July 15 Deadline is Here!

Like April 15, is to paying taxes...July 15, is the deadline to make nominations for the annual Craftsmanship Awards. We urge you to take the time to nominate all those individuals who performed over and above what was expected, that either work for you or worked on your jobs,.

The awards committee decided to move the deadline from August 1, in years past to July 15, this year in order to allow staff more time to catalog all the nominations received and collect any last minute information needed to make those nominations complete.

From July 15, until the Judges actually meet in the first week of September, every nomination is entered into a database and each project is then mapped out in the tri-county area. The six judging teams, made up of an architect, engineer and general contractor, are then assigned to visit and inspect the projects in their designated areas during the month of September. Then the first week of October they meet again to select the winners. Once that is done staff notifies the winners, employers, owners, architects, etc. of the Judge’s selections and encourage all to attend the Craftsmanship Awards banquet scheduled for Thursday, November 6, at the Signature Grand in Davie.

Member News

The Florida Marlins are negotiating with Hunt/Moss, a Joint Venture, on a construction management contract for the Major League Baseball club's new ballpark on the site of the Orange Bowl near downtown Miami.

Hunt/Moss is a joint venture consisting of Hunt Construction Group and Moss & Associates.

Hunt and members of Moss' executive team previously joined together to construct BankAtlantic Center in Sunrise, home of the National Hockey League's Florida Panthers.

Reed Construction Data announced the SmartBIM Partnership Program, giving building product manufacturers the opportunity to have high-quality and brand-specific BIM objects modeled exclusively after their products, through SmartBIM Object Creation Services.

"Through the SmartBIM Partnership Program, building product manufacturers have the opportunity to showcase their products within a building during the design phase." said Richard Remington, vice president, product development, Reed Construction Data.

Ritz Safety and Safety Corporation are pleased to announce the merger of their two companies! Ritz Safety, founded in 1983, is a leader in providing safety products throughout Florida.
Proven Expertise in Woodworking

Each month Construction FOCUS features a CASF member company, selected by drawing a business card from among those attending the monthly networking breakfast. The next breakfast, sponsored by KM/Plaza Construction Services, will be held on Thursday, July 17, 7:30 a.m. at Shula’s Hotel in Miami Lakes.

In 1940 David Friedman went to work for a small restaurant supply firm called Paramount Fountain and Restaurant Supply Company. As the company grew, and its clients’ needs expanded, there became a demand for woodworking and metalworking facilities to fabricate for their ever-growing equipment business. So in 1951 Paramount entered the woodworking industry by starting Monarch Industries, Inc. Both companies grew and Monarch, after many years and acquisitions, became a leading supplier to builders, department stores, and hospitality & foodservice companies for their millwork needs.

Today, the combined total volume of both companies is approximately $130 million. The companies also own over 1,500,000 SF of commercial/industrial space and use almost 1,000,000 SF of those facilities for millwork business. The magnitude of these facilities gives Monarch a tremendous amount of strength to complete large projects quickly and on-time. This has become the hallmark of Monarch’s pledge to its clients.

Monarch Industries has proven expertise in four major areas of woodworking: architectural millwork, retail store fixtures and perimeters, production wood and plastic laminates, and graphical fixtures. The architectural millwork group provides custom and premium grade millwork to general contractors, developers and owners in the corporate, residential, foodservice, hospitality, gaming, institutional, medical, governmental and educational markets. Maintaining a diversity of abilities gives Monarch’s clients the ability to receive superior engineering, manufacturing, and installation support throughout their projects.

Today’s construction environment requires responsible subcontractors who can work cooperatively with the contractor, owner, and design team to achieve the requirements of a project with an awareness of budget and delivery dates. And while schedules need to be maintained, it is accepted that every trade be flexible to jobsite and design changes to achieve the team’s mutual goals.

Monarch assigns a Project Manager to each job to maintain a single point of contact with the client. This team member becomes the liaison between the project team in the field and Monarch’s internal resources to keep our projects moving in the right direction.

Monarch is proud of the millwork awards received around the country for Philadelphia’s Children’s Hospital, Yale University and The Bellagio Resort. Current and recently completed projects are found throughout Florida including Marina Grande Towers, Peninsula II, The Old Homestead Steakhouse, The Seminole Hard Rock Casino Tampa, Disney World, The Peabody Hotel, and many more. Around the country Monarch is currently working in Las Vegas, Philadelphia, New York City, Boston, and Washington D.C.

Monarch is known for their quality and reliability. For more information call 1-800-669-WOOD or contact Jean Guy Ayotte at 954-969-9441. Check out their website www.monarchinc.com.
Cell Phone Liability for Employers

By Martin D. Stern, Esq.

The workplace is no longer confined to a jobsite or building. The workplace is going mobile as we become more dependent upon wireless devices for productivity. This includes the use of cell phones, direct connects, and text messaging. In some cases the wireless device is owned by the employer. In other cases the wireless device is owned by the employee and is used for business. In either scenario, the employer has liability exposure if the employee gets into an accident while using the wireless device.

Cell phone litigation is the newest trend in employer liability. In recent years, cell phones have become a contributing cause of more accidents. Attorneys are now asking who owned the cell phone, and whether it was being used for any work related business. The answers to these questions can determine whether the deep pocket employer is somehow liable for the accident.

Florida law states that an employer may be held liable for negligent training if the employee injures someone while using the employer’s property. This means that even if the employee is not officially on company business, and in some cases not even making business calls, the employer can still be held liable if the accident involves a cell phone owned by the employer. For example, if the employee gets into an auto accident on a Sunday afternoon while using the employer’s cell phone to call his family, the employer does have liability exposure under the theory of negligent training. The issue is whether the employer fulfilled its duty to properly train the employee. This includes training the employee on how to use the employer’s cell phone safely while driving.

In other situations, the employee may be using a personally owned cell phone to make business calls after normal business hours. This arguably places the employee within the scope of employment during this phone call. If the employee gets into an auto accident during this call, then the employer may be liable for the employee’s actions. After all, the employee was acting on behalf of the employer when the accident occurred. This is true even though both the phone call and the accident occurred after traditional business hours.

To reduce this liability exposure, many employers have created policies and procedures requiring the employees send all phone calls to voice mail while driving. Others have implemented a complete ban on the use of cell phones while driving. These can be difficult propositions considering the lack of productivity that may follow. Regardless, good business practices now require that the employer implement policies and procedures which govern the safe use of wireless devices.

For more information, contact the Law Firm of Kelley, Kronenberg, Gilmartin, Fichtel, & Wander, P.A., located at 8201 Peters Road, Suite 4000, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33324, Phone 954-370-9970.

Membership Party!

Help recognize the 2008 GC Membership Challenge winners at the Hawaiian Luau party on Thursday, July 10. Balfour Beatty, Coastal, Cummings, Miller, Moss, Skanska, Stiles, Turner and Whiting-Turner all competed in the 2008 GC Membership Challenge that started in March. Come see which GC is the winner, who will be eating a delicious dinner served to them by the losing teams. There will be great raffle prizes, music and more fun than you can shake a grass skirt at. Festivities begin 5:30 p.m. at Hugh’s Catering, 4351 NE Terrace in Oakland Park.
McGraw-Hill Construction released its annual Construction Outlook Midyear Update, providing insight into the performance of the construction industry through the end of 2008. The major findings of the forecast, authored by Robert Murray, vice president of economic affairs for McGraw-Hill Construction, include:

- New construction starts for 2008 are estimated at $558.5 billion, down 11%.
- Single family housing continues to weaken, with 2008 declines of 28% in dollar volume and 31% in dwelling units, steeper than what occurred in 2007. The single family market is being adversely affected by falling home prices, mounting inventories, and tight lending conditions.

- Commercial building witnessed further expansion in 2006 and 2007, which carried over into the first quarter of 2008. However, the slower economy and tighter lending conditions are now causing projects to be deferred, and the loss of momentum will take firmer hold as the year proceeds. For 2008, commercial building will retreat 8% in dollar volume and 16% in square feet. Stores and warehouses are the most vulnerable to decline in the near term, while lesser reductions are anticipated for hotels and office buildings.
- Institutional building in 2008 continues to see a strong amount of educational structures reach groundbreaking, helped in particular by more expansion for colleges and universities. The 2008 forecast for institutional building calls for a 2% gain in dollar volume, although square footage will settle back 3%.
- Public works construction in 2008 will also rise 2% in dollars. The push will come from greater federal funding for transportation projects in fiscal 2008, combined with an elevated focus on infrastructure repair and maintenance. Tighter fiscal conditions at both the federal and state levels of government are an emerging concern for the public works sector, but any restraint on construction is more likely to be experienced next year.


Mike Fee accepts the President's Exceptional Service Award from Tim Anderson.

Holly Anderson with husband Tim

Dr. Irtishad Ahmad, PhD., head of FIU's Dept. of Construction Mgt. accepts the final check for the Endowed Scholarship.

Kelly Thorsen, U of F BCN student accepts her scholarship award.

Tim Anderson is congratulated on a productive year as 2007-08 President.