



1. **CALL TO ORDER**—the meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. **INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES**

<u>Committee Members</u>
Carl Biggs – Chairman - Harry L. Murphy, Inc.
Jim Duty – Don Frank Co.
Tom Heinzelman – Central Coast Counties FCA
Dave Johnson – Floortrends, Inc.
Rita Spinella – Progressive Floor Covering, Inc.
<u>Guest Attendees</u>
Ed Charles - Associated Wall & Ceiling Contractors of Oregon & SW
<u>FCA Staff</u>
Jay Weaver - FCA (VP Eastern & Northwest Regions)

3. **OLD BUSINESS** – there was no old business because this is the committee’s first meeting.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Installation of Flooring: On-Site Problems, Solutions, and Training**—

- a. **Moisture Testing**—the Committee overall felt this was still a critical factor which should be performed by third-party professionals, particularly with the various types of moisture membrane backings used on both carpeting and vinyl.
- b. **Moisture Membrane Backings/Oils**—we discussed the fact that the type of backing used creates other challenges. For example, the oils used in some vinyl backings (e.g., soy bean oil) attracted other oils that they contacted (e.g., Sharpie pen oil used to layout the carpeting design) which caused the stenciled floor layout to bleed through the vinyl. Felt and fiberglass backings seem to interact more easily without any bleed through.
- c. **Calcium Chloride Testing**—the Committee indicated that this test should also be performed by third-party professionals who know exactly what to test for and remediate, when necessary.
- d. **CSI Specifications vs Owner/Manufacturer Specifications**—to be legally sound, when they conflict, use the manufacturer specifications.
- e. **Floor Sealers**—the Committee mentioned that floor sealers have changed, especially the LEED/green new initiatives which in fact have changed the floor sealer specifications.
- f. **Recommend UBC INSTALL Program**—the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBC), under their INSTALL Program, have gotten several carpet manufacturers to recommend them for installation of their flooring materials because of the quality of their training programs. No matter who does the installation, however, the Committee felt that improvement is needed in the training of

installers because the various products require different sets of training skills. The attendees also felt that union labor production needs improvement in its overall quality and workmanship.

- B. **Union Labor-Only Shops: Discussion**—in some areas non-union shops win bids and then subcontract that work to union labor-only shops. This practice enables union craftsmen to work for non-union shops. In Northern, CA, such non-union contractor work cannot be subcontracted to union labor-only shops, but in Portland, OR, it can be subcontracted. The Committee felt that such a practice should not be permitted in any area because it provides union labor to non-union contractors, thereby causing signatory contractors to lose the skilled workers who now work for our non-union competition.
- C. **Customer-Purchased Flooring Direct from Manufacturer: Discussion**—the Committee felt that large customers (e.g., schools, Wal-Mart, and Target) who purchase directly from the carpeting manufacturer cannot be controlled. Such purchases, however, continue to cut the full-service contractors out of the profits made from being able to sell the flooring material.
- D. **Piecework Wage Calculations: Discussion**—the Committee commented that piecework is not applicable for commercial work. It can, however, be used for residential work to recapture markets, thereby improving market share and profitability, not to mention increasing manhours.
- E. **Economic Downturn Impact**—in Southern and Northern CA, there are positive signs of an upswing (e.g., hospital and school work). Bidding activities are increasing with not as much competition (still more than before the downturn). In both areas labor is enforcing prevailing wage compliance by “walking the jobs.” Portland, OR, however, is not as busy, but they are still working with hospitals and on commercial jobs.
- F. **IUPAT Organizing Grant**—the Chairman discussed the \$1M IUPAT grant for organizing activities in their areas to create a greater union presence, thereby increasing work projects for the contractors and more labor manhours.
- G. **Grants: FTI and LMCI Guidelines**—the application guidelines for both grants were discussed. The Committee highly encouraged all affiliates to apply for these grants as a return on their investment for their longstanding contributions.
- H. **LMCI Programs: Project Management and Supervisor Training**—the Committee attendees were also provided with the course outlines for these two highly productive training programs that can be taught within their local areas, upon request. Several attendees mentioned the Project Management Course in the Western Region (Oakland, CA), June 18-20. The Western Regional Roundtable Meeting in Seattle, WA, was also mentioned, and affiliates were encouraged to attend.
- I. **Labor Productivity Study**—as with all the committees, having the contractors complete at least three labor productivity surveys was emphasized (one good, one average, and one bad project).

5. **ACTION ITEMS**—None.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

- A. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.