

# Contractors' NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2005

## Introduction

This is the first issue of *Contractors' News*, an informative, quick-to-read news communication from the Wall & Ceiling Industry Contractors to their union employees. *Contractors' News* will address a variety of issues of importance to both management and labor. We encourage your comments and questions. Feel free to ask your superintendent or company owner any question you have regarding the topics covered or any other issue important to you.

## Management's organizational structure

Dating back more than 45 years, union drywall, acoustical and plastering contractors have been organized through their trade associations and industry promotion funds. The drywall and plastering industries used to have their separate associations and industry promotion funds, but in 1984, a merger of the two created the current wall & ceiling industry employer organizations.

For the past 20 years, the Northwest Wall & Ceiling Industry Trust Fund, the Northwest Wall & Ceiling Contractors Association, and the Northwest Wall & Ceiling Bu-

reau have formed the "3-legged stool" which has provided strength, credibility and professionalism to the union segment of our industry.

**The Walls & Ceilings Industry Trust Fund** is funded solely by contributions from union employers. Its primary function is to fund technical services to architects and others in the design and construction community and to promote the products and services of union contractors.

**The Northwest Wall & Ceiling Contractors Association** is a professional trade association of all-union drywall, acoustical and plastering contractors. While the negotiation of wall & ceiling industry union contracts is the most visible of its activities, the association also appoints management representatives to numerous industry labor-management committees, apprenticeship committees, and pension, health & welfare and vacation trust funds.

**The Northwest Wall & Ceiling Bureau** is an industry trade association comprised of contractors, manufacturers, suppliers and labor unions in the wall & ceiling industry. The bureau provides technical services and project consulting to all parties involved in the design and construction of our scope of work.

All three of these organizations have worked together over the past 20 years to encourage the use of union contractors **and** union employees in the wall & ceiling industry.

## History of the union wall & ceiling industry

Here in the Northwest, we have a long history of labor-management cooperation in the wall & ceiling industry. While we have been able to maintain a portion of the larger commercial work, economic and other market conditions have eliminated the residential market and seriously eroded the light commercial and tenant improvement markets.

The future of our industry, as we know it, depends on the relationship between labor and management both now and in the next few critical years. We need to maintain a symbiotic relationship, which, in nature, is defined as "the living together of different organisms for their mutual benefit."

It is extremely important that we collectively see the "big picture" and avoid looking at and acting on snapshots. Too much is at stake for both labor and management to not see the benefit of working together for the preservation of our industry.

## Northwest Wall & Ceiling Contractors' Association

1032-A NE65th Street, Seattle, WA 98115  
Phone 206.524.4779 ■ Fax 206.524.4136

Member

