

THE PDCA ASSOCIATE'S GROUP WILL CELEBRATE ITS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY 12/3/04 AT EDELWEISS, WHILE THE CONTRACTOR LUNCHEON WILL BE 12/9/04 AT MAGGIANO'S...SEE PAGE 2 FOR ALL THE DETAILS!

News from Chicago PDCA/FCA/IAF

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 2004

monitor

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WELFARE FUND REPORT

Trustee Marty Tew reports for the Health and Welfare Fund for the month of September, 2004, that Ordinary Income of \$3,250,196.01 plus Investment Income of \$79,556.85 minus Expenses of \$2,409,119.06 yielded a Net Income of \$920,633.80.

For the fiscal year-to-date, Ordinary Income of \$14,860,467.87 plus Total Investment Income of \$747,721.99 minus Expenses of \$12,822,468.66 yielded Income of \$2,785,721.20.

As of 9/30/04, the Fund Value was \$57,253,615.57.

PENSION FUND REPORT

Trustee Rick Ascher reports for the Pension Fund for the month of September, 2004, Ordinary Income of \$2,502,579.12 plus Investment Income of \$2,652,130.41 minus Expenses of \$1,700,357.11 yielded a Net Income of \$3,454,352.42.

For the fiscal year-to-date, Ordinary Income of \$13,620,878.84 plus Total Investment Income of \$79,334.29 minus Expenses of \$10,450,233.37 yielded a Net Income of \$3,249,979.76. As of 9/30/04, the Fund Value was \$377,444,867.99.



PDCA/FCA/IAF

CALENDAR

Of Meetings & Events

- Associate's Christmas Lunch December 3, 2004
Edelweiss, Norridge
- Contractor's Christmas Lunch December 9, 2004
Maggianno's Little Italy, Oak Brook
- Jerry Harms Retirement. January 14, 2005
Hyatt Regency O'Hare, Rosemont
- PDCA National Convention January 23-26, 2005
MGM Grand Hotel, Las Vegas
- President's Night February 11, 2005
Rosewood Restaurant, Rosemont
- Associate's Night March 16, 2005
Rosewood Restaurant, Rosemont
- PDCA Golf Outing June 3 2005
Indian Lakes Resort, Bloomingdale
- Joint Membership Meeting September 14, 2005
Maggianno's Little Italy, Oak Brook



A Few Words From **MARTY TEW** President, Chicago PDCA/FCA

"ON BUYING UNION"

Greetings to all in our industry, as the leaves have fallen, our clocks have been turned back an hour, our election has passed, and we look forward now to finishing one last "outside" before we get ready for the holiday rush.

The recent flap over Walmart coming into the city with two proposed locations has re-ignited my interest in buying American union made products. A quest for knowledge on how to do it ultimately led to a web site www.unionlabel.org.

There you can find union-represented airlines to fly on, cars and trucks assembled by U.A.W. members to buy, and lists of all sorts of union-made products.

You will also notice the AFL-CIO's national boycott list. There you will discover which hotels not to patronize (too many to list), which foods

and beverages not to consume (Reese's peanut butter cups [dang!] and Diamond walnuts), which entertainment and recreation providers to avoid ("Miss Saigon" and Echostar satellite television dish network), and what building materials and tools not to buy (Jet brand power and hand tools). If you have a few minutes, a quick visit to unionlabel.org is worth a look. One can only imagine the stories lurking behind these stands.

The Construction Labor Research Council recently released some information on labor rates I'd like to share with you. Wage and benefit settlements reported to the Council have resulted in an average first year increase of \$1.38/hour, which is down from the \$1.45 reported from a year earlier. Variability of settlements will always exist, however, as some increases are less than a dollar and some are more than two dollars.

They also note that the prevalent preference is for a contract duration is 3 years. About three-quarters of new agreements have been for three

CONTRACTORS: INTERVIEW & HIRE FEMALE APPRENTICES...IT'S JUST GOOD BUSINESS!

years or more duration. The average wage plus fringe rate for all construction crafts in the U.S. is now about \$37.00/hour. Rates during the past five years have increased \$6.50...or 21.6 percent ...or about 4% annually. These figures reflect national averages, and there will obviously be regional differences.

So is there evidence that we get more "bang" for the buck we pay? Actually there is. At North Carolina State University, Dr. Steven G. Allen's study of workers in the construction industry found that union construction workers are 29% more productive than non-union workers. He discovered that union construction firms build 38% faster than non-union firms in the office construction sector. Union firms also pay less overtime to complete a project on time than do non-union firms.

So why, despite their supposed costliness, do unions have such a clearly positive effect upon productivity?

One reason is that unionized companies have lower turnover and field employees with greater experience. Union companies also buy better equipment and invest in their people through increased training. Ultimately this is better for

business than a group of poorly-paid, badly-trained, inexperienced workers who have bad attitudes and work with unsafe equipment.

Speaking of increased training, watch this space for information to follow about our new Contractor Upgrade Training Seminar now in the planning for early March, 2005. Linda Leigh Francis, a noted contractor training expert, will make her Chicago appearance on March 4th to provide us with a very informative seminar on how to improve and better understand your business. This day-long event will be moderately priced and conveniently located near O'Hare at the Rosewood Restaurant in Rosemont

I have attended Ms. Francis' seminars in the past and personally found her teachings and fun motivational approach to be of great value. For that reason, I recommend that all union painting contractor companies consider attending.

Before we leave 2004, though, let's all look forward to our festive Holiday luncheon. I hope to see you at Maggiano's on December 9th!

Marty



Friday, December 3, 2004

PDCA ASSOCIATES Christmas Luncheon!

NEW LOCATION:

"EDELWEISS"

7650 West Irving Park Road, Norridge, Illinois (773/452-6040)

COME AT 11:30 AM...FREE
LUNCH AT NOON

*Cocktails & Lunch Included.
Each PDCA Associate Firm In
Good Standing (Dues Paid for
2004) Is Entitled to Bring Two
Complimentary Attendees
From That Company. Extra
Company Guests Are Welcome
for \$35.00 Each! Call Rich at
630/393-1313 For Reservations!*



You Are Cordially Invited To Attend The Chicago PDCA/FCA 2004 Christmas Luncheon!

Thursday, December 9, 2004

Maggiano's Little Italy

240 Oakbrook Center, Oak Brook, Illinois (630/368-0300)

Refreshments & Reception/11:30 AM

Family-Style Luncheon/12:00 PM

General Membership Meeting/1:00 PM

1. **Welcome: President Marty Tew**
2. **Reports: Welfare Fund, Pension Fund, Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee, Industry Advancement Fund & PDCA Nominating Committee**
3. **Election: New Directors**
4. **Other: Good of the Order, Closing Remarks & Adjournment**

**CALL THE PDCA OFFICE TODAY AT 630/393-1313
FOR ADVANCE RESERVATIONS AT JUST \$25 EACH!**

HESTER WINS "FAMILY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR" AWARD

Loyola University in Chicago just announced that Hester Decorating Company has won a Family Business of the Year award, competing with over 400 other nominees for just three awards (small, medium, and large businesses). The other two winners were Brady & Associates Construction & Development and Oberweis Dairy. There were three other finalists on each level. The awards will be presented at a December dinner featuring Keynote Speaker Michael Birck, of Tellabs.