



MINNESOTA BUILDERS EXCHANGE **Weekly Bulletin**

Volume 49 - 2023 | Wednesday, December 6, 2023 | www.mbex.org

Five Things To Do / Know This Week:

1.) Less than 30 days to submit that 2024 membership renewal. Make sure your dues are paid by December 31st to avoid Online Plan Room access disruptions. [Call](#) or [email](#) Shauna with questions.

2.) Registration is now open for the 2024 [MBEX Annual Meeting & Luncheon](#) being held on January 10 at the Mendakota County Club in Mendota Heights.

3.) If you're looking to put money back to [your bottom line](#) this year, your business could save thousands of dollars on new *and used* equipment purchases through available tax incentives.

4.) Happy Hanukkah! The [Festival of Lights](#) begins Thursday night (12/7).

5.) **Test Your Knowledge:**

Recently, we asked members to participate in a survey conducted by the Minneapolis Federal Reserve regarding the current conditions of the commercial construction sector. One question within the survey asked, "What are the two greatest challenges to your current operating capacity and productivity?"

Which two challenges ranked the highest among respondents?

- A.) Inflation/Materials Input Costs & Supply Chain Disruptions;
- B.) Wage Pressure & Government Regulations and/or Taxes;
- C.) Higher Interest Rates & Labor Availability/Filling Open Jobs; or
- D.) Labor Availability/Filling Open Jobs & Inflation/Material Input Costs. [See the Answer](#)

Make the most of this mid-week moment.

IN BRIEF:

- **Holiday Cheer:** Last chance to register for Holiday Party North on 12/7
- **Inching Up:** Nonresidential spending up in October
- **Vote:** Cast your ballot for the 2024 Board of Directors election now underway
- **Innovative in 2024:** Place an ad in the next issue of *MBEX Blueprint*
- **Minority Notices:** ECI seeks qualified MCUB vendors for two upcoming projects
- **Detroit's Road of the Future, Unfair Labor Charges, & the Rise of Renewable Diesel:** Five construction headlines, and Mayo Clinic's \$5-billion expansion in Rochester
- **Member Benefits:** Grab this limited time holiday offer with Verizon thru 12/10

MEMBER NEWS + EVENTS

THIS THURSDAY: HOLIDAY PARTY NORTH

Don't Be a Grinch - Join Us This Thursday!

We're less than 48 hours away from MBEX's Holiday Party North! If you haven't already secured your spot, now is the time to act.

- **DATE:** Thursday, December 7

- **TIME:**

5:30pm - Cocktails + Hors d'oeuvres

6:30pm - Sit-Down Dinner

7:00pm - Short Program + Door Prize

Giveaways

[Register Here](#)

- **LOCATION:** Ridgeview Country Club
(Duluth, Minn.)

- **TICKETS:** \$45 per person

- Sponsorship Opportunities also available.

This member holiday event is your ticket to:

- ☐ **Networking:** Connect with industry leaders and peers in a relaxed, festive surrounding, and forge valuable connections that can elevate your career.

- ☐ **Delicious Delights:** Treat your taste buds to a sumptuous dinner buffet filled with delectable dishes.

- ☐ **Prizes & Surprises:** Don't miss your chance to win amazing door prizes and giveaways that will make the holiday season extra special.

- ☐ ☐ **Festive Attire:** Dress to impress in your most stylish holiday outfit.

Share the joy with colleagues and industry friends, and encourage them to join us at this merry celebration. Spouses and partners are also welcome to attend.

Registration is closing soon; click that red 'Register Here' button above and secure your spot right now.

Thank you to the following event sponsors:

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NONRESIDENTIAL SPENDING HIGHER IN OCTOBER

Nonresidential Construction Spending Inches Higher in October, Up 20% Over the Past Year.

National nonresidential construction spending increased 0.1% in October, according to an Associated Builders and Contractors analysis of data published on December 1, 2023. On a seasonally adjusted annualized basis, nonresidential spending totaled \$1.1-trillion.

Spending was up on a monthly basis in 8 of the 16 nonresidential subcategories. Private nonresidential spending increased 0.1% in October, while public nonresidential construction spending was up 0.2%.

Nonresidential construction spending increased for the 17th consecutive month in October, and is now up an even 20% over the past year.

[Read More on ABC.org](#)

MEMBER REMINDER

CAST YOUR BALLOT FOR
2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DON'T FORGET: Cast Your Online Ballot

Voting is now open for the 2024 MBEX Board of Directors.

Three open Board seats are to be filled in the new year with three of the six running candidates:

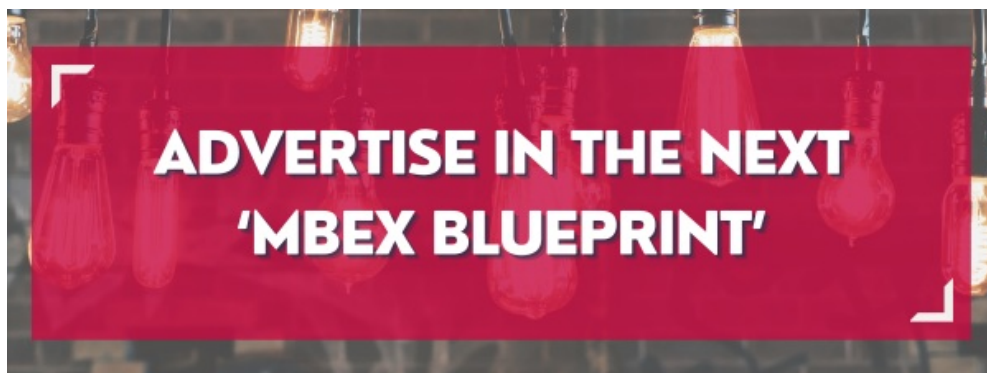
- 1.) **Allie Brady**, *Veit USA*
- 2.) **Chris Niemand**, *Frattalone Companies*
- 3.) **David Brandt**, *Schadegg Mechanical* (incumbent)
- 4.) **Kevin Bohrer**, *Donlar Construction*
- 5.) **Matt Hagstrom**, *Scaffold Service*
- 6.) **Mike Erlandsen**, *Sunbelt Rentals*

Emails were sent to each member company's main contact last week with an invitation to access the online ballot. A second round of invitations will be emailed later this week to all members who have not yet voted. One ballot per member company is permitted.

This ballot will close at 11:59pm CST on Wednesday, December 27, 2023, and election results will be announced at the MBEX Annual Meeting & Luncheon on January 10, 2024.

Thank you for your continued support and active involvement in MBEX, and we wish our running candidates good luck!

If you need assistance accessing your online ballot or are unsure of who your company's invite was sent, [contact us here](#).



Advertise in the Next Issue of *MBEX Blueprint Magazine*

Did you know earlier this year we published the first issue of our newest publication, *MBEX Blueprint*?

We're gearing up for the next issue and are excited about the opportunities we can bring through our partnership with Innovative Publishing in 2024.

This statewide publication is a great networking tool that will reach all MBEX members, top general contractors, trade contractors, major architectural and engineering firms, city and county government officials, and school administrators.

The Innovative team may or may not have already contacted you about advertising in

our publication next year, so please keep us in mind as you finalize your 2024 marketing plans.

Reach out to our [Innovative marketing / sales consultant](#) with any questions or to get started with placing your ad in the upcoming issue.

[View the MBEX Blueprint Media Kit](#) | [Read the First Issue of MBEX Blueprint](#)



LAST CHANCE! December 7 - Holiday Party North

Come gather with fellow construction industry professionals for an evening of festive cheer and networking at Holiday Party North in Duluth. Event will be held at Ridgeview Country Club and includes a social hour, sit-down dinner, short program, and door prize giveaways. [Register Here](#)

December 21 - MBEX Online Plan Room Demo

From navigating the Desktop, setting up filters, understanding project information, and bidders lists, this free, one-hour session is a great introduction to our Online Plan Room. There will be time at the end for questions and answers. [Register Here](#)

December 22 & 25 - Christmas - MBEX Closed

MBEX will be closed Friday and Monday for the Christmas holiday. Please plan office visit and/or building plan orders accordingly.

December 29 & January 1 - New Years - MBEX Closed

MBEX will be closed Friday and Monday for the New Years holiday. Wishing you a happy 2024 and a project-filled pipeline for the next 365 days ahead!

January 10 - MBEX Annual Meeting & Luncheon

MBEX is thrilled to invite its members to the Annual Meeting & Luncheon, a premier event that brings together our vibrant construction community. This is more than just a meeting; it's an opportunity to be at the forefront of the building industry's latest trends and innovations; the announcement of our 2024 Board of Directors; give recognition for Volunteer of the Year, Distinguished Member, and outgoing Board members; and hear special guest speaker Hugh Seaton's presentation, "AI: What Construction Leaders Need to Know". [Register Here](#)

REMEMBER: If you are an employee of a current MBEX member company, you are welcome to attend any and all MBEX events.



MINORITY NOTICE

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Engineering & Construction Innovations Inc (ECI) is seeking qualified MCUB subcontractors, suppliers and vendors for the following projects:

- Metropolitan Council Environmental Services' Lake Elmo West
- Metropolitan Council Environmental Services' Seneca Pipe and Site Restoration

Bids for the Lake Elmo West project must be submitted to ECI by December 11 at 3:00pm. [View Full Notice](#)

Bids for the Seneca Pipe and Site Restoration project must be submitted to ECI by January 15 at 3:00pm. [View Full Notice](#)

Please send quotes for either project to Ron Sweep via [email](#) or via facsimile to (651) 298-9113.



**Engineering & Construction
Innovations Inc**

7002 6th Street North
Oakdale, Minn., 55128
PH: (651) 298-9111

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CONSTRUCTION HEADLINES

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

✦ [Detroit's Road of the Future will Charge Your Car as You Drive On It](#)

For the first time in the U.S., EV-charging technology has been embedded in a public roadway. Built into a quarter-mile stretch of a street outside downtown Detroit, the EV-charging road is a test of an emerging technology known as magnetic resonance induction, which uses a coil of copper wire embedded in the street to transfer electricity

from the grid to electric vehicles passing overhead. An on-board receiver pulls in that electricity, typically in low amounts, to provide the battery a continuous charge. *(Fast Company)*

LABOR + WORKFORCE

✎ [Unfair Labor Practice Charges on the Rise](#)

Unfair labor practice charge filings rose 10% and union petitions rose 3% for fiscal year 2023, ending September 30, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) reported in October. Even without industry-specific data, contractors must be aware of the current labor climate, and what that can mean for their union and non-union workforces, and what other pro-union rules the NLRB could make that will affect them in the future. *(Construction Dive)*

CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

▣ [The Rise of Renewable Diesel \(and What it Has to Offer the Construction Industry\)](#)

With regulations like the amended California Air Resources Board (CARB) Off-Road Regulation starting to come into play, consumption of renewable diesel is expected to rise significantly in the coming years. But what is "renewable" diesel, exactly? It turns out it has a very similar chemical and structural composition to petroleum diesel, though it's often comprised of fats and oils (animal waste fats, wasted fish products, used cooking oil, vegetable oil residues, tall oil pitch, crude palm oil, rapeseed oil and waste grease). However, what really sets renewable diesel apart from counterparts such as petroleum diesel and biodiesel is its higher energy density, which is somewhere in the range of 5%. *(Compact Equipment)*

SUSTAINABILITY

✎ [How General Contractors can Embrace Green Construction in 2023 and Beyond](#)

Green construction --- designing, building, and maintaining structures in environmentally responsible and resource-efficient ways --- is increasingly popular among investors, buyers, and builders. That's why, as a general contractor, if you haven't been asked about your Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) metrics already, the request is undoubtedly just around the corner. While it may seem cumbersome at first, ESG is ultimately a business strategy that can help steer your organization toward increased profitability, employee satisfaction, and overall improvement. *(For Construction Pros)*

GOVERNMENT + LEGISLATION

▣ [Cities Must Replace Lead Pipes in 10 Years Under New EPA Plan](#)

Most U.S. cities would have to replace lead water pipes within 10 years under strict new rules proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency as the Biden administration moves to reduce lead in drinking water and prevent public health crises like the ones in Flint, Michigan and Washington D.C. *(Finance & Commerce)*

PROJECT TO WATCH

[Mayo Clinic Plans Five-Building, \\$5-Billion Construction Project in Rochester](#)

On November 28, Mayo Clinic announced plans for a \$5-billion overhaul of its downtown Rochester, Minnesota, home that includes five new buildings, with construction starting next year and lasting through 2030. The development will ultimately include 2.4-million-square-feet of space "infused with technology," according to a statement from the Minnesota health provider. Two clinical buildings will replace the clinics' existing Ozmum complex and Damon Ramp; both are planned for nine stories and be connected to the current Gonda building --- although their foundations and structure will be designed to support the equivalent of an additional nine floors. *(Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal)*



A rendering of two of the five buildings planned by Mayo Clinic in downtown Rochester.

INDUSTRY EVENTS



2024 Construction Economic Update and Forecast Presented by *Construction Executive*

DATE: Wednesday, December 13

TIME: 1:00pm CST | 2:00PM EST

[Register Here](#)

LOCATION: Online

COST: Free

Crafted with commercial constructors in mind, Anirban Basu's (chief economist for Associated Builders and Contractors) presentation will reflect on an unusual year --- one that started with high inflation and fears of an impending recession but ultimately held steady, producing more stable growth than anticipated --- and will continue with a look forward into 2024 and beyond.

Basu will offer insights on challenges facing the industry, sharing data and insights on labor expenses, materials pricing, market-sector growth and construction spending, as well as the latest on inflation and the Fed's efforts to engineer a soft landing and his predictions as to if and/or when we'll actually see a recession.

This is a 60-minute presentation, followed by 30-minutes of live Q & A. Questions can be submitted in advance when registering for this webinar.

State Office Building Renovation: Construction Subcontracting Opportunities

DATE: Wednesday, December 13

TIME: 2:30pm-4:30pm

LOCATION: Senate Office Building,
Conference Rooms 1150 and 1200 (95
University Ave W, St Paul, 55155)

[Register Here](#)

COST: Free

[Download event flyer](#)

Join the Department of Administration and prime contractor JE Dunn to learn more about subcontracting opportunities for the State Office Building renovation, the largest renovation project ever on the Capitol complex.

Gain an understanding of the overall scope of the project, how the work is being broken into separate packages for bidding, and the timeline for the project.

JE Dunn and several first-tier subcontractors will be available for networking. JE Dunn's Supplier Diversity office, the Office of Equity in Procurement and APEX Accelerator will be on hand to answer questions about subcontractor prequalifications, certification, and more.

Please email procurement.equity@state.mn.us with questions.

Concrete Trivia Night & MCC President and Board Recognition Presented by the Minnesota Concrete Council

DATE: Wednesday, December 13

TIME: 5:30pm - Social, 6:00pm - MCC
President and Board honored, 6:30pm -
Trivia begins

[Register Here](#)

LOCATION: Luce Line Brewing Co
(Plymouth, Minn.)

COST: Free

MCC invites you to join them for drinks, concrete trivia, and a chance to blow everyone away with what you know.

Before the trivia begins, the MCC Board of Directors whose two-year term on the Board will be coming to an end will be recognized for their time and contributions to the Minnesota Concrete Council. The outgoing Board President, Mark Magney, will also be recognized.

Concrete Trivia will be conducted by Game Show Host, Jon Horsman. Jon is known for his humor and stand-up comedy and will make even trivia about concrete fun and entertaining.

Construction Reviews Tax Manufacturing Accounting CPA Audits Compilations John A. Knutson & Co., PLLP	Our numbers are just right. www.jakcpa.com	jak + CO. Certified Public Accountants
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MEMBER BENEFITS

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Benefit of the Week: Verizon Wireless

*Ending Soon: Holiday Savings on
Verizon 5G Business Internet*



Grab this limited offer!

Save up to \$720* on 5G Business Internet from Verizon, the technology partner that gets your business.

Act fast --- this deal ends December 10, 2023.

Why 5G Works for your Business

- Reliable and fast
- Ultra simple and hassle-free
- 10-year price guarantee

Start saving by enrolling your business with National Purchasing Partners (NPP) for free to activate this offer (and others like it) here: <https://mynpp.com/association/mbex/>

*Available to new and existing 5G Business Internet customers who activate a new, qualifying service line on the 200Mbps plan (self-set up plan only); \$30/month credit will be applied to account for up to 24 months, after 1-2 bills. \$720 savings calculated by \$30/month bill credit for 24 months; \$69/month price calculated by applying \$30/credit to \$99/month 200 Mbps standard rate (taxes, fees and Economic Adjustment Charge apply). Must retain qualifying service; promo credit ends when eligibility requirements are no longer met. May not be combined with all offers. End 12.10.2023.

NPP is a member benefit provider of the Minnesota Builders Exchange (MBEX), offering savings on products and services that businesses and employees use every day. Restrictions many apply. See www.mynpp.com for details.

PROJECT INFORMATION + UPDATES

- Total Projects Received at MBEX from 11/27/2023/2023 - 12/1/2023: **85**
- Total Active Projects Received/Reported on at MBEX as of 12/5/2023: **302**
- Total Projects in the Online Plan Room as of 12/5/2023: **4,542**

DOWNLOAD HERE

Click the button above to view the most recent project data from 11/29/2023-12/5/2023.



The MBEX *Weekly Bulletin* brought to you in part by [The Builders Group \(TBG\)](#).

UPCOMING MBEX EVENTS

- [December 7](#) - Holiday Party North
- [December 21](#) - MBEX Plan Room Demo
- [December 22 & 25](#) - MBEX Closed for Christmas
- [December 29 & January 1](#) - MBEX Closed for New Years
- [January 10](#) - Annual Meeting & Luncheon
- [February 20](#) - Bluebeam Course Introduction

Connect with the Builders Exchange:



Revisit Past Bulletins:

[Nov 29 - No. 48](#) | [Nov 22 - No. 47](#) | [Nov 15 - No. 46](#) | [Nov 8 - No. 45](#)

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2023 BOARD OFFICERS: President - Greg Grazzini, *Grazzini Brothers & Co*; Vice President - Mike Carlson, *Max Gray Construction*; Treasurer - Heidi Sedlacek, *Bituminous Roadways*; Past President - Randy LaFaive, *Market & Johnson* | **2023 DIRECTORS:** David Brandt, *Schadegg Mechanical*; Jason DuVal, *Tenet*; Chuck Geisler, *American Engineering Testing*; Brian Kalla, *St. Cloud Acoustics*; Sean Ochis, *Northern Industrial Insulation*; Jason Rentmeester, *Kraus-Anderson Construction*; Andy Ristrom, *Carl Bolander & Sons*; and Nate Sapik, *Benson Electric Company* | **STAFF:** David Siegel, *Executive Director*; Julie Miller, *Executive Assistant/Project Coordinator/Accounting*; Jeff Boelter, *Project Acquisition & IT*; Ashlee Hartwig, *Membership & Communications Manager*; Don O'Connor, *Duluth Branch Manager*; Ka Yang, Peggy Esboldt, Janet Margheim & Shauna Baska, *Project Reporters*

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