

Doug Carr

From: Doug Carr [lacey@glhba.ccsend.com] on behalf of Doug Carr [doug@glhba.org]
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2010 4:38 PM
To: Doug Carr
Subject: Unions Digging In With PLAs

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The Tool Box

A Weekly Publication for Members & Friends
 February 1, 2010



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**Don't Miss The
Next Monthly
Meeting!**

Dear Doug,

Project Labor Agreements & Prevailing Wage Policies Are Not The Answer!

In our challenging economy the unions seem to be digging in to protect their pay in any way they can. One of the ways they do that is through Project Labor Agreements (PLAs.) Before I give you the latest, let's explain a PLA.

Under the National Labor Relations Act workers have the right to choose to unionize. The vast majority (80%) choose not to.

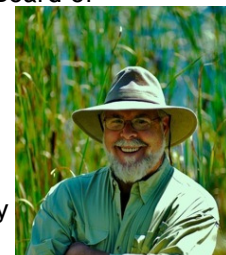


Because of that fact, unionized labor asks local governments to help out by imposing the use of unionized labor on government projects through PLAs. A PLA requires all contractors whether unionized or not to subject themselves to unionization in order to complete government funded projects. In

order for a non-union firm to obtain a government contract it must receive a contract (a PLA) from an organized union and subject its employees to union control.

First Ingham County, Now Others...

A couple of months ago the Ingham County Board of Commissioners worked on and eventually implemented a policy requiring PLAs. Now, Delta Township is working on enacting a prevailing wage policy on projects bid out by the township over \$25,000. In addition, the Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann, following the lead of the County





**Tuesday
February 9
Carter Lumber
16700 S. U.S.
27
Lansing**

**How To Get
More
Remodeling
Business!**
(Preview of the
Feb. 16 Seminar)

**Dinner
Served
At 5:30 PM!**

\$5 Members
\$15 Non-Members

[RSVP Here!](#)

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Reason To Be A
Member of the
GLHB&RA!**

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Hoffman**

Board, is implementing his own policy requiring PLAs on projects over \$50,000. No doubt, other local government entities will begin following suit given the influence of unions in our region.

PLA's Only Increase Costs

Whether it's a PLA or a Prevailing Wage Policy, the net effect on the community is the same. Studies by the [Mackinac Center For Public Policy](#) and others have shown that when contractors use PLAs and are forced to pay prevailing wages (that are 40-60% higher,) it increases construction costs by 10-15%. Guess who pays it? The taxpayer. It's easy for government to simply bow to the unions and pass these regulations when a third party picks up the tab. But how does this help lower costs at a time when Michigan local governments should be making cuts?

A Larger Perspective

President Bush recognized these higher cost to the nation when he was in office and signed an order prohibiting federal agencies and others from receiving aid for construction projects if PLAs were used. In addition several states have enacted legislation prohibiting PLAs on government projects. So while the rest of the country "gets it," Michigan seems to continue in the opposite direction. It's time that all of us (including our union friends) grapple with the fact that state and local governments and our workforce are framed around an economic reality that no longer exists! We've lost hundreds of thousands of jobs and employment is not expected to reach the previous peak (in 2000) until 2025! Further, Michigan's No Worker Left Behind retraining program has a waiting list of 16,000 people and of the workers trained so far, only 48% have found a job.

The Greater Lansing Home Builders & Remodelers do not support more PLAs and prevailing wage policies. What we would suggest is that local governments simply require the use of "local" contractors to do their projects. Let union and non-union contractors bid competitively without a forced PLA. This puts everyone on a level playing field. PLAs are not an answer to our economic woes. In fact, they only worsen the problem. What do you think? E-mail me any time:
doug@glhba.org.

Doug

CEO, GLHB&RA
Doug@glhba.org

Upcoming Events:

(Click on the links below to RSVP!)

Feb 4-5 MAHB Remodeler Workshop, Clare, MI

Feb 9 Monthly Meeting Preview of the Feb 16 Get More Remodeling Business, Carter Lumber, 5:30 PM Cost \$5 [RSVP Here](#)

Feb 11 MAHB Board Meeting, Lansing, Causeway Bay

Feb 16 [Get More Remodeling Business](#) By taking advantage of

**for Details
517-285-4345**

[Click Here For Details](#)

Congratulations Big Buck Contest Winners!



Archery

1st: Jeff Faustman
2nd: Dennis Forsberg
3rd: Dale Bailey

Firearm

1st: Ken Dickinson
2nd: Dale Bailey
3rd: Ed Whitcomb

Youth

1st: Damon Brandon
2nd: Andrew
Manning
3rd: John Causie

Thank You Wild Game Dinner Sponsors!

the coming wave of energy incentives & financing. 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM, Lyman Sheets Insurance Agency, **FREE** (for members) Feb 25 Monthly Meeting & Home Show Preview, The Nuthouse sports Grill, 420 E Michigan Ave, Lansing
Feb 26 - Feb 28 Home Building & Remodeling Show, Lansing Center

Big Turnout For Wild Game Dinner Fills Night With Food, Fun, Prizes!

Nearly 250 people came out for a night of fun and prizes at the 12th Annual Wild Game Dinner. 24 tables each valued at over \$800 were raffled off to lots of lucky winners. In addition several thousand dollars worth of guns and archery equipment were also raffled. There were cash prizes for three winners in each of three categories: Archery, Firearm, and Youth. (See Winner list in sidebar on left.) Everyone who attended was treated to a special wild game dinner that included Lake Perch, Elk, Venison, Pheasant and Rabbit. It was a special night for all who attended. Special thanks to all of the Committee members Sponsors and all who helped to make the night a lasting memory!



More Opportunity for Remodelers On The Way in 2010!

There's a whole lot of money coming from several different sources to encourage people to upgrade their homes. The goal is to boost energy efficiency in all homes--new and existing--to a level that will begin to save energy on a national scale.



The sources of money vary from utility rebates to state and national governments. Some of the programs will provide sources of financing for the projects through local banks. Most require remodelers to be "certified" in order to participate. There are several different programs that will be explained at a **FREE** (for GLHB&RA members) seminar on Feb 16 from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Location: Lyman Sheets Insurance, 2213 E Grand River, Lansing, MI. In addition, **there will be a short preview of what will be covered at the monthly meeting on February 9th at Carter Lumber.** To RSVP for the Feb 16 seminar e-mail_doug@glhba.org.

Bernero To Speak At MAHB Board Meeting On February 11 In Lansing!

The Michigan Association of Home Builders (MAHB) is scheduled to be held on Thursday, February 11 at the Causeway Bay Hotel in Lansing. The registration fee has been reduced to \$30 if paid before Feb 1. the meeting will begin at 7:30 AM with a full day of committee





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 The Reverse
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 Materials

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 Arrowhead Homes
 CertainTeed
 Roofing
 Hanneman & Fineis
 Concrete
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 Well Drilling
 MSU Demmer
 Shooting Ctr.

and caucus meetings to be held throughout the day. Mayor, Virg Bernero, of Lansing has announced his candidacy for Governor and has been invited to speak to the MAHB Board. He has confirmed that he will attend and speak if he is still in the race on February 11th. All GLHB&RA members are invited to attend. The Board meeting begins at 3:45 PM. A Registration Form can be found on the [MAHB Web site](#). Or contact Pam at 517-322-0224.

Thank You MSU-FCU! *2010 Parade Of Homes Sponsor!*



Home Building & Remodeling Show
Opens At the Lansing Center
In Less Than Sixty Days!

Home Building & Remodeling Show Nearly **90%** Full At Lansing Center!

If you plan to be in the newly relocated Home Building & Remodeling Show at the Lansing Center, **NOW** is the time to reserve your booth space. The show is nearly 85% full! The show weekend promises to be exciting. GLHB&RA will be



partnering on promotions with a Golf Show in the next hall the same weekend! Attendees will have access to both shows with a discounted joint ticket. The show will be held the weekend of Feb 26th through the 28th. Contracts for the show can be [downloaded from the website](#) along with a copy of the [floorplan of booth locations](#). Contact [Lacey](#) for more information today: 517-323-3254.

Special Advertising Offer for Exhibitors In The Home Building & Remodeling Show:

Exhibitors should be sure to take advantage of this special advertising offer from Channel 10! For just \$150 the first 10 exhibitors that sign up this month can take advantage of a personalized 10 second spot to be placed on the end of GLHB&RA's 20 second TV ads promoting the show on WILX Channel 10. To take advantage of this offer, contact Debbie Petersmark at 517-393-0110 or 517-819-2461, [or click on this link!](#)



Oade, Stroude &
Kleiman

***Thank You
For Making
The Wild
Game Dinner
A Success
2010!***

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