



Texas MERIT SHOP Journal

May 2014

Defending the Rights of Merit Shop Contractors

**2014 Primary
Election Results**

**One-on-One
With State
Representative
Paul Workman**

**How Two
Successful ABC
PACs Raise
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**ABC Chapter
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**Texas State Representative
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Letter From the Chairman



ROACH

Crunch time is coming to an end, the close of the primary elections with the completion of the run-offs is May 27th, so we will have a clear picture of our target for the general election in November. As you know, one of the key elements to the success of ABC of Texas' efforts to bolster success and to help secure the best interests of the construction industry is the fulfillment of each Chapter's commitment to our PAC goals.

I won't steal any of President Jon Fisher's thunder regarding any of the awards we are handing out to our officials. The list is contained in his letter, and it's long. It is suffice to say that these awards have become "coveted" due in large part to Jon's effort in the Capitol coupled with Mike Toomey's counsel and support. Our success in becoming recognized in Austin continues to grow.

A very interesting meeting will have taken place by the time you read this. Your ABC of Texas Board of Directors will have met for the first time in a very long time, if ever, in a joint meeting to review legislative priorities with Associated General Contractors-Texas Building Branch (AGC-TBB) Board of Directors in hopes of furthering collective strength for the construction industry. Our organizations are certainly no strangers to each other as far as administrative staff and those Board members who hold dual memberships are concerned, but this will be the first time full Boards will meet to look at what we can do together.

And, of course, our efforts in participating with AGC-TBB and an array of other construction trade associations in pursuit of reforming the Texas Lien Laws continues at an aggressive pace. We remain hopeful that we can reach agreement in all areas so that we have proposed legislation that will capture the attention of the legislators. If you have any insight or desired input you feel bares consideration, please get it to Jon Fisher either directly or through your Chapter representation. You, our contractor members, are the folks "in the trenches". Please share your experiences.

Before I close, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to the following Friends of ABC of Texas - Repcon, Inc.; ISC Constructors, LLC; Andrews Myers, P.C.; Infinity Construction Services; and Weaver and Jacobs Constructors for their financial support "beyond the call of duty". You folks continue to make the seemingly impossible, possible.

As always, we, your ABC of Texas Board are here to serve you. Please lean on us. At your service, I remain.

Mark Roach
2013-2015 ABC of Texas Chairman of the Board

Letter From the President



FISHER

The Primary Runoff Elections are coming up May 27 and early voting is Monday, May 19 through Friday, May 23 (a shorter period than the Primary Election). Be sure to vote.

By the time you receive this issue of Texas Merit Shop Journal, your ABC of Texas Board will have set our Legislative Priorities for the 84th Texas Legislature in 2015. We do this early so we have plenty of time to work on any initiatives the Board selects. Of course, we have reported in the recent past on efforts to develop a consensus approach to Lien Law Reform. Let's hope those efforts bear fruit. I know that we've got some people working really hard to try to reach the consensus that would be needed to make this possible.

By the time you receive this issue, we would have held a joint luncheon with the Associated General Contractors-Texas Building Branch Board of Directors in part to recognize the tremendous progress both groups have made working closer together the past three legislative sessions. Of course, we work closely with other groups also, but this relationship is special and highly valued (not that others aren't, of course). Mike Chatron and Corbin Van Arsdale of AGC-TBB and I have been working to put together a short program highlighting our cooperative efforts and what we see in the immediate future.

We have noticed that raising sufficient PAC resources remains a struggle at some chapters, so we highlighted some successful efforts in this issue. Hopefully, other chapters will use these examples to strengthen their own efforts so we can continue making progress toward the goals set in our Strategic Plan.

We've neglected to mention our award winners from the 83rd Texas Legislature in these pages, so I will close by listing them here.

Public Service Awards

(ABC members serving in the Texas Legislature)

- State Rep. Cecil Bell, Jr.
- State Rep. Dennis Bonnen
- State Rep. John Davis
- State Rep. Todd Hunter
- State Rep. Jeff Leach
- State Rep. Allan Ritter
- State Rep. Paul Workman

ABC of Texas Free Enterprise Champion Awards

(Those who champion our causes)

- State Senator Brian Birdwell
- State Rep. Bill Callegari
- State Senator Bob Deuell
- State Senator Kelly Hancock
- State Rep. Paul Workman

In addition to the above awards, the ABC of Texas Board created two new awards. The ABC of Texas Leadership Award went to House Speaker Joe Straus for his successful leadership of the Texas House over the last three legislative sessions. And, last but certainly not least, a special ABC of Texas Free Enterprise Champion of Champions Awards went to State Rep. Todd Hunter who has won the award every time it has been available to win (3 times). We doubt that will ever be duplicated, although Todd certainly could win again and keep his streak going!

Sincerely,

Jon Fisher
ABC of Texas
President

THANK YOU

The following ABC of Texas Members have provided financial support which is above and beyond their normal dues commitment.

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2014 Primary Election Results

Written By Mike Toomey

For the first time in over 20 years, Governor Rick Perry was not on the statewide ballot. The result was numerous Republicans running against each other in hotly contested statewide primaries—some of which have resulted in runoffs. The runoff election will be held on May 27, 2014. This is the day after Labor Day, which usually results in a low voter turnout.

Statewide Races

In the Lieutenant Governor's race, there were four candidates including the incumbent (David Dewhurst—28%), two statewide officeholders (Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson—12% and Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples—18%), and a popular State Senator (Dan Patrick—41%). The runoff between State Senator Dan Patrick and incumbent Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst will be at the top of the ballot.

In the Attorney General's race, there will be a runoff between Republicans Representative Dan Branch (33%) and Representative Ken Paxton (44%). In the race for Texas Comptroller, the top two vote-getters in the primary were Senator Glenn Hegar (49.9%) and Representative Harvey Hilderbran (26%). Representative Harvey Hilderbran did the right thing and took himself off of the runoff ballot.

There was a monumental battle between plaintiff lawyer Mark Lanier and others to recruit Republicans to run in the primary against three outstanding sitting Texas Supreme Court Justices—Chief Justice Nathan Hecht, Justice Phil Johnson and Justice Jeff Brown. This pitted the plaintiff lawyers against the business community. Texans for Lawsuit Reform took the lead on marshalling the business community. Governor Rick Perry hosted a fundraiser for these Justices as well as starred in a video which he distributed to his followers via email. In a tremendous victory, all three judges won easily with at least 60% of the vote, a major blow to this plaintiff attorney's ploy.

Legislative Races

In general, it was a good night for candidates backed by the Tea Party. In most races, the Tea Party candidate won handily. In well over half of the races in the Republican Party run-off election, there is a clear Tea Party-backed candidate. It will be interesting to see if the Tea Party continues its success.

For a quick summary—both of the Senate races in the runoffs are in the TEXO area. In the Texas Senate, one incumbent was defeated in the primary—Senator John Carona (R-Dallas) in District 16—and one incumbent will be in a runoff—Senator Bob Deuell (R-Greenville) in District 2. In Senate District 10, the runoff will be between Konni Burton, the Tea Party candidate, and Dr. Mark Shelton (former House member).

As for the House, with a dozen legislators not returning, we also saw eight incumbents defeated in the Primary. Those include:

From North Texas Area :

- Rep. Lance Gooden (R-Terrell)—District 4
- Rep. Lon Burnam (D-Fort Worth)—District 90
- Rep. Diane Patrick (R-Arlington)—District 105
- Rep. Linda Harper-Brown (R-Irving)—District 105
- Rep. Bennett Ratliff (R-Coppell)—District 115

From East Texas Area :

- Rep. George Lavender (R-Texarkana)—District 1

From El Paso Area:

- Rep. Naomi Gonzalez (D-El Paso)—District 76

From Central Texas Area :

- Rep. Ralph Sheffield (R-Temple)--District 55

Legislative Races In Runoffs

There are nine Texas House races that have a runoff. All are in the Republican Primary.

From North Texas Area:

District 10

- TJ Fabby (38%), Tea Party Candidate
- John Wray (36%), Attorney, Served on City Council

District 58

- Philip Eby (40%), Tea Party Candidate
- DeWayne Burns (30%), School board, worked for Perry at Ag commission

District 66

- Matt Shaheen (49%), Collin County Commissioner
- Glenn Callison (40%), Commercial Litigator

District 102

- Linda Koop (35%), Former Dallas City Council
- Stefani Carter (33%), Incumbent

District 108

- Morgan Meyer (47%), Partner at Bracewell and Giuliani
- Chart Westcott (30%), Family Started 1-800-flowers

From Houston Area:

District 16

- Ted Seago (44%), Educator and Pastor
- Will Metcalf (42%), Commercial Lending

District 129

- Sheryl Berg (29%), SREC member
- Dennis Paul (25%), 16 year precinct chair, SREC member

District 132

- Mike Schofield (45%), Former Perry Staffer
- Ann Hodge (19%), Longtime Chamber President

From Central Texas Area:

District 53

- Andrew Murr (41%), Real Estate and Criminal Law
- Rob Henneke (29%), Kerr County Attorney

Outlook For The General Election

Looking forward, all statewide races are likely to remain in Republican hands regardless of who wins the runoffs. The Governor's race will occupy a lot of attention with Attorney

General Greg Abbott (R) facing State Senator Wendy Davis (D). Other statewide races will be highlighted in the September issue of *Texas Merit Shop Journal*.

The Legislature will remain solidly Republican with a possibility of one additional Republican Senate seat in the Fort Worth area and two additional Republican House seats, one in San Antonio and one in the Galveston area.

In Senate District 10, formerly Wendy Davis's district, there is a runoff in the Republican Primary (mentioned earlier) to determine who faces Libby Willis (D) in the General Election in November.

It is safe to say that both the House and the Senate will be more conservative in 2015. And it is certain that many (if not all) statewide officeholders at the top of the ballot will be newcomers to the office to which they are elected.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Mike Toomey is the longtime ABC of Texas lobbyist and has the distinction of being the only individual in Texas history to have served as chief of Staff for two Texas Governors. He is a former State Representative from Houston and was voted in Texas Monthly magazines' "Top Ten Legislators". Mr. Toomey is a strong supporter of Tort Reform in Texas and is widely acknowledged as one of the most respected and effective lobbyists in the State of Texas.

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One on One With...

STATE REPRESENTATIVE PAUL WORKMAN

First elected in 2010 and re-elected in 2012, State Representative Paul D. Workman has served the people of House District 47 in the Texas House of Representatives since January 2011. House District 47 includes most of western Travis County as well as portions of southern Travis County.

Representative Workman serves as a member on the House Committee on Business & Industry and the House Committee on Economic & Small Business Development. He also serves as a member on the Economic & Small Business Development Subcommittee on Manufacturing. Representative Workman serves by appointment on The Energy Council, which helps facilitate the development of national energy policy matters among the Southwestern states.

During his first term, Representative Workman was named “Free Enterprise Champion” by the Associated Builders and Contractors of Texas, a “Fighter for Free Enterprise” by the Texas Association of Business, and a “Courageous Conservative” by the Texas conservative Coalition. During his second term, Representative Workman was named “Legislator of the Year” by the Real Estate Council of Austin, a “Lone Star Conservative Leader” by the Texas Conservative Roundtable, and again “Free Enterprise Champion” by ABC of Texas. Representative Workman also received the ABC of Texas Public Service Award both terms.

Representative Workman earned a B.S. in Building Construction from Texas A&M University in 1973 before joining the U.S. Army Reserves where he retired at the rank of Captain after 10 years of service.

A Rotarian since 1976, Representative Workman has been active in several civic organizations, including the Associated General Contractors and Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse.

Representative Workman is the founder of Austin-based Workman Commercial Construction Services, Ltd. He and his wife Sherry have two children and six grandchildren and are active members of the Pedernales River Fellowship.

Describe your business background.

I have been engaged in the commercial building construction industry all of my adult life. I started as a student during summer breaks and then joined the family business right out of college. I owned the company for 35 years and built a variety of projects, including office and retail spaces, churches, schools, parks, banks, and even a wastewater treatment plant.

Last session, you authored and passed legislation dealing with state breach of construction contracts. What can you share with us about that experience?

As it is—and should be—with most legislation, passing a major bill is difficult. It took two sessions (more if you count the work put in prior to my arrival in the House) and a fair amount of compromise. At times, it seemed as though it would not happen because of resistance from a committee chair that was reluctant to relinquish the state’s long-standing claim to sovereign immunity. We worked hard, though, and we came up with a solution that could be supported by the committee and the full House. At the end, we had to remove some unrelated language that the Senate had tacked on, and we got the bill to the governor’s desk for signature. The governor signed the bill into law after session.

Although not perfect, the bill, for the first time ever, allows a private company to seek relief in the courts when they believe the state has breached a contract.

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the state going into the next Texas Legislature in 2015?

Transportation funding, school finance, healthcare funding, and keeping the budget under control during a time of plenty.

What do you see as the greatest challenges facing the construction industry in the next Texas Legislature?

Texas has to maintain a healthy economy and pro-business environment, ensuring that contractors and subcontractors can focus on their businesses and not on taxes or regulation.

What do you see as the greatest challenge facing merit shop and free enterprise advocates in the next Texas Legislature?

Holding ground in the face of an ever-increasing erosion of liberty.

What are your personal priorities next session?

As far as construction-related issues go, I will be working on contractor insurance issues, including the proliferation of manuscript endorsements and OCIPs.

You've been familiar with ABC for quite a while. Do you see ABC's influence growing or diminishing in the Texas Legislature?

Legislators rely on several sources of information, including organizations like ABC, to form their opinions. ABC is doing a good job of making its presence known by having advocates and members at the Capitol on a regular basis to keep legislators and their staffs up-to-speed with what's going on in the construction industry. It is very important for ABC to continue to establish these relationships with legislators.

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How Two Successful Chapter PACs Raise Money In Very Different Ways

Written By Steven Schultz, ABC South Texas President and Russell Hamley ABC Greater Houston President

Raising funds for Political Action Committees (PAC) is not foreign territory for many ABC Chapters. Members of ABC are keenly aware of the importance of endorsing candidates - on a local, state and national level - who share a common belief in the free enterprise system and work to protect and defend the rights of the merit shop contractors and workers. Below, two of the more successful PACs in ABC of Texas share their unique insight into how they set about to raise PAC donations.

PAC Donations Just A Dial Away

Historically, most ABC chapters would raise funds for ABC-PAC using the same basic formula – plan an event, select a date, secure enough sponsors to cover the costs for the event, send out invitations to ABC members, invite some elected officials or candidates, and hope that folks will attend. Then at the event, encourage everyone to make a contribution to the ABC-PAC from their personal funds (remember, no corporate money can be contributed to the PAC). This worked, and still does in most instances. But at the South Texas Chapter, there is an easier way – a phone blitz.

The phone blitz doesn't require securing sponsors, a location, guest speakers, preparation of invitations, and all of the other actions needed to ensure success. All it requires is a group of dedicated volunteers who know the chapter membership and are willing to give up about an hour of time on one day to go to the chapter offices and make a few phone calls. The perfect group of

dedicated volunteers would be the chapter's board of directors – they know the membership and the membership knows them. They also know the importance of ABC-PAC and should already be PAC supporters. It also helps if there is a "PAC Champion" or two to help motivate the rest of the board or phone callers and to provide helpful hints on how to ask, answer questions, or suggest ABC members to call.

Prior to the day of the phone blitz, the ABC-PAC Prior Approval Form (PAF) needs to be sent out to the ABC membership encouraging them to complete and return as soon as possible. This could also be done in conjunction with an event or meetings held prior to the blitz (try to get them to sign for multiple years so you don't have to go back the next year). Also, a list of previous ABC-PAC contributors should be developed (with phone numbers) along with a list of individuals from member companies that have an interest in politics or could have an interest in politics.

In the board room, or wherever the phone blitz will take place, there should be poster boards highlighting the Top Ten Reasons to give to ABC-PAC (or maybe two – one serious and one not so serious as you want this to be fun and not a chore), answers to FAQs, and blank large Post It Note pages for each board member to help keep track of pledges, commitments and/or contributions. For each participant, there should be a call list. Let the board members select the 10 or so names to call, but a minimum of ten. Depending on the time of day, there could be refreshments and

Just imagine – ten volunteers making ten successful phone calls securing the minimum badge amount of \$150 will result in \$15,000 for ABC-PAC. Then imagine if it wasn't just the minimum amount. And all of this accomplished in less than 60 minutes!

snacks. Be sure to decorate the room to give it a festive politically charged atmosphere. Remember, this is supposed to be fun and not a chore.

ABC staff can send out the contribution form via e-mail or hand delivery as soon as a volunteer has a commitment from a member. This helps ensure a “pledge” becomes a “contribution” sooner. Staff will also keep a running tally of the total pledges periodically, and for each board member or volunteer making calls. You could even make it a competition between the callers.

Just imagine – ten volunteers making ten successful phone calls securing the minimum badge amount of \$150 will result in \$15,000 for ABC-PAC. Then imagine if it wasn't just the minimum amount. And all of this accomplished in less than 60 minutes!

The Tried and True Method

The Houston Chapter solicits PAC funds the old fashioned way, by holding fundraising events. Currently there are four events spread out through the year. Each event is run by a committee. The committee decides on all the details for the event. They discuss the location, rules, sponsorships, food and drink. The PAC Trustees each serve on at least one of the committees during the course of the year. This year, the PAC will host a Spring and Fall Sporting Clay Shoot, a Summer Top Golf Outing and a Winter Wine Tasting and Auction.

The expense of the events is usually supported by sponsorships from company members. It is easier to ask members to sponsor the events using corporate money. The events are open to all members who have signed a Prior Authorization Form. While at the event, the attendees are introduced to elected officials and hear about the issues that ABC is fighting for.

The Trustees ask for a political contribution to the ABC PAC, and they are usually successful in getting near 100% participation.

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The attendees are appreciative of the ABC PAC and how it helps their company and are willing to contribute to the cause. While it is always difficult to get personal money from individuals, the Trustees are very good at encouraging them to make contributions. Most contractors are more than willing to contribute out of their own pocket when they understand the great things that the ABC PAC does.

The events themselves are some of the most fun parties that people attend all year. The Sporting Clays events draws hunters, and it is a perfect opportunity to entertain customers and other hunters. The Top Golf outing is a non-competitive event held in the heat of summer. But the venue is shaded and cooled with fans, plus guests are steps away from air-conditioning and a refreshing drink. The wine-tasting is a perfect venue to take a spouse and talk to politicians about the legislative issues of the day.

On whole, the Houston ABC PAC tries to generate \$75,000 each year which is split between the federal, state and local levels. While it is a lot of work and effort, the results speak for themselves and everyone has fun with friends, family and clients.

ABC INITIATIVES AROUND THE STATE



The South Texas Chapter co-hosted the first construction, real estate and development industry mixer. Over 300 attended the free event, providing an excellent opportunity for members from the various associations to mix and mingle.



State Representative Dennis Bonnen spoke about HB5 and provided a report on the significantly increasing water issue at the joint Membership Meeting with ABC Texas Gulf Coast and ACIT.

South Texas Chapter

The year started out, as always, with the chapter board conducting their annual ABC-PAC phone blitz. As in years past, within 45 minutes a little over \$26,000 was raised. The personal one-on-one effort is easily the most effective way to meet PAC goals. In addition to raising funds for the PAC, the Chapter has participated in several meetings with city council members to discuss the importance of the construction, real estate and development industry. During these meetings the discussions focused on issues the city council is pursuing that could potentially negatively impact the industry and local economy.

In February, the Chapter co-hosted the first construction, real estate and development industry mixer. Over 300 attended the free event, providing an excellent opportunity for members from the various associations to mix and mingle. Participating organizations included the Real Estate Council of San Antonio, Greater San Antonio Builders Association, Professional Engineers in Private Practice, American Consulting Engineers Council, and San Antonio Board of Realtors. Locally, this industry has an annual economic impact in excess of \$23.6 billion, employs over 120,000, and generates over \$182.7 million in local tax revenue.

March saw another successful annual Chili Cook-off and Great Gun Give-away. Over 350 ABC members and guests sampled chili submitted by 26 teams. The weather was absolutely perfect. This particular event was organized by the Chapter's Future Leaders Task Force.

The Spring Golf Tournament was held on Monday, April 7 at the Sonterra Country Club. This year's two course event welcomed over 50 teams competing, the largest tournament in over four years – an indicator that construction activity is picking up!

Another indicator that construction activity is on the upswing in the San Antonio region is the increased registration for the various construction related classes offered by the South Texas Chapter. Through the first quarter of the year, there have been two 16-hour Supervisory Leadership Classes, three OSHA 30 Hour courses, two OSHA 10-Hour courses, one 16-hour "Your Role In The Green Environment" class, and various safety seminars. It is expected that this trend will continue as there is already interest expressed for another Supervisory Leadership Class, Basic Print Ready Class and an OSHA 30-hour for April and May.

The Chapter is also in the process of developing an ICRA (Infectious Control Risk Assessment) program in conjunction with the Philanders Group International/The Linders Health Institute. This will be a professional training and education program designed to introduce and review the

factors regarding infection control and emerging infectious diseases in the public sector. "Best Practices for Infection Prevention During the Construction of Healthcare Buildings" will be offered in the D/FW, Houston and San Antonio markets in the coming months.

2014 is also looking to be a good year for Chapter membership growth with 15 new members so far and retention surpassing the 82% mark by the end of March!

Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

The first quarter is typically packed with events and meetings for the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter. January kicked-off a new semester with class offerings from both Merit Shop (MSTI) and Safety Council. Merit Shop offered CSST, CMA, Electrical Continuing Education, and NCCER Instructor Training, while the Safety Council offered a specialty course, Enhanced Foreman Training, developed especially for owner companies in our area. February brought another Texas Hold'Em Poker Tournament and a Joint Membership Meeting with ACIT. State Representative Dennis Bonnen, the guest speaker, delivered critical information about HB 5 as well as a report on a significantly increasing water issue for the state. Close to 200 members were in attendance. March blew in, literally, with our 25th Annual BBQ Cook-Off. A new location, Freeport Memorial Park, offered many amenities enjoyed by the 32 teams, co-workers and families. Human Resource members enjoyed a Luncheon Meeting with a timely presentation by Russell Chapman on the Affordable Care Act.

The second quarter will be busy as well. Thursday, April 3rd brings a popular event, the ABC Crawfish Boil and Mixer, sponsored by our Supplier Council Committee to showcase their products amidst some serious eating! Fourteen suppliers will be set up. Later in April, MSTI will support craft training by sending a competitor to ABC's National Craft Championships in Birmingham, Alabama. This is the 18th year for participation, proudly bringing home 17 medals, six being Gold. The Chapter is preparing for the 11th Annual Inshore Fishing Tournament, our 38th Annual Craft Training Program Graduation, and a Membership Event and Luncheon featuring the Senior Vice President of Freeport LNG, Mark Mallet, who will deliver an update on the plant's projects.

Most importantly, four Texas Gulf Coast Chapter member companies received top honors when they received ABC National Awards February 11 during the 24th annual Excellence in Construction Awards celebration in Maui, Hawaii.

(Continued on page 14)



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ABC INITIATIVES AROUND THE STATE



TEXO's Board of Directors took part in an all-day facilitator-led planning session which produced the following "focus initiatives" that TEXO staff, Board and interested volunteers will work on in 2014.



State Representative Todd Hunter was presented with two awards at the ABC Texas Coastal Bend March breakfast for his support in upholding ABC principles during his service.

"It's an honor to be able to recognize these amazing companies for their impressive achievements in making safety a core value," said 2014 ABC National Chairman Dan Brodbeck, president and CEO of Compass Partners, LLC. "They truly represent the best the merit shop has to offer."

National Safety Excellence Award Winners included PCL Industrial Construction Co., Houston, Texas (Pinnacle Award); Polk Mechanical Company, Houston, Texas (Pinnacle Award); S & B Engineers and Constructors, Ltd., Houston, Texas (Excellence Award); and EXCEL Group, Prairieville, Louisiana (Merit Award).

Locally, Jim Mahon, Director of Sales for Candlewood Suites and member of the PR Committee, was honored by the Brazosport Area Chamber of Commerce as the top Outstanding Ambassador of the Year. We are proud of each of our members and especially ones that bring distinction to our Chapter and core values.

TEXO Chapter

2014 is in full stride at TEXO! TEXO's Board of Directors took part in an all-day facilitator-led planning session which produced the following "focus initiatives" that TEXO staff, Board and interested volunteers will work on in 2014.

TEXO's 2014 Initiatives include:

- Strengthen General Contractor and Subcontractor relations
- Increase TEXO value added programs and services
- Communicate the value of TEXO membership to construction owners
- Grow and develop a sustainable workforce
- Oversee a balanced TEXO budget and evaluate current dues structure
- Effectively communicate TEXO's brand, value proposition and purpose
- Increase and diversify TEXO membership
- Broaden the adoption of TEXO Safety First across the entire commercial construction industry

Many of the initiatives will have longer durations than simply 2014; however objectives and success metrics were identified to help provide direction for each initiative over the coming year.

2014 TEXO/ASC Student Competition

Over 200 university students and educators rolled into the Metroplex in February to participate in the TEXO/ASC Student Competition. The TEXO Networking Lounge was a new element added to this year's event. The Lounge successfully showcased TEXO members to the universities, providing participating member firms with a great place to get their first look at possible future interns and employees. Networking opportunities

and observer passes to presentations were additional incentives throughout the day.

Participating schools included:

- John Brown University
- University of Oklahoma
- Oklahoma State University - Institute of Technology – Okmulgee
- Oklahoma State University
- Texas A&M University
- Texas A&M University – Commerce
- Texas State University
- Texas Tech University
- University of Arkansas – Little Rock
- University of Louisiana – Monroe
- University of North Texas

TEXO's Safety First Program has been awarded ABC's National Excellence in Safety & Health Program for 2013. TEXO Safety First is the revolutionary training initiative that TEXO began in 2013. Not only does TEXO Safety First provide actual hands on training, but it also provides one of the Metroplex's most cost effective ways to get an OSHA 10-Hour card. Learn more today by visiting [texasafetyfirst.com](http://www.texasafetyfirst.com) or view a brief YouTube video of the program at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5mqf67KfK4>.

For more information about TEXO visit the website at www.texoassociation.org. You can also like them on Facebook TEXO, The Construction Association, Follow on Twitter @TEXOAssociation, or join them on LinkedIn.

Texas Coastal Bend Chapter

The Texas Coastal Bend Chapter is off to a busy start for 2014! The Chapter started the year by welcoming ABC National Chairman Dan Brodbeck to Corpus Christi. Dan installed the 2014 Chapter Board of Directors and addressed the audience during the January General Membership Luncheon. Dan's message rang strong throughout his presentation; ABC members must "get into politics or get out of business" and become active members within the organization. Dan emphasized the importance of having ABC members involved facing the current 2014 political climate.

In February, the programs committee, chaired by Carla Moore with Prosperity Bank, decided that it would be a great opportunity to invite a representative from both parties to give an in-depth explanation of each proposition that would be on the 2014 primary ballots. The goal was to assist members in better understanding each proposition prior to entering the voting booth. Bob Jones, a committee member on the

ABC INITIATIVES AROUND THE STATE



ABC Texas Mid Coast Chapter hosted a grand opening and ribbon cutting on January 15th for their new office building space. Training and education classes are held at the new offices each week.



More than 150 ABC Greater Houston Members practiced their shooting skills at the Spring PAC Clay Shoot, held at the popular Greater Houston Gun Club.

State Republican Executive Committee for Senate District 20, as well as Joseph Ramirez, Chairman of the Nueces County Democratic Party, were gracious enough to do just that! They each did a phenomenal job of teaching our members what the propositions were about and answered the questions our members had following their presentations.

In March, the head of the Austrian based voestalpine Corporate Communications and Public Relations department, Mattias Pastl, conducted a presentation that clearly laid out the plan for their state of the art natural gas based direct reduction facility. They will be breaking ground in April 2014 and will bring 150 permanent high-qualified career opportunities to San Patricio County as well as some 800 construction jobs. This was an excellent opportunity to meet a direct contact for the project and ask questions from how the project is expected to affect the economy of our area to when and where they can go to become involved in the building process. As an added bonus, Jon Fisher with ABC of Texas presented State Representative Todd Hunter with two awards for his support in upholding ABC principles in his service. Mr. Hunter was presented the ABC of Texas Public Service award as well as the ABC of Texas Free Enterprise Champion of Champions award for being recognized as a Free Enterprise Champion three sessions in a row! Thank you Chairman Hunter for your continued support!

The Chapter also held two mixers this year. The “First Wednesday Mixers” are a great way for members to get to meet and introduce themselves to other ABC members in the area. The goal is to give members an opportunity to network and find new business partners and clients to help them increase their business. A special thank you goes to the members that sponsored the First Wednesday monthly mixers for February and March. The February sponsor was Munro’s Safety Apparel and the March Sponsor was Mirage Industrial Group. These members’ support help make the monthly mixers possible.

Also in March, the Craft Training Center of the Coastal Bend hosted the Annual Skills USA State Championships for the third year in a row. The CTC hosted the welding, masonry, electrical, and plumbing competitions with over 600 students competing each day. Among attendees were a number of exhibitors, hands-on activities, seminars as well as several company BBQ teams that cooked for the competitors and guests.

The Texas Coastal Bend Chapter has also begun plans to get the 26th Annual Golf Classic underway. Mike Blundell with Repcon has once again graciously agreed to head the committee. We are looking forward to another successful and fun event!

Texas Mid Coast Chapter

The ABC Texas Mid Coast Chapter and its members are proud to announce that they have settled in and are up and running in their new building! The generosity of the members was heartwarming as they poured their financial donations, time and energy into this project. As of January 1, 2014, the Chapter is also happy to announce that Kristi Dujka took over as the President/CEO of the Chapter.

January was a very busy month as the Chapter hosted a Grand Opening party for members and Ribbon Cutting on January 15, the same day the Mid Coast Chapter Board of Directors held their first Board meeting in the new office. The new building is getting lots of attention as the Chapter holds training and education classes every week!

The Mid Coast Chapter presented and celebrated the 2013 safety awards achieved by members and installation the 2014 Board officers and directors at the annual banquet held on January 23, 2014. The 2014 ABC National Chair Elect, Phillip Hoppman, joined the Chapter to present Kathy Autry with a retirement bracelet.

The Annual Golf Tournament was held at Victoria Country Club on March 21, 2014. This year’s tournament was a HUGE success! Thank you to everyone who participated and sponsored the event.

Greater Houston Chapter

The recent primaries have kept Greater Houston’s PAC members very busy as they have dedicated hours screening and discussing candidates. Luckily, all the candidates supported by the Greater Houston Chapter, with the exception of one, were successful in their primary race. Now, the focus has shifted to primary run-offs and will soon be on the general election.

In between candidate screenings, the PAC has been preparing for a couple of its largest fundraisers of the year—the Spring Clay Shoot and summer Top Golf Tournament. After making approximately \$73,000 in PAC funds in 2013, expectations are high and spirits are up to make 2014 even better. For the Clay Shoot in April, the sub-committee chose the Greater Houston Gun Club as its venue. With close proximity to the city, name recognition, and “exclusive” membership—the committee knew it would attract an even larger group than normal—and they were right!

Another highly anticipated event is the PAC’s Top Golf Tournament and is expected to be yet another success. Top Golf is a relatively new venue with a concept similar to bowling—creating a fun experience for both veteran and rookie golfers.

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