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A PROCESS

By Cathee Johnson Phillips

We are now weeks into 2021. At press time more than 43 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine had been administered in the U.S., reaching nearly 10% of the country’s population, according to federal data collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Across the world, according to data collected by Bloomberg, more than 138 million doses had been administered in 73 countries.

At the same time, new variants of the virus were emerging, causing scientists concern about the effectiveness of the vaccines against the variants. The CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO) continued to recommend the wearing of masks and maintaining social distancing. The federal government and many states and cities issued or extended their mask and social distancing mandates.

In the U.S., we are less than a month away from having lived during a pandemic for a full year. Many of us have adjusted and are now (mostly) comfortable with Zoom meetings, wearing masks, and ordering groceries online. Still, like many others, I do long for a return to normal - the feeling that I can go eat at a restaurant or see a movie safely. But, to keep those I love safe, I must persist in wearing a mask and socially distancing. After all, these protocols are all part of a process that will help us to see the end of the pandemic.

During this pandemic, I have found encouragement in a 2016 Technically Speaking column written by David H. Glabe, P.E. His words have stuck with me over the years. “Safety,” he wrote, “is not my goal.” His column explained that safety “is a process, a habit, a way of doing things; it is not a goal. Safety is like the universe in that there is no end. You cannot acquire safety; you can only practice it.”

Accordingly, even during a global pandemic, Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) members continue to identify and promote safe practices. Volunteers continue to provide safety-relevant articles for this magazine. This issue, for example, offers information and project insights on the safe use of mast climbing work platforms (MCWPs), the safe use of overhead and weather protection on MCWPs, the impact of loads on MWCPs, the importance of flexing and stretching for industrial teams, and more.

It’s a big deal. And that’s why, every issue for the past year, I’ve said “thank you” to them all. I hope you enjoy this issue, and, please, don’t give up on staying safe!

Even during a global pandemic, Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) volunteers continue to provide safety-relevant articles for this magazine. It’s a big deal and much appreciated! Thank you!
While the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) has made a significant impact in the industry, we recognize that there is still a great deal to be done. I’m pleased to report that we recently formed new alliances with the International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) and the Ontario Chapter of the Scaffold Industry Association of Canada (SIAC). These alliances will help to create a unified voice across borders in promoting health and safety in the industry.

Our partnership with IPAF benefits our training program. The SAIA recognizes the IPAF Powered Access Licensed-Registration (PAL) Card as proof of appropriate operator training for users of mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs), mast-climbing work platforms (MCWPs), lifts, and hoists. IPAF-approved training centers and SAIA-accredited training institutes (ATIs) will offer IPAF’s globally recognized training, developed by leading industry professionals and available in multiple languages to suit local demand.

Our ongoing efforts to bridge the international gap will be one of many topics discussed during the 2021 Committee Week, to be held April 26-29 in Coral Gables, Florida. We are hoping to bring back some sense of normalcy to the industry when we come together for this meeting, which will be the association’s first-ever hybrid meeting, with both in-person and online elements.

During this meeting, the SAIA Board, Councils, and Committees will consider next steps to address the latest safety concerns in the industry. I encourage everyone, both long-time and new members, to participate and share their input and expertise.

Please visit the SAIA website to learn more and register. Due to social-distancing guidelines, in-person registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. I am looking forward to meeting with everyone, either in-person or online. Hope to see you there!

Stay safe,

Michael
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I recently discovered a report from 50 years ago prepared by a supposed scaffold expert. It involved a scaffold that had collapsed while being used by a mason. Interestingly, the report was highly critical of the design of the frame, not the scaffold erection but the actual frame, and exonerated the mason from any responsibility in the accident. In fact, the author of the report opined that the mason had loaded the scaffold “well below the prescribed limits for ‘heavy duty’ scaffolds,” and therefore it was reasonable to conclude that the actual frame was grossly inadequate. Of course, there is more to the story, but that can wait.

Why bring up a 50-year-old report? The causes of the scaffold collapse 50 years ago are still occurring today, despite mandatory regulations. And herein lies the problem. Based on experience, very few scaffold designers, erectors, and users know how strong a scaffold is, whether it is a frame scaffold, system scaffold, suspended scaffold, or any other type of scaffold. Even some manufacturers have no idea how strong their scaffold products are. Sure, reference is made to a light, medium or heavy-duty scaffold, but mostly it is a meaningless claim. And there seems to be little concern regarding the matter, probably due to either an incredible amount of luck or plain ignorance.

The Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and other agencies are clear that scaffolds must be designed to have an adequate safety factor. Scaffolds must be designed by a qualified person, that is an individual who can determine the capacity of the scaffold and the load that will be applied to the scaffold. The regulations require that the scaffold users must know the allowable strength of the scaffold. They must know how much the material and workers they are placing on the scaffold weigh. These are mandatory regulations, not suggestions. This means that most scaffolds violate applicable OSHA regulations every day, since the vast majority of scaffold designers and users don’t know the information.

To comply with the regulations, the scaffold designer needs to know two pieces of information. The first is the allowable load a scaffold can support, usually described as the allowable load per leg for supported scaffolds. For suspended scaffolds, it is usually described as the allowable load per hoist or platform. The second piece of information is the actual load that will be placed on the scaffold. This can be difficult to obtain since the individual using the scaffold probably doesn’t know how much stuff she will pile onto the scaffold. Because of this unknown, a qualified designer will design the scaffold to support a specified load. This approach circumvents the requirement to know the weight of the material the user will place on the scaffold. For example, the designer can specify that each bay of a supported scaffold can support 1,000 pounds. In this example, the designer states the limit, 1,000 pounds, and it is the responsibility of the scaffold user to make sure the load never exceeds that amount. The 1,000-pound design load is based on information the designer receives from the manufacturer regarding the capacity/strength of the scaffold equipment. Note that without this information there is no way the scaffold can be designed.

The second approach attacks the issue from the opposite direction, so to speak. That is, the user tells the designer how much load the scaffold must hold, and the designer then provides a scaffold that has a structure sufficient to support the load. For a supported scaffold, the designer selects equipment that has the capacity to support the anticipated load. This would include selecting a scaffold leg of adequate strength and then spacing those legs to ensure

The bottom line here is that if you are involved with the design, erection, and use of scaffolds, at a minimum you must know the scaffold-allowable load and the actual load that will be placed on the scaffold.

Have a technical question for SA Magazine you’d like to see answered here? Let us know! Send an email to dhg@glabeconsulting.com with your question.
the leg is not overloaded. For suspended scaffolds, the designer would select hoists, suspension ropes, rigging, and platforms that will support the anticipated loads.

Unfortunately, the typical scaffold user is ignorant of the scaffold limitations. All too often, when a scaffold fails, the finger is immediately pointed at the equipment since it is the physical evidence of a collapse. Seeing a pile of twisted broken metal naturally makes one conclude that the scaffold failed. No kidding. But why it failed is the question that must be answered. And when that question is asked, it is not surprising to find out that the scaffold user had no clue as to the capacity of the scaffold. In fact, the usual answer includes the classic line: “We always did it this way.” Compounding the issue is that the scaffold supplier has no idea of the capacity of the scaffold, and the erector, who most frequently is the designer, doesn’t know either.

Interestingly, most scaffold training ignores the topic of loads; the training often doesn’t even inform the student that he must know the capacity of the scaffold. OSHA 29 CFR 1926.454 is very clear regarding the expectations for designers, erectors, users, and the competent person who inspects the scaffold prior to each work shift. The bottom line here is that if you are involved with the design, erection, and use of scaffolds, at a minimum you must know the scaffold-allowable load and the actual load that will be placed on the scaffold.

As for the rest of the story regarding the scaffold of 50 years ago, the scaffold being used by the mason was poorly erected, which directly impacted the scaffold capacity. It was a frame scaffold, and it only had screw jacks and base plates on the front legs; bricks were used on the rear legs. The scaffold was not secured to the structure, all the inside braces on the top two tiers were missing, and it started to rain. The scaffold collapse was not caused by a poorly manufactured scaffold frame. The fact is the scaffold frame so severely criticized by the supposed expert has been manufactured and used for more than 70 years and is still in use today. The real causes included a scaffold erector who had no idea the impact that poor erection practices had on the scaffold capacity and a user who had no idea on how to use the scaffold correctly or how much load could be safely placed on it.

Unfortunately, here we are, 50 years later, still doing the same thing. Do you know how strong your scaffold is?

About the Author
David H. Glabe, P.E., is President of Glabe Consulting Services Inc. and Founder of DH Glabe and Associates. Contact him at dhg@glabeconsulting.com.
FLYING HIGH AT 1900 RITTENHOUSE SQUARE

MAST CLIMBERS PROVIDE ACCESS FOR THE RESTORATION OF A HISTORIC LANDMARK.

BY ERIK HIGHLAND
It’s up there. Two hundred feet to be exact. Passing below one might think that these aluminum and steel structures are permanently fixed at the top.

But how did they get there? Why are they up there? And when are they coming down?

Given everything that’s happened this past year, these mast climbers represent more than just another job. They show us that positivity, perseverance, and innovation are all returning to a city that was closed for all construction during the COVID-19 outbreak. They also show that no matter the obstacle, it can be overcome with faith and imagination. It all starts with an idea, sometimes even a question, and a little bit of encouragement.

The giant machines, soaring 200 feet above Philadelphia’s renowned Rittenhouse Square neighborhood, span two sides of the building and are parked at the top of the historic high-rise at 1900 Rittenhouse. This building, completed in 1923, has some of the city’s most expensive and prestigious condominiums. It is a landmark property that requires constant upgrades and maintenance.

The general contractor approached Superior Scaffold Services after other companies had been unable to come up with a workable access solution. Several options were considered, from swing stages to transport platforms. In the end, Superior Scaffold recommended the use of the MC 7000, a mast climber capable of handling up to 12,000 pounds on one unit. There were two sides that needed a full parapet restoration as well as an exterior restoration, and so one
A mast climber was used on each side of the building. One of the units is 70 feet long and spans the entire front of the facade, the other is 60 feet long, and both are right smack in the center of downtown.

How would these giant machines work on a narrow sidewalk in a very busy, upscale part of town? People live in that building and have to come and go about their business as usual.

Superior Scaffold first had to create a system that would let tenants and pedestrians travel safely below but would also allow the massive mast climbers to be installed directly on top of the canopy. The sidewalk was too narrow to place the units right next to the building and put the overhead protection system in front of them - like Superior often does. The solution was to use standard canopy frames throughout. But beneath the sections where each mast climber was to set, Superior used shoring frames and shortened the length of the scaffold bays to increase the total capacity. This method allows the weight of the mast climbers, plus the workers and material, traveling up and down safely each day, to set directly on top of the canopy below, and allows the residents and pedestrians to come and go safely. Problem solved.

So now, soaring high over the streets and pedestrians below, sit two mast climbing units spanning the entire facade on two sides, delivering new brick and life to the aging structure. Restoration and masonry crews are currently replacing and rebuilding the aging parapet. They have to take down the old brick and replace it with new. These twin mast units can hold a great deal of weight, and because of their increased capacity fewer trips to the ground and back are necessary.

The mast climbers allow the crews to focus on the job at hand – restoration. The big picture for the general contractor and masonry contractors is saving money. People were skeptical and said it couldn’t be done. A little faith, creativity, perseverance, and cooperation got this job off the ground – literally!

Once the parapet has been fully restored, crews will move down the face of the building doing an entire restoration. These giant mast climbers will be flying high for at least eight months on this job and then off to help another dream become a reality.

**About the Author**

Erik Highland is Marketing Director for Superior Scaffold. Contact him at (215) 743-2200 or visit www.superiorscaffold.com.
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INDUSTRIAL ATHLETES

A SPORTING PHILOSOPHY APPLIED TO AN INDUSTRIAL TEAM IS NOT FANCY WORDPLAY; IT IS REALITY.

BY GRANT FRAME
This time of year, it is hard not to be in a sporting mind. Just as the weather turns cooler and the leaves coat the ground, the gridiron comes alive with athletes of all shapes and sizes donning the colors of their team as they represent their city in perhaps the most physical game of the modern era. Taking the field, clad in pads, helmets, and other protective gear, teams warm up and stretch together. Afterward, kickers kick, passers pass, and receivers catch. Everyone is included so that no one begins the game tight.

The coach, having prepared for the game all week, has the game plan at the ready. No plan is ever the same. No plan is ever repeated. Each game plan is like a fingerprint and is vital to the team’s success.

Before the field is ever taken, the game plan is shared with the team. Once on the field, team leaders direct their team. Plays are called in, defenses adjust, plays are changed accordingly. Offensive players know their role. Some block, some run, some throw, some pass. Defenses know their role, too. Without synergy of effort, winning is difficult in the game of football.

The best teams adjust at halftime. Knowing what worked and what didn’t work, coaches and players alike make amendments to the game plan. Small tweaks to exploit or defend a weakness can result in more success on the field. At the end of the game, victory is owned by those with the strongest team. The strongest plan. The strongest leaders.

**Industrial Athletes**

Those of us in the scaffold industry know that scaffold builders and their ilk are industrial athletes. They are strong, intelligent, precise, and part of a winning team. The work before them daily can be rigorous, requiring great strength to complete. It can be technical, requiring great skill and
precision to lay out a strategy. It can be risky, requiring proper hazard mitigation techniques to perform it safely. Like their brethren on the gridiron, their teams must plan for every project, every day, if success is to be the outcome.

Similarly, industrial athletes should not begin their day tight, distracted, or fatigued. They must prepare in advance, sleep well, and ensure they come to work with their minds on the day ahead of them. They must loosen up by performing flex and stretch exercises so that their bodies are ready for the rigors of the day and their muscles are protected from strains and sprains.

Next, frontline leadership must share the game plan with the team during the job safety analysis (JSA) process. This allows the team to identify site specific hazards associated with working at height, working on roofs, working near power lines, stored energy, confined spaces, etc. During this process, leaders ask for their teammates to speak up if something they see in the work area is a possible hazard.

With loose muscles, clear minds, and the game plan firmly in hand, the work commences. If anything changes in the work site conditions, teams huddle up and call an audible, otherwise known as a time out for safety. Anyone on the team can call an audible when an unforeseen hazard enters the work environment. Audibles are a vital part of the game of football and they are vital to the safety and success of a team on the work site.

At lunch, game plans should be reevaluated and changed where necessary. Perhaps job site conditions have changed, inclement weather has moved into the area, or other trades are now working overhead. Whatever the change in conditions, we must make the adjustments necessary when returning to the site to ensure success.

Reality
In summary, a sporting philosophy when applied to an industrial team is not fancy wordplay, it is reality:

• Industrial athletes are part of a larger team and must prepare for success prior to ever coming to work.
• They must be clear-minded, well rested, and loose.
• They must have a game plan specific to the work at hand.
• They must have their teammates’ back, be able to identify hazards in the workplace, and call time outs when necessary.

Regardless of the colors worn, the companies represented, and the craft performed, these men and women are industrial athletes and are vital to the success of our industry.

About the Author
Grant Frame is a Regional Safety Manager for Sunbelt Rentals. Contact him via email at grant.frame@sunbeltrentals.com.
MAST CLIMBERS: THE DO’S AND DON’TS OF WEATHER AND OVERHEAD PROTECTION

Planning for the use of weather or overhead protection is essential.

BY KEVIN O’SHEA
Way back in the 1980s, in the early days of mast climbing work platforms (MCWP) development in North America, one of the early descriptions attributed to the equipment was “Workshop In The Sky,” and it’s still a pretty good description today. The ability of the MCWP to provide a stable work platform at height, and support materials, tools, personnel, and all manner of additional requirements for specific projects, like workbenches, porta johns, demolition equipment, and even mini excavators, seems to fit well with the Workshop In The Sky description.

In those early days, the only differences between a workshop and a mast climber were essentially roof and heat, the roof for overhead and weather protection and the heat for worker comfort. It didn’t take long for the mast climber industry to come up with a couple of solutions: weather and overhead protection.

Nowadays, it is common to see MCWPs all over North America configured for weather or overhead protection, but not all applications are alike. In fact, there are many important factors to consider before introducing weather or overhead protection to a mast climber installation.

**Weather Protection**

The benefits of weather protection on an MCWP are many. Weather protection:

- Facilitates maximum productivity in inclement weather;
- Protects both workers and materials;
- Can incorporate heating systems and provide an extremely comfortable work environment;
- Also provides curing temperatures for stucco and similar applications, preserving their warranty; and
- Can act as a sun barrier and, with the use of cooling fans, can reduce oppressive heat conditions.

Planning for the use of weather protection is very important. Think of an MCWP as a scaffold. There are important stability requirements for safety and compliance. When an MCWP is installed on a project, these requirements must be met. Free-standing height, as determined by the manufacturer, is a critical criteria for compliance. Similarly, the method of tying the MCWP to a structure is as important.

The manufacturer will have strict rules for both, based on calculations that include wind load. For example, a 50-foot-long, single-mast unit fitted with a weather canopy must withstand a major wind-load increase because of the weather canopy. Imagine it as a giant sail. The installation of a weather canopy will usually result in a lower free-standing height, a revised tying-in method, revised tie distance, reduced capacity on the platform, and other requirements.
The expert in all these extra considerations is the manufacturer. Consultation with the manufacturer during the planning process will reduce risk and liability, provide a safe work process, help to properly assess cost and productivity implications pre-bid, and streamline mobilization.

**Overhead Protection**

The first question to ask when considering the use of overhead protection is: overhead protection from what?

Think of overhead protection like fall protection; it might not be the first or best solution and there might be other solutions available. A thorough task/hazard analysis is critical when considering overhead protection.

Overhead protection on an MCWP means that there is a possibility that something from above could fall onto the platform or hit one of the platform occupants. That “something” could be debris, stucco, masonry, or a pre-cast panel. Compiling a risk assessment to plan for overhead protection requires a complete analysis of potential risk. For example, if someone drops a hammer from 50 feet above the MCWP, what force will the overhead protection be required to resist?

Analysis of appropriate overhead protection is something few equipment owners and users are qualified to carry out. That analysis may potentially ignore the primary method, which is to establish a safe work zone above the MCWP, including appropriate signage, and convey that information to all jobsite personnel through training and orientation.

When the decision is made to use weather protection, temperature control, or overhead protection, there are important questions to be asked, such as:

- Has a complete hazard/task analysis been completed by a competent person?
- Is there no other viable, safer alternative?
- Do I have permission from the manufacturer?

Alimak Group, Sweden, in an effort to continually focus on improving safety and a safe working environment when using its products, has developed a new safety Instruction for all owners and users of Alimak and Hek Branded Mast Climbing Work Platforms. The new Safety Instructions require all personnel who access the platforms to wear and attach Fall prevention gear under specific operating conditions. Alimak Group will provide warning decals and supplements to the operating instructions, at no cost, for anyone requesting the information by completing the form below and returning to the mailing or email address listed on the form.

**Company Name** ___________ **Contact Name** ___________

**Mailing Address** ___________ **Email or Cell** ___________

**Alimak or Hek Model** ___________ **Year of Manufacture** ___________

*Completed forms can be emailed to info@alimakgroup.com or mailed to 12552 Galveston Rd STE A160 Webster, Texas 77598.*
• Will the installation of weather or overhead protection affect the MCWP capacity or installation method, or both, and will it disrupt operations or productivity?
• Do I have confirmation of revised wind speed and MCWP capacity for the installation and have I put into place effective management of the restrictions?
• Have I considered inspection requirements for the installation?
• Has the risk assessment taken into consideration the reduced visibility around and above the MCWP?
• Am I using manufacturer-authorized components and materials?

The above, while not a complete list, is an indication of the planning and assessment process required.

The use of weather canopies and overhead protection on MCWPs has realized some fantastic benefits for users and owners, but it is important to be aware of the requirements for planning and safe use. If you need to lean on industry expertise to effectively plan for overhead or weather protection, contact the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) for solid industry guidance.

About the Author

Kevin O’Shea is Director Of Safety and Training for the AGF Access Group, Inc. and Chair of the SAIA Mast Climbing Council. Contact him via email at kevin.oshea@agfaccessgroup.com.
THE WELL CONDOS

THE 2020 SCAFFOLD & ACCESS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (SAIA) MAST DRIVEN HOISTS AND PLATFORMS PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD WAS PRESENTED TO KLIMER PLATFORMS, INC. FOR THE WELL CONDOS PROJECT.

BY CHRISTINE GORDON
The Well is an ambitious mixed-use endeavor in Canada, located in the heart of Toronto’s west end. Bordering Front, Spadina, and Wellington, the design includes 1.1 million square feet of office space, 500,000 square feet of retail and food services space, and 1,700 residential units spread throughout six buildings connected to a three-level retail base.

Antamex Industries ULC invited Klimer to jointly develop a material handling and access solution to facilitate the installation of 14-foot-tall panels, with weights up to 1,400 pounds, on the shear wall areas of a new 40-story commercial/residential building. The system would be required to pick curtain wall panels and architectural feature panels from the slab edge adjacent to the shear walls, transport the panels around the perimeter, and position them such that the glaziers could reach the top and bottom of the panels for installation. Klimer collaborated with Engineered Lifting systems to design and manufacture components of the translating monorail system.

The project was challenging from two perspectives, design/supply and installation. Klimer and Antamex went through three iterations of the design concept. Next, the Klimer team completed the detailed design and fabricated a prototype for mockup and function testing. The design was then modified, after which the rest of the
systems were fabricated. The access and material handling solution required four twin-mast platform systems, each with two independent platform levels on the same mast columns. Additionally, the upper platform was equipped with a translating monorail system to provide a continuous material pathway around the building’s irregular shape.

Access System Installation Challenges
The platform systems installation took place above a busy, congested excavation, on shear walls with the nearest floor slab approximately 80 feet below. Temporary walkways were designed and installed to provide access to complete the shear wall bracket installation. The use of a tower crane was critical for the initial aspects of the installation. However, the crane could not place the platform components where required, under the slip forms above. Klimer’s engineering team had to develop an offset lifting device to facilitate the use of the crane for the installation of the cantilevered shear wall brackets and platform components.

Façade Installation
The façade installation sequence consisted of setting anchors, curtain wall installation, feature panel fins, and cross bracing. Each sequence required the monorail and platform extensions to be further away from the structure. The schedule required the façade completion to be chasing the form work, resulting in the construction sequence being completed on a floor-by-floor basis. To facilitate this, Klimer designed a decking system that could be altered quickly and a monorail system that could translate/transition towards and away from the façade with minimal effort. The monorail section located between the mast and the building structure was hinged and moved hydraulically. The powered tie breaks were retracted to allow
the platform to travel vertically and avoid conflict with the mast ties.

Safeguards
Due to the complexity of the access system, additional mechanical and electrical interlocks were incorporated into the design following a hazard analysis of the complete access and material handling system. Additional safeguards were developed to eliminate the possibility of the monorail striking the mast ties while traveling or of two independent platforms colliding and to eliminate the potential for hoist trollies coming off the monorail when tiebreak was in a raised position. These additional interlocks had the potential to make the operation of the platform system confusing for the operator, so “Good to Go” indicator panels were incorporated to simplify operation.

Preconstruction work for Klimer began in January 2019. Site work commenced in July 2019 and the façade works are scheduled to be complete in June 2021 on the commercial towers.

About the Author
Christine Gordon is Human Resources/Marketing at Klimer Platforms, Inc. and can be reached via email, cgordon@klimer.com
A HOPED-FOR RETURN TO NORMALCY

THE ANNUAL COMMITTEE WEEK OFFERS INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS ONE OF THE BEST OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT WITH PEERS, VOICE THEIR CONCERNS, AND SHARE THEIR EXPERTISE AS THE ASSOCIATION PREPARES FOR EMERGING TRENDS IN THE INDUSTRY.

BY CATHEE JOHNSON PHILLIPS
The Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) leadership is planning a return to normalcy, beginning with 2021 Committee Week, to be held April 26-29 at the Hyatt Regency Coral Gables in Florida. This hybrid meeting will be the SAIA's first event with both in-person and virtual elements. In-person registration will be capped due to social-distancing guidelines and will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

“We are hopeful that we will be able to have a hybrid meeting and are moving full speed ahead with planning for that,” said SAIA President Michael Paladino. “We believe that coming together in Florida will bring a sense of normalcy back to the industry and to our association’s efforts to promote safe practices.”

Committee Week is open to all SAIA members and industry professionals who are interested in becoming members. The work of the SAIA’s 12 councils provides the framework for addressing emerging industry trends and discussing programs, initiatives, or activities for the coming year.

The week’s agenda is packed. The SAIA Board of Directors and the SAIA Education Foundation Board of Directors will meet, as well several SAIA committees, including the Program Planning Committee, the Regulatory and Review Committee, and the Scaffolding, Shoring & Forming Institute (SSFI) Committee.

**SAIA Council Meetings**

The council meetings will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 27 and 28, and will be open to all registrants, both in-person and virtually. The APEX Council meeting will meet first, at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, followed by meetings of the Industrial Scaffold, Permanent Installation, International, Shoring, Construction Hoists, and Supported Scaffold Councils. On Wednesday, the remaining councils will meet, including the Fall Protection, Aerial Work Platform/Mobile Elevating Work Platform (AWP/MEWP), Plank and Platform, Mast Climber, and Suspended Scaffold Councils. Committee week participants are encouraged to attend all council meetings.

The AWP/MEWP Council will work on an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) gaps analysis for review by October 2021. They will also be working to update AWP/MEWP best practice documents. The Plank and Platform Council will work on creating a rendering for all plank types and will be asking the members for feedback on content. The Supported Scaffold Council will work on a redesign of scaffold warning labels and the tip sheets and discuss the possibilities of a podcast to teach the use of important industry resources. The Suspended Scaffold Council will address the need for pictures and diagrams for the rewrite of the suspended scaffold manual. Members will be given a list of what will be needed and invited to share what they have in person or electronically.

**In-person Receptions**
Council work will also take place during in-person networking opportunities, another key component of Committee Week. The Welcome Reception and the President’s Reception, sponsored by StepUp Scaffold, give attendees a chance to continue the work — or to relax after a long day of work with each other in an informal setting.

**Enjoy Coral Gables, Florida**

Coral Gables is one of South Florida’s oldest cities located in the southwestern Miami metro area. Founded in 1925 by George Merrick, the city features Mediterranean Revival Style architecture that has been carefully preserved, including canopyed streets and historic houses. According to florida-backroads-travel.com, the “Gables,” as the locals call it, was one of the first planned communities in America, with strict architectural and zoning regulations. Merrick designed the downtown commercial district to be only four blocks wide and more than two miles long, and he was proud to say that every business in town was less than a two-block walk. Among its many historic landmarks is the Venetian Pool, a spring-fed swimming pool that was once the quarry used to build much of Coral Gables. In the midst of the beautiful architecture, the Gables offers many upscale retailers and restaurants along Coral Way, known as the “Miracle Mile.”

**Register Today**

Register for Committee Week on the SAIA website. For more information, call the SAIA office at 816-595-4860. For more information on the training, contact Daphne Reitz at 816-595-4840. To be a sponsor, contact Brandi Fox at 816-595-4833.

For a complete listing of all active councils and more information on each, please visit their individual pages on the SAIA website at www.saiainline.org/councils.

The **Hyatt Regency Coral Gables**

This Mediterranean-inspired hotel boasts a two-story marble lobby and Spanish-style windows. Located just off the popular Miracle Mile, it is within 10 minutes of the Art Deco District and Coconut Grove. The SAIA has negotiated a special room rate of $199 per night (excluding taxes and applicable fees) for all meeting attendees.

**Getting There**

The Miami International Airport (MIA) is about five miles from the Hyatt Regency Coral Gables. Most of the major U.S. and global airlines fly into MIA. Those driving into the city will most likely find themselves on Interstate 95.

**Ground Transportation**

The hotel does not offer shuttle service to and from the airport, but the average taxi rate from the Miami International Airport ranges from $18 to $22. Sight-seeing is easy with local transportation options. The Freebee offers free door-to-door rides to downtown Coral Gables destinations from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week; the service can be requested through the Ride Freebee app. The Coral Gables Trolley is an affordable option that connects with the City of Miami Trolley on Flagler Street, Coral Way, and Grand Avenue.

**Weather**

In April, daily temperatures will range from 68 - 84 F, and rainfall averages only about 3 inches for the month. Although the days last 13 hours by the end of April, the skies are usually overcast or cloudy.
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SAIA ANNOUNCES NEW ALLIANCE

The Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) is pleased to announce the signing of a new Alliance with The International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) to work together to promote safety and training in powered access throughout the US, Canada and Mexico.

The agreement will also focus on joint promotion of standards, including the updated A92 Suite of Standards that went into effect in the US in June 2020, as well as sharing knowledge and disseminating best practice, informing and influencing national safety and regulatory bodies with a unified voice, and promoting the need for effective powered access operator and supervisor training.

The SAIA recognizes the IPAF PAL Card as proof of appropriate operator training for users of mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs), mast-climbing work platforms (MCWPs), lifts and hoists. IPAF-approved training centers and SAIA-accredited training institutes (ATIs) will offer IPAF’s globally recognized training, developed by leading industry professionals and available in multiple languages to suit local demand.

IPAF’s MEWP operator and supervisor theory training are available as either instructor-led or 100%-online eLearning courses – a valuable option to suit candidates and training centers alike while the risks from COVID-19 remain. MEWP operators must additionally complete hands-on practical training and assessment, although this can take place outdoors to help to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus.

SAIA President Michael Paladino said, “While SAIA has made a significant impact in the scaffold industry in the past 50 years, we recognize that there is still a great deal to be done in the access industry. By partnering with IPAF, continuing SAIA’s role as the Standard Developing Organization (SDO) for the ASC A92 Committee, and strengthening our relationship with OSHA as Ambassadors, we will help bridge the gap with the access industry.”

IPAF’s North American Manager Tony Groat said, “Over the years, IPAF and the SAIA have collaborated and worked together very productively many times. This new formal agreement cements the commitment of both associations to leverage their collective effort and expertise for the benefit of all their members and the wider industry.

“By working closely together under this formal agreement, we hope to eliminate duplication of efforts or mixing of messages and to maximize the strengths of both our associations to intensify and unify focus on the key priorities of our industry and our joint mission to promote the safe and effective use of powered access equipment.”

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COMMITTEE WEEK 2021
April 26 - 29, 2021
HYATT REGENCY CORAL GABLES

Open to all professionals who are interested in advancing the scaffold and access industry, this yearly meeting focuses on the work of the SAIA’s 12 councils.

For the first time a hybrid meeting option will be available with both in-person and virtual elements. Offering one of the best opportunities for members to converge in one location to voice concerns, share expertise, discuss best practices, and make decisions about the Association, their industry, and related topics.

REGISTER TODAY!
www.saiaonline.org/committeeweek2021

Currently the in-person registration will be capped due to social-distancing guidelines and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Any updates to the social distancing guidelines will be posted on our website – so check back often.

SAIA 2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION & EXPOSITION
August 29 - September 2, 2021
HILTON CLEVELAND DOWNTOWN HOTEL

The SAIA Annual Convention & Exposition brings together the largest gathering of scaffold and access industry professionals. The Convention features industry-focused educational sessions and showcases the nation’s top scaffold and access exhibitors.

This yearly event is also one of the best opportunities for members to converge face-to-face in one location to voice concerns, share opinions and expertise, discuss best practices, and make decisions about the Association, their industry, and related topics.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
For more information visit: www.saiaonline.org/2021annualconvention
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