



Date: February - 2006

Volume: I

Greetings from the Board

As we move into 2006, I would like to take a moment to look back on the recent changes that SFNE has under gone. In the past year we have expanded the board of directors to eleven members and have brought on new board members that represent the broad spectrum of companies that make up the membership. In addition, the board has: changed the name of the organization to more accurately reflect the membership, restructured the membership dues, given full voting privileges to all members, re-established the membership committee, and updated both the website and newsletter.

Currently the Board is in the process of revising the by-laws of the organization and is examining the original mission statement developed at the inception of SSFNE. We feel that the mission statement as it was developed still encompasses the goals and direction of SFNE as it moves forward. The mission statement reads as follows. "The Steel Fabricators of New England, Inc. is a not-for-profit association of structural and miscellaneous metals fabricators and allied companies that serve the design and construction industries in New England, both public and private. SFNE's primary mission is to promote the growth and proficiency of the custom steel fabrication industry and to promote authoritative, technical assistance to those engaged in steel building and bridge design, construction and education."

And finally, the change that has been the most challenging for the Board this past year focuses on the changing role of Emile Troup. Emile has been a tremendous source of direction and organization for SFNE for many decades. As SFNE reorganizes, one of the most difficult roads to navigate has been to maintain Emile's role with in the constraints of the changes. We are fortunate that Emile has agreed to continue his involvement on a part-time basis with SFNE as we move forward. Emile's new role will allow him to focus his attention on the marketing of steel construction to the decision makers while relieving him of the day to day clerical work of sustaining the organization. In an effort to compensate for the limited availability of Emile's time, the board is strengthening its relationship with AISC in order to fill any technical gaps that may occur.

As we move forward I want to thank you for your patience and support. Change is never easy but the goal is to provide you with a more efficient and effective association that is responsive to the changing needs of our industry.

Thank you,
Hollie Noveletsky
SFNE, President

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

STATE OF MASSACHUETTS

There are currently two bills filed in the Ma House of Representatives (HB 1089 & HB 2918) that directly impact the steel industry. HB 1089 is asking for a study of the "use of Type 1-B fire proof materials in new construction of, or major additions to publicly funded schools, colleges and universities, and student dormitories." There is concern that the added cost of such fire proofing would significantly impact the cost of steel framing. HB 2918 is proposing that any new construction of or major (greater than 7,500 sq ft, or contains 4 or more dwelling units) addition to a day or residential assisted living facility be required to be at least type 1-B fireproof construction.

For more information or to provide support in opposition to these two bills contact:

**A. Vernon Woodworth, AIA, at avw@rwsullivan.com
and Emile Troup at Steelstruk@aol.com.**

I am proud to have been chosen to act as your liaison to the Associated Subcontractors of Massachusetts ("ASM") - and specifically a member of ASM's Prompt Pay Task Force. ASM is a great organization of which SFNE just became an associate member. ASM represents over 350 subcontractors, suppliers and affiliated organizations in Massachusetts and surrounding states, with more than 20,000 employees.

For more than 50 years, ASM has taken a leading role in protecting the rights of subcontractors on public and private work, through legal action and strong legislative advocacy. Today, ASM is widely recognized as THE voice of subcontractors on Beacon Hill. ASM has an impressive track record passing legislation favorable to subcontractors, AND defeating bills harmful to subs.

It was sort of uncanny how ASM's Prompt Pay Initiative came to being almost at the same time as SFNE's meeting last year on the same topic. It was a natural decision for SFNE to join forces with ASM since the legislation that would help you as steel fabricator subcontractors would also help subcontractors of all trades.

The Prompt Pay Task Force, with the help of ASM's Executive Director and last April's SFNE meeting speaker, Monica Lawton; and the review and guidance by ASM's LEGAL COUNSEL, Edwin J. Fremder of Corwin & Corwin, has drafted sweeping prompt pay legislation. Our Draft takes the

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS - CONTINUED**

best of similar legislation passed in CT, VT, KS, OR and AZ. Since NH is also working on its own Prompt Pay Legislation we have also been able to borrow some great ideas from their current draft. We are about half way through the legislation choosing how best to achieve our prompt pay goals covering many topics including:

- Billing and payment cycles
- Disputed amounts
- Limits on retainage
- Provisions against public policy, such as Waiver of Litigation, Lien or Subrogation Rights
- Contingent Payment Provisions
- Interest Penalties for Late Payment
- Suspension or Termination of Work
- Right to Attorney Fees

We should have a completed draft by the end of next month after which we will strategize our next step to turn it into law. Once a bill has been filed we will be calling on all SFNE members and all subcontractors to speak to their local representatives on Beacon Hill and ask them to support our bill. You can not underestimate the power of an organized grass roots effort to help pass such needed legislation. We have the power to positively change the way we do business forever - but not without each of us pulling together.

John de Vries
Central Steel Supply, Inc.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

The prompt pay bill, HB 1107 went to hearing on Tuesday, January 12th. The prime sponsor, Will Infantine, said he was neutral on the bill, Mark Carter wrote a letter of support, CLC and Novel spoke in favor of it, the AGC spoke against it, the ABC was neutral and the Bankers were neutral. It will go to a subcommittee for reworking of the wording and hopefully people can come to a positive agreement on it. The subcommittee consists of Rep James Headd of Rockingham, Rep. David Kidder of Merrimack, and Rep. Angeline Kopka of Hillsboro.

UP-COMING EVENTS**February 8-11, 2006**

**North American Steel
Construction Conference**
San Antonio, TX www.AISC.org

New AISC Specifications
(multiple dates) www.AISC.org

4/05/06 Portland, ME
4/06/06 Manchester, NH
5/11/06 Hartford, CT
9/26/06 Boston, MA

February 9, 2006

Negotiating Construction Subcontracts
Holyoke, MA www.associatedsubs.com

February 28, 2006

Seismic Braced Frames Seminar
Boston, MA www.aisc.org

April 6,7, 2006

OSHA 10 Hour Construction Health & Safety
Westborough, MA www.associatedsubs.com

April 13, 2006

**SFNE Membership and
Board Of Directors Meeting**
Boxborough, MA www.ssfne.org

May 25, 2006

25th Anniversary New England Design Seminar
WPI www.ssfne.org

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