

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 2009

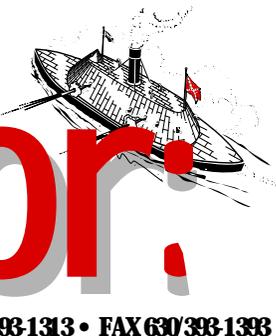
monitor

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- www.chicagopdcafcfa.org -

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



A Word from
NORB SOLTYSIAK
President,
FCA of Chicago

VOICES HEARD ON TRAINING

I hear these comments all the time from fellow contractors:

"When I first talk to an applicant, I ask about their particular job skills and always, always inquire about their safety training and their STAR program participation. If the job seeker has nothing going in those areas — has really made no effort whatsoever to continue his education and build a skill set — then I conclude that the person is a weak applicant. His or her lack of initiative will probably show in time on our jobs. He apparently has no real ambition to better himself or get the kinds of training that are required just to be allowed on many jobsites today."

Another voice:

"I need every working employee (apprentices and journeymen alike), to have current OSHA 10 and First Aid/CPR training in place. We can always use tradesmen who can hang 27" vinyl."

And another:

"In our shop, we seek fine decorating work in residential settings, but we still need, at a minimum, all the basic safety training, & lead awareness training in addition to abilities in the decorative arts. We need skilled workers who get themselves advanced skills training to do our woodgraining, marbleizing, and gold leaf work."

And, finally, one more:



WELFARE FUND REPORT

Trustee Marty Tew reports for the Health & Welfare Fund for September, 2009, that Ordinary Income of \$3,316,831.66 plus Investment Income of \$1,634,753.39 minus Expenses of \$3,221,543.55 yielded a Net Income of \$1,730,041.50.

For the Fiscal Year-to-Date, Ordinary Income of \$15,504,638.48 plus Investment Income of \$6,684,251.72 minus Expenses of \$16,939,259.48 yielded a Net Income of \$5,249,630.72. The Fund Value as of 9/30/09 was \$87,791,659.76.

PENSION FUND REPORT

Trustee Rick Ascher reports for the Pension Fund for September, 2009, that Ordinary Income of \$3,186,386.47 plus Investment Income of \$10,916,876.79 minus Expenses of \$2,758,988.90 yielded a Net Income of \$11,344,274.36.

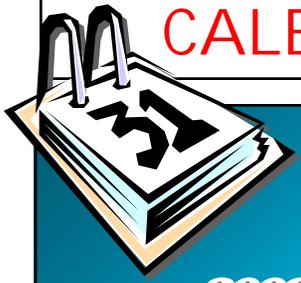
For the Fiscal Year-to-Date, Ordinary Income of \$17,992,839.51 plus Investment Income of \$57,392,370.29 minus Expenses of \$15,958,411.59 yielded a Net Income of \$59,426,798.21. The Fund Value as of 9/30/09 was \$474,754,590.41.



Bob Cusumano, of Coatings Consultants, Inc., will host a Commercial & Industrial Painting Estimating Seminar on December 10-11, 2009, in Rosemont, Illinois. Information on the Seminar is enclosed with this issue of the *Monitor*. Bob is author of the National PDCA "Cost & Estimating Guide" and the companion "Rates & Tables" publications.



CALENDAR



2009-2010 FCAC Meetings & Events

Finishing Industry Forum
November 15-19, 2009
Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas

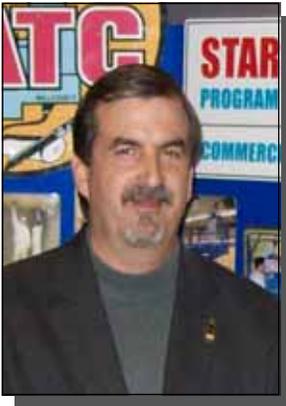
**PDCA Associates
Christmas Luncheon**
December 4, 2009
Finley's Grill, Lombard

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 11, 2010
Rosewood Restaurant, Rosemont



News From The Apprentice School...

By ED BOGDAN, Apprentice Training Coordinator

Financial reports for the JATC Committee for September, 2009, indicate that Ordinary Income of \$173,861.36 plus Investment Income of \$67,638.31 minus Expenses of \$172,320.11 yielded a Net Income of \$69,179.56.

For the Fiscal Year to Date, Ordinary Income of \$1,395,139.24 plus Investment Income of \$322,532.15 minus Expenses of \$1,540,231.11 yielded a Net Income of \$177,440.28. The Fund Value as of 9/30/09 was \$4,398,006.71.

APPRENTICE PROGRESS REPORTS

Contractors are urged to fill out and fax back Progress Reports on their Apprentices. The school cannot correct any problems that Contractors may have with the students if unaware they exist.

HOLIDAY SEASON JATC-DFTC SCHEDULE CHANGES

The school will be open the weeks of Christmas and New Year's, but the scheduled classes for those two weeks for Thursday and Friday will be moved to Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday of the same week. The Instructors will let Thursday and Friday students know what their appropriate day will be for those two weeks. The school will be closed the weeks of January 4-15, 2010, while the Instructors are out of town to continue their own education (on the new Lead Training requirements to meet the new EPA standards) in courses at FTI, the Finishing Trades Institute.

As always, call us (708/449-5282) to donate your 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

FCAC 2009 MARKETING CAMPAIGN REPORT:

FCAC Director of Marketing Clark Johnson and his field personnel (Area Managers Tom Kumpu and Bruce Kuhn) have been calling personally on end users and surveying contractors for their work specialties to promote the specialized segments of our industry, such as residential, commercial, and industrial.



NEW PROGRAM FIGHTS BACK IN A TOUGH ECONOMY



Ad layouts for the new FCAC Marketing Campaign were designed by talented graphic artist Steve Fitzgerald, whose studio is in Naperville (sfitz@comcast.net).



This year, FCAC embarked on an ambitious new marketing program, running a series of striking advertisements in area publications including Crain's Chicago Business, Midwest Construction, American Association of Chicago Architects, Crain's Book of Lists, the RCEC Directory, the Archdiocese of Chicago Directory, the Chicago Building Congress Directory, the Merchandise Mart on-line publications, Blue Book, and Faux Effects World. In addition, a series of television spots are being aired on the "NFL Today" and companion radio spots on WBBM "NewsRadio 780" and 670AM "The Score."

"To me, it's a no-brainer who you keep on when times are tough and you don't have enough hours to go around. I will always give the hours to a guy who is current on safety training requirements and is always improving himself with journeyman upgrading courses. I really have no idea why there cannot be 100% participation in the STAR Program; it is really a great idea!"

There you have it, a real cross-section of what we hear all the time from Contractors looking for employees who (a) voluntarily continue their own education and (b) use the STAR Program effectively.

Bottom line: we need a work force equipped with credentials to get on the jobsite and do the work demanded today. That simple truth is never truer than when work is slow and there is

only enough work to go around for the cream of the crop.

I suggest that you consider passing this column around among your employees and asking them to read it. See...you're not the only one thinking along these lines!

All the Best...

Norb