



FEATURE ARTICLE

KLINE KICKS OFF FORMAL ALLIANCE WITH REGION 1 OSHA INSPECTORS

OSHA is a key alliance for the Scaffold & Access Industry Association. To strengthen and expand that alliance, the SAIA Board of Directors (BOD) had recommended that at least one SAIA member company form a partnership with OSHA's regional counterpart.

Alan D. Kline, BOD member representing Region 1, took that recommendation to heart. Having already developed informal relationships with many of the OSHA inspectors he does business with, he was one step ahead and ready to act.

On October 24, 2018, Kline's business – Lynn Ladder & Scaffolding Co., Inc. – hosted their first formal activity in partnership with the North Andover, Mass., OSHA office. As an Accredited Training Institute (ATI) instructor, Kline taught the course.

The SAIA University Competent Person Training for Supported Scaffold class was attended by 10 northern Massachusetts OSHA inspectors and three state consultation inspectors as well as the assistant area director. In addition to what's in the course handbook, Kline sprinkled in hands-on activities and some of what he has learned after 40+ years in the industry.

For example, he discussed all types of scaffolding – not just supported – during the introductory section of the book. He set up the classroom with actual parts that included small 4' x 4' samples of tube and clamp, systems, and a standard rolling frame tower to give students a tactile experience.

Kline also had a sample Swing-Lo™ hanging from his ceiling's

I-beams, further showing students the actual products referred to in the ANSI A10.8 Standard and OSHA Subpart L. The program continued with a look at a rare wooden roof board along with a mannequin wearing a Personal Fall Arrest System (PFAS) in the correct way.

During the practical setup, students erected and dismantled a run of scaffolding that included all the industry's generic scaffold components. Kline's two goals for this activity were to demonstrate that (1) every scaffold must be plumb, level, and square, and (2) there is never an excuse for not having guard rails.

Back in the classroom, issues specific to the New England region were discussed, including misuse of carpenter's scaffolds and the proper use of ladder jack systems and aluminum pole pump jack systems (topics Kline knew were of interest to OSHA).

He keeps it fresh by changing his teaching techniques to be in line with the times and adapting methods to ensure students don't just memorize facts but instead learn how to properly select, care, and use scaffolding.

Kline originally got his start promoting ladder and scaffold safety, care, and use when he

volunteered to sit on a committee tasked with updating and modernizing a long-standing Massachusetts Department of Labor and Industries' law titled "Riggers License for Painters and the Allied Trades." He worked in conjunction with the state, painters' union, and non-union PDCA and realized the value in educating all sides to improve jobsite safety.

Before the formation of OSHA, Massachusetts had been a "state plan" state, which meant that workers had to take written and oral exams to pass the law's test (like the current CPT OSHA administrators).

The law's history dates to when painters only used wooden ladders and manila rope falls. Kline was instrumental in revising the law, and it was at that point he decided to spend his life promoting safety.

After receiving rave reviews for the CPT class, Kline's plans are to offer the course to all Region 1 OSHA offices – alliances he has worked hard to develop. He is an active member of the SAIA BOD and has completed the SAIA's Train the Trainer Program.

Kline stays up-to-date with the industry by reading trade publications and looking at strategic relationships others have in their states, such as CalOSHA.

