



“Toto, I have a feeling we’re not in Kansas anymore.”

L. Frank Baum

GREATER CLEVELAND

MANAGER’S COMMENTS

That’s right, this month’s quote is from the author of “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.” It was published in 1900 and many of the sentences written by Mr. Baum have been used so often by folks from mine and my parent’s generation as a way to succinctly express a complete thought. You can say “There’s no place like home” and not say another thing. Everyone would get the picture. While not everyone would necessarily see the same exact picture, they would have heard the thousand words a picture is said to be worth.

Simply, “We’re not in Kansas anymore” means we’re in a place that’s different from where we were. It means “Change.”

Change can be scary if where you are right now is good and getting better but if you are in a rut, change is exciting.

I think we can all agree that change is happening in the construction business. For example, we were made aware several years ago that a workforce shortage was coming and it’s now upon us. It’s a major change and is exciting because since the 2008-9 recession we’ve been in an economic rut (Gross

Domestic Product averaging 1.8%.) That’s a macro situation that is requiring big changes but I want to mention a Greater Cleveland area change.

When I became Chapter Manager here, I realized in a very short time the atmosphere was such that ideas were not welcome. Wanna talk about a rut? Well, let’s not, let’s talk about the change. The clouds have parted, the sky is clear and the air is fresh. Free exchange of ideas and open conversation are leading to positive changes being made with respect to apprenticeship, the benefit funds and labor relations in general.

Is it out of line for me to give thanks for an early Christmas present? Maybe so but I’ve kept a lot inside and have been uncharacteristically patient for far too long. Working in a new collaborative environment presents limitless possibilities to solve problems and meet the anticipated challenges of the future.

We’re not in Oz but we’re in a good place called Cleveland.



EASTERN REGION SPRING MEETING UPDATE

The 2018 NECA Eastern Region Spring meeting will take place at the Omni La Costa Resort in beautiful Carlsbad, California. Carlsbad is located along the southern California coast approximately 20 miles north of San Diego. The resort is nestled in the hills and known for its golf courses and luxurious spa. It's prime location between San Diego and LA make it a great base-camp to launch your exploration of everything sunny south Cali has to offer. Some of the best beaches in the world, scenic vistas, high end shopping spots, fresh seafood and outdoor activities for the whole family to enjoy and more are all accessible.

Mark your calendars now! The dates for the meeting are April 15th through 18th but you should consider an extended stay to take advantage of all there is to do. After a long northern Ohio winter, don't you think you should treat yourself to some fun in the sun?

More details will be forthcoming so stay tuned. As always, Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board continuing education credits will be available.

ECONOMIC NEWS OF THE DAY

1. Disney is close to a deal to purchase parts of 20th Century Fox while at the same time negotiating a deal with Comcast.
2. CVS Pharmacy is buying Aetna Insurance for about \$69 billion.
3. Gas prices fall a little bit but don't expect it to continue.
4. Copper prices remain relatively stable at a little over \$3.00 per pound.
5. If the Republican tax plan becomes law, turn out the lights. According to Nancy Pelosi it'll be "Armageddon."
6. The U.S. service industries continued to post strong sales in November, just another indication the economy is experiencing another quarter of solid growth.
7. Electronic payment methods such as Bitcoin may lead central bankers to consider getting into the game. Could we see Fedcoin some time in our future?
8. Expect the Fed to raise interest rates this month. GDP growing at 3+% makes that possible/necessary.
9. Carbon Dioxide could go from being a pollutant to a product. Research is going on to use CO2 in manufacturing a construction building block.
10. The Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC) has two sides, the single employer and the multi-employer. The multi-employer side, our side, will most likely be seeing a minimum five fold increase to premium payments that come from our pension plans. That's significant.



MANHOURS

Cleveland Division thru October:	2,259,732
Lake Erie Division thru October:	342,131
Northeast Ohio Division thru October:	332,327
Chapter Total:	2,934,190

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1.) **Lake Erie Division Meeting** - January 2, 2018 - 6:00 P.M. at Foundry Kitchen & Bar.
- 2.) **Northeast Ohio Division Meeting** - January 3, 2018, Noon at Red Hawke Grill.
- 3.) **Cleveland Division Meeting** - January 4, 2018 at Capital Grill Restaurant.
- 4.) **Future Chapter Leaders Meeting** –Friday, January 12, 2018 –Noon at the NECA Office.
- 5.) **NECA Eastern Region Spring Meeting** - April 15-18, 2018 at the Omni La Costa Resort in Carlsbad, Ca.



GO BROWNS!!!!



GO CAVS!!!!

LOOK FOR THE NEXT REVIEW IN JANUARY 2018!!

IT'S GOOD BUSINESS TO DO BUSINESS WITH THOSE FIRMS WHO SUPPORT OUR ASSCIATION

CHAPTER ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

1-888-Ohio Comp	Leff Electric
Admar Supply Company	Mars Electric
BMA Media Group	Milwaukee Tool
Ciuni & Panichi, Inc.	NES Rentals
CompManagement, Inc.	PEPCO
Eaton Corporation	Riffle and Associates
Ericson Manufacturing	Simplex Grinnell
G.E. Energy Management	United Rentals
Graybar Electric Co.	

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3M	Philips Lighting
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Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation
 Klein Tools, Inc.
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 3M Company Electrical Markets Division
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 Harger Lighting and Grounding
 Fluke Corporation
 Lutron Electronics, Inc.
 Eaton's Bussman Business
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 Southwire Company
 Prysmian Power Cables and Systems
 Graybar
 Greenslee by Textron Corporation
 Ideal Industries, Inc.
 Westex by Milliken

GOLD LEVEL:

Buckingham Manufacturing Company, Inc.

Alexander Publications

SILVER LEVEL:

Ann Arbor Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

Rubin Brothers, Inc.

American Technical Publishers, Inc.

Ypsilanti Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

Legrand, North America

E2E Summit

BRONZE LEVEL:

MOSAIC

Stark Safety Consultants

Coyne First Aid

Wellshade