FALL BUSINESS MEETING AND SEMINAR

FALL BUSINESS MEETING INFORMATION

The 2017 Fall Business Meeting of MICA is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, and Thursday, October 19, 2017, in Omaha, Nebraska. The site of this fall’s meeting is the Embassy Suites Downtown Hotel in Omaha. This will be our eleventh year at this hotel.

This year’s fall business meeting will include updates and discussions on several topics crucial to your business operations. The technical sessions will include presentations on business costs and profitability, motivating your people to improve company performance, rethinking business and personal success, and the impact of new OSHA regulations on your company. We will focus on providing the membership with new insights on these issues as we continue to help you to improve in your industry and in your businesses.

In keeping with President Winters’ theme of “human relations”, we will have a presentation on “What’s a Life Worth, and Are You Willing to Pay the Price to Save It?”. Robert (Bob) McCall is President of Inspire High Performance LLC, where he gets to follow his true passion of helping companies and organizations build a culture of high performance where all can work at their top potential every day, thus preventing injuries, saving lives, recognizing errors, and improving processes. He is a prolific speaker and is author of the projected best-selling book Zero Accidents and Injuries: Are You Willing to Pay the Price? Bob’s motto is, “Make a difference everywhere you go.”

From Pittsburgh, PA, Bob attended Tuskegee University and majored in Building Construction Technology. He worked ten years with Bechtel Power Corporations in construction, maintenance, and operations of nuclear power plants, eight years for Alliant Energy in Iowa at the Duane Arnold Energy Center. Bob became the first African American Plant Manager when he was hired by Progress Energy to serve the Lee Plant in Goldsboro, NC; one year later he was promoted to General Manager for the Eastern Region Fossil Generation Department. In that role, he was responsible for five plants, traveling maintenance, engineering and project management. Bob had the opportunity to leave Generation and support Progress Energy’s Transmission department as General Manager of Asset Management and in Distribution as the General Manager of the Southern Region, as well as the Vice President of the Eastern Region in Energy Delivery where he was responsible for 13 operation centers, serving 350,000 customers. After 33 years in the industry, Bob retired from Duke Energy as General Manager of Fleet Services, where he was responsible for managing over 13,000 vehicles and mobile equipment valued at over $600 million dollars, operating in six states with 58 locations.

We missed Gary Auman at our June convention, but he will be back in October to update us on the OSHA rule changes that will be affecting our members. He will provide us with his annual update on OSHA regulations, and he will also bring us up to date on how the recently finalized rules are being implemented by OSHA on the job sites, and how they will impact our businesses. This is a do not miss session for you and your key safety professionals.

Pete Nielsen is a leadership and organizational development coach with Performance Contracting (PCI) out of Lenexa, KS. He is passionate about working with leaders at all levels to build and deliver learning & development tools and strategies that maximize individual potential, enhance personal effectiveness, and enable leaders to execute organizational strategy. He will share with us his approach to “Rethinking for Business and Personal Success”.

Prior to joining PCI, Pete led the global training and development function for several large companies, in industries ranging from engineering to equipment finance to retail and transporta-

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TO: THE MICA MEMBERSHIP

As I write this message, the eclipse is still fresh in my mind which was a once in a lifetime event because of where we live. We fortunately were in the path of totality which was a relatively thin ribbon, around 70 miles wide, that crossed the U.S. from West to East. What is still amazing to me is that in approximately an hour and a half, it crossed through Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, and North and South Carolina. Although anywhere in North America you were able to see a partial eclipse, there was many a folk that travelled from other states as well as other countries to our area to view the event.

THE POWER OF ATTITUDE

One of the most wonderful things about having a positive attitude is the number of people it touches, many times in ways you’ll never know.

Recently, I stopped by a convenience store to get a newspaper and a pack of gum. The young woman at the check-out counter said, "That'll be five dollars please," and as I reached into my wallet, the thought occurred to me that a newspaper and gum didn't quite make it to five dollars. When I looked up to get a "re-quote", she had a big smile on her face and said, "Gotta! I got to get my tip in there somehow!" I laughed when I knew I'd been had. She then glanced down at the paper I was buying and said, "I'm sick and tired of all this negative stuff on the front pages. I want to read some good news for a change." She then said, "In fact, I think someone should just publish a Good News newspaper – a paper with wonderful, inspirational stories about people overcoming adversity and doing good things for others. I'd buy one every day!" She then thanked me for coming in and said, "Maybe we'll get lucky tomorrow; maybe we'll get some good news," and she laughed. She made my day.

The following day after my business appointments, I dropped by the same store again to pick up bottled water, but a different young lady was behind the counter. As I checked out I said, "Good afternoon" and handed her my money for the water. She said nothing – not a word, not a smile...nothing. She just handed me my change and in a negative tone, ordered..."Next!"

It hit me right between the eyes: Two people, same age; one made me feel great, and the other, well, made me feel that I had inconvenienced her by showing up.

By the choices we make, by the attitudes we exhibit, we are influencing lives every day in positive or negative ways...our family, our peers, our friends, and even strangers we've never met before and will never meet again.

So when you brush your teeth every morning, and get ready for work, ask yourself this important question, "Who do I want to be today?" "The Grouch" or "The Good News Girl?" Your answer will go a long way toward determining your success in business and in life.

Thanks for reading and remember “BE HAPPY & SAFE OUT THERE.”

Dale Winters
MICA President
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(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Tom D. Lewis with Creighton University will provide us with one of his educational sessions on cost analysis and profitability. Tom has been teaching accounting for over 38 years and has been recognized for his excellence in teaching by Creighton University and its students. He has been awarded the “Robert F. Kennedy Outstanding Teacher” award by the Student Senate at Creighton; the most prestigious teaching award given by the University. Tom has conducted educational seminars nationally for the Rural Electric Association and is an expert in financial operations for electrical cooperatives. He has spoken at our fall meetings numerous times, and we have invited him back for another educational and informative session.

We will hear from Peter Gauchel as he provides an enlightening presentation on the newly developed promotional slide presentation on the 8th edition of the National Commercial & Industrial Insulation Standards manual. This slide presentation will be used to promote the use of the manual to the engineering community.

The fall business meeting will address the above issues and more. We will once again have three concurrent forums dealing with member issues. We will have a union contractor forum, an open shop contractor forum, and an associate member forum, all running simultaneously.

Last year our associate members classified as fabricators, distributors or independent reps were invited to display their products at our fall business meeting. The table top displays were available for viewing by our membership during our extended welcome reception. We will continue with such displays again this year for our manufacturer member firms. We will be limiting the size of the displays and limiting the participants to those associate member firms that are classified as manufacturers. These table top displays will be open for viewing during this year’s Wednesday evening reception. We have a slight change in the start of the Wednesday reception. In order to accommodate earlier dinner reservations, our reception will begin at 5:00 p.m. and conclude at 6:30 p.m. This will still leave you with plenty of time for dinner and socializing with your fellow MICA members.

The discounted room rate at the Embassy Suites is $159.00 per night, single or double occupancy. Included in this rate is com-

(Continued on page 8)
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This year’s program is a must attend for you and your key employees. We have tiered this year’s registration fee to encourage more participation by individual firms. The Board has also voted to keep the registration fee the same as last year. The registration fee is $205.00 for the first attendee from a member company. Registration for a second attendee from a given company is reduced to $195. Registration for all additional attendees is $185 per attendee. Please complete the fall business meeting registration form and e-mail/mail/fax it to the MICA office by October 6, 2017. Your prompt response helps us to plan a more efficient and effective meeting for you. Please note that you can pay the registration fee by credit card or by check. You may access the registration form at the MICA website or contact the MICA office, and we will send you a copy.

Your Board of Directors is very conscious of meeting costs and has attempted to make this meeting as cost effective as possible. Your Board wants this meeting to be an educational and informative meeting that is cost effective for you. We look to the fall meeting as an opportunity for you to bring one or two key employees to this meeting. It is an excellent chance for you to expose your key people to the benefits of participating in MICA activities. We hope that you take advantage of this low-cost, educational experience.

The Board of Directors is asking for your help in promoting MICA to potential new members. The Board is providing one complimentary registration to any first time potential contractor member firm who attends the fall business meeting. Please make a concerted effort to inform one or two potential member firms about the fall business meeting. Invite them to attend and let them know about the complimentary registration. Share your registration material with them and encourage them to join. The cost is minimal and the first-hand look at MICA is the best way to promote the benefits of belonging to MICA.

The fall business meeting is designed to help you to become a better, more educated business professional. We have designed a program that not only addresses problems but also provides you with solutions. Do not miss this opportunity to come together to share business concerns with your fellow MICA members. Make your plans now to attend the 2017 Annual Fall Business Meeting this October in Omaha!

**PRE-MEETING EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR INFORMATION**

In past years, we have combined an educational seminar with the fall business meeting. This combination of business meeting and seminar was designed to keep your travel costs to a minimum, yet allow you to participate in both educational activities. This year, the Board decided to sponsor a free half-day educational seminar on “Safety Preparedness”. The Board is sponsoring this seminar as one of the many benefits that come with your membership in MICA. This half-day seminar will be held on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, from 1:00 p.m. until 4:45 p.m. at our fall business meeting hotel, the Embassy Suites Downtown, in Omaha. If you are interested in registering for this educational seminar, please complete the registration sheet which was mailed to all members and send it back to the MICA office. Space is limited, and registration will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. The number of attendees per company may have to be restricted depending on the overall interest shown by the membership. If you need another copy of the registration material, just contact the MICA office, and we will send you a copy.

We are delighted to have Gary Auman, MICA’s legal counsel and OSHA expert as our seminar leader. Gary Auman is a shareholder and named director in the law firm of Auman, Mahan & Furry in Dayton, Ohio. He graduated with an electrical engineering degree from the University of Louisville in 1969 and a law degree from The Ohio State University in 1976. He served four years in the U.S. Air Force at Wright Patterson from 1969 – 1973. He has defended employers in workers’ comp and OSHA since 1976. He defends OSHA cases nationally. He is a frequent speaker and is much in demand across the country, especially on OSHA topics. He has presented papers at the International Roofing Exposition and regularly presents papers at the Iowa-Illinois Annual Safety Conference. He has worked with OSHA in its development of safety and health standards, and he has defended OSHA cases in several federal appellate courts. He represents four national and regional trade associations in the construction industry.

In addition to his reputation and experience in OSHA, Gary has defended workers’ comp cases in Ohio up to and including the said...
FUTURE MICA MEETING DATES

Fall 2017 Annual Fall Business Meeting — October 18 & 19, 2017, Embassy Suites Downtown, Omaha, NE.

Winter Board and Committee Meetings — January 2018, TBD.

61st Annual Spring Convention — June 18 — 21, 2018, Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, Prior Lake, MN.

Fall 2018 Annual Fall Business Meeting — October 17 & 18, 2018, Omaha, NE.

MICA MEMBER ADDRESS/INFO. UPDATES

Be sure to inform the MICA office of any changes or corrections to your listing for either the MICA Directory, e-mail correspondence or mailing address. Even if you update your company listing on the MICA website, please inform the MICA office of the changes. We try to be as current as possible with your help.
Ohio Supreme Court. He is very knowledgeable, not only in defending the substantive aspects of workers’ comp claims, but also of working with third-party administrators and employers to control employees’ workers’ comp costs. He speaks to employer groups across the state on a myriad of workers’ compensation issues. Gary always looks at the cost benefit to his employer client in defending any workers’ comp or OSHA case.

The following summarizes what will be covered during the seminar:

“OSHA enforcement has increased, even with the change of administrations. OSHA penalties are being issued on the new rate structure. New OSHA standards are being put into effect. Your ability to protect your company from the impact of an onsite inspection begins with the inspection. Beyond that you will have at least three opportunities to resolve any citations you have received, with which you do not agree. These opportunities are the informal conference, discussions with the DOL attorney to represent OSHA before the review commission and finally at a hearing before an administrative law judge on the contested citations. Safety consultants and even attorneys have widely differing opinions on how to do the best for your company if you receive OSHA citations. This program will provide you with some suggestions as to how you can best handle OSHA citations. Of course, the best way is to always ensure that your employees are in compliance full time with all safety standards and rules that apply to the work they are doing.

We will cover a mock OSHA onsite inspection, a mock informal conference and, finally a mock OSHA hearing. You will be able to draw a lot of practical ideas on how you can respond to an OSHA compliance officer while still preserving your rights as an employer. Of course, there are some things you should take care of now, before OSHA comes to call. This half day session is appropriate for business owners, safety directors, superintendents, and/or any site supervisors.

The list above is an informational piece, and it is designed to get you to begin thinking about what you will learn and experience during the session.

This seminar is designed for anyone that is directly involved in a project from superintendent, project manager, to upper management who may have direct interaction with an OSHA inspection. If you deal with any of these issues, this seminar will benefit you.

Take advantage of this seminar offering in conjunction with our annual fall business meeting. The fall business meeting will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, October 18 & 19, 2017. Save yourself time and travel by registering and attending both the seminar and fall business meeting.
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Sweetwater, TN July 26, 2017 – Aeroflex USA, Inc. introduces the newest version of Aerocel® EPDM elastomeric flexible closed-cell foam insulation. This newest introduction is called Aerocel® ULP®, that delivers exceptional water and water vapor transport properties, offering a permeance value of .005 perm-inch, and a water absorption rate of .01% by volume. Aerocel® ULP has been tested using both the wet cup and dry cup methods of determining water vapor permeance detailed in ASTM E96. Aerocel® ULP offers moisture resistance performance better than any vapor retarder on the market, and a perm rating far lower than all rigid plastic foams or other elastomeric insulations. Aerocel® ULP is a vapor retarder, helping ensure that the insulation system remains sealed against moisture. Offering ease of installation, a high level of energy efficiency, and superior moisture resistance, Aerocel® ULP® is the ideal choice for cost-effective installations on all low-temperature system insulation jobs, especially in high humidity and high-temperature climates.

Aerocel® ULP® is 38% more efficient than the next most-moisture-resistant insulation material, cellular glass. Less thickness of Aerocel® ULP® can be used, while delivering the exceptional water and water vapor resistance desired for low temperature insulation systems, delivering high-level, constant, long-term insulating efficiency. Aerocel® ULP® does not contribute to and helps prevent corrosion under insulation, will not promote metal corrosion, and is not abrasive to system components.

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THE DODGE MOMENTUM INDEX STUMBLING IN JULY

The Dodge Momentum Index fell in July, dropping 3.3% to 135.0 (2000=100) from its revised June reading of 139.6. The Momentum Index is a monthly measure of the first (or initial) report for nonresidential building projects in planning, which have been shown to lead construction spending for nonresidential buildings by a full year. The move lower in July was due to a 6.6% decline in the institutional component of the Momentum Index, while the commercial component fell 1.1%. This month continues a recent trend of volatility in the Momentum Index where a string of gains is interrupted by a step backwards in planning intentions. Despite the decline from June to July, the Momentum Index is 6.9% higher than one year ago, which suggests further moderate gains in construction activity throughout the year. The commercial component of the Momentum Index is 8.0% higher than last year, while the Institutional component is 5.3% higher.

In July, nine projects entered planning each with a value of $100 million or more. For the institutional building sector, the leading projects were the $200 million Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Woodbridge, VA and the $200 million phase 2B of the Thompson Education Center in Rocky Hill, NY. The leading commercial building

(Continued on page 21)
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NIA FALL SUMMIT

NIA’s Fall Summit is an annual members-only event that includes topical speakers, open committee meetings, tailored industry sessions, and networking opportunities to develop new business relationships. Fall Summit is designed to “Educate, Engage, and Elevate,” by providing actionable content for attendees that companies can implement to improve their businesses.

NIA’s Fall Summit offers members:

- **Convenience**—All Fall Summit and IEX USA events take place at one location with easy access to 3 airports. The Fall Summit hotel, the brand new Marriott Marquis, is connected via Sky Bridge to the George R. Brown Convention Center.

- **Flexibility**—Minimizing members’ time out of the office is a priority, so all events take place over a 2-day period with dedicated time to attend Fall Summit events and participate in the IEX USA trade show.

- **Value**—15 hours of education, 2 breakfasts, 2 networking receptions, and complimentary access to IEX USA and the Turbomachinery & Pump Symposia (TPS) trade show floors are included in the affordable registration rate. Additional multiple-registrant discounts are available.

Customize Your Week
The Fall Summit schedule is planned to make the most efficient use of your time away from your business. By combining the Fall Summit with additional programs, NIA is offering a week-long opportunity for education, training, and networking.

- September 11: Bonus pre-Fall Summit training sessions and Networking Reception.
- September 12–13: NIA’s Fall Summit and Reed Exhibitions’ IEX USA trade show.
- September 13–14: NIA’s Insulation Energy Appraisal Program (IEAP) training course (members receive discounts for registering for both the Fall Summit and the IEAP class)

In 2017, Fall Summit is co-located with Reed Exhibitions’ Insulation Expo (IEX) USA, the North American trade show for the mechanical insulation industry. NIA’s Fall Summit registration includes unlimited access to IEX USA during show hours. IEX USA exhibitors will include insulation manufacturers, distributors, fabricators, and contractors. Attendees will consist of mechanical insulation end users such as engineers, specifiers, plant managers, architects, contractors, building inspectors, and code officials representing the commercial, industrial, and manufacturing sectors. IEX USA is a biennial event, and the next trade show after 2017 will take place in 2019. Don’t miss out!

Registration information for the Fall Summit and the Insulation Expo can be found at the NIA website: www.insulation.org.
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**NSC RELEASES WORKPLACE SAFE DRIVING KIT**

National Safety Council’s downloadable, free online kit provides resources to employers to educate employees about the dangers of the road. The number one cause of workplace deaths is motor vehicle crashes. The National Safety Council (NSC) has launched a new online safety kit aimed at creating safer roadways for workers.

The Safe Driving Kit, sponsored by Wheels Inc., features multimedia resources and engaging material that address the key contributors to car crashes including distraction, alcohol, other drugs, fatigue and seatbelt use.

"Every seven seconds someone is injured and every 15 minutes someone is killed in a car crash," said Jenny Burke, senior director of advocacy at the National Safety Council in a statement. "The Safe Driving Kit will help us eliminate preventable deaths at work and on the road."

The online tool also brings attention to lifesaving technology that helps prevent crashes during a time when motor vehicle deaths spike in part due to summer travel. Resources in the Safe Driving Kit include videos, fact sheets and FAQs, myth busters, infographics, posts, survivor advocate stories and various activities aimed at engaging and educating workers.

Car crashes cost employers upwards of $68 billion in comprehensive costs every year, according to the NSC.

The Safe Driving Kit is available for download at www.nsc.org/safedrivingkit.

**BEWARE OF FAKE CHARITY SCAMS RELATING TO HURRICANE HARVEY**

The Internal Revenue Service issued a warning about possible fake charity scams emerging due to Hurricane Harvey and encouraged taxpayers to seek out recognized charitable groups for their donations.

While there has been an enormous wave of support across the country for the victims of Hurricane Harvey, people should be aware of criminals who look to take advantage of this generosity by impersonating charities to get money or private information from well-meaning taxpayers. Such fraudulent schemes may involve contact by telephone, social media, e-mail or in-person solicitations.

Criminals often send emails that steer recipients to bogus websites that appear to be affiliated with legitimate charitable causes. These sites frequently mimic the sites of, or use names similar to, legitimate charities, or claim to be affiliated with legitimate charities in order to persuade people to send money or provide personal financial information that can be used to steal identities or financial resources.

IRS.gov has the tools people need to quickly and easily check the status of charitable organizations.

The IRS cautions people wishing to make disaster-related charitable donations to avoid scam artists by following these tips:

- Be sure to donate to recognized charities.
- Be wary of charities with names that are similar to familiar or nationally known organizations. Some phony charities use names or websites that sound or look like those of respected, legitimate organizations. The IRS website at IRS.gov has a search feature, Exempt Organizations Select Check, through which people may find qualified charities; donations to these charities may be tax-deductible.
- Don’t give out personal financial information — such as Social Security numbers or credit card and bank account numbers and passwords — to anyone who solicits a contribution. Scam artists may use this information to steal a donor’s identity and money.
- Never give or send cash. For security and tax record purposes, contribute by check or credit card or another way that provides documentation of the donation.
- Consult IRS Publication 526, Charitable Contributions, available on IRS.gov. This free booklet describes the tax rules that apply to making legitimate tax-deductible donations. Among other things, it also provides complete details on what records to keep.

Taxpayers suspecting fraud by email should visit IRS.gov and search for the keywords “Report Phishing.” More information about tax scams and schemes may be found at IRS.gov using the keywords “scams and schemes.” Details on available relief can be found on the disaster relief page on IRS.gov.
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OSHA'S INJURY TRACKING APPLICATION

Earlier this month, OSHA has identified the site and format for employers to use to electronically post their OSHA 300a Forms for 2016. There is a lot of collateral information on this link. To find the link, go to www.osha.gov. The link is very apparent when you get to the OSHA home page (it is in the upper right of the home page). The link is named “Launch ITA”.

Click on "Launch ITA" to provide OSHA your 2016 OSHA Form 300a information. OSHA also published a notice of proposed rulemaking to extend the date by which certain employers are required to submit the information from their completed 2016 Form 300A electronically from July 1, 2017 to December 1, 2017.

Who: Establishments with 250 or more employees that are currently required to keep OSHA injury and illness records, and establishments with 20-249 employees that are classified in certain industries with historically high rates of occupational injuries and illnesses.

What: Covered establishments with 250 or more employees must electronically submit information from OSHA Forms 300 (Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses), 300A (Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses), and 301 (Injury and Illness Incident Report). Covered establishments with 20-249 employees must electronically submit information from OSHA Form 300A.

When: The requirement becomes effective on January 1, 2017. The new reporting requirements will be phased in over two years. In 2017, all covered establishments must submit information from their completed 2016 Form 300A. In 2018, covered establishments with 250 or more employees must submit information from all completed 2017 forms (300A, 300, and 301) by July 1, 2018, and covered establishments with 20-249 employees must submit information from their completed 2017 Form 300A by July 1, 2018. Beginning in 2019 and every year thereafter, covered establishments must submit the information by March 2.

How: OSHA will provide a secure website that offers three options for data submission. First, users will be able to manually enter data into a web form. Second, users will be able to upload a CSV file to process single or multiple establishments at the same time. Last, users of automated recordkeeping systems will have the ability to transmit data electronically via an API (application programming interface). OSHA will provide status updates and related information here as it becomes available.
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JULY CONSTRUCTION STARTS INCREASE 6 PERCENT

The following excerpts are taken from a news release by Dodge Data & Analytics. Dodge Data & Analytics is North America’s leading provider of analytics and software-based workflow integration solutions for the construction industry.

The value of new construction starts in July advanced 6% from the previous month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $728.1 billion, it was reported by Dodge Data & Analytics. Leading the way was a 26% jump by the non-building construction sector, which reflected an improved level for public works and the start of two massive power plants, located respectively in California and New York. Residential building in July increased 8%, as multifamily housing rebounded after three consecutive monthly declines. Running counter was a 7% slide for nonresidential building following its 14% hike in June, as both office buildings and hotels retreated from June’s elevated activity, outweighing a sharp rise for healthcare facilities in July. During the first seven months of 2017, total construction starts on an unadjusted basis were $411.9 billion, down 1% from the same period a year ago. Dampening the year-to-date performance for total construction was a steep 44% decline for the electric utility/gas plant category, even with the two massive power plants reported as July starts. If the electric utility/gas plant category is excluded, total construction starts in this year’s January-July period would be up 3% from a year ago.

July’s data lifted the Dodge Index to 154 (2000=100), compared to an upwardly revised 145 for June. After this year’s strong first quarter, the Dodge Index had receded 11% in the second quarter. July’s total construction gain brings activity back to within 2% of the first quarter’s pace. “July’s increase means the third quarter began on a healthy note, which should help to maintain the up-and-down pattern on a quarterly basis that’s been present for construction starts over the past year,” stated Robert A. Murray, chief economist for Dodge Data & Analytics. “Within that up-and-down pattern there remains a modest upward trend, as it appears that construction starts are still in the process of reaching a peak, as opposed to having already reached a peak. Public works construction, after sluggish activity earlier in the year, is showing hesitant signs of improvement. It’s true that residential building is now seeing generally decreased activity for multifamily housing, but the monthly declines continue to be mixed in with monthly gains, such as what took place in July. For nonresidential building, growth is being supported by its institutional segment, while commercial building is leveling off due to varied behavior by its individual project types.”

Non-building construction in July was $195.8 billion (annual rate), up 26% from June and achieving its second highest amount so far in 2017 after February. The public works categories as a group rose 12%, rebounding after a 7% decline in June. Water supply construction had a particularly strong month, soaring 136% with the lift coming from the start of the $844 million Vista Ridge water supply pipeline project in San Antonio TX, as well as an $88 million recycled water treatment facility in San Francisco CA. Sewer construction improved 37% after a weak June, although river/harbor development receded 2%. Highway and bridge construction increased 10% in July, and featured the start of the $322 million I-74 bridge replacement across the Mississippi River in Davenport IA, a $192 million highway expansion in San Antonio TX, and a $94 million rehabilitation project on the Henry Hudson Parkway in New York NY. Through the first seven months of 2017, the top five states in terms of the dollar amount of highway and bridge construction starts were – Texas, California, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. The miscellaneous public works category, which includes natural gas pipelines and mass transit, slipped 10% in July, continuing to recede after very strong activity back in May. Even with its decline, miscellaneous public works still included the July start of the $1.5 billion Brownsville to Nueces natural gas pipeline in Texas and a $225 million rail transit project in Bellevue WA. The electric utility/gas plant category surged 64% in July, registering its second straight monthly gain in contrast to the substantially weaker activity reported during the first five months of 2017. Two massive natural gas-fired power generation facilities were included as construction starts in July – the $2.2 billion Carlsbad Energy Center in Carlsbad CA and the $1.6 billion Cricket Valley Energy Center in Dover Plains NY. There were five other large power plant projects that reached groundbreaking in July, located in Connecticut ($550 million), Georgia ($400 million), Minnesota ($300 million), Arkansas ($203 million), and Nebraska ($150 million).

Nonresidential building in July was $231.2 billion (annual rate), down 7%. The commercial categories as a group dropped 22%, retreating after climbing 24% in June. Office construction in June had surged 82%, boosted by the start of 8 office projects valued at $100 million or more, led by a $585 million Facebook data center in Omaha NE and the $400 million office portion of the $500 million renovation of the Willis Tower in Chicago IL. In July office construction fell 52%, with only one project valued at $100 million or more – the $118 million Wheaton Town Center in Wheaton MD. A similar pattern was present for hotels, which surged 65% in June with the push coming from the start of the $575 million hotel portion of the $900 million Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino expansion in Hollywood FL. In July hotel construction fell 42%, with the largest project being the $78 million hotel portion of a $115 million hotel/apartment mixed-use project near the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. On the plus side, warehouse construction jumped 46% in July, lifted by the start of a $144 million warehouse complex in Stockton CA, a $135 million Wal-Mart distribution center in Mobile AL, and a $100 million Amazon distribution center in Fresno CA. July gains were also reported for commercial garages, up 9%; and stores and shopping centers, up 7%. Manufacturing plant construction in July fell 29% from its June amount that included the start of a $1.8 billion methane plant in Louisiana. While down from June, manufacturing plant construction did see the start of several large projects in July, such as a $1.1 billion polyethylene plant expansion in Beaumont TX.
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