

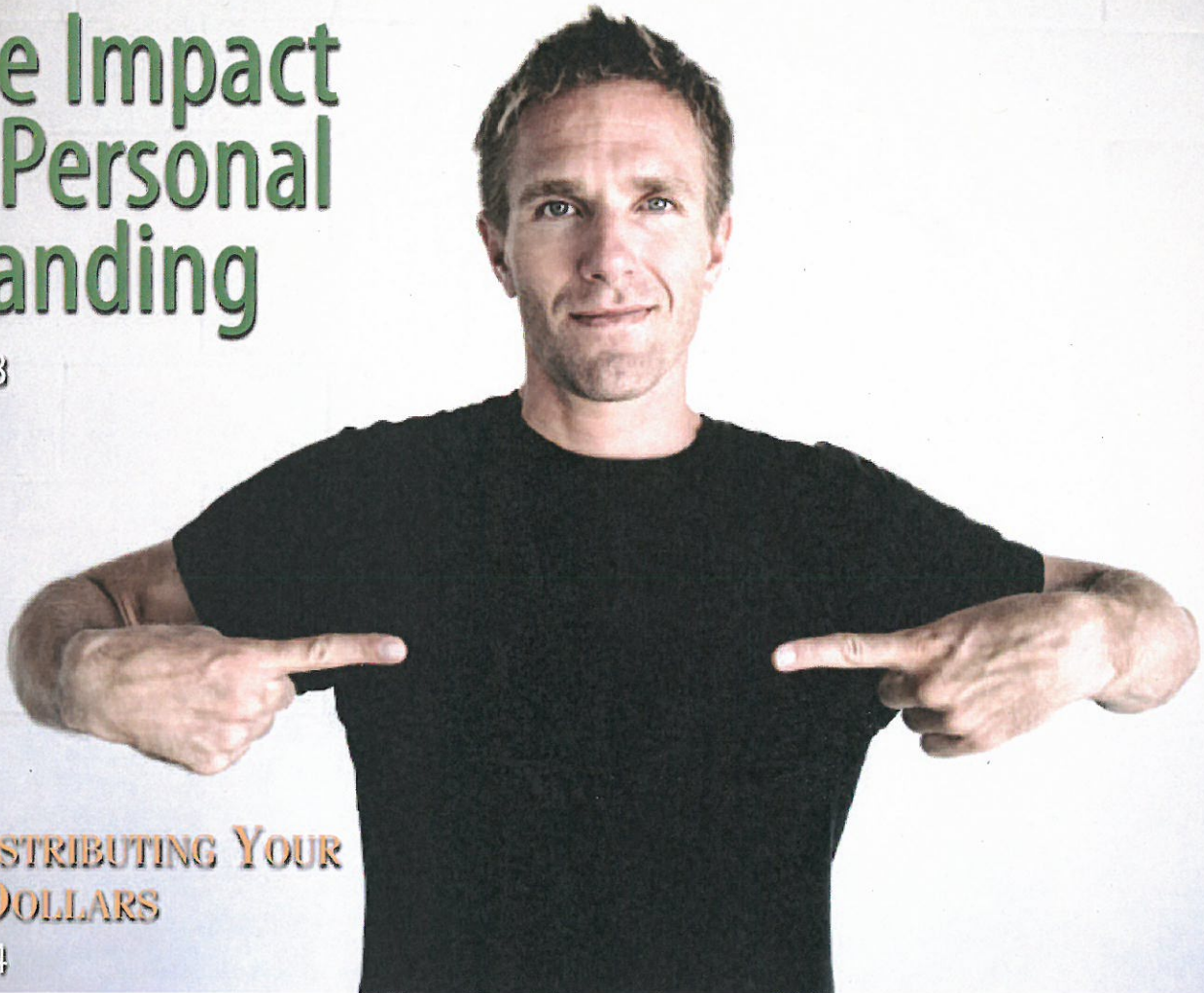
Remodelers

FOR ALL YOUR INDUSTRY NEWS, TRENDS AND IDEAS

Journal

The Impact of Personal Branding

page 18



REDISTRIBUTING YOUR AD DOLLARS

page 24

NARI, TeamWorks, SkillsUSA, mrW have role in workforce development

By Sean Lintow Sr.

Are you tired of hearing about never being able to find qualified workers, wondering who will take the reins when you retire or what this generation is capable of accomplishing? Are you looking for a few hard-working individuals who not only know what is required, but also can do it, have a desire to learn more and improve—and, oh, by the way, already have an OSHA 10-hour card? Or maybe you are looking to give back to your community, help bring new blood into the industry and raise the bar at the same time? If you answered yes to any of the questions above, I encourage you to read about a few organizations and how they are developing our next workforce.

During the month of June, I had the pleasure of attending one of this country's best and mostly unheard of competitions, the SkillsUSA National Championships. In this competition more than 5,500 high-school and trade-school students competed in 94 different events, ranging from building cabinets to welding, from automotive repair to residential wiring and more. I was really impressed, not only by the level of professionalism and decorum shown by all the competitors, and by seeing the capabilities of the future generation of craftsmen.

One of the most interesting events is aptly called the TeamWorks event. In this event, each school (or region) teams up a carpenter, an electrician, a plumber and a mason to build a complete washroom—which was this year's challenge—from scratch, in less than two days. I can personally attest that the level of knowledge and skill shown by many of these competitors was inspiring to say

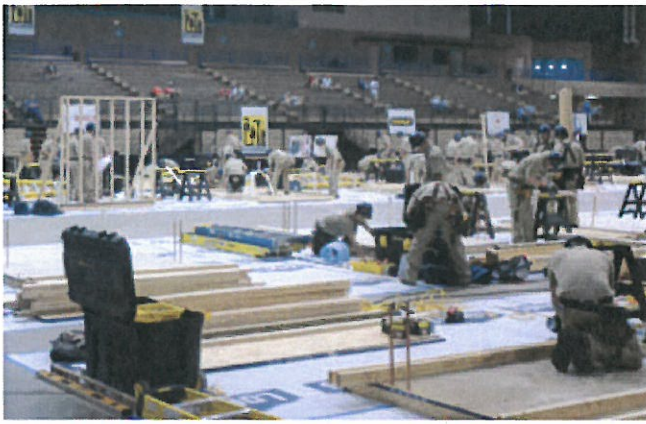
the least. One of the main reasons for this (besides the individuals themselves) is the workforce-ready system, or blueprints, for each trade used by the schools that participate in this program. These hands-on lessons and requirements are designed to prepare the students for entry-level positions, but they also get to learn and practice many additional items, including reading the plans and doing the layouts, cutting stair stringers, building rafters and more.

As many of us will attest, NARI is a great organization that is always striving to help and promote those of us in the remodeling industry. What many of you may not know is that NARI, and especially Dan Taddei, director of education, is very involved in SkillsUSA and the TeamWorks competition. He not only serves on the SkillsUSA TeamWorks Technical Committee, but also oversees the judging, which is mostly done by a great group from the Kansas City NARI chapter. NARI is involved to help develop our up-and-coming



Dan Taddei, NARI director of education, right, instructs the TeamWorks judges, who were mostly members of NARI's Kansas City chapter. The different colored vests denoted what area the judge was in charge of scoring.

Photos courtesy of Sean Lintow Sr.



Students are hard at work at the start of Day 2, completing the project. By 8:22 a.m., one wall was up on the competition floor.



At 10:15, there was a mandatory break, and the competitors got a quick clinic on installing windows.

workforce and to promote remodeling as a great career choice.

In the arena of workforce development and promoting the trades, Mike Rowe has now become a familiar name, especially since his testimony on the Hill. Rowe launched a site called mikeroweWORKS.com on Labor Day in 2008 to help promote the trades, stop the “war on work,” and to give one the tools necessary, not only to get into a trade but to succeed in that trade. I would also be remiss in not mentioning that these resources are not only meant for individuals but anyone interested in promoting the trades.

For more information on any of the above groups or programs:

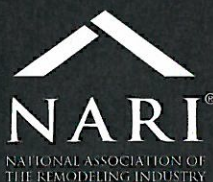
- SkillsUSA.org: skillsusa.org/
- TeamWorks competition: www.TeamWorks-Info.com
- mikeroweWORKS: www.mikeroweWORKS.com/job-site/
- My blog about SkillsUSA: Blog.SLS-Construction.com/tag/SkillsUSA

Sean Lintow Sr. is president of SLS Construction in Hanceville, Ala.

Do you struggle...

- keeping your project schedules on track?
- keeping everyone on the same page with change orders?
- keeping your profit margins intact?

Sound familiar? NARI's new Certified Remodeler Project Manager (CRPM) is for you.



To join the waiting list for Jan. 3, 2012 class, e-mail info@nari.org or visit www.NARI.org/certify/CRPM.

