

# MCA-KC Review

Mechanical Contractors Association of Greater Kansas City / 816-523-3341



Bob Looman  
Executive Director  
MCA-KC

## Special Interest Articles:

- OMI Awards given to MCA members at biannual event
- Laurie Shadrick presented with special award
- Herb Millard named Honorary Pipe Fitter of Local 533

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## OMI Awards Given to 8 MCA Member Firms

Professionalism was on display at the 2007 Outstanding Mechanical Installation (OMI) Awards program as eight MCA member firms were honored in 10 categories. The biannual event was sponsored by the MCA and Pipe Fitters Local No. 533. MCA President Steve Hancock presided during ceremonies held in the Marriott-Muehlebach Hotel on June 8.

The quality of the contractors together with the workmanship and high skill level of the pipe fitters was evident in the classifications involving HVAC, process piping, and refrigeration based on type of project and size.

Seven of the winning projects were in the **HVAC** classification and included the following: **Midwest Mechanical Contractors** for KU Med Center-BIOMedical Research Center and **U.S. Engineering** for KU Med Center's Central Unity Plant; **U.S. Engineering Co.** for Truman Medical Center-Lakewood Additions; **P1 Group / AD Jacobson Company, Inc.** for Liberty Hospital-Medical Plaza East; **The Fagan Company** for Longview Farm Elementary School; **Environmental Mechanical Contractors, Inc.** for Johnson County Community College-Central Plant Expansion; **VHC Van Hoecke Contracting, Inc.** for New Residence for Mike and Nicole Van Hoecke.

Two of the winning projects were in the **process piping** classification. They were **Foley Company** for BPU Nearman Creek Power Station-Combustion Combine and **Rand Construction Company** for Lake City Army-Bldg 91E Compressors. The remaining winner, in the **refrigeration** classification, was **The Fagan Company** for HY-Vee Olathe #2.

## Highlights of Board Meeting

The Board of Directors conducted an initial review of the proposed 2007-2008 MCA budget, which includes the \$0.05 per hour increase to the industry fund effective June 1, 2007. The proposal to pursue MCA student chapters at Kansas State University and Pittsburg State University that was included in the budget was approved, while the remaining budget approval was held over for the June board meeting.

President Hancock set the topic of Essential Functions Testing for our next membership meeting, which will be scheduled in August. In addition, he updated the board on the reinvigoration of the pipe fitting, plumbing, education, MSCA service oversight, and associate membership committees, while also introducing a new committee centered around the Next Generation Leadership in our industry. President Hancock also updated the board on the OMI and upcoming MCA-KC strategic planning workshop.

Mr. Looman reviewed the status of the Kansas City Construction Partnership and the proposed organization development. He also updated the board on the new Kansas City Workforce Diversity Ordinance Information Session, conducted by the Builders Association, but co-sponsored by MCA and NECA.



Laurie Shadrick accepts Special Award from Neil Willis for being named first North American woman to be a Training Specialist in the 118-year history of UA.



Herb Millard studies citation as Honorary Pipe Fitter.



Sylvia Lynn Henke holds plaque signifying her scholarship award as she is flanked by parents Hugh and Teresa Henke. In the background is Steve Hancock.

## Shadrick Presented Special OMI Award

Laurie Shadrick, who trained 500 apprentices, journeymen, and contractors during her 26-year career at Pipe Fitters Local 533, was honored at the OMI Awards program for being named the first American woman to be a **Training Specialist** in the 118-year history of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada (UA). The Washington, D.C.-based association services 326,000 members in 321 training centers throughout North America.

Neil Willis, Local 533 business manager, who presented the special award, cited Shadrick for "exemplifying the highest ideals of professionalism in the Pipe Fitting Industry" in addition to inspiring trainees to "achieve exalted standards of excellence."

In his tribute to her, Willis also said her "many skills, steady progress, and determination in a field that was almost exclusively male when she started quickly made her a role model for other women to enter the program." During her career in Kansas City, she served as General Foreman, Certified Orbital Welder, and Shielded Metal Arc and Gas Welder with a philosophy of "The more skills you have, the more reasons a contractor will keep you."

## Millard Named Honorary Pipe Fitter at OMI Program

Herbert C. Millard, retired MCA executive director, was designated an **Honorary Pipe Fitter of Local Union 533** during the 2007 OMI Awards ceremonies "in recognition of 18 years of conspicuous service in the cause of our profession, in gratitude for exceptional leadership as coach and mentor on behalf of our members, and in appreciation for the embodiment of all that is admirable, for which we extend our respect, affection, and esteem."

Local 533 Business Manager Neil Willis cited Millard as a person who "has shown himself to be a man of vision by encouraging these biannual competitions to be a showcase that puts on public display the professionalism of our mechanical contractors and pipe fitter craftsmen."

Although Willis noted that Millard himself had never gone through the five-year Apprentice Training Program, he lauded him for "devoting many years to making sure that all the apprentices would be given the needed support and resources to assure that they would perform at the highest professional levels."

## College Scholarships Announced at OMI Event

Bob Looman, MCA executive director, in presenting scholarship awards, explained that at each biannual OMI Awards program, the MCA and Pipe Fitting & Air Conditioning Council offer four 4-year \$10,000 scholarships to sons or daughters of members of Local 533. Each student will receive \$1,250 per semester for eight semesters.

He introduced Sylvia Lynn Henke, daughter of Hugh and Teresa Henke of Lee's Summit, MO, as one of the recipients who symbolizes the high academic achievements and positive ambitions of all those who have been selected. He said the other recipients were Ryan Joseph Eley, son of David and Tamara Eley, Olathe, KS; Erin Waggoner, daughter of Gary and Chennandoe Waggoner, also Olathe; and Paul Hamilton, son of Paul and Rosalie Hamilton, Jr., Kansas City, MO.

Looman, saying knowledge is a treasure but practice is the key to it, added that the recipients "are being offered the opportunity to further extend their knowledge and in time will put into practice what they have learned that will be a credit to their professional careers and their communities."

## Feeley's OMI Speech Filled with Wit & Wisdom

Mary Feeley, a veteran award-winning speaker who combines corporate experience with stand-up comedy engagements, told a capacity OMI audience in her keynote address that stress in a changing job environment is the result of a "disease" identified as "Humor Deficit Disorder."

According to her, "H.D.D. is a very serious disease infiltrating the workplace like a nasty computer virus. The symptoms include a workplace high in negative stress, employees griping and spreading rumors, low morale, and sabotage of changes that must be implemented."

She commended MCA members for their positive achievements and encouraged many organizations to use teamwork because it is critical to achieve change, especially if humor is introduced, as it can break down barriers, create instant rapport, and form connections that can survive discord.

"Shared humor transcends our differences while highlighting our similarities," Feeley said. "Humor provides many benefits to everyday workplace communications. So much business dialogue that's necessary for accurate flow of information, for training, or for supervision is predictable and therefore easy to tune out. Humor breathes originality into ordinary dialogue.

"It can spawn a creative culture in which new ideas are generated and old patterns of thinking are jolted. Humor can soften criticism of ideas and the potential embarrassment, inhibition and eventual loss of an imaginative employee."

She said another benefit of humor is its inherent power to transform the negative to the positive. A well-timed joke can neutralize emotionally charged, stressful events, she added. Humor increases productivity that can be seen on the bottom line in customer loyalty and increased profits, she also said.

## Board Retreat Focuses on Strategic Planning

The MCA Board of Directors convened a strategic planning session at The Elms Resort, Excelsior Springs, MO on June 28 and 29. Serving as facilitator was Steve Lamb, executive vice president of MCA-Chicago. He is an experienced strategic plan facilitator and seasoned association executive.

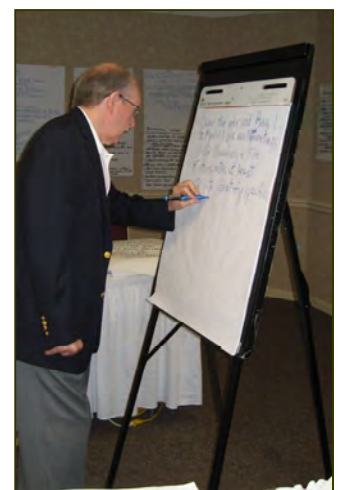
The Board invited the business managers of Plumbers Local No. 8 and Pipe Fitters Local No. 533 and representative members outside the Board.

The planning sessions were designed to provide a process for defining the association's purpose, direction, and strategy. This framework will provide consistency for making decisions and allocating its resources to pursue this strategy, including its capital and people.

Attendees were asked to complete a survey before arriving dealing with issues, conditions, and challenges facing their local industry, business practices, and union operations.



Keynote speaker Mary Feeley makes a humorous point to her audience at the OMI Awards program.



Facilitator Steve Lamb adding strategic planning ideas on flip chart.

## Profit Seen 'Not as Dirty Word'

Senior management, owners, and project managers were among MCA members who attended a seminar on “**Profit Is Not a Dirty Word**” at the Overland Park Marriott in mid-May.

The 4-hour session was presented by Jim McCarl who helps businesses and non-profit organizations maximize their potential. He is a nationally recognized speaker and strategist known for consistently delivering significant value to his clients. His success strategies were developed during a 30-year career at the helm of McCarl's, Inc., a family-owned construction business. He serves on boards of several companies, is a trustee for the University of Pittsburgh, and teaches classes on entrepreneurship at Carnegie Mellon University.

In discovering that profit is not a dirty word, McCarl illustrated daily risks and explained how contractors virtually give away their expertise. He also discussed how to manage the bottom line, the power of Margin Aggression, and starting a culture of profitability.

McCarl also demonstrated how contractors should get paid what they deserve and why they should be compensated for being at risk.



*F. James McCarl*  
President & CEO

### **Mechanical Contractors Assn of Greater KC**

9229 Ward Parkway  
Suite 270  
Kansas City, MO 64111

PHONE:  
816-523-3341

FAX:  
816-333-4603

E-MAIL:  
ralooman@mcakc.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.mcakc.org](http://www.mcakc.org)

### **OMI AWARDS RECIPIENTS**



OMI Awards recipients representing Environmental Mechanical Contractors, Inc. (EMC) are (l-r) Brian Anderson, Leon Zook, and Rex Hays, all with Johnson County Community College (JCCC); Bob Gregory, EMC project manager; and John Gieringer, EMC job foreman. EMC was recognized for its work on the JCC-Central Plant Expansion.



At OMI Awards ceremony, from left, Steve Hancock, Bob Looman and Neil Willis congratulate Special Awards recipients Laurie Shadrick, Sylvia Lynn Henke, and Herb Millard. Keynote speaker Mary Feeley is at right.