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Water intrusion is wicked. Protect your walls with our lineup of E-Flange casing beads and control joints. Their patented design provides 80% more stucco embedment, plus they’re one of many ClarkDietrich finishing products engineered for stronger performance. Get details at clarkdietrich.com/e-flange.
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THE QUARTERLY

A publication of the Wall And Ceiling Alliance
Fall 2019  
Volume 6, Issue 4

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The Wall And Ceiling Alliance (WACA) is a wall and ceiling trade association that promotes and advocates for the welfare of its members and industry. We support our community by providing vital resources through educational forums, technical assistance, government advocacy, labor relations, industry promotion and unified representation.

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California Drywall Co.
CEA 2019 Project of the Year
Photo courtesy of Bruce Damonte
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- Wall Supports
- Backing
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- Certified Welding

Now Offering CNC Milling
As fall approaches, with the weather changing and the industry moving forward, I’d like to point out some key credits we’ve had this year.

WACA Board President Jim Ruane, with Patrick J. Ruane, was recently appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to the Contractors State Licensing Board. The appointment is a four-year term. Jim is the first wall and ceiling contractor in our industry who has been granted this seat with the state.

We have been covering the election of WACA’s secretary-treasurer, Nancy Brinkerhoff, with Ironwood Commercial Builders, as the first female president with AWCI. Her presidency started in June and will go through mid-year of 2020. Nancy was also part of the selection committee that appointed Michael Stark, AWCI’s new chief executive officer. Michael started his post in July, replacing Steve Etkin. Steve has retired after 24 years as CEO with AWCI. We wish good fortunes to Steve and salute his contributions to improve the wall and ceiling industry.

This summer, the Carpenters Training Committee for Northern California (CTCNC) broke ground on the new Training Center in Pleasanton. The facility will offer 87,000 square feet and contain 50 new weld booths, 15 classrooms and a two-story, open-concept shop that will allow for the construction of larger structures. The center will also have the capacity to enable training on new technology based on Building Information Modeling (BIM) software. The new facility is expected to be done by spring of 2020.

We’ve had excellent results with our legislative efforts. We will print a Legislative Score Card in the winter issue detailing the results of legislative changes; note that the deadline for mandated harassment training was extended by one year.

Lastly, with construction still thriving, we understand how challenging it is to balance workloads and projects. With our holiday party approaching, we hope to see you take a moment to celebrate all the year’s accomplishments and the new year to come.

Happy Thanksgiving!
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- FRP
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ORANGE
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2020 CONSTRUCTION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Deadline for CEA Entries: Friday, January 31, 2020
Projects must have been completed in the 12 months prior to January 2020

The Construction Excellence Awards (CEA) are an exclusive competition that recognizes outstanding work and craftsmanship in the wall and ceiling industry. Only WACA contractor member projects are eligible to enter this select competition. Online project application forms can be submitted by both WACA contractor and associate members on behalf of a contractor. Get the recognition your team and company deserve!

WHY PARTICIPATE

★ Winning projects are recognized at one of the biggest wall and ceiling award shows in the industry.
★ An opportunity to recognize key employees, business partners, architects and general contractors.
★ Professional marketing videos will be produced to showcase winning projects.
★ Winning projects will be highlighted on WACA’s website.
★ Winning projects will be featured in national and regional publications such as The Quarterly, Walls & Ceilings, ENR California, Daily Pacific Builder, San Francisco Business Times, San Jose Business Times and The Sacramento Bee.

HOW TO ENTER:
Online application on WACA’s website www.wallandceilingalliance.org

CEA PROJECT CATEGORIES
• Residential / Lodging Exterior & Interior
• Retail Exterior & Interior
• Commercial Exterior & Interior
• Institutional Exterior & Interior
• Historical Restoration Exterior & Interior
• EIFS
• Green Building
• Ceilings
• Project of the Year - Exterior Under $500,000
• Project of the Year - Interior Under $500,000
• Project of the Year - Exterior Over $500,000
• Project of the Year - Interior Over $500,000

EXCELLENCE IN SAFETY CATEGORIES
• Over 1 Million Annual Hours
• 500,000-1 Million Annual Hours
• 250,000-500,000 Annual Hours
• 125,000-250,000 Annual Hours

ESA Deadline March 5, 2020

QUESTIONS? Contact:
Mike Nonn, technical advisor, mike@wcbureau.org
Ben Duterte, technical director, ben@wcbureau.org
From Vinyl Corp. to the Vinyl Division of ClarkDietrich

by Mark Cooper, Manufacturing Representative

Thirty years ago, Vinyl Corp.™ was established with the goal to provide superior PVC products to the stucco/plaster, drywall/veneer and EIFS markets. From our small beginning in Miami, Florida, the company grew to its current manufacturing plant of 84,000 square feet, with an inventory in excess of 20,000 cartons consisting of more than 10,000 profiles. The company is now under the ownership of ClarkDietrich™, a company offering innovative and superior quality products with superior customer service and technical resources. We are now known as the vinyl division of ClarkDietrich™.

ClarkDietrich Vinyl™ has consistently been in the forefront of wall and ceiling accessories manufacturing and innovation for stucco, plaster, drywall, veneer and EIFS/DEFS PB and PM applications. By developing and maintaining a professional partnership with architects, contractors, manufacturers and distributors, we have continued our leadership role in innovative product development. ClarkDietrich Vinyl™ has more than 100 new products to serve the needs of the wall and ceiling industry. These products include our 66XL Series Long Flange Casing Beads with 5-inch flange, ideal for stucco applications at the adjoining roofline, our DC Series of surface-mounted vents, and the revolutionary new Custom Color Program of ClarkDietrich Vinyl™ that offers color-match wall and ceiling accessories. This program presents a wide variety of our standard vinyl accessories in custom color-match colors to save finishing time, materials and labor costs on projects utilizing pigmented stucco or plaster finishing products.

ClarkDietrich Vinyl™ provides solutions to common construction applications with superior design and innovation. The company manufactures superior designed products for specific applications, such as BackerBead™ to guard against water intrusion and E-Flange™ to provide superior plaster embedment with control joints and plaster stops. We also provide a new line of accessories for the stone veneer industry.

ClarkDietrich™ has numerous vinyl items in product development for future release. Recently the company unveiled the new C I Track for continuous insulation systems. This product has been tested in C I Stucco to NFPA 285 – Fire Promulgation.

Along with our innovation and having multiple vinyl products in the pipeline, one of our biggest accomplishments is responding to the call from an architect or contractor requesting a product for a unique application. Whether it is a custom color product or a product requiring a special modification, we have provided solutions for thousands of special applications.

E-Flange Profile 1578E Control Joint

E-Flange Profile 6678E Casing Bead
OUR MISSION is to build a team dedicated to providing exceptional customer relations, restore quality service and values to the scaffold industry, empower our employees to set and achieve goals to better themselves and the industry, and to provide a personal and professional approach in constructing exceptional quality projects.
WACA once again sold out early, two and a half months before the tournament! On September 20, a total of 220 players showed up at Poppy Ridge Golf Course. Breakfast burritos were provided upon arrival, and a specialty coffee cart bar made drinks to order. Two major door prizes were given to every attendee: a pair of Wiley X sunglasses and a wireless JBL speaker. This means every player walked away a winner!

The 11:30 a.m. shotgun start began with a bang and everyone scattered in golf carts across the courses. Due in part to the generous mega-sponsors, slushy margaritas and hand-scooped ice cream with piping-fresh waffle cones awaited players on the green. Drinks were made available by hole sponsors, some of whom represented their organizations by tabling in person. Thank you, California Service Tool, Hilti, KHS&S Contractors, PABCO, RadiusTrack, Simpson Strong-Tie, Vertice Accounting Solutions and ClarkDietrich™ for taking the time to welcome and engage with players.

During dinner, lucky winners received amazing raffle gifts. In addition to the raffle prizes, crystal trophies were awarded to tournament champions, and for men’s and women’s closest to the pin and long drive. Along with the crystal award, they all received a gift card. Tournament champions were the KHS&S foursome of Don Archuleta, Eric Ladd, Martin Martinez and Frank Lindsay.

WACA thanks all the sponsors who made this competition possible.

The 2019 Golf Tournament sold out in early July. WACA recommends registering for/sponsoring this popular event as soon as the 2020 event registration opens in spring.
### 2019-2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### * WACA events in red

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<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>WACA Holiday Party</td>
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<td>DECEMBER 16-18, 2019</td>
<td>Construction SuperConference</td>
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<td>FEBRUARY 11-14, 2020</td>
<td>SprayFoam Show 2020 Convention &amp; Expo</td>
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<td>* FEBRUARY 20, 2020</td>
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<td>MARCH 9-12, 2020</td>
<td>AGC Convention and CONEXPO-CON/AGG Tradeshow</td>
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<td>MARCH 10, 2020</td>
<td>FCICA Convention</td>
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<td>MARCH 22-25, 2020</td>
<td>CISCA Convention</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH 22-25, 2020</td>
<td>International Summit &amp; Exhibition on Health Facility Planning, Design &amp; Construction (PDC, formerly ASHE)</td>
<td>San Antonio, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH 22-26, 2020</td>
<td>AWCI’s Annual Convention</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH 26, 2020</td>
<td>IIBEC International Convention &amp; Trade Show (Formerly RCI, Inc.)</td>
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</tr>
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For More Event Information, Visit WACA’s Calendar of Events at: web.wallandceilingalliance.org/events
CEMCO FIRE BEAD is a composite fire rated wall mount deflection bead that provides 1- and 2-hour fire-ratings in lieu of fire sealant for both dynamic and static joints according to UL-2079 5th edition (for both standard walls and shaft walls) and is sound tested according to ASTM E90.

Scan the code or CLICK HERE to view the installation video!

- **FIRE BEAD** provides BOTH 1- and 2-hour fire ratings.
- The 1-hour profile has a 1/2” gasket with a 5/8” flexible horizontal return leg.
- The 2-hour profile has a 1/2” gasket with a 1-1/4” flexible horizontal return leg.
- Provides an L-rating less than 1 CFM/Lin Ft for ambient and 400 degrees F.
- **FIRE BEAD** is installed fully cured, is not affected by water or moisture and has no temperature restrictions for installation.
- **FIRE BEAD** has 2 separate compressible sealing points, one against the concrete deck and one against the framing member to prevent sound flanking.
- **FIRE BEAD** has a pink perforated mud leg to indicate to the installer and inspector that the vinyl accessory is fire rated.
- **FIRE BEAD** will stay flexible for the life of the assembly.
- **FIRE BEAD** comes in 10’ lengths with a 5/16” tear off leg that acts as a guide to apply joint compound without masking off adjoining surfaces.
- UL listings/approvals: HW-D-0624; HW-D-0625; HW-D-0554; HW-D-0550; BW-S-0024; WW-D-0104.
- Patent pending.

AS SEEN AT THE 2019 INTEX EXPO!
JOIN US SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2019

ROARING ’20s HOLIDAY PARTY!

6:30 P.M. – COCKTAIL RECEPTION, GRAND BALLROOM
7:30 P.M. – DINNER AND DANCING TO FOLLOW

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Includes a table of 10 tickets, logo placement on WACA’s homepage and throughout event, and in The Quarterly magazine and e-newsletter

GOLD — $2,500
Includes 10 tickets, logo throughout event and program, and name in The Quarterly magazine and e-newsletter

SILVER — $1,500
Includes 6 tickets, logo throughout event, and name in The Quarterly magazine and e-newsletter

BRONZE — $1,000
Includes 4 tickets, logo at event, and name in e-newsletter

SUPPORTING — $600
Includes 2 tickets, logo at event, and name in e-newsletter

EVENT QUESTIONS?
Email Julie Dunaway at julie@wallandceiling.org

REGISTRATION
WWW.WALLANDCEILINGALLIANCE.ORG
Registration Will Close December 1 or When Sold Out
**What Is the BIM CUBE and Why Should Contractors Use It?**

The BIM CUBE (Collaborative Ultimate Building Environment) is a standalone 20-foot by 20-foot room located in WACA’s warehouse in Pleasanton, California. The BIM CUBE technology simulates construction projects onto 20-foot by 13-foot walls using a 1:1 human scale. The virtual reality projections and scale create an immersive experience of the built environment. As changes are made in the BIM authoring tool, they reflect instantly in the 1:1 human-scaled view.

The BIM CUBE permits end users and different trades to collaborate more efficiently in a real-time environment. WACA built the BIM CUBE with contractor members in mind, so contractors could get involved early in the design and project development stage.

The intention is to use the BIM CUBE as a construction resource and be one step ahead of the technology curve. Top benefits include less need for rework or duplication of drawings, collaboration, and better visualization of the product being produced. This tool is available free to our wall and ceiling contractors and community.

**Demo the Cube**

To demo the BIM CUBE and learn more about how it can serve your company, email Maria Carломagno at maria@wallandceiling.org or call (925) 600-0475. For technical questions, contact Technical Director Ben Duterte at ben@wcbureau.org or Technical Advisor Mike Nonn at mike@wcbureau.org.
ALEXIS CANAS

I am from the Coachella Valley, located in Southern California. I originally thought I wanted to be a civil engineer. I am fascinated by buildings and have always wanted to be a part of building something amazing. For me, being able to pass a building and say I helped build it is one of the greatest things I could ever accomplish.

I went to the University of California at Irvine to pursue a degree in civil engineering. I discovered through the coursework that I was not interested in the design aspect of the program and went to the career center for guidance. There I was introduced to construction management, a major I had not yet learned about. Following some research, construction management seemed like the perfect fit for me. I decided to transfer to Cal Poly SLO because of this major and their “learn by doing” culture. I have been attending for a year now and am going into my senior year. I really enjoy my major, my school and all my professors. My time at Cal Poly, along with the internships I’ve had, has proven to me that I made the right decision.

I am still learning what my career goals and aspirations will be, but one goal for certain is to get as much experience as possible in all aspects of a construction project. I would like to build different types of structures, and would like to gain experience as a superintendent, project manager, scheduler, estimator and accountant.

One day I want to create an organization that provides financial assistance to low-income, first-generation students interested in pursuing a four-year education in construction management. I would like for this organization to guide students with their resumes, internships, finances, and in obtaining a professional career. I look forward to learning about construction management while helping the next generation in the industry as WACA has for me.

SUSIE HORNER

I was born and raised in Chico, California. When it came time to choose a college, I wanted to go anywhere other than Chico State. I was accepted to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1996 for architecture, but I was already a teen mother and could not afford to pursue that dream. Years later, I struggled to attend Butte College as a civil engineering major and raise two children on my own. I completed my Associate of Science degree, though not in engineering. Shortly thereafter, I got married and became a Navy wife. My husband adopted my two children, and we now have a total of five children (ages 23, 21, 9, 7 and 6) and one grandson (age 4).

Now, 23 years later, I am proud to be attending CSU, Chico and finally fulfilling my dream of earning my Bachelor of Science degree in construction management. I chose to major in construction management because of its close connection to architecture and engineering that I was interested in. The Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program that introduced me to the career path that I am so passionate about did not even exist at Chico State until 2007. When I learned about the CIM program, only one of four in the United States, I added it as a second major.

After three summer internships with construction materials companies, I learned that I am very passionate about aggregate mining and all things related to quarries and heavy equipment. I am also concurrently earning my Heavy Equipment Operations certificate along with my double major.

I aspire to be a plant manager or superintendent of an aggregate plant and quarry. Even though it has been a very long journey for me, I know I am exactly where I am meant to be.

JORGGE GARCIA

I grew up in Visalia, California, a dairy town west of Sequoia National Park. The Sierra Nevada was basically my backyard. When we were out for recess in elementary school, we would always appreciate the beautiful view of the snowy mountaintops. Later, when I was old enough to work with my mother picking fruit, the white mountain peaks always grabbed my attention. The Sierra Nevada runs long, and because of it, looks endless. It is my favorite part of growing up in the Central Valley.

As mentioned, in my teenage years I would work picking fruit with my mother. Those were some difficult times. We always had contractors who would treat us poorly. On top of that we earned minimum wage and at times below minimum wage, and it made us feel horrible. Yet, there were two contractors that I will never forget because they treated us with respect. They would buy us pizza, sodas and look at us when speaking to us. I looked up to those guys and I wanted to be just like them: respectful and caring to all people no matter how they look or where they come from.

Growing up, I wanted to be a civil engineer because I enjoyed math and I loved the artistic side of buildings. When I found out about construction management, a major that gives me the chance to be out in the field with the tradespeople and work aside engineers and architects, I knew the major was made for me.

My career goals and aspirations are to become a superintendent at a respected construction company and to be able to care for and respect the people that I work alongside.

SPRING 2019 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
DIANA GONZALEZ

- CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO
- GRADE LEVEL: JUNIOR
- MAJOR: BS, CIVIL ENGINEERING; BS, CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

I was born in Sacramento, California, and lived there for my first four years of life. I then moved to Oroville, California, 80 miles north in Butte County. It was then that I was introduced to Chico State on a campus tour. Little did I know that I would attend that school 12 years later. My time in Butte County was short and I moved to a small town of 6,000 people called Plumas Lake. My family has lived in the same house for the past 15 years, except for me as I am attending college.

My interest in construction really began with my family and, most importantly, my dad. My parents’ story started when they came to this country in search of a better life. Growing up, I heard my father and uncles talking about their work in construction as concrete masons, carpenters and laborers. I was always fascinated by how they spoke about their crafts. Some of my favorite moments in life include walking through completed projects that my dad worked on; he would talk to me about the project problems they faced and how they overcame those challenges. You could hear the pride he had in his work. It was during those times that I told myself I wanted to be a great designer and design great buildings while taking pride in my work.

A year and a half into my civil engineering degree, I took a construction management course and knew I wanted to take that path as well. After much consideration and many mentoring sessions with both the civil engineering and construction management department chairs, I am on track to earn two degrees in both these fields within five years. After completing my education, I hope to start in a field engineering position to decide whether to choose a superintendent or project manager role. In due time, I hope to go back to school and pursue a master’s degree in either workforce development or public policy. Once I obtain this degree, I hope to work for an organization that helps educate, inform and defend worker rights in the construction fields.
Ironwood self-performs drywall/metal framing, lath and plaster and fire-proofing. The company has recently taken on general contracting in the federal market, which works well with its self-performing divisions, according to Brinkerhoff.

**Solid Advice**

Many contractors across the United States like Ironwood face different challenges today than a decade ago. When she started the company in 2007, the San Francisco Bay Area and most of the country was in a recession. “It was a bad market,” she recalls. “Everyone was fighting for the same job, and the margins were low. Today, the big challenge is workforce: getting and keeping qualified good people.”

Brinkerhoff advises young contractors trying to build a solid reputation to "never overpromise. You need to do what you say you are going to do. You can’t go into a project and make 25 excuses when things go wrong about what happened.”

**Presidential Goals**

Brinkerhoff says one of her priorities over the next 12 months as AWCI’s new president is a membership drive for new contractors and those companies with younger leaders. “The main goal is to take this association to the next generation,” she says.

We have a number of member contractors who are passing the helm to their children and/or younger executives — a good thing, says Brinkerhoff. To take AWCI to the next generation, Brinkerhoff believes the association also needs to reach out to small business contractors led by young, progressive minds. Young blood is good for the industry, she says, partly because they readily adopt new ideas, technology and ways of operating a business.

"We would like to implement sponsoring new companies’ registrations that can't otherwise afford to come to our convention, so they can attend and see the value of this association," Brinkerhoff says. "I believe there are hundreds of companies that could be part of this organization, but for these contractors to take a dedicated amount of time away from work to come to our convention, they need to know and see the value of the information they will gain and the opportunities from networking nationwide."

**The Tech Curve**

While technological advancements can, on one hand, increase productivity, on the other hand it can come at a financial cost too high for many contractors. “Larger contractors are generally industry leaders and generally have the funds to incorporate advanced, new technology,” Brinkerhoff says.
AWCI can help members of all sizes catch up to the technology curve. As a founding member of the Wall And Ceiling Alliance in Northern California, she has been part of an initiative that allows member-contractors to use a virtual reality headset to walk through a Building Information Modeling Collaborative Ultimate Building Environment (BIM CUBE) with their clients in a warehouse section of WACA to evaluate the design of their projects. “You can redesign as you walk through,” she says. “You can even place the studs.” WACA staff runs the program.

According to a recent article that appeared in The Technical Corner of WACA’s quarterly magazine, “Recent research supports … that while demand for BIM appears to be growing, particularly among owners and general contractors, wholesale acceptance by trade contractors continues to lag. A 2017 study by Dodge Data & Analytics found that while 46 percent of the general contractors or construction managers surveyed who were using BIM were using it on more than one-half of their projects, only 30 percent of surveyed trade contractors were doing the same. Interestingly, the same report found that, in general, trade contractors were comparatively more comfortable with the complexities and functionality of BIM programs than architects and engineers. According to the survey, trade contractors believe BIM’s best attribute is its ability to provide the latest version of a design and view using that trait as a means to avoid costly rework once a project commences.”

Brinkerhoff says Ironwood will use the BIM CUBE on an exterior contract it is doing for the federal government. Most companies won’t have the budget for in-house technology like this. “It is a good example of how associations like WACA and AWCI can benefit their members,” she says.

Other technologies benefit the industry — including prefabrication, an area to investigate as the industry moves forward, she says. The shift to OST (on-screen takeoffs) bidding has proven to be “five times faster” than bidding from paper drawings — a smart investment for contractors of all sizes.

**Workers Wanted**

Regarding the shortage of skilled labor, there’s no easy solution to building a young group of workers in the field. Revisiting recruitment efforts in high schools is one place to start. Efforts to draw young women — “an untapped resource” — into the field are also important, says Brinkerhoff, a member of the National Association of Women in Construction.

“It’s the trades that need to recruit,” she says, noting that there are only three women in her field crew of about 80. “Women need to hear that this is a market that they can excel in. We need to improve our women’s outreach. They should know that this is a fulfilling and exciting potential career path for them.”

**Personal Involvement**

In addition to the NAWIC, Brinkerhoff is active in a number of wall and ceiling associations. At WACA she is the secretary/treasurer, and she is a former president of the Bay Area Builders Exchange. She is also a trustee on the Plasterers’ Pension Fund and chairperson of Plasterers Health and Welfare. At AWCI, Brinkerhoff participates in the Women’s Business Forum in which female executives meet to share company matters, including problem jobs and potential solutions.

Brinkerhoff is honored and excited to be part of AWCI and looks forward to bringing new and innovative ideas to the organization over the next year. AWCI looks forward to bringing in new members and knows they will find the organization and its resources a great benefit available to contractors nationwide.

*Don Procter is a freelance writer in Ontario, Canada.*

*Reprinted with permission from AWCI, July 2019, Construction Dimensions magazine.*
On July 25, WACA held its member meeting in Belmont at The Van’s. Guests were able to network among peers in a laid-back environment and discuss developments in the industry as well as local topics.

Per members’ input, a guest speaker presented during dinner. The speaker was Brent Fisher, formerly CSI, CDT, Business Development Strategic Accounts with Dryvit Systems, Inc. After retiring from 34 years at Dryvit, Fisher decided to offer his experience and knowledge, accumulated over more than 35 years, to the design and contractor communities. His new business EIFS Assist is a professional consultancy focusing on helping contractors, architects, owners, insurers and code officials understand and utilize exterior insulation finish systems (EIFS) wall claddings. Fisher’s goal is to assure each application achieves a best practice and is installed with excellent service through the life of the application. EIFS Assist offers written input in pre-planning, planning, schematics, specifications and submittal phases of the application. For more information, contact Fisher at brentfisher.eifsassist@outlook.com and by phone at (510) 459-3978.

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SAFETY UPDATE

Protection from Wildfire Smoke

Background
On December 12, 2018, Petition No. 573 was filed with the Cal/OSHA Standards Board seeking an emergency standard to protect outdoor workers in areas impacted by unhealthy levels of wildfire smoke. The petitioners were the California Labor Federation AFL-CIO, Worksafe, and the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation.

Relief sought included:
- An emergency standard that would require protections in the event the Air Quality Index (AQI) for PM 2.5 rises to the “unhealthy” level (i.e., over 150). Note: the AQI was developed by the EPA to inform the public of unhealthy air levels
- Feasible engineering controls such as enclosed structures or vehicle cabs with filtered air for rest and meal breaks
- Administrative controls such as changes in work location and schedules, reduction in work intensity and additional rest periods
- An emergency standard that should also address provision of appropriately selected and maintained respiratory protection

Health Concerns
Cal/OSHA and the Board shared the concern of how airborne particle size is directly linked to the potential for causing health problems. Small particles less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter pose the greatest risk because of how they penetrate deep into the lungs and may enter the bloodstream. Adding to the risk, toxic volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds can be absorbed onto airborne PM 2.5 particles.

Standards Board Action
On Thursday, July 18, 2019, the Cal/OSHA Standards Board adopted an emergency regulation to protect outdoor workers from the hazards of wildfire smoke. The regulation became effective on July 29, 2019, and is enforceable for six months but can be extended for two additional 90-day periods.

During that time, Cal/OSHA will convene advisory meetings to receive input from stakeholders with a goal of adopting a permanent standard. Standards Board member Dave Harrison (Operating Engineers Local 3) has asked Cal/OSHA to launch an educational program much like the Heat Illness Prevention effort.

This regulation applies to workplaces where:
- The current Air Quality Index (AQI) for the pollutant PM 2.5 (particulate matter) is at least 151, and the employer should reasonably anticipate that employees may be exposed to wildfire smoke
The following workplaces are exempt from this regulation:

- Enclosed buildings or structures with filtered air by a mechanical ventilation system, where the employer ensures that windows, bays, and other openings are kept closed
- Enclosed vehicles with filtered air where the windows, doors and other openings are kept closed
- Situations where the employer demonstrates that the concentration of PM 2.5 in the air does not exceed an AQI of 151 by conducting worksite measurements
- Employees exposed to an AQI for PM 2.5 of 151 or greater for a total of one hour or less during a shift
- Firefighters engaged in wildland firefighting

**Employer Responsibilities**

**Identification of Harmful Exposures**

Determine employee exposure to PM 2.5 before each shift and periodically thereafter as needed by checking the AQI forecasts from any of the following:

- U.S. Forest Service Wildland Air Quality Response program website – sites.google.com/firenet.gov/wfaqrp-external/home
- California Air Resources Board website – www2.arb.ca.gov/homepage
- Local Air Pollution Control District websites – www.capcoa.org/districts

Employers may also obtain AQI forecasts and information directly from these agencies via telephone, email or text. Or employers may measure PM 2.5 at the worksite with a direct-reading particulate matter monitor. This option must be executed consistent with Appendix A, "Measuring PM 2.5 Levels at the Worksite," of the regulation, which provides guidance on the process.

**Communication**

Establish and implement a system for communicating wildfire smoke hazards in a form readily understandable by all affected employees. Communication must include the current AQI for PM 2.5, and protective measures available to employees to reduce their exposure. Employers shall encourage employees to inform their employer of worsening air quality, and any adverse symptoms that may result from exposure to wildfire smoke such as asthma attacks, difficulty breathing and chest pain. Employees must not suffer retribution or reprisal for such action.

**Training and Instruction**

The employer shall provide employees with effective training and instruction consistent with Appendix B, "Information to Be Provided to Employees (Mandatory)." Training must address the health effects of wildfire smoke, the right to obtain medical treatment without fear of reprisal, how employees can obtain the current AQI for PM 2.5, and the requirements of the regulation. Also to be addressed is the employer’s two-way communication system, the employer’s methods to protect employees from wildfire smoke, and the importance, limitations, benefits and proper use of respirators for smoke exposures.

**Control of Harmful Exposures to Employees**

Control harmful exposures with engineering controls, administrative controls and voluntary respirator use. Engineering controls are considered the first order of protection and include providing enclosed buildings, structures or vehicles where the air is filtered. Administrative controls can include relocating workers to a safe area, changing work schedules, reducing work intensity or providing additional rest periods.

**Control by Respiratory Protective Equipment**

Employers must provide respirators, such as N95 filtering facepiece respirators, for voluntary use when the AQI reaches 151. Voluntary use does not require fit-testing. When the AQI for PM 2.5 exceeds 500, respirator use is mandatory and subject to the requirements of General Industry Safety Order §5144, including fit-testing.

**Emergency Operations**

Certain emergency operations such as work to restore utilities and communications, and medical operations, are not subject to the engineering and administrative controls, but follow the respirator provisions.

**Public Hearing**

Cal/OSHA convened the first stakeholder meeting on August 27, 2019, to discuss proposed amendments to the emergency regulation. In those proposed amendments, Cal/OSHA raised the prospect of future consideration of lowering the AQI threshold triggering voluntary respiratory protections from 151 to 101. That is considered a level of Particulate Matter 2.5 unhealthy for sensitive groups. The 151 level is considered generally unhealthy.

At the new lower threshold, employers would be required to establish and implement a system for informing employees as early as possible that the air is unhealthy for sensitive people, make Appendix B (training) available to employees, and provide respirators upon request.

Under the current emergency regulation, those provisions are triggered at 151.

Cal/OSHA has also proposed lowering the threshold triggering mandatory respiratory use from above 500 to 300, a level considered “very unhealthy.”

Although an additional public stakeholder meeting has not yet been scheduled, it is important that employers with potentially exposed employees understand what is required at this time under the emergency regulation that is being enforced by Cal/OSHA enforcement staff.

Additional updates will be provided as developments occur.

To review the actual emergency regulation in place at this time, click on this link: www.dir.ca.gov/OSHSB/documents/Protection-from-Wildfire-Smoke-Emergency-apprvdtxt.pdf.

The Spanish language version of the emergency regulation can be accessed at: www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/doshreg/Protection-from-Wildfire-Smoke/Spanish/Protection-from-Wildfire-Smoke-Emergency-propctxt-spanish.pdf.
Nevell Group, Inc. (“NGi”) was founded in 2003 in Brea, California, about 30 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles. The company headquarters remain in Brea today. Presently the company has more than 1,600 employees, having expanded into San Diego and more recently into the Northern California market with a facility in Concord.

NGi self-performs interior and exterior metal stud framing, gypsum wallboard, lath and plaster, EIFS, acoustical ceilings, spray applied fireproofing and air/vapor barriers. Additional scopes of work include various rain screen systems, exterior panel systems and panelized load-bearing framing, with complete in-house BIM/design management and prefabrication capability.

Nevell Group is an ABAA Certified Contractor with experience in both public and private sectors. This includes high-rise/mixed-use, medical, commercial, hospitality, retail, tenant improvement and institutional projects. Our geographic markets include Southern and Northern California, as well as Arizona and Nevada.

At NGi we have been successful with early involvement, target value budgeting, and helping design teams manage the plan progression in order to maintain baseline pricing. We have experienced project teams that are highly budget conscious, and we offer focused attention and hands-on management to see projects through from pre-construction to project completion. We have the staff, the processes and the technology to deliver on every phase of construction. Our busy market has been a challenge for all in terms of field and staffing resources, but it also comes with the opportunity to develop an environment and culture that attracts and retains top talent.

We are very proud of our NorCal team’s accomplishments, with the team having completed numerous challenging projects and with many more underway. Past projects include San Francisco Airport T1C Renovation/Expansion (Phase 1), Stanford Bass Biology, Stanford ChEM-H, Lucille Packard Hospital, Pinole High School, Sacramento State Student Union, California State University at Monterey Bay Academic 3 Building and 279 East Grand Avenue. Current projects include UC Davis West Village Student Housing, Oakland Marriott, Great Wolf Lodge, 333 12th Street, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and 24th and Harrison.

We value our membership in the Wall And Ceiling Alliance (WACA). Membership helps companies become more informed and better equipped to succeed in the Northern California markets. WACA contributes to the promotion of the wall and ceiling industry and the benefits of using union contractors. The association supports membership in many ways, from labor contract negotiation and representation to training opportunities, government advocacy and its technical resource (Wall and Ceiling Bureau).

For our customers, Nevell Group, Inc. is committed to the highest quality performance, both in pre-construction and construction services. We offer honesty, commitment and dependability on every project, through open communication and follow-through. Above all else, we both value our people and strive for the best customer experience.

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Jim Ruane, President of WACA Board of Directors, Appointed to Contractors State License Board

Governor Gavin Newsom announced in September that Jim Ruane of Patrick J. Ruane, Inc. has been appointed to the Contractors State License Board, a four-year term. Ruane will be the first WACA board director to be appointed to this position, which requires Senate confirmation. He has been president of Patrick J. Ruane, Inc. since 1976, served as mayor of San Bruno from 2009 to 2017, and is also a member of AWCI. Congratulations to Jim on his new appointment.

CEMCO & Industry Mourn the Passing of Richard Poliquin – President Emeritus

The CEMCO family is deeply saddened to announce the recent loss of president emeritus and industry beacon Richard Poliquin. Richard was surrounded by family when he passed peacefully on Thursday, June 27. He was born to Peter and Elizabeth Poliquin in 1930 and raised in North Dakota. Rich (as he was commonly known) served in the U.S. Navy in the Korean War as a mechanics chief of a carrier-based Corsair fighter/bomber crew in the Pacific. In 1980 he and his brother Ray purchased California Expanded Metal Products Co. where he served as president and president emeritus for over 35 years. Rich’s vast knowledge of manufacturing, production, and building product technology led to many of the industry’s most popular products, including the recently introduced Safety-Edge® Technology. For more information, CEMCO’s contact Steve Farkas can be reached at (800) 775-2362 or sfarkas@cemcosteel.com

Industry Mourns Loss of Hugh Laird, Executive Director of ISCA

(Daily Commercial News) Hugh Laird, executive director of the Interior Systems Contractors Association (ISCA) and chair of Helmets to Hardhats Canada, passed away June 10 at age 70. Laird joined ISCA over 25 years ago and was the executive director of both the association and the Interior Finishing Systems Training Centre. He was a member of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, following a family tradition started in Scotland where he was born. With his passing the construction industry mourns the loss of an avid supporter of training young people in the skilled trades. Ian Cunningham, president of the Council of Ontario Construction Associations (COCA), said, “(Laird) has been responsible for introducing thousands of young people to fulfilling careers in the construction industry and for that the industry should be thankful.”

New Distribution Partnership with Advanced Building Products, Inc. Strengthens ClarkDietrich’s Leadership in Exterior Wall Finishing

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Shawna Alvarado of O’Donnell Plastering, Inc. Named NAWIC’s Member of the Year

Congratulations to Shawna Alvarado, CBT, CIT, Controller at O’Donnell Plastering, Inc. and Board of Director member at WACA, for being named NAWIC’s Member of the Year. Shawna joined NAWIC in 1996 but attended NAWIC events with her mother when she was just 6. As an official member of NAWIC, she has held the position of president three times, served on the national board as a regional director, and has held numerous chapter, regional and national committee positions. The NAWIC Member of the Year is not easily earned, as it is selected on a point system based on member involvement as well as a submitted written letter, which is then reviewed by a panel of judges. Shawna exemplifies NAWIC values and demonstrates her commitment to the industry.
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