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Fall Meeting Location

2010 NSA Fall Meeting

Oct. 6-7, 2010
Marriott St. Louis Union Station
St. Louis, Missouri

NSA Headquarters

National Sunroom Association
1300 Sumner Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
Telephone: 216-241-7333
Facsimile: 216-241-0105
E-mail: info@nationalsunroom.org.

Association Staff

Craig Addington
Dan Walker
John Addington
Leslie Schraff



MARRIOTT ST. LOUIS UNION STATION HOSTS NSA'S FALL MEETING

Mark Your Calendar! St. Louis is the Gateway City which is both affordable and accessible, and where our distinctive conference hotel for the fall meeting is centrally located. The NSA meeting is scheduled for October 6-7, 2010 at the Marriott St. Louis Union Station in St. Louis, Mo. The Program Planning Committee has been working on the program so NSA members can experience another informative and productive meeting. ☀



Gaumer

New Board Member Elected

Tim Gaumer of Plymouth Foam Inc. was elected to serve as the Affiliate Member on the Board of Directors to fulfill the unexpired term of Frank Beato, Astro Shapes, Inc. Tim is the Business Development Manager in the OEM and Packaging Segment of Plymouth Foam. Tim held the position of General Sales Manager at Pacemaker Plastics which was one of the original affiliate members of the NSA. Plymouth Foam acquired Pacemaker in 2002. Tim has a total combined 18 years experience in the EPS (expanded polystyrene) and Laminated Insulated Panel industry. Tim has an Associate's degree in Architectural Engineering from ITT Technical Institute. ☀

President's Message



I'm wrapping up my final few months as president of the NSA. It's hard to believe I've held this position for three years now! Here are some parting thoughts as I close out my term:

- Being a board member and officer in NSA is not as hard as you might think. Go ahead, take a chance.
- There are a lot of great people in the sunroom industry. It's been my pleasure getting to know them and working alongside them on common causes.
- The folks at Thomas Associates do a great job running our association.
- Sunrooms are fun products that bring joy to our customers' lives. How many times have you been told by your customers, "It's my favorite room in the house!"
- If you find yourself unwinding after a day of meetings at a tavern in some distant city along side a couple of engineers from say, Ireland and South Africa, do yourself a favor and don't try to keep up.
- The value you get from any trade association increases proportionally to the time you put into it. The NSA is no exception.
- You know those evaluation forms that we have you fill out at the end of each meeting? We do read them and use your feedback in planning future meetings.
- The hors d'oeuvres, sodas and continental breakfast at the executive lounge on the 11th floor of the Atlanta Marriott are complimentary when you are staying on the executive floor. The cocktails are not.
- Part way through my term as president of the National Sunroom Association, I took over as president of the Hudson Soccer Association. If you ever heard me refer to the NSA as the HSA, now you know why.
- The technical work we do at NSA is sometimes tedious, often boring, but always important. Dan Walker should be commended for the fine work he does keeping us on track.

I look forward to seeing all of you in St. Louis in October.

Regards,

Tony Bouquot

President, National Sunroom Association

Member Feedback

The NSA office would like your comments and suggestions to make NSA better than ever. If you have a meeting presentation topic, a suggestion for the Web Site, potential member information, or anything that would benefit the NSA, please email association headquarters at info@nationalsunroom.org. ☀

Register for the Meeting

Register for the meeting today! Detailed information to register with the NSA office and make sleeping room reservations is included in the preliminary meeting notice. If you have any questions regarding the meeting, contact the NSA office. ☀

Press Release Highlighting Tax Breaks & Energy Savings

The Marketing Committee developed a press release announcing that tax credits are available through the extension of the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009." Homeowners can receive a tax credit toward the purchase of qualifying roofs, windows, doors, and skylight products. The press release also provided a list of many benefits of a sunroom. The press release was distributed to industry trade journals in June, 2010. ☀

Sneak Preview

Keynote Speaker: Human Resources Best Practices: Don't Lose Your Focus

David Whitlock, Elarbee Thompson



Whitlock

David Whitlock, a Partner with Elarbee Thompson, a management-oriented labor and employment firm is scheduled to give his presentation on Thursday, October 7.

Given today's economic times, many employers are thankful just to stay in business. Unfortunately, for too many employers, these unfortunate economic times have meant that the focus upon HR has slipped. In part because HR and compliance matters can sometimes be viewed as a drain on productivity or profitability, it is often easy to let such issues fall off the radar. That is a huge mistake.

There are positive signs of economic recovery. Employers need to maintain their focus on HR and best practices to take best advantage of opportunities to improve workforce quality and productivity and to avoid a catastrophe that could threaten economic recovery. Join Dave Whitlock for an entertaining, engaging, and practical look at how to implement and maintain HR best practices.

Dave specializes in the area of immigration and nationality law and began practicing in this area of law in 1986. Mr. Whitlock's practice includes extensive visa work, as well as advice regarding compliance with the I-9, discrimination, and document abuse provisions of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 and litigation arising under that statute.

Dave was named a "Georgia Super Lawyer, Immigration" in 2004, was listed in Chambers USA, America's Leading Business Lawyers in 2006, 2009, and 2010, was selected for inclusion in Who's Who Legal Georgia in 2007, and was listed in Best Lawyers in America, 2010. ☀

Sneak Preview



Crandell

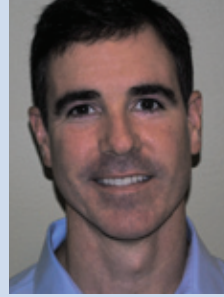
Lateral Bracing Requirements in the I-Codes - How Sunrooms Can Comply

Jay Crandell, ARES Consulting

The Technical Committee will meet on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 6 to review and discuss current projects, codes and standards issues. In addition to the regular meeting, there will be a special three-hour presentation by Mr. Jay Crandell, owner and founder of ARES Consulting. Jay's presentation will cover the lateral bracing requirements of the International Residential and Building Code and will present ideas on how sunrooms can show compliance through the use of alternative engineering methods such as physical testing and/or rational analysis.

Jay has over 19 years of research, engineering, and construction experience and has played a pivotal role in a number of code-related research projects that resulted in advancements in the building codes, standards and construction methods for both traditional and non-traditional building materials. Some of Jay's recent work includes helping to develop the residential steel framing and insulated concrete form provisions of the IRC. He was also instrumental in developing the foam sheathing and vinyl siding wind pressure resistance in the codes, and he has developed and presented numerous IRC wall bracing seminars.

NSA members who attend Mr. Crandell's presentation will receive a certificate with 3.0 Professional Development Hours that can be used toward various state engineering continuing education requirements. ☀



McNulty

Neopor®, Innovation in Insulation

Mike McNulty, BASF

Mike McNulty will present information on Neopor®, a new higher R-value Expandable Polystyrene (EPS) produced by BASF that will support changing insulation demands in the sunroom market.

Mike is the North American Innovation Manager of BASF's Global Foams Business Unit and is responsible for BASF's Foams innovation platform, which includes technical services and business development. Mike earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and Business Management from Assumption College in Worcester, MA. ☀

Legal Issues Affecting Emerging Technology

Barbara F. Dunn, Esq., Attorney and Partner

Barbara Dunn will present information on legal issues affecting emerging technologies. Laws and regulations are catching up with technology. Do you know what your employees are saying about your company in Twitter, Facebook, Linked In, etc. Are employees sharing proprietary information with competitors via email? Does an employer have the right to search an employees computer and email? These topics will be discussed in an open forum with meeting attendees.

Ms. Dunn is a partner at the law firm Howe & Hutton, based in the St. Louis office. Naomi Angel, from Howe & Hutton's Chicago office, serves as legal counsel for NSA. Ms. Dunn will present on the afternoon of October 7. ☀



NSA Technical Spotlight

Revised AAMA/NPEA/NSA 2100 – 2010 Edition

For the past two years, NSA has been working with the American Architectural Manufacturers Association (AAMA) and the National Patio Enclosure Association (NPEA) to revise the AAMA/NPEA/NSA 2100 document, “Specifications for Sunrooms.”

The document was finalized by the three groups, and AAMA posted the document in a public ballot for review starting April 15, 2010. AAMA had previously drafted a code change proposal for the 2012 International Residential Code (IRC) that would have adopted the new AAMA/NPEA/NSA 2100-10 into the IRC similar to what was done in 2004 in the State of Florida code. In order for the AAMA / IRC code proposal to have been successful, the AAMA ballot of the new specification would need to have been completed prior to May 13, 2010 (the start of the 2012 IRC hearings). Unfortunately, the AAMA ballot was not completed in time, so AAMA was forced to withdraw the code change proposal. NSA similarly withdrew a proposal for the 2010 edition of the Florida Building Code for the same reason.

Even though it won’t be referenced in the 2012 IRC or 2010 Florida Code, AAMA, NPEA and NSA accomplished much in collaborating on the updated specification. The specification will be available for voluntary use in specifying and classifying sunrooms, and in some cases jurisdictions may decide to recognize it. Until the next ICC Code Development Hearing (for the 2015 codes), AAMA, NPEA and NSA should continue to promote the use of the document in their own literature and on their websites. In addition, NSA is hoping to sponsor an ICC Educational session or magazine article for building officials to introduce them to the new specification.

The following is a summary of the changes made during the update of the 2100-10 document:

- The title was revised by striking the word “Voluntary,” since it is intended that the document will become mandatory if referenced in building codes or other mandatory standards.
- The language was cleaned up in preparation for building code or standard adoption by removing non-mandatory language.

- The appendix that contained wind load tables was deleted since the building codes already contain this information, which can vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.
- Fiber-reinforced thermoset products have been included.
- The codes and standards referenced in the specification have been updated.
- A number of new definitions appear, and previous definitions have been updated for consistency with other fenestration standards.
- All five sunroom categories were updated, including the design requirements that apply for each. In particular, Category IV Sunrooms still maintain thermal isolation, but are no longer considered habitable space.
- The fenestration structural performance criteria, water-penetration resistance, and air infiltration resistance values have been updated per AAMA/WDMA/CSA 101/I.S.2/A440-08.
- The forced entry resistance requirements have been removed.
- Wind loads on sunroom structures are clarified so that component and cladding pressures are used for the design of elements that do not qualify as part of the main wind force resisting system.
- Roof live load requirements have been removed from the document, and replaced with a reference to the local code or IRC Appendix H (Patio Covers).
- Aluminum glazing bar deflection criteria has been added to match the successful NSA I-Code proposal on this topic.
- Electrical outlet requirements now reference NFPA 70 Article 314. Category I, II and III Sunrooms are now clearly exempt from these electrical outlet requirements.

When completed, we expect the revised AAMA/NPEA/NSA 2100-2010 will be available as a download for \$25.00 (\$10.00 for AAMA members) from <http://www.aamanet.org> or \$50.00 for a paper copy (\$20.00 for AAMA members). Please contact the NSA Office if you have any questions or comments about the above information. ☀

Legal Tips on Notable Topics

By Naomi Angel, NSA Legal Counsel

YOUR COMPANY'S "PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS" IS --- WHERE?

The U.S. Supreme Court recently held that a corporation's "principal place of business" for purposes of federal diversity jurisdiction is where its "nerve center," i.e., its headquarters, is located. For corporations incorporated in one state, headquartered in another, and with its principal facilities or site of its principal economic activities in a third state, the Court's decision brings long-needed clarity for purposes of determining whether a federal court in each of the three states has diversity jurisdiction over a lawsuit removed from state court to a federal court by a party, typically a defendant. Federal courts will now have one rule instead of a variety of rules depending on federal appellate circuit rules where a lawsuit is filed.

The decision involved Hertz Corporation which was sued in California, the state where it does the most business. Hertz is incorporated in Delaware and headquartered in New Jersey. Under the Court's decision Hertz is a citizen of Delaware where it is incorporated and New Jersey where its "nerve center" is, but not California even though it does more business there than any other state, so Hertz could remove a class action there from state to federal court. If your company is incorporated in one state and has its headquarters in another state, and has significant or even its principal activity in a third state, this Supreme Court decision could directly affect your corporation if it were sued in state court in that third state.

MASSACHUSETTS DATA PRIVACY LAW TAKES EFFECT

Effective March 1st, a Massachusetts data privacy law requires businesses collecting "personal information" on Massachusetts residents in connection with the provision of goods or services to adopt a written security program and implement computer system security. The law also applies to out-of-state entities collecting certain information. Third-parties handling protected information must also be contractually obligated to maintain security measures. "Personal information," for purposes of the new regulations, is defined to include a resident's first and last names, or first initial and last name, held in combination with (a) a Social Security number, (b) a driver's license or other state-issued identification number, or (c) a financial account number or debit or credit card number. Many states have data privacy laws, and the federal government has "Red Flag Rules" set to take effect this year. But the new Massachusetts regulations are especially strict and detailed, and will probably serve as a model to other states. Penalties for violations start at \$5,000 and can escalate quickly.

Some businesses maintain more personal information than may be necessary for employees, customers, suppliers, vendors, and others. The new Massachusetts regulations should cause you to review your policies, because the value of maintaining unnecessary information may not equal the hassle of compliance with new data protection laws.



Angel

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE IT ON A LARGE SCREEN, DON'T E-MAIL IT!

Corporate clients and their lawyers have nightmares over e-mails sent by employees which can come back to haunt their employers in litigation matters. Just days before Toyota Motor Corporation announced its massive recall, a recently retired company executive sent an internal email: "We need to come clean" about accelerator problems. "We are not protecting our customers by keeping this quiet...the time to hide on this one is over." Employees say things via e-mail that they might say in conversation at the office without much forethought and without recognition that their words are all but etched in electronic stone. Employees including executives simply fail to consider that off-handed comments can and do matter, and even when deleted, still can be traced by forensic software. Among other problems, off-handed comments taken out of context and seen online and printed out look devastating.

Remind your employees that e-mails and other electronic communications are not private, and are very much subject to discovery in the course of litigation. If you don't want to see it in bold-faced print in the national news media or on a large screen before a jury, don't e-mail it. E-mails linger in the computer's memory for years and years and years – and are subject to disclosure at the most disconcerting times.

ARE YOUR JOB INTERVIEWS INVITING A LAWSUIT?

Desperate times sometimes encourage desperate—and illegal—measures. In a troubled economy, employers can unwittingly invite a lawsuit by asking off-limits questions during an employment interview. Discrimination-based decisions are prohibited by federal and state law and are enforced by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and various state agencies.

Make sure your interviewers stay away from questions about age, religion, marital status, family, race, national origin, health, etc. Focus on the person's ability to perform the requirements of the job. In a market when job applicants are desperate, lawsuits are more likely when applicants perceive they are being denied a position for reasons other than their ability to perform the job. Such perceptions, right or wrong, can lead to claims of discrimination. And in litigation, even winning is usually costly and time-consuming.

These articles are provided solely for informational purposes and do not constitute legal advice. If you have specific questions or concerns about a legal issue, consult your company's legal counsel for guidance. ☀