

Article continued from first page

I have had contractors and sheet metal workers tell me that rather than get their PEU's, they would just let their license expire, re-apply and take the required examination. A WORD OF CAUTION! This is not a good plan. To begin, there will be a time lag where an employee will be working with an expired license (which is like working with no license at all) and you, the contractor, will be susceptible to a fine. And as importantly, the pass rate for taking the exam is only 72%.

That means that there is at least a 28% possibility that the individual will not pass the exam, and then have to wait three months before retaking the exam. During all of this time he will be working with an expired license.

Don't let these things happen to you and your employees. Take advantage of what SMACNA is putting together and make sure your people have completed their PEU training.

--George "Butch" Welsh
Chairman Labor Committee

The SMACNA-St. Louis Architectural Education Subcommittee, pictured below, is planning more programs for the architectural design community featuring the advantages of architectural metal. Suggestions for future topics are welcomed and may be directed to committee members, from left to right: Rich Lackey (Lackey Sheet Metal), Gary Mays (Mays-Maune & Assoc.), Jim Morton (American Metals), Brian Finnegan (seminar speaker, Centria), and James Van Becelaere (Fabri-Tech Sheet Metal).



2006 APPRENTICE CONTEST

Unlike prior years, contestants will not compete in their "year" of apprenticeship but instead, they will compete in one of three specialty areas. The three areas next year will be HVAC, TAB or Industrial. Each JATC can send one apprentice to the Regional Contest to compete in each of these areas.

To be eligible to compete, the contestants must be an indentured SMWIA apprentice through December 31, 2005 and not become a journeyman member of the SMWIA prior to January 1, 2006.

The contest itself will consist of material specific to each area. A study guide will be sent to each JATC in September and will include the format for HVAC, TAB and Industrial areas.

Local contests must be completed by December 9, 2005. Regional contests will be held January 20-21, 2006 and the National contest will be held March 27-30, 2006, in Las Vegas, Nevada at Caesars Palace, which is the same time and location of the SMWIA / SMACNA Partnership Conference, March 30-April 1, 2006.

If you have any questions regarding the contest, contact Dan Andrews, Local #36 JATC Coordinator, at 314-534-9680.