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Next General Meeting

Our General meeting will be October 16, 2007 at 12:00 pm, At the Sombrero Country Club. Lunch will be available.

We have two guest speakers scheduled for this meeting. Kelly Zufelt an Agent of Vandroff Insurance Agency in Jacksonville discussing the ongoing issue of USL&H (Longshoreman's insur-

ance). Anyone who builds docks and seawalls should attend.

Also speaking will be Paul Kruger representing the Army Corps of Engineers discussing some of the unique issues we face here in the Keys.

General Meetings are open to the public.

Contractors Examining Board Meeting

Rudy Krause, FKCA president attended the last CEB meeting on September 25, 2007. The minutes of that meeting were unavailable for this newsletter.

Following is a summary provided by Rudy: Gary Centonze, Steve Henson, Ed Werling, Joe Vertric, Bill Kelly and Charlie Miller sat on the Board. Most Cases were state contractors and 1st offense cases. Most were found in violation and the State would be notified with no further action recommended by the CEB. The Board made it clear to all in violation that with a 1st offense they gave the contractor the benefit of the doubt. If they have any future violations they should expect a more severe punishment.

There were some County licensed contractors that were also found in violation. Contractors with 1st offenses had fines handed down from code enforcement reduced and reminded that 2nd offenses would be treated much more severely.

In the past the FKCA has received complaints regarding the CEB being too lenient on violators. I have sat in on these meetings for the last 8 months and now realize the tough job this Board has. I would advise anyone who has complaints in the future to sit in on one of the meetings to experience it first hand. It is not easy deciding if someone has made an honest mistake or oversight or making up a story to get off the charges. I now more clearly understand why the CEB is more lenient on 1st offenses and believe that 2nd or 3rd offenses will receive justified punishment.

Also on the agenda was the subject of Reciprocity. At the last hearing, a decision was made that if an applicant does not have a Certificate of Competency from the City of Key West (or any county/municipality) but has taken the appropriate exams that the license can not be reciprocated until the (cont'd on page 4)

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Practicing Scaffolding Safety

OSHA estimates that the biggest scaffolding hazard is due to worker falls. To help protect workers, fall protection is provided when working 10 feet or more above a lower level and consists of either a personal fall-arrest system or guard rail systems, depending on the job. When working on scaffolding safety is top priority.

Below are some tips for scaffold safety. This information is provided for general informational purposes only and is not intended as medical or legal advice.

If the work you're doing requires the use of a guard rail scaffold system:

- Never move, dismantle or alter a scaffold unless under the supervision of a qualified person in such activities.
- You must always wear a hardhat when working on and around the scaffold.
- Keep scaffold loads to a minimum and remove your equipment when the scaffold is not in use.
- Be alert in bad weather. High winds and driving rain can be dangerous.
- Never move a scaffold with workers still on it.

- Always hoist up heavy tools, equipment and supplies, rather than carry up by hand.

If using a fall – protection system:

- Always attach your lanyard to a vertical lifeline, horizontal lifeline or scaffold structural member.
- If using a vertical lifeline, make sure you are fastened to a fixed safe point of anchorage, independent of the scaffold. This includes structural members of buildings, but not stand pipes, vents, electrical conduit, etc., which may give way under the force of a fall.
- Never tamper with your fall-protection system.

The FKCA has been advised that some worker's comp insurance companies will provide free jobsite safety inspections to their clients. No penalties will be imposed when you request the inspection to improve jobsite safety and compliance.

Contact your agent to see if your insurance company provides this valuable service.

Important Information

As of October 1, 2007 there will be new guidelines for Hurricane Mitigation Retrofits for existing site built single family residential structures. Any Building or Roofing Contractor doing remodel work needs to be informed about this bill to avoid costly surprises later. For more information visit the Building Officials Association of Florida website at www.boaf.net, click on Special Announcements.

Welcome New Directors!

FKCA would like to welcome the new Directors:
John Cherrybon, Chris Gratton, Rob Holtry and Brian Botsford

My Safe Florida Home

Under provisions of the My Safe Florida Home Program initiated by Florida's CFO Alex Sink and the Department of Financial Services this spring, Florida homeowners may be eligible to receive a free wind inspection of their homes to identify steps they could take to harden their homes against wind damage. The inspections should also inform homeowners about what mitigation credits they could receive on their windstorm insurance premiums. Should the inspector recommend specific improvements, homeowners can apply for grants of up to \$5,000 to fortify their homes.

Owners of Single Family homes (excluding mobile homes) are eligible for the free inspections. To apply for a free inspection, call 1-866-513-6734 or visit www.mysafefloridahome.com for an application and for more information. Those ineligible for the free inspections may receive an inspection for a \$150 fee. The companies below have been certified by My Safe Florida Home Program and may be contacted directly to sched-

ule an inspection.

ARA, Rick Vaugn, 888-936-4272,

MSFHinfo@exchange.ara.com

Don Meyler Inspections, Scott Koedel, 954-601-1560,

info@windstorminspections.com

SkyeTec, Matthew Garner, 866-759-3832, mgarner@skyetec.com

VB Sanders Inspections, Brad Sanders, 239-931-3880,


brad@wbsandersinc.com

F.I.R.M. is interested in your experience with these inspections. If you received an inspection, or if you are scheduling one, please contact Kim Mack of F.I.R.M. at

mack4046@bellsouth.net for more information. Fair Insurance Rates in Monroe (F.I.R.M.) is a grassroots advocacy group that has effectively fought for insurance rates in the Keys that are neither excessive nor

unfairly discriminatory.

For more information, visit www.FIRMkeys.org




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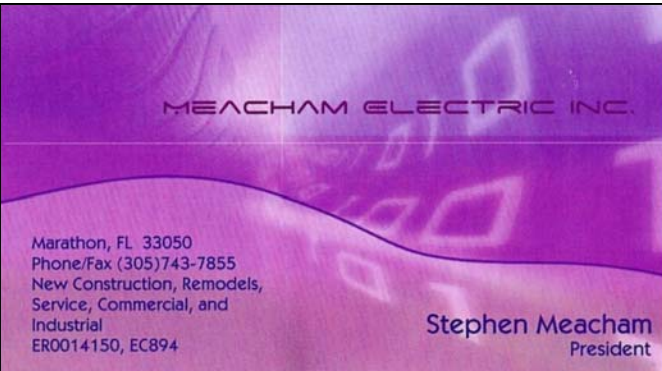
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Contractors Examining Board cont'd

applicant obtains a license from the sponsoring county/ municipality. However according to the MCC it does not restrict Monroe County from issuing a license to someone that does not have a license from his or her sponsoring county / municipality. It does however; state that all that is needed is to verify that the applicant completed a written examination that would be recognized by Monroe County.

Reciprocity definition as presented to the CEB: To accept a verified affidavit from any municipality or county of the State of Florida that the applicant has satisfactorily completed a written examination in its jurisdiction equal in content with the examination required by this chapter

According to the definition, reciprocity appears to be for the exam taken. It was recommended and approved on September 25, 2007 by the CEB to resume issuing licenses as they have done in the past to applicants that may or may not have a license from the jurisdiction where the passed examination is reciprocal.

Monroe County has reciprocal agreements with the following Counties:

Bay County, City of Bradenton, Brevard County, Broward County for building trades only, specialty, trades, mechanical, plumbing and engineering, NO ELECTRICAL Charlotte County, Clay County, Collier County, Highland County, Jefferson County, City of Key West, Levy County, Manatee County, Marion County, Okaloosa County, Orange County, Osceola County, Palm Beach County, Pasco County, Pinellas County, Polk County, City of Port St. Lucie, Sarasota County, City of St. Augustine, St. Lucie County.

Another issue addressed at the CEB meeting was revision of

the Definition of Aluminum Specialty Contractor. The revised version:

Aluminum Specialty Contractor: Aluminum, vinyl and plastic specialty contractor is qualified to fabricate, install, maintain, alter or extend aluminum, vinyl and plastic products such as metal, vinyl, or plastic sidings, awnings, railings, screen and screen enclosures, vinyl panels and canopies, including canopy frames for canopies fabricated from materials other than aluminum, vinyl or plastic. Aluminum contractors are prohibited from installing any type of windows and/or doors.

It was suggested and approved that no Aluminum specialty contractor should install any type of windows and/or doors as prohibited by the definition of the Aluminum specialty contractor above. It is not possible to track which Aluminum contractor will be allowed to continue to install windows and/or doors. Accordingly allowing all Aluminum specialty contractors to install windows and/or doors prior to the decision date will allow all Aluminum specialty contractors who never installed windows and doors to install them. According to the State of Florida Glass and Glazing Specialty Contractor Licensure Category FAQ, no person can perform glass or glazing work without a general, building, residential, or glass and glazing license.

Note – County licensed glass and glazing contractors are not allowed to register with the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) according to the Glass and Glazing Specialty Contractor Licensure Category FAQ.

The next Contractors Examining Board meeting will be December 12, 2007 on the 2nd floor at the Marathon Government building.

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You're Invited to the Florida Dock & Marine Expo Saturday, October 12-13, 2007 The Hyatt on Sarasota Bay

As many of you probably know, I am on the Board of Directors of Florida Marine Contractors Association. Our members build docks and seawalls; manufacture and distribute the products used in marine construction; and provide the professional services like law, insurance and permitting needed to get the job done right.

What you probably don't know is that FMCA is unique. No other state has an association like ours. This means that attending our annual Expos is a unique opportunity!

Every year, Florida Marine Contractors Association holds two dock and marine expos, featuring a free trade show and a series of workshops, seminars and continuing education classes.

The next show is October 12-13, at the Hyatt on Sarasota Bay in downtown Sarasota. (From US 41, which runs along the shore, turn right on the "Boulevard of the Arts." The Hyatt is on the left.)

To learn more, visit our website: www.fmca.us/meetings.html, or give me a call.

Admission is free and the Expo is open to the general public.

I hope to see you there!

Murray Shatt,
 Southeast Florida Region Director of FMCA
 Vice-President of FKCA

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Your request should include the permit number, the address, type of inspection needed, and the contact person's name and phone #.

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.....As always, approved plans must be posted with House # and permit card visible from the street

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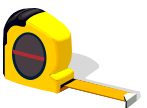
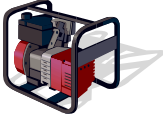
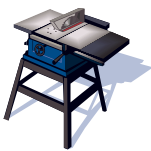
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County Commissioners Meeting

The next Board of County Commissioners meeting will be October 17, 2007 at the Harvey Government Center in Key West. On the agenda will be the proposed increases to Monroe County permit fees. All interested parties are urged to attend and voice their opinions. The October 3rd work shop has been canceled and rescheduled for November 7, 2007 in Key Largo.

A Great Incentive

Any existing member that brings in a new member receives \$50 in "Advertising Bucks!" You can apply the Advertising Bucks to your annual newsletter advertising fee renewal or towards new advertising in the newsletter.



Florida Keys Contractor's Association, Inc.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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e ... () Individual
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Membership Dues: Dues for Membership Application are ...\$300.00

Application is hereby made for membership in the Florida Keys Contractor's Association, Inc. If approved, applicant will abide by the Association's Charter and Bylaws, will support its objectives and pay all established dues and assessments.

Date: _____ Signed: _____

Applicant sponsored by: _____

For Association use only

The above application is hereby approved by the Board of Directors for membership.

Membership dues in the amount of \$ _____ received.

Date: _____ Florida Keys Contractor's Association, Inc.

By: _____
Name & Title

Florida Keys Contractor's Association

For information, please contact the FKCA at:

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