ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDWEST INSULATION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, WE WISH TO EXTEND TO ALL OF YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANAKAH, AND A MOST JOYOUS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

TO: THE MICA MEMBERSHIP

Hello MICA!!!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas!!

This year has been a year of many blessings. As the year comes to a close, it’s a great time to share stories, reflect on the year, and a chance to look forward to what the new year has to offer.

I know this year has been warmer than usual, but it is still important to think about Cold Stress. The following is from OSHA’s website (see end of article for website). Cold stress occurs by driving down the skin temperature and eventually the internal body temperature. When the body is unable to warm itself, serious cold-related illnesses and injuries may occur and permanent tissue damage and death may result. Types of cold stress include: trench foot, frostbite, and hypothermia.

Types of Cold Stress:

Trench Foot: Is a non-freezing injury of the feet caused by prolonged exposure to wet and cold conditions. The injury can occur in temperatures as high as 60°F if feet are constantly wet. Injury occurs because wet feet lose heat 25-times faster than dry feet.

Symptoms: Reddening skin, tingling, pain, swelling, leg cramps, numbness and blisters.

Frostbite: Is caused by freezing of the skin and tissues. Frostbite can cause permanent damage to the body, and in severe cases, can lead to amputation. The risk of frostbite is increased in people with reduced blood circulation and among people who are not dressed properly for cold temperatures.

Symptoms: Reddened skin develops gray/white patches; tingling, aching, loss of feeling, firm/hard, and blisters may occur in the affected areas.

Hypothermia: Occurs when the normal body temperature drops below 95°F. Exposure to cold temperatures causes the body to lose heat faster than it can be produced. Prolonged exposure to cold will eventually use up the body’s stored energy. The result is hypothermia, or abnormally low body temperature. It most likely occurs at very cold temperatures, but it can occur even at cool temperatures (above 40°F) if a person becomes chilled from rain, sweat, or immersion in cold water.

Symptoms: Moderate to severe symptoms of hypothermia are loss of coordination, confusion, slurred speech, heart rate/breathing slow, unconsciousness and possibly death.

For more information, go to www.osha.gov/dts/weather/winter_weather/windchill.html.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Go Hawkeyes!!!!!

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FUTURE MICA MEETING DATES

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>59th Annual Spring Convention</td>
<td>June 20 — 23, 2016</td>
<td>Chateau on the Lake, Branson, Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2016 Annual Fall Business Meeting</td>
<td>October 19 &amp; 20, 2016</td>
<td>Embassy Suites Downtown, Omaha, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60th Annual Spring Convention</td>
<td>June 19 — 22, 2017</td>
<td>Location under consideration. San Diego, CA, is a possibility. Contact a member of the Board of Directors with your suggestion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2017 Annual Fall Business Meeting</td>
<td>October 18 &amp; 19, 2017</td>
<td>Omaha, NE.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

BOARD SETS DUES AND ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2016

At its October meeting, the Board of Directors of MICA approved MICA’s operating budget for 2016. In its deliberations, the Board voted a zero increase in the annual membership dues for contractor and associate member firms. Advertising rates for 2016 will remain the same as in 2015. The Board is very cognizant of the current state of the economy and wants to keep MICA affordable to all current and prospective members. Annual dues have remained constant for the past three years.

Contractor member annual dues for 2016 are $675.00. The annual dues for associate members is $475.00. The 2016 membership renewal notices have been mailed to the member firms. The advertising contracts will be sent out during the last week in December. If you do not receive one, please contact the MICA office for a copy of the 2016 advertising rates. Advertising in the MICA Messenger continues to be an excellent forum to reach the membership on a monthly basis.

We are anticipating 100% renewals and look forward to your continued participation in MICA in 2016.

2016 STANDARD MILEAGE RATES FOR BUSINESS, MEDICAL AND MOVING ANNOUNCED

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service issued the 2016 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2016, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 54 cents per mile for business miles driven, down from 57.5 cents for 2015.
- 19 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, down from 23 cents for 2015.
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

The business mileage rate decreased 3.5 cents per mile and the medical and moving expense rates decreased 4 cents per mile from the 2015 rates. The charitable rate is based on statute.

The standard mileage rate for business is based on an an-
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annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs.

Taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates.

A taxpayer may not use the business standard mileage rate for a vehicle after using any depreciation method under the Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS) or after claiming a Section 179 deduction for that vehicle. In addition, the business standard mileage rate cannot be used for more than four vehicles used simultaneously.

These and other requirements for a taxpayer to use a standard mileage rate to calculate the amount of a deductible business, moving, medical or charitable expense are in Rev. Proc. 2010-51. Notice 2016-01 contains the standard mileage rates, the amount a taxpayer must use in calculating reductions to basis for depreciation taken under the business standard mileage rate, and the maximum standard automobile cost that a taxpayer may use in computing the allowance under a fixed and variable rate plan.

AREA BUILDER CITED FOR DANGEROUS FALL HAZARDS TWICE IN A MONTH

Twice in a month, the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited a Batavia builder after an OSHA inspector saw employees working on a residential framing project without fall protection. The agency issued two willful and five serious safety citations to Don Bosco LLC on Dec. 17. Proposed penalties total $162,000.

Falls are a leading cause of death for construction workers, accounting for nearly 40 percent of construction fatalities in 2014.

On Aug. 25, 2015, an OSHA inspector observed eight employees doing residential construction in Wheaton. They razed rafters without fall protection, such as guardrails, safety nets or personal fall prevention devices. Further inspection found workers at risk of falls of more than 14 feet due to unguarded floor openings, unguarded windows, and unprotected sides, as they performed sheeting and other residential building activities.

(Continued on page 10)
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The agency’s ongoing Fall Prevention Campaign, which began in 2012, was developed in partnership with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and NIOSH’s National Occupational Research Agenda program. The campaign provides employers with lifesaving information and educational materials on how to prevent falls, provide the right equipment for workers and train employees to use gear properly.

Don Bosco continues to ignore OSHA standards and is failing to protect its employees on the job,” said Jake Scott, OSHA's area director in North Aurora. "OSHA will continue to monitor this employer for compliance, and do everything in its power to keep workers safely out of life-threatening working conditions."

The agency also determined that the company exposed workers to fall hazards by allowing use of stairways and landings without guard rails, and the possibility of electrical shock from damaged extension cords and lack of ground fault circuit interrupters.

OSHA cited the company on Nov. 30, 2015, for similar hazards found on June 23, 2015, and proposed fines of $103,000.

OSHA offers a Stop Falls online resource with detailed information in English and Spanish on fall protection standards. The page provides fact sheets, posters and videos that vividly illustrate various fall hazards and appropriate preventive measures. OSHA standards require that an effective form of fall protection be in use when workers perform construction activities 6 feet or more above the next lower level.

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2016 TAX SEASON OPENS JAN. 19 FOR NATION’S TAXPAYERS

Following a review of the tax extenders legislation signed into law last week, the Internal Revenue Service announced that the nation’s tax season will begin as scheduled on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2016.

The IRS will begin accepting individual electronic returns that day. The IRS expects to receive more than 150 million individual returns in 2016, with more than four out of five being prepared using tax return preparation software and e-filed. The IRS will begin processing paper tax returns at the same time. There is no advantage to people filing tax returns on paper in early January instead of waiting for e-file to begin.

“We look forward to opening the 2016 tax season on time,” IRS Commissioner John Koskinen said. “Our employees have been working hard throughout this year to make this happen. We also appreciate the help from the nation’s tax professionals and the software community, who are critical to helping taxpayers during the filing season.”

As part of the Security Summit initiative, the IRS has been working closely with the tax industry and state revenue departments to provide stronger protections against identity theft for taxpayers during the coming filing season.

The filing deadline to submit 2015 tax returns is Monday, April 18, 2016, rather than the traditional April 15 date. Washington, D.C., will celebrate Emancipation Day on that Friday, which pushes the deadline to the following Monday for most of the nation. (Due to Patriots Day, the deadline will be Tuesday, April 19, in Maine and Massachusetts.)

Koskinen noted the new legislation makes permanent many provisions and extends many others for several years. “This provides certainty for planning purposes, which will help taxpayers and the tax community as well as the IRS,” he said.

The IRS urges all taxpayers to make sure they have all their year-end statements in hand before filing, including Forms W-2 from employers, Forms 1099 from banks and other payers, and Form 1095-A from the Marketplace for those claiming the premium tax credit.

“We encourage taxpayers to take full advantage of the expanding array of tools and information on IRS.gov to make their tax preparation easier,” Koskinen said.

Although the IRS begins accepting returns on Jan. 19, many tax software companies will begin accepting tax returns earlier in January and submitting them to the IRS when processing systems open.

Choosing e-file and direct deposit for refunds remains the fastest and safest way to file an accurate income tax return and receive a refund. The IRS anticipates issuing more than nine out of 10 refunds in less than 21 days. Find free options to get tax help, and to prepare and file your return on IRS.gov or in your community if you qualify. Go to IRS.gov and click on the Filing tab to see your options.

(Continued on page 22)
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The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) offer free tax help to people who qualify. Go to irs.gov and enter “free tax prep” in the search box to learn more and find a VITA or TCE site near you, or download the IRS2Go app on your smart phone and find a free tax prep provider.

The IRS also reminds taxpayers that a trusted tax professional can provide helpful information and advice about the ever-changing tax code. Tips for choosing a return preparer and details about national tax professional groups are available on IRS.gov.

NIA’s 61st Annual Convention and WIACO will include the networking, educational, and entertainment events that you look forward to—incorporating the casual and festive influences of Coastal Florida. Back for 2016 is the biennial Silent Auction, an evening of friendly bidding and fundraising for all Convention attendees.

The Convention theme, Thermal Insulation: Making a Global Difference, will demonstrate that through education and the collective participation of individuals, member companies, and industry associations, we can make a difference in our industry worldwide. NIA looks forward to welcoming attendees from all segments of the mechanical insulation industry to Boca Raton!

In 2016, NIA is hosting WIACO as part of our 61st Annual Convention. This global event is held every 4 years and alternates between Europe and the United States. The European Federation of Associations of Insulation Contractors (FESI) represents insulation associations from 16 European countries whose members are active in the field of technical insulation for the industrial and commercial building sector, ship insulation, soundproofing, and fire protection. NIA is looking forward to welcoming you to Boca Raton, Florida, USA!
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THE PASSING OF C. EDWARD THIESSEN

The MICA family is saddened with the death of Ed Thiessen, MICA’s 27th President in 1983 – 84. Ed and his wife, Carol, were longtime, avid members of MICA. He celebrated his 50th year with MICA in 2013, and we recognized this milestone at our 2013 spring convention in Naples, Florida. Ed and Carol were true ambassadors for MICA and for participating in professional trade associations. Ed was President of MICA the year that Cindy and I were hired to replace Bill and Eleanor Heaston. I remember sitting in the room being interviewed by Ed, Danny Osborn, Bill Mauldin, and Dan Culberg. I was wondering what the world am I getting into with this group. It has been one of our best decisions in Cindy’s and my life. Ed was most supportive of me in those early years and continued to be a confidant and sounding board for me these past 32 years. He will be greatly missed. For those of us who knew Ed, we have a story or two that would fill a book. He did mellow over the 32 years that I knew him, but he never wavered in his love and support of MICA and the MICA family of members. The last couple of years it was difficult for Ed and Carol to attend the spring conventions, but they did make the trek to the Midwest from Sarasota in June to be with us.

I am most proud of the care and support that you, the membership of MICA, showed Ed and Carol each time that they attended a MICA function. From driving Ed in a cart during the golf outing so he could see the action, to escorting him to a local dentist to fix his broken tooth, to visiting Ed and Carol in Florida, you have all expressed your support of one of us, a member of our industry and our association. Your care and love for each other in times of need, putting aside any business competition in the process, is most comforting to see. You are a true family of members.

Carol will be staying in Moline, IL through this holiday time. She will then travel back to Sarasota. You may send cards of sympathy and support to her at Carol Thiessen, 5531 Downham Meadow, Sarasota, FL 34235; e-mail to sakrat101@aol.com. Below is the obituary for Ed.


Services were 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, December 23, 2015, at Trimble Funeral Home in Moline, IL. Burial was in Greenview Memorial Gardens, East Moline. Memorials may be made to Christ United Methodist Church, East Moline, or Harvest United Methodist Church, Sarasota, where he had been a member. Memorials may be sent in care of the funeral home; Trimble Funeral Home, 701 12th Street, Moline IL 61265.

Ed was born May 29, 1934, in Clinton, Iowa, the son of Clarence and Jeanette (Richmond) Thiessen. He married Carol Robyt on May 15, 1970, in Rock Island, Illinois. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War.

Ed owned and operated Thiessen Insulation Co. until retiring in 2000. Prior to that, he had worked for Taylor Insulation, where he was Vice-President. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge #658 in Rock Island, Moline Consistory, Kaaba Shrine, and Meadows Country Club in Sarasota. He was also a member and Past President of both Short Hills Country Club in East Moline, and Midwest Insulation Contractors Association.

He enjoyed golfing, fishing, boating, hunting, and playing Gin Rummy. He was an avid NASCAR fan and die-hard Cubs’ fan. He and his wife enjoyed snowmobiling together for over 30 years.

Ed is survived by his wife, Carol, of Sarasota; siblings and their spouses, Janice and George Sampson of Rosemont, Minnesota, Sharon Searcy of DeWitt, Iowa, Leon and Karen Thiessen of Cleaver, Missouri, Judy and Steve Peterson of Gooselake, Iowa, and Tom and Molly Thiessen of Clinton; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

DODGE MOMENTUM INDEX FALLS IN NOVEMBER

The Dodge Momentum Index fell 3.7% in November to 119.9 (2000=100) from its October reading of 124.5. 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. Previously, the Index had posted large month-to-month increases in July (+4.6%) and September (+4.9%). The loss of momentum seen in October and again in November is returning the Index to a level that’s more consistent with the gentle upward trend in planning activity that began in 2012. The decline in November for the overall Index was the result of a 10.2% slide in commercial planning activity, while projects entering planning in the institutional sector increased by 5.6%.

There were a total of seven projects entering planning in November, each with a value that exceeded $100 million. For the commercial building sector, the leading projects were a $160 million office building in Boston, MA; and a $130 million retail project in Somerville, MA. For the institutional building sector, the leading projects were a $325 million alteration of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, NY; and a $238 million hospital in Chula Vista, CA.

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Source: Dodge Data & Analytics
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