

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

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

The Washington Connection

by Jim Hadel
International Vice President and
Washington Representative



Issues That Affect Our Work: Where They Stand Now

National Maintenance Agreement

Since its inception in 1971, the National Maintenance Agreement (NMA) has accounted for more than \$300 billion of work and more than two billion work-hours for our brothers and sisters in the building and construction trades. Over the past three calendar years the members of our Union have worked a total of 441,205 hours under the Agreement, with 267,988 of those hours stemming from projects in the auto industry. The NMA continues to be a successful tool that allows us to secure industrial construction maintenance work on a national level for our members and contractors.

Over the past two years the National Maintenance Agreements Policy Committee (NMAPC) Revisions Subcommittee has convened as a joint labor and management committee to revise and update the National Maintenance Agreement. The last time the Agreement was revised was in 1996, and both labor and management feel the need to update and revise the Agreement to meet changing market conditions and to address current language that is a concern to either party.

There are numerous changes to the Agreement, some significant and others simply language changes. The most notable changes are as follows: stronger requirements and penalties for failure to hold pre-job conferences; the addition of a new Article regarding subcontracting; updates to the jurisdictional dispute resolution to mirror the “Plan for the Settlement of Jurisdictional Disputes”; and revisions on the requirement for prior approval before implementing a four 10-hour day flexible work schedule and increases on shift differential.

Once finalized, we will make sure that our affiliates are provided a copy of the new Agreement.

GREETA Update

We have recently made significant progress on GREETA (Green Roofing Energy and Efficiency Tax Act) legislation. Senators Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and Mike Crapo (R-Id.), who serve on the Senate Finance Committee, have made the commitment to co-sponsor the bill on the Senate side. Securing Senate sponsors was a major hurdle to overcome, and it would not have been possible without the support of Roofers Local 30 Philadelphia representatives who set up and attended the initial meeting with Senator Cardin.

We are in the process of making minor revisions to the original bill and will begin discussions once again with our House Representatives now that the debt-ceiling issue is resolved. Congress could not act on any tax-related legislation until that agreement was reached, and it may have some bearing on the fate of GREETA.

Our goal is to have a revised GREETA bill introduced by late September. Once it has been introduced, I will be asking our local unions for support as we have done in the past. This has been a long and arduous process but typical of the legislative process in Washington, DC, and hopefully the emphasis in the immediate future will be on much-needed jobs creation.

Project Labor Agreements

In spite of the economy and several states enacting legislation banning project labor agreements (PLAs), we continue to see a significant number of these agreements submitted to the Building and Construction Trades Department for approval. As of the beginning of August we have approved approximately 94 PLAs for the year nationwide.

A problem we continue to see is the implementation of PLAs that have not met the criteria of the Building and Construction Trades Department or did not follow the approval procedures. The Department’s policy is to submit all PLAs for approval prior to implementation. The most effective way to protect the historical trade jurisdiction of our Union is to make sure the PLA contains the mandatory provisions of the Department and is approved accordingly.

For your future reference, a PLA must contain the following five articles from the Department’s Model PLA:



- A clearly defined scope of work
- A dispute and grievance resolution procedure
- A resolution of jurisdictional disputes (Plan for the Settlement of Jurisdictional Disputes)
- Subcontracting language
- Helmets to Hardhats language

All other provisions are to be negotiated locally.

Our position regarding the procedure has not changed, as our General President has stated in past correspondence that no PLA is to be signed unless it has been approved by the Department. We strongly support and encourage the use of

public and private PLAs, but only under the criteria as determined by the Building and Construction Trades Department.

Jurisdictional Updates

We continue to have a large number of jurisdictional disputes filed. In most of these cases, we have been able to successfully retain the historical work of our Union; however, with the economy still struggling, there will continue to be trades not honoring their historical work jurisdiction. With that in mind, make sure you attend pre-job meetings when applicable, police your work and encourage your contractors to bid all phases of our work jurisdiction. In addition, make sure you are updating your apprenticeship programs to include vegetative, cool and solar roof systems. Our future is dependent upon our ability to not only protect but to grow our market share. ■

VPs Appointed Assistants to the President

International President Kinsey Robinson is pleased to announce that Vice President Thomas Pedrick and Vice President James Hadel have been appointed Assistants to the President, effective September 1, 2011. The title of Assistant to the President is an important constitutional position and carries with it special responsibilities as assigned by the International President.

Both Vice President Pedrick and Vice President Hadel have spent the major portion of their working careers devoted to the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers and tirelessly serving the members. Vice President Pedrick began his career in Local 30, Philadelphia, PA, where he graduated from the apprenticeship program, receiving the outstanding apprentice award, in 1984. From there he quickly rose in rank from journeyman to foreman to steward, all in the same year. In 1985 he became a dispatcher, and in 1987 he was elected president of Local 30. The local membership elected him business manager in 1993, the same year he was elected International Vice President. In 1996 he was appointed International Representative, a position that has taken him around the country assisting multiple local unions for the last 15 years.

Vice President Hadel started his roofing career in 1977 as a member of Local 20, Kansas City, KS. Between 1982 and 1988 he served the local as shop steward, apprenticeship instructor, negotiating committee member and executive board member.



International Vice President Jim Hadel, left, and International Vice President Tom Pedrick, right, are appointed Assistants to the President by International President Kinsey Robinson.

He was elected business agent in 1988, then elected business manager in 1991, a position he served until July 2004.

Brother Hadel was elected International Vice President in 1998. He was then appointed director of marketing at the International in 2004, and in March of 2009 President Robinson appointed him Washington Representative, a unique position that involves advocating for pro-labor and pro-roofer legislation on the national level.

Brother Pedrick and Brother Hadel both have proven their leadership skills and dedication to the Roofers Union. "I look forward to working closely with them for many years to come," says President Robinson. ■