC has sent this “News Fax-Blaster” to you to help keep you informed and involved. Please submit information for and questions about News Fax-Blasters to Calvin Jefferson at BMA Media Group, the OCC’s communications firm, at [cjefferson@bmamedia.com](mailto:cjefferson@bmamedia.com) or 1-888-445-8255.*