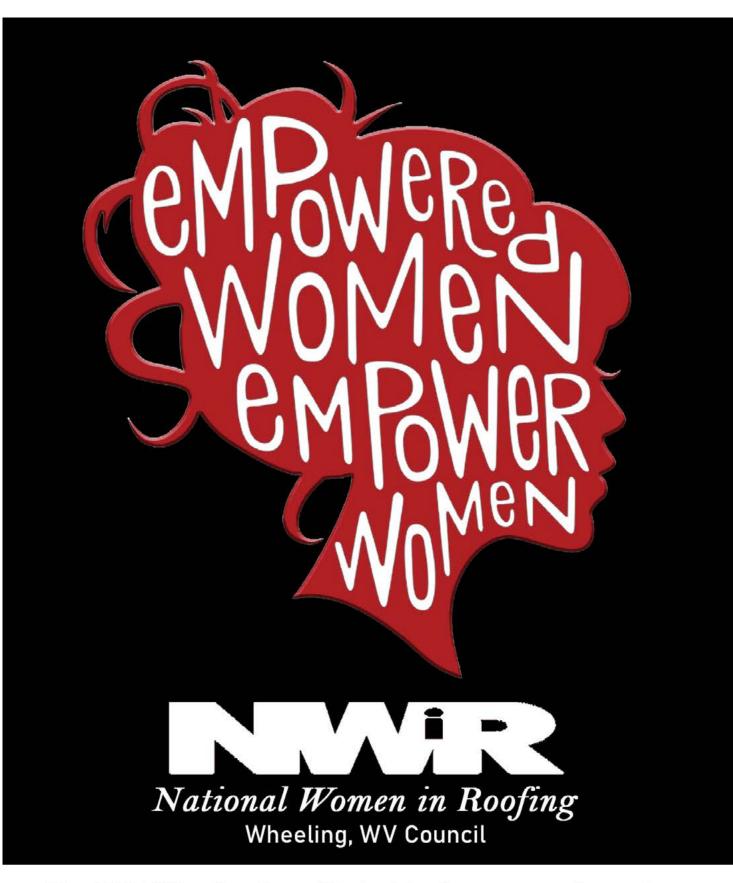
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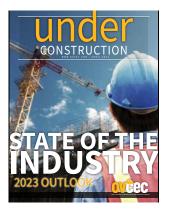
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OHIO VALLEY CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYERS COUNCIL



The NWiR Wheeling Council is looking for new members, please email nwirwheelingwv@outlook.com for more information!

NWIR is a volunteer-based organization that provides networking, mentoring, education, and recruitment opportunities to advance and empower those within the construction industry, from the office to the field.



Cover Story State of the Industry 2023 Outlook

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Ohio Valley Construction Employers Council, Inc. (OVCEC) is a not-for-profit membership organization that promotes and advances the construction industry in the Ohio Valley. Our members are general contractors, subcontractors, equipment and material suppliers, architects, engineers, and construction service providers.



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As we move through 2023, the construction industry in the Ohio Valley is facing both challenges and opportunities. At the Ohio Valley Construction Employers Council (OVCEC), we are committed to supporting our members and promoting the growth and success of the industry in the region.

Eric Starkowicz

One of the biggest challenges facing the industry is the ongoing labor shortage. With an aging workforce and fewer young people entering the trades, finding skilled workers has become increasingly difficult. To address this issue, the OVCEC works closely with Project BEST and the building trades to promote careers in the construction industry and provide training and development opportunities for our members. Through Project BEST, we work to partner with local schools and vocational programs to educate young people about the benefits of a career in construction and provide them with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the industry.

Another challenge facing the industry is the rising cost of materials. The COVID-19 pandemic and global supply chain disruptions caused prices for lumber, steel, and other materials to skyrocket. While there has been some stabilization, this continues to weigh on contractors and owners alike. Despite these challenges, there are also many opportunities for growth and innovation in the Ohio Valley construction industry. As the economy continues to recover from the pandemic, we are seeing increased demand for infrastructure projects, as well as a significant uptick in private development projects.

In addition, there is growing interest in green construction and sustainable building practices, which have the potential to reduce costs and improve the health and well-being of building occupants.

At the OVCEC, we are committed to staying at the forefront of these trends and supporting our members in their efforts to build a more sustainable and resilient future for our communities.

In conclusion, the state of the construction industry in the Ohio Valley region is both challenging and promising. By working together and embracing innovation and sustainability, we can overcome these challenges and build a brighter future for our industry and our communities.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the construction industry.



PAT MCCUNE



WEST VIRGINIA POLITICAL UPDATE

The West Virginia Legislature concluded its 60-day Legislative Session on March 10. With Republicans holding supermajorities in both the State Senate and House of Delegates, the legislature was expected to make tax reform a top priority in 2023, and that is exactly what ultimately occurred. The top headline to emerge from this year's session is the passage of one of the largest tax reduction bills in state history. After more than five years of discussion, the legislature passed a meaningful personal income tax reduction bill (HB 2526). The bill reduces the personal income tax by 21.25% across all tax brackets and contains revenue triggers for additional cuts in future years. In addition to reducing income tax, HB 2526 includes a 100% tax rebate for personal property taxes paid on personal vehicles by state residents, and a 50% tax rebate on business equipment and inventory for businesses with an aggregate appraised value of

\$1 million or less in assets. Governor Justice and legislative leaders strongly believe this bill makes West Virginia more competitive and will lead to future economic growth.

Several other bills of interest also passed during the 2023 session. HB 2882 is a supplemental appropriations bill and will direct \$105 million to the Form Energy project in Weirton. HB 3270 will make changes to the state's deliberate intent statute and is the most notable tort reform bill passed. This bill caps non-economic damages to two times actual damages or \$500,000 in deliberate intent causes of action. HB 3428 makes permanent the WV Business Ready Site Development Program. This program makes the Secretary of Commerce responsible for facilitating the development of utility infrastructure to potential industrial development sites. And lastly, HB 3036 will remove the limit on the number of certified Build WV districts in the state. The goal of this program is to develop housing and employment opportunities within designated areas approved by the Secretary of Economic Development.

As the state enters the final quarter of the fiscal year 2023, revenue collections are tracking well above projections again. Through February, the state has already eclipsed a \$1.1 billion surplus revenue through the first eight months of the fiscal year. The upward trajectory in revenue collections has largely been attributed to growth in severance tax from coal and natural gas, but consumer sales tax and use taxes have also exceeded projections. In all, revenue collections are projected to result in a \$1.7 billion surplus by the end of June. As a result of the growing surplus, Governor Justice moved \$600 million of surplus revenue to the Department of Economic Development to incentivize businesses to locate or expand operations in the state.

Looking forward to FY 2024, the legislature successfully negotiated with the Governor to pass a compromised budget bill. Negotiations between the executive and legislature resulted in the passage of a \$4.875 billion budget for FY 2024 that includes pay raises for teachers and state employees.

Other WV Statehouse News

To date, a crowded field of candidates has either announced plans to run for Governor or will do so in the coming days, including State Auditor J.B. McCuskey, Secretary of State Mac Warner, Del. Moore Capito (son of U.S. Senator Shelly Moore Capito), business owner Chris Miller (son of Congresswoman Carol Miller), and Attorney General Patrick Morrisey. General Morrisey is the only name not to make an official announcement, but that is expected to occur in the coming days. Very little polling is available at this early date, but the presumed front runner to succeed Governor Justice is General Morrisey.

State Treasurer Riley Moore will not seek a Gubernatorial run, but he has announced his candidacy to replace Alex Mooney in the 2nd Congressional District. Mooney previously announced he would vacate his seat in 2024 to challenge U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin III. The remaining question is what Governor Jim Justice plans to do once his term expires in December 2024. The Governor is contemplating a U.S. Senate run, which would set up an interesting and very expensive Primary Election race against Mooney. It is not clear when the Governor will make his official plans known.

OHIO POLITICAL UPDATE

Lawmakers have returned to the Ohio capitol with a couple of major issues facing the newly elected members of the 2023-24 General Assembly. First, the Republican majority in OVCEC members can review all passed and signed legislation by visiting: www.wvlegislature.gov the House of Representatives had to suppress a possible uprising in their ranks. In mid-December and holding a 67-32 majority over Democrats, the House Republican caucus pledged to elect Toledo conservative Rep. Derek Merrin as its next Speaker of the House. Unfortunately, Merrin couldn't hold his early party lead. Another Republican candidate, Rep. Jason Stephens from southern Ohio, emerged as the disputed Speaker after convincing all 32 Democratic caucus votes to join with his 22 Republican members and surprise a flatfooted Merrin. Stephens is considered a more moderate leader than the ultra-conservative Merrin.

Once the leadership smoke had cleared, the General Assembly began its constitutional duties to deliberate and pass Governor DeWine's \$13.7 billion **biennial transportation budget**. As presented in February, this two-year spending plan contemplated the largest and most expensive transportation budget ever submitted to the legislature. On March 30th, Ohio lawmakers gave final approval to a \$13.5 billion transportation spending bill after the House and Senate hammered out compromises on key sticking points. One day later, Governor DeWine signed the bill into law.

Here's an overview of what else the bill would do:

- Allocate \$2.2 billion for pavement projects and \$717 million for bridges.
- Allocate \$3 billion in federal and state money for Cincinnati's Brent Spence Corridor project.
- Require the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, which regulates trains, to create a report on Ohio's transportation of hazardous materials and waste.
- Require freight trains to have two-person crews as well as a requirement to install hot box detectors along major rail routes carrying hazardous materials.
- Allow the Ohio Rail Development Commission or its designees "to construct and operate an intercity conventional or high-speed passenger transportation system."
- More than double the old monetary threshold (\$100,000) that dictates when counties can do road and bridge repairs within their own staffing capabilities. All projects above the new threshold must still be done by private contractors.
- Restrict counties and townships to using handheld devices for traffic enforcement cameras.
- Allocates \$1 billion for local government programs and projects.

Lawmakers will now turn their attention to the state's two-year **general operating budget**. Governor DeWine submitted in January a combined state and federal spending plan (including Medicaid) that borders \$200 billion over the next two years. The state anticipates that it will generate and expend approximately \$58 billion during the next 24-month period. Thanks to a strong economy and ample Covid related spending by the federal government, Ohio's budget will be made simpler by the existence of a \$6 billion revenue surplus sitting in various state accounts. This cushion will aid lawmakers as they wrestle with different spending priorities as well as maintaining the appropriate funding levels for all state agencies. The General Assembly is legally required to pass the state's spending plan by the end of June.

Other Ohio Statehouse News

Lawmakers are fighting over a proposal requiring a 60% majority to pass any change to the Ohio Constitution. Presently, a 50% plus one vote count is necessary for a successful amendment. This supermajority requirement would presumably dampen the state's active initiative and referendum process and make any future amendment attempts less likely to pass.

Former disgraced Speaker Larry Householder and Ohio lobbyist Matt Borges were convicted by a Cincinnati jury in the federal government's long-running corruption case. As reported in the past, Householder and First Energy collaborated on the funding and distribution of a \$60 million slush fund that was used to elect Householder as Speaker as well as to pass legislation (HB 6) awarding \$300 million in subsidies to the utility's two nuclear plants and to a consortium of owners of two coal generating plants. Householder, Borges, and others who have cooperated with the federal prosecutor should be sentenced sometime in the next 60 days.

Norfolk Southern Railroad continues its exhaustive (and expensive) cleanup of water, debris, soil, and rail cars associated with the company's recent derailment and explosions in East Palestine, Ohio. The company has also pledged to support future medical monitoring and well testing efforts in the area. Allen Shaw, Norfolk Southern CEO, has promised to solely hire Ohio contractors for its cleanup efforts. Shaw has also promised that NS will build a railroad shop near the site of the accident.



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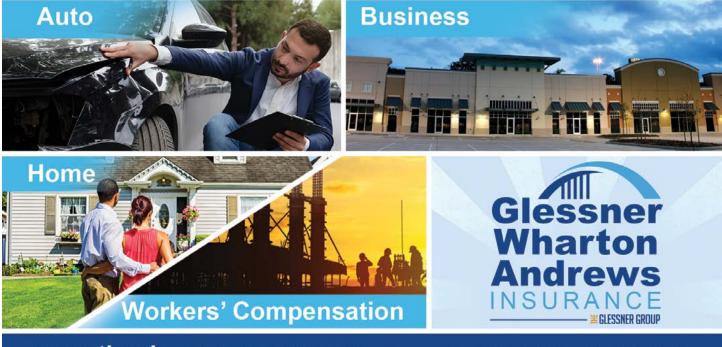
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State of the Industry 2023 Outlook

Market Dynamics Are Changing

The market dynamics of the industry are changing rapidly and are expected to continue to shift over the coming years. Supply chain chaos and an impending recession are among builders' top concerns in 2023, according to a new survey by the Associated General Contractors of America.

Indeed, this year could be different for the industry, with heightened uncertainty due to high inflation, rising interest rates, hiring difficulties, and a more competitive market environment. The Construction Dive website contends in a 2023 construction outlook roundup, that contractors want to know how frayed supply chains, inflation, and labor shortages will affect their business.

Proceeding With Both Optimism and Caution

Contractors remain optimistic in general, and specifically concerning infrastructure work. Yet, some believe the construction industry is expected to face a slowdown in 2023-2024 due to the current economic climate. Almost all economists and contractors expect some sort of an economic slowdown this year, with some even assuming a recession.

This uncertainty has caused many contractors to reassess their business and financial strategies. With the industry expecting a decrease in demand, it is essential for contractors to be wellprepared for any potential downturns and adopt cost-saving measures where possible.

Contractors and others in the construction industry are looking to the future with a sense of caution. This is due to a number of factors, including supply chain disruptions, inflation, and labor shortages. All of these issues may impact the ability of contractors and other stakeholders in the industry to complete projects on time and within budget.

Segment Dynamics

Industry segments will experience different growth trajectories, depending on their ability to identify potential opportunities and react quickly to changes in the market.

The non-residential construction industry is expected to experience a slowdown in the coming years, with 2023 being a particularly difficult year. With the global economy facing recession, this could have significant impacts on the nonresidential construction sector.

A slowdown in this sector could lead to decreased demand for new projects, as well as fewer investments from businesses and investors. This could mean that fewer projects will be completed, leading to losses for those involved in the industry. Additionally, it's likely that the cost of materials and labor will also increase due to supply chain disruptions caused by any further economic downturns.

Given these potential challenges, it is essential that nonresidential constructors plan ahead and anticipate any potential risks they may face in 2023 and beyond. By doing so, they can put measures in place early on to help mitigate any potential losses they may incur during this difficult period. As a result, construction firms should prepare themselves for slower activity levels and shifting landscape of work opportunities. It is important to understand that there could be an increased demand for specialized services within this sector that can meet the changing needs of customers and help them stay competitive. With careful planning and diversifying services, these firms can manage their operations even during a recessionary period such as 2023-2024.

Conversely, contractors are expecting a bullish year for infrastructure work thanks to federal funding, according to the 2023 Construction Outlook National Survey. Despite this optimistic outlook, contractors are still expecting supply chain snarls and hiring difficulties to persist. The uncertainty has caused a variety of negative ripple effects that ultimately mean higher costs and lower profits.

Supply Chain and Geopolitics Impact

The construction industry has been significantly impacted by the pandemic, transport bottlenecks, and geopolitical uncertainties over the last two years. These events have exposed vulnerabilities in the construction industry supply chain, leading to increased costs and delays in project completion. As a result, it is essential for construction companies to understand how these events have affected their supply chain and develop strategies to mitigate risks going forward.

These ongoing disruptions are expected to drive the industry toward new business models, supported by new ecosystems that will enable them to better manage their supply chains in an efficient manner. Companies must be prepared for these changes in order to remain competitive in this ever-evolving landscape.

Work Force Shortages and Shifts

An analysis by Deloitte of their 2022 survey of leaders from organizations across the engineering and construction industry concludes, "The E&C industry remains significantly short of skilled workers, further exacerbated by a tight labor market. Even though the construction industry has a strong pipeline of projects and spending, especially the infrastructure buildouts, it's challenged to meet the demand due to a persistent shortage of workers and high turnover. With rising inflation and a tight labor market, companies may have to raise wages and expand benefits to attract and retain employees in 2023."



OVCEC PROJECTS



ADOPT A HIGHWAY

In January, signs were erected on both ends of Mount de Chantal Road between the OVCEC and Kroger, recognizing that the OVCEC has adopted this stretch of land. OVCEC staff has been holding quarterly roadside clean-ups to keep our neighborhood litter free.

These projects showcase the work of our members and will ensure that we continue to have a facility that our members are proud to visit.

CATTRELL COMPANIES, INC. has expanded the OVCEC Training Room, nearly doubling the space for training, meetings, and events, and the parking lot was paved last fall by **CAST & BAKER CORPORATION**, making a dramatic improvement and a very smooth driving experience.



OVCEC HEADQUARTERS IMPROVEMENTS AMERICAN PLATE GLASS installed 22 windows on the upper floor of the OVCEC Headquarters. The new panes are far more efficient, meet current building codes, and improve the overall look of the building. This spring, the building's exterior metal panels will also be painted by PETTICORD & SON, INC.







INTERIOR SIGNAGE

Our building has also received new signage and artwork featuring OVCEC's new logo, which was launched earlier this year.





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WV Miracle

West Virginia has seen a remarkable transformation in its economy over the past 21 months, with over 120,000 jobs added and the fastest growth in its history. This influx of new jobs has been referred to as the "WV Miracle" becoming a beacon of hope for the state.

In just one year alone, West Virginia has witnessed an incredible investment of more than \$6.2 billion in new businesses and jobs. With 29 new companies and 5,500 new jobs, these figures represent a remarkable achievement when compared to the previous four years. This significant inflow of investments can be attributed to the state's proactive approach towards economic development initiatives such as business tax credits, workforce development programs, and infrastructure improvements. This has enabled businesses to set up operations in West Virginia

Economic Highlights

At the OVCEC Annual Membership Meeting, Mitch B. Carmichael, Secretary, WV Department of Economic Development, reported on the economic highlights and outlook for West Virginia.

Highlights include:

- 3.8% employment growth over past year: ranks top 15 best in nation
- WV nominal GDP up 15.2% in 2021: 2nd highest
- WV personal income (nominal) rise is greater than national average
- WV average wage up 7.5% in 2022 6th highest (IHS Markit)
- WV real retail sales up 2.8% in 2022 10th highest (IHS Markit)
- Over 130,000 new broadband fiber connections in WV since 2020
- Most expansive improvement in history of WV
- West Virginia is in the top ten in USA GDP growth

West Virginia Advantages

Secretary Carmichael also spoke about the unique combination of advantages the state offers to businesses. According to CNBC, the cost of doing business in West Virginia is among the lowest in the nation. One of the most significant benefits is that the state has no federal unemployment debt. Additionally, West Virginia's cost of living is 21.9% lower than the national average.

Companies can also save money on energy costs and electric rates for industrial users in the state are consistently lower than the national average, giving businesses an edge in the competitive market. With improved business and tax climate, West Virginia is an ideal location for businesses. West Virginia ranks 18% below median rates for Workers Compensation which is the 4th lowest in the country.

The state has seen major reductions in business taxes over the past seven years, including the elimination of Business Franchise Tax. This has helped West Virginia achieve Best Business Climate Ranking of surrounding states.

Broadband Priority

Broadband expansion and world-class internet connectivity are crucial elements to a growing and prosperous West Virginia. Governor Jim Justice and The West Virginia Department of Economic Development (WVDED) has created and is aggressively implementing the West Virginia Broadband Investment Plan. The plan includes programs and projects that will dramatically improve internet connectivity throughout our state. West Virginia's plan has already received widespread national acclaim.

BUILDING BOOM IN WHEELING

Wheeling is undergoing an exciting transformation. From multi-million dollar residential developments to local business investments, and an aggressive modern streetscape project, Wheeling, WV, is experiencing a building boom not seen since the 1800s.

Enthusiasm about the future is growing. An influx of hundreds of millions of dollars invested in the Friendly City has stimulated a flurry of new construction projects that are reshaping the cityscape.

OVCEC contractors are leading the way in many of these construction and renovation projects. The boom will benefit businesses and residents alike. You'd have to go back more than a century to see this kind of activity in downtown," says Wheeling Mayor Glenn Elliott. "With more than 20 projects currently being developed in the city, the future is bright for Wheeling.



"You'd have to go back more than a century to see this kind of activity in downtown," says Wheeling Mayor Glenn Elliott. "With more than 20 projects currently being developed in the city, the future is bright for Wheeling."

A city that once saw an exodus of big stores is in the middle of a rebirth that won't look much like the department store Wheeling of the 1950s and 60s.

Providing improved infrastructure and increased job opportunities, some of the transformative projects of the downtown and surrounding areas include: major restoration of the Fort Henry Club, rehabilitation of the Wheeling Suspension Bridge, development of the Market Street Parking Garage, demolition of the Wheeling Inn and creation of a new West Virginia-Wheeling Visitors and Welcome Center, reconfiguration of the Wheeling Artisan Center, and creation of several new downtown living spaces.

Every day we see more and more evidence that this city is determined to build its way toward a better future for its residents. With all this investment, there's no doubt that Wheeling will be an even better place to live in years to come!



Lou Almonte, Lou Piccin



Joey Baker, Michael Baker, Bob Smith, Thomas Gianni, Michael Gianni





Adam Smith, Mitch Carmichael









Bill Busick, Dale Lewis, Todd Dei, Keith Hughes



Geno Ochap, Seth Abraham, Matthew Mansuetto, Josh Wack

Nathan Butts, Tom Gaudino



Josh Jefferson, Mitch Carmichael, Andy McKenzie, Robert Felton



Brian Hendershot, Tony Gentile, Bill Busick, Pat Felton, Brian Hicks, Travis Fogle



Matthew Koon



Michael Causon, Jr., Michael Caruso, Sr.



From left to right: Eric Starkowicz, Mitch Carmichael, Matthew Koon, and Glenn Elliott, Jr.

OVCEC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The 2023 OVCEC Annual Membership Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 22, at Oglebay. The meeting featured several notable speakers, including Matt Koon of Environmental Health and Safety Solutions, Wheeling Mayor Glenn Elliott, and Secretary of the WV Department of Economic Development Mitch Carmichael.

OVCEC Executive Director, Eric Starkowicz's presentation on the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan, highlighted the key objectives and goals for the next three years. The core values and priority objectives of Quality, Community, Unified, and Leadership resonated well with the attendees.

Matt Koon of Environmental Health and Safety Solutions provided a series of best practices and protocols for an OSHA site visit. His presentation was very informative, and the members appreciated his insights and expertise.

Wheeling Mayor Glenn Elliott spoke about the latest developments in the city, highlighting the many exciting projects that will benefit businesses and residents alike. With more than 20 projects in the city, the future is bright for Wheeling.

Finally, Secretary of the WV Department of Economic Development Mitch Carmichael discussed the state's economic development plans, recently announced projects, and how the state markets itself to businesses to potentially relocate to West Virginia. He highlighted the many opportunities and advantages available to businesses who come to the Mountain State and emphasized the state's commitment to supporting businesses and creating jobs.

The OVCEC would like to thank all the speakers and attendees for making the inaugural OVCEC Annual Membership Meeting such a success. It was great to see so many members come together to learn, share ideas, and network. We look forward to seeing you at the many upcoming events that we have planned for 2023.

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

COMMITMENT TO ZERO INCIDENTS CHAPMAN CORPORATION

Chapman Corporation recently celebrated its significant commitment to zero incidents. A report by the National Maintenance Agreements Policy Committee shows Chapman's 20-year history of participation in their Zero Injury Safety Award Program. The total of Zero Injury awards received (95) and cumulative hours worked (20,347,740) places them third in the nation among the contractor participants in this program.

Josh Sullivan, Chapman Corporation Director of Safety, stated, "These milestones on our projects are a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone here who acted together to achieve our commitment to Zero."

The program is available for recognition to approximately 2,200+ contractors who annually utilize the NMAPC and the associated union labor agreement. This agreement has been successful as a tri-partite labor agreement for almost 50 years. Owners/ contractors/labor make up the parties who recognize this labor agreement and its associated programs as resulting in many millions of safe and successful projects completed. Sullivan says, "Our clients are some of the best in the world and contribute to our job site safety culture as much as our labor force and company representatives do. Thus, the tri-partite success."

The Director of Safety continued, "We work in many different industries, all of which require our employees to keep their focus on safety while working diligently."

The multi-discipline contractor has implemented a number of procedures to ensure that all employees are aware of their responsibilities when it comes to safety. Sullivan added, "Accomplishing zero incidents is a direct reflection of the tradition of safety at Chapman Corporation and our Zero-Injury Safety and Health Program."

The program concept is supported by company ownership, driven by front-line leaders and has full engagement by their craft employees. The Zero Injury Program encompasses Chapman's entire safety culture. Sullivan states, "We have clear and high expectations for all of our employees to integrate safety into every activity. Our goal is safe production. We expect our employees to be professional, which we define as someone with the knowledge, skill and attitude to perform on a high level in safety, production and quality." Chapman Corporation has historically achieved rates better than the industry average. The company states it lives by its slogan, "We Value Safety." Sullivan explains, "Over two decades ago, our leadership determined that we wanted to be intentional regarding safety. We determined that safety does not just happen but must be integrated into every aspect of our work. We always had safety as a priority, but we changed that into a Core Value. As we all know, priorities can change. Values do not."

With an employee-first mentality, Chapman Corporation is geared towards protecting employees to get them home to their families each day. The safety culture supports employees in utilizing their Stop Work Obligation, and continually looks for opportunities to improve.

Chapman Corporation utilizes a Pre-Task Planning Card specifically developed for their craft employees. The card has tools to guide employees in developing their safety plan while allowing them to document if they utilize their Stop Work Obligation, which requires their direct supervisor's involvement before continuing the work. These stop works will allow them to track these opportunities to improve and ultimately groom their culture to be recognized among the best in the business.

The company's safety culture begins with employee orientation, educating and creating engagement in their safety values. Chapman's orientation ensures employees understand the expectations to work safely and their needed commitment to working safety for their families.

Sullivan added, "We give our employees the proper training to be successful and safe. We need to ensure they feel like they are part of our family. Having their engagement, having the right leadership driving this message day in and day out, is what makes us successful."





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BRUCE & MERRILEES CELEBRATES 75 YEARS IN BUSINESS

Electrical Contractor Still Family Owned and Operated



As Bruce & Merrilees celebrates its diamond anniversary in 2023, it is a reminder of the hard work and dedication passed down through generations of the Bruce family. This large-scale electrical contractor has been in business since 1948 and is still owned and operated by the same family who started it all those years ago.

Located in New Castle, Pennsylvania, Bruce & Merrilees has become an integral part of their local and regional community while expanding services across the country. They are still going strong and growing.

Currently led by a third family generation, Bruce & Merrilees' service region stretches from the Midwest through the Mid-Atlantic to the Southeastern United States. Today, the company employs more than 300 people and is a nationally-ranked electrical project management and services firm.

When it opened in the late 40s with the first generation of family leadership, Bruce & Merrilees operated as an electrical installation and appliance company. B&M provided residential, commercial, and industrial electrical services throughout Western Pennsylvania. During the second generation, the company expanded to include transportation and high-voltage electrical services and broadened its service territory.

"Most people think of us as an electrical contractor. I think of us as a company that does safe work first and electrical work thereafter," said Jay H. Bruce, President and CEO of Bruce & Merrilees, and grandson of the company's founder, J. Howard Bruce. "The safe, professional, innovative services we provide today are the same values that my grandfather began this company with in 1948."

Bruce & Merrilees continues to build on the success of its first 75 years. The firm provides varied and extensive services, including: power plant installations and upgrades; industrial installations; highway lighting, signing, ITS, and signaling; utility and industrial substations; commercial and institutional infrastructure installations and upgrades; airport runway and taxiway lighting, signage, and navigational systems; Engineering & Technology services; and 24/7 electrical support and maintenance. The company has also expanded into new markets, such as data infrastructure installations and upgrades, Electric Vehicle charging, and solar field services.

B&M actively invests in the success and development of its team members, following a strategic plan that will pave the way for the next 75 years. "It all comes down to the people," said Mr. Bruce. "Our business each year is built on making sure that we continue to do what we say we're going to do. The vast majority of our work on an annual basis is repeat business. That's why we strive daily to deliver projects and services that help our clients grow and succeed."



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ERIC STARKOWICZ – LEADERSHIP WHEELING

Eric Starkowicz was selected to participate in Leadership Wheeling. The 14-week program helps participants to expand their leadership potential, network with other professionals in the community, and learn about the different sectors of Wheeling. Leadership Wheeling is hosted by the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce and covers leadership and team building; state government; local economic development; energy education; culture, leisure, and the arts; non-profit and community involvement; the media; the legal system; entrepreneurial achievement; history of Wheeling; and a hands-on day with the Wheeling Fire Department.







OVCEC hosted a four-hour CPR Training session on February 7. The session also trained participants on AED use and basic first-aid.



Trenching and Excavation Safety

A Trenching and Excavation Safety Training session was held at the OVCEC headquarters on Wednesday, March 29. The course was presented by Matthew Koon of Environmental, Health and Safety Solutions, Inc.

The program reviewed the various safety requirements when working in a trench and discussed protocols such as using barricades, signage, and protective equipment when working in or around trenches.

The course also covered all applicable OSHA standards and regulations that should be adhered to when involved in trenching and excavation work. This includes understanding potential hazards, preventive measures, proper usage of, environmental considerations, sloping & shoring requirements, hazardous atmospheres, etc.

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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS











CARL WALKER CONSTRUCTION

20-Hour Continuous Pour of Concrete at Wheeling Parking Garage Site For downtown commuters in Wheeling, the attention-grabbing spectacle of the new Market Street Parking Garage has been impossible to miss, and in March the construction site was abuzz with even more activity than usual when a massive undertaking unfolded on the job site.

KALKREUTH ROOFING & SHEET METAL, INC. is proud to be working on the world's largest Ronald McDonald's House for Ronald McDonald House Charities in Central Ohio.

BEAVER EXCAVATING COMPANY is nearing completion of Phase 4 of 5 on the 77/30 Interchange in Ohio, which contains major demolition work.

MCKINLEY ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING

The City of Weirton's Park Drive / Three Springs Drive development project is starting to come to life. **JAMES WHITE CONSTRUCTION** is currently working on the site and infrastructure portion of the project. The rendering shows what this portion of the development will look like.

ENERGY TECH SYSTEMS partnered with **JARVIS, DOWNING & EMCH, INC.** to extend the equipment service life at the Cardinal Power Plant in Brilliant, OH. Six hollow cavity pump bases (12' long x 4' wide x 5-8" deep) were addressed. FasTrac Construction Products CE815 #EpoxyGrout was selected over traditional NS cement grout because of its tremendous quality and cost savings.











LANDAU BUILDING COMPANY, a construction management and general contractor serving the Western PA and Northern WV region, announced its latest projects for WVU Medicine.

- Landau has started construction on the 2nd floor Skilled Nursing Unit project at WVU Medicine Fairmont Medical Center.
- Landau and Paradigm are the design build team for the Starbucks renovation project at WVU Medicine Ruby Memorial Hospital.

CATTRELL COMPANIES GC FOR WATERFRONT PROPERTY

Downtown Wheeling's waterfront will be seeing new life with the redevelopment of a historic building into a performance and event venue that will include eateries and a coffee shop, too.

JD&E BREAKS GROUND ON NEW MARSHALL COUNTY PETROCHEMICAL AND FOOD INGREDIENT PLANTS

Ground was broken for two separate manufacturing plants in Marshall County. India-based TCL Specialities, a subsidiary of Thirumalai Chemicals Limited of India, plans to construct one plant to produce food ingredients and a separate plant to make maleic anhydride, that's used in plastics or polymers.

The Marshall Co. Readiness Center sat unused for almost 10 years. The interior renovation by **JD&E CONSTRUCTION SERVICES** was extensive, but unfortunately the layout is confidential. We are only able to share the exterior upgrades - and what a difference!

A 'SIGNATURE' MOMENT MARKED IN CONSTRUCTION OF STEUBENVILLE CITY SCHOOLS' STEM CENTER As GRAE-CON CONSTRUCTION tops out the project, Steubenville students were invited to sign the last beam.

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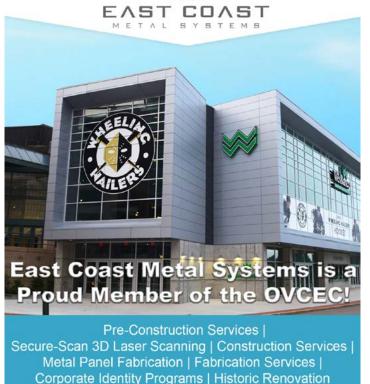
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