



Tax Credit for Hiring Veterans and Youth

Businesses planning to claim the newly-expanded work opportunity tax credit (WOTC) for eligible unemployed veterans and unskilled younger workers hired during the first part of 2009 have until August 17 to request the certification required for these workers, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

Newly-revised Form 8850, now available on IRS.gov, is used by employers to

charged or released from the military during the five years preceding the hiring date who received unemployment benefits for at least four weeks during the one-year period ending on the hiring date. A "disconnected youth" is a person age 16 to 24 on the hiring date who has not been regularly employed or attending school and who meets other requirements.

The certification requirement applies to all groups of workers except employees who

IRS



request certification from their state workforce agency. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, enacted in February, added unemployed veterans returning to civilian life and "disconnected youth" to the list of groups covered by the credit. Though eligible unemployed veterans and disconnected youth who begin work anytime during 2009 or 2010 may qualify a business for the credit, certification by the state workforce agency is required.

In general, an unemployed veteran is a person dis-

were Hurricane Katrina victims. Normally, a business must file Form 8850 with the state workforce agency within 28 days after the eligible worker begins work. But under a special rule, businesses have until August 17, 2009, to file this form for unemployed veterans and disconnected youth who begin work on or after Jan. 1, 2009 and before July 17, 2009. Notice 2009-28, posted on www.IRS.gov, and the instructions for Form 8850 provide details on this special rule.

Member News

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Florida

Steve Picha has joined **RSM McGladrey** as Tax Director.

Steve brings with him more than twenty years of focused experience serving the real estate industry working closely with owners, developers, contractors, investors and professional service firms.



Steve Picha

With the completion of South Florida's first "from the ground up" all-digital, high-definition (HD) broadcast facility,

Miller Construction Company has provided WPLG TV (Channel 10) with a powerful platform for the nationwide switch from analog to digital broadcast service.

WPLG TV is now based at the new 71,600-square-foot two-story facility on Hallandale Beach Boulevard in Pembroke Park, which includes two studios, a satellite tower, office and administrative areas.

Vela Systems, Inc. recently announced that **Skanska USA** used their *Checklists (QA/QC) and Issues and Punchlists* software to improve quality control, increase process efficiencies and support green efforts on the Parkland Elementary School "Z" job-site.



WPLG Broadcast Facility

Company Motto is "Quality First"

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 Bovis Lend Lease, will be held on Thursday, July 16, 7:30 a.m. at Shula's Hotel in Miami Lakes.

Founded in 1928, Lotspeich Company of Florida, Inc., has built a reputation for providing superior customer service coupled with adding integrity and expertise to every project they are associated with.

Lotspeich has a total commitment to providing the highest quality products and services. They have an unwavering dedication to continue to serve their customers and exceed expectations. Lotspeich has a diverse line of products and services including

Acoustical Ceilings, Drywall Construction, Doors and Hardware, Building Specialties, and Exteriors. Below, are some details:

Acoustical Ceilings

Lotspeich has the amazing capability of taking the most creative ceiling designs and

turning them into a reality. Whether it is 3D specialty ceilings or curved metal ceilings, no job is too difficult. Having vendor relations with manufacturers they can provide the highest quality materials at a competitive price. Lotspeich's highly experienced team of craftsmen can take architectural flamboyance and turn it into a work of art. Their motto of "Quality First" has helped Lotspeich build a portfolio of jobs that feature some of the most complex and visible projects in the area.

Drywall Construction

Whether it is commercial, health care, institutional or industrial projects no job is too small or too large. As a Preferred Customer with their vendors they have unparalleled access to materials. From simple interior wall systems to custom radius soffits, Lotspeich is the right choice to bring projects to the forefront of construction excellence.

Doors and Hardware

With a state-of-the-art hollow metal and wood door shop, a large inventory and some of the finest door mechanics in the area, they have an uncanny ability to surpass customer's expectations.

Building Specialties

Another facet of Lotspeich is their Building Specialties Division (Division 10). From restroom partitions to restroom accessories, wall protection, handrails, projection screens, towel and soap dispensers, grab bars, mirrors and fire extinguishers, client's can expect the same quality and level of service for specialties that has become synonymous with Lotspeich.

Exterior Division

In late 2000, Lotspeich added a new division to compliment its interior division. The exterior division was added to give customers the convenience of having one company complete both the interior and exterior finishes. With a vast amount of labor resources possessing a high level of expertise, they are prepared to take on any challenge. Lotspeich has a highly experienced team, coupled with purchasing power, allows them to provide quality and speed all at a competitive price.

Lotspeich Co. of Florida, Inc. has two South Florida locations: the Broward office is located at 6351 NW 28th Way - Suite A, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309. Lotspeich Broward can be contacted at 954-978-2388. The Palm Beach office is located at 7435 Central Industrial Drive - Suite A, Riviera Beach, FL 33404. Lotspeich Palm Beach can be contacted at 561-848-3040. For more information, go to their website at www.lcfinc.com.



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Construction Focus is the official publication of the Construction Association of South Florida. Article suggestions and submissions for publication consideration should be forwarded to the Executive Vice President.

Complacency in the Workplace

by Steve Griffith, Bovis Lend Lease

When a new project begins everyone is on their toes. Contractors mobilize, equipment arrives, and new employees are taken through orientation. Everyone is quick to listen and respond because first impressions are lasting. Everyone is alert during the first excavation, footer poured, column erected, elevated deck poured, or piece of pre-cast set. But at some point a routine will set in as workers go about the business of building the project.

When the routine sets in will

vary by trade. Most would consider lifting a 100 ton beam a non-routine task, but if 100 beams of that size are required even the non-routine becomes routine. As the routine develops so does complacency.

Complacency is a powerful narcotic that lulls people into a false sense of security. The false logic of complacency tells workers the procedure (lift, pour, connection, purge, etc)

has been done "X" times and nothing bad has happened. Therefore, why should something bad happen at "X" +1?

The true logic is the dangers present during the first procedure are still present, but complacency has dulled the perception of danger. The dulled perception is

amplified as safety procedures are inadvertently omitted or intentionally skipped to save time without adverse results. Complacency then becomes contagious. As more workers see shortcuts being taken, they assume it's safe for them to take the shortcuts too.

Complacency has warning signs. A man in a lift wearing a harness but the chest or leg straps aren't buckled; multiple people on the job not wearing safety glasses; a crew doing overhead work without establishing an exclusion zone below; hot work with no fire watch; a lifting crew using a marginal piece of rigging; or the worker who proclaims "I've been doing it this way for 20 years and haven't killed anyone yet" just to name a few.

Perhaps the worst sign is the lead/foreman/superintendent that watches a worker commit an unsafe act and does nothing.

The best defense against complacency is vigilance. In order to build a true Incident and Injury Free culture requires intolerance of any unsafe act or condition. Before you walk out on the jobsite perform a self check. Are you wearing your per-

sonal protective equipment properly? You represent your company and are the example others will follow, so set a good example.

When you see an unsafe act, have a conversation with the person. If more than

one person on a crew is participating in an unsafe act stop the work and have a conversation with the crew. Help them see the danger they are creating for themselves or others.

Have a one-on-one conversation with the supervisor to remind him/her their first responsibility is keeping those

working for them safe. Lost production, worker's comp claims, and potential litigation can take a project from profit to loss in the blink of an eye. In doing these small things, you help people get home to their loved ones, you help your company's profitability and you help yourself.

Steve Griffith is a member of CASF's Safety Committee. The Committee meets each month to identify and discuss ways to improve job safety. The next Safety Committee meeting is Thursday, July 30, and anyone interested in a safe work environment is invited to attend.



CASF's 2009/2010 Officers and Directors



Mike Fee receives his Past President placque for a great 2008/09 year.



From left to right - John Bennett, Baker Concrete; Craig Heiser, Whiting-Turner; David Keeler, Form Works; Russell Anderson, AIA, Moss & Assoc.; Geoff Bunnell, James A. Cummings; Brad Meltzer, KM/Plaza; Tom Murphy III, Coastal Construction; Jeff Slade, Miller Construction; George Huettel, Cyrus Technologies; Rick Schuenger, John Moriarty & Assoc.; Mike Fee, Lotspeich Co. of FL; Bill Bower, Southeast Mechanical; Doug Wallace, Stiles Construction and John Siegle, CASF. Not in the picture are Bob Baer, Central Florida Equipment and Sid Blaauw, Steel Fabricators.

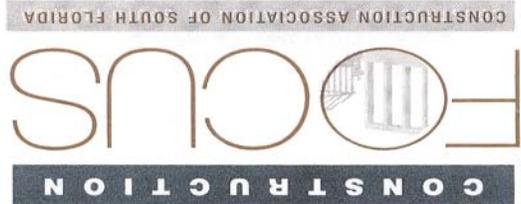


Doug Wallace is presented the President's Exceptional Service Award by Mike Fee for his leadership in promoting careers in construction at Junior Achievement's Finance Park



ROUTE TO:

3500 NW 9TH AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33309



CASF Recognizes Long-Time Members

45 Year Members



Hoover Canvas Products
accepted by Matt Carroll



Steel Fabricators, LLC
accepted by Steve Langsenkamp

40 Year Members



Lotspeich Co. of Florida
accepted by Jerry Ligon



Stiles Construction Co.
accepted by Doug Wallace

35 Year Members



Windmill Sprinkler Co.
accepted by Bill Meredith

25 Year Members



JJW Construction
accepted by Tom Walsh



2009 Scholarship Winner

Florida International University, Dept. of Construction Management student, **Alana Darville**, is awarded the CASF Endowed Scholarship by Craig Heiser, Whiting-Turner and Dr. Irishad Ahmad, FIU Department Chair

20 Year Members



Ferencik, Libanoff, Brandt, et.al.
accepted by Alex Williams



James A. Cummings
accepted by Geoff Bunnell



Poole and Kent Co.
accepted by Dave Lockhart



Southeast Mechanical
accepted by Bill Bower



Thyssenkrupp Elevator
accepted by Bob Greenwald



Woodland Construction
accepted by Clay Fischer

15 Year Members



B&B Interior Systems
accepted by
Jeffrey Burley



Bostic Steel
accepted by
Judy Bostic



DiPompeo Construction
accepted by
John DiPompeo



DooleyMack Construction
accepted by
Jim Orlando



Facchina Construction of Fl. accepted by
Jesus Vasquez



Farach Consultants
accepted by
Paco Farach



Gryphon Construction
accepted by
Larry Kibler



J.W.R. Construction Services accepted by
Jerry DuBois



May, Meacham & Davell accepted by
Rob Meacham



MDS Builders
accepted by
Jim Baumann

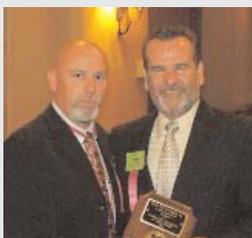


Sunshine Notices
accepted by
Suzanne Rodriguez



Thermal Concepts
accepted by
Jessie Maurer

10 Year Members



Cyrus Technologies
accepted by
George Huettel



H. Lamm Industries
accepted by
Julie Lamm
and Jeff Hawk



M.C. Velar Construction
accepted by
Manny Velar



Reprografia
accepted by
Richard Caso



Structural Preservation Systems
accepted by
Robert Cunningham