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Merit News

ABC This Week

July 2, 2010

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Important Dates:

[Crack Open Your Membership - New Member Orientation Breakfast](#)

September 9
8:00-9:30
Chapter Office
FREE

[Meet the Generals](#)

September 16
3:00 - 6:30
Crowne Plaza Hotel
King of Prussia, PA

Check out the SEPA website, www.abcsepa.org, for the [2010](#)

Dear Tammy,

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

The Chapter Office will be closed on Monday, July 5 in observance of Independence Day. Have a safe and happy holiday from the Staff at ABC!



Cast Your Vote to Eliminate PLAs on Federal Projects

ABC members can cast their vote to prohibit government-mandated union-only project labor agreements (PLAs) on federal construction projects via a new website called YouCut. Members and interested parties can either [vote online](#) or by texting YouCut4 to 68398. The YouCut website each week features a list of projects that that would scale back Congressional spending and invites anyone to vote for the initiative they think should be eliminated. Since PLAs have been shown to increase construction costs by from 10 to 20 percent, prohibiting their use on federal construction projects could save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. For more information and to vote for eliminating government-mandated PLAs on federal construction projects, visit the [YouCut website](#) or text YouCut4 to 68398.



Independent Contractor Legislation Being Considered By PA Senate

The PA Senate is considering HB 400, a bill that would severely restrict the use of independent contractors. It is being pushed by the Carpenters' union in particular. We are encouraging our members to write call or email Senator Charles McIlhinney (R-Bucks) and tell him you oppose HB 400. Click here to visit his [website](#) for his contact information. Click here to access a [sample letter](#).



Construction Industry Executive Forum



[calendar of events](#) where members can register online!

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**Training Center Closing
Number: 1181**

hosted by Kreischer Miller

Kreischer Miller is hosting an executive forum on the economy, credit markets, and the construction industry on July 28 from 7:30 - 10:30 a.m. at their office in Horsham. Guest panelists include Paul Sloate, President and CEO of Green Drake Partners, LLC, David Kane, Vice President of the Shepherd Agency LLC and Jeff Culp, President of Wilmington Trust of Pennsylvania. Mario Vicari, Director of Kreischer Miller will moderate the event. For more information, or to register, contact Julie Camacho at 215-441-4600 or jcamacho@knco.com.

Nonresidential Construction Spending Dips in May

"Construction spending growth, to the extent that it exists, continues to be the domain of publicly financed projects, particularly those attached to the stimulus package passed in February 2009." -ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu. In a sign that the nation's economic recovery continues to stumble, private nonresidential construction spending decreased 0.6 percent in May, according to the July 1 report by the U.S. Census Bureau. On a year-over-year basis, private nonresidential construction spending is down 24.8 percent. Total nonresidential construction spending - which includes both private and public - slipped 0.1 percent from last month and 15.2 percent from May 2009, and now stands at \$571.7 billion. [Click here](#) to read more.



Free Webinar for ABC Members! Your Diversity Plan: A Competitive Advantage for Business Performance

It's no longer business as usual. The U.S. workforce is more diverse than ever--including employees with different ethnicities, educational backgrounds and life experiences. Customer demand, changing demographics and community building all drive the need for diversity and inclusion in the construction industry. Does your company have strategies in place to adapt to the changing workforce, as well as the demands of your customers? In this webinar, Tim Steigerwald will explain how Messer Construction Co. has successfully incorporated diversity and inclusion in the workplace, as well as how the company has used the ABC Employer Guide for Diversity and Inclusion to better serve customers.

Date: Wednesday, June 30

Time: 11 a.m. (ET) / 10 a.m. (CT) / 9 a.m. (MT) / 8 a.m. (PT)

Length: 75 Minutes

Speaker: Tim Steigerwald, Senior Vice President, Messer Construction Co.

Registration Fee: Free to ABC Members

[Click here to register.](#)



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