TAKE IN TECH DAY 2019

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

EDUCATE

ENGAGE

EMPOWER
Now that my term is well underway and I’ve settled into the swing of things here as President of the MCA of Chicago, I’ve come to appreciate all of the vastly different ways that our industry touches the members of our organization. Often times, we think about association life as just getting invited to certain events—membership meetings, holiday parties, conferences on the other side of the country—but I’d like to flip that idea on its head.

Rather than waiting to be invited to events like these, I’d like you to consider your involvement with MCA of Chicago as something you seek out. Ultimately, my goal is to make you want to engage with MCA of Chicago, so that when the chance to get involved presents itself, you and each employee of your member company know the opportunities that are available. You’re only limited by just how engaged you’re willing to be in our association.

I believe we can help make this happen by streamlining what we do and how we do it. I want to create opportunities for people to get involved where they know their voice will be heard and valued. But to do this, people need to become aware of how they can get engaged.

To better communicate the opportunities, last September I met with the leadership of each committee at a special retreat in Lake Zurich. It’s one of the favorite moments of my presidency thus far: a chance to really listen to the experts recount what each committee has been doing, explain where they see their committee going in the future, and learn how the Board of Directors and I can help them to get there. Although I’ve been involved in MCA of Chicago’s leadership for years, this was a new depth of communication that excited me, one that I feel will benefit every committee and member company. In the wake of that meeting last fall, there were prime opportunities to engage with industry peers and our association.

The MCA of Chicago Open House was held in October at our Burr Ridge headquarters, with more than 100 people attending, including special guest MCAA President Mike Brandt. Everyone had opportunities to learn about what our leadership is doing and how to get involved with MCA of Chicago. Some of our education partners and instructors were also there to tell about all the opportunities members have to improve their ability to use industry resources.

To help celebrate National S.T.E.A.M. Day last November, several MCA of Chicago volunteers visited middle school classrooms all around Chicagoland to promote science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics—and HVAC careers—to students. By investing time in the next generation, we’re building a pipeline of talent, potential hires who can also engage with MCA of Chicago.

Then in December, to celebrate the season and new year, members and leadership gathered at the Lyric Opera of Chicago for our Holiday Party, giving a toast to all our members do for our industry.

Now that 2019 is here, we’re ramping up our efforts to offer you more relevant ways to engage with MCA of Chicago. Stay tuned to learn more about how you can interact with your peers and strengthen our industry. After all, the strength of our association’s foundation depends on engaged influencers like you.

Brian Helm
Legislative Update

Pritzker Sworn in as Governor, Signs Executive Order

After being sworn in as the 43rd Governor of Illinois on January 14, J.B. Pritzker on his first day in office signed Executive Order 2019-02. The order:

- Mandates that all state agencies comply with the Project Labor Agreements Act.
- Prohibits salary history questions for potential state employees.
- Requires all state agencies to review pending cases under wage protection laws, including the Wage Payment and Collection Act.

Governor Pritzker also signed Senate Bill 203, which was held over for his signature by the 100th General Assembly. Now Public Act 100-1177, it reads in part, “The prevailing rate of wages shall not be less than the rate that prevails for work of a similar character on public works in the locality in which the work is performed under collective bargaining agreements, provided that said employers or members of said employer associations employ at least 30% of the laborers, workers, or mechanics in the same trade or occupation in the locality where the work is being performed.” The act also adjusts the method for determining the Prevailing Wage by the Illinois Department of Labor. It:

- Requires additional data for contractors and subcontractors to include on the certified payroll, including the worker’s gender, race, ethnicity and veteran status.
- Mandates that the Department publish the Prevailing Wage schedule on its website no later than July 15 of each year.
- Requires the Department to report annually on the number of people employed on public works in the state, including the total number of hours worked—both statewide and by county—and identify the employee’s ZIP Code as collected on the certified payroll.
- Requires the Department to study and report on the participation of females and minorities on public works in Illinois, and to create recommendations by December 31, 2020 to increase female and minority participation on public works by county.

Illinois Pipe Trades/MCA of Chicago Joint Reception

SAVE THE DATE! The joint labor/management reception, co-sponsored by the Illinois Pipe Trades Association and MCA of Chicago, will be held on Wednesday, February 20 at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield. We hope to see you there!

TO REGISTER, VISIT mca.org/event/springfield19/

Springfield Joint Reception 2018
Local Experts = Local Flair: Now Offering Classes Taught by Local Industry Leaders!

Fundamentals of Maintenance Sales Certificate Program

This new overview course presents the skills required to explain the terms and conditions that almost every maintenance agreement contains regarding indemnification to a sales prospect. Issues covered include the types of changes generally acceptable when a customer wants to modify the indemnification terms. The course also reviews certificates of insurance (COI), what they represent and why customers want them.

Paul Szymczak, current Chair of the MCA of Chicago Education Committee and General Manager of Climatemp Service Group, designed this certificate program and also taught many of the sessions.

Another local industry leader, Marc Pittas, Past President of MCA of Chicago and Vice President of Services at The Hill Group, recently led a session on legal terms and conditions for maintenance contracts.

Jim Bartolotta, Executive Vice President of Atomatic, Inc. and past MSCA President, taught Referral Selling, a course about the art of getting people who know and love you to share names of people they know who could be your next customers. Who to ask. When to ask. How to ask—and how not to. Jim also covered how to create financial incentives and rewards.

Safety Training for Sales Professionals was the topic for Matt McKeon’s class. Safety Director at The Hill Group, Matt presented the information needed to conduct site visits safely. How-to lessons included the right way to take a heavy load, like a ladder, from a van’s rooftop, setting and climbing a ladder safely, throwing a disconnect, and removing and reattaching panels.
Check Out These CEI® Sessions

Public Speaking
Tuesday, February 12 & Thursday, March 14

Most people have at least some anxiety about public speaking to individuals or groups. This course provides resources to raise your comfort level and enhance your personal style. You’ll also learn valuable techniques to improve your vocal delivery and physical presence to project greater confidence.

This course is conducted by Sue Castorino, President of The Speaking Specialists, a Highland Park-based media training company, and a Loyola University faculty member.

mca.org/event/public-speaking

Estimator and Project Manager Relations
Friday, March 15

One of the key responsibilities for estimators and project managers is managing loss. They have to effectively communicate information in today’s fast-paced world, so projects progress smoothly to the post-construction conference. Designed for both estimators and project managers, this workshop helps them understand the true cost of doing business.

Topics covered include the importance of teamwork and methods to improve communication and support.

mca.org/event/estimatorandpm

CEO Power Hour
Thursday, February 28

Join MCA of Chicago member executives to discover the benefits of participating in a peer group, the options for connecting, and the impact these collectives can have on your business. You’ll hear about panel members’ experiences, learn related pros and cons, and get your questions answered about the options, which include MCAA, FMI, Vistage, YPO and creating your own peer group.

This breakfast meeting will be held at Ditka’s in Oakbrook Terrace. Please register by February 21.

mca.org/event/ceo-power-hour

Register Today at mca.org/education

And remember: Most courses are free for MCA of Chicago member company and education partner employees! To receive weekly updates about education highlights and available courses from the CEI®, email rlintow@mca.org.
MCA of Chicago 2018 Annual Scholarship Awards

MCA of Chicago once again demonstrated our commitment to investing in the future of our industry with the 2018 Annual Scholarship Awards. Students were selected based on their academic excellence and extracurricular activities, and their demonstrated interest in the mechanical contracting industry. This year we had our largest and most diverse pool of applicants ever: 44 outstanding students from 16 schools throughout the Midwest applied—more than double the previous record! MCA of Chicago was pleased to award a total of $22,500 to 13 recipients.

Herb Kreisman Scholarship Award
$2,500, funded by MCA of Chicago
Erin McManus (Bradley University)
Austin Fest (Ball State University)
Elizabeth Ayersman (Purdue University)
Savannah Garcia (Bradley University)

MCA of Chicago Scholarship Award
$1,250, funded by an anonymous donor
Thomas Gervase (Western Michigan University)
Dean Kokot (Purdue University Northwest)

James McCauley Scholarship Award
$1,250, funded by McCauley Mechanical Construction
Madelyn Conway (Purdue University)
Kendall Jacobs (Indiana State University)

Owen Moran Scholarship Award
$1,250, funded by F.E. Moran
Ben Strobel (Illinois State University)
Kevin Carder (Illinois State University)

Richard J. Mooney Scholarship Award
$2,500, funded by Hayes Mechanical
Jeremy Hernandez (Bradley University)

James B Hill Scholarship Award
$1,250, funded by The Hill Group
Matthew Blain (Milwaukee School of Engineering)
Trevor Symbal (Milwaukee School of Engineering)

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

LOOKING TO HIRE NEW STAFF?
MCA of Chicago collected the resumes of every student at the ASC Region 3 Conference Career Fair, and they’re available to all member companies! Email dbulley@mca.org to receive a download link.

Don’t miss out in 2019!
Invest in students’ futures by establishing a scholarship in your company’s name today! Join other MCA of Chicago member companies who give thousands of dollars in financial assistance to college students—and often find quality interns and new hires too! Email dbulley@mca.org to establish a scholarship and see your company listed here next year.
MCA of Chicago Meets with College of DuPage and H.S. District 214

MCA of Chicago representatives attended a breakfast meeting about High School District 214’s Center for Career Discovery. In addition to strengthening ties with educators in this large northwest suburban district, MCA of Chicago also established an outreach relationship with College of DuPage to assist our member companies with education and recruitment of students for positions in both the field and office.

National S.T.E.A.M. Day: November 8

To help promote science, technology, engineering, arts and math to the next generation, MCA of Chicago volunteers and staff visited four area schools to conduct hands-on experiments and provide information about careers in our industry on November 8. Hundreds of students participated, and next year we hope to reach more. What better way to help create a pipeline of talent and improve the future of our workforce!

Want to join us on S.T.E.A.M. Day next year? Email dbulley@mca.org to add your name to the list of volunteers!

WHAT’S NEW ONLINE WITH YOU

Welcome to the Newest MCA of Chicago Member!
Active in Our Association

It was a busy fall for the Women of MCA of Chicago, and things aren’t letting up this winter or for the rest of the year. Photos of many of these and other past events can be found at mcachicago.shutterfly.com.

Back on October 3, the group hosted a joint event for women in management and UA tradeswomen at Kings Dining & Entertainment in Rosemont. Among the more than 50 attendees was a mechanical contractor who drove all the way from Peoria!

Barely a week later, on October 11, the group participated in the Chicago Habitat for Humanity’s #CHIwomenbuild event, providing both sponsorship and a team of builders.

The MCAA/MSCA Women in the Mechanical Industry (WiMI) has been active with a few business owners travelling to Scottsdale, Arizona for the first-ever WiMI leadership retreat. MCA of Chicago was thankful to see five of its local business owners in the crowd.

Women of MCA of Chicago also sponsored and attended the Women’s Business Development Center Powerhouse Interview Luncheon, which featured an in-person interview of Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet, former Administrator of the Small Business Administration under Barak Obama, by Chicago NBC 5 News anchor Allison Rosati.

SAVE THE DATE!

Our next Women of MCA of Chicago event

June 25, 6pm–9pm Joe’s Live!, Rosemont

This joint event brings together local UA tradeswomen, pipefitters, sprinkler fitters and plumbers, with female executives from contractors who employ UA tradespeople. Rumor has it that MCAA’s WiMI will be in Chicago that night for its own conference. We look forward to hosting those attendees as well!
EMERGING LEADERS

Learning Labs for Professional Development

If you’re 45 or under, take your professional development to the next level in 2019 through this series of small-group discussion meetups, all focusing on common leadership and career development issues, presented by the Emerging Leaders Group.

What will the sessions in this series look like?
Attendees will be assigned a brief (30 minutes or shorter) online video or audio program to review in the same way they’d read the selection for a book club. This will provide the foundation for the discussion. The video or audio program will be available via LinkedIn Learning or another online platform.

What is LinkedIn Learning?
LinkedIn Learning is an online library of video courses offered through LinkedIn, taught by industry experts in technology, creative and business skills. Generally, courses range from a few minutes to a few hours of instruction and teach skills like BIM software or body language for leaders.

LinkedIn Learning is a paid subscription service. How does this work?
In order to watch LinkedIn Learning videos, participants must first have a LinkedIn account. LinkedIn Learning subscribers receive their first month free, and a subscription is $29.99 per month. MCA of Chicago will reimburse Learning Lab attendees from member companies at each Learning Lab for the cost of one month’s subscription. For questions, please email srocque@mca.org.

Who will benefit from Learning Labs?
Each specific professional development area will have a certain audience that will directly benefit from the issues discussed, but the information presented will be relevant to all Emerging Leaders. Member companies and their CEOs will benefit from continued professional development of their young talent. Topics and a corresponding video will be unveiled prior to each Learning Lab.

What is the Emerging Leader Initiative?
MCA of Chicago’s Emerging Leaders Initiative was created to foster long-lasting networks between young industry leaders and trusted industry partners/vendors to identify problems and create solutions for issues relevant to the next generation of our industry, and to assist in the development of the industry’s young talent.

Mark your calendar for upcoming Learning Labs!
- March 11, 5pm–7pm, topic: Teams, MCA of Chicago Office, Burr Ridge, Illinois
- April 4, 5pm–7pm immediately following Tech Day, topic: Technology, presented in cooperation with Pipefitters LU597 and Chicagoland AGC, LU597 School, Mokena, Illinois
- May 9, 5pm–7pm, topic: Communication, downtown Chicago location TBA
- September 13, 3pm–5pm, immediately following the Essentials of Project Management class, topic TBD, MCA of Chicago Office, Burr Ridge, Illinois
- November 15, time, topic and location TBA

For developing information about Learning Labs, visit mca.org/emerging-leaders.

Add more Emerging Leader events to your calendar!
- February 26, 4pm–6pm, Navigating a Room Presentation and WhirlyBall, WhirlyBall, Lombard, Illinois
- July 25, 4pm–6pm, MEP+ Event, location TBA
- October 15, Emerging Leaders Main Event, time and location TBA

Learn more about these events and what else the Emerging Leaders have planned by emailing rlintow@mca.org to be added to the mailing list.

Rising Star Sparks Success
This winter, author and speaker Mark Matteson led our second annual Rising Star session, “Sparking Success.” Tapping our emerging leaders’ interests, Mark helped them learn how to elevate the reputations of their companies and themselves.
AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

The Places We’ve Been!

Lyric Opera of Chicago
This was our favorite place visited in 2018, where we gathered on the actual stage for our holiday party.

Great Wolf Lodge
At the MCA of Chicago’s first family-friendly event in years, Mechanical, Inc. led behind-the-scenes tours of Illinois’ newest indoor waterpark and hotel.

Chicago Sports Museum
For the January Membership Meeting, we considered how additional perspectives—like those of emerging leaders—can help our businesses succeed and grow—and toured the exhibits.

The Places We’ll Go?

May Membership Meeting

Annual Meeting

FIND OUT WHERE!
Visit mca.org/event/may19membermtg and mca.org/event/2019-annual-meeting.

Goodbye to Katelyn Youngblood!
Katelyn Youngblood, who served as our Director of Marketing and Communications for four years, has left the MCA of Chicago… the state… the Midwest… the country… the hemisphere?!?!

Indeed she has. Katelyn is headed to New Zealand to participate in a special visa program designed for young people. While we’ll certainly miss her, we also hope that she enjoys this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. In her tenure with MCA of Chicago, she elevated many aspects of the association, most notably through the establishment of the ever-expanding Emerging Leaders Group and its efforts. Follow her on Instagram, kyoungblood22, to see where her New Zealand adventures take her and to live vicariously through her pictures!
COMMITTEE NEWS

Committees Meet the Boss for the Future

Many of the MCA of Chicago committee leaders participated in the first-ever Meet the Boss program on September 13 last year. During this face-to-face meeting with MCA of Chicago and MCAA President Brian Helm, they exchanged thoughts and ideas, and gave valuable feedback on their plans for his two-year term.

Open House All Treat, No Trick

About 100 people visited MCA of Chicago’s pirate-themed 2018 Open House the day before Halloween to celebrate ten years at the Burr Ridge Office. Attendees also learned more about the association’s benefits and leadership, discovered tips and tricks to make their businesses more efficient, caught a glimpse of education offered through MCA of Chicago initiatives, and had the chance to meet MCAA President Mike Brandt.

Service Section Looks Ahead

The MCA Service Section continues to work on issues from its planning session in October 2017. What we hope will be our biggest success is well under way. One of the most important developments from this session was the realization that we need comprehensive sales training. The Service Section then took this idea to the Education Committee, which is headed by longtime member of the Section Paul Szymczak. With only a little help from Dan Bulley, and a lot from Rebecca Lintow, MCA Director of Education, Paul consulted with some other members to put together a fantastic certificate program in maintenance sales. Already, more than 30 people are registered for the inaugural class.

Although we usually do service planning every two years, the last session was so successful that we decided to make planning sessions an every-year event. So on November 28 last year we did it again! If you didn’t receive the notes from that meeting just email dbulley@mca.org.

We continue to evolve quality education for all parts of service contractor operations, and this includes the equipment side. Currently we’re working with LU597 to present more manufacturer courses. We’ve put on one series of Carrier classes and will do more. We also ran a Daikan Microtech certification class at the LU597 Training Center. We will keep encouraging manufacturers to give us classes in our facilities instead of having you to go to theirs.

Another important area is apprentice recruitment and training. We need to make sure we get apprentice requests in early enough so that the union has time to assign apprentices in a reasonable timeframe. Some of the issues were due to not having the right contacts in UnionFusion. If you’re not aware of UnionFusion, it’s a software program that LU597 uses for just about everything. If they don’t have your proper contact information you may not get important notices. Email dbulley@mca.org if you think you aren’t receiving these notices.

One of the biggest areas of trouble for service contractors is auditing. We have a SkillBurst to help you: Visit mca.org/surving-an-audit. But remember, if you have a problem with an audit, please contact us immediately.

Other topics mentioned in the planning session that we continue to work on with LU597 are the replacement of retiring technicians, training for new skill sets, and non-union incursion. If you have any suggestions for any of these issues, or something that hasn’t been mentioned, please send them to dbulley@mca.org.

Finally, we also have a new Innovation Committee, made up of both members and others in the local construction community. The idea that sparked this committee was that we might be missing out on opportunities by being too insular. So the committee is charged with identifying new opportunities so we can capitalize on them and generate fresh ideas with other industry experts.
Ben Campbell: Succeeding in Succession

When asked about undertaking ownership and leadership transitions, a company reorganization, and the design, construction and move to a new corporate facility—all in quick succession—Ben Campbell, CEO and President of AMS Mechanical Systems, Inc., offers a nugget of sound advice with a laugh: “I would not recommend it.” That’s not to say that the company emerged from so much rapid change the worse for wear. On the contrary, Woodridge-based AMS Mechanical is growing and thriving, with these changes capping Ben’s 15-year tenure with the company. But AMS Mechanical goes back much further than that.

The company was founded in Chicago as Antarctic Refrigeration, Inc., in 1963 by the father of current Executive Chairman of the Board John Berzanskis, who purchased it in 1982. As the new President, John changed the company’s name, and over the next three-plus decades oversaw AMS Mechanical’s growth into a full-service mechanical contractor, employing more than 700 trade workers in the field and an office staff of more than 170, who service clients and customers across greater Chicagoland and in Northwest Indiana.

Ben joined the company as a project engineer in 2003, fresh from the University of Wisconsin-Madison after earning a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He may have been looking for that first post-college job, but what he found was something far greater. “What immediately impressed me was the company culture John had cultivated over the years,” he says. “Everyone looks out for each other. People drop what they’re doing to help a coworker. You can see that there’s a sense of shared success, not just for the company but individually too, both professionally and personally.”

This culture figured prominently when it came time for John and the rest of AMS Mechanical management to address succession planning, a process that started in 2012. Ben was then Vice President of Commercial Operations, and he helped the team evaluate the options. “We considered selling to private equity and other investors,” Ben explains, “but we thought that might put the culture in jeopardy. John’s proud that the company has provided opportunities for so many to have jobs they can take pride in, and he wanted to ensure that endured after the transition.” The solution eventually became apparent. “An ESOP (employee stock ownership plan) was a natural fit, really a direct outgrowth of the company culture and employee attitude. We truly do care for each other, and the ESOP codifies that in the corporate structure.”

Though the transaction was finalized on January 1, 2017, the day Ben was named President, he says the two-way education process that began five years before will never be finished. “Communication is key for any successful business. The transition to an ESOP has opened our eyes to a new level of corporate transparency. We believe in sharing our successes and failures, including the financial impact and the health of the company. That’s how we keep everyone engaged, how we all see the little things that can improve company performance.”

AMS Mechanical’s customers are also seeing the benefit. “Our company culture drives everything we do, and we apply it to our external relationships,” says Ben.

Taking just this on would be a tall enough order, but layer on top of that all that goes into designing, constructing and moving into a new facility and you have an encompassing enterprise—especially when you consider that AMS Mechanical acted as its own mechanical contractor on the project. Then there was the timing. The move into their new Woodridge facility happened just three months after the ownership transition!

Still, with all he had going on, Ben somehow found time for MCA of Chicago. He hosted the first Fireside Chat back in September 2017 and he’s one of the five members of the Emerging Leaders Steering Committee. He views his MCA of Chicago involvement as a way to give back to the industry. As Ben puts it: “Mechanical contracting might not be perceived as ‘glamorous,’ but I think we can create a draw to attract more young people to our industry.” They’ll be needed, too. After all, this won’t be the last succession story in our industry.

What Ben has to say:

“We thought we had planned for expansion in the design of the Woodridge facility, allotting space for 30 new hires. But by the time we moved in, there were only five unoccupied spaces. I guess that’s a good problem to have.”

What’s Next

In addition to his role as President, Ben has taken on the responsibility of setting the company’s vision and strategy as the new CEO. Also keeping him and his wife Liz busy are their children: Isabella, born a year ago March; six-year old Peter and Gabrielle, who’s eight.
TECH DAY

Tech Day Returns in 2019 with a New Cosponsor

The Chicagoland General Contractors Association will cosponsor this year’s Tech Day! MCA of Chicago and Chicago Pipefitters Local 597 are very excited about their involvement, which will include collaborating in planning. Programming starts at 11:30am and ends at 7:00pm, after a reception sponsored by MCA of Chicago Emerging Leaders, LU597 Young Leaders and CAGC Construction Leadership Council. So, come out to the LU597 Pipe Fitter Training Center in Mokena on April 4 and make a day of it!

Thursday, April 4 2019
Mokena, Illinois

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: Note later start time

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<td>Panel: Project Collaboration</td>
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<td>Reception: Hosted by CLC, EL &amp; Young 597 Leaders</td>
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<td>Recap: Today’s Tech Takeaways for the Field</td>
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CONFIRMED EXPO VENDORS

- Automated Integration
- Danco Sales Co.
- DeWalt
- Ekso Bionics
- FARO
- FollowUp CRM
- LearnVibe
- Milwaukee Tool
- ServiceTrade
- South Side Controls Supply Co.
- SysQue
- T-Drill
- TEC
- Thermostat Recycling Corp.
- Trimble
- ViaTechnik
- XOi Technologies

Questions about Tech Day? Email dbulley@mca.org.

See mca.org/techday for updates to the schedule.
New Trade Agreement in Negotiations

The MCA of Chicago Area Agreement with Pipe Fitters LU597 expires on June 1, 2019. Our Arbitration Committee is preparing for these negotiations. Look for the electronic MCA of Chicago Labor Update for more information on this and other trades’ negotiations.

Boston Shared its Labor Tale with Chicago

MCA of Chicago brought in MCA of New England executive Stephen P. Affanato and member contractors Bob Gallagher, President and CEO of Massachusetts-based J.C. Higgins, and Brian Potter, President and CEO of TG Gallagher in Massachusetts, for a Fireside Chat in August. They talked about some of the issues they’ve had in their area, including: their market recovery fund, shift work, subcontracting provisions, minority and residency requirements, right to work, project labor agreements (PLAs), jurisdictional issues, apprentice ratios and the need for younger talent.

First Labor/Management Reception a Success

MCA of Chicago hosted its first collar county labor/management reception at the end of 2018 in Will County. The event was well attended by affiliated organizations and leadership from both MCA of Chicago and Pipefitters LU597.

Upcoming Labor/Management Receptions

- **April 24, 4pm–6pm**, Pipefitters LU597 Satellite Location, Crown Point, Indiana
- **August 27, 4pm–6pm**, Will County Brewing Company, Shorewood, Illinois

Labor and Management Convene for the UA/MCAA Tripartite

Labor and management attended the UA/MCAA Tripartite in New Orleans in November, where they heard about large projects union contractors are completing in the area and network with national leaders.
Safety Peer Group News

When the MCA of Chicago Safety Section met in September, it was all about peer groups. In an effort to duplicate the advantages of peer groups in other settings, the MCA Safety Section created some peer groups of their own. “Initially,” said Dan Bulley, MCA of Chicago Senior Vice President, “our peer groups were broken down by market segments—service, HVAC and Industrial—but we’ll keep splitting them up as more people join in to keep the groups at the optimal size.” Each peer group has taken up an issue that came from a safety planning session last April: The service group is tackling distracted driving; the industrial group is looking at creating an industry safety training database; and the commercial group is examining the viability of stretch and flex programs for all. But discussions aren’t limited to those projects.

MCA of Chicago is very excited about the new safety peer groups. All member companies should look forward to the positive effect they’ll have on safety. If your company isn’t yet involved, please consider sending a representative to future Safety Section meetings.

Did you know...

...that 2.3 million construction workers work on scaffolds. Every year, their work results in 4,500 injuries and 60 deaths per year. That’s far too many. Are you doing anything to reduce these tragic statistics, like inspecting your scaffolds to ensure their safety and holding scaffold training?

For information about scaffold safety training, email rlintow@mca.org.

The Safety Section Wants You!

Join or start a Peer Group now. Learn more at www.mca.org/safety or email dbulley@mca.org.
There are lots of people to meet and more chances to learn from your industry peers at MCA of Chicago networking events, including specialized opportunities for CEOs, emerging leaders and women.

Mark your calendars for these important upcoming MCA of Chicago events!

- **Wednesday, February 20** MCA of Chicago/Illinois Pipe Trades Association Joint Reception, Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield
- **Thursday, February 28** CEO Power Hour, Ditka’s, Oakbrook Terrace
- **Sunday-Saturday, March 3–9** MCAA Annual Convention, JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge
- **Sunday, March 3** Cubs-Sox Cross-Country/Crosstown classic, Sloan Park, Mesa, Arizona
- **Tuesday, March 19** Membership Meeting, Gibsons Bar & Steakhouse, Oakbrook
- **Thursday, April 4** Tech Day, LU597 Training Center, Mokena
- **Wednesday, April 24** Labor/Management Reception, Pipefitters LU597 Satellite Location, Crown Point, Indiana
- **Tuesday, May 21** Membership Meeting, Punchbowl Social Chicago

Get More from Your Membership

Need a place for a company meeting or education session? Member companies can get complimentary, private use of MCA of Chicago’s CEI® classroom, Technology Territory and Boardroom when available. Visit mca.org/reserve-a-room.