

Minority Contractors Celebrate New Chapter

New opportunities on major projects

Representatives from elected officials offices, governmental agencies, national construction firms, local transportation agencies and minority contractors recently gathered to celebrate Oregon's official title as a member of the National Association of Minority Contractors.

The event was hosted by the NW Natural Gas Company and drew special guests Karmen Fore, district director for U.S. Rep. Peter Defazio who serves as chair of the House Transportation committee.

The event also featured State Sen. Avel Gordly; Bill Bruce, project manager and sponsor from Stacy and Witbeck General Engineering; Craig Honeyman, executive director of Associated General Contractors of Oregon; and representatives from the Portland Economic Development Commission and City of Portland.

Fore made it clear that her office will work with the National Association of Minority Contractors of Oregon to highlight the importance of minority business participation on public transportation projects and hold public agencies that receive government funds, accountable.

Faye Burch, NAMCO vice president, said "With the support of Defazio's office and other governmental representations, we have an opportunity to change the on-going nature of the con-



James Posey and Bill Bruce survey contracting needs for the TriMet light rail and bus mall project, downtown.

struction landscape that is currently limiting opportunities to minority contractors, it's unfortunate that we still have to provide advocacy at this level to open up the playing field, but we will continue to push until those issues are resolved".

James Posey, NAMCO president, said "It's time to get serious, and with the support of the National organization and the support of our local members and partners, we intend to build an infrastructure that will give much needed opportunities to minority contractors to build their business by receiving work from public and privately funded construction projects."

Posey presented the General Contractor of the year award to Stacy Witbeck, an outstanding general contractor who continues to prove that the ability to incorporate minority contractors into their projects contributes to the success of the project and recognizes the outstanding accomplishments and contributions made by minority contractors.

Stacy and Witbeck is building major light rail projects around the country including Oregon, Utah, Denver, Dallas and Houston.

Bill Bruce accepted the award for Stacy Witbeck and spoke about his relationship with Posey and members of NAMCO.

"I couldn't have asked for a better person or group of people to partner with in creating significant opportunities for minority contractors to work on our Interstate MAX project and the

Portland Transit Mall, James's knowledge and commitment was contagious and the results matched and exceeded our goals," Bruce said.

The minority contractors group also proudly highlighted its founding sponsors and partners, which consist of Kaiser Permanente, Portland Development Commission, Stacy and Witbeck, Hoffman Construction, Legacy Health System, Providence Health System, the City of Portland and the Black United Fund of Oregon.

The chapter's priorities for 2007 include building the technology capability of its members, participating in community-based workforce programs to provide staffing, working to develop options for prevailing wage projects so that non-union members can participate fully and providing technical support and training programs where needed to build capacity.

Other priorities include developing better relationships of trust with our union partners, and with AGC and ABC, developing new and continuing existing partnerships with local business organizations and minority chambers and more.

NAMCO invites all of its partners to lend their voice of strength to the membership as we advocate for greater participation and build the capacity of our local construction and contracting businesses.

For more information, contact executive committee members Faye Burch at 503.936-6898 or James Posey at 503.936-0277.

Women in NAACP Fundraiser and Health Fair

A local group of African American women activists will host a breakfast fundraiser and a health fair Saturday, May 5.

The Women in the NAACP breakfast takes place from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Sylvia's Corner, 1301 N.E. Dekum St. A menu of biscuits, sausage gravy, eggs, bacon and coffee will come with a \$5.95 cash only donation, with carryout

available.

Helen Sherman, chair of the Oregon chapter, said proceeds will go toward writing bylaws for the organization and establishing a Women in the NAACP project at Hillcrest Juvenile Detention Hall in Salem.

"We hope to build an education and training avenue for women returning home,"

Sherman said, "and to help them use the resources we already have."

The Women in the NAACP annual health fair takes place the same day, May 5 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Portland Community College Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth St.

The organization is working with the Women's Resource Center at PCC to bring guest

speakers on a range of topics, including HIV/AIDS, grief support and midwifery.

There will be information on children and adult diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, blood pressure and autism, plus education geared toward caretakers.

Sherman said the fair is open to the public. For more information about either event, call 503-249-6263.

Women in Trades Career Fair

Local residents are invited to discover high-paying careers in construction-related trades during this year's Women in Trades Career Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 5 at the NECA/IBEW Electrical Training Center, 16021 N.E. Airport Way.

There will be hands-on activities such as operating a crane, constructing a bird house,

building a house frame and wiring a light switch.

Special guests will include successful tradeswomen role models, including electricians, heavy equipment operators and more. You can also learn about apprenticeship programs and training opportunities.

No advance registration is required. There will be free parking, free childcare, free admis-

sion and free shuttle provided from Gateway Transit Center.

The construction industry is expected to grow by 18 percent during the next 10 years. By 2014, an additional 10,000 workers are expected to be needed to fill new construction jobs.

Call 503-335-8200 extension 21 or visit tradeswomen.net for more details.

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82nd Avenue of Roses Parade

82nd Avenue of Roses Business Association invites everyone to attend and celebrate its first annual Avenue of Roses Parade Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m. at Eastport Plaza, 4000 S.E. 82nd Avenue. It will be the year's first Portland Rose Festival-sanctioned event.

The parade will travel north on 82nd Avenue and turn west onto Southeast Yamhill Street, disbanding at Southeast 78th Ave.

Participants include Madison High School Marching Band, the Chinese Lions, the Keystone Kops, Royal Rosarians, Rose Court Princesses, Portland Corvette Club, clowns and more.

Festivities continue after the parade with a sidewalk festival hosted by the Montavilla East Tabor Business and Montavilla Neighborhood associations.

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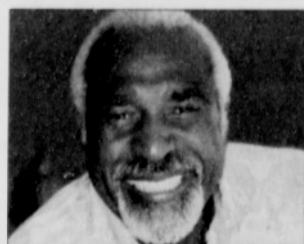


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