



RIICA NEWS

“UNDERGROUND & IN THE TRENCHES”

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

FALL 2008

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NEIL F. SULLIVAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAISES NEARLY \$16,000 !

NEWPORT, RI— Over 150 people attended the First Annual Neil F. Sullivan Memorial Scholarship fundraiser held this past September at the Atlantic Beach Club, Newport, RI. RIICA members, friends and family members joined together in support of one of RIICA’s loyal friend and longtime member. Nearly \$16,000 was raised— far surpassing what was anticipated for the event which will be held annu-

ally. Donations for the silent and live auction were significant and contributed greatly to the success. “ Without the support of so many friends, businesses and members for their donations, we could not have made this tribute to Neil such a great success,” Bob Mello, one of the event committee members said. Also assisting on the committee was Margaret Carr, Neil’s daughter, Peter Brennan, Mike

MacLaughlin, Dave Burnham, John Silvia, and Joe Palumbo. Guest dined on a tasty assortment of hors d’oeuvres and an assortment of refreshments libations fit for a king. A wonderful tribute to a man who always said “ Education is a tool for your tool box.” That man was Neil F. Sullivan. We hope you continue to support Neil’s motto in support of education.

NATIONAL, STATE ELECTIONS AND THE ECONOMY- WHATS NEXT?



WARWICK, RI— Save yourself some time and ignore the pundits and talking heads for at least a week or two--none of them know exactly what last Tuesday’s historic election results mean, except that a majority of voters were ready for a national change in direction. What comes out of Washington now depends largely on how President-Elect Obama and emboldened congressional leaders choose to govern. We do know a few things.

President-Elect Obama, the 44th President has committed to investing in America’s infrastructure, including utility construction, and NUCA will work to ensure that our markets are a significant part of that agenda. On the other hand, many of the tax reductions enacted during the Bush years are set to expire in 2011, and the President-Elect has made it clear that he would let them expire. That means that the federal estate (death) tax will come back in full force unless lawmakers and the new administration agree on if and how to “reform” it. In addition, we expect that enhanced OSHA regulations, including ergonomics, will be on the front burner, as will many other business tax issues, labor rules and environmental regulations. One bright spot is that construction organizations continue to fight for

passage of a second economic recovery package in the current “lame duck” congress. Their goal is the inclusion of at least \$10 billion in immediate funding for much-needed utility projects that are ready-to-go. Statewide, Rhode Island fairs much worse. With a budget deficit for this fiscal year now over \$ 372 million, government officials continue to scratch their heads and play the old, it wasn’t me, it was him syndrome. Call your legislators and tell them to stop blaming the national economy on our state’s problem. While the national economy has impacted the state’s economy, our state was first to hit the road of this recession long before the national effects which just compounded the state’s fiscal crisis. Our state officials continue to point fingers instead of coming together and get this state back on the road out of this recession. Only time will tell.

Infrastructure Repairs Key to Economy

Warwick, RI— The current economic crisis is going from bad to worse. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the US economy lost 1.2 million jobs in 2008, including 240,000 jobs in October. The construction industry lost 261,000 in 2007 and has lost more than 396,000 jobs this year alone. Investment in our environmental infrastructure creates immediate construction jobs that exist right here in America, and generates supplies needed to work. The economic benefits of this work ripple over into local economies. Local

need for housing, dining, entertainment, etc. comes with investment in infrastructure projects. Infrastructure projects are a precondition for economic growth, public health, recreation, and environmental protection. It is widely known that for every \$1 billion in construction projects creates between 40,000 and 47,000 jobs. Recent testimony before the House Infrastructure and Transportation Subcommittee indicated that there are over \$10 billion in wastewater and water projects across the country ready to go. Simple math would tell you that 400,000 to nearly a half million jobs

would immediately be created. Rhode Island's own water and wastewater infrastructure needs are currently estimated at \$1.4 billion. If Congress had given each state at least \$1 million in funding from the \$750 billion first stimulus package for these projects with more going to larger states, we would have been able to put over 5 million people back to work. **CALL YOUR CONGRESSMAN TODAY AND TELL THEM TO START WORKING FOR YOU!**

“As RIICA moves forward into a new era, we look to the support of our members and potential new members to help chart that new course”

Bob Lafleur

Executive Director

Licensing Bill at Center Stage in 2009

Warwick, RI— RIICA's Underground Utility Contractors License (UUC) bill will take center stage in 2009 as the bill heads to committee for hopefully final passage and then to the floor for passage and signature by the Governor. The UUC bill as it has become known, is the last profession in the state that remains without licensing

status. Senator William Walaska, who pushed for passage of the bill out of committee but failed to get it to the floor at the last minute, expressed hope of getting the bill on the floor for passage and making licensing of underground utility contractors a reality. Senator Walaska is working to bring interested concerns together as part of finalizing

the bill before sending to the floor in the new session upcoming this January. Members of RIICA, Utility Contractors Association of RI (UCARI) and Construction Industries of RI (CIRI) have been invited to attend a meeting in December at a time yet to be determined. It will take RIICA's membership to help drive this bill in becoming law.

Senator Walaska Speaks to RIICA

East Greenwich, RI— Senator William A. Walaska, D-Warwick, Chairman of the Senate Corporations Committee recently spoke before RIICA members at the October General Membership Meeting at Richard's Pub, East Greenwich, RI. Senator Walaska spoke about RIICA's Underground Utility Contractors License bill being put forward again in the new ses-

sion of the General Assembly in January. While the bill met some resistance at the end of the last session, Walaska made it clear that the bill will be headed to the floor for a vote. He also spoke about the “state of the State” and the economic climate that has hit Rhode Island. He said that while the elections were at that time up in the air, only time would tell what the state

plans to do to stimulate a very stagnant Rhode Island economy. “It is my hope that the General Assembly unite to get Rhode Island working again,” Walaska stressed.



Tufts Medical Returns to Rhode Island

Joins Blue Cross and United Health in Competition for Health Benefit Packages

Warwick, RI- The RIICA Officers and Board of Directors are extremely pleased to announce the association with WD & Associates and Colonial Life in providing competitive health insurance coverage from Blue Cross, United Health and coming soon, Tufts Health Plan. In addition, they will be offering a variety of other coverage's including disability, accident and life insurance programs. We are extremely excited about this opportunity at a time where small businesses need to reduce their costs but at the same time provide great health, dis-

ability, accident and life insurance at a savings. In addition, WD & Associates, will provide you with day to day customer service in helping you during your busy work day. They act as YOUR very own Human Resources Department in resolving claims disputes, enrollment changes and educate new employees at any shift and more importantly, they are a phone call away. They not only provide individual small businesses with critical information, they will provide RIICA with news from the ever changing world of health care which we will in turn keep all our mem-

bers well informed. We believe that WD & Associates will provide each and every member with quality customer service that will give you more time to concentrate on your business. As with any business, customer service must be job one!. WD & Associates is the company that will put you first. There is no cost and no obligation to obtain a competitive quote on any of the services you need. Give them a call today! Call Bill Delmage at 401-435-4239 or Jim King at 401-921-4460, Ext. 15 for more information. ***You'll be glad you did!***

RIICA By-Laws Changes Proposed Available on Website

The RIICA Board of Directors has approved changes in the By-Laws which are scheduled to be approved at the Annual General Membership Dinner Dance to be held on January 22,2008 at the West Valley Inn, West Warwick, RI.

To view the By-Laws, go to the RIICA website at www.riica.org
Or for a mailed copy, call the RIICA Office at 401-785-1830



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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Thompson Pump & Mfg. Co. Inc.
West Greenwich, RI
 - S.V. Simone & Sons Trucking, Inc.
Johnston, RI
- Help Us Build RIICA....Bring a new member on board to help our industry
REMEMBER...There is power in numbers!

Know a Member Who Needs Cheering Up?

RIICA's Sunshine Committee wants to be kept informed of members who need some cheering up for whatever has affected them. Whether it is a member or his or her family members are sick, had some major surgery, death in the family or the birth of a child, the RIICA Sunshine Committee would like to know!

Call Mike MacLaughlin at 401-295-7202
Or
call the RIICA Office at 401-785-1830

CLIP & SAVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January, 2009....

Annual Membership Dinner Dance
West Valley Inn, West Warwick, RI
Date: January 22, 2009

February, 2009...

Fork Lift/Lull Training; Right to Know
Training
Location: TBA
Date: TBA

February/March, 2009...

RIICA/UCARI Legislative Meet & Greet
Location: RI State House
Date: TBA

All of the above events will have separate notices sent prior to each event.

Should you have any questions, please call the RIICA Office at 401-785-1830.

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RIICA LEGISLATIVE and NEWS ALERTS

...If you would like to receive up to date legislative and news alerts by email, all you have to do is email RIICA at

riica1980@aol.com

and authorize your agreement to accept email from the RIICA Office.



Legal Corner...

Terrance Martiesian, Esq., Martiesian & Associates, Inc.

Governor's Strategic Tax Workshop

Many issues are presently under consideration by the Governor's Strategic Tax Policy Group and by the Department of Revenue. The stated goal is to create a state tax policy that is transparent and fair – (which has not been defined) and to make our state more competitive. Also, the Group recognizes that while their original charge by the Governor was to be revenue neutral, such neutrality may no longer be feasible. The Director of Taxation is looking for input from those of us who represent business. Recommendations of the Tax Policy Workgroup (Workgroup) will be submitted to the Governor in early December for potential inclusion in the Governor's budget or by General Assembly legislation. The following issues are presently under consideration:

1. Maintaining the RI Corporate Income Tax using Combined Reporting (utilized in 23-24 states)
 2. Replacing the Corporate Income Tax with a Gross Receipts Tax or a Gross Margins Tax
 3. Replacing the Corporate Income Tax with a Business Enterprise Tax similar to New Hampshire
 4. Eliminate certain individual and corporate tax credits - RI is the "king of tax credits." If you want it, we probably have it or will get it under the present system.
 5. Expand the sales tax to other goods and services and reduce the overall rate (one has to remember that our neighboring state Massachusetts does not tax many products and has no tax on services or entrainment with a 5% sales tax rate. This creates a dilemma for our state.
 6. Begin taxing not-for-profit corporations both from an income standpoint and property standpoint
- Corporate Tax Alternatives: This could be a dramatic change in policy. There will be winners and losers if RI changes to a gross receipts tax similar to Ohio. (A gross margins tax similar to Texas or a business enterprise tax (BET) which is similar to NH). Any information you could provide would be welcomed as I am not an expert on this. Who gains or loses in NH?

In any event, you can look for some action to be taken to address the state's the poor economy; dropping state revenues; business image and high unemployment .

JOIN THE RIICA PAC TODAY!!!

YOU CAN JOIN FOR AS LITTLE AS \$ 25.00 !

YOUR CONTRIBUTION DIRECTLY HELPS OUR LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES....

PLEASE HELP US HELP YOU!

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MAIL YOUR CHECK TODAY TO THE RIICA OFFICE

RIICA NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES

2009-2011 SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS; ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS

ACCEPTED BY DECEMBER 11, 2008

RIICA Board of Directors announced the proposed Slate of Officers and Directors for 2009-2011 unanimously approved by the Board of Directors on November 13, 2008. Additional nominations will be accepted from the general membership until December 11, 2008 for final approval at the January 22, 2009 Annual Membership Dinner Dance at the West Valley Inn, West Warwick. Call Mike Stanzione at 401-529-9746, Jim Taglione at 401-232-5597 or Steve Gianlorenzo at 401-438-2711 with any new nominations and position being sought.

PROPOSED 2009-2011 RIICA Slate of Officers and Directors

Officers

President– Steven Gianlorenzo

First Vice President– Michael MacLaughlin

Second Vice President– David Benn

Secretary– Michael A. Stanzione

Treasurer– Henry DiLibero

Board of Directors

Peter Fenner

Peter Brennan

Gary Studley

Robert Johnson

David Skurka

Andrew Correira

Robert "Bob" Mello

James B. Taglione

William Wright Jr.

Matthew Olson

Immediate Past President– David Burnham

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SAFETY NEWS...Back Injury Prevention

Did you know that approximately 80 percent of the population will be troubled by back pain sometime in their lives? Once you injure your back, the possibility of it happening again greatly increases. If you seriously injure your back you could be disabled for the rest of your life. Your back plays an important role in almost everything you do. Prevent a back injury by paying attention to the moves you make, including the way you stand, sit, sleep, drive, and work.

Protecting Your Back From Injury:

- Stretch your muscles before starting work; Follow proper lifting procedures. Bend your knees, get a good grip, keep the load close to your body, and lift with your legs, not your back;
- Use carts, dollies, forklifts, or other mechanical equipment to lift heavy loads; Use a wrecking bar to provide leverage when you raise or position a heavy object, such as a pipe; Never be ashamed to ask for help with heavy loads.
- Make sure the path you will follow when handling materials is clear of debris; Do not over exert yourself. Take periodic rest breaks or vary your tasks.
- Do not jump into trenches, or off trucks and equipment. The shock could injure your back. Use a ladder or climb down carefully.
- Lose some weight from your mid section. A "pot belly" strains your back muscles and the disks in your lower back; Strengthen your back and stomach muscles that support it— Start a regular exercise program.

Too many back injuries occur on the job. They are preventable if you take the time to think about what you are doing. Evaluate the task, warm up your muscles, and get help with heavy loads. It is your back, and it is up to you to protect it!

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