



May 2010 National FCA Update

From: Stuart Binstock, CEO

Re: A recap of the activities and news from National FCA staff

Executive Office

- Bob Weaver, Affiliate Executives, National FCA Contractors, and I participated in the Quality Construction Alliance National Issues Conference. The legislative issues raised during the conference are discussed in this update under Government Relations.
- Following the Quality Construction Alliance Conference, Bob Weaver, Affiliate Executive Ray Fujii, and I attended a specialty contractor session on the status of Multiemployer Pension Funds. This subject continues to be of considerable interest around the country. There may be some legislative revisions proposed in the very near future.
- I participated in a conference call, along with a number of National FCA glazing contractors, on the subject of capturing more of the photovoltaic market. A key issue of discussion was proposals for National FCA training of contractors and FTI training of union members.
- As a result of the glazing conference call discussed above, National FCA's Glazing Advisory Committee submitted comments to FTI recommending competencies of glazing journeymen that will be included as part of the FTI registered apprenticeship national standards.
- I received a number of requests from contractors on a variety of issues that impact their business, including the national pension plan, mutual gains bargaining, and the stewards training program. All of these subjects relate to issues that have been raised during local collective bargaining negotiations and affiliates and contractors have asked National FCA to provide them with additional information.
- I have been working with a number of prospective affiliates to obtain their applications for affiliation so that they can be reviewed and approved at the next National FCA Board meeting on June 16.
- I, along with the rest of the staff, have been very busy this month preparing for next the Annual Council June 15-19. We anticipate a dynamic and informative few days in New York City. Our current registration is approximately 20 percent greater than last year in San Diego.

Vice President Activities

Tony Darkangelo

- **IUPAT** – National FCA continues to work with the National Tank Contractors and the IUPAT to address questions and concerns about the current tank agreement. The IUPAT has suggested a special meeting between the parties during the Central Region Roundtable in Indianapolis in July.
- **Michigan (Flint, Lansing, and Battle Creek)** – National FCA continues to have conversations with the painters and glaziers in DC 26 about creating a FCA affiliate. The painters and tapers are currently in contract negotiations and have suggested that the union call in the federal mediators. Currently, the painters and tapers are being represented by the AGC of Michigan. National FCA has offered assistance to the contractors.
- **Indiana (DC 91)** – National FCA is working with BM/ST John Alderman and LMCI to build a relationship with the contractors and provide assistance on building an FCA affiliate in DC 91. National FCA is working to bring the contractors together to discuss the benefits of forming a National FCA affiliate. National FCA will meet with LMCI representative Dave Stvartak in early June, to plan on how best to bring the contractors together.
- **FCA of Chicago (FCAC)** – National FCA met with FCAC marketing director Clark Johnson and attended the contractor awards in Chicago.
- **Madison Area Contractors Association (MACA)** – National FCA continues to provide assistance to the Madison area contractors on their negotiations with DC 7. Labor and management met five times in May with hopes to

reach an agreement before the June 1st, deadline. After continued debate on language, but mostly a separation on economics, a federal mediator was called in for the last three meetings at the request of the union to help create more progress. On Thursday, May 27th, the contractors presented the union with a final offer at which time the union requested an extension until June 11th, so they could present the offer to their members.

Bob Weaver

- **LMCI** – National FCA met with LMCI Administrator Kevin LaRue to discuss some of the issues and upcoming events in the eastern region. Mr. LaRue provided valuable insight into the SSPC C-3, C-5, and C-7 training programs. This information allows us to be more proactive in providing core solutions to our contractors and help to communicate the contractors' needs through the local training centers.
- **Finishing Trades Institute** – National FCA met with FTI Director Dan Penski at the national training center in Hanover, MD. We discussed upcoming training events, SSPC certifications, apprentice mentoring, and the importance of communication to keep training proactive. We also met with a vendor/manufacturer to discuss a collaborative proposal to provide loaned training equipment to the training centers and a discount program to the contractors.
- **IUPAT** – National FCA met with Chris Sloan, Government Affairs Director, and Jim Brewer, International Legislative Representative Government Affairs, to discuss areas where communication and collaboration would be beneficial to our positions and avoid duplication of efforts with key legislation.
- **Association of Master Painters and Decorators of NY** – National FCA met with Executive Director Bruce Ruinsky, to discuss local issues affecting the NY contractors. We discussed lien laws, best practices, market share, work retention programs, market recovery programs, and pension funding issues. Bruce provided outstanding information.
- **New Jersey Glass and Metal Association** – National FCA met with Executive Director Bernie Gingras, to discuss issues affecting the New Jersey contractors, including market share issues, photovoltaics, training issues, pension funding, and legislation.
- **The Association of Wall-Ceiling and Carpentry Industries** – National FCA met with Joe Olivieri, Executive Director, and Brian Gordon, CEO Par Wall, Inc., to discuss local issues affecting New York drywall contractors. We discussed lien laws, prompt pay legislation; educating general contractors to help improve production through improved process, and pension funding issues.
- **Associated Master Painters and Decorators of Philadelphia** – National FCA met with Executive and Director of Labor Relations for GBCA Wayne Gregory. We discussed work retention, pension issues, market recovery, prompt pay legislation and core certification standards.

Products and Services

- **National FCA Safety Advisory Committee** – The committee continues to move forward on the launch of the CREST (Contractors Recognizing Excellence in Safety Training) Awards at the 2010 Annual Council Meeting in N.Y. with the first awards banquet to be held in 2011. The committee is working with Intec, a safety consulting specialist, in finalizing the website application and program.
- **Labor Productivity Survey (LPS)** – The survey data are being analyzed by Gerald Williams, a construction claims professor and principal of Construction Research, Inc. in Portland, OR. Gerry has an engineering student, Peter Livingston, working for him as a summer research assistant, who has been charged with the task of trying to finish the data collection for the LPS. At the end of May, Peter Livingston, Gerry's research assistant, will begin calling you, with the goal to gather enough data from each trade to compile a survey that will benefit members. **When you receive a call from Peter, please take the time to complete the survey.**
- **UPS Freight Discount (70%)** – Visit National FCA online to take advantage of the discount, www.finishingcontractors.org.

Educational Programs

- **Green Training** – On May 18th, National FCA hosted the *LEED Green Associate Exam Prep* training for its Los Angeles affiliate, the L.A. Painting and Finishing Contractors Association.

Communications

- **Logo** – The National FCA Board of Directors chose a redesigned logo, which we will unveil at National FCA’s 2010 Annual Council June 16-19, in New York City.
- **Website** – National FCA staff is moving along on the new website and National FCA logo that is scheduled to launch at the National FCA 2010 Annual Council. The revised website will include an in-depth CBA library with searchable clauses, an international contractor search function, and a faux finish estimating page.

Government Relations

- National FCA attended the Quality Construction Alliance (Includes: National FCA, SMACNA, MCAA, ICE-BAC, and TAUC) Legislative Conference May 3-5, with Greg Quinn, Owen Smith and Ray Fujii. Topics included:
 - Multiemployer pension funding relief
 - Misclassification of workers
 - Three percent withholding tax repeal
 - Building STAR – (Green Building)
 - Capitol Hill visits lobbying members of Congress with Greg Quinn and Owen Smith.

Upcoming Events

- **National FCA Annual Council – June 16-19, 2010, New York City**
 - **June 16th – National FCA Young Leaders Network Kickoff Meeting**
 - **June 17th**
 - **Panel Discussion on Developing and Maintaining Outstanding Labor Relations**
 - **Educational Seminars**
 - ***Succession Planning: Keeping the Business with Your Family and Out of the Hands of the IRS***
 - ***Financial Planning***
 - ***The New Business Model of Construction Contracting***
 - ***Work Smarter: Taking Control of Your E-mail***
 - **June 18th – All of National FCA’s Committees meet. Come check out the first-ever meeting of the National FCA Safety Advisory Committee, chaired by National FCA Board member Randy Bender.**
 - **June 19th**
 - **National FCA Leadership Council**
 - **National FCA Affiliate Executives Council**
- **National FCA Trustee Conference Call – July 14, 2010**
- **National FCA Trustee Conference Call – October 27, 2010**
- LMCI’s Finishing Industries Forum – December 1-3, 2010, Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, NV
 - Attorney’s Seminar – November 29-30, 2010, Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, NV
- Quality Construction Alliance: Legislative Conference – May 10-12, 2011, Washington, D.C.