



NCAE News Brief 2012, #04
January 27, 2012

NCAE Executive Vice President's update, week ending 01/27/12.

Topics in this edition

- 1) **Second to last chance for Annual Meeting and H-2A Symposium plans.**
 - 2) **Dues & meeting registration early pay premiums mailed.**
 - 3) **Spring planning must include record-keeping**
 - 4) **NCAE this week.**
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1. **The Annual Meeting is February 7 & 8, with a special session on H-2A February 9, 2012. All at the Hotel Monaco, Washington, DC. See the linked registration form to reserve, AND MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS NOW, the room-block will fill fast and hotel rates in DC have gone up again since we locked the exceptional rate of \$249 per night at Monaco, DC. (when you call for reservations be sure you are reserving for Monaco in Washington, DC and not one of the other Monaco locations.) Click here to see and print the registration form: (<http://www.ncaeonline.org/files/2012-AM.pdf>; http://www.ncaeonline.org/files/2012-AM_draft.pdf)**
 2. Early pay premiums (knives) for those paying dues within the early-pay period have been mailed. The mailings started as early as December 23, and the last mailing went out January 25th. Knives for Annual Meeting registration will be mailed by the end of this week. If you are expecting a knife(s) and have not received them by the end of next week phone or e-mail Matt to verify mailing address and he can tell you if yours was mailed and make sure you are not disappointed.

3. Spring planning must include reviewing, auditing, and improving your employment records including I-9, tax with-holding and reporting, insurance, DOT, DOL, etc. Make sure your safety and protective equipment training, supplies, facilities, and physical measures are compliant and well documented. These practices, impeccable paperwork documenting them, and a business-wide culture of compliance and follow-through are your only defense after-the-fact if you are audited, cited, sued, or otherwise challenged for compliance. You don't have a chance for a re-do after the fact. As one employer attorney once said, "a perfect paper trail is the best armor anyone can ask for."
4. Frank travelled to Denver to speak at the Colorado Farm Show where he participated on a panel discussing farm labor issues along with Colorado Department of Labor and NCAE Member Joe Pretocco of Pretocco Farms. At least one ag media reporter was present, Frank and Joe had opportunity to talk with her briefly afterward and have both been quoted in The Fence Post, a Colorado ag publication. Matt and Frank spent the rest of the week completing plans and arrangements for the NCAE Annual Meeting.

Agricultural Quote of the Week:

"Excellence can be obtained if you:

...care more than others think is wise;

...risk more than others think is safe;

...dream more than others think is practical;

...expect more than others think is possible." - Author Unknown

Until Next Week,

Frank

News articles and citations of interest for week ending 01/27/12:

January 25, 2012. Keyword: Agricultural Labor.

Fence Post. Some positive media from NCAE's participation at the Colorado Farm Show. Both Frank and NCAE Member Joe Petrocco were on the program to discuss labor issues.

<http://www.thefencepost.com/article/20120125/NEWS/120129940/1032&ParentProfile=1001>

January 25, 2012. Keyword: Youth Labor.

USA Today. A surprisingly well informed article from USA Today (not a slam on USA Today, but their brief format does not often facilitate such a well detailed article on an issue like this.)

<http://www.usatoday.com/money/economy/story/2012-01-24/regulations-kids-farm-work/52778304/1>

January 25, 2012. Keyword: Agricultural Labor.

Ag Alert. The issue of non-government regulation--- in the form of customer policies and requirements continues as a topic of discussion. Large customers "regulate" by specifying not only product metrics, but terms of the production process itself. Labor practices are not immune to these discussions.

<http://agalert.com/story/?id=3761>

January 24, 2012. Keyword: Immigration.

MSNBC. President puts immigration reform on the table in SOTU address.

<http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/news/2012/01/24/10229109-obama-draws-contrast-with-gop-on-immigration-urging-pathway-to-citizenship?chromedomain=nbcpolitics>

January 22, 2012. Keyword: Immigration.

Tampa Bay Online. There is no easy "bumper sticker" solution to immigration. If we want domestic food production, industrial productivity, and service industries to thrive and grow then we cannot lose the 14 million so-called illegals who work, buy, and participate in communities. The solutions are the responsibility of a Congress who prefer to talk about anything except workable solutions.

<http://www2.tbo.com/news/opinion/2012/jan/22/vwviewo1-illegal-immigration-more-at-stake-than-you-ar-349745/>

January 22, 2012. Keyword: Agricultural Labor.

Hoosier Ag Today. "Naked and Hungry" on the front. On the back the shirt said: "What you would be without agriculture." A GREAT headline!

<http://www.hoosieragtoday.com/index.php/2012/01/22/are-you-ready-to-be-hungry-and-naked/>

January 21, 2012. Keyword: Agricultural Labor.

Lancaster Online. I-9 audits continue...

http://lancasteronline.com/article/local/572794_One-third-of-Kreider-Farms-workers-had-invalid-documents.html

January 20, 2012. Keyword: E-Verify.

America's Voice. We do not see Representative Smith as a villain, however we very much disagree with any plan to mandate e-verify that does not address practical and workable pathways for agriculture to keep our current workforce AND find the future workers needed to keep American food production in America. We appreciate all the various allied ag groups from Texas, Washington DC, and elsewhere who have continued dialogue with Mr. Smith and other Congressional leaders around this issue as well as all of you who took your time, energy, and money to fly-in or write-in when needed.

http://americasvoiceonline.org/blog/entry/First_E-Verify_Now_SOPA_Lamar_Smith_Has_Been_Trampling_on_Basic_Freedoms/

Keywords searched: "Immigration", "Border Health Care Relief", "H2A", "E-Verify", "Undocumented Worker", "Agricultural labor", "Agricultural Employer", "illegal alien", "farm worker", "NCAE", "NCAEonline", "NCAEonline.org"

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