A PUBLICATION OF THE WALL AND CEILING ALLIANCE

WINTER 2020

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A TIMELINE
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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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On the cover:

Salesforce Office Building  
Anning-Johnson Company  
CEA 2019 Project Winner: Green Building  
Photo courtesy of Kelley L. Cox, KLC fotos
Celebrating WACA’s 10 Year Anniversary

Having closed another year and embarked on an exceptionally bright-looking 2020, it’s an excellent time to reflect on our association’s accomplishments.

This year WACA is celebrating its 10th anniversary. What we’ve accomplished in just 10 years as a group is something to recognize. With this milestone anniversary, we have to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the current board of directors, past boards and WACA employees. We succeeded in overcoming what seemed to be insurmountable obstacles to the path of unification. At the time, having different boards and associations, and conflicting collective bargaining agreements with separate negotiators — while the economy was in a challenging climate — made it a complicated task to build WACA. Realizing that an alliance would make wall and ceiling contractors stronger in both negotiations and industry influence, we sought to create WACA as a mutual goal.

For a considerably young association and where we stand today, the initial hard work has paid off many times over.

Today, WACA is a nationally recognized association exercising influence on several issues facing our industry. WACA’s board director Gregg Brady is one of the founders and board director of the Signatory Wall And Ceiling Contractors Alliance (SWACCA), which represents signatory contractors on a national level. Our secretary/treasurer Nancy Brinkerhoff was elected as the first woman president in the history of AWCI. On a personal note, in large part due to the influence of WACA, I was appointed by Gov. Newsom to the Contractors State License Board as a specialty contractor. The interaction on a state level with other contractors representing other trades provides an exclusive insight into the licensing and legislative issues unique to the construction industry.

I look forward to updating membership on our ongoing efforts, and I wish you a very prosperous 2020.

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Tim Stiller
Nevell Group, Inc.
The last actions of the 2019 California legislative session took place on October 13, 2019, which was the deadline for Gov. Newsom to sign or veto legislation. WACA once again had a very successful legislative session with victories in the areas of prompt payment relating to change orders, the expansion of the skilled and trained workforce provisions, and much-needed industry relief to comply with the state’s new sexual harassment training requirements. WACA also took the leading role in opposing or amending dozens of measures that would have been harmful to our contractors and the industry overall.

Below is a summary of the key bills WACA took positions on this year and the outcome.

### Legislation Sponsored/Supported by WACA

- **AB 456 – Public Contracts: Change Order Claims Resolutions**
  WACA supported legislation to extend the sunset for seven years in Public Contract Code §9204. That section of law provides California public works contractors an avenue to pursue prompt payment for change order/extra work performed.
  **Status: Signed by Governor**

- **AB 520 – Public Works: Public Subsidy**
  State Building & Construction Trades Council sponsored legislation to provide that a public subsidy, for the purpose of triggering prevailing wage, is de minimis if it is both less than $500,000 and less than 2 percent of the total project cost.
  **Status: Vetoed by Governor**

- **AB 695 – Community College Facilities: Design-Build Contracts**
  Authorizes community college districts to enter into design-build construction contracts until January 1, 2030, and requires the prime contractor and all subcontractors to utilize a skilled and trained workforce on those projects.
  **Status: Signed by Governor**

- **AB 1613 – Public Works: Prevailing Wages**
  State Building & Construction Trades Council sponsored legislation to expand the definition of “public works” for purposes of prevailing wage requirements, to also include any construction, alteration, demolition, installation or repair work done under private contract on a charter school project when the project is paid for in whole or in part with the proceeds of conduit revenue bonds.
  **Status: Vetoed by Governor**

- **AB 1736 – Bid Notification Requirements**
  American Subcontractors Association sponsored a measure to require a local agency to create a policy for notifying bidders of the award of a bid within a reasonable timeframe.
  **Status: Vetoed by Governor**

- **SB 197 – Department of Transportation: Retention Proceeds**
  Makes permanent state law prohibiting Caltrans from withholding any retention funds from contractors when making progress payments for work performed on a Caltrans project.
  **Status: Signed by Governor**
SB 530 – Construction Industry: Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Training
WACA amended a measure to provide that discrimination and sexual harassment training certificates, which are valid for two years, shall be portable for CBA-covered construction employees working for employers who are signatory to the same CBA. The measure also authorizes joint labor management apprenticeship committees and labor management cooperation committees to provide the requisite training and be the custodian of records.
Status: Signed by Governor

SB 610 – Contractors State License Board
The Contractors’ State License Law provides for the licensure and regulation of contractors by the Contractors State License Board (CSLB). This measure extended the operation of the CSLB to January 1, 2024.
Status: Signed by Governor

SB 778 – Employers: Sexual Harassment Training: Requirement Extension
WACA supported measure to extend the deadline for covered employers to provide sexual harassment prevention training and education to their existing supervisory and nonsupervisory employees to January 1, 2021.
Status: Signed by Governor

AB 882 – Termination of Employment: Drug Testing
This bill would have prohibited an employer from discharging an employee for testing positive for a drug that is being used as a medical-assisted treatment under the care of a physician or licensed treatment program.
Status: Failed Passage

Legislation Opposed by WACA

AB 1339 – Mechanics Liens: Attachment Date
This bill proposed to change the priority of a lien, mortgage, deed of trust or other encumbrance on a work of improvement to ensure that lenders had priority over contractors, workers, material suppliers and trust funds.
Status: Failed Passage

SB 171 – Annual Pay Data Reports
This measure would have required large employers to annually report payroll data broken down by race, ethnicity and sex to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing.
Status: Failed Passage

SB 297 – School Facilities: Approval of Plans: Preliminary Build Contract
This bill would have authorized a school district to enter into a construction contract for the construction or alteration of a school building, without the plans having final approval from the Division of the State Architect (DSA). No protections were provided for contractors regarding who would be responsible for any changes and associated costs should DSA make changes to the plans after the bid was awarded.
Status: Held – 2 Year Bill

SB 566 – Professional Land Surveyors and Engineers
This measure would have dramatically expanded the definitions of civil engineering and land surveying into work currently being performed by industry personnel.
Status: Failed Passage
Bills Amended to Address Concerns

- **AB 572 – California Deforestation-Free Procurement Act: Wood Products on Public Works Projects**
  This bill would have established the Deforestation-Free Procurement Act and required contractors that contract with state agencies and utilize wood or wood products to certify that the commodities were not grown, derived, harvested, reared or produced on land where tropical deforestation occurred. The bill was amended to exempt construction contractors on public works projects from the certification requirements.
  
  **Status: Failed Passage**

- **SB 588 – Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program**
  Originally required the Department of General Services to suspend contractors that failed to comply with the Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise certification requirements and prohibit them from bidding on state contracts. The bill was amended to remove the contractor suspension provisions.
  
  **Status: Held – 2 Year Bill**

- **AB 971 – Public Contracts: Contractor Evaluations**
  This bill requires an awarding state department on state contracts to conduct a post-evaluation of all contractors providing services with a value of $500,000 or more, and post the results of the evaluation on their website. The bill was amended to remove its application to construction contractors on public works contracts.
  
  **Status: Signed by Governor**

- **SB 142 – Wiener. Employees: Lactation Accommodation**
  The bill, in general, requires employers with more than 50 employees to provide private space (other than a bathroom) for lactating employees. The bill was amended to provide workable construction industry protocols that require a general contractor, coordinating a multiemployer worksite, to either provide lactation accommodations or provide a safe and secure location for a subcontractor employer to provide lactation accommodations on the worksite, within two business days, upon written request of any subcontractor employer with an employee that requests an accommodation.
  
  **Status: Signed by Governor**

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**ONLINE APPLICATION AT WWW.WALLANDCEILINGALLIANCE.ORG**

If you have any questions on the safety award application process, contact WCB Technical Advisor Mike Nonn at (925) 337-9706 or mike@wcbureau.org.
CEMCO FIRE BEAD is one of four NEW fire rated drywall accessories from 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 sound tested in accordance with ASTM E90. FIRE BEAD is ideal for exposed concrete ceilings and walls, it installs easier and more quickly than fire sealant, saving time and labor costs.
Daley’s Drywall & Taping, Inc.

My grandparents Gary and Sally Daley opened the business out of their house in 1963. My father Craig Daley started working for the company in 1975. He worked as a journeyman taper, foreman, superintendent, estimator, project manager and VP/general manager before becoming president in 1998. Having worked his way through various areas of the business, Craig developed the ability to work closely with and understand the inner workings of all our teams and client needs. A prestigious accolade to his wall and ceiling career happened in May 2008, when he was appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger as a commissioner on California’s State Building Codes Commission. As of January 2020, Daley’s Drywall & Taping, Inc. (Daley’s) has been in business 57 years.

I grew up around the business and started working at the company in 2009. With my promotion to CFO in September 2010 and president in 2018, Daley’s Drywall & Taping, Inc. has transitioned to the third generation of family leadership. The business covers the greater Bay Area of San Francisco to Monterey, specializing in drywall, lath and plaster, and acoustical ceilings. Today, Daley’s employees/ labor force has grown to nearly 500.

We’re proud of our strong, long-term relationships with excellent partners and customers. Daley’s continues to build the business on solid client relationships and repeat work. We stress strong safety practices and drive the project schedule with the goal of a zero punch list. We have the talent to ensure that clients’ projects are successful from start to finish and are committed to making their lives easier regarding these important projects. We do this by educating and training the team to do the best for each project, professionally and proactively. Experience has taught us that the lowest price is rarely the lowest project cost. We believe that production and quality are the first and most important steps to total cost management for any project. Daley’s Drywall adheres to the “Do It Right the First Time” approach to minimize the total cost of our customers’ projects.

From multimillion-dollar structural metal stud framed projects to small tenant improvements, we take pride in our unique ability to provide service to our clients, regardless of the size or type of project.

We recognize the impact that technology has on everything we do today, including our production process. We are committed to finding ways to leverage technology to improve our process to help us deliver a better product faster. This effort has made us experts in the field. By helping in the early stages of a project with our in-house BIM department, we’re able to assist with cost estimating and design suggestions. We can help eliminate future delays and unexpected cost.

**Safety Focus**

At Daley’s Drywall, our safety goal is to relentlessly meet and exceed the requirements of our customers and OSHA standards. The following established process ensures our in-house safety standard:

- Jobs are reviewed prior to their start to identify all safety procedures, both those that are standard and unique to that job.
- Project-specific safety packets and IIPP manuals are developed for each project.
- Safety policies are reviewed and reinforced with employees on a weekly basis with mandatory job site toolbox safety meetings.
- Continual job safety inspections are conducted to ensure safety procedures are implemented and rigorously followed.
A formal IIPP manual is maintained and continually updated to optimize our safety policies and procedures.

Formal quarterly meetings of our foremen are conducted by our safety director to review and reinforce safety policies and procedures as well as to conduct training for new or updated practices.

All foremen are OSHA-30, first aid and CPR certified.

Personal protective equipment is worn by all employees.

All new hires as well as rehires with a six-month or longer absence undergo a mandatory safety training.

**Sustainable Practices**

Preserving our planet's precious resources is the responsibility of every individual and company. At Daley's, we take this to heart and are committed to preserving our environment. Our growing fleet of vehicles uses the most fuel-efficient engines available, including hybrid and small diesel engines. We use low energy task lighting, recycle our electronics and make our best effort to limit our power usage where possible. We also take advantage of the opportunity to use recycled materials on our projects to help diminish our environmental impact.

We strongly promote the use of metal stud framing over other types of materials, as metal has proven to be the best recycled material available for the job. We are the only Northern California drywall company to own and run its own fleet of in-house recycling bins, specifically marked for their intended purpose.

**Gypsum Recycling**

Our gypsum recycling bins are used for scrap drywall that is delivered directly to the manufacturing plant to be recycled into new gypsum drywall. Unlike other recycling programs, Daley's eliminates the inefficiencies of public landfills, ensuring that the gypsum goes into making new drywall material.

**Metal Recycling**

Our metal recycling bins are filled not only with metal scrap from our metal cut-offs, but also the scrap metal used by other trades on our various job sites. Daley's delivers these bins directly to a certified metal recycler so they can be processed and returned to use instead of ending up in a landfill.

**Solar Energy**

At Daley's headquarters, we have gone solar powered. We have installed a rooftop solar panel system to help alleviate the production of less clean energy on our behalf. On those sunny days that we are producing more energy than we need, we send our clean energy into the grid to help serve our community with cleaner energy.

Being a WACA member has been extremely beneficial to us in staying on top of industry trends, technical knowledge, union relations, networking, elevating our trade in all areas and of course having fun!

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**2016 CEA for Residential Interior: Avalon Hayes Valley Apartments**

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The Evolution of Firestopping
A Timeline of How Far Firestopping Has Come Over the Years
by Don Pilz and Brent Johnson

Firestopping is the process of containing fire and/or smoke through the use of properly installed UL tested and certified products and assemblies. Firestopping, as we know it, has been around for approximately 40 years. This was kick-started from the 1980 MGM Grand fire, in which 85 people were killed (including seven employees) and 650 injured, including guests, employees and 14 firefighters. Insurance companies were the driving force behind promoting and developing firestop products to minimize the risk of property lost. This created an increased demand for firestopping, which ultimately led to changes in the building codes.

At first, builders used what was readily available for firestopping. Drywall, mineral wool, steel framing and spray-applied fireproofing were all products already known to restrict the passage of fire. Drywall manufacturers designed wall assemblies that could be tested per design standards found in ASTM E119 and ANSI/UL-263.

These original assemblies were great for restricting the passage of fire, but did not do as well when it came to restricting the passage of smoke or aiding in protection in the event of seismic activity. Given that 75 people died from smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning in the MGM Grand fire, smoke seals became front and center and out of that came fire seals and fire sprays (Figure 1). Fire seals and fire sprays provided an improved flexible joint fill material and a superior smoke seal over the traditional methods of the time.

Although these earlier joint systems offered minimal dynamic movement, recent innovations have led to products such as STI’s Speed-Flex Joint Profile that combines with SpecSeal spray-applied coatings to provide superior joint movement capabilities in gypsum board construction (Figures 2 and 3).

Intumescent Tracks
In 2008, factory applied intumescent tracks were introduced into the market. These composite products took intumescent tape that was previously used to provide a fire-rated seal to doors and added it to metal deflection tracks used in metal stud framing. These assemblies provided labor savings, a permanent seal and high deflection movement (Figures 5 and 6).

Special Inspections
In 2012, a major code change was adopted into the 2012 International Building Code, “Special Inspections” for firestop penetrations and joints. Special inspections will require visual and/or destructive testing. Destructive testing occurs when the special inspector will wait until the firestop product is fully cured and then take a “coupon” (removal of field-installed firestop sealant or fire spray) of the sealant/spray to verify its depth at multiple locations at the bond lines. The bond line would be either at the penetration or the perimeter joint of the substrate interface. This code change was the result the firestopping industry wanted to ensure for proper installation of firestopping from qualified installers.

Preformed Fully Cured Firestopping
As with all major code changes, such as the 2012 IBC requirement for “Special Inspections” of firestop penetrations and joints, the firestopping manufacturers looked to develop products that could be easily inspected, easily installed, and reduce potential installation errors. In 2015, preformed/fully cured firestop products were introduced into the market. These products minimized installation error by providing products with factor metered dosage. Being fully cured products, they also provided easier and immediate inspections with no wait time. Today, nearly all the major firestop manufacturers offer some type of preformed/fully cured firestopping for joints and penetrations (shown on page 14, images at top).

Fire Rated Drywall Accessories
In 2019, fire rated drywall accessories were introduced into the market. These products combine intumescent tape with a flexible/paintable vinyl drywall accessory. The flexible vinyl profile provides an unbreakable seal against uneven concrete and roof decks while minimizing installation error. Since they are also fully cured, they also offer easier and immediate inspections with no wait time for curing (shown on page 14, images at bottom).

Sound Transmission Class
While firestopping is critical to modern construction, Sound Transmission Class (or STC) is quickly becoming equally important for overall “quality of life” in residential construction. STC is an integer rating of how well a building partition attenuates airborne sound. The higher the STC number, the better the sound protection.

With such an importance on STC ratings, modern day firestopping products will be expected to provide superior STC ratings. This means firestopping products will now have to undergo even more
In 2012, a major code change was adopted into the 2012 International Building Code, “Special Inspections” for firestop systems were introduced into the market. These products minimized installation error by providing products that combined intumescent tape and fire retardant sprays to provide a permanent seal against the penetration or the perimeter joint of joints and penetrations. The firestopping manufacturers looked to develop products that could be easily inspected, easily installed, and provide an unbreakable seal against the passage of smoke or aid- ing. These assemblies provided labor savings, a permanent seal, and high deflection movement (Figures 1—6).

Although these earlier joint systems were introduced into the market. These products minimized installation error. Since 1980, preformed/fully cured firestop joint sealants and fire sprays provided an easier and immediate inspections with field installed firestop sealant or fire sprays) of the sealant/spray to verify its depth at multiple locations at the bond line. The bond line would be either at the edge of the drywall or the edge of the stud. In 2015, preformed/fully cured firestop sealant/sprays were introduced into the market. These products minimized installation error. Since 2015, nearly all the major firestop manufactures offer some type of preformed/fully cured firestopping systems (Figures 1—6).

In 2019, Fire Rated Drywall Accessories: Combines intumescent firestopping with drywall accessories to provide a permanent seal while minimizing installer error.
The Evolution of Firestopping

Sound Transmission Class (or STC) is quickly becoming an integral aspect of building codes, particularly in residential construction, as architects and engineers seek to improve the quality of life for their clients. STC is an integer rating of how well a building partition attenuates airborne sound. The higher the STC number, the better the sound protection.

STC is an important consideration in precast concrete as well as structural steel. During a precast concrete manufacturing process, STC can be achieved by using expanded polystyrene (EPS) as an insulation. In a steel structure, STC can be obtained through the use of sound-attenuating materials such as foam and intumescent products. Special insulations, such as those that are tested and listed by the Underwriters Laboratories (UL), are typically required to meet the STC requirements of a building project. Firestopping products, which help seal gaps and prevent the passage of flames and smoke, are also often used to increase the overall STC of a structure.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has established the Standard 211-2012, "Fire and Life Safety Special Inspections," which outlines the requirements for special inspections. This standard is intended to ensure that special inspections are conducted by qualified and experienced professionals who are familiar with the building codes and standards that apply to the project. Special inspections are typically conducted by third-party inspection agencies that are independent of the construction company.

Special Inspections
To best prepare for these special inspections and help your project have the most code compliant solution for the total life cycle of the structure, it has never been more imperative to properly select and install per tested listed systems as required in section 715 of the IBC. As product offerings continue to provide the contractor and design professional more options to meet today’s construction demands, there still are listed systems behind every installation needed for a project to meet your building code requirements and help reduce risk and liability for all parties involved. Additionally, the special inspector will be required to inspect any type of product used per ASTM E2993 and most likely will be required to perform a visual inspection during the time of installation for a preformed or precured firestopping joint product. These new product categories could help reduce some steps of inspection in certain tested listed systems, where mineral wool compression calculations or destructive samples of sealant depth may no longer be required.

To help limit delays on your project, please remember to take all aspects of your design into the selection of these tested listed systems and corresponding products, starting with your wall design, stud depths, designation of barriers...
(smoke barrier versus fire barrier), building movement tolerances, STC values, etc. There are currently thousands of systems to select from, which is a huge improvement from the handful that were available in the early stages of the industry. But with that also comes confusion and assumptions that products hold the rating. Many websites, associations and companies are available to help aid you in the firestopping design process starting with the firestop manufacturer, firestop consultant and firestop specialty contractor.

Fire and Life Safety
As the industry continues to grow and provide projects simpler yet faster materials to improve fire/smoke compartmentalization, it is imperative to remember that proper firestop design starts before any dirt is moved on a construction site. Being more proactive in your firestop design and selection of firestopping tested listed systems during preconstruction can not only help you reduce costs/delays during installation and inspection but also ensure your project is taking all of your buildings’ needs into consideration to meet building code requirements on this imperative and often misunderstood scope of fire and life safety.

There are available resources, such as the International Firestop Council, which is a nonprofit association of manufacturers, distributors, installers, inspectors and other key stakeholders interested in passive fire protection materials and systems in North America and abroad. With more than three decades of members’ experience and a constant stream of innovation, the IFC is the one-stop source for firestop expertise.

The IFC also provides impartial broad-based education, information, procedures regarding firestop system selection, performance, installation and inspection to the construction and code-enforcement communities.

Don Pilz
With 30-plus years in the construction industry as a foreman and building consultant, Don Pilz is the R&D manager for CEMCO, assisting consultants, architects and contractors with interior and exterior performance detailing. He can be reached at (626) 506-3881 or dpilz@cemcosteel.com.

Brent Johnson
Brent Johnson is the president of FireWise Consultants and has been specializing in firestop design and education since 2006. He currently is a member of the International Firestop Council and FCIA, an Intertek Qualified Firestop Inspector and leading educator in the country concerning Firestop Special Inspections. Johnson can be reached at brent@firewisconsultants.com.

This article originally appeared in the September 2019 issue of Walls & Ceilings magazine and is reprinted with permission.

2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

* WACA events in red

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For More Event Information, Visit WACA’s Calendar of Events at: web.wallandceilingalliance.org/events
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.

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Looking back, WACA had its first holiday party in 2010 with more than 100 people at the Westin St. Francis in San Francisco. We soon grew out of that venue and moved our festivities to the Fairmont, the world-renowned landmark hotel crowning Nob Hill. WACA’s first party at the Fairmont was celebrated in the beautiful Venetian Room, where famous musician Tony Bennett sang, “I Left My Heart in San Francisco.” It was a lovely setting, but we soon outgrew that space as well and moved into the Grand Ballroom. And now our holiday party is so popular, it’s selling out months in advance!

The Roaring ’20s was the theme this past December 14, 2019, in the style of the Great Gatsby and Era of Changes. Guests arrived in glamorous, vintage-inspired attire and were greeted by 1920s flapper girls in full glitzy finery. Welcoming guests to the event was The Willies band, an authentic Charleston music band hailing from Nashville, Tennessee. The band played jazz tunes as guests enjoyed hosted cocktails in defiance of Prohibition and mingled in the speakeasy lounge. A fun historical note — the Cirque Bar in the Fairmont was the first bar to open in San Francisco after the repeal of Prohibition.

Partygoers took fun pictures in the photo booths, one full color for the modern era and the other black-and-white for a vintage look, complete with animated GIF photos that could be instantly texted to attendees. At dinner, a big prize went to the lucky guest at each table who found a silver jingle bell on their plate. The crowd cheered loudly as winners had their pictures taken and received generous gift cards. Afterward, the flapper girls changed into flashy, eye-catching red feather costumes to perform a second set. Guests were then invited to the dance floor by the energetic, in-demand Pop Rocks band, who kept partygoers fox-trotting until midnight.

This annual tradition has evolved due to our growing and supportive construction community of contractors, associates, labor groups, administrators and industry partners. Everyone who attended and supported the holiday party is the reason we continue to put on such a wonderful event.

Mark your calendar for December 12, 2020 — for this year’s soirée!
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ALI OGHANI

I was born and raised in Tehran, the capital city in Iran. I grew up speaking only Farsi (Persian). When I turned 17 in 2007, I left Iran for Southeast Asia. A few years later, I moved to the United States. During my travels, one of the places I visited was Hawaii, where I met a person who taught me carpentry skills and hired me as construction labor. I wanted to learn a skill to be able to support myself and be a successful, independent person. After that experience, I knew construction was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I moved to California and found out that Cal State Chico has one of the best construction management programs in the country. I decided to go back to school after over five years of being out of school.

• CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO
• GRADE LEVEL: JUNIOR
• MAJOR: BS, CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

GIOVANA BLOCH

I was born and raised in Fremont, California. My family immigrated to the United States from Mexico City and Colombia. I am fluent in both Spanish and English.

I have lived in the Bay Area my entire life, and I remember as a little girl driving past the large glass skyscrapers in San Francisco. I was amazed and hypnotized by the elegant and grand buildings that were in a cramped metropolitan city. Ever since that day, it has been my goal to be part of the team that makes it possible to build high-rises.

• CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY
• GRADE LEVEL: THIRD YEAR
• MAJOR: BS, CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

WILL MYERS

I was born and raised in Torrance, California. I lived there for 16 years until I moved to San Luis Obispo. After graduation, I will be relocating to San Diego, where I have accepted the position of project engineer for DPR Construction (DPR).

When I was applying to schools, I reviewed the major catalogs trying to find something that interested me — which was hard until I learned about construction management. I grew up as a carpenter on residential homes and thought that the only way to grow in construction is by doing the labor. But that idea quickly changed when I realized how important it is to have a college-educated construction professional on site. Once I realized that, I knew that construction management was by far the best major for me.

One of the biggest career goals is to lead construction operations at DPR. During my last four years at school, I have been fortunate enough to witness a few leaders carrying their companies through good and bad times. All those individuals have taken the time to influence and inspire me and my peers to grow and learn as much as we can. One day, I want to do the same for the next generation in the industry.

• CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN LUIS OBISPO
• GRADE LEVEL: FOURTH YEAR
• MAJOR: BS, CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT
I am from Silverado, located in the foothills between Los Angeles and San Diego. I grew up in a small community with only a few other neighbors. In the fall of 2007, a scorching wildfire burned through my community and affected the lives of several of my neighbors. This event enabled me to recognize the benefits of construction as homes were rebuilt around us, and it sparked my interest in the construction industry.

Since I was young, I have been passionate about construction and serving others. As a dedicated Boy Scout, not only did I acquire multiple skills and abilities through earning over 60 merit badges, I earned the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout by completing a project for which I designed and built diffusers and sound panels, and supervised their installation to soundproof a recording studio for Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California.

The construction management major at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, was the perfect match for my skills and love of the outdoors. I am thrilled to be studying at this polytechnic university where I can learn about management techniques, develop construction skills, participate in building projects, and work with other students and professors who share my passion for this field. Additionally, I was selected by faculty for membership in Sigma Lambda Chi, the International Construction Honor Society, based on my academic achievements.

The past two summers, I had internships at a construction company where I had the opportunity to learn about the construction business. During these internships, I participated in preconstruction of a multimillion-dollar design-build project in which I performed quantity takeoffs, worked directly with a Fortune 100 client to prepare numerous change orders, and pursued multiple bids from different trades. These internships solidified my plan to pursue a career in construction management.

After graduation, I hope to work in a construction company that focuses on projects that benefit and aid communities, whether that means building hospitals, entertainment parks or residential housing. I aspire to be a skilled construction manager who will always produce a good result by being a leader for my team and respecting the wishes of the owner of the project. I would like to help my community through volunteer events with Boy Scouts of America and other organizations. Additionally, during my time as a working professional, I plan to work with Habitat for Humanity to help those in need not only in my community but also around the world.
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According to the National Cyber Security Alliance, 60 percent of small businesses survive less than six months following a data breach. However, contractors can improve those odds by increasing security measures, training employees and purchasing cyber insurance policies. Furthermore, contractors without cybersecurity plans may fall behind competitors and fail to qualify for certain jobs, especially government projects.

Importantly, recent cybersecurity studies put the construction industry on high alert after showing how cyber terrorists could hijack heavy equipment or manipulate structural calculations. Thus, there is far more at stake than data and competitive edge. Contractors big and small must be prepared to curb these cybersecurity threats.

Cyber Criminals Attack Contractors of All Sizes

If you believe cyber criminals target only large contractors, think again. Cyber criminals attack contractors of all sizes, and, in fact, construction firms with less than 250 employees face the highest rate of cyber-attacks.

Furthermore, the potential exposure includes not only the contractor’s own data but also any data to which the contractor has access. This is why it is imperative for all contractors to improve cybersecurity preparedness. Hackers need only one weak link for a massive security breach.

A prime example is the infamous data breach at Target in 2013. An HVAC contractor had access to Target’s networks for the purpose of installing smart thermostats in Target stores. Hackers penetrated Target’s network through the HVAC contractor and stole data from approximately 40 million customers. The breach cost more than $200 million, an insurmountable liability for most contractors.

Common Cybersecurity Threats to Know About

Implementing sound cybersecurity policies requires a basic understanding of common security threats. Hackers constantly change methods, but there are common cyber scams that every construction professional should know about.
**Ransomware:** This is a form of malware that prevents access to computer systems, e-mail and data until a ransom is paid. The ransom is typically low enough ($1,000 to $25,000) to make it cheaper than the business interruption, negative publicity and repair costs. Hackers usually demand the ransom to be paid in cryptocurrency (such as Bitcoin), which is difficult to trace. Even if the ransom is paid, hackers may destroy the data or attack again until the security breach is cured.

**Phishing:** These scams often try duping employees (or customers) into revealing sensitive information or diverting payments. Like all cyber scams, it is continually more sophisticated and difficult to detect. A classic example is an e-mail from a customer, a reputable source, or a superior with an urgent request to provide sensitive information, click on a malicious link, open an infected attachment, or visit a fake website to enter login credentials for a sensitive account.

**Denial of Service:** This attack comes in many different forms that are designed to disrupt or flood the targeted server, website or network until it crashes. These attacks generally do not include a theft or loss of significant information or data, but they are costly and disruptive.

**Spyware:** This is a form of malware designed to monitor the target's device activity or gather information on the target's device. It can monitor keystrokes, clicks and internet activity. It is a common way to steal usernames and passwords.

**Sabotage, Manipulation or Terrorism:** In the construction industry, a few possible examples could include sabotaging designs, manipulating structural calculations or taking control of a crane remotely.

**Cybersecurity Practice Tips**

A robust cybersecurity plan has many layers. While it is highly recommended that construction leaders educate themselves as much as possible and remain actively involved in the implementation, this is not a do-it-yourself task. Engage a professional team to explain the options, requirements, costs and risks involved. The plan should be a collaborative effort of cybersecurity consultants, insurers, software vendors, attorneys and other professional advisors. Synthesizing their different perspectives will achieve better results. Common components of cybersecurity protection include:

- Training employees and controlling access
- Installing firewalls, antivirus and data encryption software
- Requiring privileged account security on all devices and cloud access
- Backing up data with daily updates
- Advanced threat detection
- Requiring complex passwords
- Regularly updating security systems, software and passwords
- Developing specific procedures for reporting and responding to attacks
- Designate a response team and point person
- Cyber insurance (more thoroughly discussed below)
- Attorneys drafting favorable contract provisions to reduce potential exposure with vendors and other contractors

Keep in mind that thwarting all cyber threats is not possible. The goal is to minimize vulnerabilities with the most cost-effective use of resources and to be prepared when a cyber-attack hits.

**Cyber Insurance Is Highly Recommended**

Purchasing cyber insurance is a crucial part of being prepared. Cyber insurance policies and coverages vary significantly, and many general liability and property insurance policies do not provide coverage for losses or liabilities caused by cyber crimes. Contractors should discuss coverage options and limits with their insurance agents and cybersecurity advisors.

Contact a qualified attorney if you need help interpreting the policy, and be sure to know whether your policy covers:

1. Data breaches (including recovery and replacement of lost or stolen information or data)
2. Attacks originating from anywhere in the world and not just the United States
3. Attacks of your data in the possession of vendors and third parties
4. Damage to your computer systems, servers and network
5. Acts of war (some cyber-attacks come from government actors and could be deemed an act of war, which is a common exclusion)
6. Terrorist acts (another common exclusion that is becoming increasingly prevalent)
The Quarterly

(7) Attorneys’ fees to evaluate your notification and regulatory obligations after an attack
(8) Attorneys’ fees to defend you in a lawsuit, any regulatory investigation, and responding to any regulatory inquiries
(9) Fees for public relations or crisis management assistance
(10) Forensic expert fees to investigate and fix the breach
(11) Fees for customer notification assistance or call center services
(12) Cyber ransom and extortion fees
(13) Fees, fines and penalties incurred from the attack
(14) Payments to consumers or customers affected by the attack
(15) Any damages, judgments or settlements paid for any claims or lawsuits
(16) All litigation costs and expert witness fees
(17) Losses or liabilities related to defamation, copyright or trademark infringement
(18) Payments made by employees duped by a phishing scam
(19) Losses or liabilities stemming from cybersecurity system or software failures
(20) Broad definitions of Personally Identifiable Information
(21) Lost business income

Additionally, determine whether the policy requires any annual testing or minimum security measures for coverage to be effective.

After a cyber-attack, always consult with your attorney before contacting your insurer. Your attorney can help secure coverage and guard against making statements detrimental to your insurance coverage.

Responding to Attacks

When an attack hits, follow your cybersecurity response plan. Presumably, your response plan will include notifying your cybersecurity professionals, attorneys, employees who need to know, insurers and law enforcement. If included in your cyber insurance policy, the insurer will hire forensic experts, crisis management teams, public relations advisors and attorneys to assist in the aftermath.

It is highly advisable to speak with your attorney promptly after an attack. There are deadlines to report certain scams and data breaches to government agencies, and your attorney can advise on applicable requirements. Cybersecurity threats will never be eliminated, but well-prepared contractors may reduce the negative consequences.

Training employees is essential. The best cybersecurity technology is ineffective without employee training. How many of your employees would respond to a superior’s urgent request for sensitive information, especially if the e-mail came from the superior’s actual e-mail account? It is a scary thought. With the turnover in construction, new hire training and periodic training is essential. Instruct employees to remain vigilant and reward them for reporting potential concerns. Remind employees to never click on unusual links or attachments; never respond to unusual requests; never open unexpected attachments; never divulge account numbers or passwords; never permit a third party to use your device; and avoid using removable media (flash drives, CDs, DVDs, etc.) received from third parties. However, the best advice is to have your security professional and attorney handle the training.

Ross A. Boden is an attorney in the Kansas City office of Sandberg Phoenix P.C. and can be reached at rboden@sandbergphoenix.com or at (816) 627-5536. Follow Sandberg Phoenix’s construction blog at www.sandbergphoenix.com/perspectives/blogs/construction-blog.

Additional insurance companies specializing in cyber risk management:

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2020 ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE QUARTERLY

With The Quarterly, wall and ceiling contractors throughout Northern California have a valuable resource for the news and information they need to know — straight from the association that’s looking out for its members’ best interests.

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SAFETY FAIR: Keeping Workforce Safe

This past fall, WACA/WCB offered members safety educational training and classes at the Safety Fair, hosted by WACA’s safety committee and complimentary to members. The committee understands the importance of keeping workforce safe.

Instructors began teaching contractor members starting at 8 a.m. at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton on October 12, 2019. Training and certification were presented in the areas of mobile elevating work platform supervisor training, scaffolding and powder actuated tools. Educational awareness was offered in the topics of fall protection, tool tethering and ladder safety. Companies Papé Rents, Scaffold Solutions, Dewalt, Hilti, Webern Co./Ebbert Pacific and Ergodyne provided the professional instruction. A complimentary lunch and free shirts were made available to attendees.

If you’re interested in joining the safety committee or have suggestions for future safety education classes that could be beneficial to membership, contact Mike Nonn, technical advisor, at mike@wcbureau.org.

Welcome NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER

InterWest Insurance Services, LLC (InterWest) was founded in 1992 as a result of the merger of three large, successful insurance brokerage firms located in Northern California. During the past 25 years, the company unified into a single, integrated organization with 12 offices throughout the state. The business offers expertise in all lines of property and casualty, workers’ compensation, employee benefits and personal insurance coverages, as well as surety bonds. They also provide innovative, value-added service from their claims and risk control specialists and their human resource and labor law consultants. InterWest has clients from industry groups such as construction, manufacturing, technology, transportation, agriculture, financial institutions, health care, hospitality, outdoor recreation and social services, as well as many others. Although their operation is principally in California, the company is licensed to write business in all 50 states and staffed to service clients with locations throughout the nation. InterWest is a leader among top insurance firms, consistently ranking within the top 100 largest and the top 50 privately held brokerages nationwide. For more information, contact Steve Carmassi at scarmassi@iwins.com and (925) 977-4102.
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CWallA: Powered by Outstanding People and High-Quality Products

CWallA (Ceilings, Walls, and Accessories) distributes a complete line of framing and finishing products, as well as delivery and stocking services. Our mainstay products include steel framing, gypsum, insulation, ceilings, tools and accessories. To help building professionals complete projects efficiently and on time, CWallA equips building professionals with the materials, services and engineering support they need. To achieve this, we have established more than 20 locations throughout the western United States. Each location maintains large on-site inventories of steel studs, gypsum, ceiling tile and many other products. This limits lead time and lost productivity for our customers.

Within the WACA footprint, CWallA operates branches in San Francisco, San Jose, Oakland, Sacramento, Stockton, Fresno, Bakersfield and Reno. We tailor the products offered at each branch to suit the demands of its specific market. We have 500,000 pounds of steel on the ground at each location. In addition, with our press brakes and shears, we can deliver custom products with very little lead time. As a result, we are a one-stop shop for high-quality materials.

Because our locations combine large inventories with exceptional customer service and product knowledge, CWallA offers the support network of a large corporation with the local expertise and custom-tailored service of a small business. We know our customers, we know their markets, and we have an enormous array of products and knowledge that clients can bring to bear on their projects.

A cornerstone of that knowledge base comes as a result of our partnership with SCAFCO. Because CWallA is a preferred distributor, our customers have direct access to SCAFCO’s engineering department. This allows contractors to leverage both our team and SCAFCO’s to save on labor costs and to improve installation efficiency. Our engineers provide value engineering and design products to exact specifications, saving time and minimizing field modifications for job crews.

The engineers behind our products also go above and beyond our competitors on safety, keeping up to date with all the latest guidelines...
to keep our customers safe. We protect our employees: the personal protective equipment we provide for our workers is well above the industry standard, and it’s in use at every stage of operations.

At the end of the day, CWAllA is powered by two things: outstanding people and high-quality products. When a customer comes into a CWAllA branch, we listen. We ask questions. With our staff’s multiple decades of industry experience, we are ideally positioned to recommend the best materials for the job.

With our WACA industry partnership, we can’t overstate the importance of networking in this industry, and WACA facilitates that interaction. The annual golf tournament, awards banquet, crab feed and holiday party are always highlights of our year at CWAllA — they give us golden opportunities to relax, connect and socialize with our customers outside the workplace. CWAllA is proud to be part of WACA and fully supports the work they do for our industry.

About Our Products
In the coming year, we’re particularly excited about our SoundGuard Silent Steel Framing System, which continues to gain widespread acceptance in the marketplace. SoundGuard is a great example of CWAllA’s dedication to listening to our clients and understanding their needs. It’s a patented interior framing system that allows for easy construction of partition walls with high STC ratings, saving labor and construction costs without sacrificing sound rating numbers. It also offers the thinnest footprint, which translates to more usable square footage for the owner.

Our I-Stud Shaftwall System creates an exceptional safety and performance system and is compatible with the majority of shaft liner manufacturers, while our Priceless Header and Kwik-Jamb System is an engineered header and jamb system that’s cut to length and ready to install, saving 70 to 80 percent in labor costs over traditional methods. Finally, our Perfect Curve System allows endless possibilities for curved walls, circles, soffits, domes and arched ceilings. If you’ve seen the Gatehouse at the new Chase Arena, then you’ve already seen Perfect Curve in action.

CWAllA is also proud to provide our customers with access to the full line of USG gypsum products, as well as connection with USG’s extensive support network. From lightweight board that saves labor on the job site to cutting-edge exterior sheathing innovations that help reduce construction time, USG’s products offer great value to our clients.

Major Projects
CWAllA has supplied several major Bay Area projects. They include Chase Arena (San Francisco), San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (San Francisco), Levi’s® Stadium (Santa Clara), 21st Amendment Brewery (San Leandro), Mountain House High School (Mountain House), Google Technology Corners (Sunnyvale), John Muir Medical Center (Concord), Birch Plaza (Palo Alto), Bank of the West Tower (Sacramento), Palo Alto Medical Foundation (Los Gatos), Stanford Cancer Center (Los Gatos) and Sutter Women’s and Children’s Center (Sacramento).

These projects represent just a fraction of what we do. CWAllA is proud to serve the Bay Area and we look forward to helping Northern California grow in 2020.
Passing of David Suder, KHS&S President and CEO

David Suder, KHS&S president and CEO, passed away from unknown causes on October 7, 2019. He turned 58 years old on September 26.

As president and CEO, Dave provided the strategic vision, executive management and drive behind the corporate philosophy for the KHS&S family of companies. They include KHS&S Contractors, KHS&S International, KHS&S Specialties and Scenario Virtual Project Delivery technology. Dave helped found KHS&S-West Coast in 1996 and grew it from a regional subcontracting firm to one of the largest interior/exterior building companies in the world, with offices in 11 domestic cities and two international locations. Through a combination of vision, hard work and risk-taking, he created a multidisciplinary, multicompany organization that to this day still combines the traditional foundations of quality construction and the artistry of master craftsmanship with the advanced technology of digital modeling and virtual project delivery.

Dave’s philosophy of growing the organization through expanding the vision and capabilities of the KHS&S employee teams became a cornerstone of the KHS&S culture. In 2006, Dave helped introduce the KHS&S employee stock ownership plan, making KHS&S-West Coast an employee-owned company.

Educated at California State University Fullerton, Dave was experienced in every facet of construction management. He was affiliated with numerous associations, including the Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation, Servite High School, American Heart Association and the ACE Mentorship Program. In 2009, Dave was also named an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year® for the California and desert regions. (Courtesy of www.khss.com.)

Our deepest sympathy to Dave’s family, friends and colleagues.

Mike Stark New CEO of AWCI

Michael F. Stark will succeed Steven A. Etkin as executive vice president and CEO of the Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industry and the Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry beginning September 9, 2019.

Stark is an association professional with 19 years of experience in senior positions for three national construction associations and three years of experience on Capitol Hill. Most recently, he was vice president of knowledge programs and building markets at the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC of America), a position he had held since 2013. At AGC of America, Stark directed two departments and generated substantial annual non-dues revenue. He was responsible for national education programs and represented half of the association’s 27,000-plus member firms through leadership of the building contractor and specialty contractor divisions.

Prior to that experience, Stark was senior director of AGC’s building division. He also has worked at the Construction Management Association of America, the American Road & Transportation Builders Association and the Metropolitan Washington Road & Transportation Builders Association.

Stark holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Connecticut and is a Certified Association Executive by the American Society of Association Executives. He is also a graduate of the four-year Institute for Organization Management program, a professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation designed for nonprofit management. (Courtesy of AWCI website.)

WACA looks forward to working with and supporting Stark in his new CEO role.

Cal/OSHA’s Consultation Service

Cal/OSHA is an important resource for contractors. To better assist contractors, Cal/OSHA offers help through its consultation service. The consultation service is free of charge, does not result in citations or penalties and is staffed by safety specialists and industrial hygienists who provide an array of safety and health services. To find out more, contact WACA Safety Consultant Chris Lee at ccarllee@sbcglobal.net.
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