METAL BUILDING CONTRACTORS & ERECTORS ASSOCIATION

MBCEA Resource Articles

November 2026

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We want to hear from you!

Let us know what is important to you; what kinds of things you are interested in; what you need.

Sasha Demyan, Executive Director
David Leinbach, President
Jackie Meiluta, Program Manager
Britain Graver, Member Services & Administrative Coordinator
Ginger Roberti, Administrative Assistant

Sponsorship for the 2027 Conference is now open!

Get your brand in front of metal building contractors, erectors, suppliers, and manufacturers at the Metal Building Systems Industry Event in Kansas City in May 2027.

Limited opportunities are available, so grab one before they're gone!

Sponsor the Conference

Get Paid to Train your Team

Greetings!

Stop for a Minute and Be Thankful



Each year, it seems Thanksgiving gets a little more crowded out. Halloween decorations barely come down before the Christmas lights go up, and the stores skip straight from costumes to carols. Thanksgiving can easily get lost in the shuffle. Yet for me, it remains my favorite holiday of the year. There are no gifts to buy and no costumes to plan, just a simple invitation to slow down, gather with the people who matter, and give thanks.

Forty Years of Ups and Downs

As an MBCEA contractor, Thanksgiving gives me a chance to look back on a construction career that now spans 40 years. Like most of you, I have seen my share of ups and downs. There have been strong years with full backlogs and lean years when every bid mattered. There have been projects that went off without a hitch and others that tested every ounce of patience, planning, and problem-solving we had. Weather delays, tight schedules, material shortages, and changing markets are all part of the life we chose.

But through it all, I have gained something far more valuable than any single project: friendships across this industry. Fellow contractors, manufacturers, suppliers, crews, and MBCEA members have become friends who share advice, lend a hand, and understand the unique challenges of this business. Those relationships have carried me through the hard seasons and made the good ones even better.

What I Am Thankful For

- **Work** – for the opportunity to do meaningful work and for the customers who trust us with their projects.
- **Friends** – for the people in this industry who have become far more than business contacts.
- **Family** – for the support at home that makes the long days, early starts, and time on the road possible.
- **Seeing something produced** – for the rare satisfaction of standing back at the end of a job

The Ketenbrink Education Fund (KEF) has immediate mini-grant opportunities open to all MBCEA Members. Train your team using the MBI Quality and Craftsmanship 101 series. KEF will grant you $250 each for up to 5 employees who successfully complete the 11-module series **and testing** from 5/1/26 through 10/1/26. The tests will cost you $110/pp but you will receive $250 in grant money.

MBI Q&C training is a required element for AC478 accreditation.

$50,000 has been allocated for this grant program. Grant will close when funds run out.

Note that only those that have successfully completed the testing product are eligible to apply. (Think of it as a "refund".)

Apply

and seeing a finished building where there was once an empty site.

Few professions offer that last gift. When our work is done, we can point to it. It stands for decades, serving people long after our crews have packed up and moved on to the next site.

Building Places Where Life Happens

In the end, I am most thankful that the companies of the MBCEA have had a hand in constructing the buildings where communities live their lives. Our members build the churches where people worship, the gyms and recreation centers where they play, the plants, warehouses, and offices where they earn a living, and the schools where they are educated. We build the fire stations that protect them, the agricultural buildings that feed them, and the shops and businesses that keep main streets alive. Every one of those structures represents the skill, safety, and dedication of the people in our industry.

Take a Minute

This year, before the rush to Christmas takes over, I encourage each of you to stop for a minute. Look back at the projects you have completed, the crews who built them, the friends you have made along the way, and the family who stands behind you. Whatever this year has brought, there is always something to be grateful for.

From my family to yours, and from one MBCEA contractor to another, Happy Thanksgiving. Stop for a minute, and be thankful.

David Leinbach
President, MBCEA
President, Kaiser-Martin Group





Have you renewed yet?

MBCEA's 2027 membership **renewal invoices** have been distributed via email. To help ensure uninterrupted membership benefits, please place your invoice in line for payment upon receipt. Renewals are due **January 1, 2027**.

Please note that invoices were sent to the **billing contact email address** associated with your member account. If your billing contact has changed, or if you'd like to confirm who is currently listed, please contact the MBCEA office so we can update our records.

Technical Corner:

Putting the Manufacturer's BIM Model to Work in Metal Building Erection.

MBCEA Technical Committee, Dan Halme

Many metal building manufacturers are starting to provide BIM models alongside their erection drawings as part of their standard practice, and many erectors are beginning to rely on them for planning and field coordination. A superintendent can isolate and rotate a connection to see which side a clip attaches to, how a brace lines up, or how framing fits around an opening. The crew can review the assembly from the angle they'll see in the field and use the corresponding erection detail to confirm how it goes together.

The model also helps with staging and lift planning. For a rafter that ships in several sections, the crew can see how the sections splice together and identify the piece marks needed for ground assembly. The superintendent can compare those marks with the shipping list to decide what to unload first and verify the combined weight of the assembled rafter using the manufacturer's piece data.

A marked-up screenshot can make a field inquiry easier for the architect to answer. An overall view locates the issue, while a close-up shows the relevant steel, dimensions, and available clearance. If a brace appears to interfere with an overhead door track, the project manager can mark the door supplier's required clearance directly on the image. That gives the architect a clear view of the potential clash even when the manufacturer's model contains only the steel.

Erectors should ask for the BIM model when they order the building package, confirm when it will be available, and make sure the superintendent and foreman can open it on the jobsite. Use it at the pre-erection meeting to walk through the first bay, then keep it handy for staging, assembly questions, and field inquiries as the work progresses. The more consistently erectors request and use these models, the clearer the demand for every manufacturer to provide them alongside the erection drawings as a standard deliverable.





Business Finance Corner:

Midterm Elections and the Stock Market: What History

Apprenticeship Corner:

Apprenticeship Is Not A Dirty Word

Josh Quinter
Quinter Corbett

Tells Us and Where We Go From Here

Shannon Fowler
IronBridge Wealth Counsel, LLC

The 2026 midterm elections are now behind us, and as expected, they've brought plenty of headlines, opinions, and conversations about what the results could mean for the economy and the markets. Democrats secured control of both the House and Senate, creating a divided government with a Republican president and Democratic-controlled Congress. The markets initially responded positively to the results, with major U.S. stock indexes moving higher the day after the election. But as we've seen time and time again, a market reaction immediately following an election doesn't necessarily tell us what to expect over the months or years ahead.

Read More

One of the common themes I have come to experience in my time working on apprenticeship is the adverse reaction many people have to the term. There are a number of reasons for this reaction, but it's most commonly associated with the weaponization of the concept in the political contests between organized and open shop labor. These negative connotations are unfounded and need to be eschewed given the present labor crisis in the construction trades.

Read More

METAL BUILDINGS INSTITUTE™

The Metal Buildings Institute is the only place for training and information exclusive to the Metal Buildings Industry. Visit us on the web at **www.metal-buildings-institute.org**.

MBCEA members receive free access to the Quality & Craftsmanship 101 11-module video series, $200 off the annual subscription to the 102 IMP and 201 Retrofit Roofing Modules, and $150 off the Guidelines for Temporary Bracing. The discount code can be found on our **Training page**.

Every contractor and erector should have a copy of the guidelines and access the training!

Be sure to take advantage of all member resources!

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