

President's Message

June/2007

To The Industry,

It has been that time of year when the industry is very busy in peak season. My hope is that everyone is having a great year and growing their businesses. The PWNA has been accomplishing many items through this busy time as well. The team at Legacy has been managing the PWNA office very well during this time when we need them most. As many of the board members and all members are more involved with their businesses, Legacy has guided the PWNA to its best month in May since they began managing the association last September. Great Job and Thank you!

In April we had a great Roundtable in Towson, MD hosted by DeWALT. The PWNA chapter was reorganized with Rob Huffman installed as the new President. Rob takes over for Henry Bockman who has served since the chapter's inception. Henry has accomplished many great things for the local chapter with the greatest events being the Clean Across America projects. (See more below...) Also attending and helping where PROSOCO, FLOOD Company, Sun Brite Supply, Hydramotion, and PayChex.

Speaking of Clean Across America, through Henry Bockman's leadership the PWNA has been recognized for last years events. These projects included cleaning tasks at the Lincoln and Jefferson Monuments in Washington DC. Executive Director Heather Roebke announced the 2007 Take Pride in America National Award recipients in 10 different categories. Take Pride in America® is a national partnership program aimed at increasing volunteer service on America's public lands. For more information, visit www.TakePride.gov. These individuals, groups, and partnerships will be honored at an awards ceremony held July 19 in the Sidney Yates Auditorium of the Main Interior Building in Washington, D.C. The PWNA is one of the award winners and is honored to be participating at this awards ceremony.

One of the most important areas for PWNA involvement is in environmental projects. A special thanks to Brian Penney, PWNA Vice-President, and Aaron "Cujo" Cooley, PWNA Secretary for their participation in Environmental Awareness, with the City of Houston Texas

Another area that we are making changes to and growing is our education program. The Education Committee with, Brain Penney (Chair), Mike Hilborn, and Dave Gierlak have held many committee calls and workshops to implement new ideas and procedures. Look for an announcement very soon on this project. The direction this committee is moving is in the continued spirit of being more inclusive to the industry as a whole.

I also want to thank Rick Petry who e-mailed me with a great tip to pass onto others. He has already heard of instances of spontaneous combustion. Spontaneous combustion is defined as the outbreak of fire without application of heat from an external source. Spontaneous combustion may occur when combustible matter, such as hay or coal, is stored in bulk. It begins with a slow oxidation process (as bacterial fermentation or atmospheric oxidation) under conditions not permitting ready dissipation of heat. This occurs most often with the "deck" folks and their oil stained rags. Rags and materials should be kept in a fire resistant, air tight container until discarded. They may also be left to air dry in a well vented area. Do not leave them in your closed vehicles over night. Do not throw them in your shed, garage, or workshop and close the doors. Be very aware of the circumstances of spontaneous combustion. Thanks Rick!

I also was contacted by Tom McMillan of Aqua Pros who is upset about some the promises made by some coating companies. Particularly those that guarantee extended years of protection, lifetimes guarantees, maintenance free, and so on terms. Tom has asked if the PWNA would take a stance. I have always been direct and will always handle questions head on, even tough ones! Because I am a wood guy and as President I will state my response in this way... While the PWNA does not take a stance on how a company markets their products we would caution any consumer or contractor to do a lot of research on these types of promises and guarantees before using a product or hiring a contractor. More often than not the guarantees that seem to be too good to be true are often just that. This does not mean that they are all bad or that they do not do as advertised. In regards to these specific claims common sense must be used. For instance, something is only "new" once. The only way to make it "new again" is to replace it. The term "like new" is more appropriate. We know maintenance free is impossible for most surfaces because of mold growth that needs to be cleaned or removed, it won't clean itself. Tom and others, you should not get too caught up in what you can not control. Remain professional, do the best you can on every job, everyday and people will separate you from your competitors. You won't have too! Thanks to Tom for taking the time to e-mail me with his concerns. Anyone else who has a question or contribution please feel free to e-mail me at eabrams@deckrestorationplus.com