

Oregon/ SW WA Contracts 2009

The Pacific Northwest Council of Carpenters has agreements with three primary contractor associations in Oregon/ SW WA which are:

General and Concrete Contractors Association (GCCA) - primarily larger general contractors including Andersen Structures, Hoffman Structures, Howard S Wright, Marion Construction, Skanska..... Our current agreement with the GCCA was negotiated last year and has four more years which includes an increase \$1.60 as of June 1, 2009.

Associated General Contractors (AGC) – general and specialty contractors including but not limited to: AC Schommer & Sons, Advanced American Construction, Bremik Structures, DeWitt Construction, Emerick Construction, Gibson Door, McKenzie Commercial, Mowat Construction, P&C Construction, Pence/ Kelly Construction, Perlo McCormack Pacific, Reimers & Jollivette, West Coast Contractors, Whitaker Ellis and Wildish Construction.... This contract expires June 1, 2009. We are currently in negotiation for a new contract. This association (and its members) currently have 8(f) status which means they are not required to continue to negotiate after expiration of this contract.

Associated Wall & Ceiling Contractors (AWCC) – This association has eleven members, from small companies to large corporations, which are: Anning Johnson Company, Billings & Cronn, Cascade Acoustics, Ceiling Systems, Fred Shear & Sons, Harlens Drywall, the Harver Company, LP Co, MCG Commercial, Performance Contracting, and Western Partitions.... This contract expires June 1, 2009. We are currently in negotiation for a new contract. This association has 9(a) status which obligates them to negotiate with us for up to one year after expiration of this contract,

Issues and Positions brought to the bargaining table by the Contractors (all associations):

The construction market in general has experienced major change due to the economy.

The credit situation has forced the cancelation or postponement of many projects.

There are far fewer projects to bid and the competition is fierce. As many as 20 to 30 bidders on jobs that in the past would have had 3 or 4.

Non-union competition is coming from all directions including from the housing market and out of state.

Many of our contractors have seen the markets they worked in shrink drastically in size or just go away.

Non-union contractors are eating signatory contractor's lunch with extremely low bids on both private work and prevailing wage projects.

Some of our contractors are losing money and feel they are in danger of going out of business.

Both AGC and AWCC contractors say they need major concessions on private works projects to compete. The GCCA is pushing for a wage freeze and a private works reduction as well.

Both the AGC and AWCC contractors have strongly pushed back against any increase of wage or benefit for our members this year.

The AGC has proposed at different times both a two year and three year agreement. All of their proposals have included "wage openers" each year. The AGC's proposal on May 28, 2009 (emailed to us after negotiations on May 26) included a 20% reduction (\$6.48 hr) in wages for private works up to \$15 million.

Contractor Issues continued

The AWCC has proposed a four year contract that includes a 15% reduction this year (\$4.97 hr) and then increases each year after that could equal a wage/ benefit increase above where we are now of over \$2.00 hr in the last year.

Issues and Positions brought to the bargaining table by the Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters:

We have continued to push for additional pension funding. Our pension fund, like almost all across the country, needs additional funding and/or multiplier reduction to remain healthy. Without help we are in danger of losing "80 and Out" early retirement.

An across the board reduction of wages on private works projects will only result in the reduction of non-union wages on these same projects. How much work will our contractors (and our members) realize from such a reduction?

If we take a reduction of wages on private works projects this most likely will become the "Prevailing Wage" for any Public Work Projects bid beyond January 1, 2010.

While not making it part of the contract, the PNWRCC has offered additional Market Recovery money to help our contractors secure work.

Our current contracts include limited use of a wage scale of 85% on private works. The intent is to help our contractors secure work in markets that we currently do not compete in. It makes sense to raise these limits to some extent, but not to very high or unlimited contract dollar levels.

Members that are injured on the job and return to work on "light duty" deserve to be paid the full benefit package while working under this status.

Additional Information:

Both the **AWCC and the PNWRCC** have tentatively agreed to mandatory annual training for Wall & Ceiling members in order to receive future increases in compensation.

We are seeking 9(a) Status with the **AGC (and its members)**. This will require them to continue negotiating with us for up to one year after the expiration of a contract. Without 9(a) Status, they can simply walk away and become non-union. To ensure 9(a) Status, at least a majority of our members that currently works for or has worked for an AGC contractor in the last year need to sign "Bargaining Cards" for each affected contractor.

For the latest information regarding these contract negotiations call 1-800-974-9052

Wall & Ceiling Info is on extension #14

AGC info is on extension #27