

ROOFERS IN THE NEWS

ROOFING STORIES AND EVENTS THAT ARE MAKING HEADLINES

Roofing Professionals Converge in Las Vegas for 2012 Western Roofing Expo

The 38th Annual Western Roofing Expo, put on by the Western States Roofing Contractors Association (WSRCA), was held at Paris Hotel & Casino from June 24-27 this year. The show featured a large exhibit area showcasing the latest in roofing products, services and technology.

The unofficial theme this year was, "Let's get ready for the good times ahead." "We all know it is coming," said WSRCA President Travis Nelson.

Representatives from the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers & Allied Workers booth were on hand to discuss current issues with many union and non-union contractors. Many agree that the "good times" are definitely in the near future. ■



John Plescia, left, president of signatory contractor Star Roofing Inc. in Phoenix, AZ, meets with International President Kinsey Robinson to discuss roofing in the Southwest area.



Bill Thomas and Debby Thomas of Thomas Roofing in Butte, MT, are pleased to run into International President Doug Ziegler, International Representative Paul Blaski and International Representative Gabby Perea.



Local 220, Orange, CA, Business Manager Brent Beasley, left, welcomes Greg Banks, president of signatory contractor San Marino Roof Co. Inc. in Orange, CA, at the Western Roofing Expo.



UNLV Roof Shop Project Coordinator Ken Hughes, right, always enjoys catching up with (from left) International Representative Paul Blaski, International President Kinsey Robinson and Local 162, Las Vegas, NV, Business Manager Modesto Gaxiola.



Fred Schroeder and Gary Martin from the WSRCA Board of Directors present International President Kinsey Robinson a certificate of appreciation for participating in the show.



Roofers Helping Neighbors in Warwood

By Ian Hicks, originally published in *The Wheeling Intelligencer*

A homeowner in the Friendly City is receiving some help from above today.

Starting bright and early, a group of apprentices from Roofers Local 188 in Warwood, WV, will be putting a new roof on the garage behind David Howard's home, located near the union's office.

Apprenticeship Coordinator John Dolak said the project will serve as a voluntary training session for the 13 students currently enrolled in the program. The union has a well-established apprenticeship program for commercial roofing, and he said they're starting to expand into the residential side.

Business Manager Gary Zadai said the union is looking to get more involved in the community, and with only an alley separating the union hall from the Howards' home, it was a perfect opportunity.

"They've had a tarp on the garage for at least two years, so we're trying to help them out," Dolak said. "We just want to give a little bit back to the valley. It's good for us, it's good for everybody."

Area businesses have donated all the materials needed for the job—including Kalkreuth Roofing and Sheet Metal of Wheeling, ABC Supply of Benwood, 84 Lumber of Bridgeport and McClure-Johnson of Braddock, Pa.

Completing the apprenticeship program is a five- to six-year process that includes a mix of hands-on work and classroom instruction, and Dolak said that's because roofers' work must be done with the utmost skill and professionalism.

"If you think about it, if you own a home—or a building, period—if you don't have a good roof on it, nothing underneath it's any good," he said.

Not only will the garage project give the apprentices a chance to apply what they've been learning, it will give instructor Bill Porter a good opportunity to hammer on the most important lesson the students will learn—safety.

"That's our first thing. . . We do have a very dangerous trade," Dolak said. "When it comes to high-risk (professions), we're right there in the top five." ■



Local 188 apprentices replace the roof on the garage behind David Howard's home near the local union hall.



Local 188 Apprentice Coordinator John Dolak, who oversaw the project, is photographed in front of the finished job.