

Brian Burns Installed as Washington Building Congress's 67th Chairman

After 25 years as a WBC member, Dynalectric Executive Vice President Brian Burns is ready to put his energy to work for the WBC

It took Brian Burns a while to finally agree to join the Board and ascend to the chairmanship of the Washington Building Congress—but for WBC members, it should prove well worth the wait.

Brian takes over as the 67th chairman of the Washington Building Congress after joining the association twenty-five years ago. Since joining, Brian has been asked to get onto the leadership track before, but his response has always been that he couldn't commit to a senior position with the association unless he could give 100% of the required time and attention to the job. During that time, Brian has taken on increasing responsibility at Dynalectric, one of the area's largest electrical contractors. His role with Dynalectric precluded him from taking on increased responsibility at WBC, but now, as executive vice president, he believes he has the management team in place at Dynalectric to afford him the time he needs to lead the association for the next year.

Brian joined Dynalectric 30 years ago, after spending a few years working for a road construction company near his hometown of Rockville, MD. He learned from his dad, who worked as an electrical manufacturer's rep, that electricians were well paid. So Brian got a job with H.M.S, an electrical contractor that eventually became Dynalectric.

After about two years in the field and the warehouse, Brian took an office position as the service department's account manager. In that role, Brian started estimating projects and courting clients. He heard about the Washington Building Congress and the opportunities the organization offered for networking, so he joined. He's been active ever since.

"The WBC is perfect for building relationships," said Brian. "You can always meet clients, but getting to know peers, people with service firms and others you might not work for is critical too because chances are some day they can help you in some way," he added.

The New WBC Chairman

As chairman of the Washington Building Congress, Brian has three main goals – to create valuable educational programs, improve membership retention and recruiting, and get the association involved in more community affairs.

Brian cites Past President Brad Bolino's Board of Directors retreat for clarifying areas that need improvement. Brian's initiatives are largely based on what was learned during the retreat, along with 25 years of first hand observation.

According to Brian, the focus of the educational programs will be on helping members get work. "Getting projects benefits every member, whether the project is for them or one of their clients further up the food chain," he explained. Developers, owners and others who control the work will be invited to make presentations.

A renewed emphasis will be placed on member retention and recruiting. "One of the best ways to keep members is to get them more involved in the association," Brian said. He plans to increase the number of networking events (he reinstated the WBC Bull & Oyster Roast – a longtime favorite), and consolidate the committees and make them more meaningful so that more members will join them and stay involved.

Brian will also rejuvenate the Community Affairs Committee, which will primarily get involved in helping build or renovate facilities for local charities and organizations. "Who is better suited than a construction association like WBC to do these things?" Brian asked.

Leading Dynalectric's Washington Metro Area Branch

As executive vice president and branch manager of the Dynalectric's Washington Metro Area branch, Brian oversees an office staff of 52 plus 600 electricians in the field. For someone with so much responsibility, he is incredibly humble and generous with praise for the people who work for him.

"We've got great, dedicated people working here," he said. He points to the branch's miniscule attrition rate of 1-2% and the number of employees with more than 20 years as evidence.

Dynalectric is consistently ranked as the first or second largest electrical contractor in the region. "The past five years have been excellent," he said. "We have a good work environment in this area and great customers. If you develop relationships with them and make sure you keep them happy, they will come back to you for a long time," he added. In addition, Brian considers the pool of union electricians available to the company to be the best in the country.

Internally, the company has several management tools in place to maintain high quality and employee

continued on page 9 ►

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lor's of Architecture in construction management from the Catholic University of America. Nix has two years of construction experience. At Grunley, he prepares quantity take-offs, writes scopes of work, and assists the contracts department.

WEDGCO Hires Wear

WBC member WEDGCO Engineering, a Benatec Company, of Rockville, Md., announced the addition of K. Michael Wear, P.E., as a mechanical engineer.

Wear is a graduate of Georgia Institute of Technology with a Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. He offers experience in commercial and industrial sector engineering, including project management, project engineering, and design of HVAC systems, plumbing, and piping. He will prepare studies of various alternate systems and provide recommendations of best methods based on economic analysis. In his role, Wear will manage projects and be fully responsible for proper presentation of construction documents. ■

► *continued from page 3*

The key to success for the Washington Building Congress is member participation. If you have any suggestions on ways we can enhance the WBC, or have any questions or comments, please let us know. My e-mail address is bburns@dynaletric-dc.com, and our staff president Steve Kenton can be reached at 202.293.5922, or by e-mail, skenton@wbcnet.org.

I am looking forward to both a fun and productive year for all of us.

Best regards to all,



Brian Burns
WBC Chairman of the Board

► *continued from page 4*

satisfaction. Dynaletric regularly sends customer service surveys to assess their strengths and areas of improvement, fills out vendor report cards for each supplier, and has a project management system that is state of the art.

In addition, the firm has several educational and social opportunities for employees. "Education is big around here," Brian pointed out, as are group activities. Until recently, Brian could be found most evenings shooting hoops with other regular basketball enthusiasts on the courts outside the company offices.

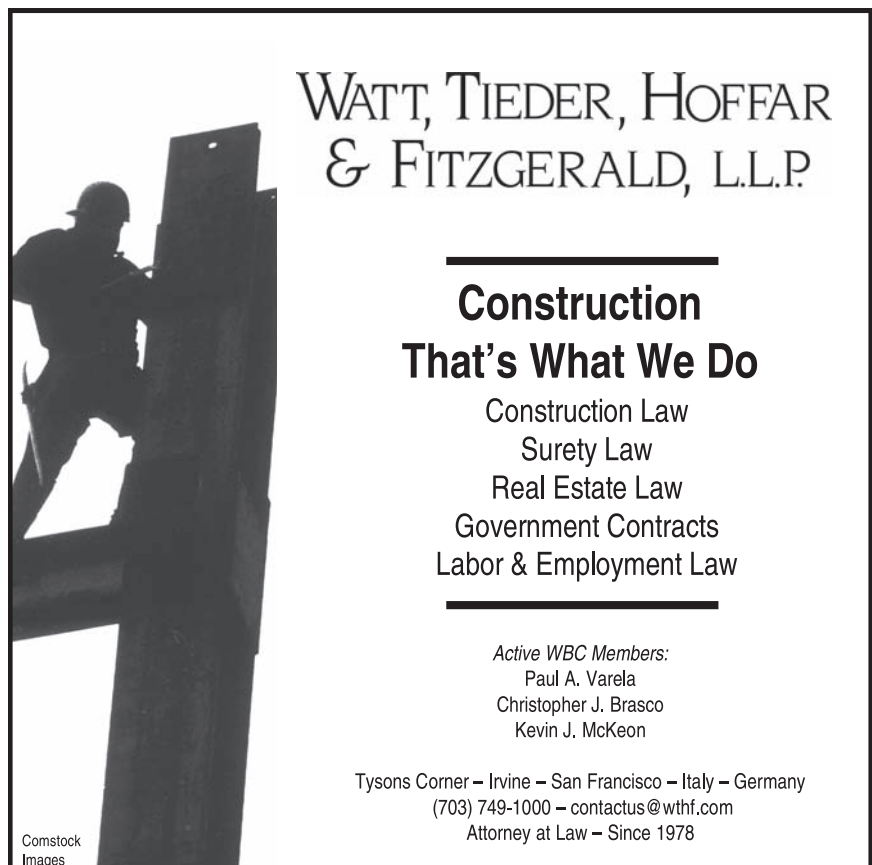
Part of the benefit of having a trained, dedicated and loyal staff is that it gives Brian the opportunity to spend more time with his family and friends than he has in the past. Brian is an avid golfer, as most people who

know him will attest, and he spends a lot of time with his family at their lake house in North Carolina.

Even when he is busy at work, he gets to see his wife Terri from time to time since she also works for Dynaletric. "This company has gotten so big that I hardly ever see her, though," he laments.

He has three children—a son, Michael, who is a union electrician in Richmond; a daughter, Lindsay, who works in advertising on Park Avenue in New York; and another daughter, Molly, who is a junior and a varsity cheerleader at Herndon High School. He has three grandchildren and his parents live in Florida.

Brian Burns is happy. It's obvious whenever you see him. He loves his family, loves his work and is thrilled to be a critical part of the continued growth of the Washington Building Congress. ■



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