



\*\*\*\*



### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear MCA of Chicago Members,

With the presidential, state and local elections now behind us, we remain committed to promoting the needs of our members no matter what changes we may face. This makes it all the more important for MCA of Chicago members, to get to know your legislators in the near future. Our budgets and collective work rely on sound policies, so making sure our voices (and concerns) are heard is critical to our continued success in the industry.

All MCA of Chicago committees have been meeting regularly to continue changing our association for the better. If you're interested in learning more or joining any of our active committees, reach out to the MCA team at staff@mca.org.

The end of the year is fast approaching, which often brings many occasions to get together with friends, family and colleagues. We have many accomplishments to celebrate this year, and invite our members to join us for our annual Holiday Party on December 12 at Brookfield Zoo. Enjoy the animals, the lights, the good company — and get energized for another great year ahead!









### **KEEPING AN EYE ON ISSUES** AFFECTING OUR CONTRACTORS

Members of the MCA of Chicago Government Affairs Committee met with lobbyists several times throughout the summer and early fall to discuss the industry's legislative outlook and assess Political **Action Committee contributions.** 

At the time of this writing, there is not much activity to report. The veto session is scheduled for November, but that might not even happen since the November elections have kept the General Assembly from doing too much this year.

However, it's the "lame duck" session in January that we must watch out **for**. That is when pretty much anything can happen, and we'll be keeping a close watch on it. Of course, this is the reason our PACs exist. Some may call it a necessary evil, but it is necessary. Legislators and other political leaders need to know who we are and that we're serious

about promoting the interests of our industry as a whole.

This brings us to the part where we ask you to visit your state representative and senator now, before we need to ask them for a vote. Contact Dan Bulley and he will help you get connected. It is critical that we have better access to Springfield now more than ever. When initiatives are proposed or action is taken that affects MCA of Chicago members, we'll let you know right away, regardless of whether you contact your legislator. But if you do, we'll be in a better position to do something about it.



Get on the distribution list

✓ dbulley@mca.org



# 700+ SAFETY RESOURCES AVAILABLE



Strive for safety! To view the full list of MCAA resources, visit



- 3. Our marketing team will contact you for a brief phone interview.







# WINTER/SPRING 2025 CEI CATALOG AVAILABLE SOON

MCA of Chicago, in partnership with the Piping Education Council, is pleased to present a fresh lineup of classes this winter and spring through our Construction Education Institute.

Members are encouraged to sign up for these industry-leading educational opportunities designed to help improve productivity, safety, communication and more essential skills.

Notable programs this cycle include:

- February 7 | Indiana Contractors Program: Critical Leadership Skills for Project Managers
- **April 8 & 9** | Dispatchers Program (2 days)
- **April 17, 24 & May 1** | The Fundamentals of Scheduling (3-day series)
- **May 6, 7 & 8** | Rigging Program (3 days)

The Winter/Spring 2025 CEI Catalog is currently in production and will be available in both printed and digital formats soon.







# CRITICAL LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT

**The Center for Visual and Performing Arts** 1040 Ridge Rd., Munster, IN

The success of project managers largely depends on the performance of several jobsite teams. In turn, company success depends on the project manager's performance. There is no such thing as a great project manager who is a weak leader. Successful projects —and a successful career — start with critical leadership skills.

### This seminar provides an understanding of these leadership skills and will include:

- What is great leadership?
- What is servant leadership and why is it important?
- What is emotional intelligence?
- Understanding the relationship between effective leadership and emotional intelligence
- Defining and dispelling the myths of leadership
- The difference between leadership and management
- A discussion of Maxwell's irrefutable laws of leadership
- Making the emotional connection with teams and leaders

- The relationship between leadership and motivation
- Developing effective speaking and listening skills
- Creating an atmosphere of trust
- Leadership ability and its relationship to personal effectiveness and accomplishment



**Save the date** Friday, February 7, 2025 7:30 a.m. - Noon





part, for its easy access to the highway. But the biggest benefit is that the union now better supports between 500-550 previously underserved members and apprentices.

"As we continue to evolve and grow as a local, we listen to our members and

The 30,000-square-foot state-of-the-art training center is outfitted with the latest lab equipment and technology to support apprentices through their five-year program, including a training boiler to service snow melt systems throughout Chicago's northside.

"Quality training and education is at the core of everything Local 597 does," Bonato said. "We will always monitor the needs of an ever-changing field and make additions to our curriculum to keep members ahead of the curve and trained to be the most diverse and skilled tradespeople possible."

Classes at the Palatine Training Center take place both during the day and at night. They are taught by three instructors and include a daily HVAC class, hybrid welding, gas distribution training and NICOR testing. The following programming is the core Palatine curriculum during the 2024-2025 school year:

- Hybrid weld classes
- HVAC courses
- Residential classes
- Medical gas re-certification training
- Poly fusion and gas distribution training
- NICOR testing

In addition to apprentice and continued journeyman training, the Palatine Training Center is home to a Family Wellness Center, available to all covered members, retirees and their dependents ages six and older. Free services offered include primary care, chronic condition coaching, prevention and lab services. Appointments are available to 597 members in person or virtually by calling 847-773-4428.



# UA INSTRUCTOR TRAINING PROGRAM In August, Local 597 sent 32 instructors to the UA Instructor

Training Program (ITP) in Ann Arbor, Mich. The ITP is designed to help instructors improve teaching techniques, diversify mechanical skills and enhance knowledge of scientific and technical elements of the trade. Attendees included five first-time instructors and 11 continuing education instructors, who are on track to receive a graduation certificate upon completing 200 hours of training. Additionally, 13 instructors attended and taught courses at the **ITP. Local 597 consistently has** more instructors teaching at the ITP than any other UA Local.





DECEMBER

### **HOLIDAY PARTY**

Brookfield, IL Cocktail hour: 6-7 p.m. Dinner & reception: 7-9:30 p.m.

You're invited to celebrate the accomplishments of the year with MCA of Chicago members at our annual Holiday Party! This special event will take place at Brookfield Zoo, where members will be greeted by a special guest and experience the beautiful Holiday Magic lights festival.



### **Register Now**

Brookfield Zoo 8400 31st St. Brookfield, IL 60513 **SAFETY & HEALTH** 

**JANUARY** 

13-16

### Fort Lauderdale, FL

**CONFERENCE** 

MCAA, SMACNA and TAUC are teaming up to bring members a conference full of educational opportunities led by notable industry professionals. The event will foster collaboration, facilitate the sharing of best practices and important resources, and drive collective progress towards the future of the industry. 1992 Dream Team basketball star Scottie Pippen is this year's keynote speaker.



### **Register Now**

Fort Lauderdale Marriott Harbor Beach Resort & Spa 3030 Holiday Dr. Fort Lauderdale, FL

Two additional half-day sessions on mental health and risk management have also been scheduled. Both bit.ly/4dP7a2U and click "Additional Education" for details.

**JANUARY** 27-30

### **2025 MEP** INNOVATION **CONFERENCE**

### Los Angeles, CA

Don't miss the industry's best technology conference, which will offer educational sessions conducted by industry leaders from MCAA, NECA and SMACNA. From innovative presentations and collaborative roundtable discussions to handson exhibitor demonstrations highlighting the recent technologies that can improve MEP contractors' productivity and profitability, all levels of management and field personnel will benefit from this three-day conference.

The 2025 MEP Innovations Conference is hosted in partnership with MCAA, NECA and SMACNA.



### **Register Now**

Intercontinental Los Angeles Downtown 900 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA

# GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

Support our industry. Stay involved.



### MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Oak Brook, IL

4:30 Safety Expo & Reception 5:45 Meeting

Members are invited to join us for an evening of networking with industry leaders, followed by an engaging presentation during our February Membership Meeting. Stay tuned for the speaker and registration details as the date gets closer.

Gibsons Bar & Steakhouse 2105 Spring Rd. Oak Brook, IL 60523



### MCAA 2025 ANNUAL CONVENTION

Austin, TX

MCA of Chicago members are invited to "Find Your Rhythm" in Austin at the MCAA 2025 Annual Convention! With a reputation as the industry's premier educational event, this anticipated event offers something for everyone from executive leaders to your company's newest hires.

Attendees will experience a first-class trade show, networking opportunities and exceptional educational seminars. Don't miss out on the chance to tune in to the latest industry trends, technologies and best practices. *See you in Austin!* 



**Register Now** 

JW Marriott Austin 110 E. 2nd St. Austin, TX



# 2025 FALL CONFERENCE

Yountville, CA

Join us in the world-famous winegrowing region of Yountville for our biannual Fall Conference, the signature event for MCA of Chicago members and PEC contributor firms.

We'll stay at the picturesque Estate Yountville, an exclusive vineyard destination and luxurious hotel nestled on 22 scenic acres. In addition to our incredible lineup of speakers and programming, you're sure to find one-of-a-kind culinary experiences, renowned art and a variety of activities and tours.

Watch for full event details coming after the New Year!

The Estate Yountville 6481 Washington St. Yountville, CA 94599



# RECAPS



# WIMI GROUP FILLS SUCCESS BAGS TO DISTRIBUTE DURIN WEEK

MCA of Chicago WiMI proudly supported Chicago Women in Trades as the group prepares for National Apprenticeship Week, set for November 17-23 this year. Together with the tradeswomen, we assembled 100 success bags, each filled with donations of tools and essentials for skilled trades apprentices. It was a wonderful evening of collaboration and camaraderie as we worked toward the shared goal of building equal opportunity in the industry!







### AUGUST MEMBER MEETING RECAP: NEW BOARD MEMBERS, ELECTION INSIGHT AND MORE

The August Member Meeting was at Gibson's Steakhouse and Bar in Oak Brook. After a delicious meal, President Nick Marino presided over his first membership meeting since his election in June.

In his opening remarks, Marino thanked immediate past president Jim Jacobsen Jr. for being such a great association mentor. He also thanked the members for their participation in all the association's activities, and staff for their help every day. Then he promised to keep MCA as one of the premier associations in the country by continuing to deliver great service.

This was followed by the usual reports on recent successful association events.

work outlook and trustee reports.
After introducing our new MCA of
Chicago board members, John Rayburn
discussed upcoming events. The
meeting was adjourned to introduce
our speaker for the night, Tom Bevan of
RealClearPolitics, who told us who he
thought would win the election. If you
were in attendance, you know by now
whether he was right or not!







# ARE LAYOUT ROBOTS A CONSTRUCTION GAME CHANGER?

# TECHNOLOGY MOVES FAST, AND IT'S NO DIFFERENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

BIM modeling is the norm on ground-up construction projects, but that wasn't the case just a few years ago.

BIM proved its worth by uncovering problems in the money in the layout phase. But will it stick around?



"Autonomous construction layout printing robot" is a mouthful, but it tells you everything these cutting-edge robots do.



Machines like the **Dusty Robotics Field Printer** (and their updated Field Printer 2), the **HP SitePrint** and the **Rugged Robots Mark 1** utilize GPS and BIM and CAD models to autonomously print detailed layout plans on project slabs. And we're talking layouts across all trades: mechanical, electrical, plumbing, pre-cast concrete, framework and internal partitions. **What used to take a team of people multiple days can now be accomplished by one person, a robot, a total station and a tablet in mere hours – or less.** Furthermore, these robust Roombas can print QR codes on the slab, making it super easy to include extra information in specific spots on the site for construction teams working on the project.

Dusty Robotics says its Field Printer 2 can lay out floor plans 10 times faster than a manual crew, with accuracy up to 1/16 of an inch. HP reports similar speed stats for the SitePrint, but its accuracy comes in at 1/8 of an inch. For these machines to pull this off they need a pretty clean slab to print on, which isn't necessarily natural on a construction site. And the print area must be clear of obstacles. For the most part, these machines work together with robotic total workstations (RTS) and need to be within line of site to work as efficiently as possible. And the printer ink needs time to dry so it doesn't smear, which has motivated some crews to apply clearcoat over the prints for durability.

### **Real World Examples**



In an HP promotional video, Siteline360's Regional Director Michael Hill said the **SitePrint printed all wall layouts for a 2,400-square-foot project in 45 minutes.** He said the same project took layout techs seven hours to complete. In a case study provided by Dusty Robotics, a rep from international construction giant Skanska said they were able to deliver a three-story, 69,000-square-foot medical office building three months ahead of schedule and with \$3 million of savings thanks to Field Printer 2.

### How much do they cost?



HP's SitePrint costs \$50,000 to purchase, then you're looking at 20 cents per square foot printed after that. Prices for the Dusty Field Printer and the Rugged Robots Mark 1 are on a per quote basis.



For more information on the **Dusty Robotics Field Printer 2** Visit **dustyrobotics.com** 



For more information on the **HP SitePrint**Visit **bit.ly/3Y7wGuv** 



For more information on the **Rugged Robots Mark 1**Visit **rugged-robotics.com** 







# ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL GOLF OUTING WRAPS UP THE SUMMER

On September 16, 130 MCA of Chicago members and industry partners joined us for a beautiful day of golfing at Ruth Lake Country Club in Hinsdale.

More than an elite golf course with top-level facilities, Ruth Lake Country Club is steeped in rich history, and is a member-favorite course.

A round of applause to the team from Johnson Controls, whose foursome was the overall low gross winner! Three other teams tied for second place. Congratulations also go to our event's prize winners.

Thanks to everyone who turned out for a fun day of good sportsmanship and camaraderie! We're already excited to plan next year's event.







# BUILT ON A REPUTATION OF DEDICATION FOR 145 YEARS.

Trusted to deliver the right building solutions at the right time.



**ESTABLISHED** 1879

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS

**EMPLOYEES** 



PHILOSOPHY OF ONE KROESCHELL, ONE TOTAL ENTERPRISE, ONE PHILOSÓPHY' ON HOW WE DO **BUSINESS. IF WE** TOUCHED IT AND OUR NAME IS ON IT, WE WANT IT RIGHT. **IF WE DON'T GET** IT RIGHT, WE'RE **GOING TO MAKE IT** RIGHT."

**Barry Klassy, Presid** 

Kroeschell

One hundred and forty-five years ago, milk was sold in glass bottles for the first time. Thomas Edison demonstrated his new electric lighting system to the public. And four industrious German brothers founded a boiler and piping contracting company in Chicago known, at the time, as the Kroeschell Brothers Company.

By 1906, Kroeschell had gotten into the cooling business — becoming known as Kroeschell Brothers Ice Machine Company — and even designed and installed what is considered America's first commercial air conditioning system in Chicago's Congress Hotel. After a handful of mergers, first with Brunswick and then with Carrier and York, two of the brothers branched off to form the Kroeschell that exists today.

Much has happened in the past 145 years, and Kroeschell's become known as a leading provider of mechanical, electrical and plumbing solutions for Fortune 500 companies, hospitals, universities and the U.S. government. Although no Kroeschell family members remain involved, the brothers' traditions live on and the company mission remains the same: to support the full lifecycle of facilities and create safe, sustainable, top-performing building environments.

"We're truly a design-build engineering company with a lot of licensed professional engineers on staff," said Barry Klassy, President and CEO. "We actually get into how things work and the engineering of a system at a deeper level than most by looking at the science and engineering behind what we're playing with. With Kroeschell, you're going to get a depth of understanding that a lot of our competitors can't offer."

At 190 employees strong, the Kroeschell team provides a wide range of services, including turnkey construction, MEP design build engineering, commercial facility maintenance, building automated controls, commissioning, preventative maintenance and 24/7 emergency mechanical repair. The company is headquartered in Arlington Heights, Illinois, with additional regional locations in East Peoria, Illinois, Colorado Springs, Colorado and Rapid City, South Dakota. Fun fact: the company's history is intertwined with MCA of Chicago. It's one of the original founding members, and remains the oldest current member of the association today.

Continued ...





3,191

**MEMBER FEATURE** 

# KROESCHELL

### BUILT ON A REPUTATION OF DEDICATION FOR 145 YEARS.

... Continued





Because of the great care the Kroeschell team takes in creating customized solutions to optimize productivity and sustainability, the company has earned its longstanding reputation for excellence. With nearly a century and a half of experience, Kroeschell has worked to solve some of Chicagoland's most pressing building operational challenges.

"We tend to gravitate toward those projects where you're modifying existing infrastructure. Not every competitor is going to want to peel the onion, so to speak — to peel those layers back and not know what you're going to find," Klassy said. "It happens a lot with federal projects, where many companies have touched those buildings, always with good intent, but did they do the right thing? It's kind of like the difference between doctors and surgeons. Kroeschell is more like a surgeon; we work with and modify what's there to provide a better outcome at the end."

Among their countless success stories is one that particularly stands out to Klassy — the Naval Station Great Lakes (NSGL). The project involved decentralizing a decades-old central steam plant in favor of installing high-efficiency condensing boilers in 97 buildings throughout the campus. The scope of the project was a challenge in itself, as the naval base had to remain operational during the project with minimal interruptions. But many of the buildings at the NSGL are on the National Register of Historic Places, which presented even more unique obstacles. Kroeschell was up for the challenge and completed the \$57 million project five months early, meeting and exceeding the high standards on which the company was originally founded.

"We eat, live and breathe a philosophy of one Kroeschell, one total enterprise, one philosophy on how we do business," Klassy said. "If we touched it and our name is on it, we want it right. If we don't get it right, we're going to make it right. We won't stray from the tried and true, and that trust and integrity is a pretty easy sell when you're a company as old as we are."

Klassy is proud of the company's decades of quality work and looks forward to their next milestone celebration at 150 years.

"A company this old, you pridefully want to protect it and see it last forever," he said. "Our goal is to continue to protect it, treat it well and let it serve all of us here in the way it served previous generations."



The 2024 MSCA Education Conference took place September 22-25 at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs.

Participants enjoyed perfect weather, beautiful views and plenty of networking and group activities. The MCA of Chicago team attended insightful sessions on new refrigerant regulations, the use of artificial intelligence and many other topics impacting our industry today.

These conferences are a wonderful way to connect and collaborate with peers while understanding the lates cutting-edge solutions available in the industry. If you're in the HVAC service sector, don't miss next year in Scottsdale, Arizona!







MCA OF CHICAGO

\*\*\*\*



### MEMBER BENEFITS

### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR MEMBER BENEFITS

**LEARN MORE ABOUT ALL** YOUR BENEFITS



### TRAINING & EDUCATION \*\*\*



### **CEI EDUCATION**

Get top-tier training at the Construction Education Institute (CEI) from industry leaders. Build hands-on skills across a variety of topics, with options to earn certificates in Essentials of Project Management (EPM) and Advanced Project Management (APM).

### 

- 10-hour OSHA training
- 30-hour OSHA training
- New weekly video talks in pilot
- Safety webinars and seminars

### INDUSTRY RESOURCES

- Access to MCAA's Web-Based Labor Estimating Manual.
- Subsidies for Project Management, Advanced Project Management and Advanced Leadership Institute.
- Two free passes for each CBHCC class.
- 33% discount on most CSC classes.

### ■ OTHER TECHNOLOGY CLASSES

Three hours of technology consulting from computer and software expert Ginnie Floraday.



### **ALOBBYING**

from Illinois Mechanical Specialty Contractors Association (IMSCA), work to implement legislation specific to member interests.

### LABOR RELATIONS

including contract and code interpretations, jurisdiction, drug plan, wage and benefits, audits, bonds and apprentice issues.

### ASSOCIATION RESOURCES $\star\star\star\star$



### MCAA EVENTS

Subsidies available for attendina:

- MCAA Convention
- MSCA Annual Educational Conference
- Safety Directors' Conference
- Women in the Mechanical Industry (WiMI) Conference
- MEP Innovation Conference

### **☆** ADDITIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Membership to additional organizations, including:

- Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA)
- Chicagoland Better Heating-Cooling Council (CBHC)
- Construction Safety Council (CSC)

### NETWORKING \*\*\*



### **INDUSTRY**

Gain exclusive access to premier networking events with industry leaders, including events curated for Young Professionals and Women in the Mechanical Industry (WiMI). Foster professional growth in a supportive community.

Positively influence the mechanical contracting industry through active participation in MCA committees, professional groups and services to drive collective growth and innovation.



Smoak & Stewart, P.C., a leading labor and employment law firm. Email MCAhotline@ogletree.com with details.

### FINANCIAL AUDIT

executives, including review, analysis and recommendations for financial success.

### **単 OFFICE USAGE**

### **WEBSITE AUDIT**

design and marketing agency based in Naperville. Get in touch by









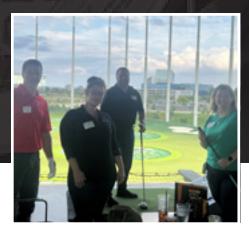
# WiMI & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TOPGOLF EVENT A BIG HIT

On August 28, MCA of Chicago's WiMI and Young Professional groups gathered for a fun educational event at Topgolf Schaumburg.

The evening kicked off with Alex Willis from Leadership Surge speaking on the power to lead. Attendees were engaged and learned effective leadership skills to help in their work life. After the presentation,

participants challenged each other to friendly competition and had lots of laughs while golfing. Bringing both groups together is always a good time!











# LEADERSHIP

### MCA OF CHICAGO 2024-2026 BOARD

Nick Marino, President, PremiStar-North

**Ben Campbell**, **Vice President**, AMS Industries, Inc. **Eric DeLaney**, **Secretary/Treasurer**, BMWC Constructors

Jim Jacobsen Jr., Immediate Past President, DePue Mechanical

**Andrew Syrios**, Precision Control Systems, Inc.

**Al Youna**, The YMI Group, Inc. **Dave Schramm**, Helm Group

**Brandon Hubner**, Premier Mechanical, Inc. **Katie Telecki**, Environment Mechanical Services

**Barry Klassy**, Kroeschell

# PIPING EDUCATION COUNCIL (PEC) 2024-2026 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brian Helm, Chairman, Helm Group Charlie Usher, Ideal Heating Company Marc Pittas, The Hill Group John Stern, Dahme Mechanical Industries, Inc. Charlotte Flesher, AMS Industries, Inc. Rick Cronholm, Johansen & Anderson, Inc.

## MCA OF CHICAGO ASSOCIATION STAFF

John Rayburn, Executive Vice President Daniel Bulley, Senior Vice President Mary Sebek, Director of Education Susan Rocque, Director of Finance



### **MCA OF CHICAGO**

7065 Veterans Blvd. Burr Ridge, IL 60527

