

THE JOURNEYMAN ROOFER & WATERPROOFER

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

THE WASHINGTON CONNECTION • RESEARCH & EDUCATION • MARKETING ISSUES • THE LEGAL ASPECT

The Washington Connection

by Jim Hadel

International Vice President and Washington Representative



As I embark on my new position as Washington Representative for the International, I would first like to extend my deepest thanks to Bob Krul for his outstanding years of service and dedication to our Union.

Let me begin by addressing two key issues that will significantly affect the growth of the union roofing and waterproofing industry in the near future.

First, as you well know by now, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is a \$787 billion package passed by Congress to stimulate the economy, in part by creating or saving millions of U.S. jobs. A significant portion of this package will be invested in “green initiatives,” which equates to job opportunities for our members and signatory contractors.

The General Services Administration, for example, is projected to spend approximately \$5.5 billion on 255 projects in all fifty states, as part of its “Green Building” initiative. Already green and photovoltaic roof systems are being applied across the country both in the public and private sectors. This means vast work potential for our membership over the next few years if we are trained and prepared to respond.

In order to secure this work, green roofing and solar photovoltaic systems installation need to become an integral part of our training curriculum. Apprenticeship programs that

cover new roofing and waterproofing systems and technologies will increase our market share. These progressive training capabilities then need to be marketed by educating the end-users about our services. Our message should be that we have a trained workforce available to meet the modern needs of the green roofing industry. To facilitate this, we are in the process of developing marketing materials that specifically address green and photovoltaic systems.

Secondly, I would like to address jurisdictional disputes. Unfortunately, such disputes are too common in the Building and Construction Trades, and are, in fact, one of the most commonly referred to “negative” perceptions that non-union contractors have regarding the union sector. We are confronted with jurisdictional issues daily in our struggle to protect our work.

Many disputes can be avoided by implementing an active, ongoing strategy to police and protect our work jurisdiction from the onset. Locals that regularly attend pre-bid, pre-job and PLA meetings, and who actively police their work in the field, have a far better chance of securing the “historic work” of our union. If we are initially awarded the work, and it is historically Roofers’ work, the chance of the award being reversed in the jurisdictional resolution process is uncommon. So let’s protect our work before it is awarded.

Disputes will continue to occur, but responding to them in a timely manner (before work has commenced) affords us the opportunity to gain real work for our members and not just a paper victory.

I look forward to assisting and working with the Locals, whether it’s regarding a jurisdictional dispute or any other number of issues, in the future. ■

“ROOFERS GO GREEN” PHOTO CONTEST

WIN UP TO \$250

Submit photos of roofing projects, training or green living involving Union Roofers and “green technology.”

PRIZES

COVER PHOTO **\$250**

TOP FIVE PHOTOS selected for inside issue **\$50 each**

TO ENTER

- ▶ Include name, address, Local Union and membership number on all entries.
- ▶ By Email: Submit electronic files (jpegs only) via email to roofers@unionroofers.com with “Photo Contest” in the subject line and photo description in the body or attachment.
- ▶ By Mail: Send developed photos or electronic photos on CD, with descriptions, to United Union of Roofers, 1660 L St NW #800, Washington, DC, 20036, Attn: Photo Contest.

Contest Rules:

1. Only members of the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers & Allied Workers in good standing are eligible. Photo must be taken and submitted by same person. Maximum of one prize per member.
2. International and Local Union full-time officers and staff are not eligible.
3. All submissions become the property of The Journeyman Roofer and Waterproofer magazine. The decision to publish is solely the responsibility of the Editor of the magazine. All decisions of the Editor are final.
4. Photos should contain an environmental, or “green,” theme (i.e. a roofing project incorporating green technology, personal environmental practices, etc.).
5. Photos must be accompanied by full description of the subject(s), including, but not limited to: location, roof size, materials used, contractor information and names of all Union Roofers featured. Photos including non-union roofers on job sites will be disqualified.
6. Submissions can be in color or black and white. Traditionally developed photos should be 4”x6” on glossy photographic paper. Please do not send ink jet, color copier or color laser prints. Digital photos should be taken with a 4.0 or higher megapixel camera at the highest resolution, and must be submitted in JPEG format directly from the camera or camera card. Do not manipulate, crop or correct images for coloring, sharpness, etc.
7. **Deadline for submissions is 8/1/09.** The International is not responsible for photos lost in the mail or during the publishing process.