



ASM PAGE
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President's View: Stimulus for Buildings

These days it's anything but business as usual in the real estate and construction industries. Every day brings news of another project that has been deferred due to shrinking endowments or inability to get credit. Fortunately, many contractors and subcontractors are still at work finishing up projects that were underway before crisis hit. It's the next six months and the year ahead that has us worried. Like everyone in the business community, we are hopeful that federal stimulus funds will jump start the economy, but we are still waiting for information on how, when or where the moneys will be spent.

We applaud the early focus on transportation and transit; our roads, bridges and public transit systems are in dire need of improvement. Yet we urge our public officials to focus on vertical infrastructure as well – i.e., the schools, public buildings and private developments that are true economic engines, with wide ranging stimulus effect. Construction of buildings not only supports the workers on site and the contractors who employ them, but the architects and engineers who design the buildings, vendors who supply materials, and the insurance, bonding, legal and accounting experts who provide professional guidance, among many others. And the end result is a building that houses people and employees whose spending in turn supports many other local businesses.

As the state prepares to receive and distribute federal funds and work begins on the fiscal 2010 state budget, we urge our public officials to do everything possible to provide an economic boost to the building side of the construction industry that employs so many and is such a major driver of the Massachusetts economy.

At ASM, we were privileged to serve on the Governor's Mobilization Task Forces that were set up to prepare for the federal stimulus funding, and we have made it a priority to do all we can to contribute to the recovery effort. At the same time, we are maintaining some semblance of "business as usual" by offering a wide variety of programs and events that provide the networking, marketing and educational opportunities that are so important for our members in these challenging times. Learn more about some of them below – and please join us!

Trends in insurance and risk transfer

The insurance market is always changing, and policy terms along with it, not to mention changes in contract requirements. Join us for a seminar on April 1 to hear our panel of experts review current trends in insurance and risk transfer; alert you to policy gaps and exposures that could trip you up; and offer advice on how to "keep covered" while minimizing your up-front costs and your potential liability when accidents happen. Visit the ASM website for more details.

April event features Mark Richey on adventures of going green

ASM's Board of Directors extends an open invitation to attend a special networking event on April 30 that will feature a presentation by acclaimed mountain-climber, Mark Richey. Richey has not only scaled some of the world's tallest peaks, he is also founder and CEO of Mark Richey Woodworking & Design (an ASM member), whose fine millwork graces corporate offices and institutions throughout New England and beyond. Inspired by first-hand observation of climate change on mountain landscapes, Richey and his company have made a corporate commitment to sustainable construction, starting with their own headquarters. Mark will talk both about his climbing adventures and his adventures "going green" – erecting a wind turbine and installing a biomass furnace at the company's Newburyport facilities, and developing the expertise to provide the "green" services that customers demand today. The event takes place at the Newton Marriott, starting with a reception at 4:30 p.m. Visit the ASM website for details.

Photo caption

At ASM's Government Affairs Breakfast on February 10, Lt. Governor Tim Murray spoke to ASM members about the state's economic recovery efforts and the priorities for use of federal stimulus funds. He shares a moment afterwards with ASM CEO Monica Lawton (left) and ASM President Sara Stafford.

Harvard's new safety program

Harvard University recently implemented a new requirement for all contractors to be enrolled in a new "safety assessment program" in order to be prequalified to bid on projects at the university. ASM's next Safety Roundtable on May 19 will feature Harvard's point person on the new program, Garrett Burke, Associate Director for Occupational & Construction Safety, who will explain how it works and answer any questions. The Roundtable will be held at Eastern Insurance in Natick from 10 a.m. to noon. ASM's safety roundtables are held on a quarterly basis in cooperation with OSHA and the Division of Occupational Safety, and are open to all subcontractors free of charge. Visit the ASM website to register, www.associatedsubs.com.

Deadline for Scholarship Applications

The deadline for ASM's 2009 scholarship applications has been extended to April 1 to ensure all who are interested have the opportunity to apply. Three \$2,000 college scholarships will be awarded this year, funded by proceeds from our Golf Tournament. The scholarships are based on merit, and anyone connected with an ASM member company is eligible. Applications are available from the ASM website, www.associatedsubs.com.

June 11 Golf Outing – Mark the date!

In times like these, it's important to stay focused on business and getting work. But by June, it will be time for a well-deserved break. What better way to get away from it all, than by joining us for a few hours at the beautiful Shaker Hills Golf Club for the 14th Annual ASM Golf Tournament. We've added a few new features this year to add to the fun. Mark the date and visit the ASM website for more information.

CALENDAR

Visit the ASM website for a current list of seminars and events:

www.associatedsubs.com

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

ASM SEMINAR

Contractors' Guide to Insurance and Risk Transfer

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Westin Hotel Waltham

Thursday, April 30, 2009

ASM MEMBER MEETING

Best of Both Worlds: Mark Richey on Mountain-Climbing & Green Technology

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Marriott Hotel, Newton

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

ASM SEMINAR

How to Negotiate Construction Subcontracts, Part 3

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Westin Hotel Waltham

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

ASM SAFETY ROUNDTABLE

Harvard's New Prequalification Requirements

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Eastern Insurance, Natick

Thursday, June 11, 2009

14TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT AT SHAKER HILLS

Shaker Hills Golf Club Harvard