

Texas

May 2017

MERIT SHOP

Defending the Rights of Merit Shop Contractors

Journal

Legislative Day
Recap

Women in
Construction

ABC Chapter Initiatives
Around the State

Sarah Davis

Texas State Representative discusses her personal priorities
this session, balancing the budget, and HB 510



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LETTER from the Chairman



JOHNSON

The sun is setting on my term in office, and I want to thank a few folks for the help provided me in completing my chairmanship. But, first, I'll write briefly on the status of "things". What is the course for America for the foreseeable future?

Speaking as a child of the 60's, a soldier of the "me" generation, ascribing more importance to self-fulfillment aspirations than to responsibility, I traversed a somewhat liberal road in my youth. From my experiences, the liberal road, which is appealing to many (free college, free medical care, free love) and a heck of a good time, is unfortunately, just not sustainable. "Free" is the word that gets in the way, because, someone does pay. So, over almost 50 years, my values changed, and as a moderate conservative (just can't get rid of all that liberal baggage from my early years) - I think the course of America for the foreseeable future is conservative, "and I'm feelin' good" as Nina Simone sings in her

famous song "Feeling Good."

That course was set by the election of a conservative President. Not for what the President can or can't do in his four or more years as President, but from the legal rulings over the next 30 years those conservative judges whom he nominates and the Senate confirms for the US Supreme Court. Those new justices will solidify a conservative majority for years to come, more faithful than not to the language of a statute or the Constitution, and far less likely to legislate from the bench. Enough said.

First, many thanks to Jon Fisher, President of ABC of Texas, for his tireless and positive help in moving the state organization forward, both politically and financially. Fortunately for the organization, Jon agreed to stay on a little longer to help with transition, and to push the lengthy legislative agenda for 2017. Jon secured the ABC-Southeast Texas Chapter as a returning chapter and deftly blazed the trail for dues increases to insure a solid financial footing for the state organization, now and for the future. At this writing, it appears that several legislative priorities (Neutrality in State Government Contracting and E-Verify with Safe Harbor), on which Jon has testified or individually spoken to legislators about, will become law in Texas.

I also would like to thank the organization's officers, Chair Elect Ben Westcott, for his significant contributions to assisting me as chair, and for writing and editing legislation important to the construction industry, not the least of which is the Lien Modernization Legislation. This legislation would not have happened without Ben's keen insight and drafting assistance. GPaul Holliman for continuing to crunch the numbers each year, and Buck Blevins, for acting as Secretary. Mark Roach, immediate past chair, provided leadership allowing a smooth transition for my term as chair. I want to thank the directors from each chapter for selflessly contributing their valuable time and financial support allowing ABC to remain a productive organization.

Finally, the organization could not achieve its goals without the President's and CEO's of the eight Texas ABC Chapters who not only are responsible for the operation and productivity of their individual chapter, but also devote vast amounts of time to guiding and advising the state organization. Particularly, I would like to thank Steve Schultz, President of my local chapter, for his guidance and thoughts regarding National and State ABC. Well-deserved appreciation also goes to Russell Hamley and his staff for producing the Texas Merit Shop Journal, which has been awarded the ABC National Award of Excellence in the category of Communication.

Wes Johnson
2015 - 2017 ABC of Texas Chairman
The Gardner Law Firm

LETTER from the President



FISHER

Letters to members during a Legislative Session are always hard to write. Why? This letter is written in mid-April and you will not get this issue until early May. Whatever I tell you may have changed by the time you get this.

The two elements of our legislative agenda that I have primary responsibility for are in great shape.

Our Neutrality in State Government Contracting bill, HB 648 by Rep. Tan Parker and SB 452 by Senator Kelly Hancock, has moved in both houses.

The House bill has been reported from committee and is in the House Committee on Calendars (this committee sets bills for floor action). If you get a chance, thank Rep. Parker for authoring this bill three sessions in a row (joint author in 2013 and primary author in 2015 & 2017). Also, if the opportunity presents itself, thank Rep. Byron Cook for becoming a joint author this session. Also, thank Reps. Dennis Bonnen, Mark Keough, Jeff Leach, Rick Miller, and Matt Rinaldi for co-sponsoring. We expect some opposition in Calendars, but there is plenty of time for it to be set.

Also, even better news from the Senate which has failed to pass this legislation the last two sessions. SB 452 has passed the Senate and is in the House awaiting referral to a committee. It is very common for bills to not be referred immediately since we are still relatively early when it comes to one house passing bills from the other house.


Thus, even though it is risky to make predictions, we have never been in a better position to pass this initiative!

Another bill that I have primary responsibility for affects only a small segment of our members—but it is very important to those. This bill, HB 1698 by Rep. John Kuempel, would provide regulatory relief for industrial electricians by establishing a separate license category so those working strictly in the industrial sector would not have to take a test on commercial and residential aspects of the National Electrical Code. The challenge for this bill is explaining that it does not create any new regulatory requirements—it eases them for those working in industrial facilities.

It is important to remember that the Texas Legislature only HAS to do one thing—pass a budget. Everything else is less important.

Since our constitution limits the first 60 days of the session for the filing of bills and only items designated as emergencies by the Governor can pass, there are really only 80 days left after that. And, since the last two weeks have deadlines in both houses, there is really only about 66 days (counting weekends) for the bulk of the work to be done.

The next time you run into your State Representative or your State Senator, be sure to thank them for their service. They've earned it!



Jon Fisher
ABC of Texas
President

RECAP

Legislative Day

BY JASMINE SWOOPE

Among the hundreds of voices and footsteps flooding the Texas State Capitol on February 21, 2017, were those of approximately 100 members from chapters of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) in Texas.

“This was my fifth ABC Legislative Day, and each year the importance of speaking to our legislators is ever prominent, but one of the most important things about this event is to gather members of the various ABC chapters to build and instill a sense of purpose as a united front,” said Jon Fisher, President, ABC of Texas.

Biennially, all eight ABC Texas chapters join as one powerful voice to inform legislators about the issues affecting the construction industry and to showcase the opportunities and diversity ABC members contribute to our industry and the economy. During this event, seasoned Legislative Day veterans and new members share their testimonies and stories to their respective legislator.



Texas Gulf Coast Chapter members attend Legislative Day in Austin, TX.

“Being a relatively new Chapter President, this was my first ABC Texas Legislative Day. It was most impressive to see so many ABC members from all over the state come together to support and argue against common issues that affect our industry. Legislators can hear from association staff all day long, but they listen to the members when they talk of the potential impact a bill could have on their businesses, employees, and communities,” said Tracey Evers, President of Associated Builders and Contractors Central Texas Chapter.

Industrial and commercial contractors, suppliers, and the members visited more than 100 local and regional legislators to promote ABC’s core value of free enterprise philosophy and to testify and educate legislators about construction business issues, the importance of having certain bills passed, and more.

For the 85th Texas Legislative Session, ABC members were lobbying for high priority issues impacting not only the businesses of the members but the overall function of the industry. Conversations with legislators involved members sharing personal testimonies and thoughts about ways to improve the skilled labor workforce shortage through creating a new licensing category, a third party NCCER Industrial Electrician certification, as the basis for industrial Journeyman Electricians that would allow them to be recognized for this license.

Conversations also centered on modernizing Texas Lien Laws. ABC is recommending that the industry continue to move forward into the digital age and host an online platform to help alleviate the need to file liens by ensuring that contractors and suppliers are paid in a timely fashion. Members also rallied behind topics such as public employees’ dues deduction and neutrality in state government contracting— to ensure that all contractors are able to fairly compete for jobs based on merit.



"As the state continues to attract newcomers from all over the country who may not share the pro-business attitude that has brought our state to where it is today, it is important for us to keep a strong presence at the Capitol," said Meloni McDaniel, President and CEO of TEXO.

Other issues that members lobbied for consisted of the use of safe harbor language within the E-Verify Bill, sole remedy within worker's compensation, employee misclassification, retainage/trust funds, and state breach of contract cleanup.

"As one of the largest industries in Texas, we have to stay involved in our state politics, I would encourage anyone who has never attended the Legislative Day before to get involved and visit your representative," said McDaniel. "Plato said it best, 'One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors.'"

ABC serves as the lynchpin by keeping members informed of current issues, being their political voice, and connecting them to elected officials. Later in the year, members will have the opportunity to educate Congress about the issues that affect their businesses and spread the word about the contributions ABC members make to the construction industry in Washington during ABC National's Legislative Week.

"It doesn't matter how long you have been an ABC member, if your business is feeling the impact from an issue that your local legislators can help change, you should be present on Legislative Day," said Russell Hamley, ABC Greater Houston Chapter President.

ABC will continue to work with the Texas Legislature to improve and promote merit shop principles within the industry and looks forward to April when bills begin hitting the floor! 🇺🇸

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FEATURE

It's Time for More *Women* in Construction

BY JASMINE SWOOPE

It's evident that women have made great strides in the workplace over the last decade. It is not uncommon to see women in managerial or leadership roles. Even though many industries are gaining qualified female employees, one industry appears to be behind the curve.

According to a survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), in 2015 women made up 46.8 percent of total employment across all industries, but they only accounted for 9.3 percent of construction employees. It's important to note that construction had the lowest percentage of women employees amongst all the industries reviewed in the survey.

The Construction & Maintenance Education Foundation (CMEF) is stepping up to the plate and working with fellow industry professionals to increase that percentage.

How? By inspiring interest within young female students to pursue a career in construction to increase the pool of qualified female employees. It's with that goal in mind, a pilot program for an all girls construction day camp was born.

"The ultimate goal here is to introduce these young adults to the many facets of the construction industry before they have to select an endorsement for the career path they will focus on in high school," said Carla Thompson, Workforce Development Manager for Turner Industries Group. "If we don't talk with them now, we're never going to get them engaged."

Steven Horton, Ed.D., CMEF's Schools Training Division Director, presented the camp pilot program to Monty Heins, Board Chair of the East Harris County Manufacturers Association (EHCMA) to secure funding. Mr. Heins immediately saw the value and EHCMA decided to back the endeavor. Additionally, Natalie Smith, KBR Sr. Manager, HR Workforce Development, indicated KBR would also provide funding.

After months of committee meetings and preparation, on December 14, 2016, thirty 8th grade girls walked through the doors of CMEF's La Porte Training and Testing Center to experience a dynamic and fun-filled day of immersive learning.

"We chose to invite intermediate and junior high schools within the districts of high schools we sponsor. Based on a set number of students, it was at the discretion of the CTE Director of each district which junior highs were invited. While we knew we could not invite all junior highs to participate, we did want representation from both sides of the ship channel. We invited a targeted number of students per district because this was a pilot project relative to House Bill 5," said Steven Horton, Ed.D., Schools Training Division Director with Construction & Maintenance Education Foundation.

Armed with their tool boxes, personal protective equipment, writing materials and positive attitudes, the students participated in activities ranging from reading blueprints, pipefitting exercises, learning the basics of understanding a



tape measure, building a make shift night light, learning the value of fall protection and more. Volunteers made it a point to emphasize the importance of safety among the students, one way of doing such was by conducting a job safety analysis (JSA) at the start of each session—similar to jobsite JSAs.

It was not coincidence that most of the volunteers who lead the various sessions were women. Twenty-one volunteers participated in this exciting pilot program. Having successful women in the construction industry volunteer for the event was integral to the inspiration piece.

“It was a great learning experience for me as well. I enjoy what I do and sharing that with the girls was an empowering moment. As this program grows, I hope the owners and contractors get more involved and offer onsite visits so that the girls can see how their studies apply on a real jobsite,” said Smith.

As the day concluded, each camper left with not only items they built themselves but with a more in-depth understanding of the exciting, vast careers that await them within the construction industry.

Providing more skilled women to the construction industry workforce is not something that can be solved overnight, but with CMEF, ECHMA, and ABC Greater Houston member companies working together, change is sure to come. ➡

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ONE-ON-ONE



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Sarah Davis

Sarah Davis earned her undergraduate degree in economics from Baylor in 1998, and went on to earn her Law Degree from the University of Houston in 2001. Sarah is an accomplished attorney devoting her career to defending against personal injury lawsuits. Sarah's clients include individuals, local businesses, and Fortune 500 companies.

Sarah was first elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 2010, re-elected for her fourth term in 2016, and served on the Public Health, Calendars, and Appropriations committees. During the 85th Legislative session she was named Chairman of the Committee on General Investigating and Ethics and Chairman of the Appropriations Sub-Committee on Article II Health and Human Services. She also holds positions on the Corrections and Calendars committees.

Sarah was recognized as the "2011 Patient Care Champion" by the Harris County Medical Society and named a "Friend of Medicine" as one of "Texas Medicine's Best Legislators" of the 82nd Legislative session by the Texas Medical Association. Recently, she named a "Legislative Hero" by the Texas Access to Justice Commission and a "Women's Health Hero" by the Women's Health Care Coalition just this past session. Houston Woman Magazine named Sarah Davis as one of "Houston's 50 Most Influential Women of 2011." More recently, the Texas Association of Symphony Orchestras presented the Representative with the "2017 Award of Excellence for Legislator of the Year".

Sarah represents West U, Bellaire, River Oaks, Braeswood Place, Southside Place, parts of Meyerland, Memorial, Montrose and the Texas Medical Center.

She is a 40 year old breast cancer survivor, and lives with her husband, Kent Adams, and their two Yorkies, Mr. Henry and Barret, in the City of West University Place.

Please describe your professional background.

I earned my undergraduate degree in economics from Baylor in 1998, and went on to earn my Law Degree from the University of Houston in 2001. Currently, I am an attorney who has devoted my career to defending against personal injury lawsuits. My clients include individuals, local businesses, and Fortune 500 companies.

I was first elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 2010, re-elected for to my fourth term in 2016, and have served on the Public Health, Calendars, and Appropriations committees. During the 85th Legislative, session I was named Chairman of the Committee on General Investigating and Ethics and Chairman of the Appropriations Sub-Committee on Article II Health and Human Services. I also hold positions on the Corrections and Calendars committees.

What are your personal goals in serving on the Appropriations Committee?

My goal is to ensure that a balanced budget is passed, which I am proud to say the members of the House accomplished last week. This session, I looked to ensure that as the leader of the Article II Health and Human Services portion of the budget, I analyzed the healthcare needs comprehensively across the state to find areas of need and bolster supporting programs while also looking at areas which will aid in decreasing overall cost in the Article II budget.

What do you see as the biggest job of the Calendars Committee?

The number one rule with Calendars, is that you don't talk about Calendars. This committee serves to set the calendar for the floor of the House and we respect the continued leadership from Chairman Hunter. Our biggest job, is our only job, and that is to make sure that good policy has the chance to make it to the floor and bad policy does not.

What have you seen as the biggest challenges facing the state this session?

The biggest challenge this session is passing a balanced budget. Once the budget passes the House and the Senate, members of the conference committee must reconcile the differences to once again pass both chambers and be signed into law by the Governor. This session will be particularly challenging because the House and Senate took vastly different approaches to balancing the budget. Those differences make up over \$2.5 billion in items which will have to be resolved prior to session's end at the end of May.

What are your personal priorities this session?

This session I have a diverse set of legislation that focuses on healthcare and public health, ethics reform, and protection of tax payer dollars. I have filed House Bill 63 and House Bill 84 which focus on the operations and Sunset extension of the Cancer Prevention institute of Texas. This will allow for maximum use of the \$3 billion bond authority which was overwhelmingly approved by Texas voters.

You are carrying one of ABC of Texas' high priority bills this session—HB 510 relating to deductions of dues from public employees. How important is this bill and what are the biggest challenges to its passage?

This legislation is a priority of mine because of my belief of limited government, individual responsibility, and transparency of government spending. House Bill 510 will remove government facilitation of public employee's payroll deductions to politically active groups. We need to remove the government from de-facto endorsing any politically active group's priorities. I encourage citizens to be politically active, however the government does not have to be involved in collecting labor unions' dues.

The largest challenge in moving this bill forward has been the influence these politically active groups have within the legislature. They have spent a considerable amount of time and resources blocking this legislation from a hearing in the House State Affairs Committee. They have also engaged large groups of their dues-paying members in legislative lobby days working against the bill. Much of the information spread by these groups has been inaccurate and has led to confusion of the intent and application of the bill.

Is there anything else you want to share with our membership?

I want to encourage and applaud the citizen engagement organized by ABC and their members. It is so useful to members, such as myself, to hear from you all regarding your priorities during the legislative session. In fact, if House Bill 510 is a priority for you and your business, I encourage you to call upon your Representative or members of the House State Affairs committee in support of this bill. Like many of my colleagues, when I hear from active and engaged voters, it certainly influences my opinion on legislation and, ultimately, the way I vote. ♡



Texas Coastal Bend Chapter members attending Legislative Day in Austin, TX

TEXAS COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

There is no time to rest as ABC of the Texas Coastal Bend Chapter continues to bring interesting topics to members at the General Membership Luncheons. In January, the President of ABC National, Mike Bellaman, gave an informative presentation on issues ABC members face at a National level and what they have planned to focus on for the 2017 Legislative session. He also installed the 2017 Board of Directors. In February, Gulf Coast Growth Ventures presented an update on the Exxon/Mobil & SABIC project proposed for San Patricio County. The March luncheon was a forum hosted to give the Mayoral Candidates of Corpus Christi an opportunity to introduce themselves to members and explain each of their goals for the city if elected.

In February, ABC TCB participated in the ABC Legislative Day in Austin with over 15 members carving time out of their busy work schedules to visit with many of the area's State Representatives. While there the chapter was able to discuss the industry issues in person and help shed light on how legislation directly affects so many members who have boots on the ground.

The Craft Training Center of the Coastal Bend is working to get summer enrollment started, which includes the summer camp for 7th and 8th graders. The students are given basic hands on training in electrical, fall protection, reading blue prints, welding, pipefitting, instrumentation and so much more. It's a two week session for five hours a day and really gets them excited about opportunities in the workforce they didn't know existed.

The Craft Training Center is also gearing up for the 69th Annual SkillsUSA State Championship in April. SkillsUSA is a construction trade's competition where students from high schools and colleges across the state compete in welding, wiring, masonry, industrial motor control, and plumbing crafts. The students that participate in the competition are the top performers in their areas and are ideal candidates for the workforce.

Finally, the Texas Coastal Bend Chapter is in the process of coordinating the 29th ABC TCB Annual Golf Classic headed by Jeremiah Villanueva with MMR Constructors, Inc. It's scheduled for May 8th with over 150 attendees. With the help of the team of volunteers and sponsors, the chapter looks forward to another successful event.

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

2017 is a year of growth and rebuilding for ABC of Central Texas. The primary areas of focus are membership growth and retention and identifying opportunities for training and development for the members, their employees and for future employees of the industry.

Along those lines, the chapter has focused in on safety training and professional development programming for members and industry professionals. In the first quarter, two panel discussions centered around the topic of building sequencing/manpower/communication. One panel was made up of General Contractors discussing the issue, and the next panel was made up of Sub Contractors discussing the same. Both sides came away with a clearer understanding of best practices to improve job efficiencies through improved communication and sequencing. The Train the Trainer series continues to pack a full house of safety managers gaining valuable tips on various aspects of safety, including trainer liability, recordkeeping updates, and improving the safety manager and ownership relationship.



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Texas Mid Coast Chapter sponsored lunch at the Women in Industry event hosted by Victoria College



The quarterly Lunch & Learn events are centered around HR and Employment Law, providing a great opportunity for members to hear from and interact with industry experts, including top attorneys from Andrews Myers and Cokinon Young.

In April, ABC Central TX rolled out its Construction Leadership Development Course, a newly-developed 8-week leadership boot camp. This curriculum was developed by the industry for the industry and each class session is high-energy, interactive and engaging. The class filled up for this first session and the chapter looks forward to building upon these topics as the class moves forward.

ABC Central Texas is working towards its goal to positively affect the skilled labor shortage issues in the greater Austin area. The chapter is the National Center for Construction Education Research (NCCER) training sponsor to several area high schools and community colleges, and the chapter is working towards building relationships between these schools, employers and safety/craft training partners to build a stronger and sustainable workforce to help members to not only succeed, but thrive.

The OSHA partnership remains strong and there are plans to add at least 3 new members to the partnership this year. ABC members who meet industry-best standards for safety on the jobsite can take advantage of the ABC-OSHA Partnership Program to keep ahead of the curve on safety trends, OSHA regulations and to create a better understanding between their company and OSHA safety standards. The Partnership also includes monthly guest speakers on topics of jobsite safety as well as an annual courtesy jobsite visit by safety professionals and OSHA representatives to ensure their status as an OSHA Partner and to hedge against any unwanted or unnecessary accidents or fines down the road.

The chapter believes that by developing and delivering strong programming that provides members with both business development and educational opportunities, membership value will increase.

2017 will be an exciting year for this chapter!

TEXAS MID COAST CHAPTER

The ABC Texas Mid Coast Chapter continues to expand workforce development initiatives and looks forward to guiding Young Professionals in the construction industry.

- In January, ABC teamed up with VBEC for the Dream Big STEM Expo and spoke to 1,300 eighth graders from six local middle schools about construction and the career opportunities available.
- 2017 has already been very busy with Workforce Development presentations in Ganado High School, Yoakum High School, Victoria West High School, Woodsboro High School and plans to participate in Calhoun High School.
- The Chapter was proud to accept awards at the ABC National Conference in Fort Lauderdale for membership retention, growth and meeting their membership goals as well as an award for Best Practice Champion for the STEP Assistance program.
- In March, the CEO spoke to a group of out of school youth at Workforce Solutions of the Golden Crescent about work ethic and the opportunities there are for construction careers and being job ready. The Chapter also organized a field trip for the VISD construction and welding students to tour the CMC fabrication facility.
- The Young Professional Group had a great turnout at their first Corn Hole & Crawfish event. There was a full bracket of teams that signed up and enjoyed a great evening hosted by VCS Companies.
- The NCCER Construction Site Safety Technician course continues to fill up each semester with the students earning 7 certifications for safety upon completion.
- The CEO met with representatives from Victoria College to start up a pipeline of their certified students to gain employment through ABC member companies.
- Several members and the Chapter CEO continue to serve on the VISD Construction Technology &

Architectural Design Advisory Committee assisting the local high schools and community outreach programs to inspire our future construction workforce.

- In April, the Mid Coast Chapter represented the construction industry at the Victoria College Career Fair where the staff gathered resumes and handed out ABC construction scholarship applications. The Chapter sponsored lunch at the Women in Industry event hosted by Victoria College where the CEO was invited to represent ABC on a panel of ladies that fielded questions from the young ladies attending. It was quite a success!
- On April 13, the Chapter will host a dinner and social with the topic of discussion being "10 Ways to Avoid a Construction Lawsuit" featuring attorneys Clayton Utkov & Carson Fisk with Andrews Myers. We look forward to a packed house with plenty of building business relationships and great information.

By partnering with member construction firms, local outreach programs and local schools, ABC is investing in students' lives to prepare them to be successful construction professionals and future leaders. The chapter's workforce efforts will continue to expand over the years and illustrate the rigor and relevance ABC offers the construction industry.

SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER

With the increased construction activity across Texas the demand for craft professionals, superintendents, project managers and other construction related positions has also grown. This demand is not expected to decline at any time in the foreseeable future.

At the South Texas Chapter there has been increased participation in the various construction and safety related education programs. As noted in the last issue, enrollment in the apprenticeship program for the 2016-2017 school year was up over 50%. For the first quarter of 2017, the chapter had already conducted one OSHA 30 class with two more being scheduled for the second quarter. Two Confined Space classes have been conducted in the first quarter. Three more are already scheduled and two more in the works. Over 200 employees will be trained by the end of the second quarter. Other safety related courses have also been conducted with more planned for the second quarter.

The Supervisory Leadership Program has also grown. Part of this is due to restructuring how the classes are taught and promoted. The modular format allows companies to either enroll for the entire program or select specific targeted modules for their existing and future supervisors. The program has resulted in "spin-off" classes. One Print Reading course has been conducted, with two additional courses, Residential & Multi-Family, and Heavy Commercial Construction planned for this summer. A focused estimating class is being planned for the second quarter with subject matter experts.

The construction industry isn't the only employment sector faced with employment demands. With this increased competition

the chapter is conducting numerous outreach efforts showing the rewarding career opportunities in construction. Chapter volunteers and staff have participated on panel discussions at statewide education conferences. Staff also participated in local programs, including the St. Philips College "Women in Non-Traditional Occupations: WINTO Conference" which targeted high school females. Further participation will include the fifth annual "P-20 Summit: Parent Engagement - E3-Engage-Educate-Empower" focusing on career exploration for 6th to 9th graders, numerous career fairs and CTE advisory councils occurring during the first half of 2017.

There has also been increased participation in the chapter's networking events. In March, 33 teams competed in the annual Chili Cook-off with over 400 attendees enjoying the chili and great weather. 120 members had a rowdy evening at the annual Casino Mixer back in February.

SOUTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

While the Chapter does hold various member events throughout the year, the Construction Training Center also conducts industrial craft training nightly, as well as sponsors and assists in providing many local high schools' vo-tech programs with NCCER curriculum, consumables, equipment, etc. Additionally, the chapter participates in, and helps host, many community-wide school events, the latest being the "Annual Winter Welding Contest" at the ABC Construction Training Center on Wednesday, January 18th, 2017. Since the Training Center has 88 Welding booths, it is able to accommodate a number of Welders simultaneously. One hundred four (104) Welding students, from approximately 20 area high schools, ranging from grades 10th through 12th, put their skills to the test, and they all performed with flying colors. It's so exciting and refreshing to see this type of talent at the high school level; it is a true testament to the quality of instructors that local schools have employed.

Special thanks to the following for helping make this event such a huge success: 1) Board member, Louis Fontenot with Coastal Welding Supply, Inc. donated the welding supplies and tools that were given to the top 10 Winners; 2) Board member, Steven Pellerin with Trinity Industrial was the Guest Speaker, discussing all the job opportunities and requirements in the petro-chemical industry, and how all of the graduating Seniors could continue their NCCER education and craft skills at the Nederland Training Center at night while working as a helper during the day; 3) Lance Mobley with Trinity Industrial was the Competition Judge (he definitely had a hard job and his time and expertise were greatly appreciated); and, 4) the Woodville High School FFA Program for providing everyone with a wonderful bar-b-que lunch with all the fixings. Again, thanks to Sponsors and all the Instructors for making this such a successful event; the chapter will continue to host this annual competition for as long as the high schools' welding programs want to participate.

TEXAS GULF COAST CHAPTER

On Wednesday, February 1, 2017, members of ABC Texas Gulf Coast Chapter joined with members of the Association of Chemical Industry of Texas (ACIT) for a luncheon with Brazoria County Judge Matt Sebesta delivering a program entitled "State of the County, Projects, and how Local Industries Can Work



South Texas Chapter members

with the County". Judge Sebesta's presentation highlighted the current growth of the county, much of it driven by the large amount of industry investment in capital projects in the area, and how this growth will impact local communities.

Also in February, Texas Gulf Coast Chapter sponsored two millwright candidates in the National Craft Championships at Workforce Development Week in Fort Lauderdale. Their hard work and preparation paid off as each of the contestants earned medals in their craft. Robert Broadway of McGill Maintenance proudly brought home the Gold Medal, and Timothy Sargent of RPM Services brought home the Bronze. The chapter is proud to have these young men reflecting our Chapter's emphasis on the importance of a trained and skilled workforce.

Another area of emphasis is delivering work safely, and this was shown when Texas Gulf Coast Chapter was honored with The Chairman's Award for the highest levels of STEP Participation. This would not be possible without the commitment of valued members, so it's no surprise that the Chapter was also recognized for achieving excellence in membership goals. What a great example of what partnership between ABC and Members should look like!

ABC Texas Gulf Coast Board Members also attended the 2017 State Legislative Day Conference in Austin to address construction industry priority issues. The event featured a reception with State Legislators and a PAC dinner which facilitated face to face conversations about the issues that are top ABC priorities. The group then had lunch with Representative Dennis Bonnen, co-author of HB 648, "Neutrality in State Government Contracting"; legislation protecting merit shop contractors by preventing governmental entities from requiring the use of project labor agreements.

With such a robust start to the first quarter, it's hard to imagine all that we'll be able to accomplish in 2017!

GREATER HOUSTON CHAPTER

Its spring and the Associated Builders & Contractors of Greater Houston (ABC) Chapter and Construction & Maintenance Education Foundation (CMEF) are busy building relationships and impacting the industry.

With ABC's strategic goals guiding ABC Greater Houston's initiatives, February and March was all about workforce development and member achievement. While ABC Greater Houston excelled during ABC Nationals 2017 Workforce Week, ABC Greater Houston and CMEF hosted their Texas Hold Em' Tournament, quarterly membership breakfast, CMEF Training and Verification Center Open House, and annual Spring Golf Tournament.

ABC is busy fostering relationships with groups such as the Greater Houston Partnership, C3, and EHCMA. In March, Michael Richter, CMEF Vice President of Education & Workforce Development; Barry Klein, Shell Deer Park General Manager, EHCMA Workforce Development Steering Team Chair; and Roy Watson, Chevron Phillips Chemical, EHCMA Workforce Development Committee Chair were guest speakers at the membership breakfast with more than 200 attendees. Guests were able to network and learn about the importance of community-based training as a solution to alleviate the workforce issues the construction industry is facing.

After learning about community-based training, ABC and CMEF hosted an open house to showcase the benefits and importance of contributing and the many opportunities one has to build and develop their career in construction.



Southeast Texas Chapter's Annual Winter Welding Contest



Texas Gulf Coast Chapter sponsored two millwright candidates in the National Craft Championship

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Greater Houston Chapter members attending Legislative Day

In July, ABC Greater Houston is partnering with NextOp, Lone Star Veterans Association, and ECHMA to host a Warrior for Life luncheon that will focus on the trade jobs that make up the bulk of construction activities. Veteran attendees will have the opportunity to meet companies one-on-one over lunch to get to know details about the company, its culture, and what your first year looks like.

ABC hosted two of their largest scholarship events to date—Texas Hold Em’ Tournament and Spring Golf Tournament. The proceeds from both events supported the ABC Scholarship Foundation. This year ABC awarded nine undergraduate students scholarships to support their studies and plans to enter the construction industry.

During Workforce Week, ABC members brought home 16 awards of excellence and two chapter awards. Seven ABC Greater Houston member companies were awarded National Safety Awards and eight members were awarded Excellence in Construction awards for projects they had built. ABC, CMEF, and member company Performance Contractors, Inc. sponsored National Craft Champion, Israel Picon, Jr., who won the gold medal in the structural welding competition at the 30th annual National Craft Championships (NCC).

TEXO CHAPTER

TEXO’s Foundation is spearheading a workforce development initiative to promote the construction industry and promising career opportunities for high school graduates, veterans, and other community members.

This initiative will encourage students to consider potential careers in construction and to help prepare the younger

generation for their first job in the industry, either through craft training or a two- or four-year degree. TEXO is partnering with 12 school districts around DFW to educate parents, teachers, and students about careers in construction.

As part of this initiative, the Foundation is launching “Build Texas Proud,” a campaign which will include a website, tool kit materials and events to position the construction industry as a positive force for the economy, community and the workforce. The chapter is proud of the industry and the amazing careers built, and this campaign will create awareness.

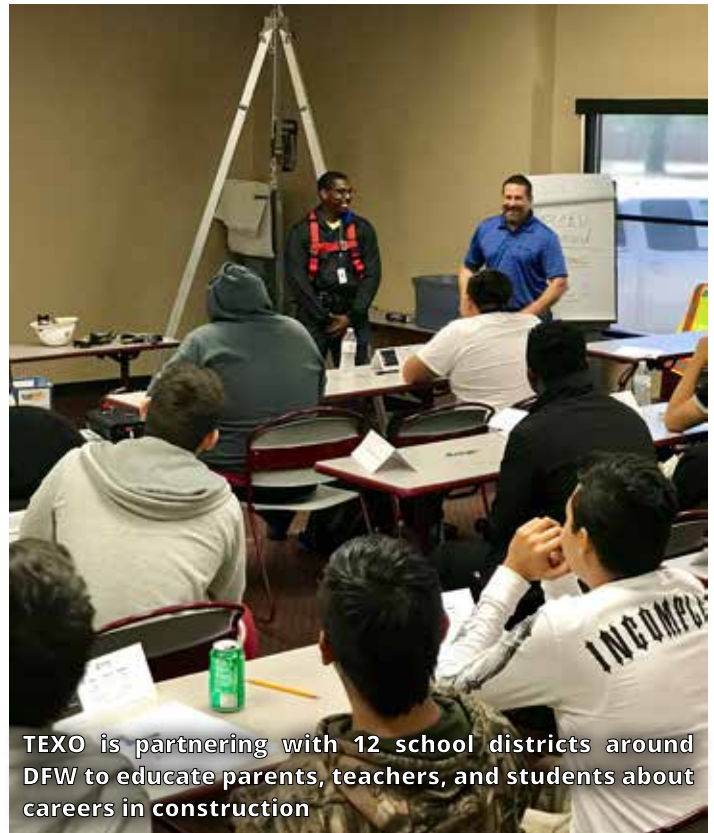
TEXO’s Foundation is a non-profit Foundation to support the Chapter’s relationships with the higher education community and, in particular, Region V Universities. The Foundation is currently endowed over \$1,000,000 and its operations support the successful workforce development and recruitment programs that are popular with members—Educators Conference, Student Competition, Student Scholarships, and Construction Education Department Grants.

Thank You to Committee Members:

- Randy Humphrey, Humphrey & Associates
- Ryan McDow, TDIndustries
- Jessica Adame, McCarthy Building Co.
- John Lewis, Polk Mechanical
- Beck Dando, Rogers-O’Brien
- Jeremiah Ellis, Cummings Electrical

- Grant Yaney, H&G Systems
- Jeff Bills, Humphrey & Associates
- Jeremiah Click, Polk Mechanical
- Belva Lowery, Walter P. Moore
- Josh Carson, JE Dunn Construction
- Logan Harper, TDIndustries
- Preston Pressley, Baker Triangle
- Peter Dean, Baker Triangle
- Ryan McDow, TDIndustries
- Tyler McCarty, SEDALCO
- Kolby May, Skiles Group
- Daniel Harris, Osburn
- Kevin Carey, Dynamic Glass

For more information on the TEXO Foundation contact Kelsey Cornillie at (972) 647-0697 or via email kelsey@texoassociation.org. ➔



TEXO is partnering with 12 school districts around DFW to educate parents, teachers, and students about careers in construction



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