

West Michigan Construction Alliance Elects Officers

Plainwell, MI – Walter D. Christophersen, Business Representative for the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council, has been elected President of the West Michigan Construction Alliance at their Board of Directors meeting on January 24. He has been a charter and active member of the Alliance since its inception in 2003.



Walter Christophersen



Kevin Donovan

Kevin Donovan, President of Muskegon Construction Company was elected Vice-President. Doug Adams, Business Agent of Sheet Metal Workers Local 7 was elected as Treasurer. Bob Schumaker, Business Representative of the Michigan Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association was elected Secretary. Officers serve one year terms.



Doug Adams



Bob Schumaker

Mr. Christophersen thanked the Board for giving him their confidence as the organized construction industry continues to position itself as the preferred choice among project owners and general public. He stated that, “because of our industry’s high quality training programs, safety record and productivity, we add customer-first values for both public and private owners.”

The rest of the Board of Directors includes:

Don Bovre, Director of Labor Relations, AGC Michigan; Trustee Steve Claywell, Business Manager, IBEW Local 445; Trustee Hugh Coward, Business Representative, Ironworkers Local 340; Trustee Leroy Crabtree, Business Manager, IBEW Local 131; Trustee Bob Holt, Consultant, Franklin Holwerda Company; Trustee Casey Lavender, President, Suburban Mechanical Company; Trustee Robert Mathisen, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, W. Soule & Company; Trustee Rich Ogrizovich, Business Manager, Plumbers, Pipefitters & HVACR Local 357; Trustee

At the meeting, Bruce Hawley, who had been President since 2003 resigned from the Board of Directors, stating that he plans to retire from Iron Workers Local 340 within the next few months and felt now was the time for the Alliance to have a new President and set a course for new initiatives. Mr. Hawley stated that upon his retirement, he plans on running for the Michigan House of Representatives in the 73rd District. The Board wished Mr. Hawley well and thanked him for his years of leadership and service. Bob Holt of Franklin Holwerda Company commented, “Bruce leaves a huge leadership void regarding construction industry labor-management relations.”

The West Michigan Construction Alliance is a labor-management association composed of contractor organizations, signatory contractors, organized labor and affiliate members. The Alliance is committed to a program of quality craftsmanship and professional contracting. The primary purpose of the Alliance is to promote and market the advantages of the organized construction industry in West and Southwest Michigan in order to provide the highest quality, most cost effective and safest delivery of our products and services to public and private construction project owners.

For more information on the Alliance, visit its website at www.wmconstructionalliance.org.