



“I could not sleep... when I got on a hurt for an idea, until I had caught it; and when I thought I had got it I was not satisfied until I had replaced it over and over again, until I had put it in language plain enough as I thought, for any boy I knew to comprehend. This was a kind of passion with me, and it has stuck by me.”

Abraham Lincoln

GREATER CLEVELAND

NLMCC MARKET SHARE

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1.) Ohio -2008 – employment share 42% and wages (IBEW) 48%. 2009 - employment share 40% and wages 45%.</p> <p>2.) District Two (NECA) - 2008 - employment share 37% and wages 42%. 2009 -employment share 35% and wages 39%.</p> <p>3.) U.S. total -2008 -employment share 30% and wages 36%. 2009 - employment</p> | <p>share 29% and wages 35%.</p> <p>4.) LU #38 Cleveland - 2008– employment share 61% and wages 77%. 2009– 60% employment share and 72% wages.</p> <p>5.) LU #129 Lorain - 2008 - employment share 42% and wages 45%. 2009 - employment share 39% and wages 39%.</p> <p>6.) LU #673 Painesville - 2008 - employment share 61% and wages 66%. 2009 -</p> |
|--|--|

FINANCIAL

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1.) Non farm payrolls are expected to improve this year—with a raise in employment the unemployment level should improve by 1% or better.</p> <p>2.) Housing costs (4% of CPI) have begun to rise.</p> <p>3.) Personal saving stabilized last year at</p> | <p>5.8%.</p> <p>4.) Consumer spending is expected to grow by 3.4% in 2011.</p> <p>5.) There is an active market for pre-1965 silver coins. Silver could triple in price and still be under valued compared to gold.</p> |
|--|---|

SBA LOANS

Lending to small business continues to be weak with another decline in 2010. However it may have stabilized. A study revealed, that the smallest business loans under 100,000 began to stabilize last year—the total value was down only 1% in 2010 compared to 5.5% in 2009.

Congressman Steven LaTourette wants Northeast Ohio small businesses to use a

new feature on his congressional website to share thoughts on how federal regulations affect their work. It is estimated that small businesses with less than 20 employees face costs of nearly \$11,000 in federal regulations each year for each worker they employ.



PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS

The Ohio Legislature is considering HB 102 which is an attempt to limit the use of PLA's—Project Labor Agreements. This bill is sponsored by Ron Young. PLA's have been used around the country—some with success and others not so good. Young's intent is to ban them in Ohio for all those entities that do public works projects. The obvious voice for non-union, ABC is represented by Bryan Williams. He stated at a hearing that his understanding of the bill is that it does not ban PLA's on public projects, but prohibits state funding from going to any project where the bid specifications either

prohibit or require use of a PLA.

PLA's are not new and have never been universally accepted by owners, developers and, or employers. There are some restrictions within some PLA's and employers have been divided as to their impact on business. Publically they are a lightning rod to enable ABC and others to constantly beat their drum about the negatives especially the cost to perform the projects.

WORKERS COMP/SAFETY

The new Administrator/CEO is Steve Buehrer, appointed by Governor Kasich. Mr. Buehrer has been a state legislator in both the House and the Senate.

CompManagement will host their annual State Fund Seminars around the state—the one closest will be in Independence on April 19, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza. They also have additional educational programs, webinars etc. to assist you in administering

the workers comp for your firm(s.)

Schedule:

March 31—Safety documents due to the BWC for employers enrolled in the 100% EMR Cap.

Also on March 31st—Drug Free Safety Program (OFSP) Self Assessment Program Report (U-142) filing deadline.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Weekly unemployment benefits have been updated for 2011 by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

0 dependents, average weekly wage \$774 or more, the maximum weekly benefit is \$387.00.

1 or 2 dependents, average weekly wage \$940 or more, the maximum weekly benefit is \$470.00.

3 or more dependents, weekly wage of \$1,048 or

more, the maximum benefit is \$524.

On December 17, 2010 federal legislation was approved for the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program from November 27, 2010 to December 31, 2011. Under the program, qualified individuals may continue to collect benefits until June 9, 2012.. Maximum weeks of benefits continues to be 53 weeks.

TAX CHANGES ETC. FOR 2011

- 1.) Taxes extended—research and development credit.
- 2.) 15 yr. write-offs for qualified leasehold improvements and restaurant buildings.
- 3.) New Market Tax Credit.
- 4.) Expensing of environmental remediation costs.
- 5.) Empowerment Zone Tax Incentives.

- 6.) Renewal Community Tax Incentives.
- 7.) Small business expensing—write off in year of purchase.
- 8.) Up to \$500,000 write-off of capital expenditures.
- 9.) Energy Provisions.

**MARCH 20TH—FIRST DAY OF SPRING—THANK GOODNESS!
LOOK FOR THE NEXT REVIEW IN APRIL 2011!**