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Center Section

**Plan your Home
Show exhibit now!**

RIBA's 66th Annual Home Show isn't far off! Surveys show that visitors want to see more contractors exhibiting, and RIBA can help you do so in this dynamic annual venue.

Page 7

**Networking Night
set for January 14**

Home Healthsmith, based in Portsmouth, will host RIBA's first Networking Night of 2016 at its facility on January 14th.

Page 9

**Free Open House
Breakfasts at RIBA**

RIBA is holding a free Breakfast, New Member Orientation and Open House on the third Thursday of each month for new and current members who want to learn more about their benefits and to meet the RIBA team.

Page 4

**Winter classes
abound at RIBA**

Education is booming at RIBA! OSHA compliance, lead classes, and special classes on weather barriers, preventing roof leaks, and creative shingling are all free of tuition charge for members and their employees.

Pages 4, 12 and 17

Grant hailed as workforce solution



With RIBA as a key player, the Rhode Island Residential Construction Workforce Partnership has won a Real Jobs Rhode Island grant to train its own future workforce and match them with jobs. Seen here at the grant award ceremony in Providence on November 23rd are, from left, RIBA Membership and Education Director Cheryl Boyd, Robert J. Baldwin of R.B. Homes, Gov. Gina Raimondo, Louis Cotoia of Arnold Lumber Co., RIBA Executive Director John Marcantonio and John Bentz of Property Advisory Group. Story on page 2.

J. Robert Pesce passes at 79

Pillar of RIBA, mentor to many, a giant in the industry and the community

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

His smile was contagious. He had a passion for the culinary arts and would bring home-cooked lunches to the staff at Lehigh Realty Associates and Consolidated Concrete Corp. He loved Rhode Island history, and he could



J. Robert Pesce

discuss with insight anyone from Roger Williams to Buddy Cianci. And he was a pillar of the Rhode Island Builders Association for most of his 79 years.

He was J. Robert "Bobby" Pesce of Barrington, who passed away on Thursday, November 19th, at Rhode Island Hospital, surrounded by his family. It was only a brief illness.

"People were drawn to Bob by his big heart, his generosity

see BOB...page 22

Let's train our own workforce!

Grant will enable residential construction industry partnership to join skills, employees and employers.

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

It all began on a paper napkin. And it has led to a major grant and a landmark step toward solving Rhode Island's skills gap and the residential construction industry's persistent labor shortage.

The award of an "implementation grant" from the Real Jobs Rhode Island (RJRI) program to the Residential Construction Workforce Partnership (RCWP) was announced on November 23rd. The grant was based on an application from the Rhode Island Builders Association on RCWP's behalf.

The grant will help the residential construction industry train its own future workforce and match them with jobs.



RIBA's Robert J. Baldwin, a member of the R.I. Career and Technical Education Board of Trustees, chats with Gov. Gina Raimondo at the grant award ceremony on November 23rd. Looking on is RIBA Director of Membership and Education Cheryl Boyd.

Grant awards took place on the 23rd at the Ximedica Company facility in Providence. In attendance were Gov. Gina Raimondo, the entire Rhode Island congressional delegation, Dept. of Labor and Training (DLT) Director Scott R. Jensen, Commerce Secretary Stefan Pryor and contingents from RIBA and other grantees.

"This grant will allow our industry to take a historic step forward in eliminating the long-running skills gap, in finding people jobs and in finding employees for people in our industry," said Robert J. Baldwin of R.B. Homes, a member of the state Career and Technical Education Board of Trustees.

"In line with RJRI objectives, the RCWP, with RIBA as the conduit, will bring in career and technical education (CTE) students and graduates, then connect them with employers who have the jobs available in every area of our industry across the state. For potential workers who need training, we will connect them with it,

then connect them with jobs. Residential and light commercial construction will both benefit," he added.

"It's a historic milestone for our industry."

Mr. Baldwin and RIBA Executive Director John Marcantonio wrote the grant application.

"John and I had breakfast, and by the time we left the restaurant we had an entire strategy sketched out on a paper napkin," Mr. Baldwin recalled.

Along with RIBA, the RCWP includes YouthBuild Providence, Milenio Latino Institute, the Rhode Island Building Officials Association, the New England Institute of Technology, MTTI, the Providence Revolving Fund, the Rhode Island Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association, and CTE schools in Coventry, Charlestown, Cranston, East Providence, Newport, Providence, Warwick and Woonsocket, along with the William M. Davies Jr. Career & Technical High School in Lincoln.

"Using this grant, RIBA is now the central coordinating entity for the RCWP in solving its current workforce issues," Mr. Marcantonio explained.

"We will bring together thousands of employers with the training and education facilities in a collaborative approach. All CTE programs in the state will be involved. The goal is recruitment, retention, real-world training, and placement upon graduation."

For current job-seekers, the RCWP will create a Jobs Bank where employers and labor can find each other.

"This grant and what will come from it will have important effects for our economy all-around," commented John Bentz

see *REFORM...page 23*

The Rhode Island

builder report

Official publication of the
Rhode Island Builders Association
since 1951

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Vice President..... David A. Caldwell Jr.
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The Rhode Island Builder Report

Publishing Director..... John Marcantonio
Editor Paul F. Eno

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DEADLINES FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE

All copy, ads and photos must be to us by

Monday, January 4

E-mail material to builder@newriverpress.com

Fax: (401) 356-0913

RIBA thanks these members who recently renewed!

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Omega Financial Corporation
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Beatson Construction Inc
Fortin Place LLC
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Lucena Brothers Inc.
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Wood & Wire Fence Co., Inc.
Al's Home Improvement
Automatic Temperature Controls
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Oracle Homes LLC
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see MEMBERS...page 24

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LOOKING AHEAD!

January 7th and 22nd, February 9th and 23rd: 5-Hour CRLB Pre-Registration Course - RIBA headquarters, East Providence, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. This course is required by the Rhode Island Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board for new contractors before they register. Cost: \$250. To register for the course, contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400. *Details on page 12.*

January 11th: Joint meeting of RIBA's Professional Women in Building Council and the National Association of Women in Construction - RIBA headquarters. The meeting will feature a Gallup Strength Finder Seminar. "Using your strengths to maximize your potential" will be the theme of speaker Scott Mackes. *Related story on page 11.*

January 13th-14th: OSHA 10-Hour Course - 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day at RIBA headquarters. Course is FREE for members and their employees with a \$40 materials/registration fee, \$125 for non-members with a \$40 materials/registration fee. For more information and to register, contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400. *Details on page 12.*

January 14th: RIBA Networking Night - Hosted by Home Healthsmith, 207 High Point Ave. #2, Portsmouth, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Pasta and wine will be a highlight, along with product demonstrations of residential elevators, stairlifts, vertical platform lifts and more. RSVP to Beth Fontaine (401) 293-0415, admin@homehealthsmith.com. *Details on page 9.*

January 19th, February 22nd, March 15th: 4-Hour Lead-Safe Refresher Class - RIBA headquarters, East Providence, 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. FREE for members and their employees, with a \$40 materials/registration fee. \$75 for non-members, with a \$40 materials/registration fee. You must pre-register for this class. No admittance without pre-registration and payment. To register, contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400. *Details on page 12.*

January 21st: RIBA Breakfast, New Member Orientation and Open House - RIBA headquarters, East Providence, between 8 and 10 a.m. Participants may stay longer if they wish. This FREE event is held on the third Thursday of each month for new and current members who want to learn more about their member benefits and to meet the RIBA team. If you or your company would like to sponsor a breakfast, please contact Cheryl Boyd at (401) 438-7400 or cboyd@ribuilders.org.

***January 21st: Weather Resistive Barriers, Flashings and Exterior Water Management** - RIBA headquarters, East Providence, 4 to 6 p.m. FREE for members and their employees, with a \$10 materials/registration fee. \$50 for non-members, with a \$10 materials/registration fee. You must pre-register for this class. No admittance without pre-registration and payment. To register, contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400. *Details on page 12.*

***January 21st: Critical Roof Details to Prevent Leaks** - RIBA headquarters, East Providence, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. FREE for members and their employees, with a \$10 materials/registration fee. \$50 for non-members, with a \$10 materials/registration fee. You must pre-register for this class. No admittance without pre-registration and payment. To register, contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400. *Details on page 17.*

***January 25th: Initial 8 Hour Lead-Safe Remodeler/Renovator Course** - 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., RIBA Headquarters, East Providence. Course is FREE for members with a \$40 materials/registration fee, \$110 for non-members with a \$40 materials/registration fee. This course is required to obtain an initial Lead Safe Remodeler/Renovator Certificate, which is necessary for work in all pre-1978 buildings in Rhode Island. To register, contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400. *Details on page 17.*

January 26th-February 16th: OSHA 30-Hour Course - 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., RIBA headquarters, East Providence. Class will meet twice a week. Call for information on specific class dates. The course trains safety directors, job foremen and field employees in OSHA construction standards. FREE for members, with a \$60 materials/registration fee. \$400 for non-members, with a \$60 materials/registration fee. To register, visit www.RIBUILDERS.org or contact Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ribuilders.org or (401) 438-7400. *Details on page 17.*

January 26th: Business Conference for Contractors - Hosted by Riverhead Building Supply, Newport Marriott, 25 America's Cup Ave., Newport. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will include breakout sessions covering various topics of interest to small business owners. All presenters will have information tables so they can continue their discussions with attendees. There will be a light breakfast and lunch. The event is FREE, but advance registration is required. Visit www.myrbcorp.com.

***February 1st: Creative Cedar Shingle Designs** - RIBA headquarters, East Providence, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. FREE for members and their employees, with a \$10 materials/registration fee. \$50 for non-members, with a \$10 materials/registration fee. You must pre-register for this class. No admittance without pre-registration and payment. To register, contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400. *Details on page 17.*

February 11th: Presentation on Construction Financing - 5-7 p.m., RIBA headquarters, East Providence. Sponsored by Pawtucket Credit Union. FREE. Members and non-members are welcome. To register, visit www.RIBUILDERS.org or contact Elizabeth Carpenter at ecarpenter@ribuilders.org or (401) 438-7400. *Details on page 9.*

More information, registration and payment for most RIBA events is available at RIBUILDERS.org.

***Indicates a RIBA-sponsored event.**

***Designates a course eligible for Rhode Island state-mandated continuing education credits. Contact RIBA for confirmation.**

President's Message



Roland J. Fiore

RIBA gives you twice the benefits: NAHB membership included

Most members understand what the Rhode Island Builders Association does for them, from professional education services and information distribution, to workforce development and local and state advocacy. RIBA adds value and gives you what you need to grow and run your business. But as much as we focus on the local issues, many overlook the second, larger part of their membership.

In fact, you belong to two organizations when you belong to RIBA. The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) is our "mother ship" and your second membership. NAHB is the central and resourceful Washington, D.C., based association that works on all the big-picture issues.

These issues include everything from new construction technol-

ogies, codes and education, to national advocacy matters that affect the entire industry (like tax reform, financing, environmental issues and so many others).

Contribute to your own success

So the next time you think about how you help contribute to RIBA's success and the needs of the local residential construction industry, realize that you are part of something much larger and that your input is passed on to those who look out for you, and your customers, nationally.

NAHB and RIBA, together, we are one big family, looking out for those who provide the housing for many more. And your contribution and membership matter!



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Record crowds expected

Reserve now... exhibit space is selling fast!

WHEN: Thursday-Sunday, March 31st -April 3rd

WHERE: Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact John Marcantonio or Elizabeth Carpenter at (401) 438-7400.

In what the Rhode Island Builders Association anticipates will be the biggest and best attended Home Show in recent years, with 25,000 visitors or more, members and non-members alike are urged to reserve their exhibit spaces now.

RIBA members get 5 percent off the regular cost of exhibit space, and previous exhibitors get an additional 5 percent off for renewing early.

If you are a member and a new exhibitor, RIBA will help you with your exhibit design. And if you don't wish to commit for the entire show, there will be a RIBA Pavilion where members can exhibit for just one or two days.

Big marketing

The Home Show will be heavily marketed in all media and with a great deal of industry muscle behind it. Cooperating with RIBA to make the show a hit will be National Grid, the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER), the Rhode Island Lumber and Building Materials Dealers Association (RIBMDLA), the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association (RINLA), Arnold Lumber Co., the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the American Automobile Association (AAA) and even the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD).

Such broad support and sponsorships result from the Home Show's four prime features.

These will include an Elevated Solar Treehouse, a Home Energy Showcase (a six-room modular exhibit to illustrate home energy features), Home Technology, and an Interior Design Showcase (seven rooms with seven separate designers).

All the state's career and technical education (CTE) programs will contribute to building these features, and each one will have its own project manager. The students will construct each com-

ponent off-site, but they will all be assembled at the Rhode Island Convention Center.

The Home Show also needs volunteer help from RIBA member companies, reported Louis Cotoia of Arnold Lumber Co., point man for RIBA's Home Show Committee.

"Even if you can give us an hour or two at the Convention Center, it would be a great help," Mr. Cotoia said.

As part of the home technology feature, the entire Home Show will be wired to demonstrate new home technologies, including laser security, home comfort, anything and everything. To exhibit, contact Cheryl Kessler, Yoffe Exposition Services, at cheryl@yoffeexpo.com or (800) 963-3395.



I believe the 2016 Home Show will be one of the largest and most successful in RIBA's history. I urge members to exhibit and take this unique opportunity to interact with thousands of potential customers. If it's your first time, we offer members the one-time, low-cost RIBA Pavilion exhibit option.

-Executive Director John Marcantonio

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Members invited to help Haiti's orphans

Timothy A. Stasiunas of The Stasiunas Companies isn't just an active member of the Rhode Island Builders Association and co-chairman of its Environmental Committee. He goes to Haiti to help the people of that troubled Caribbean nation.

In fact, he just returned from such a trip in late November.

"I visited an orphanage and people we consider family. We help support their efforts there," Mr. Stasiunas said.

The Stasiunas' church, Perryville Bible Church, and the organization Helping Haiti's Orphans supports an orphanage in the Village of Turbe, near Port au Prince, the nation's capital.

"We also work closely with an organization that supports missionary efforts, Partners with Haiti, based right here in Barrington," he added.

Partners with Haiti has provided education, medical and other needs to the people of Haiti for well over 40 years. Relief work stepped up in the wake of the 2010 earthquake.

Mr. Stasiunas, who also serves on RIBA's Board of Directors, has been to Haiti a number of times to do charitable work, sharing his knowledge and skills as a contractor.

"Another orphanage and school in Port au Prince is operated by Rev. Martinez Jovin, who has had a lifelong commitment to the Haitian people. He takes in school children regardless of their ability to pay," he explained.

"This facility is supported in part by the Bethany project. While I was there, I identified 20 children who need sponsors for their



RIBA member Timothy A. Stasiunas, at right, supervises volunteer work in Haiti.

education. I have pictures of the children and would be grateful to anyone who can make a commitment to save a child through education," Mr. Stasiunas says.

The cost of educating a child is \$30 a month.

"I can tell you that sponsorship through Partners with Haiti by means of the Bethany Project has a profound and measurable result," he adds.

For further information please visit www.partnerswithhaiti.org or contact Mr. Stasiunas directly at stasiunas@verizon.net.

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Pawtucket Credit Union to present at RIBA on construction financing

WHEN: Thursday, February 11th, 5-7 p.m.
WHERE: Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters,
 450 Veterans Memorial Pky #301, East Providence 02914
COST: FREE
FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Contact
 Elizabeth Carpenter at ecarpenter@ribuilders.org, or call
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Looking for construction financing?

Pawtucket Credit Union will offer a presentation on its Portfolio Advantage Lending Program, which offers reduced costs, and on its Construction Loan Program.

Refreshments will be served, and members and non-members are welcome. Come as you are, right from the jobsite.

Learn about:

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- Construction and permanent in-one loan
- Locked-in rate at application
- Interest-only during the construction phase
- Up to 95 percent loan-to-value*
- Loans up to \$1,500,000
- 1-2 family properties
- Primary or secondary homes.

Attending from Pawtucket Credit Union will be William Dawson, vice president / mortgage origination; Mark McLaughlin, assistant vice president of mortgage origination; Matthew D'Agena, assistant vice president of business banking; and Paul Cappello, executive vice president, chief lending officer.

To Our Members

If any Supplier or Contractor Member is hosting an event for contractors or subcontractors, please be aware that RIBA Membership and Education Director Cheryl Boyd or another member of the RIBA team would love to attend to represent the industry and provide information on RIBA membership and benefits.

**Contact Cheryl at (401) 438-7400
 or cboyd@ribuilders.org**

Networking Night set for January 14

WHEN: Thursday, January 14th, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
WHERE: Home Healthsmith, 207 High Point Ave. #2,
 Portsmouth 02871
COST: FREE
FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Contact
 Beth Fontaine at admin@homehealthsmith.com, or call
 (401) 293-0415.

Home Healthsmith will host the Rhode Island Builders Association's first Networking Night of 2016 at its new Center for Adaptive Living at High Point.

Members and non-members are invited to attend.

It will be a pasta and wine evening, with product demonstrations and many home-health items on display. These will include home elevators, stairlifts, vertical platform lifts, wheelchair ramps, ceiling lifts, portable shower bays, home hospital beds and much more.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Beth Fontaine at (401) 293-0415, or e-mail info@homehealthsmith.com as soon as possible.



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Member Profile: Bob Miniati of Miniati Home Improvement & Custom Homes

CTE made him the man he is!

By Paul F. Eno Editor

Bob Miniati is a big supporter of career and technical education (CTE) because he's a successful product of it himself. Now a home builder at the reins of his own company, Bob is delighted to hear that the Rhode Island Builders Association is playing a central role in supporting CTE and matching grads with residential construction jobs. *Story on page 2.*

The Rhode Island Builder Report found Bob in November while he and his crew were putting a new roof on a North Smithfield house that had suffered a fire two months before. In a tribute to Rhode Island's size, the RIBA member who built the house in the 1970s still lives next door, and the homeowner himself once worked for the Miniatis.

Ironically, the fire took place on September 11th of this year.

"My dad, also Bob, started this company in 1976, just doing home improvements," Bob recalls. "I loved the business from the start! I was sweeping floors and even using a nail gun when I was 12 years old!"

When the Miniatis began building custom homes in the 1980s, the younger Bob was already in CTE, attending the Pawtucket Vocational High School and, later, the William M. Davies Jr. Career & Technical High School.

He even won a gold medal for carpentry in the national competition of the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA), now SkillsUSA, in 1984 and traveled to Arizona to accept the award.

"I worked for my dad as a co-op kid, and to this day we like to hire co-op kids. We always have great luck with them," Bob says.

He notes that Rhode Island's current CTE system needs reform because, among other things, it's not as easy as it used to be to hire co-op students because their current school schedules can limit their jobsite presence.

Cooperative CTE combines classroom instruction with paid employment directly related to the instruction – a hands-on educational experience. Both student instruction and employment are planned and supervised by the school and the employer so that each contributes to the student's career objectives and employability.

From his own days as a CTE student, Bob even has the old wood lathe he worked on at Pawtucket Vocational.



Bob Miniati

"The city was going to pay to have it removed, then scrap it. I said, 'I'll take it!'"

Today, Miniati Home Improvement & Custom Homes is still a family company, with Bob's brother having joined the business in 1988 just after graduating from high school, and his cousin in 1977. There are two full-time employees and one part-timer.

"This (North Smithfield) is about as far as I like to go," Bob says. "We generally stay around Pawtucket and northern Rhode Island, but sometimes work in nearby Massachusetts or Connecticut."

The Miniatis have been involved with RIBA since 1978.

"We take all our safety classes at RIBA, and it's really great to get the free tuition now," Bob states. "I took my backhoe pre-licensing course there, and lead safety classes too."

Bob also has used the association's health insurance, and he remembers attending many clambakes over the years. He has recruited many new members.

"I take them to a class and tell them about the many benefits of being a member. That usually does the trick," he declares.

"It's a great association, definitely an asset for any contractor. That's especially true if you're just starting out."



Miniati Home Imp. & Custom Homes

Owner: Robert H. Miniati II

RIBA member since: 1978

Focus: Construction and Remodeling

Serves: Southeastern New England

Founded: 1976

Based: Pawtucket, Rhode Island

Strength Finder Seminar slated for Jan.

By Tracey P. Boyajian PWB President

The Professional Women in Building Council reminds all members of our January 11th Gallup Strength Finder Seminar. This will be a joint meeting with the local chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) and will be held at the RIBA office in East Providence.

Gallup's StrengthsFinder assessments have helped millions of people discover what they do best. People who use their strengths every day are six times more likely to be engaged on the job, according to their findings. Teams that focus on their strengths are 12.5 percent more productive.

Membership drive

PWB has launched a membership drive as a way to build on the success that was recognized at the International Builders Show (IBS) in Las Vegas earlier this year.

If your employees don't belong to PWB, they are missing out! We are the premier professional organization that provides strategies and solutions for professional women in the building industry, and we are always looking for new members to bring their individual and professional talents to the group.

Employees of a company affiliated with RIBA are eligible to join PWB for only \$60 a year, and I ask that you encourage them to visit with us.

For more information on PWB and its many activities, contact Tracey Boyajian at tboyajian@abcleads.com.



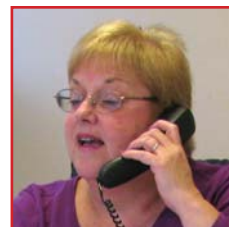
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RIBA MEMBERS

It is important that you keep RIBA informed of your current e-mail address. If you are not receiving RIBA e-mails or if they are going to the wrong address, please inform Elizabeth Carpenter by phone at 401-438-7400.

Get to know our members in 60 seconds or less...!

Joyce Therrien
Broker at
The Builders Insurance Group



How long have you been a RIBA/PWB Member?

Three years

What benefits do you find from being a member?

Meeting other professional women and trying to learn from their successes.

Do you volunteer for any RIBA/PWB events or committees?

I do try to attend as many RIBA/PWB events as I can. I enjoy getting together with everyone.

What drew you into your career?

Many years ago I started at RIBA with the health insurance program. I found it very rewarding to help the members with their health insurance choices.

Since joining the Builders Insurance Group in 2012, I am now able to assist with all lines of insurance: property, casualty, home and auto as well as health insurance.

What sets your company apart from the others?

Builders Insurance was formed to specialize in insurance for those in the building industry. We rent office space right in the RIBA headquarters to make it convenient for RIBA members.

Do you have any particular charity that is close to your heart?

I'm the one who is always buying the extra groceries at the market to help the food bank. Also, Builders Helping Heros is a wonderful charity for our local troops.

How do you spend your free time?

I enjoy spending time with my family.

Native Rhode Islander?

Yes. Born in Providence

Bruins or Canadiens?

Bruins!



5 Hour Pre-Registration Course

January 7th, January 22nd

February 9th, February 23rd

New contractors only

WHEN: All dates, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WHERE: Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pky #301, East Providence 02914

COST: \$250

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: One week before class

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Contact Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

The Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board (CRLB) now requires five hours of education for anyone who plans to register as a new contractor in Rhode Island.

The course includes: Introduction to Construction Contracts, Introduction to Construction Codes and Standards, Introduction to Construction Regulations and Regulating Agencies, Introduction to Construction Business Principles and Practices, and Workplace Health and Safety. Pre-registration is required for admittance.



OSHA-10 Course

January 13th-14th

WHEN: Wednesday & Thursday, January 13th and 14th, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day.

WHERE: Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pky #301, East Providence 02914

COST: FREE for members and their employees with a \$40 materials/registration fee, \$125 for non-members with a \$40 materials/registration fee.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: One week before class

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Contact Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

Scott Asprey of Risk & Safety Management will take participants through the OSHA 10-Hour Certification Course, which provides training in compliance with the Dept. of Labor & Training's municipal jobsite rules.

It trains safety directors, foremen and field employees in OSHA standards and highlights major safety concerns so that jobsite accidents can be reduced.

Everyone completing the course will receive a copy of the OSHA Standard 29 CFR Part 1926 and an OSHA-10 certification card.



Initial 8 Hour Lead-Safe Remodeler Course

January 25th

WHEN: Monday, January 25th, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

WHERE: Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pky #301, East Providence 02914

COST: FREE for members and their employees, with \$40 materials/registration fee. \$110 for non-members, with \$40 materials/registration. Credit cards accepted. Lunch is included.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: One week before class

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Contact Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

The Rhode Island Builders Association will once again present the 8 Hour Lead-Safe Remodeler/Renovator Course in January. This course is required to obtain a Lead Safe Remodeler/Renovator Certificate, which is necessary for work in all pre-1978 buildings in Rhode Island.



Lead licensing refresher

January 19th, February 22nd, March 15th

WHEN: Tuesday, January 19th; Thursday February 25th; Tuesday, March 15th, 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

WHERE: Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pky #301, East Providence 02914

COST: FREE for members and their employees, with a \$40 materials/registration fee. A \$75 charge for non-members and a \$40 materials/registration fee.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: One week before class.

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Contact Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

This is a four-hour refresher class with Scott Asprey of Risk & Safety Management, for contractors who have their lead renovator/remodeler license and whose certificate is up for renewal or has expired within the previous six months. Enforcement on residential jobsites is strict, so keep your knowledge up to date! The class will review lead-hazard controls and update attendees on changes to regulations. You must pre-register for this class. No admittance without pre-registration and payment.



Featured Products & Services for January 2016

A Rhode Island Builder Report Special Section



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Rick Roy
rickroyconstruction.com
Harwich, MA



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Building Products of Canada Corp. (BP) has been serving the roofing needs of homeowners and contractors for more than 100 years. Over that time, they have introduced innovative products and systems that provide solutions to rapidly changing climate conditions.

As the weather worsens, BP products get stronger, better and more reliable. Advances in roofing technology have made these products the number-one choice for contractors.

Your reasons for choosing BP can be summarized in three words: Reliability, Efficiency and Selection.

Reliability: BP's architectural shingle is an excellent example of built-in reliability. They're hurricane-resistant, with two bands of high-tack adhesive.

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RI REG #11

Weather Barriers

January 21st

This course eligible for continuing-education units


WHEN: Thursday, January 21st, 4-6 p.m.

WHERE: Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pky #301, East Providence 02914

COST: FREE for members and their employees, with a \$10 materials/registration fee. \$50 for non-members, with a \$10 materials/registration fee.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: One week before class

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Contact Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

Learn about weather resistive barriers (WRBs), flashings and exterior water management with Mike Guertin of Michael R. Guertin Inc. All siding installations leak, so you need a properly detailed and flashed WRB to keep water out of the house. See common problem areas to pay extra attention to, and how to flash doors and windows to comply with the building code. Learn whether or not rigid exterior insulation foam can be used as a WRB and how flashing details change when it is. This course is eligible for continuing education units (CEUs) as required by the R.I. Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board. 

Prevent Roof Leaks

January 21st

This course eligible for continuing-education units

WHEN: Thursday, January 21st, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.


WHERE: Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pky #301, East Providence 02914

COST: FREE for members and their employees, with a \$10 materials/registration fee. \$50 for non-members, with a \$10 materials/registration fee.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: One week before class

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Contact Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

Join Mike Guertin to learn critical roof details that can prevent leaks. Flashings and roof underlayment provide a last line of defense against roof leaks, but both can be defeated when poorly installed. Learn what the minimum code requirements are for step flashing, kickout flashing, drip edge and underlayment installation. See how self-adhering membrane can be detailed at critical locations to reduce the chance of water leaks and call-backs.

This course is eligible for continuing education units (CEUs) as required by the state Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board. 

OSHA 30-Hour Course

January 26th-February 16th


WHEN: Begins Tuesday, January 26th, 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Class will meet twice a week. Call for information on specific dates.

WHERE: Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pky #301, East Providence 02914

COST: FREE for members, with a \$60 materials/registration fee. \$400 for non-members, with a \$60 materials/registration fee charge.

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Contact Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

Instructor Scott Asprey, construction safety consultant and trainer at Risk and Safety Management, will take participants through a complete safety overview.

The course will cover everything from the OSHA law itself through walking surfaces and emergencies to electrical safety, ergonomics and hazardous materials. It is specifically devised for safety directors, foremen and field supervisors to learn OSHA construction standards. The course provides complete information on OSHA compliance issues. Payment is due at the time of registration. Credit cards are accepted. 

Creative shingling

February 1st

This course eligible for continuing-education units

WHEN: Monday, February 1st, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

WHERE: Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pky #301, East Providence 02914


COST: FREE for members and their employees, with a \$10 materials/registration fee. \$50 for non-members, with a \$10 materials/registration fee.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: One week before class

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Contact Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

Join Mike Guertin to learn how creative cedar shingle designs can definitely set your work apart from run-of-the-mill sidewallers.

From simple geometric designs to complex images, cedar shingle siding is a unique art medium. Using a few simple techniques that are easy to learn you can craft amazing freeform designs and entire scenes with cedar shingles.

This course is eligible for continuing education units (CEUs) as required by the state Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board. 

Get involved: Now is the time!



Steven Carlino

There are four major engines that drive the American economy, according to Dr. David Crowe, chief economist for the National Association of Home Builders. These engines are the automotive industry, local government, health care and, of course, housing.

In our state we're not going to see an automotive plant anytime soon, if ever. Local governments are either cutting back on spending or are broke altogether. Health care is flat, burdened by many factors.

So in Rhode Island, that leaves housing as the primary generator for the economy. And that should be foremost in the minds of our state's executive officers and lawmakers as the 2016 session of the General Assembly gets under way in January. Whether it will be foremost for them is largely up to those of us in the residential construction industry. That's because many legislators may not know about our industry, its importance to the economy and what the industry needs in order to thrive. Unless we tell them, that is.

We'll get specific about the Rhode Island Builders Association's 2016 advocacy as the legislative session develops. For now, we

call on all members to contact their state senators and representatives, tell them what you do, and let them know how crucial housing is to the state economy.

High cost of construction

Let them know that unreasonable and unnecessary government regulations and fees, state and local, are driving up the costs of construction and, therefore, the cost of housing for their constituents.

The high cost of construction is something we will focus on this year.

So now is the time to start getting involved! Pass on the message that when they vote for good housing legislation, our lawmakers vote to strengthen Rhode Island's economy. Construction is and will continue to be the largest generator of economic growth and job creation, and homes will continue to be the largest investment and wealth creator for most people.

For information on RIBA's advocacy program and for advice on how to approach and talk with your legislators, contact Executive Director John Marcantonio at (401) 438-7400.



Robert J. Baldwin

RIBA's Legislative Committee

Steven Carlino, Co-Chairman
Douglas Lumber, Kitchens & Home Center

Robert J. Baldwin, Co-Chairman
R.B. Homes Inc.

President Roland J. Fiore, Ex Officio
South County Sand & Gravel Co., Inc.

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Executive Director, Rhode Island Builders Association

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Caldwell & Johnson Inc.

Jevon Chan
Unisource International Dev. & Constr. Co.

Thomas D'Angelo
Terry Lane Corp./Progressive Realty Group

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Stephen Olson
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John Pesce
Lehigh Realty LLC.

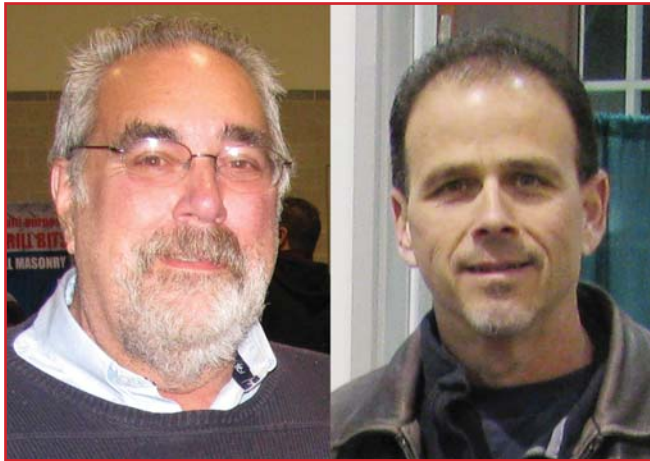
Ronald J. Smith
Ron Smith Homes Inc.

Joseph W. Walsh
Government Strategies Inc.

Eric Wishart
Civil CADD Services Inc.

Gayle Wolf
Government Strategies Inc.

Study committee faces April deadline for statewide freshwater wetlands regulations



Thomas E. D'Angelo

Timothy A. Stasiunas

Working against an April deadline, the legislative study committee on wetlands setbacks has set up a working group, mostly from the Dept. of Environmental Management (DEM).

We are working against buffer assignments that we feel are arbitrary, something the 2014 legislation on statewide standards seeks to avoid as well.

We're also attempting to prevent vernal pools from being added to the mix. A vernal pool could be the size of your dinner table and be wet for one month out of the year. In our opinion, vernal pools have always been given far greater buffers and setbacks than they deserve.

We think there should be better sizing criteria for setbacks, and we are working for this on the committee.

We will be on top of this, as proposed rules have to be ready for public comment by April.



EPA gives Rhode Island \$18.2 million for water infrastructure projects

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded \$18.2 million to the State of Rhode Island to help finance improvements to the state's aging drinking-water and sewer infrastructure.

The amount, however, is a drop in the bucket when measured against the state's actual needs.

According to a 2013 state-by state study by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Rhode Island needs at least \$428 million over the next 20 years just to keep its drinking-water infrastructure in tune with federal standards, never mind expanding it to accommodate residential or commercial growth.

As for the state's sewers, with sections that are over 100 years old, the Dept. of Environmental Management (DEM) estimates that over \$340 million is needed simply to maintain or repair existing systems, let alone expanding them to prevent the frequent sewage and storm-water

overflows into Narragansett Bay.

The EPA grant money can be "leveraged" into larger amounts, however.

"Working with DEM, the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) will leverage the EPA's significant investment to lend municipalities more than \$65 million in low-cost loans for water infrastructure projects," Joseph Dewhirst, RIIB interim executive director, explained.

From the actual EPA grant, meanwhile, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), administrated by DEM and RIIB, received \$9.4 million. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), administrated by the Rhode Island Dept. of Health (DOH) and RIIB, received \$8.8 million.

"This funding will pay for projects that improve water quality and protect drinking water across Rhode Island, and will provide benefits for decades to come," said Curt Spalding, regional administrator of EPA's New England office.

"Clean drinking water and proper waste-

water treatment are fundamental to protecting people's health, but aging water infrastructure needs to be upgraded and repaired."

Messages left at the EPA New England Regional Office in Boston regarding the availability of more funding were unanswered as of this writing.

So far, EPA has awarded roughly \$443 million to Rhode Island for the construction, expansion and upgrading of clean-water infrastructure.

For more information, visit www2.epa.gov/cwsrf or contact EPA's David Deegan at (617) 918-1017.



Upgrading and expanding Rhode Island's water and sewer infrastructure is crucial to economic recovery, a healthy environment and residential growth.

**-Executive Director
John Marcantonio**

Paul McConnell

CTE Specialist, R.I. Dept. of Education

Paul McConnell has worked in the education field for the past 10 years. He currently works in the Dept. of Education's Office of Multiple Pathways. In partnership with other state agencies and organizations, Mr. McConnell is helping develop a comprehensive system of varying educational "pathways" for students, including career and technical education (CTE) and virtual learning. He is a graduate of Providence College and lives in South Kingstown.



McCONNELL: CTE is the feeder system for your industry's future workforce.

To establish a 21st century workforce, we really need to start in the K-12 educational environment. We need to better explain to students and their families that they are in school to learn how to do a job.

Regardless of how far they do or don't go in school, we have to let them know we aren't criticizing them for it. We have to let them know that, regardless of what they do, they have to work.

That's what our nation is founded on, and business support for the students is critical.

THE BUILDER: What's the place of career and technical education (CTE) within Rhode Island's educational system?

McCONNELL: It's certainly in the top five (among priorities) and that probably fluctuates. It's extremely important to this department and to the community at large, to business and to members of the General Assembly. These are stakeholders who are invested, so I think we're in a very good place from the attention perspective.

People are looking at CTE, and they want to help it grow and improve. I'm hearing no criticisms as such, just the attitude that anything and everything can get better.

THE BUILDER: One of the issues behind that question is the perception that school administrators consider college the proper goal for any good student, considering CTE only for those who are academically weak. Has that attitude changed?

McCONNELL: What's changed that is the students, including those 14 and 15 years of age, are demonstrating the need for CTE. I see students daily, and they'll tell you that they will have to work their way through college, and that they're looking at job options well beyond college.

They want to know where they can go to get a job that will pay them decently, with benefits, and that will take them on to the next level. Most of them end up staying in one field. And that's what's great about CTE: The students are pretty focused. And, believe it or not, adults do listen to the students.

Ask them why they're in a certain CTE program, and they'll say, "I want to own my own business, and this is a way to do that." Especially in construction, they might say they want to work in it because it's their family's business and they will take it over someday.

THE BUILDER: So why is CTE important to the residential construction industry?

THE BUILDER: What are the most serious problems in Rhode Island CTE right now?

McCONNELL: My biggest concern at the moment is the shortage of instructional staff. You can have the best program, the best system and the best buildings. But if you can't put the right teachers in the classrooms or workshops, you're done.

THE BUILDER: How will the recent Real Jobs Rhode Island grant to the Residential Construction Workforce Partnership help CTE?

McCONNELL: The grant not only focuses attention on the industry and its needs, but it will help us market the CTE programs to the students. In the K-12 environment, we're competing with many other things.

If we can get information on the programs and the trades to students and parents early, let them know that they need to be able to read blueprints and use a tape measure. This will help them concentrate on appropriate subject areas early on.

They will realize that the construction industry has been changed by technology along with everything else. This grant is a real plus when it comes to that aspect of education.

Also, it brings business people into the classroom environment. It's very important for potential future employers to come in and talk with the students, and to get the students out to jobsites. Very important!

THE BUILDER: How soon will these benefits be seen?

McCONNELL: I think we'll start seeing the benefits at the primary level, and certainly at the secondary level, almost immediately.

see *INTERVIEW*, next page...

INTERVIEW...from previous page

With the construction industry, we've been very fortunate, particularly with the Rhode Island Builders Association and the Associated Builders and Contractors, with the amount of support. They've helped in teaching situations, provided job-shadowing opportunities and internships.

They've helped us review and improve our programs, which is very important. That's an immediate benefit right there.

THE BUILDER: How can individual contractors help improve the CTE programs, especially as instructors?

McCONNELL: This takes us back to the shortage of instructors. Say you've been a contractor for 20 years, you've made money, maybe you're selling your company, and now you want to do something different.

We need to get you into the classroom with support. You've been a business person and now you're dealing with 18 students. You know your craft, but how do you transfer that knowledge to the students?

We're discussing that and meeting with our education partners to find a good way to accomplish that. At this point, we have had contractors responding to our need for instructors, and we have referred them to the specific school districts.

This is where a potential instructor has to do a self-analysis. Where are you in your existing career, and how do you transition into something as different as the instructional environment?

Actually, managing a construction site is quite similar to managing a classroom, but you're dealing with a different maturity level. Also, the school environment is quite social, so you have to motivate the students to learn and meet specific objectives.

Our goal is to help those students meet the graduation requirements and to have that diploma mean something to an employer.

So when considering becoming an instructor, I suggest that a contractor shadow an existing instructor. That can be initiated by a phone call to the school.


There might be a background check and some paperwork involved. That's just standard procedure right now. You can also go to meetings and talk with teachers to get some focus.

All this will help you find out if you are comfortable with the students. Can you talk to them and will they talk to you? Can you manage them? That can be the toughest part, especially when it comes to their safety.

That will help determine whether this will work for you. If you feel that it is, most districts have an "induction coach" to work with you and help you. We also help you get on track to get the degree you need, and we offer emergency teacher certifications.

THE BUILDER: Beyond becoming instructors, what else can contractors do to help the CTE programs?

McCONNELL: They should go through (RIBA Director of Membership and Education) Cheryl Boyd (401-438-7400) about having students visit jobsites, especially to watch a project progress and to learn necessary jobsite behavior.

We can't do what we do without the business community. 

YouthBuild Providence honors RIBA members



A staffer and two members of the Rhode Island Builders Association were unexpectedly honored on December 2nd at an event sponsored by YouthBuild Providence, of which they have been longtime supporters. Pictured from the top are Thomas Lopatosky of LOPCO Contracting, Louis Cotoia of Arnold Lumber Co. and Cheryl Boyd, formerly of Arnold Lumber and now RIBA's director of membership and education. With them are Joanne Debrah, left, director of transition services for YouthBuild Providence and Pilar McCloud, YouthBuilder Providence's mentor team leader.

BOB...from page 1

to family and friends, his love of life, his booming voice, his mischievous spirit, his prankish sense of humor and irresistible grin,” members of his family recalled.

“Bob was never content to do anything small. He knew how to get things done, and he would do anything for his friends and family. He will be remembered as a successful businessman, a loyal friend, a gracious host, a lively storyteller, a fabulous cook, and unrepentant prankster.”

A Providence native, Bob worked very hard at his education and to become successful in the construction industry. In fact, when the smart-growth movement began encouraging people to move from the suburbs back to the cities, Bob quipped, “I grew up on the third floor and I’m not going back!”

“Bob loved spending time on his boat, playing cards at the Aurora Club, sunning at the beach in Long Boat Key, Fla., and reading biographies,” family members said.

“Most of all, he loved spending time with his friends, family and especially his grandchildren, whom he adored.”

Bob grew up in Providence and Warwick, and he was a 1954 graduate of La Salle Academy. He remained a benefactor of that school for his entire adult life, establishing the Class of 1954 Scholarship Fund.

Attending the University of Rhode Island for several years, Bob left in 1957 to help his father, John, start Consolidated Concrete Corp.

John “hocked the house to start the company,” recalled George Pesce, Bob’s brother and a longtime RIBA member.

“Our dad worked for another concrete company at the time. He bought a used concrete plant in Fall River and four used trucks. We set it up on Waterman Avenue in East Providence. As a family, we built this company from the ground up by giving good service and good quality.”

When Consolidated was founded, George was 17 and still in high school. Bob was 21, and both young men began working at the plant forthwith. That family spirit not only built the company, it embraces the staff even today.



Bob's generosity and support of RIBA's programs were second to none. His presence and friendship will be missed, but the foundation he helped build here will continue to aid and inspire our industry.

***-Executive Director
John Marcantonio***

“Bob loved to cook, and he was really good at it. When he wasn’t away, he often brought in home-cooked meals for the staff,” George remembered. “One day it might be pasta with clam sauce, and another day it might be homemade pizza.”

Bob’s homey touch even reached to the company’s concrete-mixing trucks, which sometimes sport the names of their drivers or a Pesce family member in bright white paint. And you can’t miss the trucks, especially the four new ones purchased in 2007. They’re all painted in the company’s distinctive blue-and-white striped pattern, the rotating drum in genuine zebra style.

George credits Bob with that idea.

“Of course that led to the slogan ‘We earn our stripes every day!’”

One truck joined Bob’s funeral procession from Sts. Peter & Paul Cathedral in Providence to Gate of Heaven Cemetery in East Providence on November 24th.

Always heading onward and upward, Bob founded Coast Realty, a successful commercial real estate development and management company, in 1969. Then, in 1976, he and a partner, Gene Carlino, founded Douglas Lumber Co., now Douglas Lumber, Kitchens & Home Center.

“Bob and I were like family. Our relationship went back to the early ‘70s, when he and my dad developed some land together in Greenville and acted as general contractors,” said Douglas Lumber President Steven Carlino.

“One thing led to another, and we founded Douglas Lumber as our own supplier.”

Bob was an “inspiration and a mentor” to Steven.

“We even traveled together, and Bob was a lot of fun. There are so many memories! Bob could always take a negative and turn it into a positive,” he added.

A pillar of RIBA for over 60 years, Bob served as treasurer for 25 years and chaired the Legislative Committee. He also served in many capacities on the Board of Directors. Bob also served on the Board of Assessors in Barrington.

Consolidated Concrete joined RIBA in 1957, and the Pesce family’s involvement goes back to the association’s origins in the 1940s. Bob himself had many a humorous story from over the decades. One involved the 1954 RIBA Clambake, when a photographer took a group photo. The group was so large that the man had to take two shots, then put them together. Bob and his Dad took advantage of the lull between the shots. They ran from one end of the group to the other, so they appear in the photo twice. That picture can be seen at RIBA headquarters to this day.

Invariably, Bob and Consolidated Concrete have supported RIBA in every way they could, as major sponsors of virtually every association event, as exhibitors at the Home Show, and as prime advertisers in *The Rhode Island Builder Report* and the annual *Membership Directory and Buyer’s Guide*.

Every longtime RIBA member has personal memories of Bob.

“I knew Bob for years through RIBA, but things got interesting when I built his house (in Barrington) in 2005,” recalled Mike DeCesare of DeCesare Building Co.

“Bob had the patience of an ant, and he had one idea while I had another! But I gave Bob and his wife a whole design, and it turned out way better than they expected. He almost didn’t believe it!”

Even some more recent members were struck by Bob’s support for RIBA.

“Bob always wanted to, and did, support the association, yet he never wanted to be the focus of attention or the recipient of accolades,” said Joe Cracco of Modern Yankee Builders.

“He did it clearly because he loved RIBA and wanted to give back. I can’t remember the last time the *Builder Report* or the *Directory* didn’t have Consolidated Concrete’s ads in them.”

This editor remembers Bob as an avid reader and a lover of Rhode Island history. When my book *Rhode Island: A Genial*

see PESCE...next page

PESCE...from previous page

History, co-authored with Glenn Laxton of Channel 12, was released in 2009, Bob brought it to the RIBA board meeting and urged everyone there to buy it.

Bob was the husband of the late Catherine A. Pesce, and he is survived by his second wife, Elizabeth. He is also survived by his son John R. Pesce and his wife Marissa of Lincoln; stepdaughters Alicia von Rekowsky and her husband Robert of Cambridge, Mass.; and Jennifer Frank of Easton, Mass. Also surviving him are his grandchildren John R. Pesce III, Cristina Pesce and Francesca Pesce; along with step-grandchildren Noe and Gemma Shoor; Genevieve, Oscar and Josephine von Rekowsky.

Along with his brother George and his wife, Lori, of Warwick, Bob is survived by his sisters-in-law Rita Verardo and Norma Hartley.

Donations in Bob's memory may be made to the Class of 1954 Scholarship Fund at La Salle Academy, 612 Academy Ave., Providence RI 02908. Online condolences may be left at www.LEGACY.com/obituaries/providence.

GRANT...from page 2

of the Property Advisory Group, another leader in RIBA's work to support and reform CTE in the state.

"There will be long-term benefits to the state in a number of ways. Better training will bring better jobs and better wages so people can afford homes. We're talking \$20 or \$25 an hour, not \$15. It's a win-win for everyone in the state," Mr. Bentz stated.

"This is how you elevate people to the middle class. No other program will have the profound effect this will, and RIBA is one of the leaders."

A 'strategic partnership'

RIBA won an initial "planning grant" from DLT in August. This helped the association assemble and coordinate the RCWP as a "strategic partnership" of companies and organizations within the residential construction industry. The RCWP then applied for the implementation grant through RIBA.

The shortage of good, skilled labor in the residential construction industry in Rhode Island is acute. RIBA estimates that the average construction worker in the state is now in his or her late 50s.

"Over the last decade, very few new workers have entered the industry because of the economic downturn. As a result, as the state's housing market recovers, we will have a massive shortage of labor," Mr. Marcantonio stated.

Real Jobs Rhode Island, funded by a \$5.25 million grant from the U.S. Dept. of Labor, is a "demand-based" program, meant to respond to what industries and employers need when it comes to jobs they have open at any given time, according to Mr. Jensen of DLT.

A prime vehicle for meeting the demand for training and employees are the new "Real Jobs Partnerships," such as RCWP, Mr. Jensen said. These involve DLT working with employers in a given industry, educational institutions, local governments, regional and local economic development agencies, community not-for-profits, and industry groups.

Watch *The Rhode Island Builder Report* for more updates on this important issue.



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Obituary

Edgar L. Ladouceur, 88

Edgar L. Ladouceur, father of past the Rhode Island Builders Association President Edgar N. Ladouceur, died November 30th at Kent Hospital. He was 88.

A resident of Warwick and an Army veteran of World War II, Mr. Ladouceur owned Celete Building Specialties and Hi Tech Windows for many years. He retired in 2008.

Burial with military honors took place in Resurrection Cemetery, Cumberland. Donations in Mr. Ladouceur's memory may be made to the American Lung Association, 260 West Exchange St., Suite 102B, Providence, RI 02903. See more at: www.LEGACY.com/obituaries/providence.

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