

Statewide Edition
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MEMBER

The
Business Council
of New York State, Inc.



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THE 2006 CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

Excerpts from ABC's 'Construction Executive'
Magazine, January 2006 Issue

Syracuse Legislative Breakfast Meeting February 10, 2006

Builders Partners is a coalition of business organizations in New York State who have united together to drive change and help position New York for economic growth in the 21st century.

Founded in 2004, the coalition began in Rochester with just a few members, including the Builders Exchange of Rochester, Rochester Homebuilders Association, and the Rochester Business Alliance.

Late in 2004, when the group approached the Rochester ABC Region about membership, joining was a 'no brainer' once we heard about the coalition's mission and goals.

Builders Partners mission is to bring major issues affecting New York State businesses to the forefront in Albany. Issues such as labor law 240/241 (scaffolding law), worker's compensation and health insurance have driven the costs of doing business in New York 'out-of-control'.

Builders Partners believes that if the major business organizations (and their members) work together on these issues, and show a 'united front', that positive change can and will occur.

The coalition currently has eight (8) Rochester-based organizations as members, representing nearly 8,400 businesses which employ over 250,000 people!

During 2005, the coalition met with a host of elected and regulatory agency officials such as Senator Maziarz, and Howard Mills, Superintendent of NYS Insurance Department, to name a few.

Builder's Partners goals for 2006 are to expand its' membership in other regions across New York State. To this end, the coalition will be hosting a series of meetings in the next few weeks in the Buffalo, Albany and Syracuse areas. The first meeting, to be held in the Syracuse region, is scheduled for February 10, 2006 at the Wyndham Hotel. Deadline for registrations is February 7, 2006.

For more information about Builders Partners, or to register for the Syracuse February meeting, please call ABC at 1-800-477-7743.

According to 'Construction Executive', in an article excerpted from FMI's 2005-2006 U.S. Market Construction Overview, The Construction Industry can look forward to another Busy Year in 2006.

FMI, a Raleigh, N.C. – based construction consulting firm provides the following 2006 (and beyond) economic outlooks:

LODGING – approximately \$14.5 billion dollars of lodging construction will be put in place, and will continue to grow around 8 percent each year thereafter, reaching \$18.3 billion in 2009.

OFFICES – approximately \$50 billion dollars of office construction will be put in place. This segment is improving due to increased square feet under construction, increasing cost per square foot, decreasing vacancy rates and increasing employment.

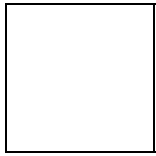
RETAIL – commercial put in place construction for this segment will increase by 9 percent over 2005 totals.

HEALTH CARE – in the next five years, health care put in place construction will increase 34 percent from \$34 billion in 2005 to \$45.4 billion in 2009. Aging facilities and aging population being the drivers.

EDUCATION – in the next five years, education put in place construction will increase 49 percent from \$80 billion in 2005 to \$120 billion in 2009. Factors driving growth include increasing enrollments and aging facilities in need of updating.

TRANSPORTATION – construction put in place for this segment reached a total of about \$27 billion in 2005. During the next three to four years, annual growth should average 6 to 7 percent, reaching \$34.6 billion by 2009.

To read the full article on the '2006 Construction Outlook', please refer to the 'Construction Executive' Magazine, January 2006 Issue. If you are a member of ABC and you are not receiving this magazine, please call ABC at 1-800-477-7743.



U.S. Department of Labor

WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION

OSHA Log 300, 300A and 301 annual summaries must be posted from February 1 to April 30 for the preceding calendar year.

Construction work sites that are scheduled to continue for a year or more are required to:

- ❑ Maintain a separate OSHA Log 300 for each establishment
- ❑ Maintain the OSHA Log 300 either at the construction site, or at an established central location, provided the employer can:
 - ❑ Transmit information about the injuries and illnesses from the establishment to the central location within seven (7) calendar days of receiving information that a recordable injury or illness has occurred, and can...
 - ❑ Produce and send records from the central location to the establishment within four business hours when the employer is required to provide to a government representative, or by the end of the next business day when providing records to an employee, former employee or employee representative.

New York State's minimum wage increased from \$6.00 per to \$6.75 per hour effective January 1, 2006, pursuant to the provisions of the Empire State Wage Act of 2004. Although Federal law currently provides for a minimum wage of only \$5.15 per hour, all employers are obligated to pay their employees who work in New York State the higher minimum wage set forth in the Empire State Wage Act. New York State's minimum wage will increase to \$7.15 per hour effective January 1, 2007.

New York State's minimum wage for food service workers who receive tips increased from \$3.85 per hour to \$4.35 per hour effective January 1, 2006, and will increase to \$4.60 per hour on January 1, 2007. Employers must ensure that the hourly wage paid to a food service worker plus the actual tips received by the worker equals or exceeds \$6.75 per hour as of January 1, 2006, and, as of January 1, 2007, must equal or exceed \$7.15 per hour.

For more information on minimum wage increases visit:

www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/america.htm#NewYork

For more information on OSHA and OSHA log postings visit: www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/index.html

ABC MeritChoice®

Before you renew your health, dental, vision, or life insurance policies, call your Regional ABC VP. ABC will arrange to have an insurance expert from ABC's staff obtain quotes that will compete with your current policies, and may even be substantially lower.

****BEFORE YOU RENEW...CALL ABC****

ABC WORKERS' COMPENSATION TRUST

The 'Trust' you can depend upon. To confirm your eligibility for lower workers' compensation costs, call Reller Risk Management: (315) 432-8210