CASF Plans for the Future

August is the month when members, who take an active interest in their association, get out of town for a weekend to talk about the commercial construction industry in South Florida and how, as an organization, CASF can help its membership build business relationships with companies and individuals that result in increasing their success in the local market. This year at the Annual Summer Getaway and Planning Meeting in Key Largo, under the leadership of Frank Frione, CASF President, there will be a different approach to the planning session. Professional facilitator and author, Tom Foster of Foster Learning Corporation, is being brought in to lead the Saturday Planning Meeting for the purpose of mapping out the goals and objectives for CASF to achieve in the next five years and beyond.

Tom Foster spends most of his time talking with managers and business owners. The conversations are about business lives and personal lives, goals, objectives and measuring performance. In short, transforming groups of people into teams working together. He is well known to many South Florida construction business owners and managers and has conducted similar planning sessions for other industry related associations in the area. “I wanted to include Tom so we could use his approach to planning our goals and objectives to formulate a plan that will take CASF to the next level,” explained Frank Frione.

Contrary to the common perception among members that the Summer Getaway is only for the Board of Directors there will be close to a 2-to-1 ratio of non-Board members among the 60 people registered for the meeting in Key Largo, with representatives from Adonel Concrete, Advanced Roofing, Baron Signs, Bateman, Gordan & Sands, Bostic Steel, Go-Tilt Construction, Kelly Kronenberg, Peckar & Abramson, Proietto Painting, Southern Waste, Trans Coastal Construction and Victory Concrete Contractors on hand to take part in planning CASF’s future.

“The future’s so bright we need sunglasses,” especially this month in Key Largo.

Member News

DPR Construction ranked #1 on Florida Trend's 2015 "Best Companies to Work For in Florida" list in the large companies category. This year marks the fifth consecutive year DPR has placed on the list, in 2011 at #6, 2012 at #11, 2013 at #5, and 2014 at #9.

"Hire, inspire, develop and grow the best people in the industry is one of our primary goals at DPR," said Deborah Beetson, regional manager of DPR's West Palm Beach office. "In today's competitive market, we know that having the right people with industry-leading experience and skills makes all the difference, and it's important to provide those talented individuals with a great place to work. We're honored to be recognized as one of the 'Best Companies to Work For' in Florida."

Brad Meltzer, President of Plaza Construction’s Southeast Region, presented a check for $150,000 to Voices For Children Foundation at Plaza’s 9th Annual Golf Invitational at La Gorce Country Club. The VCF enables the Guardian ad Litem Program to recruit, train and support volunteers to serve as the "Voice" for abused, abandoned and neglected children by advocating for their best interests in dependency court proceedings.

Plaza Construction Raises $150k

Two George’s Summer Social Pics
Committed to Delivering Quality Work

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 Kaufman Lynn Construction, will be held on Thursday, August 20, 7:30 a.m. at the Marriott Hotel - W. Palm Beach off Okeechobee Road.

Link Construction Group, founded in 2001 by Guillermo "Willy" Rodriguez and Miguel "Mickey" Cerra, is one of the foremost and upcoming general contractors in South Florida. At the heart of every project Link implements its five core values: Honesty, Integrity, Respect, Passion and Dynamic Culture. It is with these core values that Link has been able to provide every client with standards of value and efficiency that exceed expectation and deliver results that are nothing short of excellent.

Of course one of the most important components to maintaining such a high standard is a team of experienced employees that are committed to delivering quality work. Link believes that this is one of the most important qualities that a company can have. With 72 full time employees Link has been able to create a team of professionals that provide a variety of services including pre-construction, general contracting, construction management and design/ build. Founders Willy and Mickey are at the helm as President and Executive Vice President, respectively. They are aided by some other key figures including Bob West (Vice President of Operations), Mike Quesada (Vice President of Construction), Heidi Pabon (Marketing Manager) and Orlando Ceballos (Director of Operations). Krystle Brackett, Assistant Project Manager at Link Construction Group, has been with the company for one year and has nothing but good things to say about the family-oriented work environment. "Working at Link Construction Group is great because we have a tight nit group of people which promotes team work and a great working environment," says Krystle.

Since its inception in 2001, Link has been very successful in raising their level of experience and taken on the challenge to prove themselves of being more than capable of handling different types of projects. With the ability to provide construction solutions that integrate quality and competitive cost, Link has been able to branch out into various sectors of the construction industry. Some of their past projects include Hialeah Park Casino, The Miami Herald Production Facility and Headquarters, 7th Avenue Transit Village, Baptist Health and Distribution Center and Downtown Doral Charter Elementary School.

Link Construction Group is a member and supporter of CASF since 2009 and as a result has been able to gain more exposure within the construction industry. Through its employees' active participation in CASF events and sponsorships, Link has been able to increase its database of qualified subcontractors.

Link Construction Group is located at 5350 NW 77th Court in Doral. For more information about the services that Link offers please visit their website at www.linkconstructiongroup.net.
Preparedness

I. Planning

It is important to have an evacuation plan in place to ensure that workers can get to safety in case a hurricane may affect the area. A thorough evacuation plan should include:

- Conditions that will activate the plan
- Chain of command
- Emergency functions and who will perform them
- Specific evacuation procedures, including routes and exits
- Procedures for accounting for personnel, customers and visitors
- Equipment for personnel

Some businesses are required to have an Emergency Action Plan meeting the requirements under 29 CFR 1910.38, see Evacuation Plans and Procedures eTool for more information. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has more information on evacuation plans as well as suggestions for precautions to take if you are unable to evacuate and do not have a safe room.

In addition to having evacuation plans in place, it is important to be familiar with the warning terms used for hurricanes, as well as your local community’s emergency plans, warning signals, and shelters. Hurricane/Tropical Storm watches mean that a hurricane or tropical storm is possible in the specified area. Hurricane/Tropical Storm warnings mean that a hurricane or tropical storm is expected to reach the area, typically within 24 hours.

Be prepared to follow instructions from the local authorities and to evacuate if instructed to do so.

II. Equipping

- Get emergency supply kits and keep them in shelter locations
- Basic Disaster Supplies Kit
- Emergency Response Plan - Evacuation
- Hurricane Preparedness - Emergency Supplies

III. Training and Exercises

- Ensure that all workers know what to do in case of an emergency.
- Practice evacuation plans on a regular basis.
- Update plans and procedures based on lessons learned from exercises.

OSHA’s Disaster Site Worker Outreach Training Program is a training program for workers who provide skilled support services (e.g., utility, demolition, debris removal, or heavy equipment operation) or site clean-up services. The program highlights the differences between disaster sites and construction sites, and emphasizes the need for workers and employers to have pre-incident training.

IV. Climate Change Preparedness and Resilience

Per Executive Order (EO) 13653, the impacts of climate change -- including an increase in prolonged periods of extreme temperatures, heavy downpours, an increase in wildfires, severe droughts, permafrost thawing, ocean acidification, and sea-level rise -- are already affecting communities, economies, and public health across the Nation. These impacts are often most significant for communities that already face economic or health-related challenges. Managing these risks requires preparation, close cooperation, and coordinated planning by the Federal Government, as well as by stakeholders, to facilitate Federal, State, local, tribal, private-sector, and nonprofit-sector efforts to improve climate change preparedness and resilience. These activities are designed to help safeguard our economy, infrastructure, environment, and natural resources; and provide for the continuity of executive department and agency operations, services, and programs. The Department of Labor is actively engaged in the coordinated federal efforts to enhance climate change preparedness and resilience.

Links
CASF Summer Social at 2-Georges Boynton Beach

Thursday, July 23