

Chapter Column

New York State Legislature Declares Indoor Air Quality Day

by Paul Parker, Executive Director, SMACNA of New York State

New York State's Assembly and Senate have enacted a joint resolution to declare Nov. 10, 1999 as New York State Indoor Air Quality Day. The idea was created by SMACNA of New York State (NYS) and jointly supported by a coalition of SMACNA, the Sheet Metal Workers' International NYS Council and the NYS American Federation of Labor - Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO).

The resolution states, in part, that millions of workers, students and the public spend the greater portion of their days in sealed buildings; that indoor air quality is a vital factor in occupational safety and health and key to promoting the productivity and wellbeing of workers; and that proper ventilation systems prevent or ameliorate the majority of indoor air problems. Finally, the resolution urges that the IAQ Day be used to educate the public and local officials on the needs for proper indoor air quality.

The idea for NYS Indoor Air Quality Day was created by SMACNA of NYS as a market development tool. On the designated day, the association will conduct indoor air quality demonstrations statewide. The demonstrations will be held at SMACNA construction sites at or near completion. The role and functioning of the various components of a properly constructed indoor air ventilation system will be explained. The demonstrations will include SMACNA of NYS leaders, officials of the SMWIA locals, elected politicians and state officials. Newspapers and television media will be invited to cover the event.

The Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, the state's leading public construction agency, has agreed to participate and open their construction sites for the day's activities.

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"We view this event as indicating that strong public and governmental support exists for proper indoor air ventilation construction," said SMACNA of New York State President William Freese. "The day's events will be a golden opportunity for highlighting the vital role SMACNA contractors play in indoor air quality. With our partners in the event, the SMWIA and state officials, we will demonstrate that contractors, our unions and government officials *-* working together *-* can achieve quality construction for the citizens of their communities."

The program will serve as a model for other states to follow and possibly as a basis for a National Indoor Air Quality Day in the year 2000.

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