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Volume 9, Issue 5

2014 General Meeting Dates

Mark your Calendar!

May 8, 2014

Fleet Mgmt/Electronic Form Solutions
DoubleTree, Meadowlands

August, 2014

Date to be announced
Golf Outing

September 11, 2014

TBA
Peter's Place, Bridgeville

September 17, 2014

Community Service Project

October 9, 2014

Collecting Bad Debt
Tambellini's, Bridgeville

November 13, 2014

Employee Drug Testing
Carmody's Wexford

May 13, 2014

Steve Coscia

Hamburg, PA

Soft Skills for Technical Employees

Join us for a day of customer service education on May 13, 2014 as Steve Coscia shares more than 20 years of world-class customer service management experience. Steve is one of the most in-demand experts in our industry. His travel schedule is busy, but after much persistence, I was successful in booking Steve for this special event. For more info and to register go to www.acca-pa.org.

PA STATE CHAPTER

ACCA-WPA Contractor and Associate Members,

The Pennsylvania State Chapter of ACCA is now a reality. The first board meeting which will commission the first board will take place on May 13th at Cabala's in Hamburg, Pennsylvania at 10:00 a.m.

Every member of Western Pennsylvania Chapter should be receiving a letter and/or emails from Kimya Cajchun of ACCA National inviting them to this meeting on behalf of the State Chapter.

The formation of this state Chapter is no longer a question. The Delaware Valley Chapter of ACCA has changed their structure and name and they are becoming ACCA-Pennsylvania with the blessing and help of ACCA-National.

As a part of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter we need to embrace this change and most importantly be sure that our interests are represented in this State Chapter. Bob Boyle and Steve Woodring will be sitting on the board of the Pennsylvania State Chapter. With that being said, we are under-represented at this time.

To best represent our interest we need three (3) additional persons to sit on the board of ACCA-Pennsylvania. The responsibility will not be great, and meetings will often take place by conference call. There will be times when physical meetings will take place, and the locations will rotate about the State.

We are urging everyone in our Chapter Membership to strongly consider being a part of the State Chapter in these early stages. Our Chapter needs everyone's help in this venture.

Attending the May 13th meeting in Hamburg, PA will be important.

If you have any questions please contact:

Bob Boyle – 412-931-7200 / bob@jasauerco.com

Steve Woodring – 412-787-3740 / swoodring@wadeheat.com

We look forward to working with all of you.

There are many unanswered questions and we need proper representation to ensure our voice is heard.

Steve Woodring, ACCA-WPA Vice President

DISTRACTED DRIVING

Distracted driving is a dangerous epidemic on today's roadways. In 2012, a total of 3,328 people were killed in distracted-driving crashes. So far this year alone in the U.S., there have been more than 276,000 crashes involving drivers who were using cell phones or texting. While cell-phone use is one of the major causes, it's not alone. Whether it's a cell phone, music player, or reprogramming a GPS, using any electronic mobile device when driving leads to distracted driving.

It's estimated that texting while driving (TWD) accounts for 12 percent of fatal driving distractions. Studies show that drivers who send or receive text messages focus their attention away from the road for almost five seconds. At sixty mph, that's like driving the length of a football field with your eyes closed.

More and more drivers are using GPS systems to navigate while driving. While many newer cars offer factory installed voice-activated GPS systems, the use of handheld GPS devices or GPS on cell phones is common. While GPS is intended to help drivers avoid getting lost and reach their destination more efficiently, the use of GPS leads to distracted driving. GPS systems can take a driver's focus off of the road. What's worse is that many drivers attempt to program their GPS while driving, which is just as bad as sending a text message or reading an email while driving.

In an effort to stem this growing tide of accidents and injuries, many states and federal agencies have implemented regulations banning the use of these devices while driving. Both employers and workers alike need to be aware of these laws and the consequences associated with them.

Federal Rules

Both the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) agencies of the Department of Transportation (DOT) have passed a joint rule that prohibits commercial drivers from using handheld mobile phones while operating commercial trucks or buses. The ban includes texting and handheld device dialing and conversation.

Federal civil penalties include:

A \$2,750 fine for each offense

Loss of commercial drivers licenses for multiple offenses

A maximum penalty of \$11,000 for commercial truck and bus companies that allow their drivers to use handheld cell phones while driving.

Plus, states can suspend a commercial driver's license after two or more serious traffic violations. This rule applies to about four million commercial drivers.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued a recommendation that employers should prohibit any work policy or practice that requires or encourages workers to text while driving. Failure to do so puts the employers at risk of violating OSHA section 1970.17. Employers violate this section of the Act if they require their employees to text while driving or organize work so that texting is a practical necessity even if not a formal requirement. Workers may file a confidential complaint with OSHA.

State Laws

State legislatures have also responded by passing laws at a rapid pace.

As of March 2012:

43 states and the District of Columbia have banned text messaging for all drivers

12 states and the District of Columbia have made talking on a hand-held cell phone while driving illegal

Nineteen states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws limiting the use of cell phones by bus, school bus, or transit drivers.

Message from the President

America Jobs for America's Heros

The Returning Heroes Tax Credit provides up to \$5,600 to employers for each veteran hired who either has received food stamps for three months in the past 15 months, OR has been unemployed for at least four weeks in the past year.

Now, this new free publication prepared for the campaign by Caplin & Drysdale provides a clear and concise understanding along with step-by-step guidance. It even includes links to the required IRS and DOL forms employers need to submit. Whereas most media articles generalize and leave out key eligibility and filing details, this guide includes what you need to know to decide if your company is eligible and how to file.

- Returning Heroes Tax Credit
- Wounded Warrior Tax Credit
- Activated Military Reservist Credit for Small Businesses
- Federal Empowerment Zone Employment Credit

Visit <http://www.centerforamerica.org> for more details.

SmartWords You Must Remember

Once you know what each other's strategy is for feeling loved, you can give it to each other to keep your 'love' tanks full."

— David Humes

Product Spotlight

Mastering Core Service

Learn how to successfully take and pass the NATE Service Core Exam – the fundamentals to general, construction and HVACR-specific knowledge required for certification.

To learn more about this and other tools ACCA has to offer, visit: www.acca.org/store.

A Special Tribute to Our Friend

The new "**Skip Snyder Humanitarian Award**" was established by ACCA in memory of Skip Snyder, a past National Chairman of ACCA and ACCA-FLORIDA Board Member, who passed away last fall. Skip was an iconic figure in the HVACR industry -- through his many benevolent efforts and actions, he left his footprints everywhere, especially at ACCA.

This special award was created to recognize an ACCA member who has made extraordinary contributions to the betterment of society and community. It is a tribute that defines Skip's remarkable character and his philosophy of life -- helping, caring, and sharing with others.

As part of the opening MainStage Session at the 2014 ACCA Conference in Nashville, the inaugural award was presented to Jim Isaac of Isaac Heating & A/C in Rochester, NY.

Connect with ACCA Members

CONNECT with ACCA Members

- Ask Questions
- Share Ideas
- Connect with the best contractors in the country



The **ACCA Contractor Forum** is now live -- contractors nationwide are participating in conversations about software, finding technicians, and more!

Combining the ease-of-use of an old-fashioned listserv with the best modern features of a social network, the **ACCA Contractor Forum** has more than 7000 participants, and is a fantastic membership benefit. It's where members can ask and answer questions, share ideas, and connect with professional contractors from all over the country -- it's a great way to tap into the power of ACCA by connecting with fellow members!

I Wonder if ACCA Has That for Me?

Does ACCA offer webinars exclusively for their members?

As needed, ACCA offers "Hot Topics" webinars that cover breaking news or items of burning importance to the HVACR industry.

Members may participate in "Hot Topics" at no charge, and as soon as possible after the webinars are held, we then make the recordings available for viewing online.

To learn more about ACCA's upcoming "Hot Topics" webinars visit www.acca.org/members.

Contractor Comfort Index

Contractor Comfort Index 73 in March; Up 8 from 2013

The March Contractor Comfort Index (CCI) shows that contractors' positive outlook on short-term growth is holding steady at the end of the first quarter of 2014. ACCA began measuring contractor attitudes toward short-term economic growth with the CCI in February 2010.

For March 2014, the CCI is 73. The CCI also shows that contractors are continuing to feel better about short-term growth than they were 12 months earlier when the CCI was 65.

The CCI is calculated based on a survey of the association's contractor members, who are asked how positive they feel about new business prospects, existing business activity, and expected staffing decisions in the short-term future. Weighted and averaged into one number, a CCI of 50 or above reflects anticipated growth.

The CCI is released prior to the start of each month; the next index number will be released during the last week of April.