



NSCB Horizons



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Please Note: NSCB does not endorse or sponsor any association-related updates contained within this newsletter unless otherwise noted.

A Message from NSCB's Chairman



Kevin Burke

As the Contractors Board enters its fourth quarter of the fiscal year, discussions of next year's strategic planning initiatives and legislative direction for the upcoming 2013 session are at center stage.

Board members met with the executive staff in March to begin setting the goals and direction for 2012-2013. The meeting highlighted the commitment of the Board to continue identifying ways to improve our public awareness and enforcement efforts relative to unlicensed contracting, enhance partnering initiatives to result in improved outcomes for the industry, and identify innovative strategies to consider for a variety of Board operations.

Additionally, the Board is focused on working with the industry to prioritize legislative ideas for the upcoming legislative session. We understand changes or additions to current laws

in our industry can be both a positive and negative experience for contractors in the field. It is our intent to facilitate open meetings with the industry to best understand your concerns, listen to and discuss your suggestions, and ultimately put forward legislation that we can all support.

I encourage you to frequent our website and make note of when these discussions are scheduled so that you have the opportunity to share your thoughts with us. Our meetings are held in both our Reno and Henderson offices via video conference.

Improvements to our industry cannot come to fruition without each of us doing our part as individuals and joining together as a collective whole to make change possible. On behalf of the Board, we look forward to doing our part and working with each of you in the coming months to achieve this objective.

NSCB Takes Aim at Unlicensed Contractors



Margi A. Grein
Executive Officer
NSCB

It goes without saying that the underground economy being driven by unlicensed contractors is a matter that continues to challenge the Board and the industry as a whole. While this reality may never change, we at the Board are continually exploring and implementing new strategies with the intent of having a greater impact on reducing the exposure of unlicensed activities among Nevada homeowners.

The Board recently made some internal staffing changes, placing one criminal investigator from Southern Nevada in the field full-time to proactively search for and cite unlicensed contracting activities. The intent behind this change is not to solely follow up on leads from homeowners or the industry, but to take the initiative to visit jobsites they come across, verify the work being done is lawful, and ensure all contractors on-site are licensed. Since implementing this change at the end of March, cases have increased 100 percent. In Northern Nevada, two investigators are out in the field part-time three days a week conducting similar efforts throughout many of the rural areas. While this is only one effort being made internally, we hope to see an increase in the number of cases opened, as well as improved outcomes relative to convictions.

What many contractors do not realize is that the Board is not responsible for carrying out the outcome of a conviction. Once evidence against an unlicensed contractor is compiled, the Board submits the case to the appropriate District Attorney (DA) for prosecution. It is their jurisdiction to make a determination in the case. The Board has been actively reaching out to and partnering with various DAs in the state to make improvements to the flow of information and ensure DAs understand the severe implications unlicensed contracting has on homeowners as well as the industry.

Additional efforts include partnering with industry associations on reporting unlicensed contracting activities as well as educating the public about the importance of hiring licensed contractors. We know the task of eliminating the underground economy may be daunting, which is why we have made partnering a priority this past year and will continue to do so in the months to come. The Board welcomes ideas, solutions, and strategic partnerships from the industry to address this growing and very prevalent issue. We know there are still many opportunities to explore and innovative approaches to test, and we remain committed to protecting the interests of the public and industry alike to best ensure a level playing field and the upmost protections for Nevada homeowners.

*****SAVE TIME*****

Renew & update your license ONLINE

**Your time is valuable
REGISTER your license TODAY
in the convenience of your home or office!**



- 1. Go to www.nscb.nv.gov, click on Online Services then Main Menu**
2. Select New Registration at the bottom of the screen, and complete the *User Registration* form
3. Click on *Return* on the Temporary Password screen, then go to your e-mail to retrieve your temporary password
4. Re-do the first step (in bold) and enter your User ID (e-mail address) and temporary password
5. Reset your password in the Update Default Registration Information screen

Your registration is now complete!

With Online Services, You Can:
Renew your contractor's license
Update contact information
Check the status of your application
Make your renewal payment online

If you have any questions, please contact:

Southern Nevada Office: (702) 486-1100

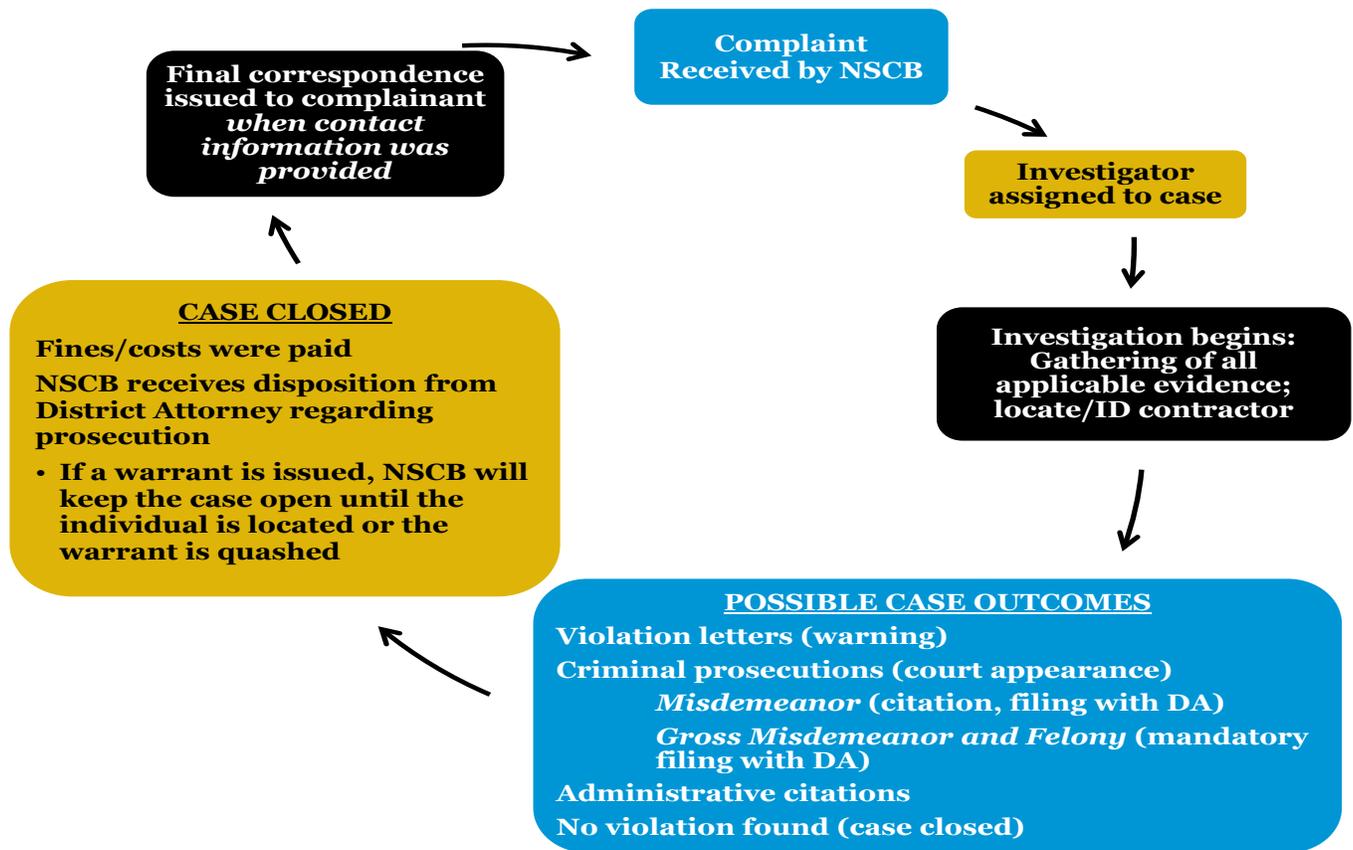
Northern Nevada Office: (775) 688-1141

Federal Government Encourages Use of E-Verify Program

E-Verify is a program established by Congress in 1997 as part of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to verify eligibility of both U.S. citizens and noncitizens at no charge to employers. Learn more about the program by visiting

www.uscis.gov/everify

Addressing Unlicensed Contracting: An Overview of NSCB Efforts



Understanding the Role of Each Agency

- NSCB is responsible for investigating each complaint/lead and gathering evidence relative to the case. Upon review of the evidence, the complaint is found valid or invalid. If warranted, the case may be submitted for prosecution to the District Attorney. If valid, the unlicensed contractor may be prosecuted and required to pay fines and/or investigative costs.
- The **District Attorney** has final authority on whether the case prepared and submitted by NSCB is to be prosecuted. If charges are filed by the DA, the investigator will be subpoenaed to court to testify on his findings. The final outcome of each case rests in the hands of the court.

Current Efforts by NSCB to Identify & Stop Unlicensed Activity

- Every complaint and/or lead provided to NSCB is assigned to an investigator and a case is immediately opened for further gathering of evidence
- Daily search of Craigslist and other print advertising
- Weekly proactive sweeps by investigators locating and citing unlicensed activity
- Messaging to consumers on how to report unlicensed activities
- Collaborating with industry associations on reporting unlicensed activity

Challenges with Investigating & Prosecuting Unlicensed Contractors

- Lack of information – unable to track down individual
- Phone number only point of contact – Unable to secure a physical meeting
- Caseload of partnering agencies may delay prosecution timeframe
- Lack of cooperation from homeowners hiring unlicensed individuals
- Lack of tangible evidence (proposal, contract/invoice, bid, record of payment) necessary for the case file

HELP STOP UNLICENSED CONTRACTING

Unlicensed Contractor Awareness Campaign

This program was developed by NSCB to help licensed contractors take-a-stand against unlicensed contractors. By participating in the campaign, licensed contractors distribute and display NSCB brochures, along with a laminated poster, in their business to help educate homeowners about the dangers of hiring unlicensed contractors.

Many licensed contractors statewide have requested these informational packets, which include samples of brochures, an Unlicensed Contractor Hotline card to report unlicensed contractors, handouts and a laminated "Unlicensed Contractor Awareness" poster.

To request an informational packet, send your name, company's name, license number, address and phone number via e-mail to:

Ranya Botros
Public Information Assist.
rbotros@nscb.state.nv.us



Volunteer Your Home As a Sting House

NSCB is always looking for members of the industry and/or community to volunteer their homes for a one-day use by NSCB investigators. Efforts such as this help the Board locate and cite unlicensed contractors on-the-spot, which leads to criminal convictions as can be seen on page 16.

Sting houses typically show evidence that work needs to be done, such as fire damaged homes, landscaping issues, painting/flooring, etc. If you have a house that you would like to volunteer for a sting operation, please contact:

Southern Nevada
Julio Sabates
(702) 486-1137
jsabates@nscb.state.nv.us

Northern Nevada
Fred Schoenfeldt
(775) 850-7884
fschoenf@nscb.state.nv.us

Reporting Unlicensed Contracting Activity

When reporting unlicensed contracting activities, the more information you can provide the Board, the more efficient the investigation process will be for Board investigators. Below is a checklist of informational items to prepare when submitting a complaint and/or tip to the Board:

Advertising Complaints:

- Individual's and/or business name
- Copy of and/or link to advertisement - ***ad must show unlawful scope of work***
- All contact information available for individual
- Any additional details regarding your interaction with unlicensed individual
- Your name and contact information

Working w/o a License Complaints:

- Exact location where work is being performed
- Description of work being performed
- Any evidence that individual is unlicensed (pictures, documentation, etc.)
- Individual's and/or business name
- All contact information available
- Your name and contact

NSCB Partners with California Contractor Licensing Board for 2nd Annual Joint Sting Event

NSCB joined forces with the California Contractors State License Board (CSLB) to conduct the second annual simultaneous enforcement operation on May 16, 2012, sending 11 people to court in El Dorado County, California and five in Douglas County, Nevada, for contracting without a license and related violations of home improvement contracting law. The sting operations were conducted at a single family home in the Tallac Park area of South Lake Tahoe, California while the other was in a vacant business property at a Stateline, Nevada strip mall.

In both operations, investigators from CSLB's Statewide Investigative Fraud Team (SWIFT) and the Nevada Board posed as property owners who were seeking bids for carpentry, painting, and landscaping. Some of the SWIFT investigators observed the Nevada operation, as did Nevada investigators at the California sting. Suspects who bid more than the legal limit for labor and materials were issued a notice to appear (NTA) in superior court.



Individuals on probation for theft and burglary were among those who bid on the Lake Tahoe area projects. Michael D. Abbey, who bid on a painting job at the California sting site, was on probation for theft. Eric James Brown, who bid on cabinetry work at the South Lake Tahoe house, was accompanied by Tyson McKenrick. DCA investigators transported McKenrick to jail for a probation violation on a prior burglary conviction.

Law enforcement backup was provided at the California sting site by the El Dorado County District Attorney's Office and the Department of Consumer Affairs' Division of Investigations.

The following suspects will be arraigned at the El

Dorado County Superior Court's South Lake Tahoe Branch, and will be contacted later about their future court date:

VIOLATIONS

Contracting without a license (CWL); illegal advertising:

- Ruben Zavala Gonzalez (landscaping)
- Oscar Rojas Segura (landscaping)
- Juan Manuel Lopez Gomez (landscaping)
- John Michael Troccoli (painting)
- Eric James Brown (framing & rough carpentry)
- Juan Carlos Martinez-Munoz (painting)
- Michael D. Abbey (painting) *on probation for theft
- Andrew James Bowen (framing & rough carpentry)
- John Thomas Saites (painting)
- Alonzo Sanchez-Ruelas (landscaping)
- Daniel Allen Brown (framing & rough carpentry) *CWL only

The following suspects were cited in the Nevada sting operation:

VIOLATIONS

Contracting without a license (CWL); illegal advertising:

- Sean Hilla, Amazing Handyman Services (painting & carpentry) *CWL only
- Michael Gonzales (painting & carpentry)
- Edward Polaske, Tahoe Technicians (carpentry) *CWL only
- Dan Chandler, Top-Notch Home Repairs (electrical & plumbing)
- Micky McFarren (carpet & carpentry)



PHCC Launches “Industry Watch” Program; Encourages Other Associations to Do the Same

In April 2012, the Plumbing, Heating, Cooling Contractors (PHCC) Association launched an “Industry Watch” program in partnership with NSCB in an effort to engage PHCC members to actively report unlicensed contracting activities in the field. What makes this program unique is the structure PHCC established to help streamline the flow and reporting of information from its members to NSCB.

Working with NSCB, PHCC provided its members a checklist of informational items to gather when reporting unlicensed activities. Once a member reports information to the Industry Watch Committee, the Committee compiles it and forwards it directly to an NSCB investigator. In return, NSCB provides the Committee with status updates on the complaints that have been filed so PHCC members can see the fruits of their labors at work.

PHCC encourages associations in every trade to take the initiative to establish similar partnerships with NSCB and begin making the reporting of unlicensed contractor activity a priority. It will be the collective efforts of the entire industry to truly begin making a difference in the underground economy being created by unlicensed contractors. PHCC extends its assistance in helping answer any questions associations may have about establishing a program of their own, or to inquire about additional joint efforts within the industry.

**Please note that Industry Watch is a program solely for PHCC members to report information to and is not currently open to contractors outside the association.

A poster for the "Industry Watch" program. At the top left is the NSCB logo with "PHCC by" written below it. To the right, "INDUSTRY WATCH" is written in large, bold, blue letters. Below this, the word "Help" is written in large red letters, followed by a red octagonal "STOP" sign. To the left of the "STOP" sign is a red circle with a diagonal slash over the words "UNLICENSED CONTRACTORS" in black. To the right of the "STOP" sign, the text "Required Info:" is written in red, followed by a list of items: "Location of work", "If residential or commercial", "Number of workers on site", "Vehicle company name", "License plate #", "Scope of work", and "Does work require permit?". Below this list, the text "REPORT@PHCCNV.com" is written in large red letters. To the right of this is the slogan "Together We Can Make a Difference!" in red. Below the slogan is a small image of a white van. At the bottom, the text "PLUMBING | HEATING | COOLING" is written in blue, followed by "CONTRACTORS OF NEVADA" in red. To the right of this is the NSCB logo.

CHECKLIST FOR REPORTING UNLICENSED ACTIVITIES:

- Location of work being performed
- Identifying if work is residential or commercial
- Number of workers on site
- Contact information of workers/company, including, but not limited to name, address, phone, website, etc.
- Vehicle license plate numbers
- Scope of work being performed
- Any supporting documentation
- Does the work require a permit?

Customized Courses and Training Offered by Great Basin College



Great Basin College serves 62,000 square miles, two time zones and six of Nevada's largest rural counties. If you need workforce education in rural Nevada, contact GBC!

GBC offers academic credit courses at various times for you and your employees. Courses currently in session include:

- *Intro. to PowerPoint (Ely)*
- *Intro. to Word (Elko)*
- *Intro. to Excel (Elko)*
- *Intro. to PowerPoint (Elko)*
- *Intro. to Excel 5.0 for Windows (Pahrump)*



Check our full course schedule at **www.gbcnv.edu** for online and summer course offerings or call (775) 753-2184 for information in Elko; (775) 727-2000 in Pahrump; and (775) 289-3589 in Ely.

In addition to delivering associate and bachelor degrees throughout rural Nevada, GBC provides customized workforce and professional development opportunities for individuals, businesses and non-profits in Elko, Humboldt, Lander, Eureka, White Pine and Nye counties.

GBC Office of Continuing Education offers non-credit, customized courses for groups of 10 or more in the following areas:

- Business Computer Applications
- Technical Writing
- Effective Business Writing & E-mail Communication
- CPR Certification
- Customer Service Training
- Healthcare Provider Training and Nursing CEUs
- Spanish in the Workplace

Classes can be offered on-site at your location or in state-of-the-art facilities on the various GBC campuses. Days, dates and times can be scheduled at times most convenient for your employees.

The most popular customized training is a series of Microsoft Office 2010 computer courses that help employees sharpen their skills in Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Access, Project and Visual Basic. As businesses upgrade to Office 2010, it is helpful for employees to get hands-on training to learn the new toolbars and features.

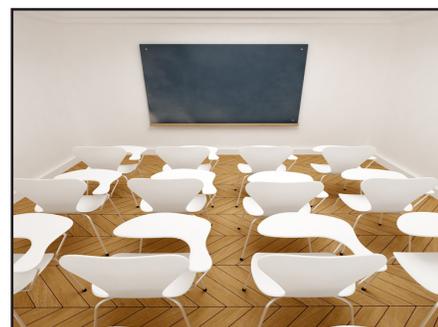
For further information on customized classes and pricing, please contact Angie de Braga, MEd, Director of Continuing Education and Community Outreach, at (775) 753-2231 or angied@gwmail.gbcnv.edu.

The GBC Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department provides training in:

- Computer Technologies: GIS; Graphic Communications; Information Specialist; Network Specialist; Office Technology Emphasis; Web Specialist
- Commercial Driver's License (CDL)
- Welding Technology
- Electrical Technology
- Diesel Technology
- Industrial Millwright Technology
- Instrumentation Technology

The above programs are offered for credit as a One Year Certificate or an Associate of Applied Science Degree and can be completed in 48 weeks.

For further information on CTE courses, please contact Bret J. Murphy, MEd, NREMT-B, Dean of Applied Science at (775) 753-2217 or bretm@gwmail.gbcnv.edu.



News from the City of Elko Building Department

Soils Report

A geotechnical report details the suitability of a site for construction. It reports on the stability of the soil in the area and any issues such as floodplains, water tables and slopes. Soil investigations to determine subsurface conditions should be made prior to the design and construction of new buildings and other structures.

Table 1704.7 and Section 1803 of the 2009 IBC address the conditions that mandate a geotechnical investigation, as well as the information that must be included in the report. The City of Elko has made amendments to these sections, which can be found in the City Municipal Code Title 2 Chapter 2.



Geotechnical investigations must be prepared by a registered design professional. Recommendations included in the re-port and approved by the City of Elko must be incorporated in the construction documents. Geotechnical investigations must be required for all projects that require new foundations.



Exemptions

At the discretion of the City of Elko, the following projects may be exempted from having a geotechnical investigation:

1. Single story structures, additions or remodels with a foot-print less than 600 square feet.
2. Fences.
3. Site retaining walls less than 4 feet in retained height.
4. Mobile homes, trailers and modular buildings that do not have concrete or masonry foundations.
5. Pre-engineered carports.
6. Signs, light poles and communication towers less than 40 feet in height.

Clearance for Gas Service

Southwest Gas policy for installing gas meters has changed. Their old policy was, "A minimum of one appliance must be installed and operational for the gas meter to be installed and turned on (Water and/or Electric must be on)."



The new policy will allow the installation of the gas meter once the gas pressure test has been approved by the building inspector. No appliances need to be installed, but a shutoff valve is required, not a cap, at the termination or outlet of each section of pipe. The City will still place the yellow "CLEARED FOR GAS SERVICE" tag at the location of the future meter.

Highlights from NSCB's Quarterly Report

January 1 - March 31, 2012

LICENSING

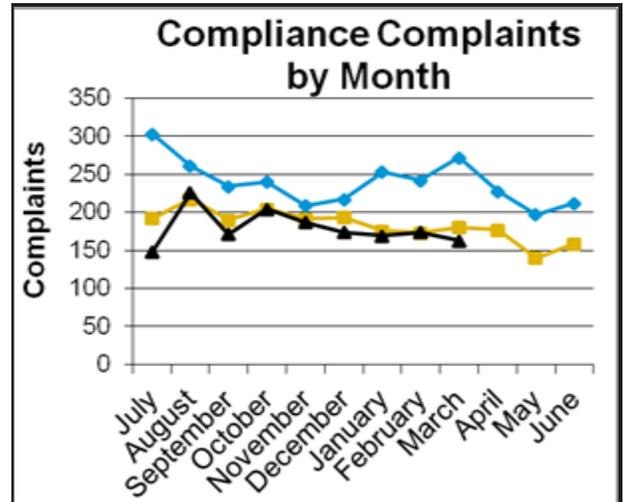
- As of March 31, 2012, there were 15493 active licenses in Nevada
- Approximately 25% of all license renewals during this quarter came from the new online renewal program.
- New contractor pocket ID cards were redesigned and will be mailed out to licensees upon issuance and renewal of their license.
- New license applications had an average processing time of 61 days; license change applications averaged processing time of 21 days.

Jan to Mar 2012	
Licenses (Beginning of Quarter)	17,275
New Licenses Issued	241
Licenses Cancelled / Surrendered / Revoked	(655)
Variance in Suspended/Reinstated Licenses	248
Licenses (End of Quarter)	17,109
# of Licenses on Dec 31st, 2011	17,275
# of Licenses on Mar 31st, 2012	17,109
Net YTD (Fiscal Year)	
Licenses Gained / Lost	(166)
Renewal Revenue Gained / Lost	(\$99,600)
*Does not include suspended licenses	

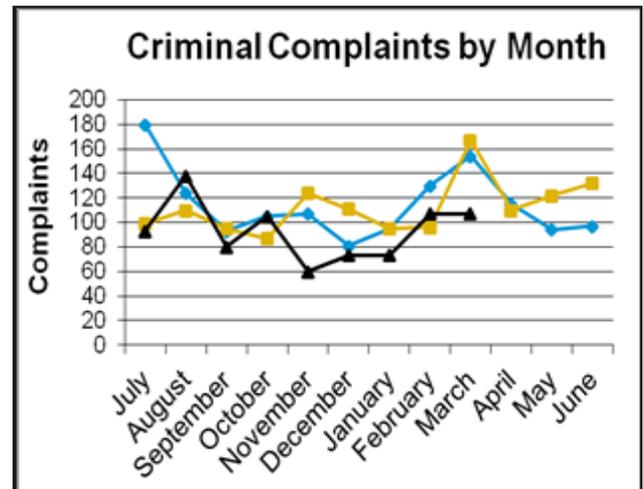
ATTENTION CONTRACTORS

Residential Recovery Fund assessments reduced by 15%
Effective January 1, 2012

ENFORCEMENT



- 507 cases opened against licensed contractors
- 208 cases closed as valid complaints; 229 cases closed as invalid/no violation by licensed contractor
- 43 cases referred for Disciplinary Hearing - 29 cases heard; 34 licenses revoked
- 47 Administrative Citations issued totalling \$47,900 in fines and \$19,346 in investigative costs.



- 287 criminal cases opened
- 62 cases closed as valid; 92 closed as invalid/no violation
- 101 criminal charges filed with District Attorney
- 113 charges filed; 48 convictions recorded
- 92 criminal citations issued

INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

As reported by the U.S. Department of Labor

2010 Construction Employees (Not Seasonally Adjusted - In Thousands)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
STATEWIDE													
Construction	59.3	57.9	57.7	60	60.6	60.9	60.5	60.6	59.2	59.9	58.5	56.4	59.3
Specialty Trade Contractors	41.7	40.6	40.4	41.7	41.7	42	41.5	41.6	40.3	39.8	38.4	36.7	40.5
LAS VEGAS													
Construction	46.8	45.5	45	46.8	46.8	46.4	45.4	45.4	43.9	43.3	41.8	40.5	44.8
Construction of Buildings	7.9	7.8	7.7	8	8.1	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.5
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.6	32.5	32.1	33.1	33	32.8	32	32.1	30.9	30.3	29.3	28.2	31.7
Foundation, Structure & Building													
Exterior Contractors	7.7	8	8	8.3	7.8	7.4	7	6.9	6.6	6.3	6	5.7	7.1
Building Finishing Contractors	9.1	8.5	8.3	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.4	8.8	8.2	8	7.9	7.5	8.4
RENO-SPARKS													
Construction	8.2	8	8.2	8.6	9	9.5	9.9	9.7	9.6	10	9.6	9.1	9.1

2011 Construction Employees (Not Seasonally Adjusted - In Thousands)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
STATEWIDE													
Construction	52.4	52.1	50.2	51.3	51.8	52.5	53.2	54.1	55.2	53	54.3	51.7	52.7
Specialty Trade Contractors	34	34.1	33.9	34.7	35.1	35.5	37.2	38.1	38.6	37.3	39.2	35.8	36.1
LAS VEGAS													
Construction	38.1	37.9	37.5	37.8	37.4	37.3	37.7	38.3	39.1	38.6	40	38.4	38.2
Construction of Buildings	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.1	6.2	6.1	6	6	5.9	5.8	5.7	6.1
Specialty Trade Contractors	26.7	26.7	26.4	26.7	26.7	26.7	27.5	28.2	28.5	27.8	29.4	27.5	27.4
Foundation, Structure & Building													
Exterior Contractors	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.3	5	5.6
Building Finishing Contractors	6.6	6.9	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.5	6.8	6.4	6.6
RENO-SPARKS													
Construction	8.2	8.1	7.4	8.2	8.6	9.1	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.2	8.8	8.4	8.7

2012 Construction Employees (Not Seasonally Adjusted - In Thousands)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
STATEWIDE													
Construction	50.4	47.2(P)											48.8(P)
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.8	32.1(P)											32.9(P)
LAS VEGAS													
Construction	36.8	35.1(P)											35.9(P)
Construction of Buildings	5.5	5.4(P)											5.45(P)
Specialty Trade Contractors	25.8	24.3(P)											25.0 (P)
Foundation, Structure & Building													
Exterior Contractors	4.8	4.7(P)											4.7(P)
Building Finishing Contractors	5.8	5.7(P)											5.7(P)
RENO-SPARKS													
Construction	7.8	7.5(P)											7.6(P)

NSCB Launches New Programs, Partners with Industry

SENIOR AWARENESS PROGRAM

Nevada is home to over 800,000 senior citizens who risk being victimized by unscrupulous individuals. Approximately 4300 elder abuse cases were reported in Nevada between July 2010 and June 2011; 70 percent of which took place in Clark County. Causing greater concern are national reports, which indicate that for every case that gets reported, there are five that go unreported.

As part of NSCB's mission to educate and protect the public, we reached out to legislators and state agency representatives to create an educational forum that helps raise awareness of scams targeting seniors throughout a variety of industries.

Our goals are simple:

1. Increase awareness of scams targeting seniors and help educate them on the various types of elder abuse;
2. Offer tips and information of how to recognize warning signs and ways to protect yourself; and
3. Encourage seniors to report incidents of abuse by making resources available.

Our May 2 program had close to 100 seniors in attendance and included presentations by four state agencies, NSCB, and Senator John Lee. This program will be held in every legislative district throughout the state throughout the coming year, so stay tuned and help spread the word of this important effort!



HOME IMPROVEMENT FORUM

Protecting Yourself & Reducing Your Liabilities

Starting in June, NSCB is teaming up with various associations to put on an educational forum geared toward educating homeowners about the value of hiring a licensed contractor. This forum will include a presentation by NSCB as well as a panel discussion about industry-specific information, such as:

- Given the most reoccurring service work you conduct, what would be considered a “red flag” within your industry that homeowners should be aware of?
- Are there any questions and/or contract terms relative to your industry that homeowners need to ask of their contractor?
- What tips can you offer homeowners to help them prevent a major home emergency down the road?

The program gives homeowners the tools and resources they need to feel more confident about the contracting process and also what to look for when a contractor comes into their home to make repairs. Providing homeowners a chance to ask questions and have them addressed by industry representatives further enhances the image of the industry and demonstrates our commitment to protect consumers.

This forum is educational only; solicitation and/or promotion of services from participating industry representatives is prohibited.

NSCB Word of Caution to Contractors: Don't Loan Your License Unless You Want to Lose It

A Nevada State contractor's license is a valuable accomplishment, one that can be a source of pride. Not only is it a sign of a true industry professional, it provides a living for many throughout our state who build and repair the structures in which we all trust for our families.

As a contractor, you know that obtaining a contractor's license is no easy task. Continued success requires references, establishment of financial responsibility, passing trade and law exams, obtaining bonds and insurance, establishing a business,

assuming responsibility for the actions and work of employees, and establishing good character and reputation in the community.

However, there are some contractors who do not have a clear understanding of licensing laws and others who attempt to work around them.

This can result in the lending of a contractor's license to friends, family, business associates or other unlicensed individuals and places that contractor's livelihood in jeopardy.

Allowing anyone else to use your license to submit bids, pull permits, advertise, or

perform work will result in loss of your license. It is simply not acceptable to permit someone to use your license – even if they have a license pending or if it is “only a little job.” There are no exceptions to the law.

The Nevada Revised Statute 624.305 provides for the automatic revocation of a license that is used by any other person than the person to whom it is issued. The loaning of a license is the most serious violation a contractor can commit and can result in the automatic loss of the license.

Protect your livelihood. Don't loan your license.

Getting Involved: Rebuilding Together Southern Nevada

Established in 1994, Rebuilding Together Southern Nevada (RTSN) is a non-profit organization that provides *free* home repair, accessibility modification and energy conservation services for low-income Southern Nevada homeowners, particularly the elderly, people living with disabilities, multi-generational families and individuals.

Since 1994, RTSN and hundreds of community volunteers have renovated and rehabilitated more than 6,500 homes throughout Southern Nevada.

Some of the programs RTSN has to offer, include:

National Rebuilding Day

More than 1,500 community volunteers gather on the last Saturday in April to provide home repair services to needy families. Volunteer skill levels range from licensed professional trades people to weekend warriors and everyday citizens, all giving back to their neighbors in need.

Emergency Home Repair

Throughout the year, critical home repairs such as roofing, electrical, plumbing, etc. are completed by licensed contractors paid by RTSN for low-income homeowners.

Safe At Home

Addresses home repair and maintenance issues that present a safety risk or limit access within the home.

How YOU Can Help!

- Volunteer your time to help make home repairs.
- Volunteer your time for behind-the-scenes activities, such as volunteer registration, home repair training, and office support.
- Go online and make a secure donation or mail your tax-deductible check to RTSN

For more information, contact (702) 259-4900 or visit www.rtsnv.org.



Southern Nevada

Washoe County Reminds Contractors to Obtain Permits

The start of spring means preparing for the coming construction season. Washoe County would like to remind everyone that **PERMITS ARE REQUIRED** for the installation or replacement of water heaters, HVAC systems, roofs, electrical and plumbing work. Please check with your local building department for other residential projects that may require a building permit, including construction or placement of pools, showers, hot tubs, fences, sheds, green houses, barns, patio covers and cargo containers.

Last year, the Washoe County Amnesty Program revealed a disturbing trend. A large number of projects requiring permits were done by licensed contractors without permits. In some cases, the contractors even charged homeowners for building permits but made no effort to obtain the actual permits. Fortunately, most of these contractors are no longer in business, and the building department was subsequently able to get the work permitted with some additional effort by homeowners.

Another trend we have seen is licensed contractors requiring homeowners to secure permits for work to be performed. In most cases, if the homeowner fails to get a permit or gets the wrong permit, the contractor continues the project anyway. This is a violation of the building code, and contractors proceeding with the work without a building permit will be reported to the State Contractors Board for disciplinary action and possible fines. These types of practices end up costing everyone time and money. They may put the homeowner at risk of a serious life-safety violation, reduce customer satisfaction and make it difficult to sell or refinance the home.

Washoe County is working on simplifying the permit process for everyone. The county has established an **EZ Permit** system, where over-the-counter permits can be faxed in and paid for

via the telephone with a credit card. The permit can either be issued via e-mail or may be picked up at the counter. More information concerning this system is available at: www.washoecounty.us/bldgsafety/ez_permit_page/index.html.

The department is also accepting building permitplan submittals electronically through **SpaceDox**. This service allows applicants to submit plans for permits through the internet. All documents, including full size drawings are sent digitally, which reduces paper use by as much as 90 percent. The entire permitting process can be accomplished without coming into the Building Department, and this saves on printing costs, time and fuel. Because reviews are done with electronic files, all reviewers regardless of department or agency receive your plans the same day, eliminating any delay in delivering physical documents and allowing seamless concurrent review. More information regarding **SpaceDox** is available at: www.washoecounty.us/bldgsafety/spacedox_page.html.

Washoe County is planning to replace its aging permit system with a new web-based system by the end of the year. This system will allow architects, contractors and owners to access permit information, apply for permits, make payments, schedule inspections and view plan review or inspection results via the internet using a computer or smart phone.

Please try out these new features, and remember, before you open your tool-box and start a project, ask yourself one simple question: "Got Permits?"



The Nevada State and Small Cities Community Development Block Program

Background

The Nevada State and Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is a federally funded grant program aimed at assisting low to moderate income persons (LMI) in rural America. The program has three main objectives: (a) to improve the living conditions and quality of life in rural areas; (b) to make decent housing available in those areas; and (c) to provide enhanced economic opportunities to LMI people in rural areas. The program supports a wide variety of activities, e.g. construction and reconstruction of streets, water and sewer facilities, neighborhood centers, recreation facilities and other public works; demolition; rehabilitation of public and private buildings; public services; and planning and economic development activities.

At the national level the program is administered by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Within Nevada, the rural CDBG program is managed by the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED). The primary grantees are local governments throughout rural Nevada. Local governments may pass the grant funds onto other sub-recipients, such as non-profits, etc.

Method of Distribution of CDBG Funds

Until recently, the program received approximately \$2.8 to \$3.0 million per year from HUD. Over the last few years, this has decreased to \$2.2 million in 2012. Funds are received each year from HUD and distributed on a competitive basis. The eligible applicants are the 15 rural counties (each with a population of under 200,000) and 11 small incorporated cities (each with less than 50,000 people). The eligible entities apply annually in January for grant funding, and the applications are reviewed by GOED staff members and a nine-member Advisory Committee (AC) made-up of individuals drawn from rural communities.

The AC members score the applications against a set of pre-determined criteria and meet in March to hear from staff members and applicants regarding the applications. The Committee deliberates on the applications and compiles a list of recommended applications for funding. These recommendations are then forwarded to the Governor for final approval. Grants are made public and officially awarded on July 1, and project implementation commences immediately thereafter.

CDBG and Contractors

Historically, over 70 percent of the funding is used for public infrastructure improvements. Typically, a local government will prepare bid documents in the second half of the year and go to bid in winter or early spring. Preparation of bid documents and contractor selection are performed under specific CDBG guidelines that demand fair and open competition and clear documentation of the procurement process. Contractors and sub-contractors are expected to read and acknowledge the CDBG supplemental conditions and sign appropriate certificates included in the bid packages.

Once contracted by the local authority, contractors are expected to attend at least one pre-construction conference at which CDBG rules and regulations, in particular labor compliance issues, are explained. Any construction contract involving CDBG funding in excess of \$2,000, triggers the Davis Bacon Act labor compliance, and contractors should be aware of the compliance and reporting requirements needed to meet federal labor standards. Meeting Section 3 requirements is another feature of CDBG-funded projects. In this case, contractors need to pay special attention to hiring low income workers/businesses in the course of implementing their contracts.



From time-to-time, grantees and contractors complain at the level of paperwork and perceived bureaucracy in implementing a contract funded with CDBG dollars. To help grantees and contractors better understand the CDBG rules and regulations, the Governor's Office of Economic Development holds several grant administration workshops throughout the year. Engineers and contractors are welcome to attend. In addition, GOED staff members are always available to give guidance and advice to local government staff members and contractors on the grant application process and project implementation.

For more information about the CDBG program, please contact Des Craig, Director of Rural Community Development, at (775) 687-9918 or dcraig@diversifynevada.com.



Nevada Office of Energy Adopts 2009 International Energy Conservation Code as Statewide Minimum Standard

Energy codes set the minimum requirements for construction and create more affordable, healthy, durable, safe and efficient homes and buildings. The Nevada State Office of Energy (NSOE) has adopted the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for use statewide, with implementation and enforcement beginning on **July 1, 2012**. That means all government jurisdictions that are authorized by law to adopt and enforce a building code must adopt the 2009 IECC at a minimum. However, government entities may choose to adopt the 2009 IECC with added requirements, or they may choose to skip over the 2009 IECC and adopt the 2012 IECC as some counties are proposing. Most of the southern Nevada jurisdictions have already adopted the 2009 IECC and are currently building to the code.

Below are changes (from the 2006 IECC) provided in Chapter 4 Residential Energy Efficiency of the 2009 IECC (Energy Insight, Leon Mills):

Section 402 discusses the criteria for Insulation and Fenestration and the requirements that the Building Thermal Envelope must meet. R-values of the various building components, such as insulation can be summed for a composite R-value. Certain other values have been set based on climate zone, such as R-38 for ceilings with an attic above and R-30 for ceilings without an attic space above. You should consult the code or your jurisdiction for full requirements.

Section 402.4 specifically addresses Air Leakage and required testing. The Building Thermal Envelope shall be durably sealed to limit unwanted air infiltration. Sealing methods shall allow for expansion and contraction of dissimilar materials, and so therefore, shall be caulked, gasketed or otherwise sealed as outlined.



Either a visual inspection or a blower door test shall confirm the envelope is basically a pressure test of just the duct system has been properly sealed.

Section 403 deals with the sealing of Systems, which includes ducting where all ducts, air handlers, filter boxes and building cavities used as ducts shall be sealed. There are two duct test options, the first being Total Leakage, and the second being Leakage to Outside. Total Leakage can be performed at rough-in and performed during construction.

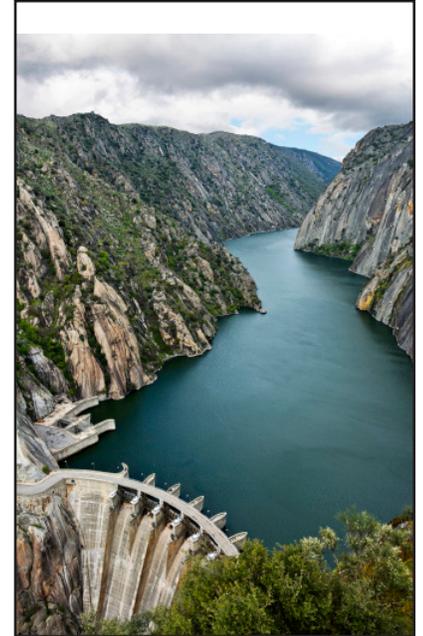


Table 402.4.2 entitled, “AIR BARRIER AND INSULATION INSPECTION COMPONENT CRITERIA” gives sealing requirements to be met for effective air sealing. It has been demonstrated that stopping unwanted air flow by using various forms of sealants greatly increases the energy efficiency of a structure and reduces energy costs.

To succeed in the implementation, enforcement and compliance of the 2009 IECC, the NSOE has dedicated stimulus funds to offer over 50+ training sessions statewide, free of charge, and has provided CEUs for architects, engineers and ICC members. Additionally, NSOE has provided code books, equipment and purchased vouchers for ICC Certification exams for building department staff members to assist jurisdictions where funding is scarce.

For more information on the energy codes in Nevada, a copy of the regulations or to register for upcoming trainings, please visit the Nevada State Office of Energy website at <http://energy.nv.gov/> or contact Emily H. Nunez, Management Analyst at ehnunez@energy.nv.gov or call (775) 687-1850 ext. 7324.

SNWA Water Smart Contractor Program



Understanding the value of water conservation in Southern Nevada is important not only for local residents and businesses, but also for the region's landscape contractors – especially as an increasing number of property owners convert their thirsty lawns to desert-friendly, water-efficient landscapes.

To help these contractors better prepare for these opportunities, the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) offers a free program, which certifies landscape companies as Water Smart Contractors.

Through a series of workshops and follow-up refresher courses, the SNWA certifies staff members of landscape companies as Water Smart Contractors and, in turn, lists them on the **snwa.com** website, which local residential and commercial property owners use to find licensed contractors.

To be certified as Water Smart, landscape contractors must be in good standing with the Nevada State Contractors Board and complete eight hours of SNWA training, which is offered as a one-day course.

To enroll, contractors must complete a form available at **snwa.com** and sign a Water Smart Program Agreement. This document outlines legal and program provisions and defines the Water Smart standards all participants are expected to follow upon completion of the program. These include such criteria as placement of sprinkler and drip irrigation

systems in a landscape, proper use of irrigation components and requirements for landscape maintenance contracts, among others.

When enrolling in the program, contractors must provide their company contact information, the type of services they provide,

any additional certifications they may hold, their geographical service areas, C-10 license number, supervisor contact information and photos of completed projects.

Initial program training is offered in both English and Spanish throughout the year and includes an overall

introduction to SNWA conservation programs, a review of local codes and ordinances related to water conservation and drought restrictions and the techniques and benefits of landscape conversions. It also includes a review of efficient irrigation design, maintenance and proper scheduling and an overview of new technology that can help make irrigation systems more efficient.



This year's training sessions in English are scheduled for March 13, June 12, September 18 and December 11, while Spanish-language sessions will be held March 22, June 14 and September 20.

Refresher training sessions for certified Water Smart Contractors are held throughout the year. These sessions include briefings on changes to various SNWA programs and an update on drought conditions and forecasts for the coming year, and how climate change affects the landscape industry. Refresher training in English will be conducted April 10, July 17 and October 16, and in Spanish on April 26, July 26 and October 11.

All Water Smart Contractor training and refresher courses are held at the Las Vegas Valley Water District headquarters, 1001 S. Valley View Blvd. (northeast corner of Valley View and Charleston boulevards), in Las Vegas.

In addition, the SNWA offers an Irrigation Controller Training course for landscapers and/or contractors who are interested in learning the proper techniques on correctly programming irrigation controllers in accordance with the SNWA's Mandatory Watering Restrictions. The course also provides an opportunity for landscapers and contractors to familiarize themselves with various irrigation clocks on the market. While this class is not required for Water Smart Contractor certification, contractors and landscapers are encouraged to participate, so they can expand their knowledge and better serve their customers and clients.

*For more information about the Water Smart Contractor program, visit **snwa.com** or call (702) 862-3736; Spanish speakers can call (702) 258-3946.*



Continuing Education & Training Opportunities... REGISTER TODAY!

If you are interested in furthering your education and training your employees with new skills, please click on the following links to various OSHA safety, computer and marketing courses.

Northern Nevada

Southern Nevada

Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC)

OSHA Safety Courses

<http://tinyurl.com/7m226hq>

Contact:

salquist@tmcc.edu or (775) 857-4958

Computer/Marketing Courses

<http://tinyurl.com/7jdvmrr>

Contact:

wdce@tmcc.edu or (775) 829-9010

Great Basin College (GBC)

Computer Courses

<http://tinyurl.com/7b2yym6>

Contact:

keithad@gwmail.gbcbv.edu or (775) 753-

Western Nevada College (WNC)

Computer Courses

<http://tinyurl.com/7ynz74m>

- "Computer Applications" - Carson City, pg. 20-21.
- "Computer Applications" - Fallon, pg. 42.
- "Computer Officer Technology" - Online, pg. 50.

Contact:

info_desk@wnc.edu or (775) 445-3000

College of Southern Nevada (CSN)

OSHA Safety Courses

<http://tinyurl.com/6pa9vyx>

Contact:

OSHAOTIEC@csn.edu or (702) 651-4747

Computer Courses

<http://tinyurl.com/6twzcuuj>

Contact:

DWED@csn.edu or (702) 651-4747

Computer Basics

<http://tinyurl.com/6wubnmm>

Contact:

DWED@csn.edu or (702) 651-4747



Meet NSCB's Board Members



KEVIN E. BURKE, Chairman

President and Chief Executive Officer of Burke Construction Group Inc., appointed to the Board by the Governor in Nov. 2008. He is a licensed general engineering and general building contractor with 20+ years experience, responsible for overseeing all company construction activities at Burke Construction Group Inc. He is a board member of the Associated General Contractors and board member of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees.



MARGARET CAVIN, Treasurer

Margaret Cavin was first appointed to the Board in January of 2000 where she served three terms and was elected the first woman to serve as Chair. She is the co-founder of J & J Mechanical Inc. with 30 years of experience in the construction industry, and served as President of the Nevada Chapter of the Associated General Contractors. Cavin is also the President of Friends of ACE High School, a tuition-free charter school in Reno that infuses construction- and engineering-career applicable methods into core high school curriculum.



THOMAS "JIM" ALEXANDER

President of Renaissance Pools & Spas Inc., appointed to the Board by the Governor in Nov. 2010. He is a licensed commercial and residential pool contractor with 39+ years experience and has been licensed in Nevada since 1991. Alexander is an active member of the Associated General Contractors, a retired police officer, a Master Mason and Shriner, and a licensed pilot.



DONALD L. DRAKE

A resident of Sparks, NV, appointed to the Board by the Governor in Jan. 2010. He serves as the public member of the Board. Drake was owner and general manager of Baker & Drake, Inc., a Reno taxicab company. He is past president and a 25-year member of the board of directors of the Nevada Association of Employers and a member of the RTC 2040 Committee and the Sparks Citizens Advisory Committee.



NATHANIEL "NAT" W. HODGSON, III

Member and Qualified Individual of Green Serenity LLC, appointed to the Board by the Governor in Nov. 2008. He is the past president of the Southern Nevada Home Builders Association.



STEPHEN P. QUINN

President of Precision Construction Inc., appointed to the Board by the Governor in Nov. 2009. He has been a licensed general building contractor for 27 years with 42 years experience in the trade. He is chairman of the City of Las Vegas Building and Safety Enterprise Fund Advisory Committee and served as vice chairman of the City of Las Vegas Planning Commission.



GUY M. WELLS

President and chief executive officer of Wells Cargo Inc., appointed to the Board by the Governor in May 2010. Wells is a licensed general engineering and general building contractor with more than 30 years of construction experience. He is an active member and officer of the Nevada Contractors Association.

STAY CONNECTED TO THE BOARD

Our Mission

The Nevada State Contractors Board is committed to promote the integrity and professionalism of the construction industry in Nevada.

The Nevada State Contractors Board has the responsibility to promote quality construction by Nevada licensed contractors through a regulatory licensing system designed to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the public.

SIGN UP FOR E-MAIL ALERTS ONLINE

Go to www.nscb.nv.gov to register for any of the following:

News Releases

Industry Bulletins

Board/Hearing materials

Contractor Newsletter



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER

Our social media sites are updated frequently with NSCB headlines, Board meeting and hearing information, and any other industry news we can help share.

GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK!!

We want you to keep us informed on how we can continue to meet your needs.

Please fill out our short survey and let us know how we can improve!

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FFKSWTM>

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PLEASE NOTE:

NSCB does not endorse nor sponsor any association-related events/updates contained within this newsletter unless otherwise noted.