

URCA Viewpoint

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NEWS AND VIEWS FOR THE UNION ROOFER

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Apprentices Reach Well Deserved Journeyman Status

The Bonaventure Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles served as the location for the bi-annual Roofers and Waterproofer Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremony. The Director of Apprenticeship Training, Lupe Corral, moderated the dinner ceremony. The event was attended by many of the seventy-five newly awarded journeymen, their families and roofing industry leaders. Attendees included local United Union of Roofers,



(from left) Greg Banks-San Marino Roof Co., Ron Johnston, Jaime Orozco, Jr., JoAnn Banks.

Waterproofer and Allied Workers business managers, Brent Beasley and Raul Melendez, as well as International Representative Gabriel Perea, Apprenticeship Trustee, Gary S'Dao of Alcal Arcade Contracting, Inc. and Union Roofing Contractors Association Executive Director, Ron Johnston.

In his address to the graduates, Johnston recognized their many hours in the field and classroom in order to fulfill the requirements necessary to attain

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URCA Evening Event—Green Technology and Solar Panel Installation

URCA continues to keep its contractor members informed of industry issues, as well as legislative issues. During the recent Annual Membership Dinner at the Norwalk Marriott, Executive Director Ron Johnston informed the 100 plus invitees of URCA's commitment to keep its membership apprised of building and installation of emerging technologies pertaining to solar voltaic roof paneling.



David Freeman, City of Los Angeles Deputy Mayor for Energy and Environment.

Johnston informed the group that he and board members Ernie Glasgow, and Sean Taba met with Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power CEO David Nahai. Furthermore, Johnston sits on the L.A. Chamber of Commerce's Energy & Environment Committee, working closely with Alex Pugh, Director of Public Policy.

During the evening's event, Johnston welcomed special guests David Freeman, City of Los Angeles Deputy Mayor for Energy and Environment, David Libatique, Director of Energy and Environment, Los Angeles Mayor's Office, and Brian Koch, Director, Resource

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Image Provided by Letter Roofing



Ronald D. Johnston, Ph.D.
Executive Director

An integral aspect of the Association's 2009 Strategic Marketing Plan is to continue collaborating with other contractor organizations in reforming the onerous retention payment and indemnity liability provisions in construction contracts.

In line with this priority, and on behalf of the URCA Board of Directors, I have been working closely with various contractor groups to legislate reform in the aforementioned areas of concern.

Currently, URCA and the American Contractors Association of California (ASAC) have sponsored SB 629 (Private Works). This bill would mandate that retention proceeds withheld from any payment made by the original contractor to any subcontractor, or by a subcontractor to another subcontractor shall not exceed 5 percent of the amount of the payment otherwise due under the contract. I provided testimony in support of this bill before the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 15th. As of this writing, the bill, on a bipartisan vote (52 AYE votes), passed the Assembly Floor and has been returned back to the Senate for concurrence on amendments that were made in the Assembly in June. Obviously the legislators are seeing the need to reform the industry practice of holding back 10% of the money owed subcontractors for work performed and approved on private works projects.

URCA is actively supporting SB 802 (Public Works), a bill sponsored by the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Association, which would require that

contract retention proceeds not exceed 5 percent of the payment of all contracts entered into between an original contractor and a subcontractor and between all contractors. On April 15th, I provided testimony in support of this bill to the Senate Governmental Organization Committee. As of this writing, the bill has passed out of the Senate as well as the Assembly Appropriations Committee and now awaits a vote on the Assembly floor.

The justification for support of both of these bills is abundantly clear. Cash flow is of paramount importance to all contractors working within the construction trades. However, on most projects, 10 percent of all monies due for work properly performed by subcontractors and approved are withheld until the entire project is completed. In essence, a subcontractor's entire profit margin is absorbed in retention. Moreover, for many contractors, this translates into subcontractors receiving final payment twelve to eighteen months down the road.

Also, URCA is actively supporting AB 1119 (Prompt Pay). This bill, sponsored by ASAC, would provide consistency to the due date deadline, seven (7) days, for all private and public projects. Moreover, it would recast the provisions governing the timely payment of progress payments, retention proceeds and final payments under a contract for a private and public work of improvement. This bill would clarify the enforcement mechanism pursuant to the Business &

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(L to R) Emie Glasgow-Letner Roofing,
David Libatique-Director of Energy and
Environment, Los Angeles Mayor's
Office, David Stefko-Eberhard.



Ron Johnston (right) with Christina
McKay - Executive Director
Rebuilding Together Greater LA



Ron Johnston discussing roofing
systems with a BOMA property
manager during annual trade show.

URCA Continues its Support of Roofing Consultants Golf Tournament



(from left) Ron Johnston accepting \$1,000 from Danny Westerfield and the RCI on behalf of URCA's Don Banks Memorial Scholarship Fund, RCI Executive Vice President Debra Van der Weide during the successful event.

Q Award is Another Winner for URCA Member Contractors

The Alliance for Quality Construction, a Southern California association of union contractors and union business managers, presented the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) with the 2009 Q Award for the construction of the Central Los Angeles Area New High School #9. This year's award cer-



Los Angeles Area New High School #9

emony and luncheon was held at the site of the newly constructed performing arts high school on Wednesday, June 10, 2009. Amid a crowd of over 200 construction

industry professionals, LAUSD Board Member Monica Garcia, Principal Suzanne Blake and LAUSD Chief Facilities Executive Guy Mehula accepted the prestigious award. The award honors LAUSD for its recently constructed 234,000 square foot facility costing approximately \$233 million. The design architect was Coop Himmelblau, the architect of record was HMC, and the general contractor was PCL Construction Services, Inc.

URCA member contractors Best Contracting for roofing, Troyer Contracting for waterproofing, and Karcher Firestopping for firestopping work on behalf of the General Contractor PCL Construction Services, Inc.

Apprenticeship Continued

journeyman status. Graduating Apprentices endure a curriculum of three and a half years of classroom education and "hands on" field work. Apprenticeship training includes roof systems application training and safety training. Safety is of utmost importance and apprentices must attend all safety training courses including First



Aid, CPR, Fall Protection, Fire Safety, Scaffolding, Confined Space, as

Graduate with Brent Beasley-Business Manager Local 220

well as mandated OSHA courses. Graduates of the Apprenticeship Program become "roof mechanics" in their trade and are considered the best in their craft.

Following his address, Johnston announced the winner of the Don Banks Memorial Apprenticeship Award. A beautiful plaque and a check in the amount of \$2,500.00 were presented to the Apprentice of the Year, Jaime Orozco Jr. Assisting Johnston in the presentation was JoAnn Banks, widow of the late Don Banks, along with her son Greg Banks, CEO of San Marino Roof Co.

URCA Contractors Donate to Building Together Charity.



Expert roofers from URCA contractor companies—Best Contracting Services, Eberhard, Chapman Coast Roof Co., Alcal Arcade Contracting, Anning Johnson, and Empire Contracting participated in the Central Los Angeles "Rebuilding Together" project.



(from left) Moji Taba-Best Contracting Services, Mr. & Mrs. Gary S'Dao-Alcal Arcade Contracting, and Ron Johnston-URCA

Green continued

Planning/Development DWP.

In his speech to the URCA attendees, David Freeman discussed Mayor Villaraigosa's commitment to generating solar energy within L.A. City limits. Los Angeles is seeking to generate 1,200 solar powered megawatts within 4 years. The immediate need will be 400 solar powered megawatts by 2010. There are hundreds of thousands of square feet of roof space in Los Angeles that could become solar energy farms. With a track record for quality workmanship, URCA contractors are positioned to provide expertise and ability to install the needed solar panels and building integrated photo voltaic roof systems.

The City of Los Angeles has created a separate master program to fund and manage the construction of the solar panel sites as it works toward the goal of 1,200 megawatts of power generation. In June 2009, the City of Los Angeles sent out a request for proposals for the initial solar panel installation. The L.A. City Council will soon be holding a series of workshops detailing the new power program.

Executive Report continued

Professions Code via the State Contractors License Board. Most importantly, it would help to ease the cash flow problem; cash is king in our industry and it needs to flow quickly in order for sub-contractors to purchase supplies and meet payroll.

This bill passed out of the Assembly Business and Professions Committee and Judiciary Committee and was referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Pursuant to a motion by the author, Assemblyman Bill Emmerson, the bill is currently in the inactive file and is now a two-year bill.

Another major component of the Strategic Plan is "compliance enforcement." It is quite evident that the current economic recession has created more fraudulent activity within the roofing industry. As a result, the Southern California Union Roofers Labor Management Trust, which is comprised of management and labor representatives, has been actively involved in filing claims against contractors who have violated the tenets of "prevailing wage" law, including, but not limited to, apprenticeship standards, certified payrolls and workers' compensation insurance violations.

However, a stumbling block to effective compliance enforcement is the reluctance or inability of the respective state agencies

to take action on those claims filed. Hence, at the next Trust Meeting, the trustees will entertain the hiring of a labor law attorney who will act as a conduit and resource to the state agencies in moving the complaint process forward in a more expeditious manner.



**ELECTED
BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS
OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FOR 2007-2009 TERM.**

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DAVE CHAPMAN (COAST ROOFING)

DAVE STEFNO (EBERHARD)

SEAN TABA (BEST CONTRACTING SERVICES)

MARK TROYER (TROYER CONTRACTING)

GARY S'DAO (ALCAL ARCADE CONTRACTING)

***CHAIRMAN**

The mission of the Union Roofing Contractors Association is to promote quality construction utilizing highly trained and skilled employees. The URCA is dedicated to the highest standards of professional integrity.

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