

CLEVELAND BUILDING TRADES QUARTERLY CONNECTION

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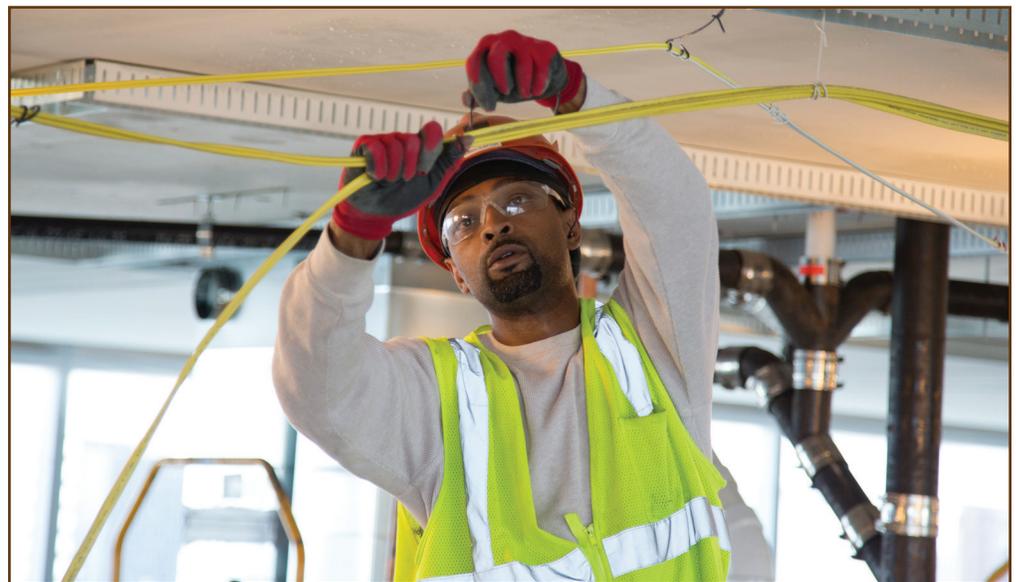
Responsible contracting helps protect projects

Most elected and public officials have faced this situation, likely more than once: A bid for a publicly-funded project comes in that is clearly the lowest, but the contractor has produced unsatisfactory work and received poor reviews on prior jobs.

What can you do? You do not want to hire a contractor with a below average performance record to work on your project. Your constituents expect you and your team to produce a top-notch finished project designed to meet the needs of your community.

You should not be forced to choose between a low bid and quality work. A poorly constructed road or building can end up costing municipalities or school districts more than they thought they were saving by going with the lowest bid.

Is it your fault the contractor is using construction workers who do not possess the necessary certificates; did not attend an accredited apprenticeship program; or even complete the required safety training?



Is it your responsibility to make sure contractors are properly insured and paying the required payroll taxes and unemployment?

Simply put, you do not want to be held accountable for poor construction

work because you were forced to accept the lowest bid.

The answer to this problem is Responsible Contracting.

See *RESPONSIBLE* Page 2.

2016: Full of opportunities to build a brighter future

The past year included many positives for the Cleveland Building Trades, as many of our affiliates increased total man hours and stayed busy all year. In 2015, public and private entities relied heavily on our services and trusted us to complete construction projects on time and on budget.

Once the weather broke, our skilled tradesmen and tradeswomen went to work transforming the region we proudly call home. The warm December extended the construction season for many projects.

Looking ahead, the Cleveland Building Trades are excited for 2016.

From the new George V. Voinovich (Innerbelt) Bridge, to Cleveland's Public Square, the Cleveland Hilton Hotel and numerous other projects across the area, our workers continue to improve the areas where we live.

Much like 2015, the work outlook for 2016 is strong. An especially busy first half of the year will focus on projects related to the Republican National Convention. National, state, regional and city leaders are counting on us to get the area ready for the spotlight in late July.

Our work will be on center stage when

the entire world turns its attention to Cleveland from July 18-21, and we intend to make you proud.

The work will not come to an end once the RNC has concluded, however. There are many positive indicators developing for the rest of 2016.

Cleveland and the surrounding areas will continue to see new construction and major renovation work. Much of this work will be done by our men and women, who dedicate themselves to their trade and invest heavily in training to produce a

See *FUTURE* Page 2.



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We are the Cleveland Building and
Construction Trades Council



Responsible

Continued from Page 1.

Many municipalities are establishing ordinances or amending bid specifications allowing them to award work to the lowest and most responsible bid, while rejecting others that fail to meet established criteria.

This allows public officials to require references, ensure contractors follow the Fair Labor Standards Act and mandate that workers follow Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace regulations.

The reasons for choosing a responsible contractor are simple – quality work, better services and a reduced risk of failure or project delays.

Responsible contracting laws set standards for complying with workplace, tax and other laws.

Language can also mandate a contractor provides information on accident and illness rates to ensure the project will be constructed as safely as possible.

When contractors are bidding on your

project, they are put on notice that quality criteria – in addition to the lowest price – will be considered when bids are reviewed. The message says your municipality will only hire qualified construction professionals to build or renovate your facilities and infrastructure.

If you have a question about Responsible Contractor Policy, or how to introduce one in your jurisdiction, please give the Cleveland Building and Construction Trades Council a call at 216-361-8077. We are happy to help you create a policy that is right for your community.

Responsible Contractor criteria can include:

- Drug- & Alcohol-Free Workplace
- Apprenticeship Training
- Safety Training
- References
- Financial Conditions
- Compliance with Regulatory Agencies
- Proper Licensing and Insurance
- Accident and Illness Rates
- Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act
- Quality of Life Issues

Future

Continued from Page 1.

product that others cannot match.

Crews from our affiliated trades continue to build and renovate area schools and colleges. We are also hard at work on projects for University Hospitals, Cleveland Clinic and Metro-Health. And cities throughout our jurisdiction rely on us to construct or renovate their infrastructure.

Our members did such a great job with the Phase I renovations at Progressive Field, that the Indians brought us back to perform even more high quality work on Phase II renovations. Many other area companies have already made the decision to use our skilled workforce for new construction, additions or renovations.

All signs indicate 2016 will be a busy year for us, but our workers are up for the challenge. We are excited and ready to build a brighter future for Northeastern Ohio.