



Florida Solar Energy Industries Association

INDUSTRY NEWS

FlaSEIA To Hold Annual Golf Tournament, Meeting, Dinner and Auction

The FlaSEIA Fifth Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Wednesday, November 9 at the Cocoa Beach Country Club in Cocoa Beach, Florida with tee times starting at 9:15 a.m.

The cost is \$85.00 per person which includes green fees, cart, range balls, three beverage tickets while on the course, continental breakfast and a boxed lunch. After the tournament, there will be an awards presentation with prizes. The scoring format will be a scramble.

FlaSEIA is also offering the Power PAK. The Power PAK includes four mulligans and one Power PAK Closest to the Pin. The cost of the Power PAK is \$25.00. If you purchase the Power PAK, you will receive one opportunity for a "POWER DRIVE" – pick one hole and tee off from the LADIES tee!!

FlaSEIA has set up different golf sponsorship categories for this Golf Tournament in which your company can participate. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The following sponsorships are available: Hole Sponsors at \$100.00 each; Tee Sponsors at \$100.00 each; Lunch Sponsors at

\$250.00 each; and Beverage Cart Sponsors at \$100.00.

The deadline to register for or sponsor the FlaSEIA Golf Tournament is **Wednesday, October 26**. For your convenience, [click here for the Golf Tournament Registration Form](#), [click here for the Golf Tournament Power PAK Form](#), [click here for the Golf Tournament Sponsorship Form](#) and [click here for the Credit Card Authorization Form](#).

FlaSEIA will also be holding its Annual Auction, Dinner and Meeting on Wednesday, November 9 at the Florida Solar Energy Center in Cocoa, Florida. Due to the gravity of the issues at hand, it is imperative to have full participation and cooperation of the membership that have a vested interest in our industry.

Join us for some great fun and auction items. The Reception begins at 5:30 p.m., Silent Auction begins at 5:30 p.m., Dinner and Annual Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. and the Live Auction begins at 8:00 p.m.

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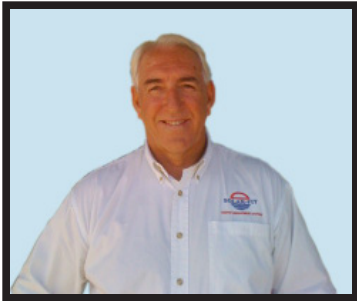
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BILL GALLAGHER
FLASEIA PRESIDENT

Dear fellow FlaSEIA members and Industry friends:

I hope that everyone had a wonderful summer and found some time to “kick back” and enjoy the season. It certainly seems, on occasion, that the world is spinning faster, and finding some down time is becoming more difficult. The rigors of operating a business, or dealing with the daily challenges in our busy lives, can sometimes leave us . . . “sapped.”

When that occurs, it is time to break out the Day Planner and pencil in some personal time to decompress! Go for a walk, jog, bike, swim, play golf, anything that gets the blood flowing and puts the mind at rest. There will be plenty of time tomorrow to solve the issues at hand.

I think that everyone would agree that we are living in an “interesting” period in our nation’s history. Indeed, at a time when common sense, seems to have become . . . uncommon. Evidence of this is visible in almost every facet of our lives.

Political infighting and partisan politics play an important role in the direction we are heading. People on both sides of the political aisle have “dug in” and refuse to be swayed by logic. The result is that differing opinions about how to best create jobs are, in effect, stifling job growth.

How does this indecision and turmoil affect the solar industry? The answer can be summed up in one word, Solyndra. We are all well aware of the debacle that recently took place and the intent of this letter is not to judge or place blame. Having said that, you cannot open a paper or turn on the TV without hearing or seeing solar

energy portrayed as the latest vehicle for government waste. This is indeed a shame.

Since we cannot put the toothpaste back in the tube, what can we do? The answer is . . . let’s use this as an example of how things did not work and look for answers on how we can improve the results.

Does this mean that funding should be discontinued for solar projects? Certainly not.

Supporting the development of renewable energy for our nation is in our collective best interest from a security, environmental and energy independence standpoint. What rational person would suggest that we go back to “business as usual” and ignore the rest of the world as other countries seek dominance in the manufacturing and deployment of renewable energy? We would have to be mentally unbalanced to believe that this is a sound strategy for America.

So if we know that giving a large chunk of money to one particular company may not be the most effective means of creating long term sustainable jobs, what can we do to most effectively support and promote the development of clean energy in our country? We all are aware of the PACE debacle. As of today, there does not appear to be a solution at hand. Maybe there is another approach that does not entail the property tax proposal.

Perhaps a low interest, renewable energy loan program could be developed that would allow homeowners and business owners to borrow funds for their individual energy projects. This means distributed, customer owned,



2010/2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

	2011-2013	2010-2012
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solar generation on rooftops across the country. Make it easy for the consumer to access. Develop a simple application process with a standardized approval system so that credit worthy people can be accepted based on their past performance . . . and watch as America goes back to work. All the rhetoric about solar subsidies can be put aside since the money going allotted is being repaid by credit worthy homeowners and business owners.

This model will not only result in the creation of tens of thousands of jobs, it will also create and inspire entrepreneurs. These are folks who will hire the technicians, staff, accountants and attorneys. These are the folks who will purchase or rent the offices and

warehouses.

The new jobs created by the entrepreneurs produce income that can be spent in the community to bolster the revenue of stores and restaurants, purchase homes and vehicles and/or pay off debt. Now the previously unemployed individual has the earning power to purchase a home. This is to the delight of realtors and bankers. Of course, the home needs furniture, and perhaps some repairs. No problem, the new homeowner has the income because she (he) has a new job!

The new job created income produces tax revenue that is important to local governments to

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Industry News is the official newsletter of the Florida Solar Energy Industries Association (FlaSEIA), a nonprofit, professional association of companies involved in the solar and energy conservation industries. **Industry News** is published four times per year and distributed to all member companies of FlaSEIA and a broad range of other interested parties.

(FlaSEIA To Hold Annual Golf Tournament, Meeting, Dinner and Auction Continued from Page 1)

The cost to attend the Annual Auction, Dinner and Meeting is \$40.00 per person. Reservations should be made **no later than Wednesday, October 26.** Reservations made after Wednesday, October 26, 2011 will be an additional \$5.00 per person. For your convenience, [click here for the Annual Dinner Meeting Registration Form](#) and [click here for the Credit Card Authorization Form.](#)

If you would like to make a donation to the Auction, the deadline to submit the donation form and item to the FlaSEIA office is **Wednesday, October 26.** Donations will be accepted after that time; however, we cannot guarantee that they will be printed in the brochure. Any donation of \$250.00 or more will receive a business card ad in the Auction brochure. For your convenience, [click here for the Auction Donation Form.](#)

On Thursday, November 10, FlaSEIA will be holding its Board of Director's Meeting from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. All members are invited to attend; however, reservations are required. If you are interested in attending the Board of Director's Meeting, please contact the FlaSEIA office at (407) 339–2020.

For the first time ever, FlaSEIA will be offering educational courses on Thursday, November 10 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Florida Solar Energy Center in Cocoa. The courses have been submitted to

the CILB for continuing education; however, approval has not been given at the time of printing. The following is a list of courses that will be offered:

ROOM A
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Solar Permitting and Inspection and the Florida Building Commission (Provider Number: 0001001. BCAIB Course Number: 0007449. CILB Course Number: 0607883.)

Solar systems are gaining popularity among green building enthusiasts. What does it take to permit a solar system and pass the required inspections? Come listen and learn from a professional knowledgeable in the field.

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Introduction to PV Systems (Provider Number: 0001001. BCAIB Course Number: 0007450. CILB Course Number: 0607880.)



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Electricity from the sun? What are those things on the roof and how do they work? This introductory class will provide a firm foundation in Understanding these systems.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Solar Thermal Systems Inspections

This course is designed to educate attendees on the various types of solar thermal systems for homes and commercial buildings, installation methods on new buildings and retrofits to existing structures, applicable codes/standards and licensing/permitting issues.

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Photovoltaic Systems Inspection

This course is designed to educate attendees on solar electric systems for homes and commercial buildings, installation methods on new buildings and retrofits to existing structures, applicable codes/standards and licensing/permitting issues.

ROOM B

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Photovoltaic Technical Sales (each two hours)

This course introduces advanced technical skills for photovoltaic system sales. Course content includes solar electric systems design, installation considerations, site survey methods, cost considerations, labor and material calculations and dealing with a potential customer. This course is 2 hours classroom lecture format using power point presentation and class interaction. The primary focus is on system sales, financial and economic analysis, customer concerns, marketing and closing the sale which is covered under business operations and practices.

REGISTRATION FEE FOR MEMBERS OF FLASEIA: Each of the one hour courses are \$25.00 and the two hour course is \$50.00. However, if you register for a total of four hours of courses, FlaSEIA members will receive a 20%

discount. That's a savings of \$20.00.

REGISTRATION FEE FOR NON-MEMBERS of FLASEIA: Each of the one hour courses are \$25.00 and the two hour course is \$50.00.

From 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m., FlaSEIA will be offering a boxed lunch with a networking session. Join the FlaSEIA board members for casual conversation. The cost of the boxed lunch is \$15.00 and advanced reservations are required. [Click here for the Educational Courses and Boxed Lunch Registration Form.](#)

These events are FlaSEIA's only means for raising funds for the year. This is an opportunity to show your support for your association which works hard advancing solar here in the "sunshine state." Your financial support of these events is critical if FlaSEIA is going to continue to represent the solar industry in Florida. FlaSEIA is a respected organization in Tallahassee among Legislators, state agencies and the Public Service Commission (PSC). There is much more work ahead for the solar industry, and we cannot complete the mission without your support. We need the support of each and every member now more than ever.

Please take this time to make that commitment to pledge your support to FlaSEIA. **Don't compromise your voice for tomorrow . . . support FlaSEIA today!**

FlaSEIA wants to take this opportunity to thank the Events Committee for their hard work. The following is a list of the individuals who serve on the FlaSEIA Events Committee as well as the events that they are responsible for:

**Chairman and Donations/
Sponsors Subchairperson**
Dave Bessette

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Industry News is published quarterly by the Florida Solar Energy Industries Association (FlaSEIA). Ideas, opinions and views expressed herein are not necessarily those of FlaSEIA.

**(FlaSEIA To Hold Annual Golf
Tournament, Meeting,
Dinner and Auction
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**Golf Tournament
Subchairperson**
Chris Maingot

Speaker Subchairperson
Carsten Bethge

**Continuing Education
Subchairperson**
Colleen Kettles

Committee Member
Dillon Daniels

**(President's Message
Continued from Page 3)**

sustain our crucial services and
reduce the need for future tax
increases.

The building industry rebounds due
to the additional spending power of
our previously unemployed
neighbors. The existing home
surplus is absorbed creating a
necessity for new home
construction.

The bottom line is that the most
important facet of economic
recovery for our country is job
creation. The solar industry can be
the mechanism and catalyst for
this recovery. It is up to each of us
to encourage our legislators to
look beyond the hype. It is time to
put political affiliations aside for
the health and revitalization of our
nation and state.

Governor Scott has stated that he
wants an “all energy solution.” An
“all energy solution” cannot exist
without solar for all the reasons
previously mentioned. Let’s take
this proposal to our elected
officials and earn their support. I
truly believe that once they
understand the benefits that a long
term, sustainable, renewable
energy policy will provide for our
country, they will do the right thing
and support our message.

The Legislative Session starts
early this year, and we are looking
forward to working with our
friends and supporters to foster in
new legislation that will assist
Florida residents as we move
toward a renewable energy future.

Thanks again for your support and
for your loyalty to FlaSEIA. We are
proud of our organization, and
proud of our members.

Sincerely,

*Bill Gallagher
FlaSEIA President*

**Mark your
calendar
now for the
FlaSEIA
Annual Golf
Tournament,
Auction/
Dinner,
Board of
Director's
Meeting and
Education
Courses on
Wednesday,
November 9
and
Thursday,
November
10, 2011**

Workers' Compensation Exemption Applications Now Available Online

Business owners can now apply for and renew their workers' compensation exemptions online through the state Division of Workers' Compensation website. Only corporate officers and managing members of a limited liability company (LLC) engaged in the construction industry are eligible for an exemption. Once exempt, you do not have to pay workers' compensation premiums on yourself, but you also have not right to collect workers' compensation benefits if you are hurt on the job.

To apply for or renew a workers' compensation exemption online, go to www.myfloridacfo.com/wc and click on the box that says "DWC 250 Exemption Application." The fee for a construction industry

exemption is \$50, and they must be renewed every two years. For corporate officers not in the construction industry, exemptions are free and do not expire.

After completing the application online, you must print it out and have it notarized. You then have to mail it to the state Division of Workers' Compensation. If you are in the construction industry, you will need to include a check for \$50 as well as proof that you own at least 10% of the company.

If you have any questions about workers' compensation exemptions, please do not hesitate to contact the FlaSEIA office at (407) 339-2010.

Changes to Florida Unemployment Benefits

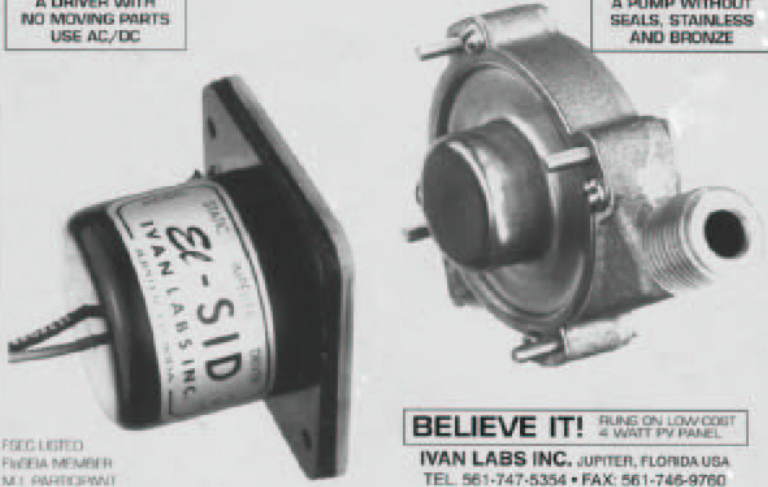
Effective August 1, 2011, there were major changes to Florida's unemployment law and how employees qualify for and receive benefits. These changes were intended to reduce fraud and to

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hold employees who received benefits more accountable. They include:

- Employees have to file all claims for unemployment over the Internet.
- Claimants receiving unemployment benefits must perform a work search by contacting at least five potential employers per week. Verification of the job search must be provided to the state over the Internet.
- To receive unemployment benefits, claimants must complete an initial skills review.
- If a claimant's severance pay per week is equal to or greater than the claimant's weekly amount of unemployment benefits, the claimant is not entitled to benefits for that week.
- An employee will not be eligible for benefits if they are fired for:
 - Chronic absenteeism or tardiness
 - Violation of the employer's work rules
 - Deliberate violation of a regulation that jeopardizes the employer's license
 - Misconduct that occurred either at work or after working hours.

Federal Unemployment Taxes Going Down

Florida businesses pay two different unemployment taxes – to the state and federal government. You pay your Florida tax to the Florida Department of Revenue every quarter, along with a UCT-6 form that lists all your employees and their payroll for that quarter. The unemployment tax rate you pay to the state of Florida can vary anywhere between 0.12% and

5.4%, depending on how many of your former employees have received unemployment benefits.

Florida businesses also pay a federal unemployment tax (this is the one that is going down). The federal tax is paid once a year, when the IRS 940 return is filed. Since 1976, the federal tax rate has been 6.2%. On July 1, 2011, this rate went down to 6.0%. Florida employers do not have to pay this full amount though; they get a 5.4% credit against that rate, lowering it to 0.6% (starting 7/1/11), or \$42 per year per employee. Before the 7/1/11, Florida employers paid 0.8%, or \$56 per employee per year for the federal unemployment taxes.

This means there will be two different tax rates that apply for the 2011 calendar year. From 1/1–6/30, the rate is 6.2%; from 7/1–12/31, the rate is 6.0%. The IRS is currently working on updating Form 940, Employer's Annual Federal Unemployment Tax Return, to reflect these two rates, and the form will be available before the due date of January 31, 2012. **Please note:** Even though Form 940 is only due once a year, you may have to deposit your federal unemployment tax before you file this return. If your federal unemployment tax is more than \$500 for the calendar year, the IRS requires you to deposit at least one quarterly payment. If you have questions about this issue, please contact your local accounting or tax professional.

IRS Increases Mileage Rate Again

Due to the rapidly rising cost of gas, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is taking the unusual action of a mid-year increase in the mileage rate for the use of an automobile for business purposes. The current mileage rate that became effective

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on January 1, 2011 is 51 cents per business mile. Starting July 1, this rate went up to 55 1/2 cents per mile, an increase of 4 1/2 cents per mile.

This is the standard mileage rate used to calculate the deductible costs of operating a private vehicle for business purposes. This rate is used by many businesses to reimburse employees for mileage travelled in their personal vehicles for business reasons. Businesses always have the option not to use this standard rate and instead calculate the actual costs of using a vehicle for business purposes and reimbursing their employees for that cost.

IRS Issues Guidance on Tax Treatment of Cell Phones; Small Business Recordkeeping Relief

The Internal Revenue Service recently issued guidance designed to clarify the tax treatment of employer–provided cell phones.

The guidance relates to a provision in the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, enacted last fall, that removed cell phones from the definition of listed property, a category under tax law that normally requires additional recordkeeping by taxpayers.

The Notice issued recently provides guidance on the treatment of employer–provided cell phones as

an excludible fringe benefit. The Notice provides that when an employer provides an employee with a cell phone primarily for noncompensatory business reasons, the business and personal use of the cell phone is generally nontaxable to the employee. The IRS will not require recordkeeping of business use in order to receive this tax–free treatment.

Simultaneously with the Notice, the IRS announced in a memo to its examiners a similar administrative approach that applies with respect to arrangements common to small businesses that provide cash allowances and reimbursements for work–related use of personally–owned cell phones. Under this approach, employers that require employees, primarily for noncompensatory business reasons, to use their personal cell phones for business purposes may treat reimbursements of the employees' expenses for reasonable cell phone coverage as nontaxable. This treatment does not apply to reimbursements of unusual or excessive expenses or to reimbursements made as a substitute for a portion of the employee's regular wages.

Under the guidance issued today, where employers provide cell phones to their employees or where employers reimburse employees for business use of their personal cell phones, tax–free treatment is available without burdensome recordkeeping requirements. The guidance does not apply to the provision of cell phones or reimbursement for cell–phone use that is not primarily business related, as such arrangements are generally taxable.

Details are in the memo and in **Notice 2011–72**, posted on <http://www.irs.gov>.

OSHA Releases Mobile App to Help Protect Workers From Heat-Related Illnesses

As part of continuing educational efforts by the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) about the dangers of extreme heat, Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis announced a free application for mobile devices that will enable workers and supervisors to monitor the heat index at their work sites in order to prevent heat-related illnesses.

"Summer heat presents a serious issue that affects some of the most vulnerable workers in our country, and education is crucial to keeping them safe," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "Heat-related illnesses are preventable. This new app is just one way the Labor Department is getting that message out."

The app, available in English and Spanish, combines heat index data from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with the user's location to determine necessary protective measures. Based on the risk level of the heat index, the app provides users with information about precautions they make take such as drinking fluids, taking rest breaks and adjusting work operations. Users also can review the signs and symptoms of heat stroke, heat exhaustion and other heat-related illnesses, and learn about first aid steps to take in an emergency. Information for supervisors is also available through the app on how to gradually build up the workload for

new workers as well as how to train employees on heat illness signs and symptoms. Additionally, users can contact OSHA directly through the app.

The app is designed for devices using an Android platform, and versions for BlackBerry and iPhone users will be released shortly. To download it, visit <http://go.usa.gov/KFE>.

More than 30 workers died from heat stroke in 2009. Thousands become ill from heat exhaustion and other heat illnesses every year. Some of the highest illness rates occur among construction workers, farm workers, roofers, landscapers, baggage handlers and other air transportation workers.

Effective heat illness prevention requires simple planning. Employers are responsible for protecting workers by providing plenty of water, scheduling rest breaks in the shade or air-conditioned spaces, planning heavy work early in the day, preparing for medical emergencies, training workers about heat and other job hazards, taking steps to help workers – especially those who are new to working outdoors or who have been away from work for a period of time – acclimatize to the heat, and gradually increasing workloads or allowing more frequent breaks during the first week of an outdoor project.

Information for employers about using the heat index to calculate and address risks posed to workers also is available through OSHA's new Web-based tool "Using the Heat Index: Employer Guidance," which is accessible at http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness/heat_index/index.html. OSHA's other educational and training tools about heat illnesses prevention, available in English and Spanish, can be found at <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/>

heatillness/index.html.

"OSHA's prevention message is clear: Water. Rest. Shade. These are three little words that make a big difference for outdoor workers during the hot summer months," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA Dr. David Michaels.

Under the OSH Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov>.

OSHA Launches Interactive Website to Help Employers Better Comply with its Recordkeeping Rule

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration recently unveiled a new interactive web tool to help users determine whether injuries and illnesses are work-related and recordable under the OSHA Recordkeeping rules.

The OSHA Recordkeeping Advisor is an interactive tool that simulates an employer's interaction with a Recordkeeping rules expert. The Advisor relies on the users' responses to questions and automatically adapts to the

situation presented. Responses put into the program are strictly confidential and the system does not record or store any of the information. The Advisor helps employers determine:

- Whether an injury or illness (or related event) is work-related
- Whether an event or exposure at home or on travel is work-related
- Whether an exception applies to the injury or illness Whether a work-related injury or illness needs to be recorded
- Which provisions of the regulations apply when recording a work-related injury or illness

"The Recordkeeping Advisor was developed to better help employers understand and comply with their work-related injuries and illnesses," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels.

OSHA's Injury and Illness Recordkeeping page links to the Recordkeeping Advisor and other guidance materials to help employers understand and comply with Federal recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

The OSHA Recordkeeping Advisor is one of a series of elaws (Employment Laws Assistance for Workers and Small Businesses) Advisors developed to help employers and workers understand federal employment laws. A full list of Advisors can be found at the elaws Web site.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to assure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov>.

Certified Contractor License Renewal Reminder

Just a reminder that the Certified Contractor licenses from the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) are up for renewal on August 31, 2012. Current law requires licenseholders to obtain 14 hours of continuing education with at least one hour in workplace safety, one hour in workers' compensation, one hour in business practices, one hour in the advance building code module, one hour in laws and rules (Chapter 489) and one hour in wind mitigation (this requirement only affects general, residential, building, roofing and glass and glazing contractors).

Don't forget to notify DBPR of any address change. Section 489.124(2) gives sole responsibility to the licensee for notifying DBPR in writing of the licensee's current mailing address and phone number. Failure to notify DBPR of a change of address shall constitute a violation of this section. In addition, if your address changes and you do not notify DBPR, you may not receive important mailings such as your renewal notice.

U.S. Department of Labor Improves Enforcement Database

Updated site includes Increased Search Capabilities and Visual Enhancements

The U.S. Department of Labor announced enhancements to its online enforcement database designed to improve public access to and understanding of the department's enforcement actions. The updated website includes a number of new features, including map displays of inspection and violation data from the department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and its Mine Safety and Health Administration, as well as the ability to view individual inspection records and the enforcement history of a particular company or mine.

"These improvements to our online enforcement database are part of our commitment to open, transparent enforcement," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "By making this information available and easy to use, we're helping to ensure a level playing field for employers who follow the law."

In addition to mapping capabilities, the updated site allows users to easily view important agency metrics; perform keyword searches; filter data by year, violations or penalties; and export search results or an entire data set into downloadable formats. A new "labs" feature allows users to create data visualizations and

animations using several decades of MSHA data.

The Labor Department created the enforcement database, available at <http://ogesdw.dol.gov>, to increase transparency, participation and collaboration as part of the administration's Open Government Initiative.

OSHA Revises Directive for Reducing, Eliminating Hazards in Commercial Diving Operations

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration recently revised a directive that provides guidance on OSHA procedures aimed at eliminating hazards and reducing worker injuries, illnesses and deaths during commercial diving operations.

"Commercial divers who spend extended periods of time underwater are exposed to hazards such as drowning, circulatory and respiratory problems, and hypothermia," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels. "The guidance provided in this directive will help ensure consistent enforcement and compliance with OSHA's commercial diving operations standards."

OSHA's commercial diving standard (29 CFR 1910 Subpart T), issued in 1977, applies to diving and related support operations in

the general, construction and maritime industries. OSHA published a Federal Register notice in January 1985 that exempts scientific diving from the commercial diving standard's requirements if those diving operations meet certain conditions. OSHA amended the standard in February 2004 to allow recreational diving instructors and guides to comply with an alternative set of requirements instead of the decompression chamber requirements in the existing standard.

This revised directive updates the Subpart T – Commercial Diving Operations directive issued in 2006. Changes in the current directive include:

- providing information to OSHA compliance officers, consultants, government and industry groups in support of interventions to help minimize worker exposure to commercial diving hazards
- listing answers to commonly asked questions about commercial diving operations
- clarifying the requirements for and duties of workers who assist divers with their diving suits and gear, communications equipment and other functions
- updating the instruction to ensure that current editions of other OSHA instructions, as well as industry standards and manuals, are referenced
- updating the instruction about no-decompression air dives (Appendix D) based on Revision 6 of the U.S. Navy Diving Manual, and
- adding electronic links to enhance the directive's Web-based usability.

Included in the directive are inspection procedures for before, during and after dives, equipment maintenance and recordkeeping requirements. The directive is available on OSHA's Safety and Health Topics page on Commercial Diving, along with commercial

diving standards specific to shipyard employment, marine terminals and longshoring, hazards and solutions, and safety and health programs.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to assure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov>.

3% Withholding Tax Update

The 3% withholding law, which was enacted in Section 511 of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-222) as section 3402(t) of the Internal Revenue Code, mandates that federal, state and local governments withhold 3% of nearly all of their contract payments, Medicare payments, farm payments and certain grants. Compliance with this law will impose significant, unnecessary financial burdens on both the public and private sectors. Construction groups stand ready to work with Congress and the Administration to improve tax compliance for companies and other entities receiving federal dollars while also repealing the onerous 3% withholding tax.

There have been numerous legislative and regulatory measures put in place since the enactment of the 3% withholding law back in 2006 that have focused on increasing tax compliance and enhancing transparency for companies that have received government payments. All these initiatives taken together obviate any rationale or need for retaining

the withholding mandate and will be far more cost-effective for the government.

The withholding is a flat percentage of revenues from government payments, bears no relationship to companies' taxable incomes, and will restrict cash flow needed for day-to-day operations and investments. In addition, the administrative and capital investment costs to businesses and governments will be substantial and the withholding mandate will be exceedingly complicated to implement. Access to capital is a major concern for businesses in this economy, and the 3% withholding will further compound this problem for businesses by limiting their operating capital and cash-on-hand. Businesses, especially small businesses, do not need additional limits on capital while the economy begins to recover.

While the 3% withholding requirement is not scheduled to go into effect until January 1, 2012, it's already proving costly, and such costs will increase exponentially as the implementation deadline moves closer. Businesses – the vast majority of which are small businesses without any tax delinquencies – and governmental entities are starting to expend resources now in preparation for implementation due to major system and process changes needed for withholding, reporting and reconciling the millions of affected payments annually. These changes have to be made well in advance of 2012.

In a memo on August 29, 2011 to House Republican members, Majority Leader Eric Cantor laid out their agenda for the fall, and included in the memo is repeal of the 3% withholding tax. See below:

IMMEDIATE TAX RELIEF TO CREATE MIDDLE CLASS JOBS
The second focus of our jobs agenda this fall and winter will

pursue tax relief designed to help American employers create middle class jobs. Small businesses, in particular, are overburdened with taxes that destroy jobs and in a fragile economy, the worst thing government can do is impose tax increases that prevent small businesses from hiring. Instead, government should be focused on ways to enable businesses small and large to unlock more capital and create new jobs.

3% Withholding Rule Repeal:
Beginning in 2013, federal, state, and local governments will be required to withhold three percent of all government payments made to contractors in excess of \$100 million. While the law has been delayed multiple times, its effect once implemented will be massive—causing accounting burdens on governments and potentially harmful cash flow disruptions for contractors and subcontractors across all sectors. Therefore, we will move quickly this fall to repeal this burdensome requirement and relieve construction contractors, medical providers, manufacturers, farmers, and many others providing goods and services under government contracts of the uncertainty the impending law is creating.

Link to Majority Leader Cantor's full memo: <http://ht.ly/6fqKJ>.

The Department of Defense estimates that the costs to comply with the 3% withholding requirement will be over \$17 billion over the first five years. DoD's estimated costs are already substantially more than any savings. Other federal, state and local governments will have enormous costs as well.

Division of Workers' Compensation Offers Free Classes

JULY–SEPTEMBER 2011

15

The Florida Department of Financial Services, Division of Workers' Compensation, is offering free classes regarding Florida's workers' compensation laws and workplace safety to business owners, licensed contractors and employers.

Workers' compensation topics covered include:

- Review of Key Statutory Definitions
- Contractor Responsibilities
- Exemptions
- Insurance Coverage Requirements
- Enforcement Provisions

Workplace safety topics presented by OSHA (U.S. Dept. of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration) include:

- Direct and Indirect Costs
- Inspections
- Florida Fatalities

The following is a list of class dates and times for future sessions.

October 6, 2011

Jacksonville
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon EST
FL. Department of Law
Enforcement
921 North Davis Street, Building E,
Room A
Jacksonville, FL 32209

October 12, 2011

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST
Workers' Compensation
WEB Based class

October 13, 2011

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST
Workplace Safety
WEB Based class

October 18, 2011

Orlando
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon EST
State Office Building,
Hurston Complex
400 West Robinson Street, South
Tower, Conference Room A & B
Orlando, FL 32801

October 25, 2011

Tampa
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon EST
State Office Building
1313 North Tampa Street, Suite 605
Tampa, FL 33603

November 2, 2011

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST
Workers' Compensation
WEB Based class

November 3, 2011

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST
Workplace Safety
WEB Based class

November 8, 2011

Pensacola
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon EST
Alabama Associated General
Contractors, Northwest Florida
Section
201 South F Street
Pensacola, FL 32502

November 14, 2011

Miami
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon EST
State Office Building
401 N.W. 2nd Avenue, North Tower,
Room 423
Miami, FL 33128

November 17, 2011

Pompano Beach
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon EST
Workforce One
2301 West Sample Road,
Building 4, Conference Room C
Pompano Beach, FL 33073

(Continued on Page 18)

The Florida Energy Summit

The Florida Energy Summit, a three-day conference hosted by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) at Rosen Shingle Creek on October 26–28 in Orlando, will bring bright minds from across the state and around the nation to discuss the latest advancements in energy conservation and the future of renewable energy in Florida. Visit www.floridaenergysummit.com to learn more information about registration, sponsorship opportunities and hotel reservations.

The summit replaces the Farm to Fuel Summit, an annual event hosted by DACS since 2006 for the exchange of ideas among agriculture and biofuel industries. During the 2011 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature transferred the responsibilities of the Florida Energy and Climate Commission to DACS, creating the Department's Office of Energy. With this addition, DACS is expanding its role in the energy sector to encompass not only agricultural based fuels, but also all renewable energy and conservation activities.


The primary duties of the Office of Energy are to administer any state and federal energy incentive programs, promote the development and use of renewable energy resources, promote energy conservation in all energy sectors and provide assistance

to other state agencies, counties, municipalities and regional planning agencies to further and promote their energy planning activities.

Join FlaSEIA Now and Get the Remainder of 2011 Free!

Not a member of FlaSEIA? Have you been thinking about becoming a member of FlaSEIA? Now is your chance to see what FlaSEIA is all about. Effective immediately, non-member companies who join now and pay full year's dues get the remainder of 2011 free.

To take advantage of this pricing today and join Florida's premier solar trade association, please [click here for a FlaSEIA Membership Application](#) or contact the association office at (407) 339-2010.



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Not a Member of FlaSEIA?

JULY–SEPTEMBER 2011

Are you receiving the *Industry News* but are not a member of the Florida Solar Energy Industries Association (FlaSEIA)? [Click here for a Membership Application.](#)

Some of the FlaSEIA Membership Benefits include:

Legislative Awareness

- SEIA Legislative Alerts
- Weekly updates during the Legislative Session
- Participated in the development of a statewide Energy Future
- Political Action Committee: Solar Power PAC

Publications

- Quarterly Newsletter, Industry News
- Membership Directory

Business Development

- Local Referral Network
- State Referral Network
- Annual Dinner/Auction

Safety Training/Education

- Continuing Education courses for license holders

Advertising Opportunities

- Florida Manufacturers Initiative

- Program (FMI Program)
- Annual Auction
- Annual Golf Tournament
- Website

Regulation

- Construction Industry Licensing Board (CILB)
- Public Service Commission (PSC)
- Florida Energy Office (formerly known as Florida Energy & Climate Commission)

Other

- Website: www.flaseia.org
- Consumer Hotline – Provide referrals to solar contractors in their area

Please consider joining FlaSEIA today! We anticipate an active Legislative Session. We are hopeful that the Legislature, as well as the Governor, will support a strong solar energy initiative this session. Your participation in Florida's only solar industry trade association is essential to the success of these efforts.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the FlaSEIA office at (407) 339-2010.



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Welcome New Members

FlaSEIA extends a hearty welcome to the following new members who have joined the association from July 15, 2011 through September 30, 2011. We thank them for joining our association and look forward to their participation in helping this association achieve its goals.

Contractor
Bob Heinmiller Solar Solutions, LLC
Mark Derringer
1537 West Smith Street
Orlando, Florida 32804
Phone: 407/422-7723
FAX: 407/422-0790
License Number: CV C56874, CA C1816841
E-mail: bhac@cfl.rr.com
Website: www.bobheinmiller.com
Service Area: Brevard, Lake, Orange Osceola, Seminole, Volusia

Patron
Aspen Financial Group, Inc.
Bill Gallagher
123 Mariners Drive
Ormond Beach, Florida 32176
Phone: 386/527-1435
FAX: 386/677-6349
E-mail: solarfitbillg@cfl.rr.com

(Division of Workers' Compensation Offers Free Classes Continued from Page 15)

December 8, 2011
Tallahassee
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon EST
Southwood Complex, Betty Easley Conference Center
4075 Esplanade Way, Room 178
Tallahassee, FL 33128

December 9, 2011
West Palm Beach
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon EST
Central Career Center
1951 North Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

December 14, 2011
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST
Workers' Compensation
WEB Based class

December 15, 2011
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST
Workplace Safety
WEB Based class

These seminars are open to all licensed contractors, business owners and employers. The Division of Workers' Compensation is an authorized provider (Provider Number: 0004354) for continuing education purposes through the CILB. Course Number: 0010118 – one hour satisfies the workers' compensation requirement and Course Number: 0010630 – one hour satisfies the workplace safety requirement.

Advanced registration is required. The form is available on the Division's website at www.myflorida.cfo.com/WC. For additional information, e-mail bocseminars@MyFloridaCFO.com, or call (813) 221-6518.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Begins Releasing Solar Rebates to Florida Consumers

On October 4, 2011, the Florida Department of Agriculture and

Initiative:

FlaSEIA wishes to thank the following companies for their financial commitment to FlaSEIA and the Florida solar energy industry as participants in the Florida Manufacturers' Initiative (FMI) program.

DHW COLLECTORS

AET d/b/a Thermafin Manufacturing
SunEarth, Inc.

POOL COLLECTORS

Heliocol USA, Inc.
Solar Hydronics Corp/The LeverEdge

PUMPS AND CONTROLS

Ivan Labs, Inc.

You can best show your appreciation by buying products from these manufacturers and by urging unlisted manufacturers to participate in the FMI program.

Consumer Services (FDACS) announced that it has begun issuing consumer rebates for previously purchased solar energy systems. Since assuming responsibilities of the state's Energy Office on July 1, Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam has made paying the rebates a priority, taking the necessary steps to enable the Department to quickly process rebate applications and gather the required documentation from consumers and utility providers.

"Over the last three months, we have worked tirelessly to review every application that was submitted to the office under the Solar Energy Systems Incentives Program and I am happy to report that our review and due diligence is complete," said Commissioner Putnam. "Consumers across the state will begin receiving their rebate this week."

Due to the overwhelming number of applications for a solar rebate, the original funding for the Solar Energy Systems Incentives Program was quickly depleted by

June 2009. However, in 2010, the Florida Legislature passed House Bill 15A, which provided additional funding for the program to ensure that all eligible applicants were rewarded for their investments in solar energy systems. This legislation requires that rebates be calculated by dividing the total amount of available funds by the total dollar value of approved applications.

Based on the total appropriation and the 8,800 approved rebate applications, each consumer will receive approximately 52 percent of their requested rebate amount.

Additional information can be found at www.freshfromflorida.com/solarrebate. Consumers can check the status of their rebate application by contacting the Energy Office at (850) 487-3800 or energy@freshfromflorida.com.

For more information about the FDACS, visit www.FreshFromFlorida.com or follow Commissioner Putnam on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [Google](#).

Horizon:

2011 Calendar of Events

Solar Power International 2011
Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, TX
October 17-20

Annual Golf Tournament
Cocoa Beach Country Club, Cocoa, FL
November 9

Annual Auction and Dinner
FSEC, Cocoa, FL
November 9

Board of Director's Meeting and Continuing Education Seminars
FSEC, Cocoa, FL
November 10

2012 Calendar of Events

Board of Director's Meeting
January TBA

For additional information on the above meetings and/or events, please contact the FlaSEIA office at (407) 339-2010.



231 West Bay Avenue
Longwood, FL 32750-4125
Phone: (407) 339-2010
FAX: (407) 260-1582
Website: www.FlaSEIA.org



SOLAR POWER INTERNATIONAL 11
October 17-20, 2011
Dallas Convention Center • Dallas, Texas
www.solarpowerinternational.com

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