

# Syracuse Builders Exchange

FOUNDED 1872

Celebrating  
**150** Years  
1872-2022



Central City Roofing 1918



Dinner Meeting  
c1910



Saunders Old Quarry Trucks  
Courtesy of Tracy Saunders



Saunders Flatbed  
Courtesy of Tracy Saunders



O'Brien Construction Company

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**THE YEAR WAS 1872...** Local building contractors and supply dealers met on April 30 to organize what was to become the first construction industry employers' association in the United States. Founded as the Builders Board of Trade, then recognized as the Builders and Brick Manufacturers Exchange (date unknown), then in 1905 we became the Syracuse Builders Exchange.

**The purpose of the organization...**

*"To provide and regulate suitable room or rooms for the daily meeting of the said Board in the city of Syracuse; to establish a more genial and good understanding, just and equitable principles in all business transactions with each other; to acquire and disseminate valuable business information, and in all cases of misunderstanding arising between members of the said Board, they may be adjusted as may be hereafter provided in the By-Laws of the corporation; and all proper and needful By-Laws for the use and government of this Board, not contrary to this act, the Constitution, laws of the State of New York, or the United States."*

**-Published in The Syracuse Standard**

As an Association we have grown and become an integral part of the construction industry in central New York. Of course, our growth and success would not be possible without you, our members. In honor of our 150th Anniversary we would like to share with you in pictures the growth of your Builders Exchange and the impact our members have made in central New York.

**1872**

*Founded as the Builders Board of Trade*



**1885**

Construction of the United States Post Office (Downtown Syracuse)

- Courtesy of the Onondaga Historical Association

**1888**

Land Surveyors for the Skaneateles Water Pipeline

- Courtesy of the Onondaga Historical Association



**1893**

Work Crew for the Construction of the Woodland Reservoir

- Courtesy of the Onondaga Historical Association



**1906/08**

Work Crew and Local Children During the Construction of Sacred Heart Church

- Courtesy of the Onondaga Historical Association

**c1915**

Invitation Letter (undated) to the Eleventh Annual Syracuse Builders Exchange Clambake

- Courtesy of the Syracuse Builders Exchange



**1916/17**

Construction of the Journal Building

- Courtesy of the Onondaga Historical Association



**1905**

*Renamed Syracuse Builders Exchange*



**1905**

Construction of the Clinton Street Coal Trestle

- Courtesy of the Onondaga Historical Association

Construction of the Soldiers & Sailors Monument

- Courtesy of the Onondaga Historical Association



**1909/10**

**1919**

Crucible Steel under Construction

- Courtesy of J.D. Taylor Construction



Construction of Cornell University Boldt Hall

- Courtesy of J.D. Taylor Construction

**1922**

Hotel Syracuse under Construction

- Courtesy of Onondaga Historical Association



**1948**

Syracuse Builders Exchange Float for the Syracuse Centennial Parade

- Courtesy of the Syracuse Builders Exchange



**c1942**

Construction of the New York Ordinance Works During WWII (Town of Lysander)

- Courtesy of Russell J. Clark/Historical Documents



**c1951**

The Beginning of the Syracuse Builders Exchange Bowling League

- Courtesy of the Syracuse Builders Exchange



**1950**

War Memorial under Construction

- Courtesy of the Onondaga Historical Association



**c1952**

The Central New York Builders Show, Sponsored and Managed by the Syracuse Builders Exchange in the Early Years

- Courtesy of the Syracuse Builders Exchange



**1965**

Construction of St. Joseph's Hospital

- Courtesy of the Onondaga Historical Association



**c1970**

Beginning of Strategic Partnership with Lovell Safety Management Company, LLC

**1974/75**

Federal Building under Construction

- Courtesy of the Onondaga Historical Association



**1979**

Construction of the Carrier Dome on the Campus of Syracuse University

- Courtesy of the Onondaga County Public Library



**1992**

Beginning of Strategic Partnership with AT&T



**1973**

Introduction of the Craftsmanship Awards



**2002**

Introduction of the Electronic Plan Room



**1988**

Introduction of the Syracuse Builders Exchange Scholarship Program



**2009**

Introduction of Construction Contractor Magazine, the Publication of the Syracuse Builders Exchange



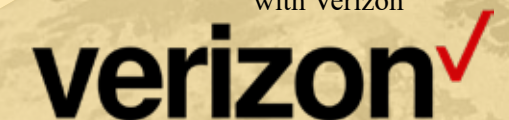
**2007**

Introduction of Construction Career Day to Introduce High School Students to Careers in the Construction Trades



**2013**

Beginning of Strategic Partnership with Verizon



**2018**

Beginning of Strategic Partnership with OneGroup/Titanium Toolbox



**2022**

*150 Year Anniversary*



**THE** Syracuse Builders Exchange was founded on April 30, 1872, and was originally known as the Builders Board of Trade. In 1900, the organization changed its name to the Syracuse Builders Exchange. Today, 150 years later, the Syracuse Builders Exchange is the largest Builders Exchange in New York State, serving 930 diverse member firms.

As the oldest Builders Exchange in the United States, the Syracuse Builders Exchange has evolved over the past 150 years to become the regional industry leader in gathering and disseminating of important construction information to construction industry employers.

The mission of the Builders Exchange is to further the best intentions of the building and construction industry in Central and Upstate New York; to uphold wholesome relationships among all constituents of the building and construction industry and the public which they serve; to foster and encourage just and equitable principles for the conduct of business within the building and construction industry; and to acquire and disseminate information and materials which are useful and beneficial to the building and construction industry.

On behalf of the construction industry, I would like to congratulate all of those who have invested their personal and professional time and energy into developing the Syracuse Builders Exchange into what it is today. Over the past 150 years, countless industry leaders have volunteered their time to serve on the Builders Exchange Board of Directors and

Committees to develop services and initiatives important to construction industry employers and their employees. Today, the Syracuse Builders Exchange provides a wide range of services, including a robust electronic plan room, affinity programs, education and safety training classes, social and networking events, and group insurance/risk management services. Providing employers with timely information, resources and support will remain paramount.

As the Syracuse Builders Exchange celebrates our 150th anniversary, I would be remiss if I did not congratulate and thank the Association's loyal members, especially those who have been members for generations. It remains a privilege to be the Executive Director of such a great organization.

**EARL R. HALL**  
Executive Director

## ABOUT

6:00 on a Friday evening twenty-odd years ago, I was wrapping things up at my office and thinking about heading home when Executive Director Earl N. Hall called from the Syracuse Builders Exchange. He was looking for someone to work with his staff on a training project.

I will always be grateful I happened to be there to receive that call since it marked the beginning of my long-time association with the SBE. Joan Henderson (then Hourigan) ran the project and became a good friend. Joni is retired now, but still serves as the institutional memory for the organization. Earl N. is also retired, with the SBE now under the leadership of his son, Executive Director Earl R. Hall.

The year the SBE was founded, Ulysses S. Grant was the US President, Yellowstone was established as the first national park, and Susan B. Anthony voted (and was fined \$100 for her trouble). The SBE has been there to support its members through the great challenges of the last century and a half, including the recent COVID-19 crisis. During the early days of COVID, there was an overwhelming amount of sometimes contradictory information floating around, and things seemed to change daily. The Executive Director worked with the SBE's attorney, Ed Sheats, and his colleagues at Sheats & Bailey to pin down solid information about New York State and Federal laws and CDC guidelines and to share updates frequently during webinars. I have heard from so many people how much they valued having a trusted source of information during all the uncertainty.

None of us knows what unanticipated challenges the construction community in Central New York will face in the coming decades, but we do know the SBE will be there to help.

**LISA BROWNSON**  
President, Board of Directors





## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

### Standing (L-R)

David Bowles – Treasurer  
(Dermody, Burke & Brown CPA's, LLC)

Karen Bellows – Vice President  
(Bellows Construction Specialties, LLC)

Eli Smith – Second Vice President  
(E. Smith Contractors, LLC)

### Sitting (L-R)

Earl R. Hall – Executive Director

Lisa Brownson – President  
(Safety Source Consultants, Ltd.)

*Inset* – Steve Perry – Secretary (Airside Technology)

## 2022 STAFF

### Standing (L-R)

Dimetri Wingate – Director of Public and Industry Relations

Nina Smith – Cellular Phone Program Manager/Administrative Assistant

Monica Noble – Assistant Plan Room Manager

Beth Conrad – Accounting Director

### Sitting (L-R)

Earl R. Hall – Executive Director

Melissa Gould – Assistant to the Executive Director, Safety Training & Education Program Manager

*Inset* – Lisa Peregoy – Plan Room Manager



# OUR FUTURE

Photos from a Construction Career Day to Introduce High School Students to Careers in the Construction Trades



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