

# THE **BTEA** Construction Report WINTER 2008

MAGAZINE OF THE BUILDING TRADES EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION



## LABOR-MANAGEMENT ECONOMIC SUMMIT HELD: Financial Crisis Impacts Contractors



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M/WBE Mentor-Protégé  
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Safety Remains Dominant  
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Bovis Lend Lease

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*Executive Director and General Counsel*  
Allied Building Metal Industries

## Message From The President



**Louis J. Coletti,**  
**BTEA President & CEO**

The financial markets are in turmoil. Both public and private construction building and infrastructure projects are being delayed and in many cases cancelled. The non-union sector of the construction industry has grown substantially.

We are in an economic crisis of historic proportions precisely at the same time as our biggest threat – non-union competition – is at its strongest and is experiencing the largest growth in its history: it is a “perfect storm” which will change the very foundation of the unionized construction industry we represent forever, unless we take action.

Our most formidable enemy is time. We do not have the luxury of negotiating our way out of this crisis. We have reached a defining moment in the history of the unionized construction industry. We must change the way we do business to survive. That change must be bold, that change must be dramatic and that change must be done quickly.

**“Things do change. The only question is that since things are deteriorating so quickly, will society and man’s habits change quickly enough?”**

**Isaac Asimov**

Anything less and our industry will be forever defined as one in which it is every trade contractor and every trade union fighting for its own individual survival. That is a prescription for disaster and will be the end of the unionized construction industry as we know it today.

What it all comes down to is leadership. Over the past 10 years we have built the strongest labor-management partnership in the nation. Together we have advanced many causes that have benefitted both the unionized construction industry as well as the economic and social vitality of New York City. Today, we face the greatest challenge of our lives. Now is the time our respective members expect us to provide the leadership that will preserve what everyone in our industry has worked so hard to achieve over the years.

This is not about management or labor gaining any advantage. It is about survival. Survival of an industry that we have had the good fortune to be part of and that I know both contractors and labor feel a responsibility to providing for those who may follow us. Let’s think of today as an opportunity: an opportunity to make the changes we need to make that will once again restore the near exclusive lock on the market that the unionized construction industry once enjoyed in this city.

**“The most effective way to cope with change is to help create it.”**

**L.W. Lynett**

I am confident that together, the construction leadership of the Building Trades Employers’ Association and the labor leadership of the Building and Construction Trades Council will find the resolve to find the solutions necessary to achieve the fundamental changes needed to build an even stronger future for the unionized construction industry in New York City. Let those discussions begin – and begin NOW.

Louis J. Coletti  
*President & CEO*

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Circulation includes over 3,500 public officials, real estate owners, contractors, subcontractors and members of organized labor



## FOCUS ON THE FINANCIAL CRISIS: FINANCIAL CRISIS IMPACTS CONTRACTORS

Amidst concerns that the world financial crisis will severely impact the New York City construction industry, an emergency meeting of the Construction Industry Partnership (CIP) was held on October 11th. The meeting, chaired by BTEA President & CEO Louis Coletti and Building and Construction Trades President Edward Malloy was attended by over 75 labor and management representatives from both organizations. The meeting was intended to begin to determine the depth of the impact that the financial crisis will have on the construction industry and to begin a dialogue on how the unionized sector could begin to address the problem.

BTEA President Louis Coletti spoke to the fact that “the unionized construction industry had come to a ‘fork in the road’ regarding its ability to remain competitive in the fast changing financial market. BCTC President Edward Malloy added, “We must begin to work closely together if we are to retain our dominance in the New York City construction market.”

Denis Hughes, President of the New York State AFL-CIO and a member of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York said that with state and city budgets being slashed in reaction to the financial crisis, the amount of public construction projects will significantly decrease in the next 12 to 24 months. Mr. Hughes further declared that the unionized industry will have to remain politically active and advocate vigorously on behalf of these public projects.

Mr. Roy Chin, Regional Vice President for the New York Commercial Real Estate Division of the Bank of New York, painted a very serious picture of the financial landscape of New York City. "This is the most difficult time for lending in decades," Chin said.

"The last three weeks have seen profound changes in the lending industry. Capital is a precious commodity now saved for the best clients," he said. In addition, Mr. Chin pointed out that clients with existing banking relationships will receive consideration for credit in the current market. "Lenders are looking for higher cash equity in the range of 40 percent," he said.

Mr. Matt Galligan, Managing Director and Head of U.S. Property Finance for the Bank of Ireland spoke of the "fear" that is gripping the current lending market. "It is not business as usual," Galligan said. "The same rules that we have seen in the lending market will not apply for the next three to five years,"



**Edward J. Malloy**  
President, Building and Construction Trades Council



**Matt Galligan**  
Managing Director, Bank of Ireland



**Denis Hughes**  
President, New York State AFL-CIO



**Roy Chin**  
Vice President and Regional Executive, Bank of America



**Steven Spinola**  
President, Real Estate Board of New York

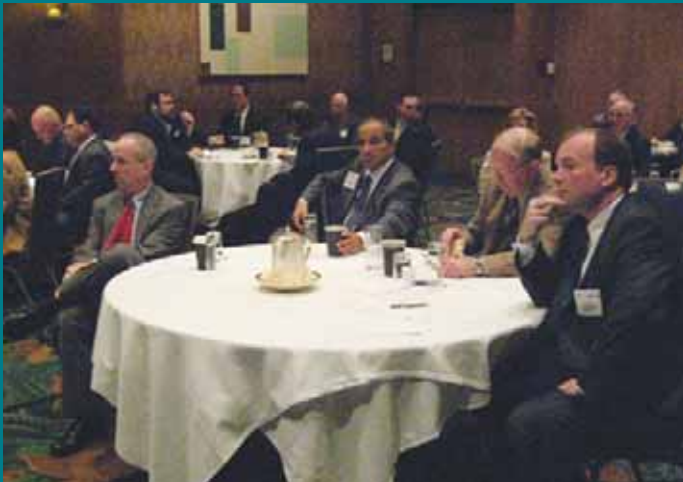


**Edward Smith**  
President, ULLICO



he continued. In addressing a question regarding what the union construction industry could do given the current financial/lending markets, Galligan simply replied, "Get the cost skinny to get back in the game."

Steven Spinola, President of the Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY) was slightly more optimistic in noting, "The commercial projects of our members will continue to move forward in part because of their long term relationships with lenders and better access to capital."



In the ensuing discussion amongst members of the CIP, it was decided that a plan to address the financial crisis and cost of union construction is needed. Several of the CIP members spoke to the fact that some pain will probably have to be felt as a result of such a plan. The CIP will meet on an ongoing basis to develop this construction market share plan.

## LABOR-MANAGEMENT SUMMIT HELD

BTEA Contractor Associations and labor affiliates of the Building and Construction Trades Council held an all day emergency session on November 24, 2008.

The purpose was to identify ways to increase productivity and reduce construction costs by 25% with the use of a Project Labor Agreement.

An initial list of 16 items, including standard holidays, flexible starting times, all working shop stewards, increased apprenticeship ratios and temporary services were discussed in order to reach the goal – and jumpstart projects that have been delayed or cancelled for financial reasons.

Meetings are continuing in an effort to reach agreement. Progress with these discussions can be found on the BTEA website at [www.bteany.com](http://www.bteany.com).

# 2008 Safety Conference Examines New Rules



**Edward Skyler**  
New York City Deputy Mayor for Operations



**Robert LiMandri**  
New York Buildings Commissioner



**Robert Kulick**  
OSHA Regional Administrator



**Salvatore Cassano**  
Chief of the New York City Fire Department

Held on Tuesday, November 25, 2008, the BTEA's 2008 Safety Conference and Trade Show focused on the recently enacted city construction safety requirements.

The Keynote speaker at the conference luncheon was the New York City Deputy Mayor for Operations Edward Skyler, who oversees the New York City Fire Department and the Buildings Department. Featured panel speakers at the conference included New York Buildings Commissioner Robert LiMandri, OSHA Regional Administrator Robert Kulick and Chief of the New York City Fire Department, Salvatore Cassano.



## 2008 BTEA Safety Conference

### 2008 BTEA SAFETY CONFERENCE PROGRAM

7:30 - 8:30 am

Registration, Trade Show and Continental Breakfast

8:30 - 8:40 am

Conference Overview

Louis J. Coletti, President & CEO, Building Trades Employers' Association

8:40 - 8:55 am

Keynote Address

Robert Kulick, Regional Administrator, Occupational Safety and Health Administration

8:55 - 9:45 am

Construction Safety Priorities and Strategies For Reform

Moderator:

Kathleen Cudahy, Connelly & McLaughlin

Panelists:

Richard Mendelson, Area Director - Manhattan, Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
Salvatore Cassano, Chief of the Department, NYC Fire Department  
Robert LiMandri, Commissioner, NYC Department of Buildings

Question and Answer Session

9:45 - 10:15 am

Trade Show - Break

10:15 - 11:10am

Fire and Buildings Department Safety and Inspection Requirements

This session will discuss such issues as new Fire Safety requirements and the coordination of enforcement efforts between the NYC Fire Department and Buildings Department. Topics will include such new rules as no smoking, standpipe/ site safety, construction site enforcement and Stop Work Orders.

Moderator:

Kathleen Cudahy, Connelly & McLaughlin

Panelists:

Richard Tobin, Assistant Chief, NYC Fire Department  
Thomas Connors, Executive Director, NYC Department of Buildings, BEST Squad  
Chris Santulli, Manhattan Borough Commissioner, NYC Department of Buildings  
Bill Kendall, Project Manager, NYC Department of Buildings

Question and Answer Session

11:10 - 12 Noon

Legislation, Protocols and Procedures For Construction Safety

This session will review 8 new legislative requirements and protocols recently adopted including those for the erection, dismantling, jumping, and climbing of tower cranes.

Moderator:

Kathleen Cudahy, Connelly & McLaughlin

Panelists:

Jason Ocharsky, PE, Executive Director, Cranes and Derricks Div, NYC Department of Buildings  
Michael Alacha, Assistant Commissioner, NYC Department of Buildings  
Stephen Kramer, Senior Counsel, NYC Department of Buildings

Question and Answer Session

12:00 - 12:45 pm

Cocktail Reception

12:45 pm

Luncheon Program

Invocation

Rev. Brian Jordan

Opening Remarks - Management and Labor Join Forces for Safety

Louis J. Coletti, President & CEO, Building Trades Employers' Association  
Edward J. Malloy, President, Building and Construction Trades Council

Keynote Speaker:

Edward Skyler, Deputy Mayor For Operations/City of New York  
As Deputy Mayor, Mr. Skyler assists the Mayor in managing the Police Department and Fire Department. He also oversees and coordinates the operations of the New York City Department of Buildings. In addition, Mr. Skyler has led the Bloomberg Administration's recent legislative initiatives in the area of construction safety.

2:00 pm

Adjournment



## SAFETY REMAINS DOMINANT INDUSTRY ISSUE

Construction safety remains the major issue that has consumed the industry in recent months.

“The BTEA, along with Edward J. Malloy, President of the Building and Construction Trades Council, Steven Spinola, President of the Real Estate Board of New York, Gary LaBarbara, President of the Central Labor Council, Raymond McGuire, Managing Director, CAGNY and Paul O’Brien, Managing Director, Building Contractors Association, have worked with the City Council and the Bloomberg Administration on safety legislation that makes practical and economic sense,” said BTEA President and CEO Louis Coletti. “In most instances, we have been able to do so. However, the BTEA will remain vigilant in fighting for legislative proposals in construction safety that will have a meaningful impact on safety and what is sustaining the efficient and economic operation of our sites,” Coletti continued.

The BTEA has regularly engaged its member associations and contractors in reviewing the safety legislation in order to provide informed comments to City Hall during the legislative development process.

“With additional safety legislation still being considered, the BTEA will need to continue to work with City Hall, the Buildings Department and our members in the coming months.” Coletti said.

# Recently Enacted City Safety Legislation



The following is a summary of those safety bills most important to BTEA member associations and their contractors and the industry's position on these bills:

**763-A: HOUSEKEEPING VIOLATIONS SHALL NOW BE CLASSIFIED AS IMMEDIATELY HAZARDOUS**

Industry supports this reform. | **Effective Date:** August 12, 2008

**783-A: REQUIRES A FULL-TIME CONCRETE SITE SAFETY MANAGER TO BE EMPLOYED ON ALL BUILDINGS 10 STORIES AND ABOVE**

Industry supports this reform. | **Effective Date:** January 1, 2009

**790-A: REQUIRES SITE SAFETY PLANS TO INCLUDE A STATEMENT THAT ALL WORKERS WILL RECEIVE A SITE SPECIFIC ORIENTATION AND HAVE CERTIFICATION THAT ALL TRADE WORKERS HAVE COMPLETED THE 10-HOUR OSHA TRAINING COURSE**

Industry supports this reform. | **Effective Date:** July 1, 2009

**794-A: REQUIRES ALL LICENSED RIGGERS AND TRADE PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE ERECTION, JUMPING OR DISMANTLING OF TOWER OR CLIMBER CRANES TO SUCCESSFULLY PASS A 30-HOUR TRAINING COURSE**

Industry supports this reform. | **Effective Date:** Passed by the City Council on September 4, 2008 – Signed – 180 days after signature or 180 days after the Department of Buildings approves this training course, whichever is later.

**795-A: RESTRICTS THE USE OF NYLON SLINGS**

Industry supports this reform. | **Effective Date:** Passed by the City Council on September 4, 2008

**796-A: REQUIRES PROTOCOLS TO BE FOLLOWED PRIOR TO THE ERECTION, JUMPING OR DISMANTLING OF TOWER OR CLIMBER CRANES**

Industry took no position on this bill because of concern about requirements for engineers of record to certify with respect to crane safety. | **Effective Date:** Passed by City Council on September 4, 2008

**To review the details of these bills, please visit our website at [www.bteany.com](http://www.bteany.com).**



## SAFETY COMMITTEE REVIEWS RECENT CITY LEGISLATION

The BTEA Safety Committee has been meeting on a regular basis to review recent city safety legislation, examine New York City Department of Buildings protocols and procedures and share best practices. The Safety Committee is comprised of representatives from BTEA member associations and contractors. The committee also interacts with members of the Building and Construction Trades Council in a Joint Labor/Management Safety Committee.

Recently, the Safety Steering Committee met with the Department of Buildings Executive Director for Safety Tom Connors and B.E.S.T. Squad Chief Andrey Vishyev to discuss and review the DOB's proposed Stop Work Order Initiative and new smoking regulations. Fire Department representatives will be present at the next scheduled Safety Committee meeting.

The members of the Safety Committee are as follows:

### SAFETY STEERING COMMITTEE

**Robert Ansbro**

Roofing and Waterproofing  
Contractors Association  
**The New York Roofing Company**

**John Black**

Cement League  
**DiFama Concrete, Inc.**

**Martin Bruno**

Building Contractors Association  
**Skanska USA Building, Inc.**

**Kenneth Buettner**

The Hoisting and Scaffolding  
Trade Association, Inc.  
**York Scaffolding Equipment Corp.**

**David Collins**

Building Contractors Association  
**Tishman Construction Corp.**

**Tom Connor**

B.E.S.T. Squad New York  
Department of Buildings

**Paul DeMeio**

Building Contractors Association  
**Pavarini McGovern LLC**

**Robert DeRespino**

Building Contractors Association  
**Structure Tone, Inc.**

**Gary DiPaolo**

Building Contractors Association  
**Structure Tone, Inc.**

**Jim Dunscomb**

Cement League  
**Hunter Roberts  
Construction Group**

**Joann Fitzsimmons**

Contractors Association of Greater NY  
**Plaza Construction Corp.**

**Chris Hargrove**

Contractors Association of Greater NY  
**Caldwell Wingate Company**

**Jeff Hutchens**

Contractors Association of Greater NY  
**Turner Construction**

**Ken Kyle**

Contractors Association of Greater NY  
**Gotham Organization, Inc.**

**Michael Marrone**

Contractors Association of Greater NY  
**Bovis Lend Lease LMB, Inc.**

**Robert A. Samela**

Allied Building Metal Industries  
**AC Associates**

**Andre Vishev**

B.E.S.T. Squad New York City  
Department of Buildings

**Harry Weidmyer**

Contractors Association of Greater NY  
**HRH Construction LLC**

# BTEA OFFERS NEW SAFETY COURSE SCHEDULE

The BTEA will continue to offer free safety courses for its members through July 31, 2009. These courses will be funded through grants from the New York Department of Labor/Hazardous Abatement Board-Occupational Safety and Health as well as the Consortium for Worker Education. For a list of available courses please visit the BTEA website at [www.bteany.com](http://www.bteany.com) or contact BTEA Assistant Vice President Kristy Martinelli at (212) 704-9745. Classes with 15 or more participants may be customized for BTEA companies or associations. A list of scheduled courses follows.

## 2008 Fall Safety Class Schedule

The following courses are held at:

**TSC Training Academy**  
36-06 43rd Avenue  
Long Island City, NY 11101  
Phone: 718-389-2103

**October 15, 2008**  
**7-Hr. Site Safety Manager – Refresher**

(For current site safety manager license holders only. As of 7/08, anyone whose SSM license has been expired in excess of 1 year CANNOT take SSM Refresher course without applying for reinstatement from DOB.)

**October 16, 2008**  
**4 – Hr. Confined Space**  
(Awareness level certificate)

**October 22, 2008**  
**7-Hr. SSM Orientation**  
(Required training for Rule 48, Construction Super registration – NOT for renewal of SSM license)

**October 23-24, 2008**  
**10-Hr. OSHA**  
(Required training for Rule 48, Construction Super registration and NYS DOL Public Work S1357A)

**November 3-7, 2008**  
**40-Hr. Site Safety Manager Program**  
(Including expanded training requirement to include Site Safety Coordinators and Construction Supers.)

**November 5, 2008**  
**4-Hr. Fall Protection**  
(Awareness level certificate)

**November 13-14, 2008**  
**10-Hr. OSHA**

**November 19, 2008**  
**7-Hr. Site Safety Manager – Refresher**  
(For current site safety manager license holders only-see expiration requirement above)

**November 24-25, 2008**  
**16-Hr. ENG Suspended Scaffold Safety**  
(Registration must be complete 2 weeks before training date)

**December 1-5, 2008**  
**30-Hr. OSHA**  
(Now required training for those looking to qualify for SSM and SSC)

**December 11-12, 2008**  
**10-Hr. OSHA**

**December 15-18, 2008**  
**32-Hr. Erector/Dismantler Supported Scaffold**  
(Applicable for Supported Scaffold only. Attendees must be able to read and write English as there is a final exam that participants must pass to be eligible to receive course completion certificate)

If you have any questions, please contact Kristy Martinelli at 212-704-9745 or by email at [kmartinelli@bteany.com](mailto:kmartinelli@bteany.com).





## M/WBE MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ PROGRAM INITIATED

The BTEA has initiated a program aimed at strengthening its member minority and women owned contractors as well as to attract non-union contractors to become union affiliated.

The program called the “Minority and Women Contractor Opportunity Program” (MWCOP), joins mentors from the BTEA network of member contractors with minority and women business enterprise protégés to participate in this program to

enhance professional skills and propel growth in today’s economy for M/WBEs. This education and mentor program serves as a one-stop shop for M/WBEs to gain access to and learn about best practices and to network with other BTEA affiliated construction managers and general contractors. The program is being funded by a grant from the Consortium for Worker Education. There are currently 15 BTEA member M/WBE’s enrolled in the program.

The BTEA member contractors serving as mentors for this program include:

- **Bovis Lend Lease, LMB**  
Steven Sommer, Senior Vice President  
Laura Cooley, Quality Control
- **Turner Construction Co.**  
Pat A. Di Filippo, Executive Vice President  
Stephanie Burns, Director
- **Phoenix JV**  
William P. Quinn III, Agency Liaison
- **Skanska USA Building**  
Mario Rodriguez, Senior Project Manager
- **Tishman Construction Corporation**  
Flora Ramos, Senior Project Manager  
Charles Silverman, Vice President, Project Director
- **Caldwell Wingate Company, LLC**  
Chris Hargrove, Vice President, Operations

The educational component of the program started in late June 2008 with a “Management and Leadership Skills Workshop” taught by the FMI Corporation. Other courses scheduled through July 2009 include:

- Improving Construction Productivity
- Financial Management for Non-Financial Managers
- Tight Job Control
- Getting Paid
- Managing Multiple Priorities, Projects, and Deadlines
- Coaching Team Building and Mentoring Skills for Managers and Supervisors
- Elements of Communication
- Project Success Planning
- P6 Training
- Construction Law/Bonding
- Knowing When to Lead vs. Manage

In addition to these educational seminars, the MWCOP will also include several networking events that will provide the participating “protégé” contractors with the opportunity to interact in a social setting with BTEA construction management firms and general contractors. For more information on MWCOP please contact BTEA Senior Vice President Henry Kita.



**Jim Jones**  
Building Contractors  
Association

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA TO IDENTIFY TOP CONTRACTOR ISSUES

Led by Co-Chairs Larry Levine of the Association of Contracting Plumbers and Jim Jones of the Building Contractors Association, the BTEA Legislative Committee recently met to initiate the development of a legislative and political agenda in advance of the 2009 New York City races for Mayor, Comptroller, Public Advocate and City Council. The committee will coordinate its legislative efforts with organized labor through the efforts of its Construction Industry Partnership.



**Larry Levine**  
Association of  
Contracting Plumbers

“We are taking the legislative efforts of the BTEA in a new direction in 2009,” Levine said. Mr. Levine continued, “The BTEA will develop a white paper examining the ten top issues affecting union contractors and disseminate it to those individuals seeking City offices. We will then circulate a questionnaire to those candidates seeking their views and positions on those issues delineated in the white paper. Any support that we give to those candidates will be based on their stated positions on our issues.”



**David Pinter**  
New York Chapter, Inc.  
NECA

“In addition to the white paper, the BTEA will initiate a series of breakfast meetings with potential City Council candidates in order to further share our views on issues vital to our businesses,” Mr. Jones said.

David Pinter of the New York City Chapter, Inc. NECA serves as the Legislative Committee’s liaison to the BTEA Board of Governors.



**Gina Addeo**  
Adco Electric

## BTEA FORMS MINORITY AND WOMEN CONTRACTOR COMMITTEE

In response to requests from its member contractors, the BTEA has formed a Minority and Women Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Committee. Comprised of BTEA member M/WBEs and chaired by Gina Addeo of Adco Electric and the New York City Chapter, Inc. NECA, the committee will be responsible for advising the BTEA on the development and delivery of M/WBE programs and services. A major goal is to encourage BTEA construction management and general contractors to award contracts to BTEA Members.

Among the initial activities undertaken by the committee, is the development of a directory of BTEA member M/WBE contractors. The directory, comprised of over 55 BTEA affiliated M/WBE contractors will be released in December 2008.

The M/WBE committee will also be holding several networking events in 2008-2009 for M/WBEs, contractors and agencies. BTEA members will be kept apprised of the future schedule for these events.

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TRAINING INITIATIVE TO CONTINUE IN 2009



The BTEA recently received funding from the Consortium for Worker Education to continue its Workforce Training Initiative through June 2009. The BTEA has offered its members training through this initiative for the past 2 years. Under this program, the BTEA has reimbursed member associations and contractors for training designed to enhance the professional competence of employees of contractors. Training courses under this program may cover areas such as leadership development, communication skills, sales and marketing, computer-based training and safety among others.

For more information on the BTEAs Workforce Development Training Initiative or to schedule training, please contact BTEA Senior Vice President Henry Kita at 212-704-9745 or by e-mail at [hkita@bteany.com](mailto:hkita@bteany.com).

# BTEA UPDATES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

The BTEA has updated a report analyzing member contractor workforce needs. The original report was issued by the BTEA in 2004 entitled "Building Jobs: A Blueprint for the "New" New York."

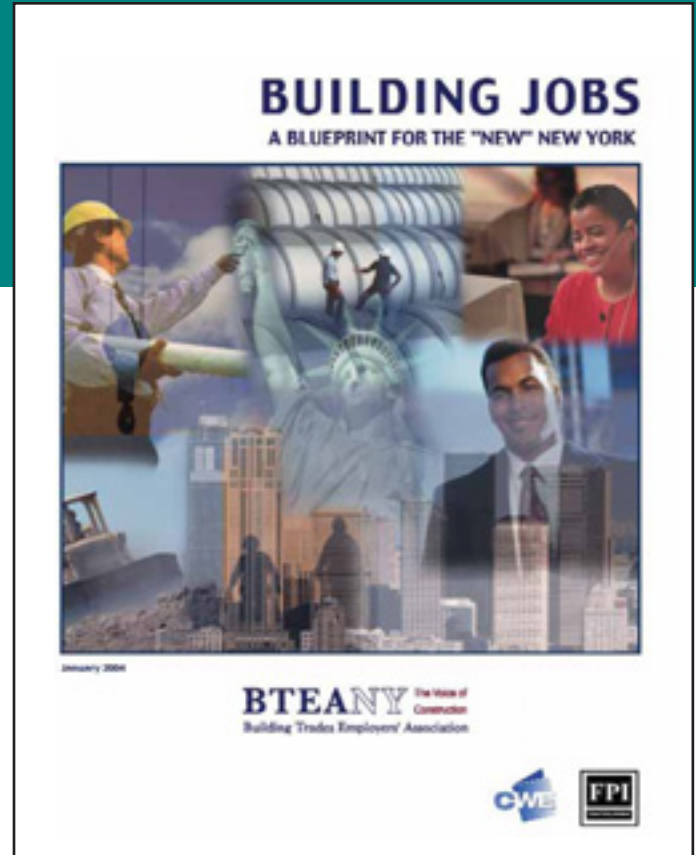
The recently issued report was completed by the FMI Corporation and followed a survey done of BTEA contractors on the subject. The survey and report were funded through a grant from the Consortium for Worker Education. The major intent of the report and survey was to help the BTEA learn more about the employment, recruitment and training needs of its member contractors, focusing especially on "back office" positions. This information will be used in considering the development of new managerial and administrative labor market programs and initiatives.

Survey respondents were weighted towards mid-size firms (47%) with 10 to 49 non-trades employees. The respondents were largely comprised of:

- 69% Subcontractors
- 95% Privately-held firms
- 42% Family-owned firms

The survey's respondents generally indicated a need for help in recruiting talent. Thirty-six percent expressed dissatisfaction with their current non-trades recruiting practices. The less sophisticated method of recruiting by "word of mouth" was the most used and successful. Respondents heavily favored (60%) an employment clearinghouse to locate non-trades staff.

The recruiting need is also urgent. A high percentage



of respondents (40%) indicated that they were understaffed for projects already in the pipeline. Longer term, it was felt that an aging workforce will exacerbate the issue. Respondents indicated that 18% of their workforce is over the age of 55.

In the current building environment, safety is noted as the most critical training need for project managers, engineers, and superintendents. Simply "finding the time" is suggested as the biggest challenge to appropriate training. Further, one-third of responding members are not aware of the BTEA's free training opportunities, and of those that are aware, 38% have decided not to utilize them.

To view a copy of this report, please go to the BTEA's website at [www.bteany.com](http://www.bteany.com). Further inquiries regarding this report can be addressed to BTEA Senior Vice President at 212-704-9745 or by e-mail at [hkita@bteany.com](mailto:hkita@bteany.com).

# Public Relations Committee Unveils New Print Campaign



**STEVEN ALESSIO**  
CO-CHAIR  
Building Contractors Association  
Sweet Construction Corp.



**MICHAEL CHECCHI**  
CO-CHAIR  
Sheet Metal Contractors Association  
OMC, Inc.

The BTEA Public Relations Committee has implemented a plan that will heavily rely on the print media to publicize and promote BTEA contractors as well as union labor. The targeted message of this print campaign is aimed at raising awareness of the unionized construction industry's leadership on three key issues:

- Construction Safety;
- Creating Good Jobs;
- Building Strong Communities.

This campaign will feature "inserts" that will be geared to reach the general public who live and work in New York. Rolling out in September 2008, nearly two million inserts will hit major New York publications with powerful readerships, including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Crain's New York*, *New York Daily News* and *AM New York*, in addition to other key local and trade publications. The first two inserts were focused on the commitment of union contractors and labor to construction safety.

Public Relations Committee Co-Chairs Steven Alessio of the Building Contractors Association and Michael Checchi of the Sheet Metal Contractors Association said, "The emphasis on advertisements in the print media will provide the opportunity to maximize the exposure of union contractors and labor at a modest financial cost." The cost of the print media campaign will be shared with organized labor through the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York (BCTC).

In addition to the inserts, the BTEA and BCTC will also take ads in local newspapers throughout the five boroughs of New York City.

As part of the campaign, a new labor-management website found at [www.GoUnionNYC.com](http://www.GoUnionNYC.com) was developed to highlight the smart, safe, responsible practices of the unionized construction industry as well as the economic and career benefits offered to New York's middle class. The website has received a tremendous reception, with over 110,000 hits since its debut, demonstrating community interest and support for the industry. In addition, a \$5,000 Home Depot sweepstakes is running to generate public interest in support of the unionized construction industry's efforts to keep construction safe, create good jobs and build better communities for all New Yorkers.

The image displays three print campaign inserts. The top-left insert, titled "BUILD GOOD JOBS • BUILD UNION SUPPORTING NEW YORK'S ECONOMY", features a construction worker and a city skyline. The top-right insert, titled "BUILD SAFE • BUILD UNION", shows a family and a construction worker. The bottom insert, titled "BUILD GOOD JOBS • BUILD UNION STRENGTHEN NEW YORK CITY'S MIDDLE CLASS", includes statistics and a call to action. All inserts feature the BTEA logo and the website [www.GoUnionNYC.com](http://www.GoUnionNYC.com).



# SPOTLIGHT

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION



**Frank Garito**  
President  
Asbestos Corporation  
of America

### Officers

**Frank J. Garito**  
**President**  
Asbestos Corporation  
of America

**Salvatore J. DiLorenzo**  
**Vice President**  
PAL Environmental  
Safety Corporation

**William McKenzie**  
**Vice President**  
Abatement  
International/Advatex  
Assoc., Inc.

**Morris Napolitano**  
**Vice President**  
Degmor Inc.

**Cathleen B. Colella**  
**Treasurer**  
Hazardous Elimination  
Corporation

**Paul G. O'Brien**  
**President**  
Pinnacle Environmental  
Corp.

The Environmental Contractors Association of New York City (ECA) is New York's premier trade association of environmental contractors. ECA members range in size from small family-owned businesses to large national companies who complete asbestos removal as well as demolition, reinsulation work, and removal of other hazardous materials including lead, mercury, PCB's, radioactive waste and contaminated lead reclamation.

Membership in the ECA has grown considerably from the original founding members. The association was founded in 1996 with a small group of contractors committed to raising industry standards, and today the ECA has over 50 member contractors who are recognized for their professionalism and commitment to safety and integrity. The ECA works with its members as a collective bargaining representative in the negotiation of labor agreements with its affiliated trade unions, working with these unions to achieve efficiency, safety and professionalism on all ECA member projects.

The ECA provides support for contractors in a number of critical areas including legislative advocacy, insurance and safety. They recently launched a groundbreaking Management-Labor Safety & Compliance Training Program designed to raise standards throughout the environmental construction industry. In addition, the association recently announced a special insurance program stewarded by AIG Insurance, designed to provide cost savings to all contractor members of the association.

Representing the very best companies in the environmental construction industry, the ECA's mission is to "advance the needs of professional environmental contractors by adhering to high professional, safety and integrity standards."

# BTEA ADDS NEW MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

The BTEA has recently accepted the application for membership of two additional construction organizations. The acceptance of the Greater New York Sign Contractors Association and New York Demolition Contractors Association brings the total number of BTEA member associations to 27 Contractor Associations representing 1,700 construction management, general contractor and specialty trade subcontractor firms. The Board of Governors representatives for these new member firms are:

## Greater New York Sign Contractors Association

Harvey Brooks of Spectrum Signs

## New York City Demolition Contractors Association

Ben Versaci of LJC Dismantling Corp.

Joe Palmeri of Gateway Demolition



**Harvey Brooks**  
Spectrum Signs



**Ben Versaci**  
LJC Dismantling Corp.

## BTEA PUNCH LIST NOW ELECTRONIC

The BTEA has recently begun to publish its weekly newsletter, the Punch List, by email. The Punch List will provide BTEA members with updates on news and events affecting union contractors. If you would like to subscribe to the Punch List, please contact Lena Vega at 212-704-9745 or by email at lvega-wystup@bteany.com.

**MEMBER CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION SERVICE** November 5, 2008

# BTEA PUNCHLIST

<p><b>Louis J. DiStefano</b> President &amp; CEO</p> <p><b>Officers</b></p> <p><b>James Aballo</b> Chairman Contractors Association of Greater NY Boric Lend Leaser L&amp;B, Inc.</p> <p><b>Ulrich Abbas</b> Vice Chairman Building Contractors Association Sweet Construction Corp.</p> <p><b>Pat A. Di Filippo</b> Vice Chairman Contractors Association of Greater NY Tamar Construction Co.</p>	<p><b>Kenneth A. Dun</b> Vice Chairman New York Contractors Assoc. of NY, Inc. Dun Mechanical Construction, Inc.</p> <p><b>James McKenna</b> Vice Chairman General League Hunter Roberts Demolition Group</p> <p><b>Gene Carasso</b> Treasurer Association of Contracting Plumbers of the City of NY Carasso Cists.</p> <p><b>Robert Pecker, Esq.</b> General Counsel Polar &amp; Abmanan, P.C.</p>	<p><b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b></p> <p><a href="#">NEW EMERGENCY RULE FOR CLASS C HOISTING MACHINE OPERATORS</a></p> <p><a href="#">NEW FIRST DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AND BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED FOR THE NYC BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT</a></p> <p><a href="#">NEW OSHA RULES PROPOSED FOR CRANES AND DERRICKS</a></p> <p><a href="#">2008 BTEA SAFETY DOWNLINE</a></p> <p><a href="#">FIRST RUNS IN NYC MARATHON FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS KILLED OR SEVERELY INJURED</a></p>
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**NEW EMERGENCY RULE FOR CLASS C HOISTING MACHINE OPERATORS**

NYC Buildings Commissioner Robert LiMandri has implemented an emergency rule relating to the qualifications of an Operator of a Class C Hoisting Machine License.

The NYC Buildings Department intends to move towards a national standard for this type of license to enhance the qualifications and training of Class C Operators. This rule replaces the examination given by the NYC Buildings Department to be given by a national certification entity, the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators.

These new requirements will be required for all holders of a Class C License, including those who have renewed their license since July 1, 2008. The Class C Operators will have until September 30, 2009 to comply.

New applicants of a Class C Hoisting Machine License require the Operator to have at least 2 years of experience within 3 years prior to application under the direct and continuing supervision of a licensed HMO in New York City or in another jurisdiction that regulates crane operators. At least 1 of the required years of experience must be in New York City or in another urban area of comparable density. The Buildings Commissioner has the authority to accelerate the date of the requirements if he/she wishes to under certain circumstances.

The Emergency Rule is in effect for 60 days. When a permanent rule is developed, a hearing will follow. The BTEA will keep everyone informed of when the dates are scheduled for the hearing.

To review the details of the new requirements under the Emergency Rule, please click on the link



## RECENT NEW YORK PLAN DECISIONS ISSUED

As part of its core mission, the BTEA has for over one hundred years, administered the New York Plan for Jurisdictional Disputes. This New York Plan serves as the final arbiter for work/jurisdictional disputes that may arise between the various member unions of the Building and Construction Trades Council. An arbitration panel consisting of four BTEA contractors and one independent arbitrator hear these disputes and render a final

decision awarding the work in dispute. The final decision is entered into the “Green Book” which serves as the guide for the awarding of work by contractors to the specific unions. A listing of all “Green Book” decisions may be found at the BTEA website at [www.bteany.com](http://www.bteany.com).

The following are the most recent New York Plan decisions:

## New York Plan Arbitration Updates

### Plasterers Local #262 vs. Tapers’ Local #1974

**Jobsite:** 360 Furman Street, Brooklyn | **Scope of Work:** Replastering of concrete columns

The arbitration was held on May 1, 2008 at the BTEA office. The Arbitration Panel consisted of Michael Patti, Mark Varian, Steve Keriakos and Brian Gordon. The Independent Arbitrator was Eric Schmertz.

This scope of work has been awarded to the Tapers’ Local #1974 and has been entered into the Green Book as Decision 197.

The decision was appealed to the National Plan, but the National Joint Administrative Committee voted against hearing the appeal.

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### Painters Local #9 vs. Plasterers Local #262

**Jobsite:** 270 Park Ave. – JP Morgan Chase | **Scope of Work:** Specialty/Venetian/Armourcoat Plastering

The arbitration was held on June 20, 2008 at the BTEA office. The Arbitration Panel consisted of Angelo Lopes, Michael Patti, Eric Schisler and Mark Varian. Andrew Byrne served as the Independent Arbitrator.

This scope of work has been awarded to the Painters Local #9 and has been entered into the Green Book as Decision 198.

The Decision was appealed to Washington DC and the National Plan denied the appeal. It was decided that the Arbitration Panel addressed the criteria of the National Plan.

# BTEA GOLF OUTING DRAWS 130 GOLFERS



The BTEA 2008 Golf Classic drew over 130 golfers to the Alpine Country Club in Demarest, New Jersey on June 16. The outing chaired by John O'Hare of the Building Contractors Association and Bruce DeShay of the New York City Chapter, Inc. NECA included a brunch, cocktail reception and dinner in addition to the golf competition. The BTEA would like to express its appreciation to the following companies and associations who generously sponsored the outing:



## 2008 BTEA Golf Classic Sponsors

### COCKTAIL AND DINNER:

**Building Contractors Association**

### ASSOCIATION GREEN SPONSOR:

**Association of Wall-Ceiling & Carpentry**

**Building Contractors Association**

**General Contractors Association**

### HOLE IN ONE:

**Bigman Brothers Inc.**

### CLOSEST TO THE PIN:

**Island Painting Inc.**

### STRAIGHTEST DRIVE:

**Plaza Construction Corporation**

### GIFT SPONSOR:

**John Gallin & Son**

### HOLE SPONSORS:

**Association of Contracting Plumbers**

**Commodore Construction Corp.**

**Durr Mechanical Construction Inc.**

**Environmental Contractors Association**

**E.W. Howell Co., Inc.**

**Judlau Contracting Inc.**

**Mechanical Contractors Association**

**National Interiors**

**NY Roofing Company**

**OMC, Inc.**

**Pavers & Road Builders Local 1010**

# BTEA COMPANIES “GIVE BACK” TURNER PROGRAM TARGETS YOUTH



**Pat Di Filippo**  
Executive Vice President  
Turner Construction

BTEA member Turner Construction, offers a program designed to create interest amongst local youth in the construction industry.

According to Turner Executive Vice President Pat Di Filippo, the program entitled Youthforce 2020 was created first as a company wide program in 1989 and then brought to the New York business unit in 1992. Youthforce 2020 provides employment

opportunities to minority students attending college to study civil, electrical, mechanical engineering, construction management or architecture. The program promotes diversity across race, gender, age and leadership by encouraging K-12 students to stay in school, providing construction awareness and increasing the number of minorities and women in the construction industry.

“Youthforce 2020 has adopted junior high schools and high schools throughout New York City,” Di Filippo said. A curriculum and lesson plans have been developed to educate the students about the field of construction. Each lesson may be modified or changed however to include a lesson outline, presentation, activity and informative handout.

Turner volunteers meet with students twice a month. There are a total of 10 scheduled visits starting in September. Two Turner volunteers visit the school twice a month and teach one lesson for three periods. Among the schools currently participating in the Youthforce 2020 program are:

- Bronx Engineering Technical Academy
- Alfred E. Smith High School
- The High School for Math Science and Engineering
- M.S. 447-The Math & Science Exploratory School



BTEA Association Executives	Thursday, November 6, 2008   8:00 A.M.
Safety Committee Back To Basics Meeting	Monday, November 10, 2008   9:00 A.M.
BTEA Nomination Committee	Wednesday, November 12, 2008   8:00 A.M.
Safety Steering Committee	Wednesday, November 12, 2008   8:30 A.M.
BTEA Executive Committee	Thursday, November 13, 2008   8:00 A.M.
CIP – Labor Management	Monday, November 24, 2008   8:00 A.M.–4:30 P.M.
BTEA Safety Conference	Tuesday, November 25, 2008   8:00 A.M.–12 Noon
BTEA Board of Governors	Thursday, December 4, 2008   8:00 A.M.
Board of Governors Annual Meeting	Thursday, January 15, 2009   8:00 A.M.
Labor – Management Conference	February 8 –10, 2009   8:00 A.M. –12 Noon Westin Diplomat   Hollywood, Florida

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