



Illinois Chapter

MERIT UPDATE

MARCH 16, 2009

ABCIL FIGHTS FOR MERIT SHOP CONTRACTORS AT THE CAPITOL

WEDNESDAY, HB 2377, A BILL SPONSORED BY REPRESENTATIVE MIKE SMITH (D) FROM CANTON, ILLINOIS, WAS CALLED FOR A VOTE IN COMMITTEE. THIS BILL WILL REQUIRE ALL LOCAL BODIES OF GOVERNMENT (COUNTY, CITY AND TOWNSHIPS) TO INCORPORATE THE RESPONSIBLE BIDDERS ACT IN ALL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS. TO DATE, THIS DECISION HAS BEEN LEFT TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THEY CHOOSE TO USE THE RBA LANGUAGE.

ROB WINCHESTER, PRESIDENT & CEO OF ABCIL ALONG WITH ALICIA MARTIN, VICE PRESIDENT AND JAY SHATTUCK, ABCIL'S LOBBYIST, ATTENDED THIS COMMITTEE HEARING ON BEHALF OF MERIT SHOP CONTRACTORS TO VOICE CONCERNS REGARDING THIS ONEROUS, UNNECESSARY PIECE OF LEGISLATION. WHILE THE BILL DID PASS OUT OF COMMITTEE AND WILL BE HEARD ON THE HOUSE FLOOR FOR DEBATE, ABCIL WAS SUCCESSFUL IN CONVINCING THE SPONSOR TO AMEND THE BILL TO ALLEVIATE OUR CONCERNS. WE WILL KEEP YOU POSTED AS TO THE PROGRESSION OF THIS LEGISLATION.

ABC OP-ED: EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT WILL COST JOBS

ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS CEO KIRK PICKEREL WROTE AN OP-ED IN THIS MORNING'S WASHINGTON DC EXAMINER HIGHLIGHTING THE PROBLEMS WITH THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT, INCLUDING THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES IT WILL HAVE FOR AMERICAN JOBS:

MORE THAN THREE PERCENT. IF THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT HAD PASSED IN 2007, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE COULD BE A SHOCKING 11.6 PERCENT INSTEAD OF THE 8.1 PERCENT RELEASED LAST WEEK – WHICH IS ALREADY THE HIGHEST SINCE 1983.

A RECENTLY RELEASED STUDY FROM NOTED ECONOMIST DR. ANNE LAYNE-FARRAR FOUND THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT WILL RESULT IN "A ONE PERCENTAGE POINT INCREASE IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR EVERY THREE PERCENTAGE POINT INCREASE IN WORKERS ORGANIZED."

THE IMPACT OF THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY DISASTROUS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, WHERE THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS ALREADY OVER 18 PERCENT.

IN OTHER WORDS, IF THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT RESULTS IN A 10 PERCENT INCREASE IN UNIONIZATION, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WOULD INCREASE BY

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW THE FREE CHOICE ACT WILL AFFECT YOUR BUSINESS PLEASE CHECK OUT ABC NATIONAL'S NEW WEBSITE, "[THE TRUTH ABOUT THE EFCA](#)"

SOURCE: ABC NATIONAL



CHECK OUT ABC'S VIDEO ON THE "FORCED" CHOICE ACT BY CLICKING ON THE VIDEO TO THE LEFT OR COPY AND PASTE THE FOLLOWING LINK INTO YOUR BROWSER:
WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?v=Q3PiHYvOoeQ

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1541 ELMHURST RD,
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SPRINGFIELD OFFICE

526 E. ALLEN
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217-523-4692
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MORE JOB CUTS IN FEBRUARY FOR NONRESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

THE NONRESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY LOST 16,800 JOBS IN FEBRUARY, DROPPING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF JOBS IN THE SECTOR TO 764,400, ACCORDING TO A MARCH 6 REPORT BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR. SINCE FEBRUARY 2008, THE NONRESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY HAS LOST 78,000 JOBS, OR 9.3 PERCENT OF ITS WORKFORCE.

“FOR ABC MEMBERS, TODAY’S EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FURTHER CEMENT THE NOTION THAT COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY WILL CONTINUE TO WEAKEN FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE,” SAID ABC CHIEF ECONOMIST ANIRBAN BASU. “AMONG OTHER THINGS, JOB LOSS DIMINISHES DEMAND FOR OFFICE, RETAIL AND OTHER FORMS OF SPACE. IN ADDITION, TODAY’S ANNOUNCEMENT, WHICH INCLUDES SHARP DOWNWARD REVISIONS IN THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION FOR BOTH DECEMBER AND JANUARY, MAKES TIMELY AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STIMULUS PACKAGE ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT.”

RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION LOST 15,600 JOBS IN FEBRUARY 2009 COMPARED TO JANUARY AND 135,500 JOBS COMPARED TO LAST YEAR. TOTAL PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT, WHICH INCLUDES SPECIALTY TRADE CONTRACTORS, FELL BY 104,000 ON A MONTHLY BASIS AND 826,000 COMPARED TO LAST YEAR.

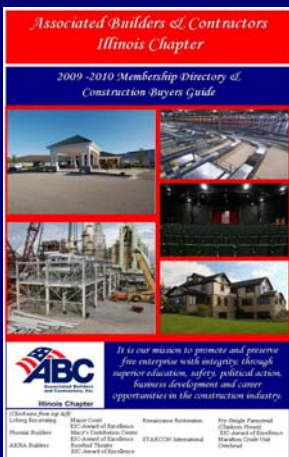
OVERALL, NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT DROPPED BY 651,000 IN THIS SHORT MONTH; 1,987,000 IN THE PAST THREE MONTHS; AND 4,168,000 ON A YEAR-OVER-YEAR BASIS. THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS NOW 8.1 PERCENT – THE HIGHEST SINCE DECEMBER 1983.

“INCREDIBLY, THE EMPLOYMENT REPORT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE HAD FEBRUARY HAD MORE DAYS,” BASU NOTED. “LAST MONTH HAD ROUGHLY 10 PERCENT FEWER DAYS THAN JANUARY. ON THAT BASIS ALONE, MONTHLY JOB NUMBERS CAN BE EXPECTED TO DETERIORATE IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. MEANWHILE, OVER THE COURSE OF FEBRUARY, THE CREDIT CRUNCH ACTUALLY SEEMED TO WORSEN AND ADDITIONAL WEALTH WAS LOST IN THE FINANCIAL AND REAL ESTATE MARKETS.”

SOURCE: ABC NATIONAL



2009—2010 Directory



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

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 OR
 FAX: (847) 709-2970

DON'T MISS THESE EVENTS!

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**SAVE THE
DATE!**

**FOR ABCIL'S ANNUAL
GOLF OUTING**



**THURSDAY
JULY 23, 2009**

LOCATION: TBD

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. \$20.00 PER PERSON

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

MARCH 26, 2009

GALESBURG REGIONAL MEETING

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF NETWORKING, DINNER, AND A PRESENTATION ON THE ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE/BILL AND THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT/CARD CHECK BY AN EXPERT POLITICAL ATTORNEY. EVENT BEGINS AT 6:00 PM AT CRAPPY'S, 441 E MAIN ST GALESBURG, IL. \$25.00 PER PERSON.

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