



Illinois Chapter

# MERIT UPDATE

MARCH 10, 2009

## ABC SUPPORTS BILL REQUIRING SECRET BALLOT ELECTIONS

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ABC EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE “SECRET BALLOT PROTECTION ACT” (S. 478/H.R. 1176) INTRODUCED FEB. 25 BY SEN. JIM DEMINT (R-SC), REP. HOWARD MCKEON (R-CA), AND REP. JOHN KLINE (R-MN) THAT WOULD AMEND THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT (NLRA) TO PROTECT THE RIGHT OF EMPLOYEES TO VOTE IN A SECRET BALLOT ELECTION WHEN DECIDING WHETHER TO JOIN A UNION. THE BILL WOULD PROHIBIT UNIONS FROM SUBJECTING WORKERS TO A “CARD CHECK” CAMPAIGN.

CHOICE OF WHETHER TO JOIN A UNION BY SIGNING A CARD IN FRONT OF THEIR CO-WORKERS, EMPLOYERS AND UNION ORGANIZERS.

“THE CURRENT SYSTEM WORKS, YET WORKERS’ FREEDOMS ARE BEING THREATENED BY THE SO-CALLED “EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT” SOON TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE 111TH CONGRESS,” ABC STATED IN A LETTER TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS BEFORE THE BILL WAS INTRODUCED. “THIS ILL CONCEIVED LEGISLATION WOULD AMEND THE NLRA BY PERMITTING LABOR UNIONS TO EVADE SECRET BALLOT ELECTIONS. TO THAT END, ABC STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE “SECRET BALLOT PROTECTION ACT,” WHICH WOULD ENSURE THAT EMPLOYEES HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE THEIR DECISION REGARDING UNIONIZATION IN PRIVATE, FREE FROM COERCION BY EMPLOYERS, UNIONS OR OTHER EMPLOYEES BY REQUIRING A SECRET BALLOT ELECTION FOR UNION RECOGNITION.” TO VIEW A PDF OF ABC’S LETTER, CLICK [HERE](#).

UNDER THE CURRENT SYSTEM, SECRET-BALLOT ELECTIONS ARE CONDUCTED BY THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD (NLRB) AND ENSURE A FAIR ELECTION FREE OF EMPLOYER AND UNION COERCION BY REQUIRING AN NLRB AGENT TO BE PRESENT AND TO OVERSEE THE ENTIRE VOTING PROCESS. BOTH EMPLOYER AND UNION REPRESENTATIVES ARE ABLE TO MONITOR THE ELECTION PROCESS; HOWEVER, THEY ARE STRICTLY OBSERVERS AND MAY NOT SPEAK WITH THE VOTERS OR SEE HOW A PARTICULAR EMPLOYEE VOTED. UNDER THE “CARD CHECK” PROCESS, EMPLOYEES WOULD HAVE TO INDICATE THEIR

SOURCE: ABC NATIONAL, NEWSLINE

### 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!

Elk Grove Village Office  
1541 Elmhurst Rd,  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007  
847-709-2960  
847-709-2970 Fax

Springfield Office  
526 E. Allen  
Springfield, IL 62703  
217-523-4692

## NATIONAL CRAFT CHAMPIONSHIPS COMPETITORS SHOW OFF SKILLS AT CONVENTION

LAST WEEK THE ANNUAL CRAFT CHAMPIONSHIPS AT THE IN HONOLULU, HAWAII .

A FIELD OF 96 CRAFT PROFESSIONALS COMPETED IN NINE DIFFERENT AREAS DURING THIS YEAR’S CONTEST. COMPETITORS FIRST TOOK AN INTENSE, TWO-HOUR WRITTEN EXAM AND THEN COMPETED IN DAYLONG HANDS-ON PRACTICAL PERFORMANCE TESTS.

“THE NATIONAL CRAFT CHAMPIONSHIPS IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF ABC’S ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION, AND

THIS YEAR WAS NO EXCEPTION,” SAID 2009 ABC NATIONAL CHAIRMAN JERRY GORSKI, PRESIDENT OF GORSKI ENGINEERING, COLLEGEVILLE, PA. “ONCE AGAIN, WE ARE HONORED TO PROVIDE THESE CRAFT PROFESSIONALS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR HIGH-QUALITY WORKMANSHIP, TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE AND SAFE WORK PRACTICES. THESE CRAFT PROFESSIONALS ARE THE BEST-OF-THE-BEST AND SHOW US THAT THERE IS A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD FOR ABC AND THE U.S. CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.”

PARTICIPANTS PROVED THEIR EXPERTISE IN CARPENTRY, ELECTRICAL, FIRE SPRINKLER, HVAC, MILLWRIGHT, PIPEFITTING, PLUMBING, SHEET METAL AND PIPE WELDING. A PORTION OF EACH PARTICIPANT’S SCORE WAS BASED ON HIS OR HER GOOD SAFETY PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES.

REPRESENTING ABCIL WAS JOHN GROS OF BATTALIA INDUSTRIES. JOHN DID AN EXCEPTIONAL JOB AND WE WERE PROUD TO HAVE HIM REPRESENT OUR CHAPTER!



## WELCOME ABCIL'S NEWEST MEMBERS

**MARK MILLER**  
ALLIED PLUMBING & HEATING  
SPRINGFIELD, IL

**SCOTT BRET**  
MAX RESULTS CERTIFIED  
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT  
ELMHURST, IL

**CAROLYN KNOEBEL**  
BENCHMARK ENTERPRISES, INC.  
YORKVILLE, IL

**PHILIP ROSBOROUGH**  
ROSBOROUGH PARTNERS, INC.  
LIBERTYVILLE, IL

**MIKE BLACK**  
BLACK CONSTRUCTION  
ROCKPORT, IL

**STEPHANIE GRAMLING**  
SKILLED TRADES SERVICES, INC.  
BROOKFIELD, WI

**BRUCE BUHNERKEMPE**  
BUHNERKEMPE PLUMBING & HEATING  
TEUTOPOLIS, IL

**KURT GELDEAN**  
KURT GELEDEAN EXCAVATING  
ROCKPORT, IL

**DAVE ROEPKE**  
ROEPKE PAINTING Co.  
TEUTOPOLIS, IL

**DAVID CROW**  
TCT CONSTRUCTION INC.  
URBANA, IL

**DAVID PECCATIELLO**  
DHS CONSTRUCTION  
PALOS PARK, IL

**MICHAEL BROWN**  
TOWNE & COUNTRY COLONIAL, INC.  
WHEATON, IL

**KURT GELDEAN**  
KURT GELEDEAN EXCAVATING  
ROCKPORT, IL

**ROGER WEBER**  
WEBER TRUCKING, INC.  
LODA, IL

### RENEWALS

#### WHY YOU SHOULD RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP:

- ⇒ ADVOCACY FOR OPEN COMPETITION AND FREE ENTERPRISE
- ⇒ STRENGTH IN NUMBERS AND EXPERTISE WHEN FIGHTING THE UNIONS
- ⇒ BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES
- ⇒ APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS
- ⇒ LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL ACTIVISM
- ⇒ AFFINITY PROGRAMS THAT SAVE YOU MONEY

VISA, MASTER CARD, DISCOVER, AND AMERICAN EXPRESS ARE ACCEPTED. IN TODAY'S ECONOMY WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME MEMBERS MAY BE HAVING FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. WE CAN HELP! CALL LISA AT THE ABCIL OFFICE TODAY TO WORK OUT A PAYMENT OPTION. CALL THE ABCIL OFFICE TODAY TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP! 847-709-2960

### 2009—2010 Directory



### 2009-2010 DIRECTORY

PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE **ONLY** MERIT SHOP TRADE DIRECTORY IN ILLINOIS!

INCREASE YOUR VISIBILITY TO NEW BUSINESS PROSPECTS.  
DON'T LET YOUR CHANCE AT BUILDING MORE BUSINESS PASS YOU BY, ADVERTISE TODAY!

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE RETURN YOUR CONTRACT BY  
MAIL: 1541 ELMHURST RD. ELK GROVE VILLAGE, IL 60007  
EMAIL: [LISA@ABCIL.ORG](mailto:LISA@ABCIL.ORG) OR  
FAX: (847) 709-2970

## DON'T MISS THESE EVENTS!

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**MARCH 13, 2009**

### EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND GOAL SETTING

THIS SESSION ALLOWS YOU TO WORK THROUGH THE THREE PERFORMANCE DISCUSSIONS (PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND REVIEW) CRUCIAL TO YOUR SUCCESS AND RECEIVE IMMEDIATE FEEDBACK ON ALL PHASES. **TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS EVENT PLEASE CONTACT ROB WINCHESTER AT 217-523-4692**

**MARCH 18, 2009**

### PLANNING FOR SUCCESS SEMINAR

EVERY GREAT SUCCESS BEGINS WITH A VISION AND IS FOLLOWED BY A PLAN. PLANNING FOR SUCCESS IS KEY TO YOUR BUSINESSES GROWTH AND ULTIMATELY YOU FOR A PROFITABLE EXIT. REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 7:30 AM, SEMINAR IS FROM 8:00 AM TO 10:30 AM, \$25.00 PER PERSON AT THE ABCIL OFFICE, 1541 ELMHURST RD. ELK GROVE VILLAGE .

**TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT ROB WINCHESTER AT 217-523-4692**

**MARCH 18, 2009**

### QUINCY REGIONAL DINNER

GUEST SPEAKER JEFF MAYS , PRESIDENT OF ILLINOIS BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE, FORMER ILLINOIS STATE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE QUINCY AREA. EVENT BEGINS AT 5:30 PM AT TONY'S TOO/HOLIDAY INN, 4821 OAK STREET, QUINCY, IL, \$20.00 PER PERSON.

**TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT KARI AT 217-523-4692**

**MARCH 19, 2009**

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING BEGINS AT 10:30 AM AT THE ABCIL OFFICE, 1541 ELMHURST RD. ELK GROVE VILLAGE, IL  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT DIANA AT 847-709-2960**

**MARCH 19, 2009**

### CHICAGOLAND SOCIAL NETWORKING EVENT

NETWORK WITH MEMBERS, GUESTS , AND STAFF WHILE ENJOYING FOOD FROM FIVE DIFFERENT APPETIZER STATIONS. DON'T FORGET TO BRING EXTRA BUSINESS CARDS FOR PROSPECTIVE BUSINESS CONTACTS! EVENT BEGINS AT 6:00 PM AT THE ABCIL OFFICE, 1541 ELMHURST RD. ELK GROVE VILLAGE. \$25.00 PER PERSON WHICH INCLUDES FIVE HEARTY APPETIZER STATIONS WITH YOUR CHOICE OF BEER, WINE, SODA, OR WATER. **TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT LISA AT 847-709-2960**

**MARCH 24, 2009**

### SPRINGFIELD REGIONAL LUNCHEON

GUEST SPEAKER: DOUG WHITLEY REUBLIC CANDIDATE FOR ILLINOIS GOVERNOR. EVENT BEGINS AT 11:30 AM AT BENNIGANS (IN THE LOBBY OF THE HILTON HOTEL), 700 E. ADAMS STREET. SPRINGFIELD, IL. COST TBD. **TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT KARI AT 217-523-4692**

**MARCH 26, 2009**

### GALESBURG REGIONAL MEETING

LOCATION, TIME, AND COST : TBD

**TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT KARI AT 217-523-4692**

**MARCH 27, 2009**

### CHANGE IS INEVITABLE

THIS ONE-DAY INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP COMBINES PROVEN LEADERSHIP BEHAVIOURS WITH PRACTICAL SKILLS FOR HELPING LEADERS RESPOND TO THE CHANGES THEY FACE IN TODAY'S RAPIDLY CHANGING AND HIGHLY COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT. THIS PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE LEADERS WITH THE STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL SKILLS NOT ONLY TO LEAD CHANGE, BUT ALSO TO IDENTIFY AT WHAT STAGE THEIR FOLLOWERS ARE EMOTIONALLY IN A CHANGE PROCESS. DURING THE PROGRAM, PARTICIPANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO EXAMINE THEIR OWN REACTIONS TO CHANGE, RECOGNIZE WHERE THEIR FOLLOWERS ARE IN THE CHANGE PROCESS AND DEVELOP IDEAS ON HOW TO SKILLFULLY LEAD THEM THROUGH THIS CHANGE. PARTICIPANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ANALYZE AND THEN APPLY THE STRATEGIES AND SKILLS THAT WILL HELP THEIR FOLLOWERS DEVELOP RESILIENCY FOR ADAPTING TO CHANGE AS RAPIDLY AND EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE. **TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT LISA AT 847-709-2960**

**MARCH 27, 2009**

### DIRECTORY ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**FOR ABCIL'S ANNUAL GOLF OUTING**



**THURSDAY  
JULY 23, 2009**

**LOCATION: TBD**