



# Acoustical Association Ontario

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*Provincial in scope ...*

*Provincial in outlook*

## *19th Annual Carpenters' Apprenticeship Contest*



The 19th Annual Provincial Carpentry, Acoustic & Drywall, and Floor Covering Apprenticeship Contests will be held at the Carpenters' Local 27 Training Centre from May 4th to May 6th, 2011 and will take place at the Local 27 Training Facility, 222 Rowntree Dairy Road, Woodbridge, Ontario.

The contest will offer an unique opportunity to apprentices from across the Province of Ontario to demonstrate their skill and expertise in the three disciplines of Carpentry, Acoustic & Drywall and Floor Covering.

Winners of this contest will go on to represent this province at the Canadian National Apprenticeship Contest which will be held in Quebec City, Quebec from August 24th—August 28th, 2011

## *AAO Annual Conference*

We wish to remind everyone that this year's Annual Conference will be held July 14th — July 17th at the Queens Landing Hotel in Niagara-on-the-Lake. In addition to the scheduled Annual Meeting, which will be held on Friday, July 15th several other events are being planned.

This year there is a \$1,115.00 non-refundable cost per **couple**. Given that space is limited we strongly urge you to register as soon as possible to ensure that you are accommodated. If you have any further questions or require a registration form, please contact Colleen Askew, Flare Event Coordinators at 289-221-0291



## *Important Dates & Notes*

### **AWCI Convention:**

April 3, 2011—April 7, 2011

### **AAO Conference:**

July 14, 2011—July 17, 2011

### **OHSA (Green) Books**

We have received our shipment of the Occupational Health & Safety Act and Regulations for Construction Projects from Service Ontario and will be mailing them shortly. If you do not receive your copies within a few weeks please contact AAO at 416-605-6417 or send me an email at [joedecaria@sympatico.ca](mailto:joedecaria@sympatico.ca).

### *The Mathews Dinsdale Minute*



This edition of the Mathews Dinsdale Minutes is less about the law and more about the changing times. The City of Toronto had a very interesting mayoral election in 2010, with public spending at the forefront and the eventual winner speaking of ideas like abolishing the City's Fair Wage policy and asking the provincial government to disentangle the City from its construction collective agreement obligations. These types of moves are subtle flashpoints when compared to what is happening in our neighbour to the south.

Leaving aside entirely the debate of how they ended up there, the American economy continues to be what can only be described generously as a mess. In addition, well before the current crisis private sector unionization has been in steep decline in America since the 1970s. However, and much like Toronto's most recent municipal election, the perception of unionized public sector workers living the "good life" has been on the rise. So what is the result?

In Wisconsin, the recently elected Republican Governor has launched what one newspaper article called a "frontal attack", tabling a bill that would double the share that state workers pay for health insurance and increase their out of pocket pension contributions from 0 to 5.8% of their salaries. He also proposed limiting collective bargaining to wages only and to subject any negotiated increases to a state wide referendum, while ceasing dues deduction (forcing unions to collect the dues directly from their members themselves) and requiring unions to hold "recertification" votes annually. In Indiana, a bill that would outlaw "closed" union shops in the state is currently stalled in the legislature while Ohio's governor took a more direct approach. He has proposed abolishing state employee collective bargaining.

This is not a new debate, and party politics clearly play a role. Republicans would suggest that the historical democratic governments in these states that were heavily supported by the union negotiated friendly deals. Democrats would say that these actions are actually efforts by the Republicans to gut Democratic sources of support and funding and are ultimately designed to ensure continued Republican control of the governments.

Maybe both are correct. What it does show is that as the American economy struggles to adapt itself to the future, the finger pointing is on the rise. Winds of change or patterns for our future? The answer is not clear.

