

## At Ronsco Safety is Good Business ...

# ...and So Much More

**A**t family-run Ronsco, there is zero tolerance for unsafe practices. Everything Lee Zaretsky, Owner and President, does backs up that claim. In fact, Ronsco was the recipient of this year's AWCI (Association of Wall and Ceiling Industry) Excellence in Construction Safety Award. Zaretsky believes so fervently that, "Safety is a state of mind," he personally heads his company's safety program. Since the implementation of the strict safety program five years ago, the company has experienced an 80 percent decrease in worksite accidents.

Zaretsky, a member of Local 157, accredits Ronsco's labor management collaboration with the District Council for much of his company's success. Through close correspondence with Martin Daly, Director of the Labor Technical College, Ronsco has held numerous training and safety refresher courses for employees at all levels. He says that by making full use of the facilities, the top-notch instructors and the programs the Labor Technical College offers, Ronsco has made great strides in both safety and the quality of his company's work. Most of the tactics used to ensure safety on a Ronsco jobsite are effective because they increase the awareness of hazards. Every Friday employees participate in weekly "Toolbox Talks" where they review safety issues with their foreman. Before payroll is distributed, they must sign off on the subject covered that week.

Zaretsky stresses that while the District Council and the contractors must do their parts, workers need to take the initiative to be active in increasing their skills and safety certifications. He says, "By taking advantage of the training offered to them, you become more marketable, more valuable and more

## 46 YEARS BUILDING IN NEW YORK



Above: Ronsco's quality work at the Apple Bank.  
Top: The workers that build it safely.  
Left: Lee Zaretsky receiving the AWCI award.

because members are graduating from the Labor Technical College with more knowledge and on the job we continue to educate them and encourage them to be proactive about their personal safety." Also onsite is Local 608 member and Assistant Foreman Heather Moore who serves as a safety supervisor and walks around all floors a few times each day to ensure that all employees are adhering to safety standards. Sister Moore recently graduated from the apprenticeship program and began working for Ronsco her first year out of school.

The shop steward on-site at the Apple Bank project is Bobby Caristi, a member of Local 45. He is proud that they have had no on-site accidents in the nine (9) months the workers have been on this job. He stressed, "Safety is at the heart of Ronsco's planning and operations."

John E. Greaney, President and Business Manager for Local 608, reiterated the strength of the Union's relationship with Ronsco. He praised the company by saying, "For the past 20 or more years, we have maintained a very good working relationship with Ronsco. Their commitment to job safety and quality control make them one of our Premier Contractors in the New York Area. Jobs are finished on time and within budget while maintaining a close relationship with the area's local unions."

Ronsco's dedication to safety and skill make their projects beneficial for all parties. The client gets top-quality work that is finished on time or even ahead of schedule. This brings down finance and interest charges. The workers are provided with cutting edge safety skills and equipment, as well as a management team that keeps job safety at the forefront of the entire team's minds. As a result of the drastic drop in work accidents, Ronsco has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars, proving that safety is good business for everybody.