



\*\*\*\*



#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear MCA of Chicago Members,

Summer started with a bang during the MCA of Chicago Annual Meeting at Teatro ZinZanni on June 12. This incredible event was equal parts dinner, circus and comedy, and allaround unforgettable performances. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make it such a memorable evening!

As we shift into the fall and winter seasons, our focus remains steady: supporting our members through education, advocacy and connection. We're continuing to look for ways to expand programming around workforce development, contractor education and safety best practices, while also staying engaged with local and national policy efforts that affect our industry. You'll see more opportunities this fall for peer networking, technology and leadership training, designed for everyone across field and office roles.

Speaking of leadership and connection, we're excited for members to join us on a Napa Valley escape for our 2025 Fall Conference at the Estate Yountville from September 25-28. This event is several days of high-impact education and valuable relationship-building in a beautiful setting. The lineup includes inspiring keynote speakers and evening events to help attendees unwind and connect.

Let's keep the momentum going as we head into the second half of the year! I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve as your president, and I look forward to everything we'll accomplish together.







## KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE 2025 ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

With the Governor's recent signing of the state budget, we're reflecting on this past legislative session and the issues that impacted our industry.

Working closely with our government affairs consultants, Fulcrum Government Strategies (formerly Phelps Barry), we identified nearly 60 bills that could affect our members. Our lobbyists monitored each of these bills and provided weekly reports to MCA of Chicago staff. Any urgent developments were communicated directly, and progress was regularly shared with both the Government Affairs Committee and the MCA Board.

Some key issues this session included:

#### WORKER SAFETY LEGISLATION

We worked with the Illinois Pipe Trades to challenge a proposed bill that introduced unrealistic indoor and outdoor temperature requirements. While we fully support worker safety, our Safety Committee reviewed the bill and found the language completely unworkable. The United Association's safety experts agreed it was poorly written. Although it didn't advance this session, it could come up in the Veto or Lame Duck sessions. We will work to make sure we have a voice in the final language.

#### **COAL TAR PROCESSING BAN**

We opposed a bill that would prohibit the processing of coal tar in Illinois. Several MCA of Chicago members are involved in this work, and we joined many others in efforts to prevent the bill from moving forward.

#### ANTI-NATURAL GAS LEGISLATION

We also opposed various measures targeting natural gas; however, this is an issue unfolding on multiple fronts, including individual bills, a broader energy bill and proceedings before the Interstate Commerce Commission. We are working on all three. A proposed omnibus energy bill was created and modified many times. It will likely resurface during the November Veto Session. We are seeking industry experts to help monitor developments and evaluate potential impacts.

#### **STATE BUDGET OVERVIEW**

Of course, the most significant outcome of this session was the passage of the state budget, which provides \$55.1 billion in spending and approximately \$1 billion in new taxes.



MCA OF CHICAGO



### TECH-POWERED SERIES CONTINUES THROUGH 2025

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming the mechanical contracting industry, offering powerful tools that enhance efficiency, reduce costs and support smarter decision-making. As this technology continues to evolve, AI is no longer "nice to have," it's a strategic necessity for contractors who want to stay competitive and future-ready.

That's why MCA of Chicago is excited to continue our Build Al series through the rest of 2025! Upcoming courses will be tailored to specific industry roles while also being applicable to personal development. Topics covered include tools for sales and marketing, applications for controls and service and more.

Watch MCA.org for details and registration information as it becomes available!

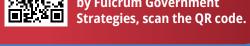




### Submit your project feature and appear in an upcoming edition of Pipeline News!

- 1. Send us the name of the project you're proud to have worked on, along with a brief scope of work.
- 2. Attach relevant high-resolution photos.
- 3. Our marketing team will contact you for a brief phone interview.





dbulley@mca.org.

For a full list of bills we tracked this

session, or to get more involved in our

legislative efforts, email Dan Bulley at

For a comprehensive end-

of-session report prepared by Fulcrum Government



#### NEW SEASON, NEW SKILLS: FALL 2025 CEI COURSE **CATALOG AVAILABLE!**

The Fall 2025 CEI Catalog is available! This season, we've carefully curated a dynamic lineup of programs designed to support your professional growth, sharpen your leadership skills and keep you at the forefront of industry innovation.

MCA of Chicago is committed to providing high-impact education led by top-tier instructors. From customer service and safety to cutting-edge technology and mental wellness, our quality programming is built to support your growth at every stage.

#### New this fall:

- Al for Project Managers
- Emotional Intelligence for Sales Success
- Pillars of Success
- Expanded online educational resources





#### **MEMBER BENEFITS**

#### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR MEMBER 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).

#### A SAFETY

- 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.

#### **IDENTIFY OF THE PROPERTY OF T**

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

#### **★ LOBBYING**

Lobbying experts in Springfield, in addition to state representation from Illinois Mechanical Specialty Contractors Association (IMSCA), work to implement legislation specific to member interests.

Staff coaching on Local Union 597 labor-related questions including contract and code interpretations, jurisdiction, drug plan, wage and benefits, audits, bonds and apprentice issues.

#### LABOR RELATIONS

#### ASSOCIATION RESOURCES \*\*\*

#### **MCAA EVENTS**

Subsidies available for attending:

- 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 (CBHĆ)
- Construction Safety Council (CSC)

#### NETWORKING \*\*\*

#### **EVENTS**

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.

#### PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



One hour of legal advice and counsel from Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C., a leading labor and employment law firm. Email MCAhotline@ogletree.com with details.

#### **FINANCIAL AUDIT**

CFO Simplified offers a financial business audit by a team of executives, including review, analysis and recommendations for financial success.

CEI classroom, recreational room and board room for private use.

#### WEBSITE AUDIT

Website audit conducted by Haines Creative, a full-service web design and marketing agency based in Naperville. Get in touch by emailing theguy@hainesdesigns.com.



**LEARN** MORE.

Scan to learn

about all your benefits.



# **MARKETING** ARE YOU POSTING IN THE RIGHT PLACE?

## WHY SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY MATTERS

In today's digital age, even the most hands-on industries can't ignore the power of social media. Whether you're

contractor. Each one has its own vibe, audience and purpose. But the first step to making social media work for your business is it so you can better tailor your content and make your message

#### Facebook: Your Digital Front Door

**USERS** 

56.8% 25-34 **AGE RANGE** 

Facebook is still a solid choice for most businesses. Many facility managers, builders and property owners — key decision-makers in your space — use Facebook as their go-to for recommendations and reviews, so think of this platform as your online front desk. Keep your business page updated, share photos of finished projects and highlight customer testimonials. Recruitment efforts on this platform could include job opening posts, employee spotlights and links to apprenticeship programs.

PROS: Strong for local targeting, business credibility and reviews.

CONS: Organic reach is declining, and paid ads require a strategy and a budget.

**Source:** Sprout Social

#### Instagram: Your Visual Portfolio





50.6% 18-24 AGE RANGE MALE

Instagram is ideal for showcasing your work. Before-and-after shots, videos of custom installs and stories from job sites can give potential clients a taste of what you do best. This is also where the next-gen workforce hangs out, so posts highlighting your team culture can be a strong recruiting tool if you're trying to attract younger talent.

PROS: Great for visuals, growing younger audience, supports hashtags and stories.

CONS: Less ideal for direct sales or long-form content; requires consistent posting. Source: Sprout Social

#### TikTok: The Wild Card



55.7% 25-34 AGE RANGE TikTok isn't just for viral dances; it's quickly becoming a rising star for the skilled trades. In fact, more Gen Z users turn to TikTok for news and product discovery. Short behind-the-scenes videos, tool tips or educational clips can help reach thousands of young people exploring career options and generate interest in the trades.

**PROS:** High engagement potential, especially with younger users.

CONS: Time-intensive to learn and create, trends move fast, may not reach decision-makers directly.

**Source:** Sprout Social

#### THE TAKEAWAY

### SOCIAL MEDIA ISN'T ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL.

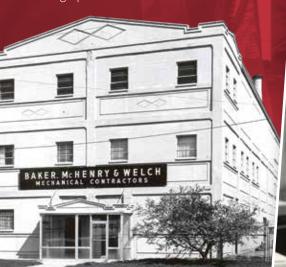




## BMWC CONSTRUCTORS, INC. CELEBRATES 70 YEARS IN BUSINESS

BMWC Constructors, Inc. is marking a major milestone in 2025 — 70 years in business. Founded in 1955 by Jack Baker in Indianapolis, Indiana, the company began as Baker Mechanical and later became Baker, McHenry & Welch before evolving into BMWC. Throughout the decades, it has expanded to become one of North America's largest industrial construction contractors.

BMWC has built a reputation for delivering high-performance solutions across critical



industries, from energy and advanced manufacturing to life sciences and semiconductor production. With more than 2,000 employees, the company continues to uphold six core values — safety, people, customers, integrity, excellence and profitability — that have guided its work since the beginning.

Clients have consistently recognized BMWC as a top-tier industrial contractor, known for maintaining

Jack Baker

rigorous safety and quality standards and adopting innovative construction technologies to solve some of the most complex challenges.

President and CEO Chris Buckman credits the company's longevity to its people and partnerships.

"Our craft professionals, project teams and support staff have played a vital role in building something that has endured for 70 years," he said. "To our clients, your partnership and trust have been



"OUR CRAFT PROFESSIONALS, PROJECT TEAMS AND SUPPORT STAFF HAVE PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN BUILDING SOMETHING THAT HAS ENDURED FOR 70 YEARS."

Chris Buckman, President and CEO
BMWC Constructors, Inc.

essential every step of the way. Our people built it, and our clients believed in it. Thank you for 70 incredible years."

With recent expansions into Arizona and North Carolina, BMWC continues to grow while remaining focused on safety, innovation and delivering predictable results on complex industrial projects.





## SUPERIOR CONSTRUCTION CO. INC.

Superior Construction is a fourth-generation, family-owned infrastructure contractor specializing in innovative design-build solutions. Founded in 1923 as the J. Largura Company and rebranded in 1938, Superior has spent more than a century delivering complex civil projects and helping build America's infrastructure. From concept through completion, the team provides unique design solutions, forward-thinking technology and a strong commitment to safety for every client.



#### Contact

1455 Louis Sullivan Dr. Portage, IN 46368 219-787-0850 Superiorconstruction co

I**IM Singleton** singleton@superiorconstruction



## RECAPS F



#### WiMI TEES OFF WITH GOLF, NETWORKING AND FUN AT RUTH LAKE COUNTRY CLUB

On May 29, 28 members of WiMI Chicago gathered at the beautiful Ruth Lake Country Club for an engaging afternoon of golf and networking. Attendees enjoyed a one-hour golf lesson led by professional instructors, offering a casual opportunity to learn the game or sharpen their skills.

Following the lesson, the group connected over cocktails and appetizers, sharing stories, laughter and building relationships. It was a fun afternoon filled with camaraderie, new skills and plenty of laughs on the green!







Scan for networking and educational events!



## WOMEN IN THE MECHANICAL INDUSTRY CELEBRATE CONNECTION AND GROWTH

Women in the Mechanical Industry (WiMI) held its 5th annual conference in Kansas City, Missouri, this June, bringing together hundreds of professionals from across the country to connect, learn and grow within the mechanical contracting industry. The event featured inspiring keynote speakers, engaging breakout sessions and panels focused on leadership development, career advancement and fostering a more inclusive culture.

On one of the evenings, WiMl of MCA of Chicago hosted a dinner for our members at Lidia's, a local favorite known for its delicious Italian food. The event was attended by 20 members, giving us all a wonderful opportunity to relax, network and enjoy time with old and new friends.



**WIMI RECAP** 







## BUILDING THE FUTURE: INTERN DAY BRINGS 60 FUTURE LEADERS TOGETHER

Over 60 interns joined us for MCA of Chicago's Intern Day 2025 on June 9! It was fantastic to see the classroom filled with ambitious, driven individuals eager to explore rewarding careers in mechanical contracting.

Throughout the afternoon, interns had the opportunity to hear from two outstanding speakers — longtime student chapter advisor Blake Wentz and MCAA NEI instructor Mark Rogers — who shared valuable insights about the industry and career paths within it. The event also offered time for networking, helping young professionals connect with peers and industry leaders.

We're proud to support the next generation of talent. The future of our industry looks bright!







YOUNG PROFESSIONALS EVENT A "STRIKING" SUCCESS!

MCA of Chicago's Young Professionals (YP) enjoyed a fantastic time networking at Pinstripes Oakbrook on July 24! From the very first frame, the energy was high and the competition friendly as attendees showed off their bowling skills. Whether they were picking up spares or throwing turkeys, everyone brought their A-game on and off the lanes.

More than just a game, the event was a chance for industry peers to connect in an upbeat setting with great conversation and plenty of laughter. Attendees also enjoyed delicious appetizers and drinks. Thanks to everyone who joined us and helped make this a "striking" success!













## ATOMATIC MECHANICAL SERVICES

#### **80 YEARS OF COMFORT, CULTURE AND GROWTH**

Atomatic Mechanical Services was founded in 1945 — a pivotal year marking the end of World War II and bringing wave of postwar economic growth. In its early years, Atomatic



**ESTABLISHED** 1945

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, **ILLINOIS** 

In 2014, now-President and CEO Steve Stachorek was hired to revitalize and lead Atomatic's commercial construction group a move that helped diversify the company's offerings and set the company on a path to triple its revenue. His efforts and ultimate success led to a management buyout opportunity.

"It was scary at the time, but it went well and it's been one of the best things I've ever done," Stachorek said.

Now entering its eighth decade, Atomatic maintains its commitment to superior innovation and providing best-in-class service, with an eye toward intentional growth. In early 2025, the company announced the launch of a new commercial plumbing group, a natural next step driven by customer demand and insight from a national peer group of contractors

"With such a large and well-established service division, we thought it would be a great move to offer the plumbing side of that maintenance and repair work," Stachorek

"WE FOCUS ON

YOU DO THAT,

THE GROWTH

**AND WHEN** 

**FOLLOWS.**"

Atomatic Mechanical Services

BEING THE BEST,

**Steve Stachorek, President and CEO** 

said. "We already have so many great relationships with end users, why not offer the same high-quality service for plumbing?"

The new plumbing group is a value-added opportunity for Atomatic clients, making the company a convenient one-stopshop. From routine maintenance to emergency repairs and system upgrades, the plumbing team is positioned to provide the same level of

responsiveness and professionalism that has become synonymous with the Atomatic name.

Although Atomatic has experienced recent growth, Stachorek said that's never been the end goal.

"We focus on being the best, and when you do that, the growth follows," he said.

That mindset is also reflected internally. In 2024, Atomatic completed a full remodel of



its 20,000-square-foot office at its Arlington Heights headquarters. The phased, eightmonth construction included an overhauled main entrance, new private offices and cubicles, a kitchen addition and an outdoor patio — all designed to create a more efficient and collaborative environment. Plans for a future building addition are already underway to accommodate continued team expansion with an increased emphasis on prefabrication within the shop.

A longtime MCA of Chicago member, Atomatic actively engages with other industry leaders and values the networking and training provided by the association.

"I think it's good for us to know our peers, and it's good to be able to pick up the phone and talk to people in the industry," Stachorek said. "As much as we're competitors, we're all in this together."

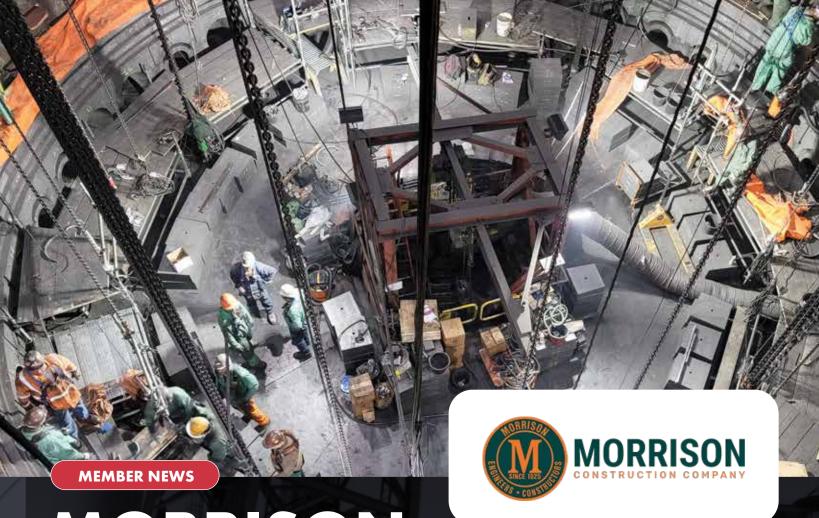
Although Atomatic is known for its craftsmanship and technical excellence. Stachorek believes the company's culture is what truly sets them apart. With a mission to "make people comfortable," Atomatic focuses not just on climate control, but on delivering a stress-free experience from pricing to project closeout — and long into the maintenance phase.

"Who we are is how people feel when they work with us," Stachorek said. "They feel good knowing their project is going to be done right, and it's going to meet or exceed their expectations."

As the company prepares to celebrate 80 years in business, its legacy is clear: Atomatic is built on trust, teamwork and a continued pursuit of excellence.



ATOMATIC



### MORRISON CONSTRUCTION CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION

When you think about how much the world has changed over the past 100 years, you realize how incredible it is for a company to celebrate a 100th anniversary. Thanks to a continuing legacy of hard Public Service Company (NIPSCO) power plants and the entire work, dedication, resilience and innovation, Northwest Indiana's Morrison Construction accomplished this rare milestone this year.

James Martin Morrison founded the company in 1925 as Cities Construction in Hammond, Indiana. It became Morrison Construction in 1939 after a restructuring and swiftly made a name for itself as a regional industrial and municipal contractor. Over the years, the company's focus shifted to heavy industrial

contracting, and their projects grew in scope and scale significantly. Morrison worked on several of the Northern Indiana LaSalle County Nuclear Generating Station, along with steel mills, refineries and pipelines.

In 1999, after three generations of family ownership, Morrison transitioned to an

employee-owned business. Rooted in strong family values, the company fostered a community-focused culture that not only endured the ownership change but has strengthened since becoming employee-owned.

"The people who own this company are the people who reap the rewards of its successes," Morrison Construction past President Dan Sharpe says. "That does quite a bit for morale and companionship, too. We celebrate a lot together."

The company's recent successes relining blast furnaces for steel mills are certainly something to celebrate. In 2019, Morrison completed the first-ever external stave change in the U.S. This groundbreaking work cut the client's operational downtime in half, saving them tens of millions of dollars. Most recently, Morrison completed a \$28 million blast furnace reline for Cleveland Cliffs' Middletown Works steel mill in Ohio.

The spirit of innovation exemplified in that groundbreaking external stave change has been with Morrison Construction since the beginning. The company has always prioritized investment in emerging technologies, and has embraced 3D CAD Modeling, laser scanning and prefabrication in recent years. Doing so has earned them a reputation for efficiency in line with their long-established expertise in heavy industrial construction and maintenance.

"I'm extremely optimistic about the future," Dan says. "We have a fantastic team. Our reputation precedes us, and I'm very optimistic that the heavy industry in Northwest Indiana will support growth."



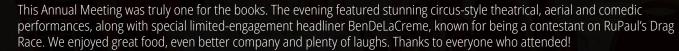
OF CHICAGO





#### MEMBERS ENJOY STUNNING PERFORMANCES DURING ANNUAL MEETING

MCA of Chicago had an unforgettable night at Teatro ZinZanni on June 12!













#### 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.





