



December 2010 National FCA Update

From the Office of National FCA CEO Anthony (Tony) Darkangelo

Executive Office

- National FCA attended the LMCI's sixth annual Finishing Industries Forum (FIF) in Las Vegas. The event brought together leaders from the IUPAT, National FCA and our contractors for workshops and presentations geared towards building stronger labor management relationships.
 - If you did not attend FIF, attendees will tell you that you missed out on one of the best opportunities to help move our industry forward on both a national and local level. Under the leadership of LMCI Administrator Kevin Larue, the 2010 FIF provided more value at a lesser cost, while at the same time, attracted more labor and management attendees than in previous years.
 - FIF's plenary sessions were full of great insight from leadership of the IUPAT and National FCA. Former Naval Captain Michael Abrashoff spoke about how working together from top to bottom will be the defining element to make a difference for the future of our industry. While the FIF agenda was packed with labor and management value from start to finish, it was the meetings between the partners to discuss specific local issues that provided additional value that remains priceless to our industry.
 - National FCA held its Annual Business Meeting during the LMCI's 2010 FIF in Las Vegas. Along with the required order of business the National FCA elected Tom Clerkin Ceilings, Inc., to replace retiring board member Tim Wies, and long-standing board member Carl Biggs was re-elected. Tom will serve out the remaining two-year term of Tim Wies, and Carl Biggs was elected for a new three-year term.
 - Special presentations at the Annual Business Meeting included the Recognition of Outstanding Board Service Award, the Industry Advancement Award, and the Robert E. Swanson Distinguished Service Award. Vice-Chairman Mike Cassidy presented the Recognition of Outstanding Board Service Award for retiring board members Tim Wies and John Laing for their years of dedicated service as National FCA Board of Directors.
 - The first Industry Advancement Award was presented to National FCA Board Member Mark Chuplis in recognition of extraordinary efforts to develop industry resolutions with our labor partners.
 - The meeting capped off with National FCA Past President Bob Swanson presenting the Robert E. Swanson Distinguished Service Award to longstanding board member John Laing, who recently passed away. This award, as well as the Outstanding Board Service Award, was accepted on behalf of John Laing by his wife, Caren, and daughter, Kimberly. Bob Swanson read the following tribute:

John gave much to the union drywall industry and he gave much to the National Finishing Contractors Association. John became a member of the National FCA Board of Directors on April 16, 1999, and remained a board member until November 9, 2010. John was the first drywall contractor to become a National FCA board member.

As a reflection of John's willingness to serve, he was elected Treasurer of National FCA on October 5, 2002, and remained in the position until November 9, 2010.

John provided a legacy of high integrity and passion for our industry that will be hard to follow. We always knew where John stood on issues because his position was clear and his principles were firm.
 - Visit National FCA's online calendar, www.finishingcontractors.org, for the dates of the 2011 and 2012 FIF. This is one of the best venues for us to work together to increase our market share. Don't miss it!
- The Safety Advisory Committee officially launched the CREST Safety Awards recognizing excellence in safety training for our contractor in North America. Please visit National FCA online to register your company today www.finishingcontractors.org.



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- The National FCA Board of Directors approved the 2011 budget, which focuses on spending your dollars with specific intent as outlined in our mission – “To cultivate good relationships and communication with our industry partners to create more market share”. We will increase the National FCA staff beginning with the addition of the National FCA Western Regional Vice President. Furthermore, we will work to increase our exposure across the U.S. and Canada in our continued efforts to build market share.

Vice President Activities

- **Interior Finish Contractors Association: Philadelphia, PA** – National FCA met with Dane Shiplee of Union County Construction Group Inc. Mr. Shiplee provided tremendous insight with a unique historical perspective into the drywall industry. The discussion centered on the challenges our union contractors face in maintaining profitability with shrinking margins and ever tightening bids, as well as a reduction in the overall volume of union work in today’s economy. Opportunities for success were also discussed, in spite of the issues that occur, when labor and management pull together. Whether it is improving production and efficiency through the basic practice of continuous process improvement in the workplace; or implementing new training programs to meet the unique skill-set or certification needs of a project; or strategically using job targeting and recovery programs to regain market share, there are plenty of opportunities for success when we all work together.
- **Finishing Trades Institute: Hanover, MD** – National FCA participated in the FTI’s 29 CFR 29 RA Initiative Training and Orientation Session at the International Training Center in Hanover, MD. The FTI submitted competency based apprentice standards to the Department of Labor several months ago to update the 29 CFR 29 Apprentice Standards. Ken Lemberg from the Department of Labor (DOL) gave a brief update on where we stood on the approval process. Mr. Lemberg explained that other issues and priorities at the DOL over the last six months, combined with a boilerplate format change implemented by the DOL, slowed the approval process. Mr. Lemberg was cautiously optimistic that once reformatted it would move forward fairly quickly. This program, once approved and implemented, would mark a significant improvement in how we train and certify our apprentices. The FTI is also working on a new computerized tracking program that they will begin testing in the coming months. The system is being designed to keep track of all training programs, scheduling, attendees, trainees and certifications. This should prove to be a great tool for not only tracking where we stand, but for pre-planning of specific training or certifications required by a contractor for an upcoming project.

Products and Services

- **Industry Calendar** – Visit National FCA online to check out our two-year Industry Calendar that includes National FCA events such as Board and Committee meetings, annual events, and industry events. You can sort the events by specific needs.
- **CEO Corner** – Visit National FCA’s CEO Corner on our website. Postings include anything from current negotiation results, leadership thoughts, to current CEO activities.
- **Labor Productivity Survey** – Visit National FCA online to download and complete three surveys.

Government Relations

- The 2010 Lame Duck Session of Congress ended with several key pieces of major legislation passing in the month of December, including:
 1. The tax cut compromise extending the Bush tax cuts, creating new Obama tax cuts, and extending unemployment insurance (12/15)
 2. The repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy (12/18)
 3. The food safety bill (12/19)
 4. The 9/11 First Responders Bill (12/22)
 5. New START ratification (12/22)



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- Beginning in 2011, National FCA added a new section to its monthly *Federal Connection* e-newsletter. The new section, which provides an update to the legislative and regulatory issues our Canadian contractors face, has received positive feedback. Please let us know if you have any suggestions on how to improve the Canadian section of *Federal Connection*.

Upcoming Events

- **National FCA CBA Conference Call – January 27, 2011, 2 PM Eastern**
- GreenCoat SSPC – January 31 – February 3, 2011, Mandalay Bay Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV
- **National FCA CBA Conference Call – February 10, 2011, 2 PM Eastern**
- **National FCA CBA Conference Call – February 24, 2011, 2 PM Eastern**
- **National FCA/IUPAT/LMCI Trust and National FCA Board Meeting – March 7-12, 2011, Sunny Isles, FL**
- **National FCA CBA Conference Call – March 24, 2011, 2 PM Eastern**
- Exhibitor – March 28-30, 2011 – Mandalay Bay Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV
- AWCI Intex Expo – April 6-7, 2011 – Paris Las Vegas Hotel (Paris Ballroom), Las Vegas, NV
- **National FCA CBA Conference Call – April 14, 2011, 2 PM Eastern**
- **National FCA Trustee Conference Call – April 27, 2011, 2 PM Eastern**
- **National FCA CBA Conference Call – April 28, 2011, 2 PM Eastern**
- Quality Construction Alliance: Legislative Conference – May 10-12, 2011, Washington, D.C.
- **National FCA Annual Council – June 14-18, 2011 – Chicago, IL**