



Volume 17 | Issue 4

From the CEO's Desk

Maintaining the Mind and Preventing Suicide

September is Suicide Prevention Month, and FCA is ramping up its initiative to increase mental health



awareness and suicide prevention in the construction industry. Bob Swanson is one of FCA's founding fathers, and he tragically lost his son Michael to suicide at the age of 33 in 2009. Unfortunately, cases like Michael's are not an outlier in our industry. The construction industry has one of the highest rates of suicide of any industry. What's even more tragic is the fact that suicide is preventable. This isn't a problem that we are helpless to stop, - this is a problem that we can fight.

In this Finisher, you will see two articles regarding our initiative: one about a podcast that I recorded with Bob Swanson on the topic, and one announcing the start of Bob's monthly blog. If you haven't yet, I urge you to listen to the podcast and read Bob's blog. Bob is dedicated to making a difference in our industry on this topic, and his words are very powerful.

If our industry is more prone to suicides than others, then we need to take active measures to protect our employees' mental health. Construction safety has come a long way over the past 30 years. Jobsite accidents used to be just part of the job. Today, companies have stepped up to say jobsite accidents are unacceptable and ramped up their safety programs to protect their workers and their bottom line.

Just as we did with safety, we now need to do with mental health. It's time for us all to stand up and say that even one construction suicide is not acceptable. Look around, think about your employees' mental health. We need to protect their minds and put an end to preventable tragedies.

I would also like to take a moment to both commend and thank Bob Swanson. Bob has faced a tragedy that no parent should ever have to face, and he is using that tragedy to educate others on a very serious issue. To repeatedly discuss one of the darkest moments in your life, just so others can hopefully avoid facing a similar moment, takes tremendous courage and heart. Thank you, Bob for all that you do for our industry.

Win the day – Tony

Industry Events

Association Leaders Gather for 2017 FCA Affiliate Executives' Conference

Local association leaders throughout North America traveled to San Diego for two days of networking, sharing and learning. It was a busy few days for attendees, as they discussed an industry market share study, collective bargaining, district council structure, union administrative processing fees for new members, the IPAT Pension, best practices and more. The information shared will help strengthen the associations of all attendees.

The 2018 FCA Affiliate Executives' Conference will be held in Toronto.

Save the Date: 2018 FCA International Leadership Council Headed to Huntington Beach!

Mark your calendars now, because the dates are set for the 2018 FCA International Leadership Council! The event is headed to Huntington Beach, CA from May 9-12 at the Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach. Visit www.finishingcontractors.org/ilc to access presentations, photos and a recap of the 2017 International Leadership Council!

Save the Date: 2017 LMCI Finishing Industries Forum

The 2017 LMCI Finishing Industries Forum (FIF) is returning to Las Vegas' Mirage Hotel from Dec. 3-6. FIF is your opportunity to network with both your contractor peers and labor partners, and discuss what labor and management needs to do together to move our industry forward. Registration for FIF is opening soon.

Contractors

FCA Releases Podcast on Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention in the Construction Industry

FCA continued its audio series with a [podcast on mental health awareness and suicide prevention in the construction industry](#). FCA CEO Anthony Darkangelo sat down with Bob Swanson, past president of Swanson & Youngdale, first chairman of FCA International and a loss survivor, to discuss the issue. Their conversation included an overview of why mental health and suicide prevention are such important topics in the construction industry, a management approach to look after your employees' mental health, how suicide is preventable, what to do when you suspect someone is having suicidal thoughts and available resources.

You're Not Alone – A Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Blog for the Construction Industry by Bob Swanson

Starting this month, FCA is working with Bob Swanson to publish a monthly blog on mental health and suicide prevention in construction titled, *You're Not Alone*. We will include an excerpt of Bob's latest blog (and a link to the full article) in every FCA Finisher. Read on for the first edition of *You're Not Alone*.

September is suicide prevention month, and it is also the beginning of my new monthly blog regarding mental health issues and suicide prevention. I am Bob Swanson, a retired commercial and industrial painting contractor from Minneapolis. I am also a loss survivor who lost our oldest son to suicide on March 13, 2009 at the age of 33. Besides my personal loss, why is this an important topic? First, suicide has impacted most of us. Secondly, more than 43,000 Americans will die by suicide this year, and the incidence of suicide in the construction industry is four times greater than the general population.

[Click here](#) to read September's full blog.

FCA Safety Update – New Webinar, Safety Bulletin and More!

On Tuesday, Aug. 22, FCA held a webinar on [OSHA Compliance for Finishing Contractors](#). Speaker Drew Page provided an update on OSHA's Top 10 most frequently cited standards for finishing contractors in the building trades, and he also discussed some important new compliance dates coming up this year. [Click here](#) to access a playlist featuring all of FCA's safety webinars on YouTube!

The FCA Safety Bulletin for August is available [for download](#). This August bulletin discusses cranes, protective footwear, three things you need to know about electronic submissions, and OSHA's silica rule most likely going into effect on Sept. 23.

More than 70 FCA members are utilizing the Toolbox Talk Program. The Toolbox Talk Program features a comprehensive library of talks (in both English and Spanish) that are both trade and industry specific. The program also features a calendar of talks members can follow. If you would like to take advantage of this program, contact [Darlene Shonder](#).

The FCA Safety Line is a free service any FCA member can utilize to have their safety questions answered directly by a safety expert. To contact the safety line, call (844) 414-SAFE or email safetyhelpline@finishingcontractors.org!

FCA Audio Series – Podcasts

Have you listened to FCA's podcasts yet? FCA is steadily [building a library](#) that members can access at their schedule. FCA has currently released six podcasts on a variety of topics: [Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention in the Construction Industry](#), [IPAT Pension Plan FIP Update](#), [DOL's Final Rule on Paid Sick Leave](#), [North American Contractor Certification for Architectural Glass & Metal](#), [Prohibited Transactions with ERISA](#), and [Preparing for Collective Bargaining](#).

FCA International Quality Program

Nearly 50 contractors have taken advantage of [FCA's Quality Program](#). Through this program, FCA provides trade-specific quality manuals and control plan documents to its members at no charge. Customized jobsite-specific documents are also available. Contact your regional vice president to learn more or [request your free manual online](#)!

Affiliates

Two New Affiliates Join the FCA Community: the Hawaii Flooring Association and the Twin Cities Glass Association

Two more local associations recognized the value of getting involved with the FCA community: the Hawaii Flooring Association and the Twin Cities Glass Association. Led by Executive Director Timothy Lyons and based out of Honolulu, the Hawaii Flooring Association represents the interests of Hawaii flooring contractors. The Twin Cities Glass Association represents the interests of architectural glass & metal contractors in the Minneapolis and Saint Paul area and is led by its president, James Bringle.

Labor-Management

PATCH Foundation is Giving 'Dollars for Likes' to National Alliance on Mental Illness

Last week, the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades ([IUPAT](#)), and its Painters and Allied Trades for Children's Hope Foundation ([PATCH](#)), launched a new fundraising campaign to support **NAMI Ending the Silence**. This program was developed and is instituted by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) in middle and high schools throughout the country to help students understand mental illness and its toll on children and adults alike, as well as teach them the warning signs to prevent suicide among their peers.

The PATCH Foundation announced it will donate \$1 to NAMI **Ending the Silence** for each new “like” on [Facebook.com/PATCHfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/PATCHfoundation), up to \$10,000, in September as a part of [Suicide Prevention Month](#).

Click here to watch a short video on the initiative that features Bob Swanson, IUPAT President Kenneth Rigmaiden and NAMI CEO Mary Giliberti discuss NAMI’s Ending the Silence initiative and why it’s important. [Click here](#) to learn more about this PATCH Foundation campaign, and [click here](#) to read an article from the IUPAT on why Suicide Prevention month is such an important cause for construction.

LMCI’s Online Professional Development Library Available to All FCA Contractors!

All FCA contractors are eligible to receive access to the LMCI’s Online Professional Development Library. The library is provided through the K-Learning Group and features a catalog of over 600 courses. A small sample of topics covered include: project management, design build, management, leadership, business writing and many more! To gain access to this library, email Rose Hood at the LMCI (rhood@lmcionline.org), and the LMCI will cover the cost for your license. Note – your employees who are dues-paying IUPAT members have access to this library through the FTI.

Industry Partners

Benjamin Moore: Ultra Spec® SCUFF-X™ Interior Latex Paint EXTREME DURABILITY FOR HIGH-TRAFFIC COMMERCIAL AREAS

Commercial high-traffic spaces demand exceptionally tough coatings. For that reason, Benjamin Moore® is proud to introduce the new Ultra Spec® SCUFF-X™ Interior Paint, a breakthrough, high-performance, one-component latex paint engineered to provide superior scuff-resistance without the strong odor, measuring, mixing, short pot-life and application difficulties associated with such products.



[Click Here For Upcoming Events](#)

FCA International Partners



FCA Collaborative Partner

