

WEST Builders' Employee Newsletter

March 16, 2007

A Job Well Done!

Inside This Issue

1. A Job Well Done!
2. Cont.
3. Cont.
4. Cont.
5. Memory of Frank Niemeyer-Bill Hughes
6. Team Building
7. Cont.
8. Meet our Accounting Staff/Meet our Doyle Team
9. Cont.
10. WEST Builders' Holiday gathering
11. Cont.
12. News from Human Resource
13. Cont.

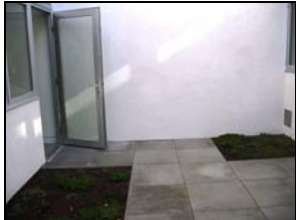


1960-2006

AK Live is located in the beautiful city of Venice, California. This is a wonderful, creative project to see. Pictures cannot give an adequate expression of its beauty and its creative architectural design. AK is lined with beautiful indoor gardens, Ipe wood stairs, stainless steel kitchens, patio fireplaces, wall-to-wall cathedral glass windows, and skylights. Not only is this project symmetrically flawless, it is also solar powered.


AK Live has Frank's spirit flowing through its veins. AK is a memory of Frank's hard work, his sweat, and his genius. There always were struggles and challenges that Frank met head on. He was one of the hardest working Superintendents out there! When you saw him, he would always put a smile on your face regardless of what kind of day he may have had. Unfortunately, WEST lost Frank to a tragic motorcycle accident last year. AK is not only a beautiful building to admire, but a long lasting memory of Frank Niemeyer. Frank, we miss you and we salute you to a job well done!

*AK is a long lasting
memory of Frank
Niemeyer.*









Frank Niemeyer, Jr. 1960 – 2006

In 1982 I met Frank Niemeyer, Sr. on a project in Pasadena. Construction was slow in Oregon where he had just finished a project with Pankow Builders. They offered him a job in Pasadena and he decided to temporarily relocate. Frank, Sr. and I met on that job and became good friends, finishing the Pasadena project in 1983. We both moved on to another job in downtown Los Angeles at the corner of 8th Street and Grand Avenue. This is where I met Chris Turner. I moved to a job in San Francisco, but after a year and a half I transferred back to Southern California to a project in Long Beach called Shoreline Square, to this day, one of my favorites. This is where I met Frank, Jr.

According to lore, Frank was trying to make it in sales. Apparently it was not going all that well. One day he went to his father and asked for \$300 for a car payment. Frank, Sr. promptly said no but offered to buy him some tools and get him a job as a carpenter. The following day Frank, Sr. asked me if I would hire his kid and get him in the union. As you can imagine, I had some reservations. I remember having a conversation with Frank, Sr., saying that it was risky because if the kid did not work out I would have to fire him. Sr. pointed out that that would not be a problem since he would fire him long before I would have to do it. As it turned out my worries were gone by about 9:00 am on the first day. Frank, was a natural, he just got it.

After Shoreline Square finished up Frank Jr. went with another company that spun off from Pankow and I went on to other projects in California and then New York. I did not see Frank again until 1998. He was running the decks for me on a parking garage on Century Boulevard, near LAX. It was there that I realized that Frank was being under-utilized, and if he was not given the opportunity for advancement soon, Pankow was going to lose him. I suggested he be promoted, and soon he was moved to Palo Alto as a Field Superintendent on a parking garage. From there he went to Daly City to an office building and parking structure. Then, he went back down to Los Angeles to build a condominium project at the corner of Sunset and Vine. This is where he met Mark Temple and Noyan Uras. Sometime before he finished Sunset and Vine, he and Jeff Lucas and I went out to dinner. We talked about Pankow, we talked about WEST but, we never really talked about him making the jump. Several months went by and one night he called me up and said "I just quit. When do I start"?

That turned out to be one of the brightest days in the short history of WEST Builders. Nearly every day I started with a call from Frank to run through what was going on at AK. Some days were better than others but, every conversation ended with a laugh. It is still those long early morning phone calls during my drive to work that make me reflect on what a great person Frank was. Just like his dad, he could come off like a hard ass yet inside he was a very generous person. He has two children living in Los Angeles. During his three year stint in the Bay area Frank drove to Los Angeles every single weekend to see them. It is said that a person's actions speak louder than their words. The act of Frank driving to LA every weekend showed to me that his character was, and should be, an inspiration to us all.

Just as the day he came to us was bright, the day he left us was dark. It is important that during this time of grieving we are reminded how fragile our time is. Often what appears to be only slightly risky can have consequences that forever alter the lives of everyone around us. Be safe, thoughtful, and live a rewarding life but, as I am sure Frank would agree, enjoy life while you have it.

TEAM BUILDING

The Southern California Family had a blast at our 1st annual Summer Olympics. We enjoyed games, good food, drinks and most of all we enjoyed each other. We would like to thank everyone for participating! We would like to give a special thanks to Carmen Muhammad, Pam Perez, and Raquel Casares for organizing the Olympics and special thanks to Kris Barr for opening his home.



Team Building



The Southern California Staff



Left to Right: Raquel Casares and Glorianne Lapping



Left to Right: Jeff Fawcett, Nathan Negrete, Brad Ritter, and Krystal Perez



Left to Right: Glen Campomanes, Mike Mikane, and Aaron Clendenning



Left to Right: Mark Temple, Pam Perez, James Miller, and Frank Neimeyer



Left to Right: Rory O'Connor, Felix Lee, Kris Barr, and Mark Aranda and Mark Aranda



Meet Our Accounting Staff



Left to Right: Virginia Andrade, Jill Snyder, and Krystal Perez

Jill Snyder started with WEST Builders in the early part of 2004, and has performed the role of Accountant, Payroll Administrator, and Bookkeeper. WEST grew so rapidly that Jill needed some assistance. Our Accounting department had some growing pains, but that did not stop Jill from doing her very best to make sure everyone was paid from the employees to our subs. Krystal and Virginia came on board this year and have helped Jill tremendously. Jill can now breathe a little bit easier and can show off her smile. These three young ladies not only make sure that our employees are paid, but they make sure that all of our subs are paid in a timely manner. We appreciate all of your hard work and your dedication!

Meet Our Hard Working Doyle Team



Left to Right: Peter Chichoine,
Steve Van Wemmer, Katy Bilodeau,
Ricardo Zamorano (picture not shown)

Katy hard at work

Doyle Townhomes project consists of 8 live work units and 19 2-level residential town home units in Emeryville, California, neighbor to the Pixar Design Studios. The project is a balance of new and old. Formally, the site was home to plumbing manufacturing facility in the center of Emeryville's manufacturing district. The existing single level structure was modified and restored to accommodate a suspended concrete podium level with 2 levels of wood frame above. Architectural features include restoration of existing perimeter structure and surfaces, raked wall throughout new construction, floor-to-ceiling glazing, metal accents, smooth finish plaster, and Brazilian Ironwood. Building systems include fully conditioned interiors, data integrated, storm water filtration treatment system, and vertical parking lifts.



WEST Builders' Holiday Gathering

The Southern California staff enjoyed themselves at the annual holiday party. We had a gift give away which included gift baskets, and gift cards. What is a party if you don't have lots of food, drinks, and a whole lot of smiles? We would like to thank Pam Perez and Carmen Muhammad for organizing the party.



Chris Turner



Pam Perez and Carmen Muhammad



Bob Rogers and Andy Rivas



Jill Snyder and Chris Zimmerman



Kris Barr and Glen Campomanes



Glorianne Lapping and Jenny Kai



Felix Lee, Aaron Clendenning, Rory O'Connor



Pam Perez, Jill Snyder, Debbie Segura,
Chris Zimmerman, Krystal Perez



Lisa Larson



Mike Mikane



Chris Turner



Yohan Paek



Debbie Segura



Andrew Astor, Michael Yates



Nathan Negrete



Carmen Muhammad, Kelly O'Brien

News from Human Resources

Hello WEST Builders' Family,

We would like to welcome some new members to our family: David Heath, Bob Rogers, Angel Tiongson, Preston Tucker, and Bill Miller welcome to our family!

Medical Insurance

If you have a qualifying event such as marriage, birth, divorce, or death of a spouse, you do not need to wait for open enrollment to make changes. Make sure that you have the proper documents to match the qualifying event. If you have any questions or concerns regarding open enrollment, please contact:

Krystal Perez (626) 585-1810 x111 or kperez@buildwest.net

Dental Insurance

If you have any questions about our dental plan, please contact:

Krystal Perez (626) 585-1810 x111 or kperez@buildwest.net

401k Program

Reminder to any new employees that have been employed with WEST for at least 6 months, you are encouraged to join the 401k program. For any employee that has been employed with WEST more than 6 months and yet has not signed up for the 401k program, you are also encouraged to do so. If you would like to sign up or have any questions regarding the 401k program, please contact:

Jill Snyder (626) 585-1810 x106 or jsnyder@buildwest.net

Click Safety

Congratulations to Bob Rogers, Angel Tiongson, and Kelly O'Brien for completing 100% of their training. Way to go!

Believe it or not:

It takes glass one million years to decompose, which means it never wears out and can be recycled an infinite amount of times!

Quote of the month:

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Congratulations to Mark Temple and Lynn Murray they were married January 27, 2007. May they have many, many happy years together!



Congratulations to Eric Overman and his wife Jillian Lutz for giving birth to a beautiful 8 lb. 11 oz. baby boy (Evan Riley Overman) on March 11, 2007.



Newsletter Author: Carmen Muhammad



Editor: Chris Zimmerman

JANUARY 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

MARCH 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

If you have an event that you would like us to know about, please e-mail Carmen Muhammad so she can put it in the next newsletter.