

SPRING 2021

ADVANCING THE MECHANICAL CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICE INDUSTRY

# PIPELINEnews



MECHANICAL  
CONTRACTORS  
ASSOCIATION

**MCA**  
OF CHICAGO

## Brighter Days Ahead

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



LEGISLATION UPDATE



WELCOME JOHN RAYBURN



BEHIND THE SCENES



# A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Greetings MCA of Chicago members,

2021 is already looking brighter and better than ever. The association is blooming, with a return to in-person events soon and more attendance options for CEI classes. We can't wait to continue to grow and flourish with you all.

We're excited to start seeing you all face-to-face again, with the return of our annual golf outing, holiday party, and fall conference. Until then, we hope everyone stays safe and connected to us and each other, whether through virtual classes, social media, or even just a quick phone call.

In addition, we're welcoming a new Executive Vice President, John Rayburn, to the MCA of Chicago team on June 1st. He is coming to us from the MCA of Indiana, where he served as the Executive Director since 1997.

As we transition into our new "normal" this year, please let us know what you need from MCA of Chicago to help you and your employees.

Sincerely,

Charlie Usher  
President, MCA of Chicago

## MCA OF CHICAGO BOARD 2021

**CHARLIE USHER**, President

**JIM JACOBSEN, JR.**, Vice-President

**NICK MARINO**, Secretary Treasurer

**BRIAN HELM**, Immediate Past President

**BEN CAMPBELL**

**RICK CRONHOLM**

**ERIC DELANEY**

**CHARLOTTE FLESHER**

**LINDSEY GRILEC**

**BRANDON HUBNER**

## PIPING EDUCATION COUNCIL (PEC) TRUSTEES 2021

**MICHAEL MCCOMBIE**, Chair

**JOHN BERZANSKIS**

**JIM MCCAULEY, JR.**

**MARC PITTAS**

**JOHN STERN**

Pipeline News is published by the  
**Mechanical Contractors Association of Chicago**



7065 Veterans Blvd.  
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527  
312.384.1220  
staff@mca.org | www.mca.org

Senior Vice President  
**Daniel Bulley**

Vice President of External Affairs  
**Daniel C. Day, CAE**

Senior Director of Engagement  
**Rebecca Lintow**

Designer  
**iDrewstudio**

Director of Finance  
**Susan Rocque**

Director of Communications and Marketing  
**Jessie Spangler**

Administrative Assistant  
**Judie Prophe**

Printing  
**Cardinal Color Group**

©2021 Mechanical Contractors Association of Chicago

## Sign Up for MCA eNewsletters

- **MCA of Chicago** (Local Angle)
- **Construction Education Institute Update**
- **Emerging Leaders**
- **Women of MCA of Chicago**
- **And more...**

To sign up, contact [admin@mca.org](mailto:admin@mca.org)

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



By Bridget Dougherty & Dan Day

## **Governor's Proposed Budget and "Cutting Corporate Loopholes"**

Governor Pritzker presented his proposed Fiscal Year 2022 budget on February 17. The Governor proposed a \$ 41.6 billion state budget for FY 2022. It does NOT include an income tax increase. The Governor proposed closing corporate loopholes as a cornerstone of his balanced budget. He proposed an array of ending certain tax incentives estimated to save between \$900 million and \$1 billion in the next Fiscal Year.

We are most concerned with the proposal to eliminate the Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment (MME) sales tax exemption which the Governor's Office estimates will save the state \$56 million annually. We are working with our partners in the business community to oppose this measure.

## **COVID-19 Relief Act Proposals**

There are a number of bills filed that would shield employers from civil liability for exposure to COVID-19.

## **Capital Development Board: Single Prime Procurement Method**

The Capital Development Board (CDB) filed a measure at the beginning of Session (HB 2567) which would have removed the 50% restriction on the use of the single prime method of procurement for contracts valued at \$5 million or less. They have since filed an amendment removing this language and sunsetting the provision at the end of calendar year 2026. MCA was successful in maintaining this protection for the 5-year period that we have been advocating for since 2019.

## **Paid Family Leave Measures**

There are a rather large number of bills that would expand the circumstances under which an employee can utilize Paid Family Leave. We will monitor these measures to ensure that they maintain the exemption for collective bargaining agreement.

## **IMSCA Legislation**

IMSCA has two bills this year that we support. The first is a simple sunset extension to the Mechanic's Lien Act (SB 2494). IMSCA's other measures, however, will be more difficult. SB 178 provides that no retainage may be withheld by a unit of local government from a contractor who furnishes the bond or bond substitute required by the Act, nor may a contractor withhold retainage from its subcontractors.

## **Other Legislation of Interest**

Senator Michael Hastings (D-Frankfort) has re-filed the Hazardous Materials Workforce Training bill, SB 514, which requires advanced training for persons working in hazardous industries, including at oil refineries. MCA will remain neutral on SB 514.

In addition, we expect to see an amendment to Senator Hastings' SB 2351 which would amend the Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act in relation to primary contractor responsibility for wage claims in the construction industry. There may be an effort to do the same in the House. We will continue to monitor these along with our industry partners.



**As of April 1, 2021, the following trades have contracts that expire on May 31, 2021:**

### **CHICAGOLAND AREA**

Cement Masons Local 502  
Electricians Local 134  
Glaziers Local 27  
Iron Workers Local 63  
Laborers District Council  
Operating Engineers Local 150  
Plasterers Local 5  
Roofers Local 11

### **ROCKFORD AREA**

Plumbers & Fitters Local 23

We will continue to keep you updated as developments occur.

# BEHIND THE SCENES

Sometimes the association seems like an iceberg. No matter what you see at the top, there was a lot more going on behind the scenes to get there. Here's a peek behind the curtain.



## 1. CAREER DEVELOPMENT

It was a tough year for Career Development no matter which side you were on. MCA of Chicago tried to make it easier for everyone, whether you were a contractor, student, or faculty advisor. While it culminated with our scholarship awards, we are now in a period where we look at what we've done and how to move to the next stage. For scholarship awards, we need to tweak the application, and find a better way to include disadvantaged groups. We've reached out to organizations like HACIA, Polished Pebbles, and USMCA who are helping us get the word out.

1

## 2. JOINT APPRENTICE AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Our Joint Apprentice and Training Committee have two brand new management side members. One of our biggest challenges is to make sure that we don't have too many apprentices on the bench. Moreover, we need to place apprentices with those contractors not taking their fair share.

2

3

## 3. HVAC SERVICE

This group is doing well but how do we make our contractors future-proof? How will the new carbon-free economy affect us? What will happen to the commercial real estate market, and how will that affect us? These are questions we will continue to address.

4

## 4. TECHNOLOGY

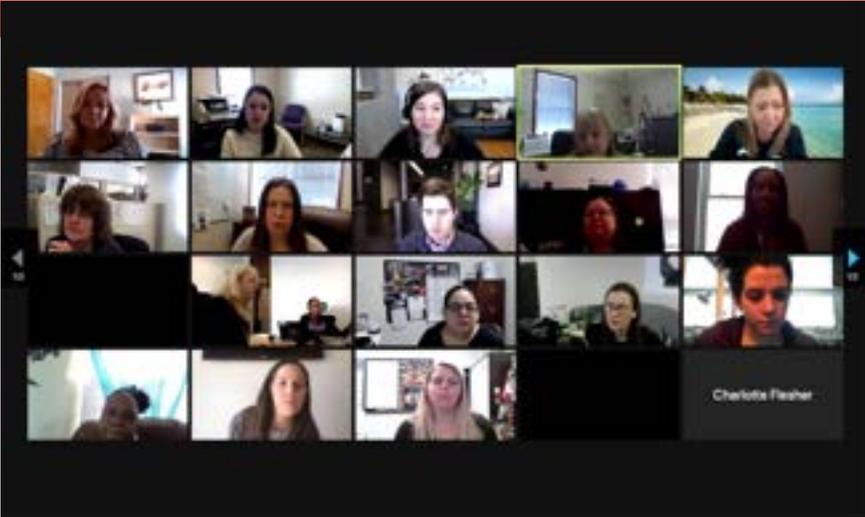
We've been the leaders in construction technology for the last 12 years and we're deciding where to go next. For now, we've got our podcast series to help members stay up-to-date on the latest technology in the construction industry.

5

## 5. SAFETY

Safety has always been a very successful committee. But we need more people participating in peer groups. Our goal was that every member would be in a small safety peer group that they could trust in and rely on because we don't compete on safety. Our members will need these resources more than ever as the new administration focuses on compliance.

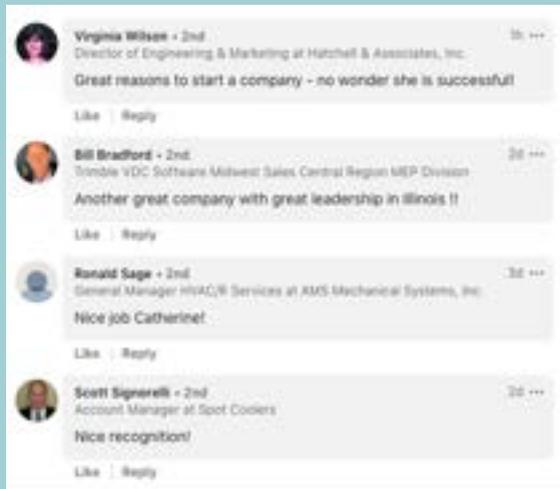
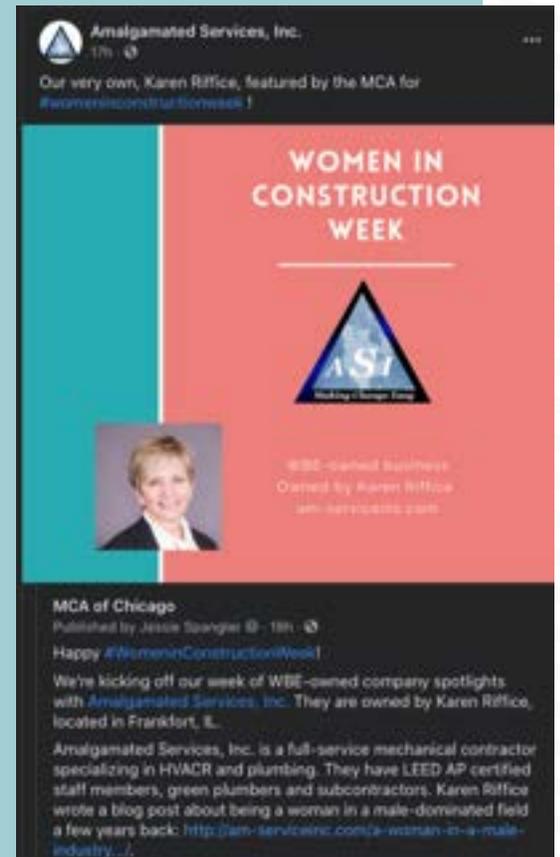
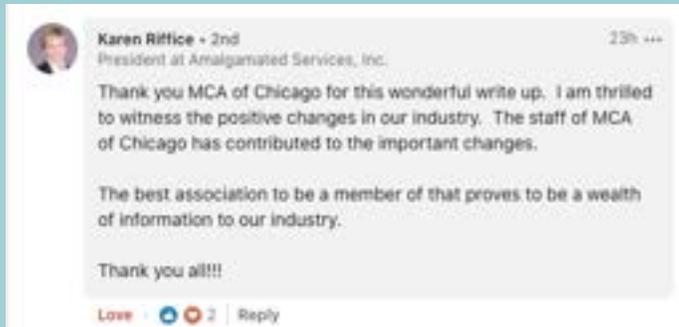
# WOMEN OF THE ASSOCIATION



We held our first Women of MCA of Chicago event of the year February 9th. The event was a Lunch & Learn facilitated by Alyssa Westring, and it focused on strategies for leading in career and life. We had 24 attendees over Zoom. Westring combined insights and personal stories to help individuals develop strategies for success both in and outside of work. Attendees learned to rethink the “trade-off” mentality when it comes to work and life and how to define career success on their own terms. In addition, they explored and practiced evidence-based strategies for thriving in all areas of their lives.

## WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION WEEK

For Women in Construction Week from March 7th to 13th, we celebrated all of our WBE-owned businesses on social media. Thanks to everyone who liked, commented, and shared our posts! We are proud of all of our WBE-owned businesses, and the female leaders that run them.



# EMERGING LEADERS

## RISE to resilience

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EXCLUSIVE MCA OF CHICAGO LEADERSHIP EVENT SERIES

RSVP HERE: [MCA.ORG/RISE](http://MCA.ORG/RISE)

LEADERSHIP IS SOMETHING THAT YOU WORK FOR—YOU HAVE TO DIG DEEP INSIDE YOURSELF AND PUT IN THE TIME AND EFFORT. EVERY CHALLENGE EXISTS TO DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS. DO YOU HAVE THE WILLINGNESS TO TACKLE THEM?

TO HELP MEMBER COMPANIES DEVELOP THESE SKILLS, THE EMERGING LEADERS STEERING COMMITTEE HAS DEVELOPED THIS SERIES OF VIRTUAL PROGRAMS



**Resilience**

APRIL 20  
12-1 PM  
CHAZD WRIGHT

**Emotional**

APRIL 13  
2-3 PM  
CHERYLANNE SZOLNICKI

**Social**

APRIL 8  
7-8 PM  
DAVE MITCHELL

**Innovation**

APRIL 8  
2-3 PM  
PETER SHEAHAN

**Relentless**

MARCH 30  
VIDEO BY  
CHAZD WRIGHT



## RISE to Resilience

This year the Emerging Leaders Steering Committee of MCA of Chicago is excited to put on a series of programs to help you provide your Rising Star with the resources to RISE up within your company. One person per company please. Contact Rebecca at [rlintow@mca.org](mailto:rlintow@mca.org) for more information.

For 2021, the Emerging Leaders have created a series of financial wellness programs. Presented in partnership with Mass Mutual. The first part was well attended but we want to see more on one of the other upcoming dates (and MCA is buying lunch for all participants!).

**April 7th @ Noon:** Creating a Personal Budget  
[mca.org/event/creating-a-budget/](http://mca.org/event/creating-a-budget/)

**July 14th @ Noon:** Retirement Savings  
[mca.org/event/retirement-savings/](http://mca.org/event/retirement-savings/)

# AROUND THE ASSOCIATION



## VIRTUAL RACE UPDATE

MCA of Chicago just finished up its first virtual race, and the stats look good. We had 76 people competing on 18 teams going over 10,000 miles in 60 days. All of the feedback we received was positive. Most of it being that we inspired people to exercise! Here are our team and individual winners.

- First team to cross the finish line - AMS Mechanical, team no. 3
- First individual to cross the finish line - Al Van Meter with BMW, team no. 1
- Team with the most miles is Ideal Heating Company with 1,240 miles
- Individual with the most miles - Al Van Meter with 613 miles

If you didn't participate you have another chance. Our next race started March 22 and will take us around Ireland. It's not too late to sign up: [mca.org/health/](http://mca.org/health/)



**REGISTRATION OPENS JUNE 1ST.**

# SAVE THE DATE:

## MCA of Chicago Fall Conference 2021

Visit [mca.org/event/fall-conference-21](https://mca.org/event/fall-conference-21).  
Registration opens July 1, 2021.



## MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

### A Look Ahead:

April 20 @ Noon

Via Zoom

Join us in celebrating the graduates of the Essentials of Project Management (EPM) program this year. The Emerging Leaders Steering committee will also host a presenter. Chadd Wright of the 3 of 7 Project who will discuss resilience: It is not letting obstacles keep you from accomplishing the mission. Mission success depends on you, and your teammates look to you for strength. You must lead in the absence of orders. The takeaway here is to charge forward despite what gets in your way. Chadd Wright will help attendees get into the mindset of "mission success depends on me."

[mca.org/event/membership-meeting/](https://mca.org/event/membership-meeting/)

June 15

This membership meeting will be for owners/presidents of MCA of Chicago member companies only. Meet MCA of Chicago's new Executive Vice President, John Rayburn. We're currently planning to hold this meeting in-person.

[mca.org/event/membership-meeting-2/](https://mca.org/event/membership-meeting-2/)



## Congratulations!

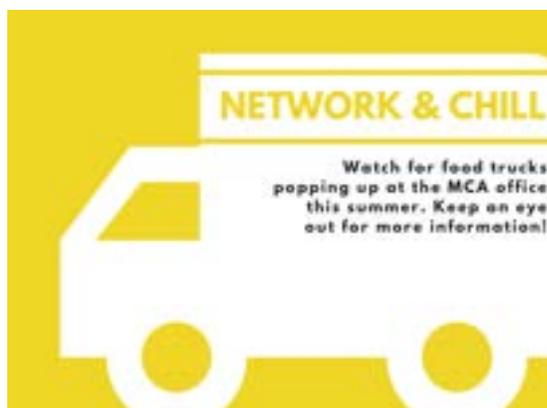
Congratulations to Susan Rocque, our own Director of Finance, for twenty years at MCA of Chicago! Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

## PLANNING STATUS

We are now in the last year of our five-year strategic plan but with the new Executive Vice President arriving soon, MCA of Chicago will start a new strategic plan next year. This fall, we'll create one more annual plan.

### Our ongoing action items this year include:

- Helping members with strategic business programs
- Continue to promote technology
- Providing more online classes
- Promoting DBE's and create a welcoming environment
- Staying on top of government affairs
- Teaching resilience
- Elevating career development activities
- Beginning to address mental health



# AROUND THE ASSOCIATION



## Congratulations to Brian Helm

Congratulations to Brian Helm on completing his two year term as MCAA Board President. He became president at the end of MCAA19 and was elected to the MCAA Board of Directors in 2013. In addition, he is the President of Helm Group, one of the largest plumbing and HVAC contractors in the Midwest and serves as past president of MCA of Chicago.



## MCA of Chicago Announces New Executive Vice President

MCA of Chicago will welcome its new Executive Vice President, John Rayburn, on June 1st. Mr. Rayburn comes to us from the MCA of Indiana where he has been the Executive Director since 1997. John has extensive experience and knowledge negotiating in the collective bargaining arena and has been responsible for negotiating multiple pipefitter union agreements throughout Indiana. Additionally, he is currently the secretary of the Industrial Relations Council (I.R.C.) and will continue in this role. He has served as a Trustee on JATC, Pension Plans, and Health & Welfare Plans during his tenure in Indiana. He is a member of the MCAA Association Executives Council's Executive Leadership Initiative Committee and previously served on MCAA's Industry Improvement Funds Committee and MCAA's Career Development Committee.

John loves spending time with his wife Kelly and on rare occasions, their teenage sons. At the beginning of the pandemic, he discovered Netflix and completed watching several series, with Better Call Saul and Breaking Bad as his favorites. Other interests include spending time outdoors walking and playing with the family's two golden retrievers.

He looks forward to meeting the membership and learning about all the MCA of Chicago Leadership Groups.



## Podcast Update

This year, we started three podcasts—M-News, M-Comms, and M-Tech—to better reach our members and partners with the latest organization, technology, and marketing news. We threw a virtual launch party in January to celebrate the release of our first M-Tech episode, complete with a raffle. You can now listen to the first episodes of all three of these podcasts on our website ([mca.org/podcast](http://mca.org/podcast)).

## New Members

MCA of Chicago welcomed two new members in February.



## Decarbonization and the future of our industry



With a new president in the White House we appear to be moving more quickly than ever to the “new green economy.”

Ambitious plans are being talked about that includes the elimination of oil and gas from our economy.

The two big questions for our members are when, and how much? Never before have experts seriously talked about elimination of

natural gas as a heating and cooking fuel, but it’s all the talk now. If

you take away natural gas and oil what work do we have left? How long will it take and how do we prepare ourselves for the future? Those are questions that we are already working on. Other industry groups are starting to talk about solutions, but in the meantime MCA of Chicago has been studying the situation through our Innovation Committee. If you look at alternatives to oil and gas, the options you mostly see now are solar and wind. These make electricity, which will power all our heating, cooling, processes, and transportation. But will we have enough, and what will it cost? There are other alternatives: hydrogen, synthetic fuels, biomass, geothermal, and nuclear, which can be beneficial in the long run. But we need to start thinking and planning now. Do you want to help us? Please contact Dan Bulley, [dbulley@mca.org](mailto:dbulley@mca.org), if you want to join our committee, even if just for this issue.



## MCA OF CHICAGO SAFETY AWARD WINNERS

Announced on February 23rd

### 2020

#### 50,000 HOURS OR LESS

- Dynamic Heating and Piping
- GT Mechanical Projects and Design, Inc.
- American Combustion Service, Inc.
- Ortiz Contracting Group
- Ideal Heating Company
- Complete Temperature Systems, Inc.
- Dahme Mechanical Industries, Inc.

#### 50,000 - 100,000 HOURS

- RAM Mechanical Services
- Westside Mechanical Group
- Martin Mechanical Corp.
- DePue Mechanical, Inc.

#### 100,000 - 200,000 HOURS

- Air Comfort Corp.

#### 200,000 - 500,000 HOURS

- F.E. Moran

#### 500,000 - 1,000,000 HOURS

- Amex Nooter, LLC

#### 1,000,000 HOURS OR MORE

- BMWC Constructors, Inc.

### 2019

#### 50,000 HOURS OR LESS

- American Combustion Service, Inc.
- CT Mechanical
- Dahme Mechanical Industries, Inc.
- Jason Mechanical Corporation
- Service Mechanical Industries, Inc.

#### 50,000 - 100,000 HOURS

- Martin Mechanical Corporation
- The YMI Group

#### 100,000 - 200,000 HOURS

- DePue Mechanical, Inc.
- PCI Energy Services, LLC

#### 200,000 - 500,000 HOURS

- Graycor Industrial Contractors, Inc.

#### 500,000 - 1,000,000 HOURS

- AMS Mechanical Systems, Inc.

#### 1,000,000 HOURS OR MORE

- Helm Mechanical, Inc.

## CEI Online Class Calendar (April - May)

### APRIL 15

#### Communication Mindsets

**11:00 am - 12:30pm**

Instructor: **Nic Bittle**

In this 90 minute program we will take a first step look at what it takes to develop our next level of leaders. We will also identify the common pitfalls and missteps many companies make when beginning this process.

### APRIL 23

#### Excel: Learning the Features

**9:00 AM - 10:30 AM**

Instructor: **Ginnie Floraday**

This class is not just for people that have never created a formula. If you are self-taught, you will benefit. Besides creating formulas, copying, and formatting cells, you will learn the underlying logic of Excel, such as how the menus are organized, and the difference between a sheet command, a column command, and a cell command. This approach will make it easy to teach yourself how to work with new features of the software after the class.

### APRIL 27

#### Driving Project Success

**9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Instructor: **Stephane McShane**

This class is an interactive session geared toward project management and field leadership. Participants are immediately placed in the positions they find themselves every day – tasked to build a project without all the tools or information they need to get the project done. During the workshop, attendees learn about the importance of productivity, motivation, coaching, leadership, planning and technology to drive project performance. A BIM model of the project is utilized to demonstrate just how drastically technology and prefabrication are going to change the industry.

### APRIL 28-29

#### Consultative Selling

**1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

Instructor: **Gary Polain**

Successful companies are becoming more client focused and market driven. They adapt their services to their client's specific needs and strategies. Successful Account Managers differentiate themselves from the competition by the way they influence.

## New Member Benefit Available



**CFO Simplified** It's Different With a CFO<sup>®</sup>

We are excited to announce a new benefit where an outside company would do a financial audit on your business and provide suggestions. This service will be conducted by CFO Simplified. CFO Simplified has worked with a wide variety of businesses that include almost every industry from manufacturing to distribution, software to internet sales and even medical, construction, and nonprofits.

Register online now by going to [mca.org/calendar](https://mca.org/calendar) and selecting the class you're interested in. All classes will be taught via Zoom.

## MAY 6

### Mental Health and Suicide Prevention: The Next Dimension in Safety Culture

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Instructor: **Michelle Walker**

With vocal leadership support, training, and resources, we can equip and empower our employees to help themselves and their co-workers who may be at risk of suicide. Just as we encourage employees to put their safety knowledge to work at home and adopt a "Safety 24/7" mentality, employees are trained to recognize mental health issues and suicide risk can benefit family or friends who may exhibit warning signs, helping to reduce the ripple effect of suicide.

## MAY 13

### Getting Organized in Outlook and OneNote

**9:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

Instructor: **Ginnie Floraday**

Learn the various methods of managing Outlook emails, appointments and tasks. Outlook has formatting tools that will save you time. Using OneNote, you are able to take active notes on emails. This is a great time management technique, especially when an email requires action on the recipient's part.

## MAY 12

### Critical Approach to Troubleshooting

**9:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Instructor: **Woody Woodall**

This program will cover topics including starting the process: the problem, understanding the client's point of view, taking time to understand the system, not just the piece of equipment, documentation, and follow-up.

## MAY 20

### Connect & Compel: Become a More Persuasive, Engaging Communicator

**9:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

Instructor: **Rob Biesenbach**

Few things are more important than the ability to communicate our ideas and priorities in a way that is clear, compelling and audience-focused. Solid communication skills are critical to both individual and team performance. This engaging and interactive session equips people with the tools they need to be more thoughtful, strategic, and empathetic communicators.

The MCA member companies that participated in our pilot program for this new service gave it rave reviews.

*"The review, analysis, and recommendations provided by CFO Simplified (CFOS) were very informative and valuable to understanding financial areas where Autumn could improve. The engagement provided an opportunity to discuss Autumn and our business in general terms, and then to review initial concerns and findings made by CFOS. We discussed both the initial concerns and the final recommendations made by CFOS, and I was able to understand the how and why for what areas need to be addressed. As a smaller firm without an in-house CFO, the services provided as part of the CFOS engagement were exactly what I needed."*

**Susan Nelson**, President  
Autumn Construction

For additional information, contact Rebecca at [rlintow@mca.org](mailto:rlintow@mca.org).



7065 Veterans Blvd.  
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527  
312.384.1220  
staff@mca.org | www.mca.org

Presort First Class  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Carol Stream, IL  
Permit #272

## SAVE THE DATES



- **April 7** Emerging Leaders Present: Creating a Personal Budget
- **April 20** Membership Meeting
- **April 26-28** MCAA Innovation Conference
- **June 15** Membership Meeting
- **July 14** Emerging Leaders Present: Retirement Savings
- **August 2** MCA of Chicago Golf Outing
- **October 7-9** Fall Conference



[WWW.MCA.ORG](http://WWW.MCA.ORG)