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JULY 2016

Photos from MACC Night at the Mets - pages 15 & 16

"Survive and Thrive" A special two-part presentation will be held at our September and October Meetings. Please see the MACC Talks column and the promotion on page 7.

> METROPOLITAN AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS OF NEW YORK (MACC) Formerly Air Conditioning Contractors Association – NY Chapter 123 South Street, Suite 112 Oyster Bay, NY 11771 Oyster Bay, NY 11771

From the President...



MARC SOFFLER Dynaire Corp.

Ithough summer is perhaps the busiest time of the year for most of us in the HVAC industry, finding new potential customers needs to be a part of our everyday activities. Generating sales leads traditionally begins with networking. Joining other trade associations and becoming actively involved with their

events and programs can be a great source of new customers. Another resource might be to simply contact your friends and family and ask them to make introductions to people who may be interested in your products or services.

Besides networking, trade shows are another excellent opportunity for business-to-business networking. There are numerous local and national trade shows which can offer you direct exposure to potential new customers. By building an interesting and interactive display, you can collect contact information from dozens of potential buyers and business partners in a short period of time.

Perhaps the quickest way to assemble hundreds of sales leads is to buy a sales lead list. There are many direct marketing companies who collect and sell specialty lists that target specific consumer sectors. The obvious advantage of these lists is that you can get instant access to thousands of names for a relatively small investment. The disadvantage is that these names are usually unqualified leads and must be analyzed to see whether or not they're a good match for your services.

Our June events were once again a great success. Special thanks to all of the sponsors for their support. Special thanks to Consolidated Refrigerant Solutions and National Compressor Exchange for sponsoring the cocktail networking event at the Chalet in Roslyn, and ABCO for their continued support of the annual "Night with the Mets".

Please remember to register for 38th Annual MACC Golf Outing on August 8 at The Village Club at Lake Success. I'm looking forward to seeing you soon, and remember to visit our web site at <u>www.maccny.org</u> for upcoming events. — *Marc*





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Editor's Notes by Anthony N. Carbone

The "NETWORKING COCKTAIL PARTY," at The Chalet in Roslyn, was a great success and many contractors and vendors had an abundance of ideas to exchange. We decided the idea of a casual meeting with drinks and buffet food would provide an atmosphere that is conducive to promote new business without the pressure of a formal program. It is unknown what the weather conditions will be when we plan this meeting, as in times of extreme heat some people find it hard to attend a program, so the cocktail party was a great opportunity!

The "Night at the Mets" was huge success on a perfect night weather-wise. Unfortunately, the Mets lost, but, once again, the ABCO HVACR organization did a great job of sponsoring this annual event.

We, at MACC, wish you a prosperous summer of extreme temperatures that will make your phones ring and your bank account full to get you through another winter!

Keep supporting this organization, as it is filled with valuable information that can't be found elsewhere! — *Anthony N. Carbone*

There will be no membership meeting in July or August. MACC News will not publish in August. Meanwhile, be sure to register at www.maccny.org for our Golf Outing on August 8th. See you in September.

MACC 38th Annual Golf Outing



Three-Hour GOLF CLINIC is offered to those who are golf beginners or anyone who is looking to improve their game Village Club at Lake Success 318 Lakeville Road, Great Neck

Monday, August 8th, 2016

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Donnelly Mechanical Launches Carbon Cutter Program for Commercial Tenants

Donnelly Mechanical's commercial HVAC energy reduction program for commercial tenants aligns with the 'New York City Carbon Challenge' to cut energy consumption and costs.

Donnelly Mechanical, announced the launch of its 'Carbon Cutter Program' for commercial building tenants. Donnelly Mechanical's team of

LEED certified energy specialists developed the comprehensive HVAC energy program specifically to assist business owners and their facilities managers with achieving their energy consumption reduction objectives.

"We are conscientious of the collective need to reduce energy use and cut emissions," said Daniel T.

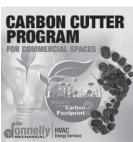
Donnelly, CEO of Donnelly Mechanical. "Reducing energy waste is globally recognized as the logical and easiest way to cut emissions, protect the environment, and save money. Given that energy is a property's single largest operating expense, with energy representing about 30% of the typical office building's costs, New York City businesses are facing the need to improve energy efficiency. We developed the 'Carbon Cutter' Program to help them achieve cost savings and cut energy use. At the same time, they demonstrate corporate responsibility and cooperation with the city's carbon reduction efforts."

New York City initiated the 'New York City Carbon Challenge' program with an ambitious goal to reduce citywide greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 to 80% below 2005 gas emission levels. The 10 year roadmap to improve the energy efficiency of buildings aims "to reduce the city's building-based emissions by 30 percent by 2025 in order to be on the pathway to 80 x 50." To meet these objectives, New York City is calling upon building owners and managers to do their part to cut their energy use and emissions.

"We're proud to support the New York City Carbon Challenge," said Donnelly. "The 'Carbon Cutter' Program allows businesses to demonstrate quantifiable energy efficiencies and significant cost savings from improved HVAC system performance. Participation in our program automatically aligns businesses with the city's objectives. Everybody wins."

Information about the Donnelly Mechanical 'Carbon Cutter' Program is available at http://www.donnellymech.com/ carbon-cutter-program/, or by calling (718) 925-3348.





MACC Talks

By John Ottaviano, Air Ideal, Inc.

I joined the Greater NY Chapter of ACCA 27 years ago as a young, inexperienced and totally overwhelmed newbie in the world of HVAC contracting business leadership. The untimely and sudden death of my father left me completely unprepared for the role that I needed to assume. The bank and a major vendor made things no easier on me, calling for loans due a week after my father's death.

I needed to learn how to turn things around quickly or walk away and find a new career. My father was a brilliant man, but he wasn't much of a teacher. Five years after being convinced to leave a promising career with GE in electrical distribution, I was faced with the reality of my inadequacies. Fortunately, a business associate recommended that I come down to a meeting at the Hofstra University Club and see what ACCA was all about. I got involved and became a sponge, soaking up as much as I could around those who managed to become successful in this business.

The rest of the story was part of our "Passing the Torch" meeting, but clearly Air Ideal's interim survival was predicated upon lessons learned from those with much more experience than I. This, in my mind, will always be the primary benefit of belonging to a contracting business association like the new MACC. The learning and networking opportunities that come with your association, with experienced and successful business owners and managers, will be a key to your survival and growth that you may not already value.

If you haven't been a regular attendee to MACC's monthly meetings, you are going to want to join today! MACC shakes things up with our own version of TED talks. HVAC industry leaders from some of the largest, oldest and most visible companies are the headliners of our monthly meetings. You will hear war stories, lessons learned and valuable tips on how these companies survived and thrived in an ever-changing HVAC market.

Survive and Thrive Part 1 will be held on Thursday, September, 15, 2016, with featured speakers Scott Berger from Arista Air Conditioning & Jack Fanneron from BP Air Conditioning Corp. Survive and Thrive Part 2, to be held on Thursday, October 6, 2016 will feature Dan Dubin from Penguin and EMCOR & Dan Donnelly from Donnelly Mechanical.

MACC is an invaluable resource that every HVAC business owner must be a part of in order to reach their highest potential. This is an exceptional opportunity to learn from the most successful leaders in the industry. So, if you want to learn from those who have managed to survive and thrive in the HVAC industry, then make it a point to join MACC today and register online for our meetings. – *John Ottaviano, Air Ideal, Inc.*

Coming in September and October

MACC Presents
Survive
and
NACC Presents

A two-part series featuring four expert and highly successful members of our industry:

On September 15th: 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Scott Berger from Arista Air Conditioning and Jack Fanneron from BP Air Conditioning Corp.

at Piccola Bussola Restaurant, 159 Jericho Tpke, Mineola

On October 6th: 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Dan Dubin from Penquin and EMCOR and Dan Donnelly from Donnelly Mechanical

at Vivaldi's Restaurante, 201-10 Cross Island Parkway, Bayside

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People & The Workplace

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A Trap For The Unwary: Wage Notice Requirements

It's a scenario that wage-and-hour defense attorneys have encountered too many times: an employer has a solid defense to a plaintiff's wage-and-hour claim yet is unable to escape the lawsuit unscathed, due solely to violations of notice requirements.

Sometimes such claims are included in a suit because the plaintiff is actually aware of notice violations; other times they are included as part of a "throw it at the wall and see if it sticks" strategy. But all too often, these claims turn out to have merit. This is not due to a willful refusal by employers to adhere to notice requirements but, rather, to employers' failure to learn what those requirements are. Indeed, many employers only learn about these requirements when it is too late and they are already faced with thousands of dollars in penalties.

The good news is that, once understood, notice requirements are fairly simple to follow. Essentially, employers must provide certain notices upon hire, upon making payroll payments, and upon termination. Each of these requirements is discussed below.

Wage Notice Upon Hire

Upon hiring an employee, employers must give the new employee a written notice stating the rate of pay, how the employee is paid (hourly, weekly, on commission, etc.), identifying the regular payday, and the official name of the employer and any DBA it uses, together with the address and phone number of its main office or principal location. The notice must also include any allowances taken as part of the minimum wage (e.g., tip, meal or lodging deductions). The notice must be furnished in English as well as the employee's primary language, provided a translation is available from the DOL; the DOL cur-



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rently provides translations in Spanish, Russian, Polish, Chinese, Korean and Haitian-Creole. Employers must obtain the employee's signed acknowledgment that he or she has received the notice. (Certain different guidelines apply to temporary help firms and employers in the hospitality industry.)

Employers who fail to comply with these requirements may be forced to pay up to \$50 per day per employee, capped at \$5,000. Repeat offenders may be subject to enhanced penalties.

It should be noted that while employers were previously required to provide wage notices to employees annually, the annual notice requirement was removed in February 2015. Wage notices are now due only upon hiring an employee and in connection with any changes to the employee's wages.

Paystub Requirements

With every payroll payment, employers must provide employees with a writing containing the dates of work covered by the payment, the employee's name, the employer's name, address and phone number, the rate of pay, the basis of pay (e.g., hourly, salary, by commission, etc.), gross wages, deductions, any allowances claimed as part of the minimum wage, and net wages. For non-exempt employees the statement must also include the regular and overtime rates of pay, and the number of regular hours and overtime hours worked. If an employee asks for an explanation of how the wages were computed, the employer must provide it.

Notice Upon Termination

Upon terminating an employee, an employer must provide him or her with a written notice of the date of termination and the date of cancellation of employee benefits. Failure to provide the proper notice can subject an employer to penalties of up to \$5,000 per employee.

Conclusion

Adhering to notice requirements is relatively easy. While they may present an unwelcome administrative burden, that burden pales in comparison to the penalties and damages an employer may be forced to pay for failing to provide these simple notices. Particularly for businesses who are careful to comply with overtime and minimum wage laws, it is most unfortu-



METROPOLITAN AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS OF NEW YORK

nate to be unable to dismiss a baseless wage-and-hour suit only because it includes notice violation claims -- claims the plaintiff may have added as a mere afterthought. Don't let your business fall prey to this trap. Call me at 516-921-3400 if you have any doubts about your company's compliance with notice laws.

SUMMERTIME HANDBOOK REVIEW

Since summer is an ideal time to review and update company handbooks, PMP offers a discounted rate for summertime reviews. Call me for an assessment of your particular situation and needs. Remember -- employment laws change rapidly. If it has been more than 18 months since you last updated your handbook, the time to review is now. •

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Statement From Stuart S. Zisholtz, Esq.

Statute of Limitations And Pay When Paid

Under ordinary circumstances, the Statute of Limitations to institute a lawsuit for breach of contract is six years. The Statute of Limitations can be reduced from six years to a shorter period of time as long as it is not the product of overreaching or an unreasonably short period. The Courts, in the past, have held a six month Statute of Limitations as being valid when the parties agreed to it in a signed written agreement.

Many contracts for public projects contain shorter Statute of Limitations to six months.

Recently, a subcontractor was awarded a project to perform work at Suffolk County Community College. The signed written contract contained a clause reducing the Statute of Limitations to six months. The contract also contained a pay when paid clause whereby payment by the owner was a condition precedent for the contractor's obligation to make payment to the subcontractors. The contract also provided that the subcontractor was required to pursue a lien foreclosure action to final judgment as a condition precedent to any action by the general contractor to collect the funds from the owner. Finally, the contract contained a provision that any action by the subcontractor for breach of the subcontract or to enforce any trust imposed by law on the general contractor had to be commenced within six months after the work of the subcontractor had been substantially completed.

The general contractor, after being sued by the subcontractor, argued that there was a six month Statute of Limitations in the contract and moved to dismiss the complaint as untimely. The subcontractor argued that the pay when paid clause conflicted with the six-month limitation clause because the subcontractor's right to bring an action might not ripen until after the six-month period had expired.

As all of you may know, a pay when paid clause is unenforceable in New York. Thus, the terms associated with the pay when paid clause in the subcontract agreement were



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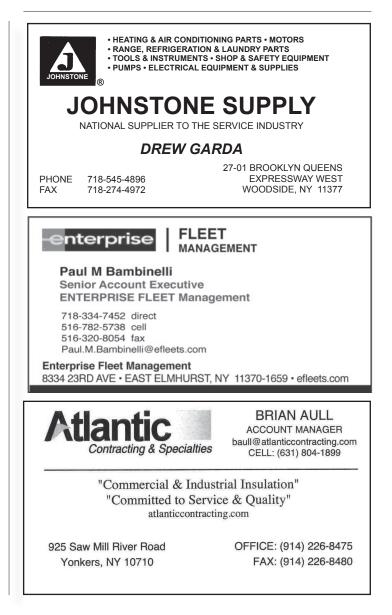
unenforceable. However, the Appellate Court held that the pay when paid clause and the contractual limitations clause were not severable. As a result, the Appellate Court concluded that the six-month limitation clause did not bar the action and the subcontractor had the right to pursue its claim.

The rationale of the Appellate Court was that even though the pay when paid clause was unenforceable, the fact that the terms were not severable resulted in an ambiguity.

The logic of the Appellate Court is confusing and unclear. However, the key aspect to this article is knowing your contract and the terms and conditions of the agreement In this particular case, the subcontractor was lucky and utilized an ambiguity to save his claim against the general contractor. Many times, these arguments are unsuccessful.

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