



**Don't Miss  
SMCA's Annual Engineers  
Night Dinner Meeting  
November 7, 2024  
The Manor House  
at Commonwealth**



[www.smca.org](http://www.smca.org)

Fall 2024 Volume 6 Issue 2

**In This Issue:**

- AmeriHealth Renovation—Page 4
- Election 2024—Page 6
- SMCA Golf Outing and Travis Manion Foundation—Page 9

# SMCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024—2025

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## SMCA STAFF

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## From the Exec's Desk

Hello everyone,

Summer, thankfully, tends to be a bit slower-paced time of year at SMCA. Which is not to say we aren't busy, but with less travel and fewer events for a few months, it gives SMCA leadership and staff a chance to evaluate and plan new initiatives. This year is no exception, as I look forward to working with SMCA's Board of Directors and Industry Fund Trustees to implement a new Education Credit Program for our Member Firms and Industry Fund Contributors. While SMACNA, SMCA, and the Local 19 Training Center offer many valuable education programs throughout the year, every sheet metal business is unique. In recognition of this, we are sponsoring a new program this year that encourages our contractors to seek out the training specifically needed by their teams. We are happy to support our contractors, their company leaders, and employees to improve their efficiency and profitability with this initiative and I look forward to seeing them thrive.

While the summer may be a more relaxed period, fall is when SMCA's schedule ramps back up. Our 2024 golf outing was held at the end of September at beautiful Spring Mill Country Club in Bucks County PA. You'll find a full write-up in this issue, but I wanted to say congrats to the winners and thanks to our "special guest" for hanging out with us. Engineers Night is our next big scheduled event, with a focus on "bridging the gap" between SMCA contractors and the Philadelphia-area engineers that design many of the projects our contractors help bring to life. SMCA's contractors work closely with general contractors, project managers, and engineers throughout construction projects. Whether designing a building and creating the detailed plans that guide the workers on the project, fabricating the custom ductwork that will provide that building with comfortable and efficient ventilation, or working with the other trades to safely and quickly get the project completed, communication and understanding is key. I'm excited to hear from our Engineers Night panel about how we can improve this process, and hope to work closely with SMCA's Board of Directors and ASHRAE leadership to continue bridging the gap and make our industry better.

Executive Director/CEO



## President's Column

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and is ready for a busy and exciting fall. I'm looking forward to the SMCA Golf outing at Spring Mill later this month as well as Engineers



Night in November. Engineers Night is one of our signature events, with an expert panel discussing how engineers and contractors can communicate and work more efficiently to get projects completed on time and under budget for our customers. It's also a great opportunity for SMCA contractors to see the latest offerings from our friends on the Supplier Liaison Council and network with our local engineers and ASHRAE members.

The SMACNA Annual Convention is taking place in Palm Desert, CA in October. This is a great week that we look forward to each year, with a chance to learn what's new in our industry and catch up with friends from around the country. For anyone going this year, be sure to check out this issue's piece on getting the most out of your convention experience.

Taking a quick look at politics, November and Election Day will be here before we know it and the 2024 cycle has already given us some big surprises. The polls show that the presidential race is extremely close and competitive, and with control of the White House and both chambers of Congress in the balance it's important to make sure your voice is heard. So however you choose to do so, I hope everyone has a plan to cast their vote this year.



*Respectfully,*

**Gary Luthe**

## Construction Industry Prepping for OSHA Heat Standard in 2025

Heat injury and illness prevention has been at the discussion table with OSHA and ANSI. The frequent illnesses and unfortunate deaths associated with heat have put the two organizations in a position to develop a standard that will keep employees in the construction industry safe from heat illness and injury. On Friday, August 30, 2024, an official proposed ruling of the standard was released not just to the construction industry, but other industries under various North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes. Along with the ruling, OSHA has encouraged industries to provide feedback on their website with concerns they may have with the standard. Although OSHA is open to hearing feedback, all industries will focus on implementing a prevention plan for their company in 2025.



In the first quarter of 2025 I will be doing just that for SMCA firms. In past years, with other standards such as Silica or Hexavalent Chromium (Hex Chrome), OSHA was lenient by giving a target date for companies to have a plan in place that would protect their employees. I imagine they will do the same with this standard as well.

Next summer SMCA firms will be compliant with this standard and work through any uncertainties as they arise to keep employees safe. The great benefit that we have is utilizing our resources from area OSHA representatives from Philadelphia who have continued to provide their unwavering support for our members.

**Greg Wharton, Safety & Education Director**  
**(610) 828-4055 [gwharton@smca.org](mailto:gwharton@smca.org)**

## JATC Update

The Philadelphia JATC and Training Center staff had a busy summer and are working on a number of exciting projects focused on improving the Local 19 Apprenticeship program and providing SMCA contractors with a diverse, skilled workforce. A major renovation to the Testing & Balancing lab is underway, with input from ICB/TABB and NEBB officials to ensure that the Training Center is fully certified to train members of Local 19 in this rapidly growing field.

In September the JATC welcomed its newest class of apprentices with Orientation Week at the Training Center. Over thirty of the best and brightest candidates are joining the industry this fall and beginning their careers with SMCA contractors throughout the Philadelphia area. Workforce development is an ongoing issue for employers around the country, and the competition for talented employees is fierce. The JATC and Training Center staff work tirelessly to ensure that a steady stream of talented, reliable workers is available to join the ranks of Sheet Metal Workers Local 19 and the SMCA Contractors who employ them.



# Schedule of Events

## SMACNA Annual Convention

**October 27-30, 2024**

Palm Desert, CA  
JW Marriott Desert Springs  
Resort & Spa



## SMCA Engineers' Night

**Dinner Meeting**

**November 7, 2024**

The Manor House at  
Commonwealth  
Horsham, PA



## SMCA Education Seminar Job Cost Management & Establishing Overhead and Burden

**December 3, 2024**

SMCA Office Classroom



## Balancing the Portfolio-Creating a High-Performance Service Group

**December 3, 2024**

SMCA Office Classroom



## SMCA Holiday Reception

**December 13, 2024**

Philadelphia Art Museum  
Philadelphia, PA



## SMCA Safety Dinner and Awards

**January 23, 2025**

Beer Garden at PARX Casino  
Bensalem, PA

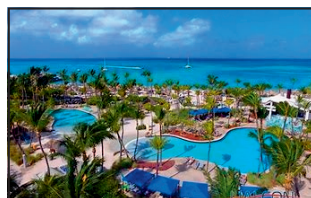


## Northeast & S/SW States Sheet Metal Contractors

**Spring Meeting**

**April 13-15, 2025**

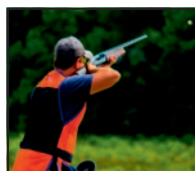
Hilton Aruba Caribbean  
Resort & Casino  
*ALL SMCA Members  
Welcome to Attend!*



## SMCA Sporting Clay Outing

**May 2, 2025**

M&M Hunting & Sporting Clays  
Pennsville, NJ



# Making the Most of Your Convention Experience



Every year, SMCA and SMACNA chapters from around the country gather for the Annual Convention. This is SMACNA's flagship event, bringing the industry's best and brightest together for a week of learning, networking, and business opportunities.

There are lots of potential benefits from attending the SMACNA Convention like new business opportunities, learning about the latest tools and tech in the industry, and trading tips on best practices and processes with contractors, chapter executives, and industry partners from around the country. There is also an extremely busy week during any professional conference, with keynote speakers, group luncheons, breakout sessions, and more. It can be a daunting experience even for veterans, but especially for anyone attending for the first time. With that in mind, here are a few tips and tricks to have the best experience possible at a SMACNA (or any) conference:

**Have Goals in Mind:** Whether it's networking, learning more about an industry niche or new tech, or just to take in a little bit of everything, chances are you have a reason for attending. So ask yourself a few questions beforehand – What do I want to learn about? What sessions am I looking forward to? Setting specific goals will help keep you organized and give you a schedule to follow.

**Identify Who You Want to Meet:** It's always good to consider potential connections you can make at a conference. Whether a specific person, someone in a certain role or position, or someone you can discuss a specific topic with, knowing who to look for is as important as knowing what you're looking for.

**Review the Event Details in Advance:** Getting familiar with the venue, the agenda, and the city you're going to all can make attending a conference much more enjoyable. Meeting materials are typically available online beforehand and, in some cases, (like a SMACNA convention) there may be a conference app available for download.

[Continued on Page 7](#)

# Restaurant Ventilation Design, Inc. Aides in AmeriHealth Renovation

AmeriHealth is one of the nation’s leaders in healthcare solutions. Their main headquarters is in Harrisburg, PA, but the company is currently renovating their campus in Delaware County. One thing that remains true whether it’s a commercial building that is undergoing renovation or it’s a new building, the aesthetics of the dining area catches your eye. Well, SMCA member Restaurant Ventilation Design, Inc., who has been awarded contracts for projects not just along the East Coast but in parts of the Mid-West, has had a hand in transforming these dining areas and making them the best part of the building.



RVD has made commercial kitchens look exceptional over the last 26 years. Their pristine work at Aramark’s global headquarters on

Market Street in Philadelphia a few years ago to their recent work at AmeriHealth continues to set them apart from any competition. AmeriHealth was a fast-moving project and Owner, Glen Armstrong, dispatched 24-year veteran James Quarles to take lead as Foreman on the project. James has been a pillar for Glen’s firm where he spearheaded a major project, they completed at Chop in 2022. Area General Contractors such as INTECH who were on this project and Singer Equipment Company, who RVD was contracted to are very familiar with the stellar finish product that the firm displays.

Restaurant Ventilation Design, Inc. is in a league of their own. Their niche in retrofitting commercial kitchens is something everyone should witness firsthand.



RVD President, Glen Armstrong, sealing ductwork.



Dan Loeffler (L) & James Quarles (R) review prints at AmeriHealth.

## Michael J. McGee (November 6, 1948- August 3, 2024)

The industry lost a dear friend and colleague in August with the passing of Mike McGee. Mike was well-known as both a Local 19 member and owner of the Wegmann Corporation. Always considered a caring and loyal boss, Mike and the Wegmann Corporation were recognized by SMACNA in 2012 with the Safety Excellence Award.



A dedicated SMCA volunteer, Mike was a longtime member of the Board of Directors and Industry Fund Trustees, serving as SMCA President from 1998-2000. He also served on a number of important committees including the Labor Committee, the JATC, and the Sheet Metal Industry Advancement Committee.



SMCA Golf Outing

Mike's service to the industry extended beyond SMCA, as he also sat on the SMACNA of Pennsylvania Board of Directors, serving as President from 2008-2010. In recognition of his dedication to the industry, Mike received the prestigious Mel Wind Award in 2001.



Mike is survived by his wife Patricia, four devoted children, and eight loving grandchildren.

## SMACPAC PA Needs Your Support!

SMACNA of Pennsylvania needs your support for our Political Action Committee (SMACPAC PA). As a dedicated advocate for our industry, your involvement is crucial in helping us address legislative and regulatory issues that directly impact our businesses in Pennsylvania. The state association plays a pivotal role in ensuring that Pennsylvania's business climate and public policies are favorable to your company.

Our legislative agenda prioritizes the protection of the state Prevailing Wage and Separations Acts as well as fending off legislative attempts to reduce apprenticeship ratios to 1-1. We are also prioritizing passage of legislation to expand Prevailing Wage to cover off-site fabrication, eliminate the payment of split rates on publicly funded projects and prohibit indemnification clauses in construction contracts. However, to continue advancing our industry and addressing the challenges we face, we must actively engage in the political process. To do this we aim to support candidates and initiatives that align with our goals. To achieve these goals, we rely on the generous support of industry leaders like you.

Your contributions to SMAC PAC PA enable us to:

1. Support Pro-Industry Legislation: Advocate for laws and regulations that promote industry growth and innovation.
2. Engage with Policymakers: Build relationships with legislators and government officials who can influence decisions affecting our sector.
3. Promote Industry Awareness: Raise awareness about the importance of SMACNA PA in public policy discussions.
4. Foster Industry Collaboration: Strengthen our network with other industry stakeholders to amplify our collective voice. Your investment in our PAC is an investment in the future of your company.

SMCA encourages you to help SMACNA PA achieve its mission by donating to SMACPAC PA. Both the state and local associations greatly appreciate your consideration and your continued support of SMACNA. Together, we can ensure that our industry remains strong!

# ELECTION 2024

## What's on the Ballot in 2024?

### Presidential Race

Former President Donald Trump and his running mate JD Vance, U.S. Senator from Ohio, make up the Republican ticket. Current Vice President Kamala Harris and her running mate Tim Walz, Governor of Minnesota, are on the Democratic ticket. Independent candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. remains on the ballot in some states but has suspended his campaign and endorsed Donald Trump for the Presidency.

### Pennsylvania

U.S. Senate: Democratic incumbent Bob Casey, Jr. is seeking a fourth term. He is opposed by Republican challenger David McCormick.

U.S. House of Representatives: All 17 congressional districts in the United States House of Representatives from Pennsylvania are up for election in 2024.

State Attorney General: Josh Shapiro was re-elected to this position in 2020 but resigned in 2022 upon being sworn in as Governor. Michelle Henry was confirmed by the State Senate in March 2023 to complete Shapiro's term and did not seek election to a full term. Democratic candidate Eugene DePasquale and Republican candidate Dave Sunday won their respective primaries and will appear on the general election ballot.

State Treasurer: Republican incumbent Stacy Garrity is seeking a second term. She is opposed by Democratic challenger Erin McClelland.

State Auditor General: Republican incumbent Timothy DeFoor is seeking a second term. He is opposed by Democratic challenger Malcolm Kenyatta.

State Senate: This year, 25 of the 50 Pennsylvania state Senate seats (odd-numbered districts) are on the ballot. The chamber is currently held by Republicans with a 28-22 majority.

State House of Representatives: This year, all 203 seats in the Pennsylvania state House of Representatives are on the ballot. The chamber has seen one of the more interesting legislative sessions in recent memory, with a nearly even split between Republicans and Democrats following the 2022 election and a shifting majority due to vacancies and special elections. As of August 2024, the Republican Party holds 101 seats and the Democratic Party holds 100 seats, with 2 vacancies yet to be filled via special elections.

### New Jersey

U.S. Senate: Former Sen. Bob Menendez announced his resignat-

ion and withdrawal from this race in July following legal issues. George Helmy was appointed to the position effective September 9, 2024 until after the election. Democrat Andy Kim and Republican Curtis Bashaw are competing for the seat, with several independent and third party candidates also appearing on the ballot. U.S. House of Representatives: All 12 congressional districts in the U.S. House of Representatives from the state of New Jersey are up for election in 2024.

### Delaware

U.S. Senate: Democrat Tom Carper has held this seat since 2001 but is not seeking re-election. This is one of eight open races for the U.S. Senate in 2024 with the incumbent not running (four Democrats, two Republicans, and two Independents are not seeking new terms). Lisa Blunt Rochester (D) has previously served as Delaware's at-large representative in the U.S. House of Representatives and is running for this Senate seat. She is opposed by Republican candidate Eric Hansen, with former Democratic State Senator Michael Katz running as an Independent in the 2024 election.

U.S. House of Representatives: Delaware voters will elect one candidate to serve in the House from the state's one at-large district. Democratic incumbent Lisa Blunt Rochester withdrew from this race to pursue a U.S. Senate seat. The Delaware Primary Election is being held on September 10, 2024 to determine the Democrat and Republican candidates for the General Election in November.

Governor: Democrat John Carney was first elected in 2017 and is term-limited. This is one of eleven gubernatorial races across the country in 2024, with Delaware voters selecting the Democrat and Republican candidates in the September 10, 2024 Primary Election.

Lieutenant Governor: Current Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long is among the candidates seeking the Democratic nomination in Delaware's September Primary Election. She is opposed by Sherry Dorsey Walker, Kyle Evans Gay, and Debbie Harrington in the Democratic Primary. The Republican Primary Election was canceled, with Ruth Briggs King advancing to the General Election in November.

State Senate: All 21 seats in the Delaware State Senate are on the ballot in 2024. As of August 2024, Democrats hold a 15-6 majority in the chamber.

State House of Representatives: All 41 seats in the Delaware House of Representatives are also on the ballot in 2024. As of August 2024, Democrats hold a 26-15 majority in the chamber.



# Looking Ahead to the Northeast States 2025 Spring Meeting

The Northeast States Sheet Metal Contractors Council is a regional group for SMACNA chapters and their members to collaborate on industry issues specific to the New England and Mid-Atlantic parts of the country. With the combined knowledge and expertise of its council members, the Northeast States group addresses labor relations, capturing market share, and bettering the industry across nearly a dozen states.

Each spring the Council convenes to discuss the state of the industry, brainstorm, and network. In 2025, we return to the beautiful island of Aruba for what's sure to be a fun and productive week. For the first time in many years, Northeast States will meet jointly with the South/Southwest Contractors Council, bringing a sizable portion of the union sheet metal industry's contractors together. This is sure to be a highlight of the conference season with SMACNA leadership, industry partners, and expert speakers sharing their insights. It will also be a terrific opportunity for contractors from different areas to share ideas, network, and strengthen business and personal relationships. Look for updates and registration information in the months to come.



## Convention Experience

Continued from Page 3

**Participate:** This might seem obvious, but participation and engagement during a conference can turn what might seem like a boring week into a great one. Play in the golf outing, go out for cocktails (or mocktails even), attend Chapter Night with your colleagues. You're there to represent your company, your chapter, and your industry, so make the most of it!

**Take Something Back With You:** While this could easily be "SWAG from the Product Show", also try taking notes (written or mental) on key things you learned during the week. Conferences are typically big events with something for everyone, so finding a lesson or tip specific to you and your business is a great way to make the most of the experience. It also shows your colleagues and co-workers that you're engaged and growing as a professional.

# AmeriHealth Renovation



Kitchen hood in third floor dining service room.



Walk-in freezer

## Donovan Gutmann Hall Project

SMCA Member Firm the Wm. J. Donovan Co. has proudly served Philadelphia’s storied academic community for over 110 years. This partnership continues in 2024, as the company performed the Testing, Adjusting, and Balancing work for the University of Pennsylvania’s newest addition to its School of Engineering and Science, Gutmann Hall.

Named after the longest-serving president in school history, Gutmann Hall will serve as a home to academic and research facilities with a focus on healthcare. The project is unique in that it is Philadelphia’s first Mass Timber building, with a design that reduces the building’s carbon footprint by 52% relative to concrete and 41% relative to steel. While coming in at 6 stories tall and with over 100,000 square feet of space, the building is targeting a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum certification for its eco-friendly design and materials.

The testing, adjusting, and balancing of the building’s air systems is a crucial part of the LEED process. With reducing people’s exposure to harmful materials like carbon dioxide through improved indoor air quality, a focus of LEED review, the Donovan Co.’s efforts not only support the eco-friendly building design but also protect the scientists, teachers, and students using the facility daily. The training, certification, and skills of their balancers were on full display on this project as they ensured that the systems were working efficiently, safely, and comfortably.

By: Tim Storino, Wm. J. Donovan Co.



# A (New) Tradition Unlike Any Other – SMCA’s 2024 Golf Outing

SMCA held its 2024 golf outing at the beautiful Spring Mill Country Club in Bucks County, PA. Players enjoyed a terrific sunny fall day on the course, spending a few hours with their friends and peers, and competing in a four-man scramble. There was plenty of action on the links, with a battle for the title and some great shots on the contest holes.

New for this year, all proceeds from the outing were donated to the Travis Manion Foundation. The Foundation is inspired by and dedicated to 1st Lieutenant Travis Manion, USMC, who was killed in action in 2007. Its mission developing programs, events, and trainings for veterans and Gold Star families. Thanks to the generous donations of our event sponsors and participating golfers, SMCA was able to provide \$30,000 to this worthy cause.



Another fun surprise at this year’s golf outing was our Special Guest and Scorekeeper, Flyers legend Bernie Parent! Bernie was able to provide our players with some great stories, and raffle items. He even gave some “useful” advice out on the course.

Thank you to our sponsors and players who made this event a great success. We’re already looking forward to next year and continuing to partner with great organizations like the Travis Manion Foundation.

## 2024 Golf Outing Results

1st Place – Stephen Bender, John Binczewski, Chuck Costello, Jeff Deckert

2nd Place – Judd Vail, Zach Hatfield, Ryan Lucas, Kam Shah

3rd Place – Greg Haines, Mark McKeever, Mark Levensood, Brian Shire

Closest to the Pins – Shane O’Donnell (2’5” on Hole 5), Mike Bonacci (8’7” on Hole 15)

Longest Drive – Dave Wood

Straightest Drive – Mike Bonacci



1st Place Winners from Wm. J. Donovan Co. Shown from left, Stephen Bender, John Binczewski, SMCA Executive Director Pete Jenkins, Jeff Deckert, Bernie Parent and Chuck Costello.



Pictured from left, SMCA Treasurer Dominic Bonitatis, Bernie and Gini Parent.

Donation to the Travis Manion Foundation. Shown from left, SMCA Executive Director Pete Jenkins, Dominic Bonitatis, SMCA Treasurer, Ryan Manion (Travis’s sister and CEO of Foundation, Gary Luthé, SMCA President and Bob Johnston, SMCA Vice President.



For more information on the Travis Manion Foundation or if looking for a good cause for a company donation, please visit their website: [www.travismanion.org](http://www.travismanion.org). The inspiration for the foundation comes from its namesake. Dedicated to 1st Lt Travis Manion, USMC, who made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety of his patrol in 2007.



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