

JUNE-JULY 2009

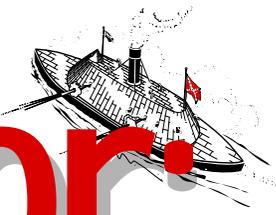
# monitor

3530 Mignin Drive • Warrenville, IL 60555 • 630/393-1313 • FAX 630/393-1398

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INDUSTRY ADVANCEMENT & PROMOTIONAL FUND

- [www.chicagopdcafcfa.org](http://www.chicagopdcafcfa.org) -

*Monitor vs. Merrimack  
March 9, 1862, Hampton Roads, Virginia*



A Word from  
**NORB  
SOLTYSIAK**  
President,  
FCA of Chicago

## DECLARING WAR ON CHEATING

No doubt about it, these are hard times for most of us. Hours are down, jobs are scarce, and every bid opening draws in more competition than we've seen in years.

Unfortunately, tough times don't always bring out the best in people. We're seeing that now with rogue Contractors from our own ranks choosing to cheat their men...cheat the Union...and even cheat their fellow Contractors. Such cheaters capitalize on our legitimate Contractors who follow the rules...thus gaining an unfair margin of price advantage in bidding.

Cheaters have always lurked in the dark corners of our industry and we all know the tricks they use to hook and crook their way through life, getting jobs they really don't deserve.

My point is, now that we're into leaner times, we really must lower the boom on cheaters. Whatever work remains available in the current slow market simply must be preserved for up-front, legitimate FCAC Contractor members and Signatories.

That said, your Board has stepped up our Job Complaint process, calling the Union's attention to questionable jobs where abuses are apparent and reported. In fact, we are right now developing a new Complaint Form so you can help us "Police the Industry." You will receive copies of this form later.

More...

## WELFARE FUND REPORT

Trustee Marty Tew reports for the Health & Welfare Fund for May, 2009 and the Fiscal Year to Date, that Ordinary Income of \$2,827,861.46 plus Investment Income of \$1,600,968.07 minus Expenses of \$3,347,148.44 yielded a Net Income of 1,081,681.09. The Fund Value as of 5/31/09 was \$83,632,066.95.

A new 5-year Death & Disability Benefit, costing one cent per hour, will be created to help bridge the gap until a contractor is pension-eligible at age 58.

## PENSION FUND REPORT

Trustee Rick Ascher reports for the Pension Fund for May, 2009 that Ordinary Income of \$2,780,522.92 plus Investment Income of \$12,921,936.56 minus Expenses of \$2,718,532.59 yielded a Net Income of \$12,983,926.89.

For the Fiscal Year to Date, Ordinary Income of \$5,581,560.51 plus Investment Income of \$22,176,321.47 minus Expenses of \$5,623,087.64 yielded a Net Income of \$22,134,794.34. The Fund Value as of 5/31/09 was \$437,467,626.74.



## 2009-2010 Meetings & Events

**FCAC Membership Meeting**  
*September 9, 2009*  
*Maggiano's Little Italy, Chicago*

**JATC STAR Awards Breakfast**  
*September 19, 2009*  
*Fountain Blue, Des Plaines*

**JATC/DFTC/Glaziers Graduation**  
*October 9, 2009*  
*Rosewood Restaurant, Rosemont*

**Finishing Industry Forum**  
*November 8-12, 2009*  
*Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas*

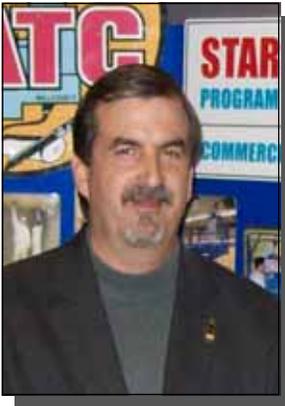
**PDCA Associates  
Christmas Luncheon**  
*December 4, 2009*  
*Finley's Grill, Lombard*

**FCAC Christmas Luncheon**  
*December 9, 2009*  
*Maggiano's Little Italy, Schaumburg*

**FCAC President's Night**  
*January 22, 2010*  
*Rosewood Restaurant, Rosemont*

**PDCA PACE Convention**  
*February 7-10, 2010*  
*Phoenix, Arizona*

**PDCA Associates Night**  
*March 17, 2010*  
*Rosewood Restaurant, Rosemont*



News From The  
**Apprentice  
School...**

*By ED BOGDAN, Apprentice Training Coordinator*

Financial Reports for May, 2009, indicate Ordinary Income of \$125,796.17 plus Investment Income of \$80,334.85 minus Expenses of \$182,688.34 yielding a Net Income of \$23,442.68. For the Fiscal Year to Date, Ordinary Income of \$633,995.40 plus Investment Income of 79,995.33 minus Expenses of \$737,892.04 yielded a Net Income of (\$23,901.31). The Fund Value as of 5/31/09 was \$4,281,762.60.

There are 39 Graduates, 136 Regular Apprentices, including 16 unemployed, for an unemployment rate of 23%; 17 are on Leave of Absence; we have a minority

rate of 44%, four Category II's, and one female enrolled.

The third annual STAR Awards Breakfast will be held 9/19/09 at the Fountain Blue in Des Plaines and the Graduation Ceremony/Dinner is scheduled for 10/9/09 at the Rosewood Restaurant. There is presently a new class starting up with six apprentices. Due to STAR Class attendance issues, the Apprentice School may institute a \$200 Deposit and/or a \$20 charge to students who have missed more than one class.

As always, call us (708/449-5282) to donate surplus materials! All donated materials can be written off, and they help our education program.

We can always use...

- 54" COMMERCIAL VINYL
- WALLPAPER & WALLCOVERINGS
- WHITE & OFF-WHITE PAINT
- TOOLS & EQUIPMENT
- FAUX FINISH PRODUCTS
- PORCELAIN BATHTUBS & SINKS
- DRYWALL BOARD
- DRYWALL COMPOUNDS
- DRYWALL TOOLS



***YOU ARE INVITED TO THE FCAC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, FEATURING***

***STEVE McMICHAEL***

***September 9, 2009***

***Maggiano's Little Italy***

***516 North Clark Street  Chicago, Illinois***

***5:30PM— COCKTAILS  6:30PM— DINNER  7:30PM— PROGRAM***

- If you detect serious bidding discrepancies when going after new work, let us know.
- If you hear that a competitor is paying workers for less hours than they work, let us know.
- If you hear about jobs run at night or over the weekend for day wages, let us know.
- If you run across a Union contractor running non-Union workers, let us know.
- If you find a municipality violating the prevailing wage law, let us know.
- If you see a double-breasted shop operating flagrantly, let us know.

When you get the form, fill it out and FAX it over. We will promptly forward all complaints

received to PDC14. The Union will investigate the allegations, take appropriate action, and report back to FCAC.

Through this entire process, however, your name and the identity of your company will remain confidential to protect your privacy.

At this writing, talks are being held between FCAC and PDC14 to improve the Job Complaint process and go after cheaters.

We are doing this in the best interests of both our Association and the Union, to preserve the industry. If good Contractors can't get work, then their Union employees can't get any hours. It's as simple as that.

If we root out the cheaters by working together on Policing

The Industry, however, then our legitimate FCAC Contractors will at least enjoy a level playing field and a fair shot at the work.

That's all we're asking for, really...just an honest chance to get the available work that's out there. It will still be hard enough, going head-to-head with all the other legitimate Contractors vying for the work, but at least you won't have to worry about the bandits stealing our work.

Let me know what you think, and don't forget to use the new Job Complaint Form when you get it. We really need your help on this one.

All the Best...

**Norb**