

MARCH - APRIL, 2006

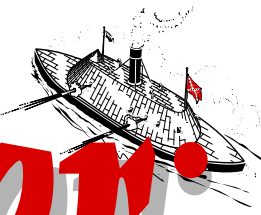
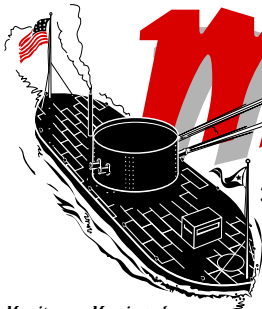
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- AFFILIATED WITH THE FINISHING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION -

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



**A Word from
MILES BEATTY
President,
Chicago
PDCA/FCA**

NEW BEGINNINGS

Hello, fellow contractors...I hope 2006 has gotten off to a good start for you, and that it will be a prosperous year for all of us in the Union Painting and Decorating field. There is no way that I can measure up to Marty when it comes to writing these columns, so I won't even to try being funny or witty. "Just the facts," as Sgt. Joe Friday used to say...I'll just call the shots as I see them.

With that in mind, I want to explore where our industry is headed in the next few years... and what we must do as a Union contractor organization to get there in good shape. The two biggest challenges we face as Chicago PDCA/FCA contractors are non-Union competition and (from within) the non-compliant Union competition.

First, let's address the latter, for it will become a top priority of our Chicago PDCA/FCA in its partnership with the Union, Painters' District Council #14, to more effectively police our own Union contractors to ensure that all shops play by the same rules. We will be allocating significant resources to accomplish this goal, so all payments due are paid into our jointly-managed trust funds. We have already had discussions with PDC14 on how best to proceed with this objective. Furthermore, I must encourage all of you to contact the Chicago PDCA/FCA office with any information regarding another Union contractor you suspect of not playing by our collective bargaining rules. It is the only way we can make the playing field level.

Secondly, Union contractors must collectively do everything within our power to distance ourselves from our non-Union competitors. We must take the necessary steps to ensure that our Union workers are drug free...that they are the safest, best-trained, most professional, and most respected workers in the industry. We already have the tools in place to accomplish this goal. If we fail, we have no one to blame but ourselves.

We have an excellent drug testing program in place that hardly anyone uses. We have one of the finest Apprenticeship training programs in the nation

WELFARE FUND REPORT

Trustee Marty Tew reports for the Health and Welfare Fund for January, 2006, that Income of \$3,323,231.41 plus Investment Income of \$383,086.48 minus Expenses of \$3,067,480.87 have yielded a Total Net Income of \$638,837.02.

For the Year-to-Date, Income of \$29,790,040.68 plus Investment Income of \$2,351,498.61 minus Expenses of \$24,865,308.80 have yielded a Total Net Income of \$7,276,230.49.

As of 1/31/06, the Fund Value was \$68,313,231.39.

PENSION FUND REPORT

Trustee Rick Ascher reports for the Pension Fund for January, 2006, that Ordinary Income of \$2,747,229.05 plus Investment Income of \$9,533,598.98 minus Expenses of \$1,841,775.12 yielded a Net Income of \$10,439,052.91.

For the year-to-date, Ordinary Income of \$25,988,406.92 plus Total Investment Income of \$33,609,769.68 minus Expenses of \$20,531,869.86 have yielded a Net Income of \$39,066,306.74.

As of 1/31/06, the Fund Value was \$434,530,946.44.



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PAINTS! AS ALWAYS, YOUR
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PDCA/FCA CALENDAR 2006-2007 Meetings & Events

Heart of America Convention

March 16-19, 2006
Embassy Suites Hotel, Chicago

PDCA Associates Night

March 16, 2006
Embassy Suites Hotel, Chicago

PDCA Ladies Night

March 18, 2006
Odyssey Lake Cruise, Chicago

PDCA/FCA

General Membership Meeting
April 12, 2006 - 5:30 pm
Rosewood Restaurant, Rosemont

PDCA Golf Outing

June 16, 2006
Bloomingdale G. C., Bloomingdale

Joint Membership Meeting

September 13, 2006
Maggianno's Little Italy, Oak Brook

Finishing Industry Forum & FCA Annual Meeting

November 13-15, 2006
Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada

PDCA Christmas Luncheon

December 13, 2006
Maggianno's Little Italy, Oak Brook

PACE Expo 2007

PDCA National Convention
February 11-14, 2007
Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, Texas

WATCH YOUR MAIL FOR MORE NEWS!

Thursday, March 16, 2006

PDCA ASSOCIATES NIGHT

- Setup Time for Associates at 12:00 PM
- Doors Open for Contractors at 4:00 PM
- Hors 'd Oeuvres Served Continuously
- Program & Drawings at 7:00 PM

ALL PARTICIPATING ASSOCIATE MEMBER COMPANIES PRESENT FOR THE EVENT MUST PAY THE \$500.00 COVER CHARGE. LIMITED BOOTH SPACE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS. RESERVE YOUR BOOTH BY 2/28/06! EVERY EXHIBITOR MAY RAFFLE A BOOTH PRIZE WITH A MAXIMUM VALUE OF \$50.00. WINNERS MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN DRAWINGS! NAME BADGES WILL BE READY FOR PICK-UP AT THE DOOR. ENCLOSE A CHECK FOR BOOTH RESERVATION. WE WILL REFUND ALL CANCELLATIONS RECEIVED BY MARCH 9, 2006.

WALK-IN CONTRACTORS WELCOME!

- ◆ **ADMISSION FREE TO H-O-A CONVENTION REGISTRANTS!**
- ◆ **ASSOCIATE BOOTH PRIZE DRAWINGS!**
- ◆ **ASSOCIATE SHOW SPECIALS!**
- ◆ **\$500 CASH DOOR PRIZE! (Winner Must Be Present!)**

THE ASSOCIATES NIGHT TRADESHOW IS INCLUDED WITH A HEART OF AMERICA CONVENTION REGISTRATION. ALL LOCAL CONTRACTORS MUST PAY THE \$25.00 ASSOCIATES NIGHT ADMISSION FEE DIRECTLY TO CHICAGO PDCA. ATTENDING ASSOCIATE VENDORS MUST PAY THE \$500.00 BOOTH FEE/COVER CHARGE TO PARTICIPATE (INCLUDES 4 FREE ADMISSIONS). VENDORS MAY PURCHASE ADDITIONAL TRADESHOW ADMISSIONS AT \$25.00 EACH. ALL CHICAGO-AREA UNION & NON-UNION CONTRACTORS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS EVENT!

CALL CHICAGO PDCA/FCA AT 630/393-1313 TODAY FOR MORE NORMATION!

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A LAKEFRONT DINNER CRUISE ABOARD THE ODYSSEY.

CHICAGO PDCA/FCA LADIES NIGHT
March 18, 2006 - Navy Pier, Chicago



Dress in your most festive attire, arrive early, and enjoy the kinetic atmosphere of Navy Pier... alive with wandering visitors, multiple attractions, exciting entertainments, and remarkable views that offer a taste of the experience to come. As you board, the ship's photographer will record the moment for your party and the Captain and crew will greet you. Once on deck, a hostess will help you to your table and the wait staff will introduce themselves. Close your eyes...use your imagination...you could be aboard a classic ocean liner during the heyday of high seas luxury travel.

Explore and enjoy dining and observation decks to admire the Chicago skyline by night, and be sure to visit the Captain's bridge, open to all passengers throughout the cruise. Indulge your senses with our menu of creative hors d'oeuvres, appetizers, entrees, desserts, and refreshments. Dance the night away live music...everything from classic jazz to contemporary favorites, from a five-piece band to soft piano music. The fun won't end until well after the ship comes back to port hours later...and your party returns refreshed with vivid recollections of a memorable event.

6:30 PM — BOARDING
7:30 PM — CAST OFF
8:30 PM — DINNER

CALL 630/393-1313 FOR RESERVATIONS...

THE COST IS JUST \$50.00 PER PERSON!

that we should all utilize fully. Our apprentices graduate with OSHA 10 & 30-hour training, City of Chicago Scaffold training, Respirator Fit Testing & Use, OSHA Fall Protection training, First Aid/CPR, and much, much more.

Now, we are initiating a brand new, first-rate safety training and incentive program for our journeymen called "STAR" that could have a HUGE (see Marty, I do remember George Hedley, too) impact upon our collective safety records...helping to reduce insurance costs and overhead. In addition, the Journeyman upgrading courses offered through the Apprentice school help our employees gain the skills they need to succeed and become productive, valued employees. We, as contractors, must encourage our employees to participate in these programs, educate ourselves on how they work, and implement them.

Lastly, I must reiterate that we exist as a contractor organization precisely to help educate our membership and to provide the members with the tools to become successful. It truly pays dividends to become involved and participate with the Chicago PDCA/FCA. We are the only

organization that represents the Union Painting Contractor in Chicago, Cook, Lake, Will and Grundy Counties and have your best interests at heart.

Now, how about this...Chicago PDCA/FCA, partnering with Painters' District Council #14, is producing a new marketing brochure that will highlight the many reasons why building and project managers should hire Union contractors, specifically Chicago PDCA/FCA member contractors. This brochure will stress many of the same truths I have highlighted in this column about the clear superiority of Union painters and decorators.

The best part of this whole deal? District Council #14 Business Agents and Organizers will distribute the brochure to building managers, project managers, architects, and property managers. It doesn't get any better than that...our partners at PDC14 are going to help market us.

So, I'll close with that news. Here's to a great '06...now let's all pitch in!

Miles