



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**JAN 29, 2009**

**2009 SUPER SEMINAR**

Wessels – Sherman, P.C.  
Saint Charles, IL

**FEB 12, 2009**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
New ABCIL Office

**FEB 12, 2009**

**CHICGOLAND AFTERHOURS**  
New ABCIL Office

**FEB 19, 2009**

**EFFINGHAM REGIONAL DINNER**  
Firefly Grill - Effingham, IL

**PAYING TOO MUCH FOR  
WORKMAN'S COMP INSURANCE?**

CALL ROB WINCHESTER TO SEE  
HOW YOU CAN SAVE 10%!!

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION  
PROGRAM (SAPP)**

NEED TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION  
LAWS?

**WE CAN HELP! CONTACT THE  
ABCIL OFFICE TODAY!**

Associated Builders & Contractors –  
Illinois Chapter  
1691 Elmhurst Rd.  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007  
V: (847) 709-2960 F: (847) 709-2970  
[www.abcil.org](http://www.abcil.org)

# MERIT UPDATE

JANUARY 16, 2009

## 2009 SUPER SEMINAR

WHAT: 2009 SUPER SEMINAR

- SECURING AND PERFORMING PUBLIC WORKS JOBS IN ILLINOIS
- ENCOUNTERING UNION ATTACKS
- BENEFITS OF ABCIL MEMBERSHIP

WHEN: JANUARY 29, 2009  
8:30 AM – 12:00PM

WHERE: WESSELS- SHERMAN,  
P.C.  
2035 FOXFIELD DRIVE  
SAINT CHARLES, IL  
60174

**LIMITED TO THE FIRST 40  
REGISTRANTS!**

(PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED FORM  
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO  
REGISTER)

## AND THE WINNER IS....

CONGRATULATIONS TO LEVEL 4  
APPRENTICE, JON GROSS OF  
BATTAGLIA ELECTRIC. JON IS THE  
2009 WINNER OF THE ABCIL  
ELECTRICAL CRAFT OLYMPICS  
COMPETITION THAT WAS HELD ON  
WEDS JAN. 14<sup>TH</sup> AT THE  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER OF DUPAGE.  
JON WILL BE REPRESENTING  
ABCIL AT THE NATIONAL  
COMPETITION TO BE HELD IN  
HONOLULU NEXT MONTH. YOU CAN  
CHEER HIM ON LIVE AT THE ABC  
NATIONAL COMPETITION  
FEB. 25-MARCH 1, 2009.

## NEW PAINTING CLASS!

THE WEEK OF JANUARY 26, ABC  
WILL BE OFFERING A NEW LEVEL  
ONE, PAINTING CLASS. THE  
CLASS WILL BE HELD AT THE ABC  
OFFICES IN ELK GROVE VILLAGE.  
THERE ARE STILL A FEW SEATS  
LEFT. THIS IS THE ONLY  
PAINTING CLASS, ACCORDING TO  
THE ABC STANDARDS OF  
APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING, THAT  
WILL BE RECOGNIZED BY THE  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR. FOR  
REGISTRATION, PLEASE CALL STEVE

## CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS PRICES DROP ACROSS THE BOARD IN DECEMBER

"THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT KEY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS PRICES ARE NOW IN SUSTAINED DECLINE AND THIS INCREASES THE APPETITE FOR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES."  
—ABC CHIEF ECONOMIST ANIRBAN BASU

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS PRICES DROPPED 2.5 PERCENT IN DECEMBER 2008 FROM THE PREVIOUS MONTH, ACCORDING TO THE JANUARY 15TH PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (PPI) REPORT BY THE U.S. LABOR DEPARTMENT. THIS REPRESENTS THE THIRD STRAIGHT MONTH WHERE CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS PRICES HAVE FALLEN BRINGING THE FOURTH QUARTER PRICE DECLINES TO 8.3 PERCENT. HOWEVER, DESPITE THE DROP, CONSTRUCTION INPUT PRICES ARE 2.7 PERCENT HIGHER THAN THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR. PRICES FOR FABRICATED STRUCTURAL METAL PRODUCTS DROPPED ANOTHER 0.9 PERCENT FOR THE MONTH, STILL UP 12.6 PERCENT FROM LEVELS IN DECEMBER 2007. PLUMBING FIXTURES AND FITTINGS PRICES WERE UNCHANGED IN DECEMBER. NONFERROUS WIRE AND CABLE PRICES DROPPED FOR THE FIFTH STRAIGHT MONTH, DOWN 2.9 PERCENT FROM NOVEMBER AND 13.5 PERCENT FROM DECEMBER 2007. PRICES FOR FABRICATED FERROUS WIRE PRODUCTS WERE DOWN 2.9 PERCENT FROM NOVEMBER, BUT ARE UP 23.3 PERCENT ON A YEAR-OVER-YEAR BASIS. SOFTWOOD LUMBER PRICES DECREASED FOR THE FOURTH STRAIGHT MONTH, DOWN 0.6 PERCENT FROM NOVEMBER AND 8.4 PERCENT FROM THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR. ASPHALT FELTS AND COATINGS PRICES DROPPED 1.1 PERCENT ON THE MONTH, BUT ARE STILL 51.7 PERCENT HIGHER THAN A YEAR AGO.

CRUDE ENERGY PRICES DECREASED 6.1 PERCENT IN DECEMBER, REPRESENTING THE FIFTH STRAIGHT MONTHLY DECLINE. OVERALL, U.S. WHOLESALE PRICES DROPPED 1.9 PERCENT ON THE MONTH AND 7.3 PERCENT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER.

### WHAT THIS MEANS

"TODAY'S PPI REPORT REPRESENTS A MIXTURE OF GOOD AND BAD NEWS," SAID ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS (ABC) CHIEF ECONOMIST ANIRBAN BASU. "THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT KEY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS PRICES ARE NOW IN SUSTAINED DECLINE AND THIS INCREASES THE APPETITE FOR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, ALL THINGS BEING EQUAL.

"THE BAD NEWS IS THAT ALL THINGS ARE NOT EQUAL. THESE PRICE DROPS ARE A FUNCTION OF DECLINING WORLDWIDE DEMAND FOR CONSTRUCTION, EVEN IN THE FACE OF FALLING CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS PRICES," ADDED BASU. "THIS MONTH'S RELEASE INDICATES THAT INPUT PRICE DECLINES ARE PARTICULARLY SHARP FOR NONFERROUS WIRE AND CABLE, FABRICATED FERROUS WIRE PRODUCTS, AND ASPHALT FELTS AND COATINGS. NATURALLY, THOSE TYPES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES THAT UTILIZE THESE RESOURCES STAND TO BENEFIT THE MOST FROM THE LOWER PRICES," SAID BASU. "GIVEN TRENDS IN THE BROADER ECONOMY, THIS ONGOING LACK OF DEMAND FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION WILL PERSIST FOR MANY MONTHS TO COME AND PROBABLY WELL INTO 2010, IF NOT BEYOND," STATED BASU. "ONE VARIABLE IS THE UPCOMING STIMULUS PACKAGE BEING DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON, AND IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE IF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS TOOL TO HELP REVIVE THE ECONOMY WILL SERVE TO STABILIZE CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS PRICES."

SOURCE: [WWW.ABC.ORG](http://WWW.ABC.ORG)