



Local Politicians meet with Construction Leaders

On February 24, 2012, the Miami Valley Alliance of Construction Professionals (MVACP) hosted a roundtable discussion with local, state, and federal officials to discuss creating jobs and expediting Dayton's recovery through economic development and utilization of the region's skilled labor force and local businesses. The meeting was held at the Associated General Contractors office.

The agenda included discussion of projects at WPAFB; City of Dayton and Miami Valley local economic forecast; local projects for local labor; and construction reform. The program was opened by Dan Neal,

Chairman for the MVACP and Executive Director of the Western Ohio Chapter of the



The MVACP hosts a roundtable discussion with local politicians.

National Electrical Contractors Assoc. (NECA).

Neal cited examples of how MVACP Contractors have economically impacted the Miami Valley:

- Annually the building trades invest more than \$63 million for

pensions, health care, and training.

- Statewide, union contractors annually invest over: \$50 million for Apprenticeship Training; \$500 million for their employees Health Care; and \$500 million for their employees pensions and

retirement.

"It's fair to say that these Contractors have touched almost all visible construction projects in the area," Neal noted. He also reinforced that such projects demand a highly skilled

workforce and that MVACP Contractors, through apprenticeship programs, contribute heavily to that end.

To further stress the importance of skills training, a video was shown featuring Mike Rowe of "Dirty Jobs." In testifying before a Senate committee, Rowe noted that skilled tradesmen were on the decline across the country. He advocated the creation of a nationwide campaign to promote the training of such labor through apprenticeship programs.

Moderator Bill Woodward, Ironworkers #290 Business Manager, began the roundtable session with a discussion about WPAFB.

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Congressman Turner visits IBEW Local 82

The Dayton Building Trades and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, (IBEW) Local 82 recently hosted a meeting with Congressman Mike Turner. Discussion included legislative issues that will affect future jobs in the Dayton area, specifically at Wright Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB).

Congressman Turner shared his background with the audience – his father retired from General Motors in Dayton and his mother was a school teacher in Huber Heights. So he has an understanding of the strength of union workers. He views

the members of the building trades as true professionals, noting that "as the most skilled workforce, they know more about safety and how to get things done."

"I have served on the House Armed Services Committee since my first election to Congress in November of 2002. My seniority on that committee places me in a unique

position to advocate for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, one of the largest and most diverse Air Force bases in the world," says Congressman Turner. Over \$250 million has been invested

in construction projects at WPAFB in the last five years and Congressman Turner will continue to ensure its viability. These projects created 27,000 jobs on the base and another 27,000 outside with trickle down jobs to local companies.

Congressman Turner knows that every state wants a piece of the federal highway bill, and he will do his best to bring as much as he can to Ohio.

IBEW Local 82 Business Manager Nick Comstock guided Congressman Turner on a tour of the Dayton Electrical Training Center, which showcases the state-of-the-art technology studied by IBEW apprentices.



(from left) Dayton Building Trades Director Charles Morton, Congressman Turner, Business Manager IBEW Local 82 Nick Comstock, and Valerie Lemme, Assistant to Turner.

Roundtable *cont'd*

There is no doubt that WPAFB is a cornerstone to the economic foundation for the Miami Valley. Dennis Quebe, CEO of Chapel Romanoff Technologies, indicated that over \$400 million in contracts at the base went to MVACP Contractors because of their skill sets. Chapel alone has put 250 electricians to work over the last 5 years with an average annual payroll of \$26 million.

According to Congressman Turner's office, over \$400 million is coming to WPAFB which will create an additional 1200 jobs. WPAFB is instrumental in the development of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) that also have commercial applications, which will also bring more jobs to the area. According to Senator Chris Widener, Ohio is one of only six states that is developing an airspace

strategy to ensure availability for testing as investment in UAVs grows.

On the local front, City of Dayton Mayor Leitzell sees more interest in businesses coming back downtown. County Commissioner Judy Dodge indicated that 40% of the income for the county comes from sales taxes, and that was up 12% last month, so people are buying again. Quality of life is also of utmost importance to attract new business to Dayton. According to State Representative Jim Butler, a CNBC study in 2010 Ohio ranked 34th for overall livability, but last year came in at 23. Senator Widener indicated that for commercial jobs to come to Dayton or Ohio, it is critical for investors to know that our labor force is trained, and he commends the MVACP for the

training they provide through their apprenticeship programs. A statewide website is now available to search for over



Dennis Quebe, CEO, Chapel-Romanoff Technologies (right) discusses work at WPAFB. Pictured on left is Assistant to Congressman Turner, Valerie Lemme.

90,000 jobs at www.ohiomeansjobs.com.

"Local projects for local labor" is a key objective for the survival of the building trades. Nick Comstock, Business Manager for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 82 noted that

they alone invest \$500,000 annually for training to ensure that their members are qualified to take on any project that comes to the Dayton area.

Mark Combs, President of Combs Interior Specialties and President of AGC West Central Ohio Board of Directors, wrapped-up the session with a moving epilogue. The biggest challenge faced by the union construction trades is being under bid by companies that don't provide health care, pensions or an apprenticeship program for their workers. "There is a cost associated with training the best and keeping the best," noted Mark. Politicians need to recognize that the members of the building trades are an economic force in the state and should be recognized as such.

For more information about the MVACP, please visit www.mvacp.org.

When OSHA comes calling

The Miami Valley Foreman's Club (MVFC) sponsored a seminar on January 18, 2012, "When OSHA Comes Calling... What every Foreman should know when OSHA visits your jobsite." The seminar was led by Justin Hayes, Safety Consultant and Apprenticeship Coordinator for Roofers Local 75. Over 50 members of various building trades attended.

The first and most important item to remember...when an inspector shows up on your jobsite, don't leave! Notify your Foreman, Supervisor or Project Manager immediately if they are on site. **Why would an OSHA inspector visit your jobsite?**



Justin Hayes

There are several reasons for an inspection.

- Imminent Danger. If an inspector is driving by your jobsite and notices a dangerous situation, they will stop to discuss the possible safety hazard.
- Catastrophes and Fatal Accidents. Any work related

hospitalization of three or more employees from a particular company must be reported to

OSHA within eight hours.

- Employee complaints. If an employee notifies OSHA of an unsafe working

condition, an inspector will investigate the situation.

- Programmed inspections. Inspections can be scheduled, and often are in high hazard industries, like roofing.
- Follow up inspections. If a contractor has been in violation of a safety code, a follow up inspection will take

place to ensure that the situation has been corrected.

The majority of accidents fall under: Scaffolding; Fall Protection; Hazard Communication; and Ladders. And most of these happen in the construction trades. "Safety is everyone's responsibility," says Justin. "Safety awareness may save your life or the life of one of your coworkers and OSHA violation penalties are expensive." Violations considered "other than serious" are fined up to \$7,000 each. And the cost increases for more serious accidents. This cost is exponential when someone is injured. In addition to fines, there are medical costs, lost time wages, impact on the family, impact on the job schedule and your co-workers. The bottom line...think safety!



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Your comments, suggestions and questions are welcome! Contact the Western Ohio Chapter - NECA.

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Teambuilding *Awards*

The Builders Exchange of Dayton (DBX) and The Subcontractors Association of Western Ohio sponsored the Ninth Annual Team Building Night on January 26. This is an opportunity to showcase the best in the industry. The evening included table top displays for networking opportunities and awards were presented, including: BX Craftsmanship Awards, Project Manager Award, and Architectural and Engineering Awards, as well as the presentation of the Subcontractors Association's Outstanding Leadership Awards.

A new category was added this year, "Outstanding Construction Executive," which was awarded to Gregory

(Buck) Ross, President of Chapel Electric, LLC and COO of Quebe Holdings, Inc. He is responsible for three business units (Chapel, Romanoff and CRT Technologies). Buck has 32 years in the industry; 30 of



President of Chapel Electric Buck Ross (left), CEO of CRT Dennis Quebe, and Vice President of Chapel Electric Bob Shaffer.

which have been with Chapel Electric.

Buck serves on the Western Ohio Chapter NECA board and various industry committees. His community and civic involvement includes serving on the Leadership

Council for the local United Way. In addition, Buck and his wife Tammy have been foster parents for over 20 years, working closely with Children Services of Dayton, Ohio.

Mr. Ross epitomizes the sheer definition of this award. Through his integrity, outstanding leadership, adaptability, tenacity, extraordinary management capabilities and personal creativity he has guided Chapel Electric on a road of corporate success and financial stability.

The "Craftsmanship Award – Electrician" was presented to Heath (Billy) Mitchell of Sidney Electric Company. Billy completed his apprenticeship in 1999. He worked as a Journeyman Foreman for Justice Electric for several years before moving to Reliable Electrical Mechanical

Services in December of 2004. (Reliable was then absorbed by Sidney Electric in 2010).



Bill Mitchell (left) of Sidney Electric and Supervisor Phil Braaksma of Sidney Electric.

According to Billy's supervisor, Phil Braaksma, "Billy is a bit of a perfectionist...almost to a flaw. He has always been the type to take responsibility for the project and make sure things are done correctly." Billy is a natural leader and is well respected by his co-workers. He is married with two daughters and lives in Miami County. Congratulations!

Dayton Electrical Training Center

America will face a shortage of electricians in the near future, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Projections show that by 2014, the national need for electrical workers will rise to more than 734,000 – a figure 78,000 beyond the number currently employed in this field.

To meet this challenge, the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) are spreading the good news that apprentices in the electrical trades can look forward to a wide-open employment market, good pay, and ample

opportunities for advancement.

Locally, the most qualified electricians are trained at the Dayton Electrical Training Center, run by the Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC), a nonprofit organization that is jointly supported through a collective bargaining agreement with the Western Ohio Chapter NECA and IBEW Local 82.

The apprentice learns the skills of the trade through on-the-job training, working alongside an experienced Journeyman while attending related classes at the JATC. In addition, apprentices start earning a livable wage as soon as they begin their program and receive pay advancements

as they progress. Upon graduation, an apprentice has earned 45 credit hours towards an Associate's Degree in Technical Studies.

The Dayton JATC offers two career paths: Inside Wireman and Teledata Installer Technician.

IBEW Local 82 has also implemented a Construction Wireman/Construction Electrician (CW/CE) program, to enhance their labor pool. Upon acceptance, the CW/CE's are tested and placed according to their skills. They are also encouraged to apply to the apprenticeship program to further their skill set.

Recently, several new courses have been added to the curriculum. The Code of

Excellence training reinforces the goals of professionalism, excellent workmanship, and integrity on-the-job. Energy efficient retrofits and installations are an emerging market. To meet these needs, solar installation, wind turbine installation, and building automation (controls integrated for energy efficiency) are new courses in the apprenticeship program, and are offered to Journeyman as well. Continuing education is critical for Journeymen to keep up with changing technology so a variety of courses are available.

Ongoing training to acquire additional leadership and technical skills are also available to contractors.

For more information visit www.daytonohiojadc.org.



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www.wocneca.org



The Western Ohio Chapter - National Electrical Contractors Association Directory:

NECA Members

Aztec Electric, Inc.
 Chapel Electric Company
 Chapel-Romanoff Technologies
 ESI Electrical Contractors
 High Voltage Maintenance
 Kastle Electric Company
 Kastle Technologies
 Maxwell Lightning Protection
 Mutual Electric Company
 Sidney Electric Company
 Studebaker Electric
 Wagner Industrial Electric
 York Electric, Inc.

Affiliate Contractors

Automated Controls
 Cougar Electric, Inc.
 DeBra-Kuempel, Inc.
 Glenwood Electric
 Lake Erie Electric
 M.B.A. Electric, Inc.
 Power Services
 Productive Electric, Inc.
 Spurling Electric Co., Inc.
 Triad Electrical
 Wave Electrical Services
 Wilson Sign Company

Associate Members NECA

Battelle & Battelle
 Becker Electrical Supply
 Copp Systems Integrator
 FD Lawrence Electric Company
 Graybar Electric Co., Inc.
 Heapy Engineering LLC
 Riffle & Associates
 Square D / Schneider Electric
 Uptime Solutions

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Good Neighbor House

In 1994, the Seventh Day Adventist Church established the Good Neighbor House (GNH) to meet the needs of the underserved in the Dayton community. This non profit organization provides food pantry services, clothing, and household items, as well as a clinic providing medical, dental, and vision services. Last year, GNH purchased a 12,000 sq. ft. building on First Street in downtown Dayton to establish a full service, free healthcare facility for uninsured workers. GNH plans to completely remodel the existing building with 100% donated labor and materials.

To meet this goal, Rick Weiser of Chapel Electric and David Roark, Vice President of Service/Special Projects for Chapel Electric Co. LLC, have taken on the role of Project Managers and coordinate with all of the suppliers to donate the material for the project. IBEW Local 82 Journeyman John Mueller was tapped to be on-site lead electrician in this undertaking. Many volunteers from other trades and companies are participating as well. The project is expected to be completed in September.

Upcoming Event

Cookout for Boy Scouts at RiverScape

Annual fundraiser to send Boy Scouts to camp. June 8, 2012, 11:30am to 1:30pm. Sack lunches are \$7.00. Come and enjoy the afternoon at RiverScape!