



"We bring it all together"
STEEL ERECTORS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Successful 2013 Convention & Trade Show in New Orleans

As an advance event to the convention, the SEAA Board of Directors met on Wednesday, March 20 from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Steve Burkholder with S&R Enterprises, LLC our new President for 2013 -2014 presided over the meeting. Joshua Cilley with American Steel and Precast Erectors was elected 1st Vice President while Dave Schulz of Schulz Iron Works, Inc. was named Secretary and Geoffrey Kress of Gardner-Watson Decking, Treasurer for terms 2013–2014. The well-attended meeting included discussion of priorities for Steve Burkholder’s term, which the Directors approved.



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You would never know that no SEAA Convention activities were scheduled on Wednesday evening March 20, because many SEAA attendees were networking at the 8 Block Bar in the lobby area of the Regency Hyatt Superdome.

Bright and early--at 5:15 AM to be precise-- on Thursday morning the Spin Fishing group left for their outing, while the golfers left for English

Turn at 7:15 AM via motor coach. This year we had optional tours that proved to be very popular and well attended. The New Orleans City and Katrina Recovery Tour, which started at AM, enlightened participants about New Orleans – from the French Market to the Central Business District.



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The golf team winning first place (L to R): Marc Cox, Jeff Harnish, Josh Cilley, and Billy Hanes



The Welcome Reception and Trade-Show Opening, combined this year into one event, brought out good attendance, and people seemed to enjoy themselves. We had 36 Exhibitors this year, and the Celestine Ballroom was full of attendees enjoying the lively music of the Smitty Dee’s Brass Band, the magical tricks of a strolling Magician, and an entertaining Mime. This format on Thursday night allowed the exhibitors and attendees to have additional meeting time in a casual environment. Thank you to United Rentals for their sponsorship for the Thursday Night Reception.

Friday morning continental breakfast and lunch in the Trade Show area gave the attendees another



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opportunity to visit the Exhibitors and see the most current products in the industry. The Management and Field presentations were well attended, with the presenters offering the latest information and updates on the current market conditions. All the sessions were recorded and will be available on the SEAA website in the Members Only section.

Due to sequestration in Washington, DC – OSHA representatives were unable to attend in person as planned, so a video teleconference was set up to allow the dialog between our attendees and OSHA. Many thanks to Ed Valencia of LPR Company, Inc. for assisting in making the one-on-one meeting with OSHA happen.

The South Louisiana Plantation Tour, made available to spouses during the sessions, was well attended and an enjoyable event.

Buckner Companies' participants



On Friday night The Big Easy Bash and Awards Banquet started with a cocktail reception with entertainment that included a contemporary New Orleans Jazz Band, a Tarot Card Reader and Caricature Artist who entertained us throughout the evening. The outstanding New Orleans cuisine and the atmosphere in the Empire Ballroom proved excellent for our event. Board member Alan Sears, with Nucor – Vulcraft , was the Master of Ceremony. A distinguished guest, President of AISC Roger Ferch, addressed our

group and reinforced our partnership with their association.

2012 Project of the Year winners were announced accompanied by brief power-point presentations. Class III – S&R Enterprises, LLC – Pegula Ice Area at Penn State University; Honorable Mention – River City Erectors, LLC – Ernest N. Morial Convention Center – Hall A Expansion



Class II – Gabriel Steel Erectors, Inc. – Coney Island Steeple Chase Plaza

Class I – American Steel and Precast Erectors – North Trail Pedestrian Bridge.

2012 Person of the Year: Jim Larson – Phoenix Steel Erectors, Inc.



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2012 William Davis Service Award: Bruce Basden - Basden Steel Corporation

After the conclusion of the banquet, it is rumored that several of the attendees were spotted visiting the French Quarter and Bourbon Street area of the city.

The Convention continued Saturday morning with breakfast, followed by the Annual SEAA Business meeting where new officers and Board Members were announced. Jennifer Wilkerson and Tim Johnson with NCCER addressed our group with emphasis on training and education opportunities that NCCER offers to Ironworkers and our industry.

The morning session concluded with our Keynote Speaker, Bruce Wilkinson presenting about the multi-generational workforce and how to communicate with this new generation of employees in today's workforce.

The convention concluded with an optional tour of the National World War II Museum with transportation provided by SEAA. The consensus of those on the tour: you need two days to view the entire museum but it is well worth the time.