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Merit News

ABC This Week

December 23, 2009

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Check Out the EFCA Page on Our Website

<http://www.abcsepa.org/EFCA.aspx>

If you have any questions, please contact [Jeff](#) at the Chapter Office.

Important Dates:

2010 Construction Industry Symposium

January 20, 2010
7:30 a.m.
Crowne Plaza Hotel
King of Prussia, PA
\$40 per person
\$50 per person
after January 8

Meet the Facility Managers

February 4, 2009
Crowne Plaza Hotel
King of Prussia, PA
\$100 - GC/Sub
\$250 - Sponsor

Battle on the Delaware

Flyers vs. Devils

Dear Tammy,

Welcome to Merit News, a weekly newsletter brought to you by ABC SEPA.

The Chapter Office will be closed on Thursday Dec. 31 and Friday Jan. 1 for New Years. There will be no newsletter. Have a safe and happy new year!

-Jeff, John, Robin, Vince, Bettie, Bill, Sharon, Bernadette, Lorraine, Bob & Tammy

Construction Industry Targeted in Senate Health Care Bill

The Senate health care bill mandates that all companies must provide their employees with health coverage. The one exemption to that mandate is that small businesses, companies with 50 employees or less, are not subject to that health care requirement. Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) proposed an amendment which excludes construction firms (**and only construction firms**) from the small business exemption. The Merkley Amendment 's language was never voted on, but was added to the health care bill at the last minute. The Senate will vote on the entire health care package on Christmas Eve. Construction firms with five employees or more will now be required, by federal law, to provide their employees with health coverage. Call your Senators TODAY. Tell them that this bill unfairly singles out small construction firms for vast federal government mandates at a time when our industry can least afford it. [Click here to take action now.](#)



Senate Bill Would Increase Limit for Small Business Loans

Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.) and Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-Maine) Dec. 11 introduced a bill that would increase the small business loan limit to \$5 million in an effort to stimulate job creation. The Small Business Job Creation and Access to Capital Act of 2009 (S. 2869) would also extend fee eliminations and increased guarantees introduced under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for one year. ABC National, along with 54 other organizations, Dec. 10 sent a letter to Congress supporting S. 2869 and urging both the U.S. House and Senate to support appropriations that would extend the Small Business Administration (SBA) loan provisions contained in ARRA. The letter noted that although the stimulus provisions have made a significant difference, the funds are



February 8, 2010
 Wachovia Center
 Philadelphia, PA
 \$75 per person
 \$85 per person after Jan. 15

Check out the SEPA website,
www.abcsepa.org, for the
[2009 calendar of events](#)
 where members can register
 online!

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Training Center Closing
 Number: 1181

now exhausted and borrowers are on a waiting list in hopes of accessing remaining funds. The letter also urged Congress to act quickly so the SBA can regain its lending momentum. [Click here to learn more.](#)

2010 Construction Industry Symposium

In an effort to broaden our reach, the Chapter is partnering with local associations to promote this year's 2010 Construction Industry Symposium scheduled for January 20, 2010 at the Crowne Plaza in King of Prussia. The associations include the Philadelphia AIA, the Construction Financial Managers Association, The Carpenters Company and the Tri-County Chamber of Commerce. The Chapter would like to thank these partners for their support. This year's event will feature two innovative speakers: **John Tocci, Tocci Building Corporation**, named one of the Top 25 News Makers by ENR will review the Integrated Project Delivery process. **Michael Clancy, FMI**, a leader in management consulting and investment banking for the construction industry will explore the financial outlook for 2010. Sponsorships are available. Contact [Tammy](#) for more information.

[Click here to register.](#)

2010 Spring Course Catalog

The 2010 Spring Course Catalog is now available online. You can download the full PDF or search for classes on our education calendar and register online. Highlights include extended Green Building offerings and many **FREE** safety courses. Any questions, please contact [John Judge](#).

[Click here to view the calendar.](#)

[Click here to download the catalog.](#)



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