

# BUSINESS JOURNAL LISTS & LEADS

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## LISTS

Agency construction managers ..... 20  
General contractors ..... 21  
Fast-growing York/Adams companies ..... 22

**Next week's lists:** Nursing-care and skilled-living facilities; Home-care providers

## CONVERSATION WITH **JON O'BRIEN** executive director, Keystone Contractors Association

### About Jon O'Brien



Jon O'Brien, 41, is the new executive director of the Keystone Contractors Association, a commercial construction trade association. A longtime construction association executive, he was previously director of industry relations for the Master Builders' Association of Western Pennsylvania.

O'Brien holds a bachelor's degree in history and journalism from the University of Pittsburgh.

He and his wife of 14 years have three daughters who all share a love of the Pittsburgh Penguins. They reside in Carroll Township.

**ment. Tell us about some of these programs and the benefit to members.**

We want to position the KCA contractor for the future. We are here to offer continuing education so members can maintain professional certifications, and career development so companies will have competent leaders in the future. Also, any time there's a law change, companies need to be educated and this is a big issue now with the state's new online construction lien notices directory. This online process is completely new and KCA is working

with the Department of General Services so we can fully understand the process and properly educate our members.

We also want to offer hands-on training so that KCA members improve productivity in the field. A lot of members have been around for a long time and we want to make sure their company name carries on, so we help educate the next generation on all aspects of running a construction company.

**What is the biggest issue facing building contractors today?**

A workforce shortage. We not only need feet on the ground and workers in the field, but the professional side needs workers, too. KCA members need estimators, project managers, accounting professionals, the list goes on. KCA has a plan to work with colleges in Pennsylvania to assist the connection from college to the workforce. A lot of great work is already being done and by no means do we want to reinvent the wheel, but we're here to help.

**Best construction toy: Legos, Tinker Toys, Lincoln Logs or other?**

Legos. I think I've seen "The Lego Movie" five times with my kids. Back in Pittsburgh, where we just moved from, my kids participated in the grade school Lego building competition hosted by the National Association of Women in Construction. They had a blast building their Lego structures. After the competition, we would go home and play Legos all night.

— Jennifer Deinlein,  
contributing writer

**Q: Compared to 2008, where do you see construction and related fields in the midstate?**

**A:** We definitely experienced a manpower loss starting in '08 and we're still battling this issue. A lot of people went to other areas of the country, other industries to work in, so that's definitely something we have to get back. And that's in both professional and labor positions.

We still see retail construction down from the 2008 levels. We are seeing office construction making a strong push and this should continue in 2017, and the same for the warehouse construction sector. As far as residential, that does appear to be up and that's thanks in large part to a strong multi-family market. This sector seems to be taking off in the cities across the country as millennials want to live the city life. We are also encouraged by the higher education and health care markets that are trending up.

**KCA's member services include education and training and career develop-**