

# SMRCA Roving Roofer

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## Start spreading the news...Delegates, members urged to be ambassadors for Prevailing Wage Act

LANSING - Thwarting the ongoing effort to repeal Michigan's Prevailing Wage Act of 1965 - as well as educating union members and the general public about the benefits of law - were issues that were front and center March 8-9 at the 57th Legislative Conference hosted by the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council.

The 135 building trades union delegates from across Michigan who attended the conference were urged to be ambassadors for the prevailing wage law, and help spread the word about the benefits of the law for both the construction industry and the community at large.

"We're fighting back, and in how we're fighting back, the most important thing we're doing is educating the membership about the importance of prevailing wage," said Luke Canfora of the Michigan AFL-CIO, who is helping organize the effort. "Everyone in this room knows how important it is, and maybe everyone in this room has talked to their spouse or family member about how important prevailing wage is. But there are union members out there, and there is family out there, who don't know how critical prevailing wage is to their way of life right now."

The Michigan Prevailing Wage Act is based on a federal law that was adopted in the 1930s. The laws help assure that on a given taxpayer-funded construction project, wage rates that "prevail" in that project's geographic area are paid to construction workers.

The law offers a multitude of benefits. Absent a prevailing wage law, contractors bidding on public work are more easily able to win projects by reducing workers' wages. Often

that means importing out-of-area workers - sometimes undocumented workers - to do local jobs. Lower pay or importing out-of-area workers means that less wages, or perhaps zero wages - are re-circulated to community merchants and restaurants, strengthening the community's tax base.

Lower-paid workers can expect to toil on less safe, and less skilled jobsites. Absent prevailing wage, construction injury rates rise, and workmanship quality suffers, studies show. The existing area's construction workforce will choose to work on jobs that pay them what they're worth, meaning publicly financed projects like schools and municipal buildings are erected with an under-skilled, under-paid workforce.

Proponents of prevailing wage repeal say Michigan could save \$220 million a year in school construction costs, but real world experience doesn't bear that out. Michigan's prevailing wage law was suspended for a 30-month period in the 1990s, and several studies have shown that the state didn't save a dime in construction costs. Citing all the factors above, a Barton Malow executive called prevailing wage repeal "a disaster" for the state's construction industry during that time.

As we have reported, a statewide petition drive last summer to garner some 252,000 signatures in an effort to repeal Michigan's prevailing wage law proved to be a complete dud. The backers of the \$1 million-plus effort, led by the Associated Builders and Contractors and the billionaire DeVos family of Grand Rapids, hired a company that failed miserably, handing over signature sheets where 43 percent of the names were ruled invalid, which meant the entire effort was tossed out.

The backers of the effort to repeal prevailing wage - Protect Michigan Taxpayers - pledged last year to start a second petition drive, but the effort apparently has just begun because of the seasonal-based difficulty in finding enough people to sign during the winter months.

"You can rest assured that the signatures that are turned in this year for the second petition drive will get the same scrutiny as the first," said Patrick Devlin, secretary-treasurer of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council, to the delegates. "To combat that petition drive, the building trades have at least five informational and training sessions scheduled around the state, educating our members about prevailing wage. Unfortunately, phone banks that we have set up to urge members to contact their legislators not to support prevailing wage repeal is turning up a lot of ignorance about the law from union members and their families.

"And that ignorance illustrates what we're up against when it comes to combating the petition drive: the petitioners seem to be able to say just about anything to get people to sign. They say it's to fix the roads or increase worker training, or whatever lie that works."

Said Canfora "We need to do everything we can to educate membership, and we need to educate our elected officials."

People who see petition circulators are urged to call the Decline to Sign hotline, (855) 517-9437, or e-mail, thinkb4uinkmi@gmail.com. Decline to Sign organizers would appreciate knowing the time and location and description of the petition gatherers. They also urge no physical contact with the circulators.



**SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION**

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The petition circulators have a 180-day window to collect the signatures, and a mid-March start would give them until about mid-September to collect the names. If circulators are successful in obtaining 252,523 signatures which are validated by the state Board of Canvassers, the state Constitution requires the petition question to be taken up by the state Legislature, which the Republican majority in both the House and Senate would undoubtedly want to do before the end of this term on Dec. 31.

If both houses of the Legislature adopts the prevailing wage repeal question, the matter is settled. Gov. Rick Snyder is not given the option to veto the legislation. If a handful of state Republicans lawmakers in the state House (the GOP majority in the state Senate has already voted in favor of repealing prevailing wage) can be convinced to vote against repeal, then the repeal question would go onto a statewide ballot, perhaps in 2017.

Michigan AFL-CIO President Ron Bieber said he didn't think it would have been possible to win sufficient support among the GOP for sustaining prevailing wage this year, "but I do think it's possible now," he told delegates. He said the Flint water crisis, the poor staffing and care controversy at a veterans home in Grand Rapids which came to light earlier this year and the Detroit Public Schools funding crisis coming to a head are all bringing to light leadership inadequacies in the state Republican Party, and they may be feeling some heat.

"I don't give a crap if you're Democrat or Republican, we want folks that back labor up there," in the Capitol Building, Bieber said, "and whatever it takes to get a majority of lawmakers who will stand up for our issues, that's what we're going to try to do."

Volunteers from the state AFL-CIO and building trades unions are conducting phone banks and write-in campaigns, seeking help from union members to contact those GOP lawmakers to urge them to support prevailing wage

"This is going to come down to a vote in the House, and what we need to do is target these Republicans who will ultimately make the decision and pick off a group of them so

that they will vote no on the ballot initiative and send it to the ballot," Canfora said. "We need to let them know that this is an issue in their district, just like anything else, and that we support prevailing wage. And we're waking them up. We've done phone banks four or five times and it's really brought this to their attention that there's support for this out there. We're trying to show them that this is a critical issue."

*Reprinted from The Building Tradesman, March 25, 2016 Issue, written by Marty Mulcahy, editor*

## Berkley High School College and Career Day



On March 7th the Roofers Union Local 149 and the SMRCA participated in the Berkley High School College and Career Day. Student were provided with information on the roofing trade and apprenticeship program.

## Education Resources



**CAM Online**  
[www.cam-online.com](http://www.cam-online.com)



**NRCA**  
[www.nrca.net](http://www.nrca.net)



**MIOSHA**  
[www.michigan.gov/miosha](http://www.michigan.gov/miosha)



**Southeastern Michigan Roofing Contractors Association**

**Michigan Roofing Contractors Association**

**Detroit Roofers JATC Local 149**

## Roofers Local 149 and SMRCA hosted Job Fair

The SMRCA and Roofers Union Local #149 Working Together Program hosted a Job Fair on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at the JATC Apprenticeship Training Center in Oak Park.

Attendees had the opportunity to meet union roofing companies in the Detroit area, hear what the union contractors had to offer and the benefits of becoming a union worker in a relaxed environment, with no pressure.



A special thank you to Michigan Representative Anthony G. Forlini (R), for attending the job fair, and taking a tour of the Training Center.



## OSHA's Final Rule to Protect Workers from Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica

### Rule requires engineering controls to keep workers from breathing silica dust

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued a final rule to curb lung cancer, silicosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and kidney disease in America's workers by limiting their exposure to respirable crystalline silica. The rule is comprised of two standards, one for Construction and one for General Industry and Maritime.

OSHA estimates that the rule will save over 600 lives and prevent more than 900 new cases of silicosis each year, once its effects are fully realized. The Final Rule is projected to provide net benefits of about \$7.7 billion, annually.

About 2.3 million workers are exposed to respirable crystalline silica in their workplaces, including 2 million construction workers who drill, cut, crush, or grind silica-containing materials such as concrete and stone, and 300,000 workers in general industry operations such as brick manufacturing, foundries, and hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking. Responsible employers have been protecting workers from harmful exposure to respirable crystalline silica for years, using widely-available equipment that controls dust with water or a vacuum system.



### Key Provisions

- Reduces the permissible exposure limit (PEL) for respirable crystalline silica to 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air, averaged over an 8-hour shift.
- Requires employers to: use engineering controls (such as water or ventilation) to limit worker exposure to the PEL; provide respirators when engineering controls cannot adequately limit exposure; limit worker access to high exposure areas; develop a written exposure control plan, offer medical exams to highly exposed workers, and train workers on silica risks and how to limit exposures.

- Provides medical exams to monitor highly exposed workers and gives them information about their lung health.

### Provides flexibility to help employers — especially small businesses — protect workers from silica exposure.

#### Compliance Schedule

Both standards contained in the final rule take effect on June 23, 2016, after which industries have one to five years to comply with most requirements, based on the following schedule:

**Construction** - June 23, 2017, one year after the effective date.

**General Industry and Maritime** - June 23, 2018, two years after the effective date.

**Hydraulic Fracturing** - June 23, 2018, two years after the effective date for all provisions except Engineering Controls, which have a compliance date of June 23, 2021.

#### Background

The U.S. Department of Labor first highlighted the hazards of respirable crystalline silica in the 1930s, after a wave of worker deaths. The department set standards to limit worker exposure in 1971, when OSHA was created. However, the standards are outdated and do not adequately protect workers from silica-related diseases. Furthermore, workers are being exposed to silica in new industries such as stone or artificial stone countertop fabrication and hydraulic fracturing.

A full review of scientific evidence, industry consensus standards, and extensive stakeholder input provide the basis for the final rule, which was proposed in September 2013. The rule-making process allowed OSHA to solicit input in various forms for nearly a full year. The agency held 14 days of public hearings, during which more than 200 stakeholders presented testimony, and accepted over 2,000 comments, amounting to about 34,000 pages of material. In response to this extensive public engagement, OSHA made substantial changes, including enhanced employer flexibility in choosing how to reduce levels of respirable crystalline silica, while maintaining or improving worker

protection.

### More Information and Assistance

OSHA looks forward to working with employers to ensure that all workers exposed to respirable crystalline silica realize the benefits of this final rule. Please check back for frequent updates on compliance assistance materials and events, and learn about OSHA's [on-site consulting services for small business](#).

OSHA approved State Plans have six months to adopt standards that are at least as effective as federal OSHA standards. Establishments in states that operate their own safety and health plans should check with their [State Plan](#) for the implementation date of the new standards.

<https://www.osha.gov/silica/index.html>

**Roofers Union Local #149/RIPF  
31st Annual Scholarship  
Grant Program**

### DEADLINE EXTENDED TO FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2016

In an effort to promote excellence in the roofing industry, Roofers Union Local #149 and the Roofing Industry Promotion Fund are working together to offer scholarship grants to eligible individuals.

The program offers four scholarship grants in the amount of \$1,000.00 each, to those eligible individuals who are attending or planning to enroll at an accepted college or university.

Scholarship Grants are possible through contributions by Roofers Union Local #149, the Roofing Industry Promotion Fund and the participating roofing contractor employer of the recipient's parent or guardian.

If you need information to submit an essay, please contact the SMRCA office.



## Upcoming Events—Mark your Calendars!!

The 2016 SMRCA Golf Outing will be at

The Links of Novi

on

Monday, May 23, 2016

Registration information  
will be sent soon!



## MiRCA 51st Annual Convention

July 21—24, 2016



## 4th Annual Safety Day—February 26, 2016

### SAFETY MATTERS AND SO DO YOU!!

The SMRCA, Roofers Union Local #149 and the JATC Apprenticeship Training Center Safety Committee hosted its 4th Annual Safety Day on Friday, February 26, 2016 at the JATC Training Center in Oak Park.

American Safety Products, Inc. was on hand to demonstrate fire safety and the Safety Committee presented basic signaling and rigging.

### WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP YOU SAFE AND INFORMED!





## Birthday Wishes



**Mark Stasa**

*Kerr, Russell & Weber PLC*  
May 7

**Jody Smith**

*Allied Building Products*  
May 15

**Judd Crane**

*Crane Roofing, Inc.*  
June 20

**Lisa Yontz**

*ABC Supply*  
July 1

**Mike Mass**

*Roofing Products of Michigan, Inc.*  
July 23

**Marie Schena**

*Schena Roofing & Sheet Metal Co., Inc.*  
July 31

## Happy Anniversary

**Patrick and Jenny Casey**

*T.F. Beck Company*  
May 21

**Todd and Amanda Sova**

*National Roofing & Sheet Metal Co., Inc.*  
June 6

**Heather and Chris Hadley**

*SMRCA*  
June 29

## Industry Schedule of Events



**May 19-21, 2016**

**AIA Convention**  
Philadelphia, PA  
[www.aia.org](http://www.aia.org)

**June 12-14, 2016**

**Western Roofing Expo**  
Las Vegas, NV  
[www.wsrca.com](http://www.wsrca.com)

**June 16-18, 2016**

**FRSA's 94th Annual Convention and Expo**  
Orlando, FL  
[www.floridarooft.com](http://www.floridarooft.com)

**July 21-24, 2016**

**MIRCA Annual Convention**  
Mackinac Island, MI  
[www.mirca.org](http://www.mirca.org)

## JATC Training Center Classes

The term for all Detroit Apprentices will be as follows:

**Apprentice Two & Single Ply One**

Monday evenings starting on July 25

**Apprentice One & Single Ply Two**

Tuesday evenings starting on July 26

**BUR One & Steep Slope One**

Wednesday evenings starting on July 27

**BUR Two & Steep Slope Two**

Thursday evenings starting on July 28

All classes begin at 6:30 pm.

Journeyworkers Skill Advancement Training Classes are available at no cost to all Detroit 149 members.

Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center.

The Training Center also offers numerous safety and health courses. As well as, Fall Protection Competent Person Course (16 hours) and Fall Protection Authorized Person Course (8 hours).

If you are interested in any of these classes contact the Training Center at 248-543-3847 or [BGregg@DetroitRoofers.org](mailto:BGregg@DetroitRoofers.org) to make arrangements.

## Urban Neighborhood Initiatives

The Detroit Roofers and Waterproofers Training Center would like to thank Business Agent Bob Doyle and Training Director Brian Gregg for recruiting roofers and waterproofers at Urban Neighborhood Initiatives (UNI Detroit).

All attendees completed the application process and are very eager to become members of Local 149.



## National Roofing Week June 5-11, 2016

Organized by NRCA, National Roofing Week takes place each summer. Its mission is to increase awareness across the U.S. about the significance of roofs to every home and business and share the good deeds of the industry. National Roofing Week also promotes the importance of hiring a professional roofing contractor and making informed decisions about maintaining or replacing any roof system.

The roof is one of the most important components of a home or business' structure, yet it is often taken for granted until it falls into disrepair. NRCA encourages members to participate in National Roofing Week by engaging in their communities and informing the public about the essential role roofs and professional roofing contractors play in every community.

In celebration of National Roofing Week, NRCA hosts an annual [Children's Art Contest](#), sponsored by [A.C.T. Metal Deck Supply](#). NRCA members and their employees can participate by having their children, grandchildren, step-children, nieces and nephews enter artwork in the contest.

In addition, NRCA members and staff members celebrate National Roofing Week through contributions to charitable organizations in their communities. Members throughout the U.S. are encouraged to share their stories of charitable giving with NRCA, who will promote their efforts through social media, NRCA's Roof Scoop blog and *Professional Roofing* magazine.

NRCA also will be hosting a social media campaign to highlight our members and their contributions to the roofing industry. Members are encouraged to share photos that will focus on a different theme each day during National Roofing Week, tag NRCA and use the hashtag [#nationalroofingweek](#).

## National Roofing Awareness Week Contacts

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## National Safety STAND-DOWN—May 2-6, 2016

**WASHINGTON** - The [U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) and other federal safety agencies announced today that they have designated May 2-6, 2016, for the third annual National Safety Stand-Down. The event is a nationwide effort to remind and educate employers and workers in the construction industry of the serious dangers of falls - the cause of the highest number of industry deaths in the construction industry.

OSHA, the [National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health](#) and the [Center for Construction Research and Training](#) are leading the effort to encourage employers to pause during their workday for topic discussions, demonstrations, and training on how to recognize hazards and prevent falls.

"Falls still kill far too many construction workers," said [Dr. David Michaels, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health](#). "While we regularly work with employers, industry groups and worker organizations on preventing falls and saving lives, the National Safety Stand-Down encourages all employers - from small businesses to large companies operating at many job sites - to be part of our effort to ensure every worker makes it to the end of their shift safely."

More than four million workers participated in the National Safety Stand-Downs in 2014 and 2015, and OSHA expects thousands of employers across the nation to join the 2016 event. To guide their efforts, OSHA has developed the official [National Safety Stand-Down web site](#) with information on conducting a successful stand-down. After their events, employers are encouraged to provide feedback and will receive a personalized certificate of participation.

"In many workplaces, falls are a real and persistent hazard. Given the nature of the work, the construction industry sees the highest frequency of fall-related deaths and serious, sometimes debilitating injuries," said Dr. John Howard, Director of NIOSH. "Since the effort began in 2014, the National Safety Stand-Down serves as an important opportunity for both employers and workers to stop and take time in the workday to identify existing fall hazards, and then offer demonstrations and training to emphasize how to stay safe on the job."

The National Safety Stand-Down in 2016 is part of OSHA's ongoing [Fall Prevention Campaign](#). Begun in 2012, the campaign was developed in partnership with the [NIOSH National Occupational Research Agenda](#) program. It provides employers with lifesaving information and [educational materials](#) on how to take steps to prevent falls, provide the right equipment for their workers, and train all employees in the proper use of that equipment. OSHA has also produced a brief [video](#) with more information about the 2016 Stand-Down in English and Spanish.

For more information on the success of last year's Stand-Down, see the [final data report](#). To learn how to partner with OSHA in this Stand-Down, visit <http://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/>. The page provides details on how to conduct a stand-down; receive a certificate of participation; and access free education and training resources, fact sheets and other outreach materials in English and Spanish. To learn more about preventing falls in construction visit <http://www.osha.gov/stopfalls/>.



### Media Contacts:

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## Michigan Construction and Design Trade Show

Thank you to the following (listed below) for their endless support to the Labor-Management Working Together Program, and for selling our product to the market at the 2016 Construction Association of Michigan (CAM) Tradeshow, held at the Motor City Casino on February 3, 2016.

From left to right; from Labor-Management Terry Mudge, Training Instructor Adrian Bonds, SMRCA Executive Director Heather Hadley, Training Instructor Tom Jaranowski, Training Director Brian Gregg



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- M**ULTIPLE SERVICES A SMRCA Roofing Contractor has the ability to provide the roof you need because of our expertise in a variety of roofing applications and techniques.
- R**ELIABLE SMRCA Contractors are Union trained professionals bringing an Industry leading standard of service, quality and knowledge to every project.
- C**ONFIDENCE Projects completed by SMRCA Contractors provide a Michigan roofing contractor 2 year standard workmanship warranty.
- A**CCOUNTABILITY SMRCA Contractors are established companies with years of experience in providing responsive service, superior workmanship and exceptional value.

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(248) 852-9255  
[www.tfbeck.com](http://www.tfbeck.com)

#### **LUTZ ROOFING COMPANY, INC.**

Shelby Twp., MI  
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[www.lutzroofing.com](http://www.lutzroofing.com)

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#### **M.W. MORSS ROOFING, INC.**

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[www.morssroofing.com](http://www.morssroofing.com)

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[www.schenarroofing.com](http://www.schenarroofing.com)

#### **CHRISTEN/DETROIT**

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[www.cdetroit.com](http://www.cdetroit.com)

#### **NEWTON CRANE ROOFING, INC.**

Pontiac, MI  
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[www.newtoncraneroofing.com](http://www.newtoncraneroofing.com)

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[www.schreiberroofing.com](http://www.schreiberroofing.com)

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[www.detroitcorniceandslate.com](http://www.detroitcorniceandslate.com)

#### **NORTH ROOFING COMPANY**

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[www.northroofing.com](http://www.northroofing.com)

#### **LADUKE ROOFING & SHEET METAL**

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[www.PomavilleRoofing.com](http://www.PomavilleRoofing.com)



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