



## Skilled Craft Workers?

Construction companies are gearing up to hire more workers, if only they can find them.

A shortage of skilled workers is looming in the industry, which lost 2.3 million jobs during the 2007-2009 recession and has only recouped less than half a million jobs, catching employers off guard and sowing fear among many.

According to an Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) survey, 86 percent of companies surveyed plan to start hiring in 2014, up from 78 percent in 2013.

At the same time, 62 percent of firms are already complaining they cannot fill key professional and craft worker positions.

*"In particular, many firms report having a hard time finding qualified workers to fill project manager or supervisor positions, equipment operators, carpenters and laborers," according to AGC Chief Executive Officer Stephen Sander.*

The survey found that two-thirds of companies expect it will either become harder or remain difficult to find quali-

fied construction professionals in the coming months.

In addition, 74 percent of the firms predict it will get harder, or remain as hard, to find qualified construction craft professionals.

*"One potential reason for growing construction worker shortages is that many contractors have a poor opinion of the local pipeline for preparing new workers,"* said Sander.

During the Great Recession, construction workers who lost their employment found jobs in sectors such as shale gas exploration, as well as healthcare. Others were lost to retirement.

Sander said competition for the available construction workers is heating up. The survey found that 52 percent of firms reported losing workers to other construction companies.

As a result, companies are raising wages and improving benefits to retain workers, the survey found.

Much of the problem is blamed on retiring baby boomers and the fact that construction remains an unattractive career path for most students graduating from high school.

Strong growth nationwide is expected to continue in construction, driven largely by the private sector.



## Member News

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**Miller Construction Company** has added three experienced project managers: Kevin Burke, Jason Martin and Jason Warrick.

A 30-year construction industry veteran, Kevin Burke is a Florida licensed general contractor.

Jason Martin was a project manager with Gilbane Building Company in Arlington, Va., where he was responsible for managing over \$165 million in private and public sector commercial construction projects.

Both Burke and Martin received a Bachelor of Science degree in Building Construction from the University of Florida's M.E. Rinker, Sr., School of Building Construction.

Jason Warrick most recently was a senior project manager for six years with Triversity Construction Company in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he directed diverse corporate and healthcare construction projects.

Jeffrey A. Gouveia was named as the new president of **Suffolk Construction's** Southeast region. Gouveia replaces former Southeast region general manager Rex Kirby.



Kevin Burke



Jason Martin



Jason Warrick



Jeff Gouveia

# Maintaining Integrity While Delivering High Quality

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 Stiles Construction, will be held on Thursday, July 17, 7:30 a.m. at the Broward Performing Arts Center in Ft. Lauderdale.

Starting with modest beginnings in 1937 as a small family business run from the dining room table of Warren and Myrtle Hitt, HITT Contracting has grown to be among the top 100 largest general contractors in the United States. HITT opened its South



Florida office in 2003 as a result of client need for construction services in the Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach area. HITT Contracting currently has 733 employees nationwide and 22 employees in South Florida. Key people in the company include Russell A. Hitt (Chairman), Brett R. Hitt, (Co-President), James E. Millar (Co-President), Michael McRae (Chief Financial Officer), Jeremy S. Bardin (Executive Vice

President), John M. Britt (Executive Vice President), John W. Kane (Executive Vice President), Steven E. Richbourg (Executive Vice President), Brian Denisar (Senior Vice President - South Florida), R. Ryan Bixler (Senior Vice President).

HITT provides a wide range of services from small jobs, service and emergency work to full base building renovation and shell construction. HITT offers resources to support any and all general construction needs; financial strength, 24/7 service department, fully equipped warehouse and millwork shop, large field force, self-performed trades, and in-house painting. HITT's philosophy is dedication to doing business "The HITT Way" - maintaining integrity while delivering

high quality and timely construction - which has earned HITT a positive reputation in the construction industry.

Moe Albitar, a Project Manager for HITT Contracting in South Florida tells what he believes to be the top qualities of HITT "Great staff, Professionalism, Overall and knowledge and experience". Moe also comments on some of the best things about working at HITT Contracting "HITT treats their people well, there is an open door policy and the senior leadership is regularly interacting with all levels of staff. I am a living example of the opportunities that HITT provides."

The difference between HITT and other companies is based on proven fact. HITT has one of the lowest EMR's in the country (.55) and in the industry. HITT produces the highest quality of work for their clients on time and on budget. Some recent projects of HITT Contracting include: Total Bank, Bacardi, VISA, Microsoft, Banco Itau, Banco Santander, Doral Bank. Future projects include: Miami Children's Hospital and PWC Headquarters, both projects will start August 2014.

HITT Contracting joined CASF in 2006. According to Moe "HITT has found many new subcontractors through CASF and would like to continue to do so. We are always looking for new subcontractors and team players that could join the HITT Family."

HITT Contracting, 4360 Oakes Road, Suite 615 Davie. You can contact Moe at (954) 607-7930.

## CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION of South Florida

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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.

# Long-Standing CASF Members Recognized

## 45-Year Members



Jeff Fee accepts on behalf of **Lotspeich Co. of Fla.**



Doug Wallace accepts on behalf of **Stiles Constr. Co.**

## 20-Year Members



Jeff Burley accepts for **B & B Interior Systems**



Judy Bostic and Dean D'Agati accept for **Bostic Steel**

## 30-Year Member



Bob McDonald accepts for **Gulfstream Roofing**



Lisa O'Brian accepts on behalf of **Facchina Construction of Fla.**



Paco Farach accepts for his firm, **Farch Consultants**

## 25-Year Members



Brian Mueller accepts for **Southeast Mechanical Contr.**



Carlos Lopez accepts for **James A. Cummings**



Tim Anderson accepts for **J.W.R. Construction Services**



Cindy Sikora accepts on behalf of **Thermal Concepts**

## 10-Year Members



Russell Anderson accepts on behalf of **MOSS**



Steven Wain accepts for **Multisource Corp. Advisory**



Derek Wassink accepts for **TRC Worldwide Engineering**

CONSTRUCTION  
FOCUS

CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA

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ROUTE TO:

# 64th Annual Meeting & Installation Banquet

*Old Davie School Historical Museum, Thursday June 5, 2014*

