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NEWS & VIEWS

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April Lunch Meeting

General Meeting — April 1, 2014 - April Fools Day
Main Dining Room (21st floor) of the Tower Club
Free parking in the lot and the parking garage
No dress code, come comfortable

11:15 – Registration & Visiting 11:45 – Buffet* Noon – Program

**See calendar at www.springfieldcontractors.org for menu*

\$20 at the Door — Call 862-1313 for Reservations NOW
or email sheryl@springfieldcontractors.org or kathy@springfieldcontractors.org

Make your membership work for you –
bring a friend, co-worker and/or a prospective member!

Computers in Construction: Help or Hindrance?!?

David Mann and Chuck McCann will touch briefly on the help that computers can give contractors; some of the current technologies; project management and estimating programs available and some of the accounting systems that are available and customized for construction companies.

**SPECIAL THANKS
TO THIS MONTH'S
MEETING SPONSOR**



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Spring Shoot Out – April 11

25 Rounds Skeet, Wobble or Trap + 50 Rounds Sporting Clays

Lunch at 12:30, shooting starts at 1:00

\$50 per person (BBQ lunch, pop & water provided)

Extra fee for gun rental and/or shell purchase

Ozark Shooters Sports Complex

759 US Hwy 65, 11 mi. north of Branson

Special Instruction for Novices - Guests Welcome!

Register by Tuesday, April 8

Call 862-1313 or kathy@springfieldcontractors.org



VOTE APRIL 8! Springfieldians will decide whether to REPEAL the 3/4¢ Pension sales tax to fund the Police and Firefighters Pension Fund. You will vote NO to keep the tax, YES to repeal it. Other municipalities and school districts will also be voting April 8. See the County Clerk's page http://www.greenecountymo.org/county_clerk/elections_candb_issues.php for the ballot. Find the answers to your questions and **VOTE!**

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER

LOSH NETWORK SERVICES - Subcontractor – Tim Kerr, Stephanie Kern, Mark Losh - 2748 S. Austin Ave., Springfield, MO 65807 - 887-0404 (Fax) 887-5554 - Telephone System Sales/Service/Structural Cabling/IT - bvelasco@losh.com • www.losh.com



Recruit New Members Now for the 2014 Membership Directory!
Watch your mail for the Update Form and return it promptly!



LaborMax Staffing has moved to the historic Union Biscuit building in downtown Springfield. The new address is 211 S. Market Ste. 103, Springfield, MO 65806. The phone and fax numbers remain 883-8388 and 883-8378, respectively.



THANK YOU & CONGRATULATIONS

Thank You to Officer **Dave Snider**, Crime Prevention Officer for the Springfield Police Department. Officer Snider's presentation at the March breakfast meeting was entertaining while packed with valuable tips to keep our people and property safe. See a summary of some of the highlights of his address in this issue and take note of his contact information for a site visit to your property.

Thank You to **Fabick Cat**, who Sponsored the March General Meeting.

Congratulations to **David Robertson**, winner of the \$100 Door Prize, and **Thank You** for giving it right back for the Scholarship Fund.



New Ways to Communicate

Sheryl and Kathy both have new email addresses. Please change your contact lists: Sheryl@springfieldcontractors.org and Kathy@springfieldcontractors.org. We have also signed up for Constant Contact and will be sending you links to information on the website as information becomes available. If you currently receive this newsletter via email we will no longer send it to you in the old format. Instead, you will be sent links to selected articles throughout the month, plus a link to the "News & Views" in the archives. This should be a better, quicker way to get information to you and reduce the number of our messages that end up in the Spam box.



Member Profiles – Everybody Has a Story

One of the ways we celebrated our 60th Anniversary last year was to profile member companies in the newsletter, focusing on the history of our members, especially those who have been in business since the '50's and '60's or those who have family members from multiple generations. You were able to enjoy the stories of Connelly Plumbing, Queen City Roofing and Warren & Goodin. As we continue to focus on membership, we invite you to share YOUR story with your fellow members. You may submit your company's profile to the office and we'll publish them in future newsletters. Send your company's story to sheryl@springfieldcontractors.org and we'll print them.

NEWS BRIEFS

Only 30 Members have not yet returned 2014 dues. If you are among this group, please remit dues as soon as possible. We can make payment arrangements if necessary to make sure your company is listed in the new Membership Directory. **Credit Card payments are now accepted** for SCA dues and events. Avoid added finance charges by using this popular method of payment.

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THE SPRING GOLF OUTING IS MAY 16 at Hidden Valley Golf Links in Boaz. **This will again be a four-man scramble.** We will again offer only the afternoon session. The registration will go out in late April and we encourage you to sign up quickly as we will fill up fast. Lunch will be furnished before the shotgun start. **We are seeking Beverage and Hole Sponsors at \$100 each and freebies to give away.** We will also need eight beverage cart drivers for the afternoon. Please call the office (862-1313) if you can help out.

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INFORMATION FOR THE “NEWS & VIEWS” should be sent to sheryl@springfieldcontractors.org. The deadline for submissions is the 3rd Wednesday of the month. We welcome opinion columns (*Piece of Mind*), committee reports, your company news, invitations to parties, etc., anything you want to share with your fellow SCA members. This is **your** newsletter!

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C-SPACE FOR LEASE! We have 1900 sq.ft. in the east wing of the SCA Building for lease immediately. The price is negotiable depending on infill requirements and length of lease. We pay water, sewer and trash pickup. Tenant pays gas and electric. No common fees. The floorplan is available at www.springfieldcontractors.org. If you know someone looking for executive office space, please encourage them to contact us at **862-1313**.

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The Pig Roast will be July 17 and will again be held on the grounds of the Ozark Empire Fair. Part of our commitment to the Fairgrounds staff in exchange for use of the property is to make our members aware of the sponsorship opportunity for companies to support the Fair and our community. All funds generated are used for improvements to the fairgrounds. Two different sponsorship levels (\$1000 and \$1500) are offered and both include a 3'x5' sign with your name and logo on permanent display in the Arena, where it will be seen by over 400,000 people at shows throughout the year. Additional benefits are free admission passes, free passes to grandstand shows, free parking passes and a link on the Fair's website. Of special interest to SCA members, the Fairgrounds' staff will consider a **trade in goods or services**. SCA is a proud sponsor of this time-honored community celebration and we encourage our members to also take advantage of this opportunity. Sponsorship information was included in last month's newsletter and will soon be available on our website. You may contact Sherry Montgomery at 833-2660 X234 or sherry@ozarkempirefair.com.

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Our Deepest Sympathy... to the family and friends of **Terry Vigneaux**, who passed away March 15.

Brent's 2¢ -- I don't want to cause some bad wintry mojo, but spring has officially arrived. We are slipping slowly from winter's cold grip and into spring's promise of growth. The uncommonly frigid winter has slowed our industry some, especially in the new home construction market. Most of us have stayed steady through the cold months, or possibly even experienced a slight dip in production in the first two months of 2014, but optimism is buzzing for a strong 2nd quarter.

Exciting things are happening with your SCA as well. The next generation is involved and bringing fresh ideas to the table. Committees are filling with new faces (but there is still room for you!). Committee work is in full swing and fulfilling the association's mission. Our new meeting location seems to be a hit as does the variety of meeting times. The methods the SCA uses to communicate is also expanding.

I don't know your feelings on the proliferation of social media, and I have heard the full gamut of pros and cons on the subject. The truth is that social media has fully integrated into our culture and it is here to stay. The form it takes and the way it is used will continue to evolve, but it has become an accepted and used means of communication. E-mail is a type of social media that is widely accepted. It fits perfectly into our fast-paced work environment. Texting is the mobile version of e-mail, and is becoming equally as popular. We can quickly send a note or memo to a multitude of people with a few keystrokes. It enables us to multitask. Did you know that there are people who still use the fax machine? Yep it's true. The fax is not completely dead.

Facebook is so popular that it has become a verb, "Hey, Dave, will you Facebook that invitation to April's general meeting?" Grammatically speaking do I still have to capitalize Facebook when used as a verb? I have a Facebook account that I visit about once a month. It is a useful way of keeping up with events and people without actually having to attend the event or talk to the people. A vendor got me involved with Facebook. I have a LinkedIn account. It is a site for business people who want to be connected and network. I only use it when someone invites me to be connected. I don't want to appear rude. Buck Van Hooser got me involved with LinkedIn. I have a Twitter account and have Tweeted a dozen times or so. Kirk Elmquist got me involved with Twitter. I have a YouTube account that was set up last summer simply to load video of the old pig roast skits. My son got me involved with YouTube. I have a CaringBridge account that Amy Sherrill got me into. I am not yet on Flickr or Ibibo, or Skoob, or Virb or any of the other hundreds of social media sites... I said yet.

There are social media platforms for almost everything. I think there may even be a site called Qtastic for sycophants of Richard Quint. If not, there should be. Dave Robertson wants to start MyFriend: the social media site for people who are my friends. Is this all silliness? Well, I suppose that depends on your perspective and in some cases your age, but in truth, social media can be an effective tool for communicating, for marketing, for catching up, for research, for connectivity. It allows you to follow the health of a very sick friend without intruding (CaringBridge). It allows you to share photographs with your family who live halfway across the world (Flickr). It allows specific professional groups to share ideas (HR.com). It allows information and events to be shared in real time (Twitter). Social media shrinks an already shrinking planet

Mark Gambon may tell you that social media offends personal interaction. To some degree he is right. Face to face communication is unmatched for the most effective means of communication. But if used properly, virtual connectivity fills the gap and allows for contact and information at your fingertips. The Springfield Contractors Association is catching up with what is happening. We are developing our Facebook page and exploring the most effective ways for us to stay in touch with you. In-person networking events are still number one, but the way we let you know about them is a whole new normal. That's my two cents.

-- Brent

I Am a Member of SCA because....

Last month we asked you to imagine yourself talking with a prospective member and you say, “You should be a member of SCA because ...” and then fill in the rest of the statement. We published several replies in the last newsletter and here are a few more to think about when you are recruiting new members.

Being good at your job starts and continues with gaining knowledge from peers and experience. The best way to gain knowledge from peers is to build relationships with them, SCA gives us the opportunity to do just that. How does SCA help with experience? It’s a place to find out about potential work in the area. AND SCA people are GREAT people who care about their community and the people who live in it!

Stephanie Ireland, AIA, LEED AP – BD+C

This is why you should be a member of Springfield Contractors Association: for the news tips among trusted sources!

Eric Olson, Editor, Springfield Business Journal

What is the purpose of monthly SCA Meetings: to encourage networking among those in the construction industry and to educate members on current market trends, relative legislation and industry-related requirements. Why did I join: To network with industry leaders and to help me better understand the industry as a whole; as a means to stay current with industry trends, upcoming jobs, etc. in an effort to help me with budgeting/ planning.

Diana Devore, Design Fabrication

I have answered the question of why I would want to be involved and it is to have the opportunity to contribute my own ideas and be involved in the processes and decisions that will shape our industry and, thus, our future – individually and collectively.

Grant Miller – LEED AP BD+C, Springfield Glass Company (prospective member)

SCA membership offers many benefits including credibility for your business, increased visibility in the community, networking opportunities, a voice in government, and provides you an opportunity to directly impact the future of our design and construction community. The payback is proportionate to your investment...so get involved!

David Atkisson, LEED AP, JE Dunn Construction



A Kickin’ Good Time at Boot Daddy Saloon

Sixty SCA members and guests enjoyed after-hours socializing at the Spring Mixer on March 20. The Fairgrounds staff provided a keg of Bud Light and Cardinal Roofing, Connell Insurance and Springfield Ready Mix Company made it possible to furnish a great spread of delicious snacks. The quaint little corner of the Arena is a friendly place with lots of atmosphere. Anyone can make arrangements to host events there and we encourage you to check it out when you’re looking for a location for a casual get-together.

We’re looking for leads to new members. If you are doing business with a company who is not aware of the advantages of SCA membership, please let Sheryl or Kathy know (862-1313 or sheryl@springfieldcontractors.org or kathy@springfieldcontractors.org) and we’ll make sure they find out more about us. Better yet, bring them along to the lunch Meeting on April 1, the Shootout on April 11, the breakfast Meeting on May 6 or the Spring Golf Outing May 16.

CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

Officer Dave Snider of the Crime Prevention Unit at Springfield Police Department was the guest Speaker at the March 4 SCA General Meeting. In spite of another round of nasty weather on Sunday and Monday nearly 70 people turned out for breakfast to hear Officer Snider's presentation. Everyone agreed that Officer Snider is one of the very best Speakers we've ever enjoyed at our General Meetings.

For those of you who could not make it, these are some of the tips he gave us:

- Make sure there is lots of white light on your property at night. Yellow light is not good as colors are not true and if someone is seen it is harder to get a good description of the culprit.
- Keep your property clean and well-maintained to deter the bad guys. This goes for your neighborhood as well.
- Make sure you have a clearly marked entry to your property in order to keep track of who is coming and going.
- Replace or trim bushes and trees that block your windows or doorways to cut down on hiding places and cover if someone does get inside.
- If your a/c is caged with open bars, plant roses, holly or other thorny plants (throw some poison ivy in there, too) around the cages to keep thieves out. You can always trim them back if necessary for service.
- Wipe down counters and doors frequently, especially if you have a lot of people coming and going. Then if a bad guy does get in, the police are more likely to get good fingerprint evidence.
- Make sure your alarm system is in good working order. Using dummy cameras as if they were real will do you no good.
- If something or someone looks suspicious pay attention to details. This could make all the difference in identifying a suspect.
- If you are away from home during the day, keep your blinds open so thieves cannot hide inside.
- Post your property with No Trespassing signs and give the Police a Letter of Enforcement. This allows them to eject unwanted persons from your property immediately.

Finally, Officer Snider offered to come to you and do a site survey to show you where you are vulnerable and give you suggestions for making your property more secure. He welcomes your inquiry at dsnider@springfieldmo.gov or you may call him at 417.837.5874.



Make Your Membership Work for You - Get involved!
Attend Meetings, Participate in Activities, Serve on a Committee
Do Business with Fellow SCA Member
It's Good for You — and Good for SCA

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION AT THE MARCH 19 BOARD MEETING:

President Jerry Hackleman called the meeting to order. Fourteen Board Members were present. The Minutes, Treasurer's Report and one new member were approved.

The Employment Director/Administrative Assistant reported all applications are now locked up and shredded after 90 days. She is running an ad for one member which may bring out more applicants than we are used to seeing. She has made progress on establishing contacts to get and post information on the bid date calendar.

The Executive Director reported office staff is switching to Outlook for email with new domain-name addresses. The mailing list has been more than cut in half. Thirty members have not paid dues and will be contacted. The calendar on the website includes all known 2014 dates and will be updated with details as they become settled. Regular emails are being sent at least weekly and at least three weeks in advance of meetings and events. A new way of communicating is almost ready to be unveiled. Several prospective members have been contacted and are considering membership. Visits to prospective members will be made if current members can help by notifying the office of good, reliable, stable companies who would be good SCA members.

The SCA/AIA Government Liaison Committee reported the City issued 50 permits in February, mostly for add-ons, renovations, etc. The IBC has clarified some code issues affecting schools. Duties of the four plans reviewers have been re-assigned: this should mean that review of change orders and add-ons should take no longer than two days. Reworking of the City's website should enable departments to make changes without going through IT. Real-time inspections that can be accessed with a laptop may soon be available. City Utilities reported they can turn reviews around in five days or less. The Extension Policy passed February 1. However, contractors whose fees are paid by May 1 may use the old policy if desired. The AIA reported they are hosting the Central States Regional Conference this fall. SCA offered to help if we can. SCA members will be invited to sponsor the conference and/or participate in the trade show.

The MSU Liaison committee reported they discussed stepping up their recycling and waste management programs, with input from R-XII, among others. The committee also discussed detailed construction schedules and how soon they should be available after a job is awarded. Closing out projects continues to be a difficult issue most often due to problems with documentation. Several options were offered for University consideration. Providing a timely schedule of values was also discussed. The University's website shows several jobs now out, including an interior renovation of Forsythe Athletics Center (\$400,000), bids April 1, exterior repairs to Plaster Sports Complex (\$1,050,000) and interior renovations as Hammons House/Hutchens House (\$800,000) both bidding April 3, the Welcome Center (\$3.8 million) to be bid May 1 and Pummill Hall renovations (\$4.5 million) to be bid May 8, 2014.

The R-XII Liaison Committee reported the next three large projects are scheduled to be bid on Mondays. Plans for Hickory Hills are out now and should be bid April 7; Sherwood should be out March 27 to be bid April 21 or 28; and Fremont should be out in early April, bid the first week in May. Smaller maintenance projects should be out in late April and early May to be completed by the start of classes next fall.

The group of young people chosen by the Board to help create a bridge between the present and the future of the organization have been meeting regularly and will soon be ready to announce their plans.

The Workforce Development committee continues to seek ways we can support the construction education classes at OTC.

A survey of members will be distributed soon using our new communication system.

The Board discussed the Realtor who is listing our empty lease space.

It was suggested that we start breakfast meetings earlier, so we can adjourn promptly at 8 am.

The program for the May breakfast meeting will cover bonding and will be aimed at members who may not be familiar with the process.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.



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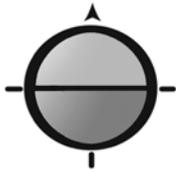
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