

East Coast union painting contractor moves out West

Fine Painting of New Jersey acquires Evan House Company of Portland.

Fine Painting, the sixth-largest commercial painting contractor in the nation, recently acquired Evan House Company, a commercial and industrial painting contractor located in Portland.

The new company will be called Evan House-Fine Painting, and will be signatory with Painters and Allied Trades District Council 5 and a member of the Signatory Painting Contractors Organization.

Evan House employed on average 11 to 15 painters, members of Painters Local 10 in Portland and Local 360 in Vancouver. All of the employees will remain with the new company and owner Brent Pilip will continue as part of the management team. The acquisition does not include V.M. Pilip & Son, which is the residential painting division of Evan House Company.

Ray Clevenger of Fine Painting has relocated to Portland from New

Jersey to serve as district manager of the new company, which will keep its business location at 804 N. Killingsworth Court, Portland. The company will bid jobs within a 300-mile radius of Portland.

Fine Painting is owned by Tony Singh. The contractor employs on average 250 craftworkers in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. It has been a union contractor since the business began 24 years ago and is signatory with the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT).

In fact, Singh served with Painters General President James Williams as co-chair of the Labor Management Cooperation Initiative (LMCI) and on the board of the Finishing Contractors Association. Singh was recently honored with the LMCI/IUPAT Leadership Award as well as the Distinguished Service Award from the Finishing Contractors Association.

The company has earned several safety awards as well as the Subcontractor of the Year Award from the American Subcontractors Association of New Jersey. Singh is active on national boards to improve the industry,

provide safe working environments, and encourage continuing education opportunities for craftsmen of the painting trade.

Singh came to the United States in 1970 from northern India to complete his master's degree in civil engineering. After college he went to work for a painting company in New Jersey. Within 10 years he rose from an estimator to vice president of the company. He launched his own painting business in 1981.

Evan House Company has been in business since 1919.

Similar to Evan House Company, Fine Painting is best known for its specialization in industrial and commercial painting for new construction and maintenance projects. The company works on coatings projects such as power plants, wastewater treatment plants, commercial properties, tenant improvements and new construction.

Services include: finishes and special coatings, wall coverings, fireproofing, lead abatement, fabric wall and ceiling panels, metalizing, photo luminescent safety markings and shop coatings.



Richmond Baking votes for Local 114

Bakery workers employed at Richmond Baking of Oregon voted March 1 to join the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers, and Grain Millers International Union Local 114. The plant, located in McMinnville, produces organic cookies and crackers (including Pilot Crackers), batter mixes and other cracker products. It employs 10-12 full-time workers, plus another 5-10 employees from a temp agency. The vote was among the regular workers and provides union representation for employees in mixing, production, sanitation, maintenance mechanics, packaging, shipping/receiving, and quality control. The plant owned by Bill and Robert Quigg, who also operate Richmond Baking of Indiana, and Richmond Baking of Georgia. Those two plants each employ 100-plus employees. The Indiana Plant is union, and the Bakers are currently involved in an organizing campaign at the Georgia operation. The McMinnville plant was built in 2001, and the Quigg family invested money with plans of expanding to the size of their Indiana and Georgia plants, said Local 114 Business Manager Terry Lansing. On March 4, workers (above) gathered for a union-sponsored barbecue to celebrate their win.

Michael Straeter,
President, UFCW Local 1442
Trustee, UFCW Food Employers Trust Funds



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