January 16th

Monthly Business Meeting

At Lake Hickory Country Club

Speaker: Our guest speaker will be Chuck Perry.

Chuck is the Program Manager for the NC Energy Efficiency Alliance and a Professor with the Appalachian State University Department of Technology and Environmental Design. He is also a Staff Construction Manager for the ASU team in the Solar Decathlon Europe 2014 green building competition.

Chuck will be discussing the 2012 Energy Code and conducting an open discussion on any issues you may be having in the field, as it relates to the code.

Come join us for the Monthly Business Meeting

Social Hour at 5:30 PM
Dinner will be Served at 6:30 PM
Register online at:
www.pcea-catawbavalley.org
UPCOMING PCEA EVENTS

January 16th – Monthly Business Meeting

Jan 31st -- Scissor Lift & Boom Lift Safety Training & Certification @12:30pm
CCC&TI - 2855 Hickory Blvd, Hudson, NC 28638

February 13th--- Monthly Business Meeting

March 13th--- Monthly Business Meeting

PCEA Annual Gun Raffle - 2013

Winners: Grand Prize: Randall Williams

2nd Place -- Doug Young $100

3rd Place-- John Walker $50

GRAND PRIZE Sig Sauer P226 9mm Handgun w/TacPac

Thanks to all that participated in this necessary fundraiser & a huge “THANK YOU” to Todd Staley of Sunbelt Rentals for organizing the raffle.

Congratulations!

Estimator of the Year
Stacey Walker
of Labor Connections, LLC
PCEA of Catawba Valley is pleased to announce the first in a series of industry training classes for 2014...

**Scissor Lift & Boom Lift Safety Training & Certification**

**Presented By:**

This training prepares the individual to understand the hazards involved in operating Aerial Work Platform (AWP) equipment. The course includes in-classroom and hands-on training for AWP's and includes the following:

- Responsibilities as a User and Operator
- Conducting a Pre-Start Inspection
- Conduction a Workplace Inspection
- Various Types of Equipment
- Preventing Accidents and Identifying Hazards in Operation
- Teaching Materials
  - Safety Guidelines Booklet
  - Course Completion Wallet Card

This class is normally $125.00 per person. However, PCEA has partnered with **Sunbelt Rentals** and is offering this class at significantly discounted rates for PCEA members & guests!

- **Member Cost = $35.00/person**
- **Non-Member Cost = $50.00/person**

This class is open to anyone, but seating is limited!! Please register NOW to reserve your spot in this class!

We would like to say a Special THANK YOU to **Sunbelt Rentals** for their continued generous support of PCEA!

Please go to the website to register & details:

[www.pcea-catawba valley.org](http://www.pcea-catawba valley.org)

WASHINGTON, DC -- McGraw Hill Construction, part of McGraw Hill Financial recently released its 2014 Dodge Construction Outlook, a mainstay in construction industry forecasting and business planning. The report predicts that total U.S. construction starts for 2014 will rise 9% to $555.3 billion, higher than the 5% increase to $508 billion estimated for 2013.

"We see 2014 as another year of measured expansion for the construction industry," said Robert Murray, McGraw Hill Construction's vice president of Economic Affairs. "Against the backdrop of elevated uncertainty and federal spending cutbacks, the construction industry should still benefit from several positive factors going into 2014. Job growth, while sluggish, is still taking place. Interest rates remain very low by historical standards, and in the near term the Federal Reserve is likely to take the necessary steps to keep them low. The bank lending environment is showing improvement in terms of both lending standards and the volume of loans. And, the improving fiscal posture of states and localities will help to offset some of the negative impact from decreased federal funding," said Murray.

Based on research of specific construction market sectors, McGraw Hill Construction's 2014 Dodge Construction Outlook details the forecast as follows.

- Single family housing will grow 26% in dollars, corresponding to a 24% increase in units to 785,000 (McGraw Hill Construction basis). The positives for single family housing are numerous - the pace of foreclosures has eased, home prices are rising, and mortgage rates remain near recent lows. However, the demand for housing will continue to be restrained by careful bank lending practices towards issuing mortgages.

- Multifamily housing will rise 11% in dollars and 9% in units. While growth continues, the percentage gains will be smaller than the previous four years, reflecting a maturing multifamily market. This structure type is still a favored investment target by the real estate finance community, which in the near term should lead to more high-rise residential buildings in major cities.

- Commercial building will increase 17%, a slightly faster pace than the 15% gain estimated for 2013. Both warehouses and hotels will continue to lead the way, while stores and office buildings pick up the pace. The positives for commercial building are improving market fundamentals and more bank lending for commercial development. Next year’s activity in dollar terms will still be 28% below the 2007 peak.

- Institutional building will edge up 2%, turning the corner after five years of decline. For the educational building category, colleges are revisiting capital expansion plans, and passage of recent construction bond measures in several states should help K-12 construction projects. Healthcare construction is expected to remain flat, given continued emphasis on cost containment.

- Public works construction will drop 5%, pulling back after a 3% gain in 2013 that was lifted by the start of several large highway and bridge projects. More focus on deficit reduction will limit federal support for environmental public works, although the improved fiscal position of state and local governments will help to cushion the extent of the public works decline.

- Electric utility construction will retreat 33%, continuing the 55% correction estimated for 2013 that followed the current dollar high reached in 2012. Capacity utilization is down sharply, limiting the near term need for new generating capacity. The need for transmission
"The 2014 picture bears some similarity to what's taking place during 2013, with single family housing providing much of the upward push; multifamily housing showing a slower yet still healthy rate of growth after four years of expansion, and commercial building gradually ascending from low levels," added Murray. "One change that's expected for 2014 is that institutional building will no longer be pulling down nonresidential building and total construction."

**Article from McGraw Construction news website dated 01-31-2013**

U.S. Jobless Claims plummeted during the week of December 21st, with new claims falling by 42,000 following recent increases in jobless claims over the last few weeks. As noted by the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, volatility has been constant during the holidays this year, with jobless claims swinging up and down within a range of 75,000. Continuing claims finished higher during the week ending December 14th and reached a level of 2.923 million, which is the highest reading since August of this year. Overall, the employment data this month has shown worsening continuing claims and volatile initial claims. Keep in mind this is one of the main indicators we use to judge whether the U.S. economy is in fact recovering at the rate initially forecasted, as well as one of the factors that affect QE and the soon-to-begin tapering. Despite the overall improvement this year, the recent employment data has been neutral to negative, so it will be interesting to see how strong the U.S. economy (and labor sector) begins the new year.

**Article from Mansfield Energy Fuelnews website**
Board of Directors Meeting Dates
(Please Save these Dates)

January 29th
February 26th
March 26th
April 30th
May 28th
June 25th