



MASFA Newsletter

October 13, 2009
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Mid-Atlantic Steel Framing Alliance Mission

The mission of the Mid-Atlantic Steel Framing Alliance is to promote and encourage the use of light-gauge steel framing in residential and commercial construction through a diverse membership of industry partners to foster, develop and sustain the steel framing infrastructure.

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MASFA Membership

Membership in MASFA is open to any entity with a business interest in light-gauge steel framing, including:

Material Suppliers
Manufacturers
Fabricators
Contractors
Builders
Sub-Contractors
Developers
Architects
Engineers
Code Officials
Educators

President's Report

I would like everyone to take a minute to consider what MASFA is all about. It was started in the Fall of 2000 for the purpose of training, educating, testing and distributing the latest technology for cold-formed (light gauge) products, tools and fasteners in residential and commercial construction in the Mid-Atlantic region.

MASFA was started by a group of dedicated people who represented many different facets of the cold-formed industry. These people became the Board of Directors for

MASFA and have guided its progress over the subsequent years. Our general membership, made up of companies and individuals also from all facets of the industry, has had its peaks and valleys over the years. But we have maintained a dedicated group of Directors to guide MASFA through the many ups and downs in the industry over the last nine years. Even in today's tough economic times, MASFA is continuing its mission. We continue to provide cold-formed educational seminars for architects, engineers, contractors,

suppliers, distributors, code officials and are in the process of developing a new seminar for developers. In addition, we provide funding for research and development, sponsor quarterly informational meetings, monitor and report on new products and developments and sponsor general membership meetings each year.

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Industry Update

In commercial construction, almost every job utilizes some form of cold-formed materials. Most commercial jobs utilize drywall metals. Today, many jobs utilize heavy gauge for curtain wall and/or load bearing work. But, we are seeing that more jobs include cold-formed steel trusses, floor joists and new specialty items. In truth, the cold-formed steel content in commercial buildings is increasing. In some cases, cold-formed steel has become the major structural support

system for the building.

We all have heard about how soft the current housing market is and no one seems to know when and how fast it will come back. But, there can be real opportunity for cold-formed steel once the housing recovery begins. The "Green" movement will cause builders to consider including more recyclable materials in their homes. Cold-formed steel is a recyclable material that should get a lot of consideration. Also, consumers will probably be product conscious and

looking for green homes that are quality built. Cold-formed steel products proved to many home builders that they can provide a better fit and finish with fewer after sale problems than wood. In short, cold-formed steel can help them build a superior product.

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Our Sponsors



President's Report

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In 2009, our general membership declined. We believe this decline was due to the downturn in the economy and slowdown in construction in the Mid-Atlantic region. We understand that when construction has a downturn, everyone must consider their expenses and try to conserve. However, there will be an upturn in construction in the not-distant future. Considering the push for Green building and pent up demand for additional facilities, a much-improved construction market for cold-formed materials should not be far off. I would like to urge all firms and individuals involved with cold-formed framing to seriously consider joining our

general membership to help MASFA make cold-formed building technologies the most important part of the next construction cycle. Your MASFA membership dues help support our mission and benefit you by expanding applications for cold-formed products.

Our next General Membership meeting will be held on October 21, 2009. It is one of our quarterly educational dinner events focusing on the economy in our area and how it is affecting the construction industry. Please consider attending this event even if you are not currently a MASFA member. It is a great opportunity to network with other members of the industry, as well as learn a

thing or two that can help make your business prosper. Perhaps you may even consider joining MASFA as a general member in 2010 to help us help you. For more information on this event, please see the attached flyer or visit our website at www.masfa.com.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Klaimen, PE
2009 President, MASFA



Job Feature

As a job feature, I choose the Station Car Wash in Leesburg, Virginia, my home town. It was originally built several years ago with brick, block and wood trusses. Early this summer, my wife and I were sitting on our back deck when she noticed thick black smoke rising in the air. We heard the sirens and knew there was a fire but couldn't tell exactly where. Later that evening we heard the fire was at the Station Car Wash. The following day we drove by and observed the entire roof of the main facility

was disintegrated by the fire. As far as I know, the cause of the blaze was an electrical problem. It was a thriving business that had been recently honored by the town. The owner decided to rebuild on a fast track basis. But, instead of wood trusses he decided to use cold-formed steel trusses for what I imagine are obvious reasons. I watched as the new steel trusses were installed over a two week period. The main facility has a large roof system with a variety of projections and slopes. The cold-

formed steel trusses, fire rated plywood and felt were completely installed in about three weeks. At this time the project is only about six to eight weeks from completion and I'm looking forward to getting my vehicles cleaned there once the weather turns cooler.

Ed Daigneau



Industry Update

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The Steel Framing Alliance continues to nationally promote cold-formed steel for use in both residential and commercial building. To date, they have had some success in certain areas of the country with residential but they have had a

broader national impact on using cold-formed steel in multi-family and low-rise construction. SFA continues to promote the use of cold-formed steel in both residential and commercial construction and perhaps, in the not to distant future,

there could be a significant shift from wood to steel in the residential market.

MASFA Events

MASFA has hosted two educational dinner seminars so far this year as part of its ongoing mission to promote and perpetuate the use of cold-formed steel framing in today's construction industry. The first of these seminars focused on the current movement towards green building in the construction industry and the role that cold-formed steel framing has to play in going green. Maribeth Rizzuto, the Steel Framing Alliance's (SFA) Director of Education and Sustainable Construction presented to the audience of contractors, engineers and product manufacturers the best way to qualify their next project as green by reviewing the requirements of today's latest green building standards and guidelines. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), the National

Green Building Standard and Green Globes were all discussed.

The second seminar of the year revolved around the issue of fire and acoustic requirements and detailing of cold-formed steel construction. The Gypsum Associations Executive Director, Michael Gardner spoke on the reasons why gypsum is fire-resistive, how gypsum and steel stud assemblies are tested and evaluated, as well as how to properly construct these assemblies in the field without compromising their fire and sound ratings.

MASFA also held its annual social event, which gives its members a chance to network and interact in a more relaxed setting. This year's event was A Day at the Races, held at Laurel Race Track. The event was very well attended, with members and guests enjoying food and drink, as well as a

private betting assistant who educated all on the ins and outs of wagering at the track. A lucky ten guests also got to go down track side and have their photos taken with the winning horse.

MASFA's next dinner event is scheduled for October 21, at Maggiano's in Tyson's Corner, VA. Professor John McClain of George Mason University will speak on the current economic status of our area, what the future economic forecast holds and just how it will affect the construction industry.



Prof. John McClain

MASFA Board of Directors

President: Jeff Klaiman - Adtek Engineers

Vice President: Kevin Scott - Super Stud

Treasurer: Nader Elhadj - Frame Cad Solutions

Secretary: Andrew DeRenzis - NAHB Research Center

Member: Thomas Yority - PCI

Member: Samuel Harris - Hilti

Member: Peter Jacobs - Capitol Bldg. Supply

Member: Michael O'Neill - Steel Network

Member: Edward Daigneau - Retired



Upcoming Events:

- Quarterly Dinner Meeting: *Local Construction Economy – Is a Recovery Dawning?*

Oct. 21, 2009
Maggiano's, Tysons Corner, VA

www.masfa.com/events.html