At the beginning of my presidency, I defined and described three actions that I wanted to apply and promote in all aspects of our association during my term as President: Educate, Engage and Empower. For this letter I’m going to write about the first: Educate.

Considering that during summer there are no Construction Education Institute (CEI®) courses scheduled, this would seem to be an odd time to address education, but I think it’s the perfect time. In this break, we have time to assess the education needs in our company, for our employees and for our leadership.

Education Committee Chair Paul Szymczak and Director of Education Rebecca Lintow are now hard at work on the coming fall and winter curriculum, which will be posted on the website and put in the next seminar catalog before summer’s over.

Also, if you have a computer-related education need that can’t wait, you’re in luck. As an MCA of Chicago membership benefit, every company gets three hours of training from longtime consultant Ginnie Floraday. Just turn to page 9 to learn more about her and how to schedule a training session.

The scope of education, however, goes beyond just the current needs of member companies and the CEI® courses addressing them to encompass the needs of future generations, too. That’s why every year MCA of Chicago awards scholarships to students studying disciplines related to our industry. For a glimpse at how bright the future is, go to page 3 to learn about this year’s scholarship opportunities and page 4 to meet a 2018 scholarship awardee who’s now an employee at F.E. Moran. Remember that the application deadline for next year’s scholarships is September 13, 2019, so pass word on to any students you know pursuing an education related to our industry.

Not all education is so formal, though, and that comes to mind whenever I think about the scholarship winners. They remind me that we can all learn a lot from one another: younger generations can learn from older generations in our industry, and older generations can also learn from the younger generations new to our industry, particularly about topics like technology. Similarly, employees working in the office can learn a lot from those working in the field, and vice versa. This kind of informal education is a year-round opportunity, a chance to learn something new every day.

Brian Helm
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

MCA of Chicago and IPTA Host Legislators in Springfield

On February 20, MCA of Chicago and the Illinois Pipe Trades Association (IPTA) held their second annual labor/management reception, co-hosting state legislators at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield. The event was well attended, with 101st General Assembly leadership from both sides of the aisle attending, including House Speaker Michael Madigan, Senate President John Cullerton, Republican Senate Leader Bill Brady and Republican House Leader Jim Durkin. The brief program included an address by MCA of Chicago Government Affairs Committee Chair, Ed Usher.

Such a combination of labor/management cooperation is rare in Springfield, but this reception demonstrates how MCA of Chicago and IPTA continue to cooperatively forward passage of legislation that impacts the constituencies of both organizations, as well as our customers.

Keep apprised of the latest legislative updates and other news from Springfield at mca.org/legislative-news.

MCA of Chicago Works with Commissioner Frydland

MCA of Chicago looks forward to working with Judy Frydland, Commissioner of the Department of Buildings for the City of Chicago, on the Phase III rewrite of the Building Code on Mechanical (HVAC) Systems.

Chicago Dept. of Buildings Update

Deputy Commissioner Grant Ullrich represented City of Chicago Department of Buildings Commissioner Judy Frydland at our membership meeting on May 21. Ullrich provided an update on the changes to the Chicago Building Code and insights into Phase III, which includes mechanical.

Also developing, the Chicago Fire Department continues to evaluate provisions of the International Fire Code related to special hazards and industrial occupancies. In 2019 and 2020, the Department of Buildings intends to initiate a process to update requirements for mechanical (HVAC) systems, natural gas, plumbing, storm water, signs and trade licenses. MCA of Chicago will be meeting with the Department of Buildings staff in the coming months to discuss this new initiative, giving us a seat at the table to represent our mechanical contractors’ interests.
2019 Scholarship Application Deadline Just Months Away

Applications are being accepted for 2019 MCA of Chicago Scholarships until Friday, September 13, 2019. If you know any students studying subjects related to the mechanical construction and service industry, send them to mca.org/scholarships now to get all the details.

11 scholarships will be awarded in the total amount of about $20,000.

MCA of Chicago is now listing other industry-related scholarships on our website.

MCAA/MCERF Reimburses Companies Hiring Interns

Internships are the perfect opportunities to look for and evaluate potential hires for your organization. Developing structured internship programs can help you recruit talented students who will soon be entering the workforce.

The Mechanical Contractors Association of America believes that students who work for one of its members will enhance their educational and professional experience while increasing their interest in the mechanical contracting industry. That’s why MCAA offers grants to current members who hire undergraduate interns. Remember, if you are an MCA of Chicago Member, you are also an MCAA member.

For more information, go to mcerf.org/initiatives/education-careers/internships.

College of DuPage holds HVACR Network Day

On April 24, MCA of Chicago representatives and staff from member companies got a chance to meet students at College of DuPage’s HVACR Network Day. On display were projects executed by the HVACR students, who also gave demonstrations. Also in attendance were vendor, manufacturer and wholesale/distributor representatives to provide students with an in-depth look at our industry—and employment opportunities.
MCA of Chicago Scholarships: A Win-Win-Win Proposition

Last spring, when Bradley University Assistant Professor Kristy Wolfe suggested to senior Erin McManus that she apply for an MCA of Chicago Scholarship, McManus had no idea how much her life would change in the next year. In the months that followed, she received a summer internship at F.E. Moran, which then turned into a co-op work/study semester last fall. As it happened, when she was reviewing intern applications, F.E. Moran Vice President Charlotte Flesher remembered meeting McManus, who earlier that spring attended MCAA’s Annual Convention in San Antonio with a group of students led by Wolfe.

McManus completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management and a minor in Business at Bradley University in May, 2019—with the help of the $2,500 Herb Kreisman Scholarship Award MCA of Chicago awarded her last fall. So, what’s next for her? For a start, her new job as a Project Engineer at F.E. Moran. “At the end of her co-op semester,” Charlotte said, “I asked her if she’d like the same desk when she came back after she graduated.” Erin said of course she would, and that’s where she is today, at F.E. Moran’s new Lemont office. “I just want to learn more about this great business and tell the students after me all about it,” she said. “And I hope that one day I can apply all the experience I’m getting and manage my own projects someday.” That’s a win-win-win.

ASC Region 3

MCA of Chicago and Whiting-Turner Contracting Company are proud to announce a partnership with a two-day workshop targeting freshmen at the 2019 ASC Region 3 competition on October 16-19 in Downers Grove, Illinois. In the workshop, to be held October 17 & 18, students will participate in classroom instruction and site visits. Attendees will also be provided with ample opportunities to network with MCA of Chicago members and Whiting-Turner Contracting Company employees. The Mechanical Contracting Day on October 18 will include a tour of The Hill Group fabrication shop along with a walk through of a member job site. Students will develop their construction knowledge and increase their skills in the industry by participating in a related mini competition.
MCA of Chicago is honored to host a casual evening event that will bring together attendees of the first-ever MCAA/MSCA Women in the Mechanical Industry (WiMI) Conference and local supporters of women in the industry, female mechanical contractor executives and tradeswomen.

For the first time, MCA of Chicago is creating “Success Bags” for the Chicago Women in Trades (CWIT) Technical Opportunities Program (TOP) graduates. MCA of Chicago is grateful for the many “Success Bag” sponsors who so generously made donations. Thank you to these companies and organizations for supporting our onsite community service project:

- AMS Mechanical Systems, Inc.
- RUKCO
- Bornquist, Inc.
- Milwaukee Tool
- Columbia Pipe & Supply Co.
- Windy City Women in HVAC
- Chicagoland AGC
- The Milwaukee Valve Company
- Porter Pipe & Supply Co.
- Ram Tool Construction Supply Co.
- M&O Insulation Company
- Assurance Agency
- NEPC, LLC
- ServiceTrade
- Victaulic
- DEWALT
- Ferguson

Register now for the MCA of Chicago Dinner!

When: June 25, 2019 from 6pm to 9 pm
Where: Joe’s Live! Rosemont, Illinois
mca.org/event/womenjune
EMERGING LEADERS

Who Will Emerge Victorious after MEP-Survivor?

MEP+ Emerging Leaders are all invited to join in on a Survivor-themed team building program to improve communication and facilitate networking.

Fashioned after the hit reality show, the event will put MEP+ Emerging Leaders to the test, not to just survive the game but also to perform as a team in the same way they would on a job site! Through a series of fun and challenging tasks—ranging from silly to intense—each team will have to work together to test their skills against the other teams. (The good news is no one will be voted off!)

Don’t miss out on this exciting chance to become part of the Emerging Leaders and network with your peers in the MEP trades. Meet on Thursday, July 25 between 3pm and 6pm at Bemis Woods Forest Preserve in Western Springs at Large Grove Shelter #5, the first area from the Ogden Avenue entrance. Just look for the signs!

For more information and to register, visit mca.org/event/mep-survivor.

Here’s what we’ve been up to...

Mark these Emerging Leaders Events on Your Calendar!

- Learning Lab, Friday, September 13, 3pm to 5pm
  MCA of Chicago office, Burr Ridge
  Immediately following the Essentials of Project Management class
- Emerging Leaders Main Event, Tuesday, October 15, 4pm to 6pm
  Ferguson’s Warehouse in Addison, Illinois
- Learning Lab, Thursday, November 14, 3pm to 5pm
Save the Date!
MCA of Chicago Fall Conference 2019
Thursday, October 3–Saturday, October 5
Visit mca.org/fallconference.
Registration opens July 1.

Thank You to Tech Day Sponsors and Speakers
Thanks again to our program collaborators, Chicagoland AGC and Pipe Fitters Local Union 597!

MCA of Chicago President Inaugurated MCAA President, New Leaders Named

At the 2019 MCAA Convention, held March 3–7 at the JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge, MCA of Chicago President Brian Helm of Mechanical, Inc. was inaugurated MCAA President. Brian served on the MCAA Board of Directors starting in 2013. Kathy McCauley of McCauley Mechanical Construction, Inc. continues to serve at that level. Other MCA of Chicago members were named new MCAA leaders. They are:

- Karen Riffice, Amalgamated Services, Inc., Advanced Leadership Institute Committee (ALI)
- Jim Jacobsen, Jr., DePue Mechanical, Inc., Education Committee
- Charlotte Flesher, F.E. Moran, Inc., Management Methods Committee
- Mike McCombie, F.E. Moran, Inc., Mechanical Contracting Education and Research Foundation (MCERF)
- Travis Voss, Mechanical, Inc., Technology Committee

The leaders joined nine other MCA of Chicago members continuing their services as MCAA Leaders. Congratulations to Brian and the new leaders, and thank you to those continuing your leadership service. Your work with the MCAA ensures that MCA of Chicago’s local voice gets a national audience.
**MCA of Chicago, LU 597 Reach Four Year Agreement**

As previously reported, MCA of Chicago has reached an agreement with the Pipe Fitters LU 597 for a new 4-year contract that goes through 2023. The new contract calls for increases of $2.75, $3.00, $3.00 and $2.25, respectively. Details can be found at [mca.org/labor/collective-bargaining](http://mca.org/labor/collective-bargaining).

All other area contracts have been settled and we believe you shouldn’t experience any strikes or work stoppages going forward. If you do experience any picketing or other work stoppage activity on any of your jobsites, please let Dan Day know at [dday@mca.org](mailto:dday@mca.org) We will investigate and get back to you.

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**Service Mechanical Closes Sale to Employees**

After three years of discussions and a year-long process, Schaumburg-based Service Mechanical Industries closed its sale to employees Patrick Cesario and Chad Powell this year, previously owned by Don Olsen. “Don has always been an enormous asset to our organization,” says now-President Bob Cesario. “He has always been the ‘go-to guy’ when we were analyzing a new design/build project. He has taught all of us a lot about system design and we feel that we are well prepared to continue on in his absence.”

Thanks to Don and best wishes to Patrick and Chad!

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**Join us for our annual MCA of Chicago Golf Outing**

Monday, June 24, 2019
10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Ruth Lake Country Club
Hinsdale, IL
For details and registration, go to [mca.org/event/golf-outing-2019](http://mca.org/event/golf-outing-2019)

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**Say “Hi” to Abby Baughan!**

MCA of Chicago and *Pipeline News* wish a warm welcome to Abby Baughan, our new Director of Communications! Abby comes to us direct from Ohio University, where she graduated last December with a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism and a specialization in Strategic Communications. She grew up in Milford, Ohio, a suburb of Cincinnati, and settled in Oak Park when she moved to Illinois. Please join us in welcoming Abby to MCA of Chicago!
One of Ginnie’s training sessions in the early 2000s took her to AMS Mechanical Systems, Inc., where she met Lynn Carmody. Lynn was so impressed with the session that that he referred Ginnie to MCA of Chicago Senior Vice President Dan Bulley, who engaged her to conduct an Excel training session for members and staff. Since then, Ginnie has expanded her MCA of Chicago education offerings to include sessions on all Microsoft applications, Windows updates and Bluebeam. These courses are all software-centric, but she also offers consulting that targets individual companies’ specific tech needs.

Regardless of topic Ginnie makes her training a personal experience whether in a group training session or individualized consultation. “I want people to leave a session with more than just knowing something new,” Ginnie says of her approach. “I want to empower them to try something new they might’ve been afraid to try before.” That fear, she says, can lead people to concentrate too much on how a software application works rather than what it actually does. Her motto: “Learn it and apply it, or lose it.” Put another way, as she asks after each session, “Did you learn enough today to be dangerous? Dangerous in a good way, dangerous in a way that makes you want to try new stuff.”

Ultimately, Ginnie sees her training as a way to empower employees to demonstrate what they can do to contribute to improved efficiency. And that’s what it all comes down to: making employees of MCA of Chicago member companies more efficient—which makes them more profitable. Personally, Ginnie finds her work through our association gratifying. “I’m so grateful to MCA of Chicago for first giving me the opportunity and for their support I’ve gotten over the years.” For MCA of Chicago members, that gratitude is mutual.

Remember!

Every MCA of Chicago member company gets three hours of personalized tech training from Ginnie every year as a membership benefit. Email gfloraday@comcast.net now to take advantage of this valuable MCA of Chicago membership perk.

Succession Planning Seminar Recap

At the Succession Planning Seminar, put on by the MEP Coordinating Committee, attendees considering stepping both up to and down from their ownership roles were asked to contemplate the answers to many questions including:

- What is the value of your business?
- Who would want it?
- What do you want to do the day after the closing?
MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome New Members!

- Kinetic Systems, Inc.
- C. Acitelli Heating & Piping Contractors
- Precision Piping, Inc.

Membership Meetings

March: Safety Theme

The meeting started out with a reception and safety expo. As successful as the expo was, the best part of the program was the speaker. Everyone was skeptical that we could produce a powerful yet entertaining program. (Read that as “not boring”). Well, we had a trick up our sleeve: Peter Guske! Peter is one of the top physical therapists in the country. He boasts not only 27 years of direct patient care, but he also developed the single most effective back injury prevention program in the nation. He’s a very energetic and entertaining speaker. After the program, many members came up to him to ask about their particular back pain. With back problems being a big part of our industry, we are hoping to get him over to the LU 597 Training Center to help some of our labor partners.

May: State of the Union and Education

MCA of Chicago recognized Pipefitters Local Union 597 Agents and Business Manager Kevin Morrissey as well as those who completed the MCA of Chicago Essentials of Project Management (EPM) or Fundamentals of Maintenance Sales programs this year.

Essentials of Project Management (EPM) graduates: Alex Beebe, Theodore Blount, Mitchell Campbell, Nicholas Cusumano, Mike Falbo, Dan Giera, Matt Gorman, Mark Grabosky, Rob Inzinga, Mitchell Jessen, Kameron Koehlhoeffer, Aaron LaMothe, Michael Mangold, Nicholas Mark, Kevin Nichols, Andrew Palcan, Tim Schooveld Anthony Signorelli, Joe Smiley, James Tobin, Phil Treely, Kevin Weiland, Gisela Zimmermann

Fundamentals of Maintenance Sales graduates: Niko Capodice, James Capone, Brett Culotta, Dylan Diesing, Mike Falbo, Omar Gonzalez, Jr., Michael Habasinski, Matt Laker, Konrad Mausser, Bob O’Neil, Mike Sales, Steve Slasor, Ryan Smith, Chris Spesia, Paul Szymczak (instructor), Adrian Vlad, Andy Weis, Mike Withers
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.

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.