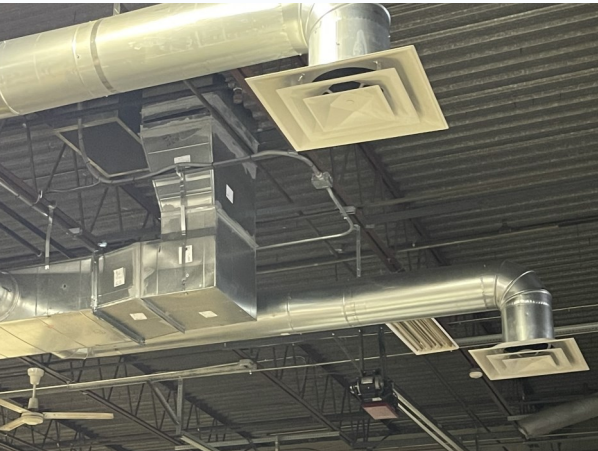




*Partnership with
Lincoln Financial Group*



**Also in this issue:
Building Envelope at GSK
JATC Update**

SMCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020—2021

PRESIDENT	Dominic Bonitatis — Prime Sheet Metal, Inc.	DIRECTORS:
VICE PRESIDENT	Dennis O'Brien — Wm. J. Donovan Co., Inc.	Glen Armstrong — Restaurant Ventilation Design, Inc.
SECRETARY/TREASURER	Jack Titlow — Hunter Mechanical, Inc.	Gary Luthe — Luthe Sheet Metal, Inc.
PAST PRESIDENT	Ken Wurst — Air Concepts, Inc	Ernest J. Menold, P.E. — Ernest D. Menold, Inc.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Peter Jenkins, Esq.	Gina Onorato — AerDux, Inc.
		Matthew Sano — Fisher Balancing Company

SMCA MEMBER FIRMS

Accu-Flow Balancing Co., LLC , 267-483-5490, Warrington, PA	Independent Balancing Co., Inc. , 215-849-3131, Philadelphia, PA
Air Distribution Systems Inc. , 856-874-1100, Cherry Hill, NJ	Keystone TAB Consulting, LLC , 610-353-6979, Media, PA
AerDux, Inc. , 856-933-2400, Bellmawr, NJ	Lor-Mar Mechanical Services, Inc. , 856-662-5151, Pennsauken, NJ
Air Concepts, Inc. , 215-788-2880, Bristol, PA	Luthe Sheet Metal, Inc. , 856-910-7000, Cherry Hill, NJ
Air Systems, Inc. , 856-234-3336, Mt. Laurel, NJ	Modern Controls, Inc. , 302-325-6800, New Castle, DE
Baltronix, Inc. , 215-752-2750, Langhorne, PA	National Balancing Co., Inc. , 856-667-5100, Cherry Hill, NJ
Bonland Industries , 267-720-9000, Bensalem, PA	Optimum Performance Balancing, LLC , 610-568-8751, Birdsboro, PA
Camden Mechanical , 856-676-0500, Camden, NJ	Precision Air Design, LLC , 484-461-7500, Clifton Heights, PA
Dynamic Balancing Co. , 610-337-2757, King of Prussia, PA	Prime Sheet Metal, Inc. , 215-672-9191, Warminster, PA
Eastern Air Balance Corp. , 717-492-1846, Manheim, PA	Restaurant Ventilation Design, Inc. , 856-848-7411, Wenonah, NJ
Edward J. DeSeta Co., Inc. , 302-691-2040, Wilmington, DE	SSM Industries, Inc. , 856-345-2525, West Deptford, NJ
Environmental Construction Svcs. , 215-904-5097, Philadelphia, PA	Tab Systems, Inc. , 856-809-0395, West Berlin, NJ
Ernest D. Menold, Inc. , 610-521-4700, Lester, PA	Thermodesign Corporation , 215-945-8897, Levittown, PA
Fisher Balancing Company , 856-740-9134, Williamstown, NJ	Thomas Company, Inc. , 856-432-6373, Brooklawn, NJ
G.B.I. Inc. T/A Thermal Piping , 609-724-0006, Wrightstown, NJ	Total Comfort Solutions , 215-671-8375, Philadelphia, PA
Hays Sheet Metal, Inc. , 856-662-7722, Pennsauken, NJ	W. F. Smith, Inc. , 215-624-1313, Philadelphia, PA
Hunter Mechanical, Inc. , 610-344-9777, West Chester, PA	Wm. J. Donovan Co., Inc. , 215-225-3677, Philadelphia, PA

SMCA STAFF

<u>Executive Director/CEO</u>	Peter Jenkins, Esq. - pjenkins@smca.org
<u>Safety Professional/Program Director</u>	Gregory Wharton - gwharton@smca.org
<u>Membership Services</u>	Trish Casey - tcasey@smca.org
<u>Bookkeeper/Office Manager</u>	Russell Smith - rsmith@smca.org
<u>Receptionist/Secretary</u>	Rebecca Pearson - rpearson@smca.org



From the Exec's Desk

Happy Spring Everyone,

After a cold, snowy winter we find ourselves a year into the COVID-19 pandemic but hopeful that we will soon leave it behind us thanks to warm weather, fresh air, and the widespread distribution of vaccines. Here at SMCA we're ready for "back to normal", with plans for a full slate of our traditional events including our Legislative Dinner on the Moshulu in Philadelphia and our Sporting Clay Shoot at Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays this spring. Many COVID-19 restrictions in our area have been and are expected to loosen in the coming weeks and months, so we at SMCA hope to see you all soon, often, and in person.

With area schools reopening, fans being permitted back into area sports venues, and moviegoers able to see their favorite flicks on the big screen again it sounds like we aren't the only ones! These reopening plans could mean big things for SMCA's contractors as there is likely to be a new, sharper focus on HVAC systems and clean air in our area's buildings. With the best training, highest industry standards, and top talent, SMCA's contractors are ready for a busy spring 2021!



President's Column

Writing this column, I see the winter's snow melting and hear the first returning birds chirping. Spring is making its entrance after a cold, long winter for many of us. Winter is traditionally a slow period for many of our businesses, but the warmer weather coming in should mean a busy season for contractors. COVID cases in the area are on the decline, vaccines are being distributed, and many of the strict safety guidelines are starting to be rolled back. We might even get to see a Phillies game in person this season!

You will find a detailed article in this quarter's issue, but I am happy to announce that SMCA has partnered with Lincoln Financial Group to offer a Multi-Employer Aggregation Program for our member firms. In addition to our Local 19 sheet metal workers and other unionized employees, our companies have clerical and administrative staff that are not included in a collective bargaining agreement. This program gives contractors the opportunity to provide a 401(k) option for those employees. I encourage everyone to look at this program and see if it's right for your company.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all in person at SMCA events and meetings again soon. Until then, be strong and stay safe.

Respectfully,
Dominic Bonitatis III
SMCA President

SMCA within SMACNA

Ernie J. Menold of Ernest D. Menold, Inc. was appointed by SMACNA President Angie Simon to the Director Nominating



Committee. As an appointee to the committee, Mr. Menold will serve with the members elected at the SMACNA Annual Business Meeting in December 2020 to identify and nominate representatives to the SMACNA Board of Directors.

SMCA Executive Director Peter Jenkins was selected as a member of the SMACNA Chapter Executives Institute Board for 2021-2022. The CEI Board helps identify guest speakers and set the agenda for the annual Chapter Executives Institute held in January at the site of the SMACNA Annual Convention.

JATC Update

The Philadelphia JATC continued to stay busy as the year 2021 got underway. Despite the combined lull of work caused by winter weather and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the JATC continued interviewing applicants for the program in an ongoing effort to bring the best and brightest individuals into the Philadelphia area's union sheet metal industry. An impressive group of men and women from all walks of life spoke with representatives of SMCA, Local 19, and the Training Center to share their qualifications and interest in pursuing careers in sheet metal. The JATC conducts interview sessions throughout the year in order to identify the very best candidates for sheet metal apprenticeships and ensure that the needs of SMCA contractors and their customers are met for years to come.

Current apprentices were challenged by the Mid-Atlantic Virtual Apprentice Contests over the winter. The contest was a set of online tests based on each year of the apprenticeship. Participants came from all over the Mid-Atlantic area: Local 12, Local 19 Philadelphia, Local 19 Central Pennsylvania, Local 22, Local 25, Local 27, Local 44, and Local 100 were all well represented by their apprentices. Among the First Place Winners was 2nd year apprentice Greg Walsh of Wm. J. Donovan Co. Congratulations to Greg and all the contestants for showing their (sheet) mettle in the contest!

In this issue —

- ★ [SMACNA Appointees](#)
- ★ [Residential Report](#)
- ★ [Welcome New Industry Fund Trustees](#)
- ★ [Legislative Update](#)

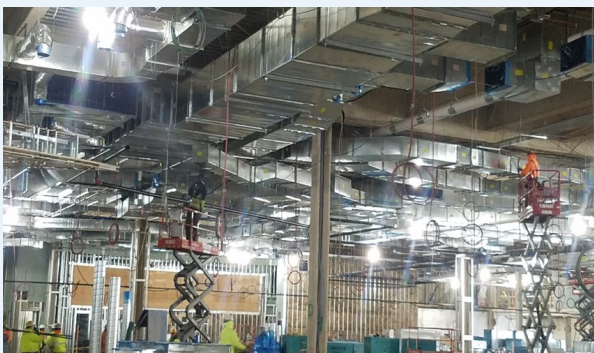
AerDux, Inc. Completes New Casino & Hotel in Time for Opening

Philadelphia's new Live Casino, Hotel and Event Center accomplished their goal to open the 510,000 square foot building to the public on February 11th due to contractors such as our own AerDux, Inc. AerDux, Inc. completed all duct installation at the new casino located on Packer Ave near Philadelphia's sports complex. The SMCA firm from Bellmawr, New Jersey completed the project in a 12-month period where they fabricated and installed over one-million pounds of ductwork.

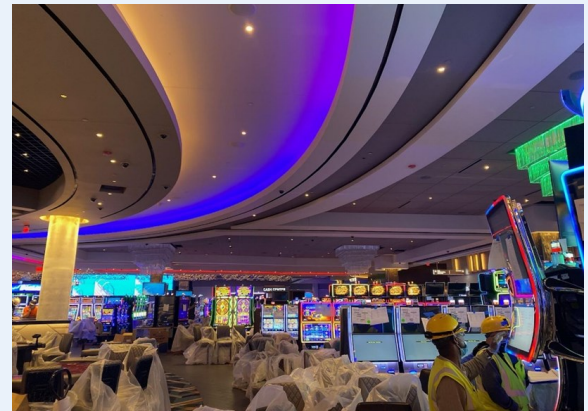
The 2020 SMACNA Safety Excellence Award Recipient was faced with not just COVID-19 protocols on a heavily safety conscious job site spearheaded by their contracted firm Gilbane Building Company, but also unimaginable deadlines where they were still able to fabricate an average of 100,000 pounds a month from September 2019 through February 2020; and reached a high of 240,000 pounds in December 2020. When it was all said and done, the 47 sheet metal workers from AerDux, Inc. can sit back and enjoy the sounds of the slot machines and the flat screen tv's projecting the latest games and realize the major role they played in creating a masterpiece in South Philadelphia.



Main Entrance to Live Casino & Hotel



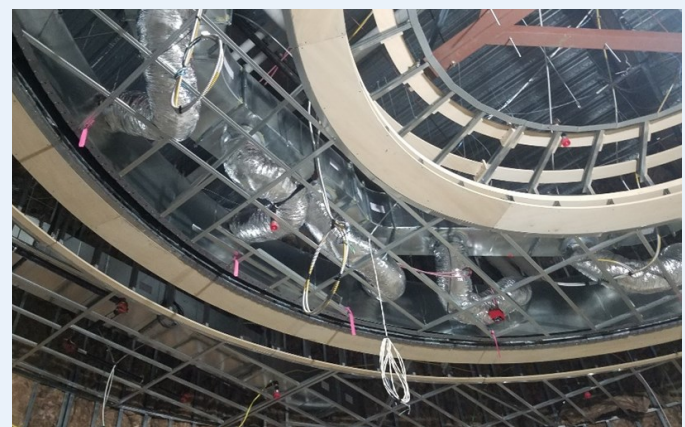
Installed rectangular duct and soon to be installed circular duct on main casino floor.



Main casino floor



View from the corner of Packer Ave of the hotel with accommodations of more than 200 luxurious rooms and 30 suites.



Duct installation

SMCA Announces Partnership with Lincoln Financial Group

As part of SMCA's ongoing mission to enhance our members' businesses, markets, and profitability, we are proud to offer an extensive array of benefits and discounted programs designed exclusively for SMCA member firms. The SMCA 401(k) Plan Program is a solution that may help our members reduce their fiduciary and administrative responsibilities while offering an effective and competitive 401(k) plan benefit for their non-union employees. The MEAP program is for all members whether they have a 401(k) plan or are looking to start one up.



New for this year, SMCA has partnered with Lincoln Financial Group to sponsor a Multiple Employer Aggregation Program (MEAP) for our members. A MEAP is a qualified retirement plan sponsored by the association on behalf of its member firms. The MEAP is designed to gather the plan's important administrative, recordkeeping, and fiduciary services to be overseen by a third party, which allows participants to outsource many responsibilities that come with running a retirement plan and often helps to reduce costs.

A MEAP is designed to free up time and preserve flexibility so that participants can focus on running their business. Plans are tailored to individual businesses and their employees, letting SMCA members customize a plan for their company with the help of a dedicated account manager.

Why consider joining the SMCA-sponsored MEAP?

It's easy: Contractors want to focus on their business, not become 401(k) experts. The MEAP can become your business' 401(k) department, performing most of the tasks for your plan, including handling your regular contribution files.

It protects your business: Contractors don't want to risk being hit with fines or penalties. By joining a MEAP, employers can avoid many of the compliance concerns that come with offering their own plan. While their role as plan fiduciary still exists, many specific tasks transition to the MEAP. The employer's ongoing role is to oversee the various parties dedicated to the plan to ensure it operates as expected.

It's cost competitive: Contractors don't want to overpay for anything. The MEAP delivers more value and services – potentially at similar or less cost than what your business is already paying. And as plans grow, they're reviewed regularly for price reductions.

Lincoln, our program's recordkeeper, has been active in the retirement plan services (RPS) business for more than 60 years and is a strong company with extensive experience and financial strength. Lincoln has been an industry

[Continued on Page 4](#)

2020 SMCA Safety Awards

In January, SMCA gave out the annual John Connolly Safety Awards. While all SMCA members work daily to ensure that every employee is safe on the jobsite and in the shop, construction can be a dangerous business. SMCA's Safety Program helps member firms use best practices to minimize any risk of injury to employees and comply with all legal requirements and safety guidelines. Although this is traditionally an in-person event, this year's awards were announced during a Zoom meeting to keep participants safe from COVID-19 exposure. After the winners were announced, attendees participated in a safety challenge game on Kahoot to test their OSHA and other safety knowledge.



The first awards announced were for companies that reported zero reportable accidents during 2020. The winners were:

Accu-Flow Balancing Co., LLC., Air Concepts, Inc., Air Systems, Inc., Baltronix, Inc., Dynamic Balancing Co., Inc., Eastern Air Balance Corporation, Environmental Construction Services, Inc., Fisher Balancing Company, Hunter Mechanical, Inc., Luthe Sheet Metal, Inc., Optimum Performance Balancing, LLC, Restaurant Ventilation Design, Inc. and Total Comfort Solutions.

The Lowest Experience Modification Rate ("EMR") Awards went to:

Restaurant Ventilation Design, Inc – Under 50,000 hours

Bonland Industries – Over 50,000 to 100,000 hours

SSM Industries, Inc. – Over 100,000 hours

An Experience Modification Rate (EMR) is a number that insurance companies use to represent a business' prior workers' compensation claims and potential for future injuries.

Congratulations to all the winners!

Lincoln Financial

Continued from Page 3

leader in recordkeeping group retirement programs to more than 1.4 million plan participants and 22,000 plan sponsors. With over \$54 billion in retirement plan assets, Lincoln is among the largest retirement plan providers.

How it all fits together

YOUR 401(K) PLAN	
401(k) Program Oversight	<p>SMCA of Philadelphia & Vicinity</p> <p>The goal – provide our members with a comprehensive 401(k) program that helps them outsource as much of their ongoing fiduciary work, responsibilities, and liabilities as possible.</p>
Advisory Services	<p>Securities America</p> <p>Serves as the Program’s financial advisor team to support you and your employees.</p>
Recordkeeper/Provider	<p>Lincoln Retirement Plan Services</p> <p>Provides the plan recordkeeping, investment access, statements, website, and participant call centers.</p>
Administration/TPA	<p>Stalker & Associates, Inc.</p> <p>Provides plan design and ongoing administration and compliance services for each member firm.</p>
3(21) Investment Fiduciary Services	<p>Securities America</p> <p>Accepts the plan level instrument 3(21) fiduciary responsibility for selection, monitoring, maintenance, and replacement of the program’s investment options. Morningstar assumes a participant level 3(38) role for participant accounts being managed in the YourPath portfolios.</p>
3(16) Administrative Fiduciary Services	<p>National Benefit Services (NBS)</p> <p>Takes on most of the plan’s day to day administrative fiduciary work and responsibilities such as approving loans, distributions, signing and filing 5500s, etc.</p>
Audit Services (optional)	<p>PriceKubecka, PLLC</p> <p>Optional service that can potentially reduce the cost of the annual audit for plans requiring an audit.</p>

In the coming weeks SMCA will be working closely with Lincoln Financial Group and Ken Cappelli and his team from Securities America Financial Group to reach out to our members and see if this program is a fit for their companies. To review your options today, schedule a 15-minute call with Ken Cappelli at 856-630-6500.

Schedule of Events

SMCA Legislative Dinner
 April 22, 2021
 Moshulu Restaurant (*outside*)



SMCA Sporting Clay Outing
 May 24, 2021
 Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays



SMCA Annual Meeting
 June 3, 2021
 The Water Works



SMCA Golf Outing
 September 13, 2021
 Medford Village Country Club



SMCA Engineers Night
 October 7, 2021
 Sheraton Phila Downtown



SMCA Holiday Reception
 November 19, 2021
 Penn Museum



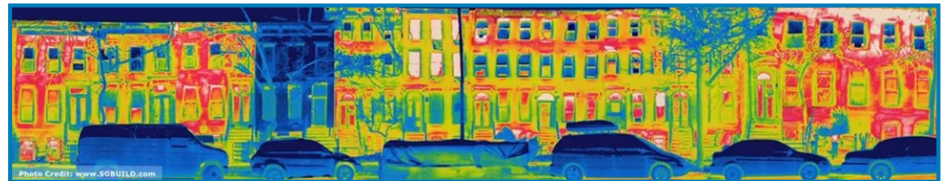
Residential Report

Today's sharper focus on climate change has made energy efficiency and sustainable construction two of the highest priorities for home builders and buyers in the residential market. SMCA contractors are seeing more requests for energy efficient construction in residential projects in the Philadelphia area. The guidelines described here are the most commonly used in the area for this type of construction, and our member firms have given them a "green" light!

Energy Star certified homes and apartments are designed and built to be significantly more energy efficient than "to code" buildings while reducing homeowner utility bills and providing increased comfort, quality, and durability. Energy Star certified buildings have to meet strict energy performance standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency, demonstrating that they perform better than at least 75% of similar buildings nationwide.

Passive House construction is a "green building" trend with the goal of cutting carbon emissions and energy bills. This is achieved through specific construction practices that seal a building from outside temperatures while maintaining stable inside temperatures and high air quality. Design is the most important stage in the Passive House construction process because every element must work with the others to provide the temperature-control benefit intended. Passive House buildings need to be air-tight, have continuous insulation, triple-paned windows, and of course a great HVAC system to control air quality. The design also needs to eliminate a phenomenon known as thermal bridging, which occurs when the temperature of one material transfers to another through physical touch – like a room feeling cold in winter because the steel beam supporting the floor is touching the freezing brick on the façade. Passive House design is becoming increasingly prevalent in the Philadelphia market as builders and consumers see (and feel) the benefits of stable inside temperatures year-round.

Enterprise Green Communities, a national green building program focused on green affordable housing construction, have become more prevalent. Currently, 27 states and Washington DC require that affordable housing developments receiving



public utility funds comply with Green Communities criteria. Green communities are gaining popularity in the Philadelphia area, including townhomes at Temple University and Philadelphia Housing Authority projects throughout the city. The program features energy efficiency and material standards designed to use regionally sourced, sustainable construction materials.

SMCA Welcomes New Industry Fund Trustees

SMCA is excited to announce two new additions to our Industry Fund Board of Trustees. Joining us this year are Matt Mitchell and Mark Georgette, Jr.

Mr. Mitchell steps onto the Board from Bonland Industries Inc. in Bensalem, PA where he has taken over for the recently retired John Hoffmann both at Bonland Industries and on SMCA's Industry Fund Trustees.

Mr. Georgette is also new to the Board, coming to us from TAB Systems, Inc. in West Berlin, NJ where he has recently taken charge following his father's well-earned retirement from the company. Mr. Georgette replaces Thomas Szymczak Sr. of SSM Industries, who recently stepped down from the Industry Fund Trustees.

SMCA thanks both Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Szymczak for their service to the Industry Fund and we invite you to join us in welcoming Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Georgette. Congratulations all!

Legislative Update Spring 2021

Federal

With the transition to the Joe Biden administration and 117th Congress complete, another round of COVID-19 relief is in the works. In late February, the House approved the Biden administration's \$1.9 trillion relief package. As of this writing, the bill is headed to the Senate. With a 50-50 split between Republicans and Democrats in that chamber, it is likely that the Democratic caucus will need support from all 50 of its members and a tie-breaking vote from Vice President Kamala Harris in order to use the budget reconciliation process to get the bill passed. Strikingly similar to President Biden's "American Rescue" proposal, the bill includes additional funding for construction and HVAC interests.



- **PPE/Vaccine Production:** Using the Defense Production Act, the bill allocates \$10 billion for PPE and vaccine production.
- **School Construction Funding:** \$54.3 billion is allocated for K-12 schools, including repairs to ventilation systems to combat the spread of COVID-19.
- **SBA Funding:** The bill provides direct relief to small businesses, including a \$25 billion SBA grant program and additional funding to programs for businesses forced to close during the pandemic.

(Limited) Pension Reform on The Way?



As part of the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package being developed, the House Ways and Means Committee has included provisions for

plans suffering pandemic-related losses. Primarily intended to rescue failing plans, the bill would provide money to the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC) and those failing plans would apply for funds needed to ensure full benefits for a period of 30 years. The proposed "rescue" would require plans to restore any previous benefit cuts and prohibit a request for MPRA relief later. PBGC premium increases would go up by approximately \$10 in 2030 and unemployment extensions

would be reduced by one month in order to help pay for the plan.

While pension relief is not expected to include Composite Plans (long advocated for by SMACNA), the proposal offers relief for pension plans similar to that passed in response to the 2008 Great Recession. If passed in its current form, plans suffering pandemic-related losses will be able to:

- Use a zone freeze to avoid a downgrade in status as endangered, critical, or critical and declining.
- Stretch funding improvement periods by 5 years.
- Extend amortization to 30 years for asset and other losses.

RIP IRAP, Hello National Apprenticeship Act

In an Executive Order issued on February 17, President Biden ended the Trump administration's Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Program (IRAP). IRAP, which took effect in 2017 but was never implemented, would have created industry-led apprenticeship programs and reduced the federal government's role in funding and monitoring apprenticeships. From the outset IRAP was criticized by the Building Trades, SMACNA, and SMCA as preventing the government to properly oversee programs it funds for quality control and effectiveness.

In addition to eliminating IRAP, the Biden administration has reinstated a National Advisory Committee on Apprenticeships, tasked with guiding the Department of Labor. President Biden has also endorsed the National Apprenticeship Act of 2021. Passed with a bipartisan vote of 247-173 in the House, the bill would expand registered apprenticeship, youth apprenticeship, and pre-apprenticeship programs. If signed into law, the bill is expected to create nearly 1 million new apprenticeship positions nationwide by investing nearly \$3.5 billion over five years.

Pennsylvania



State Republicans Take Aim at Prevailing Wage

A series of bills seeking to exempt various projects from the Prevailing Wage Act were introduced early in the 2021 legislative session. The package, introduced by Representative Barbara Gleim (R- Cumberland), either raises the threshold or exempts certain public works projects. Senator

[Continued on Page 8](#)

The COVID-19 Vaccine is Here: Now What?

In December 2020, the first vaccine against COVID-19 was approved for emergency use by the FDA. Since then, the number of available vaccines has continued to increase, and distribution has begun throughout the United States. Healthcare workers and residents of long-term care facilities, along with individuals with certain pre-existing medical conditions, have been prioritized as the first groups to receive the vaccine. But people working in essential industries – including construction – are expected to be next in line.

Construction was designated an essential industry early in the pandemic, so SMCA contractors and their workforce have continued operating safely to meet the needs of their customers and community. Even so, most of us are eager for a return to the pre-COVID work environment of in-person, mask-free meetings, and handshakes all around. Does the vaccine get us there? If so, how? The answer is more complicated than you might think as there are medical and legal considerations for employers to be aware of.



Current medical guidance indicates that you should continue with social distancing, wearing a mask in public, and frequently washing your hands even after being vaccinated (at least for now). Employers should continue the practices that have kept the industry rolling through the pandemic until given new direction from government and health officials.

Employers should also be aware of the impact that Equal Employment Opportunity laws have on any potential vaccine mandates. The EEOC has stated that employers can require employees to get vaccinated once a vaccine(s) receives full FDA authorization. Currently the vaccines are being circulated via Emergency Use Authorization, which is new territory for the employment and labor law world. Current EEOC guidance indicates that mandating the vaccine in the workplace is likely permissible, but there are some issues to consider:

- Accommodations for employees with medical disabilities or sincere religious beliefs that prevent them from being vaccinated.
- Potential Worker's Compensation claims filed by employees suffering illness or injury from vaccination.
- Liability when vaccinations are mandated for specific projects or by customers.

Some employers are considering providing vaccinations in the workplace. For them, job-related prescreening questions should be asked to ensure that employees have no medical conditions that could make the vaccine harmful. Employees refusing to answer those questions should be prohibited from receiving the vaccine. Another option to employers is employee vaccination from an outside provider, in which case they should obtain appropriate proof of vaccination from the third party.

Inevitably, some employees will refuse the vaccine. In those instances, employers wishing to take disciplinary action will have to prove that the employee poses a threat to the safety of themselves and others in the workplace by refusing to be vaccinated. At-will employees can always seek employment elsewhere, by choice or because of termination. In the collectively bargained environment however, labor and management should work together to establish vaccination policy and procedure.

SMCA encourages its members to do what they feel is best for themselves, their families, and their companies. Whether or not an employer chooses to require its employees to be vaccinated, communicating early and often with your workforce is an important first step. Having answers to your employees' questions is an important tool in the SMCA contractor's toolbox, especially when it comes to safely working your way through – and out of – a global pandemic.

**Have a story idea or a project you are proud of,
contact SMCA at 610-828-4055 or email it to info@smca.org.**

Architectural

Thomas Company Pushes the (Building) Envelope for GSK

Thomas Company, Inc. recently a fast-tracked a building envelope project at GlaxoSmithKline’s (GSK) facility in Upper Merion, PA as part of a \$120 million investment to support and accelerate the delivery of medicines and vaccines.



Building envelopes are structural barriers between the interior and exterior of a building. They maintain climate control by helping buildings maintain the appropriate temperature while protecting them from light, sound, and moisture. Materials commonly used in building envelopes include metal, brick, stone, concrete, and glass.

The team at Thomas Company, led by Project Manager Robert Hartman and Foreperson Val Schmidt used high-performance insulated metal panels, and consolidated six wall components to create a distinct profile matching the building design. This let the team conceal clips, fasteners, and sealants while pressure-equalizing joints and integrating with other systems in the building.

Established in 1920 in Atlantic City, Thomas Company is one of SMCA’s oldest member firms. Now with a fourth generation of family members working for the business, the future looks bright for Thomas Company!



Legislative

Continued from Page 6

Kristin Phillips-Hill (R- York) also introduced Senate Bill 209 which would permit school districts to opt out of paying prevailing wages for projects. These bills are expected to be referred to the chambers’ Labor and Industry Committees during the spring. SMCA and SMACNA of Pennsylvania actively oppose these bills and encourage our members to contact their representatives.

New Jersey

A New Plant Grows in the Garden State as N.J. Officially Legalizes Marijuana

In February, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed three bills that combine to legalize marijuana in the state. The laws allow the possession and use of marijuana by anyone over 21 years old within the state, allowing them to possess up to 6 ounces of weed without facing a penalty. They also permit the



sale and purchase of legal weed at state-licensed dispensaries, though it is not yet clear when recreational sales will begin. The issue of potential marijuana use in the workplace remains ahead however, as the state must first establish regulations for the industry and ramp up the Cannabis Regulatory Commission.





Spotlight:



UEP Northeast

As part of our ongoing mission to serve and inform the union sheet metal industry, SMCA stays in close contact with vendors and distributors who supply our contractors. These relationships led to the formation of the Supplier Liaison Council, which connects these industry representatives with contractors and fosters professional relationships. Each issue, we will take a closer look at one of these Supplier Council representatives.

What do you want SMCA Contractors, the engineering community and many other contacts to know about your company?

UEP Northeast is a manufacturer's rep firm and is the regions most comprehensive venting and mechanical draft provider. Our flagship manufacturer, Schebler, offers Union Made & UL listed venting for Boilers, Water Heaters, Generators, Fire Pumps, Kitchen Grease Duct, and specialty engineered stacks. We serve the Eastern PA, Southern NJ, Delaware markets and our primary customers are sheet metal and mechanical contractors. UEP Northeast also represents Enervex, the premier manufacturer of mechanical draft solutions, allowing for a venting answer for even the most challenging venting applications.

What is your company's latest resource now available or available soon?

UEP Northeast and Schebler now offer an INDUSTRY FIRST leak-free guarantee for their UL1738 listed condensing boiler exhaust system. Leaking condensate has been an issue in the industry since condensing boilers hit the market. Schebler's unique design guarantees a leak free system. When the Schebler eVENT-Dual Seal product is installed per their I&O manual and a leak is found, Schebler will send their labor to fix any leak. This offers a solution to the contractor and saving on any potential return visits and additional labor. Schebler's product comes with a factory installed rubber gasket on the half inch flange connection. Not only does this gasket reduce installation time, it also guarantees a proper seal vs field applied sealant.

Is your company involved in supplying goods for an interesting project?

UEP Northeast is working with SMCA member (Aerdux) at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia project in King of Prussia. The project features Enervex exhaust fan systems for both the hydronic and steam boilers, which were also furnished by UEP Northeast's sales division. In addition, we supplied multiple generator exhaust systems and hundreds of feet of UL listed, Zero Clearance kitchen grease duct. UEP Northeast assisted the mechanical engineer (Ballinger) in sizing the boiler systems to ensure proper operation and peak boiler efficiency.

Who are the main contacts that you would want listed if you are selected for this feature?

Patrick Egan – Venting Sales Engineer – patrick@uepnortheast.com Cell 410-693-8787, Direct 267-462-5207, Office 610-380-6127
Jeff Smollon – President – jeff@uepnortheast.com Cell 410-570-1528, Direct 267-462-4203, Office 610-380-6127

UEP Northeast

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610-380-6127

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