SMACNA Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Connections

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October 2020

2020 Sheet Metal Industry
Trust Fund Annual Meeting

Due to the pandemic, the SMACNA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Annual Meeting and the Sheet Metal Industry Fund Annual Meeting convened via Zoom on September 15th.

SMACNA Mid-Atlantic Sheet Metal Industry Fund’s meeting was chaired by Jim Kelleher of Metro Test & Balance who discussed the trustees’ role in collecting and overseeing the funds. He said 3,268,561 hours were reported which was a 13% increase over 2018.

Elections were held and as required, Trust Fund’s Nominating Committee met this summer and assembled a slate of trustees as needed. Several trustees whose three-year terms were expiring were re-nominated and re-elected:

Chairman, Jim Kelleher
Kathleen Bigelow, Comfort Control, Inc.
Dale Sheppard, W.E. Bowers

Newly elected was Frank Roberts an industry veteran currently working at Southland Industries for the past 15 years.

Kelleher thanked his fellow trustees for their support and participation during the past year.

Rob Delawder who stepped down as a trustee was recognized for this work and involvement on the fund. Delawder continues representing the contractors and chairing the Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee.

Chapter Annual Meeting & Elections

SMACNA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Vice President Geoff Parks opened the 14th Annual Meeting by thanking Jim Kelleher for his steadfast leadership as chairman of the Sheet Metal Industry Promotion Fund.

Parks reported on the association’s finances for 2019 and that money was added to reserves. Because of Covid-19, he noted that the Board earlier in the year granted relief by reducing the required industry fund contribution to the $0.12 per hour minimum as required by national SMACNA for July and August.

The following members were elected to continue serving on the board of directors:

Geoff Parks, CMC Sheet Metal
Mike Pantele, R.S. Harritan Co., Inc.
Frank Roberts, Southland Industries

Outgoing President Kathy Bigelow was acknowledged for her hard work and dedication to the association. Bigelow served for two years as chapter president and represented the chapter at numerous meetings and association functions.

Parks was recognized for completing his two year term as vice president along with Dale Sheppard who was serving as treasurer. All outgoing board members and officers received plaques in recognition of their service.

Gary Marsh of Ample Sheet Metal was thanked for his service as a trustee on the Baltimore funds. Marsh served as trustee on the pension/health/and JATC and is retiring at the end of this year.

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It is an honor and a pleasure for me to be elected as your next president and I am very much looking forward to the challenge! Of course, “challenge” should be plural as it seems there is never a shortage of challenges. Everywhere I look there are new mountains to climb—both personally and professionally. Personally, anyone who has helped raise a family is well aware of the challenges in dealing with young children. Covid-19 has only intensified these challenges when it comes to schooling, socializing, and of course managing “screen time.”

On the business side of things we at CMC Sheet Metal are facing some of the same concerns as everyone else. Keeping our workforce healthy and intact while at the same time keeping up with technology is a constant battle.

Some of these challenges have become much more complicated due to the pandemic. Instituting programs to keep our workers safe both in the shop and in the field, incurring additional costs associated with increased safety measures, and doing all this while maintaining strict schedules and deadlines. Who saw this coming a year ago?

While dealing with the challenges of the Coronavirus, we are also attempting to manage our stress over the current political situation and social unrest in our country. Not since the Civil War has the country been so divided. Regardless of your political views, the indecision and uncertainty rippling through our society is taking a toll on all of us.

Right along with this is the social unrest taking place in major cities across the country. This too is occupying our attention as everyone attempts to understand and make this a better world.

Along with these challenges I believe comes opportunity. Just like the Spanish Flu of 1918, the Swine Flu, and more recently Zika, I am confident that we too will survive the Coronavirus—but it will take time to recover. New hospitals and data centers are springing up like dandelions in the spring. For many years there has been talk about a new football stadium for the Washington Football Team, a new FBI campus/headquarters, and so many more exciting new projects.

At the same time, it is hard not to notice the many stories on the news and in the papers about what new indoor air quality requirements will be set for schools, apartment buildings, offices, hospitals, and anywhere else where people congregate. As an industry will we be ready to take advantage of these new business opportunities? Do our businesses have the skills and knowledge necessary to perform this work?

One area I am sure you too are following is modular construction. Is this the wave of the future? Some companies are beginning to perform this work and I can tell you that there is a huge learning curve that comes along with it. But there is little question that it is here to stay.

Fortunately for us there are many great resources we can tap into for help on these and other issues. Close to home is our local training center offering state of the art education in many areas. Also in our “backyard” is the International Training Institute (ITI), and of course SMACNA. SMACNA’s technical services department is at the ready with great information and experts available to help us work through and solve difficult problems.

SMACNA Mid-Atlantic is OUR association—it works for ALL of us. As soon as the government health experts allow our association will be back for a full menu of educational programs, networking events, and other activities. I urge you that if you are not already involved to please contact our office and let us know what you are interested in doing. Yes, we need everyone’s involvement and participation. This a terrific organization and will only get better with everyone working together.
New Officers Elected at Chapter Annual Meeting

SMACNA Mid-Atlantic Chapter in Greenbelt, Maryland recently held their 14th Annual Chapter Meeting in Greenbelt, MD, on September 15th. Geoff Parks was unanimously elected Chapter President, after previously serving as vice president on the board. Parks is a vice president of construction at CMC Sheet Metal in Capitol Heights, MD.

SMACNA Mid-Atlantic Executive Director Bernie Brill stated, “Geoff is an accomplished professional in the sheet metal industry and brings years of success and innovative ideas to the chapter.”

Additionally, the Board elected Dale Sheppard, Sheet Metal Operations Manager at W.E. Bowers as chapter vice president, and James Noto, vice president at Metro Test & Balance to the post of chapter treasurer.

Other members serving on the Board of Directors include: Kathleen Bigelow (Comfort Control, Inc.) Immediate Past President, Dale Trunnell (Metro Mechanical, Inc.) Past President, Stanley Fleischer (Seneca Balance of MD, Inc.) Past President, Mike Tabor (Stromberg Metal Works, Inc.), Mike Pantele (R.S. Harritan Co. Inc.), and Frank Roberts (Southland Industries).

This year’s annual meeting was held virtually due to the pandemic. Many thanks to everyone who participated on the call.

It is hoped that in 2021 the entire membership will again have in-person meetings, educational seminars, and networking events.

Chapter Annual Meeting & Elections

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SMACNA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Past President Richard Titus was also recognized for his years of service to the industry and as a trustee on the Baltimore Funds. Titus was president of Atlas Sheet Metal and served as chapter president in 2009-2010.

Congratulations Chapter Members!

SMACNA Mid-Atlantic congratulates Dale Sheppard and Michael Gawne on their appointments to key SMACNA committees.

Dale Sheppard has been appointed to SMACNA’s International Training Institute (ITI) Plans and Specs Curriculum Task Force. Sheppard is the Sheet Metal Preconstruction Manager at W.E. Bowers in Beltsville, Maryland and serves as vice president of the SMACNA Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

SMACNA has also tapped Michael Gawne of Stromberg Metal Works to serve on the ITI Architectural Curriculum Task Force. Gawne is the Architectural Shop Operations Manager at Stromberg Metal Works in Beltsville, Maryland and serves as a member of the Joint Apprenticeship Committee.

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New Hospital Construction in the DMV

Despite the Coronavirus playing havoc with construction and about everything else, the District, Maryland, and Virginia this area is seeing a tremendous amount of activity in the health care market.

As the area grows, the aging infrastructure requires more maintenance and in some cases, replacement. Hospital projects recently completed or nearing completion in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area have exceeded $2.4 trillion dollars.

Medical facilities have taken centerstage not only to replace and upgrade outdated facilities, but recent events have also identified pandemic shortfalls for now and into the future.

The ability to provide quality care for patients is critical for the region. Once the pandemic has subsided, the growing mature population will have ongoing needs as well. The area must keep pace with technologically advanced medical treatment facilities.

Additionally, these are the future hospital and medical sector projects planned in the region:

Inova Health System’s future Springfield Hospital
Status: On deck
Estimated cost: TBD
Estimated completion: 3-7 years

New hospital on St. Elizabeth’s East campus
Status: On deck; Estimated cost: $306 million
Estimated completion: Fall 2024

Howard University Hospital replacement facility
Status: On deck; Estimated cost: $450 million
Estimated completion: 2026

Providence Health System’s “Healthy Village”
Status: On deck; Estimated cost: $30 million
Estimated completion: TBD

Air Quality in Schools Takes Precedence

Author: U.S. News & World Report (www.usnews.com)

Good ventilation — keeping indoor air fresh by cycling through enough outdoor air — is always important for keeping toxins and airborne pathogens from building up inside, and never more so than now.

School opening schedules are in chaos as administrators strive to figure out how, or even whether, they can whip their often-neglected heating, ventilation and air conditioning infrastructure, or HVAC, into shape so that poor air flow doesn’t help spread COVID-19 infection among students, teachers and their families. Many districts are turning once again to remote learning rather than take the risk, and a growing list of colleges and universities are doing the same.

A third of K-12 schools — up to 36,000 school buildings in the U.S. — have sub-par ventilation systems and need upgrades, according to a report issued in June by the Government Accountability Office. More than 40% of school districts need major HVAC investments in at least some of their schools. Many don’t have the money — upgrades can cost millions — and at this point they don’t have the time to get the job done before the beginning of the star-crossed 2020-21 school year.

Even when systems are reasonably current, most schools have work to do — making sure filters are adequate, vents aren’t blocked and systems are working the way they’re designed to. The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers — ASHRAE for short — has a task force for COVID-19 that recently issued a detailed instruction manual and checklist for school re-openings. The recommendations are designed to bring schools up to the organization’s standard for acceptable indoor air quality (ASHRAE standard 62.1, for the technically minded). Building codes often specify ASHRAE standards for HVAC systems.

Corey Metzger, Schools Team Lead for ASHRAE’s Epidemic Task Force and a consulting engineer whose company helps school districts, colleges and universities execute HVAC projects large and small. He says the GAO has, if anything, underestimated the number of schools whose systems need major air-handling upgrades.