

“BRINGING BUSINESS BACK HOME”

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Greetings to All!

The Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation does want you to be safe (and save you money).

Every month for the past three months I received a letter from them reminding me to complete three hours of online courses to get a discount on my policy. With the March 31st deadline looming, I finally put aside a half day last week to complete these courses. And I must say, the experience of doing them was not that bad.

After logging into www.bwc.ohio.gov and signing into my account on the “For Employers” page, I went to “Safety & Training”, then “Safety Education”, and finally “How to Use the BWC Learning Center”. I created a new log-in password for this, and then went to the list of courses offered. Some were actual live courses you would have to sign up for in advance, but many were just regular online courses you could do right away.

Wanting to learn how this system worked, I picked what I thought was an easy one-hour course - “Cuts, Lacerations and Gashes. Oh My!”. It was actually informative, broken up into sections where you would have little quizzes at the end of each (this method made sure you were involved, no cheating by running the program and not paying attention to it). At the end of this one hour course (which was not really an hour long), you were given a 15 question test, and had to answer correctly at least 10 out of 15 to pass. I got 12, so passed with an 80% score. For the next course I decided to pick something that looked harder, a two-hour course called “Developing a Safety Culture”. I decided to pay more attention to this one, in honor of Gene Gene the Safety Machine, the person who taught safety to my crew out west in the 1980s when I was working for an oil exploration company. Again, it was done in segments, with some pop quizzes along the way, and although it was over an hour long (but not two), the time went quick as I enjoyed to style in relating the information to me. This course had a 10 question test, and I only missed one of the multiple choice questions (90% pass rate).

What I thought would be a chore was actually fun and informative, just what I am sure the Ohio BWC wanted me to experience. Most of these courses seem to be set up for Ohio companies to use in training of safety for their employees, and I urge those of you who could be impacted by accidents in the work place to look them over and use them with your employees.

With what I am guessing is an ever growing list of safety courses, it is worth looking into even if your company is not required to do so for a savings in the cost of your program. The safety of your employees should always be a concern to us all, so please either do this yourself or assign your own Safety Director to make use of this excellent program offered by the Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation.

Thank you for listening, and please be safe!

John Buntin Jr, KCOC President
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Kenmore Chamber “Meet & Greet” Delayed

Your Board of Directors for the **Kenmore Chamber of Commerce** were really looking forward to having our first “Meet & Greet” in April at **The Rialto Theatre**, after two years of COVID restrictions. We are sorry to say that the wait goes on for one more month. The new kitchen **The Rialto** is adding to supply us with what will be a wonderful meal is a little behind schedule (supply issues strike again), so they will need one more month to be ready to host.

So our first “Meet & Greet” is now planned at **The Rialto Theatre** for Thursday May 19th, in their beautifully decorated seating area between the stage and the bar. Final details will be presented in the next KCOC newsletter, and we really hope to meet with you all next month!

Electricity & Gas Rates Continue to Increase. Ensure You are Protected.

We are all seeing rising costs at the local gas pump, in our grocery stores, and on our utility bills. As you may be aware, natural gas and electricity rates have increased substantially and with the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine, the United States may need to export additional natural gas to Europe that could cause prices to rise even further.

The **Community Energy Advisors (CEA)** are concerned for our members and want to do everything in their power to help mitigate these costs. The member benefit from their Chamber Energy Program assists members with lowering their electric and natural gas costs every day, and they are providing no-cost, no-obligation bill reviews. The **CEA** will review your current rates, help you understand if you are on the standard utility rate, in a government aggregation program, or are in a supply agreement, and provide recommendations that could protect your bottom line.

It is important to the **Community Energy Advisors** that Chamber members are educated about their current situation, so they can have peace of mind that they are in a good place. Here are some examples of bills the **CEA** reviewed so far:

- * Members with a supplier that went from a fixed price to an extremely high variable rate.
- * Business owners that have already secured a competitive rate.
- * Restaurants paying more than they should for sales tax on their natural gas bills.
- * Tax exempt churches and nonprofits paying sales tax on their natural gas bills.
- * Members that locked in a long term supply agreement at above market rates.

The **Community Energy Advisors** encourages you not to wait. Please take a few minutes and send in a copy of your recent electric and natural gas bills to billreview@ceateam.com. Allow them to review your utility bills and provide options that may protect you from rising utility costs.



KBOT FLASHBACK



10 Years Ago - April 2012

- ⊕ **David E. Culbertson**, President
- ⊕ Mark Moore of Akron City Department of Planning & Urban Development was the luncheon guest speaker at The Church on the Boulevard.

15 Years Ago - April 2007

- ⊕ **Scott M. Smith**, President
- ⊕ A new KBOT Prospective Member Package was introduced to those in attendance at the April lunch meeting at Goss Memorial Church.

20 Years Ago - April 2002

- ⊕ **Jeff Scott**, President
- ⊕ Donna Lumis, Deputy Superintendent of Akron Public Schools, was the guest speaker at the lunch meeting held at The Hibernians Club.

25 Years Ago - April 1997

- ⊕ **Rich Masterson**, President
- ⊕ The Reverends Outland & Billington were honored by the KBOT at the April luncheon for all the community work done by these individuals.

30 Years Ago - April 1992

- ⊕ **Mel Kent**, President
- ⊕ No information available.

35 Years Ago - April 1987

- ⊕ **Dennis Bloomer**, President
- ⊕ Insurance is purchased and a manager is chosen for the KBOT 2nd Annual 5K-10K Race for June.