Chapter Board Revises Industry Fund Structure

At the SMACNA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Board of Directors’ Meeting on August 19th, the Board decided on maintaining the $0.38 per hour Industry Promotion Fund contribution for contractors working under the Washington, D.C. agreement.

Currently, the $0.38 breaks out as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter</td>
<td>$0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMACNA</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>App. Recruitment</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0.38</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Beginning on November 1, SMACNA’s rate increases from $0.12 to $0.13 per hour. It increases to $0.14 in 2021 and to $0.15 in 2022.

To keep the rate at $0.38 from November 1, 2020 to October 31, 2021 the Board adjusted the fees to:

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter</td>
<td>$0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMACNA</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>App. Recruitment</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0.38</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Sheet Metal Industry Fund Contribution for Richmond contract will increase from $0.32 to $0.33 per hour to adjust for the increase from SMACNA. The Baltimore rate will adjust at the start of their next contract.

For questions, please contact the office at 301/446-0002.

Chapter Annual Meeting Set for September 15th at 10 a.m.

The SMACNA Chapter Annual Meeting is usually one of the association’s highlights for the year. However, this year due to the pandemic the Board of Director has decided to make it a virtual meeting.

As with past meetings, members will be updated on key industry issues, approve meeting minutes and elect people to serve on the board.

President Kathy Bigelow stated, “While it is disappointing not to be together physically enjoying everyone’s company, this is the best option at this time. I am hopeful next year we can again be together to celebrate our accomplishments and great industry.”

Please keep an eye out in the coming days for the annual meeting link that will be sent out via email. The Zoom platform will be used to facilitate the meeting.

Please contact our office if you have not received the virtual meeting information by September 8th.
President’s Column
Kathy Bigelow
Chapter President
Comfort Control, Inc.

My two year term as chapter president wraps up on September 15 and I want to express my appreciation to you for this opportunity. I will be the first to admit that it wasn’t what I expected. A broken leg followed by some health issues complicated by some business matters and before you knew it, my first year was over.

Then our association’s office was forced to move during the start of the pandemic in February which rolled us right into labor negotiations on two collective bargaining agreements—Washington, D.C. and Richmond, VA. These critically important activities took place at a most inopportune time for face-to-face meetings. Normally our association is hosting a variety of committee meetings along with general membership meetings to further the mission of our association. As you know, we were also forced to cancel our educational seminars along with our very popular social events!

Just last month the association decided to have our 2020 Chapter Annual Meeting online—through Zoom—so we can fulfill our obligations under our bylaws. Members are invited to participate and hear our reports and elect members to serve on the board and as trustees.

Not I or anyone else on our Board ever dreamed of having to put our chapter annual meeting online. But like so many other organizations we were forced to make compromises in hopes that next year things will be a little closer to normal. Of course, our top priority is to make sure everyone remains healthy and strong.

The good news overall is that our organization is active, financially solvent, and highly respected. As most of you know, our Board of Directors granted Covid-19 relief in the form of a hefty discount on the Sheet Metal Industry Fund for the months of July and August. This was done to help our contractors offset some of the PPE and other unexpected expenses incurred as a result of the Coronavirus.

You should also know that our “Choose Bigger” recruitment is still going strong. Our staff is hard at work identifying top candidates to help you find apprentices and classified workers. Relationships are being established with schools and workforce development agencies across the area to help you find top notch people. If you are in need of helpers or apprentices, please give our office a call or drop them an email.

You may recall that my dad, Bob Gawne, was one of the leaders of this organization and largely responsible for the re-establishment of our chapter within the SMACNA organization. I know he would be extremely pleased if he could see how our organization has blossomed since its founding in 2006. Today, SMACNA Mid-Atlantic is a known entity in both the Maryland and Virginia state houses, the D.C. City Council Building, at schools, community colleges, business organizations, and many other government agencies.

As I close out my presidency I want to express my gratitude to my fellow officers and board members for their great support. After all, this is a team effort of many people including our committees, our Sheet Metal Industry Fund Trustees, and staff. Together we all have a role to play in carrying out the association’s mission.

During the past 15 years we have witnessed a severe recession, war, political upheaval, social unrest, and now a pandemic. My advice is to stay strong and stay the course. Yes, we too will survive these challenging times.

Thanks again for a great two years and please tune in on September 15th! I will be looking forward to seeing everyone then.
Worker's Comp Program Designed Exclusively for Employers of Union Workers

Chesapeake Employers’ Insurance Company proudly offers the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Collectively Bargained Workers’ Compensation Program to qualifying employers of signatory local union workers. It’s an exclusive workers’ compensation insurance program featuring a 10% premium discount and expert safety services with the goal of helping you enhance workplace safety.

Q: What is the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Collectively Bargained Workers’ Compensation Program?
A: The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Collectively Bargained Workers’ Compensation Program is available to signatory employers of union workers. Under the program, employers whose union has contractually agreed to the provisions of the collective bargaining program will accept mediation and arbitration as an alternative to litigation. The two major areas that have been brought under the collective bargaining agreement are the delivery of medical benefits and dispute prevention and resolution.

Q: Is there a premium discount associated with the ADR program?
A: Yes. Eligible class codes written in ADR qualifying tiers could save 10% off Chesapeake Employers’ base rates.

Q: How does the ADR program benefit employers and union employees?
A: The ADR program offers numerous benefits to the employer and signatory union worker:
- Reduced costs
- A dedicated Program Representative works to resolve disputes quickly and efficiently
- Mediation and arbitration services are available in place of costly litigation
- A dedicated Patient Advocate (registered nurse) assists with managing claims
- Established network of doctors helps manage claims costs and ensures prompt medical care
- Comprehensive safety services are designed to create safe working environments for workers

Q: Who is eligible to participate?
A: Participants of the program must employ workers of a signatory local union from the Baltimore Building and Construction Trades Council, Washington, D.C. Building and Construction Trades Council, or Western Maryland Building and Construction Trades Council prior to the inception date of the policy. Qualifying participants must meet underwriting requirements for placement in Chesapeake Employers’ standard and preferred rating tiers to receive the rate discount as defined by Chesapeake Employers. Only ADR qualifying contracting class codes are eligible under the program; however, non-qualifying classifications can be included in the program, but will not receive the 10% discount off of base rates.

Q: I have employees who work in different states. Am I still eligible for the ADR program?
A: Only Maryland-based employers are eligible for coverage under the ADR program. Coverage in other states may be available; however, the program will not apply to non-Maryland-based businesses.

Q: Who is Chesapeake Employers’ Insurance Company?
A: Chesapeake Employers’ Insurance Company is Maryland’s largest writer of workers’ compensation insurance. It is a nonprofit, non-stock, private corporation. It has served as a continuous, guaranteed source of fairly priced workers’ compensation insurance since 1914. Chesapeake Employers has a financial strength rating of A- (Excellent) by A.M. Best.

Q: How do I get a quote?
A: Please contact your insurance agent or call Chesapeake Employers at 1-800-264-4943 and ask for a free quote.

I&B Associates Announce Address Change

I&B Associates announces their new address:

6925 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20012

Phone, fax, and email addresses remain unchanged.
Milwaukee Tool is proud to announce the MX FUEL™ Equipment System. This groundbreaking cordless system revolutionizes the light equipment market by delivering the performance, runtime, and durability demanded by the trades without the hazards associated with emissions, noise, vibration, and the frustrations of gas maintenance.

Each of the solutions on the MX FUEL™ System go beyond the limitations of gasoline and power cords and operate off one completely compatible battery system. "More and more continues to be asked of trade professionals every single day. As these demands grow, they turn to manufacturers to help them stay safe and productive.

At Milwaukee®, we're obsessed with proactively changing the lives of these users by developing the most effective solutions to the problems they face," said Andrew Plowman, Vice President of Product Management for Milwaukee Tool.

After spending more than 10,000 hours with users on thousands of jobsites globally, we discovered considerable safety and productivity challenges within some product categories – like gas-powered and AC equipment – due to very limited innovation.

From gas headaches to design features that were causing stress on users' bodies over time, it was clear that today's equipment wasn't delivering on user needs. However, MX FUEL™ will fundamentally change jobsites everywhere.

Questions? Please contact Hyojon Robbins
Territory Manager – Jobsite Solutions
Washington D.C./Baltimore
Cell: (571) 329-0990

Valdisera entered the apprenticeship in 1976 and became a member of the SMART Local 100. Valdisera’s first three and a half years as an apprentice was at UIA until their relocation to Philadelphia in 1980. It was then he joined Stromberg and has never looked back.

During his 40 years of stellar service he has helped make Stromberg Metal Works one of the leaders in the industry. Valdisera’s decades of contributions have been a cornerstone for the Metropolitan D.C. Sheet Metal/HVAC industry.

One of Valdisera’s most memorable projects was constructing three underground buildings for the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST). Stromberg Metal Works Regional Vice President of Operations Mike Tabor added “Gary has been a vital part of Stromberg’s success for many years. As Stromberg’s General Superintendent in charge of Field labor and our manufacturing facility, Gary was hands on with virtually every project that came through our system. His knowledge from managing personnel and knowing how to operate every piece of equipment in our manufacturing shop can not easily be replaced. He is the perfect definition of a sheet metal craftsman.”

Valdisera leaves his mark of excellence on many projects throughout Washington, D.C., Maryland, and the Virginia region. While his efforts and talent will be greatly missed, the industry is grateful for the lessons, and approaches he leaves behind for future generations.