

Texas

September 2018

MERIT SHOP

Defending the Rights of Merit Shop Contractors

Journal

Election Update

Lien Law
Modernization

ABC Chapter
Initiatives Across
the State

TEXAS SENATOR

Lois Kolkhorst

Representing Senate District 18, Lois Kolkhorst discusses her opinion of the role the construction industry plays in our state's economy.



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Texas
MERIT SHOP
Journal

Defending the Rights of Merit Shop Contractors

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LETTER from the Chairman



WESTCOTT

A BIG thank you to everyone who joined us during ABC Legislative Week 2018 (June 25th-June 28th) to ensure our representatives know what ABC stands for and that our collective voice was heard.

More than 500 ABC members from all over the country came to Washington, D.C., for meetings with top administration and congressional leaders on the issues that impact the merit shop construction industry at both the federal and state levels. Our Texas delegation was 35 strong, including ABC Greater Houston Leadership members Brandon Mabile, Sam Craig, Warren Adamson, and Chapter President Russell Hamley.

For many years, Texas ABC chapters have actively participated in "LegCon." I don't know a better venue for business owners and members to communicate and network with their federal representatives on the current issues impacting their businesses.

ABC of Texas had a great week! Our delegation met with U.S. Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz, and Congressmen John Culberson, Brian Babin, Kevin Brady, and Michael McCaul during our Legislative Day Hill visits. Later that evening, at a dinner hosted by the ABC National PAC at the Capitol Hill Club, Congressman Babin rejoined us for further conversations on our legislative objectives for the region.

Prior to the start of the ABC Legal Conference, the Texas Delegation hosted a breakfast that Congressmen Randy Weber, Bill Flores, and Pete Olson attended.

Topics of importance to us included:

- Fair and Open Competition Act (SB 622) which prohibits federal agencies from requiring a PLA. Co-sponsors of this important bill include U.S. Senator Cornyn and Congressmen John Culberson, Bill Flores, Ted Poe, Randy Weber, Pete Olson, and Brian Babin.
- Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act which provides much needed student funding for STEM and technical training. The bill received bipartisan support and should be signed into law by President Trump by the time this issue is printed.
- The Corporate Tax Cuts were also discussed as having had a tremendous impact on our member companies.

ABC's LegCon is a must-attend event! The conference is an excellent opportunity to network and share ideas with like-minded merit shop contractors.

I also encourage members to join us at the Texas Legislative Day meeting to visit and network with our State Senators and State Representatives on February 5-6, 2019. Please make a plan to join us!



Ben Westcott

2017 - 2019 ABC of Texas Chairman

Andrews Myers, P.C.

LETTER from the President



FISHER

Dear ABC of Texas Members,

In July, I celebrated 10 years as your State President. Hopefully, a year from now your ABC of Texas Board will be well on its way to selecting my replacement, and I will be moving toward retirement.

This has been the most rewarding 10 years of my almost 40-year career as an association executive. This is a great group to work for!

But, I know that great things are in the future for ABC of Texas!

But first, we have to continue to build our reputation as a participant in the legislative process in Texas!

We have a daunting list of Legislative Priorities that will be dealt with in more detail in the January 2019 issue of Texas Merit Shop Journal. Here is the current list in alphabetical order:

- **Design Defects**—ensuring that contractors that receive a design from an owner are not responsible for defects in that design.
- **E-Verify (safe harbor)**—ensuring that any E-Verify requirement includes a safe harbor for both false positives and false negatives.
- **Lien Law Modernization**—simplifying and modernizing our complicated and outdated Mechanic's Lien Law.
- **Neutrality in State Government Contracting**—preventing any governmental body using state funds or state credit from prohibiting or requiring a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement (Project Labor Agreement or PLA).
- **Public Employee Dues Deduction**—prohibiting governmental entities from collecting dues for labor unions and employee associations.
- **Right to Repair**—giving contractors and subcontractors the opportunity to correct a construction defect before a lawsuit may be filed.
- **Statute of Repose**—enacting something more reasonable than the current 10-year Statute of Repose.

It is always possible that the ABC of Texas Board may add to this list, especially since some liberal local governments are responding to UFOs (Union Front Organizations) by enacting local ordinances dealing with subjects not normally considered the purview of local governments.

As you can tell, we have our work cut out for us.

I also want to mention that your State Board Chair, Ben Westcott, has taken the idea from your immediate past Chair, Wes Johnson, to have every State Board Meeting include progress on our Strategic Plan and “put it on steroids.” He has assigned Board members to each goal and reports on those goals are part of every Board Meeting. As you know, most plans are put on shelves and may be looked at when the next plan is developed. Not with these two!

Hope to see you on Legislative Day, February 5-6, 2019! Details should be available at your chapter this month!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Fisher', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jon Fisher
ABC of Texas
President



The Stakes for the November Legislative Election

BY MIKE TOOMEY, ABC OF TEXAS

There are currently twenty Republican Senators and ninety-five Republican House members in the legislature. The November election is critical in the Senate because Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick has a two-vote margin for the rule that allows bringing up a bill. The rule states that you must have nineteen Senate votes to bring up a bill. This November, there are two Senate seats, currently held by Republicans (Burton and Huffines), that Hillary Clinton either tied or won in the prior election. If Republicans in the Senate were to lose both of these seats, Democrat Senators would be able to block any vote. This occurrence would change the legislature significantly.

Over in the House, the margin is not as tight. Currently, there are ninety-five Republican Representatives. However, the working majority of the House has been the moderate Republicans. If there was a large swing or loss in the House, it could clearly affect the policies, specifically the conservative business policies of the Texas House. There are ten House races that Clinton either outright won or statistically tied in the last election. There are five other close contests. A ten-seat gain by Democrats in the house would drop the Republicans to eighty-five seats with seventy-six votes being controlled by a five-vote difference. This makes things very tight. Moderate coalitions could easily ban with Democrats to take control of many of the policies.

Statewide, it is not anticipated that any Republican office holder will lose this November at the top of the ballot because the state is still strongly Republican. All Republican officials are concerned because the popularity of Trump ebbs and flows with his tweets and public comments. At this point, if Trump's popularity drops further, it could have dramatic effects on the statewide election. A ten-vote loss in the House and two in the Senate is possible.

Also important to ABC members, are the three Supreme Court seats up for election in November, and numerous court of appeals seats. Trump's popularity, or lack thereof, could certainly impact these lower-profile races.

ABC members and families need to vote all the way down the ballot.

In summary, normally non-presidential elections do not cause big shifts in Red State Texas. However, with the Trump factor, these November elections are very important in the Senate, the House, and the Courts. 🗳️

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Lien Law Modernization

BY DARLENE EAST, RUSS GARRISON, AND BEN WESTCOTT

During the 2011 meeting of the Texas Legislature, Associated Builders and Contractors of Texas (ABC of Texas), Associated General Contractors-Texas Building Branch (AGC-TBB) and Texas Construction Association (TCA) proposed several pieces of legislation dealing with aspects of the lien law. At every hearing, other stakeholders pleaded for us to not do this piecemeal but to deal with our issues comprehensively. Thus, after the session, Texas House Speaker Joe Straus added a study of the Mechanic's Lien Law (Lien Law) to the interim charge given to the House Business and Industry Committee chaired by State Representative Joe Deshotel.

The committee made recommendations aimed at simplifying the Lien Law. There was not time to take on such a task in such a short time.

Following that Legislative Session, ABC of Texas, AGC-TBB and TCA each nominated two attorneys to work on trying to modernize and simplify the current Lien Law. Those attorneys brought in volunteers from the land title industry, homebuilders, and banks. They worked in earnest from September 2013 until December 2014 and were able to make significant progress. Acknowledging that more work needed to be done, the group reconvened in June 2015.

A finished product was shared with other stakeholders (homebuilders, banks, title companies, building owners, and developers) in April 2016. We received significant opposition from almost all of those groups in a joint letter delivered in late August of that same year. Although we asked for it, we received very little input on how to address their concerns other than to not make this change.

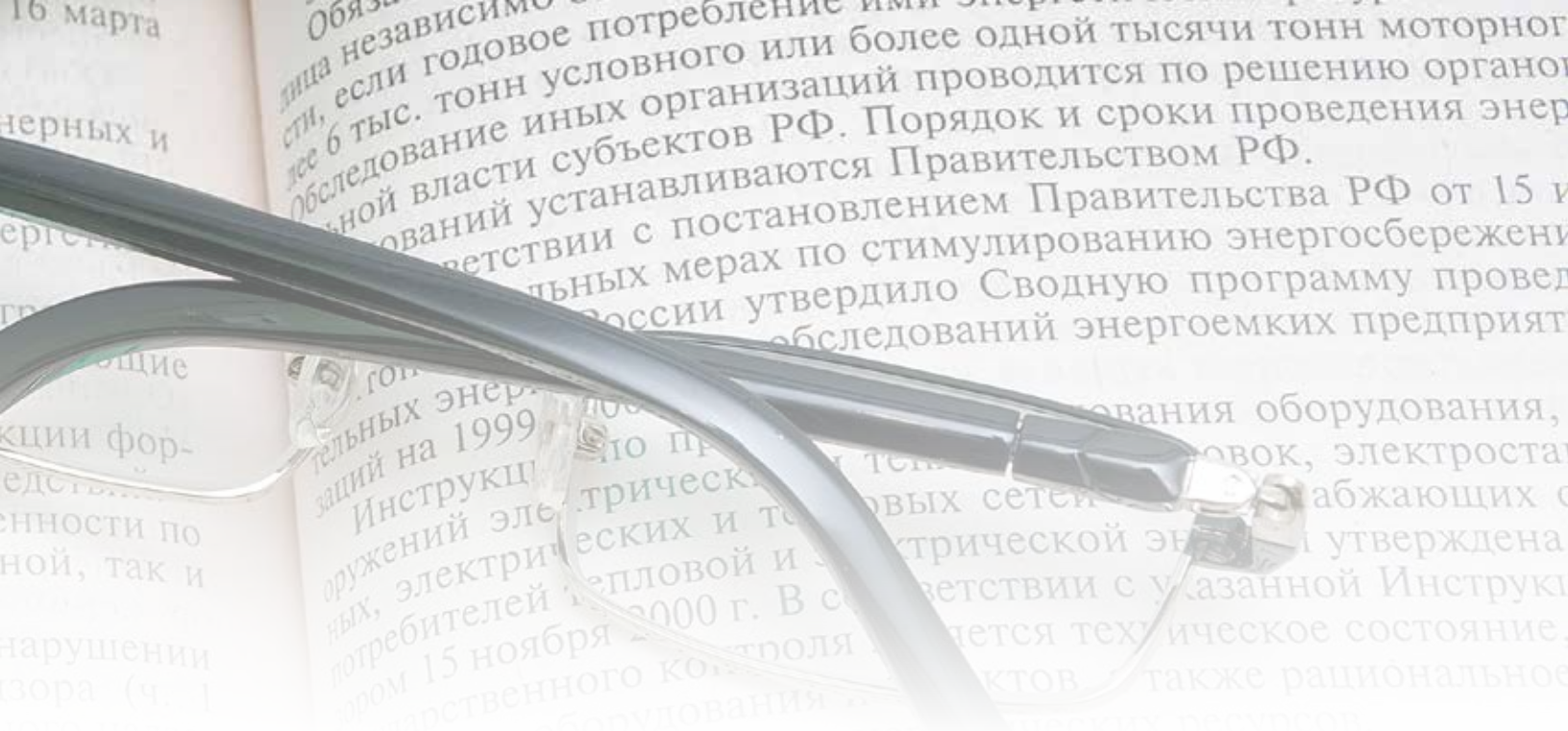
We encountered a delay in getting the bill drafted because we needed a state agency to agree to host a website. When the Secretary of State agreed to host the website, we quickly worked

to get the bill ready for introduction. The bill was introduced in the House on March 7, 2017 by State Representative Joe Deshotel. State Senator Juan Hinojosa introduced the bill in the Senate on March 8, 2017.

The bill introduced a new concept called early notice (Notice of Furnishing). To have a right to file a lien, subcontractors and suppliers would need to tell the owner they were on the job. Owners could demand lien releases before releasing payments to the prime contractor. Current law uses debt notices which frequently surprise owners and prime contractors when someone didn't get paid. Then, owners generally withhold payment from the prime contractor until he produces a lien release (which means the prime contractor or a subcontractor that has not been paid yet may pay for that work or supplies twice). This new concept would let everyone (owner, bank, prime contractor) know who is on the job with the right to file a lien so lien releases can accompany requests for payment.

This Notice of Furnishing was the only notice a subcontractor or supplier had to file to be eligible to file a lien if the subcontractor or supplier was not paid. This system would allow owners, banks, and prime contractors to make sure that doesn't happen through lien releases. The goal was not to make it easier to file a lien but to make sure everyone got paid. We actually anticipated that, if this was passed, there would be much fewer liens filed. In going to this one notice, the bill would make it much easier for subcontractors and suppliers to preserve lien rights by eliminating the multiple notices with rigid dates.

Another concept in the bill was the opportunity to use the internet to allow for the Notices of Furnishing to be filed electronically. A similar system has been in use in North Carolina and seems to work well. This concept, which is voluntary for the owner in our proposal, would bring us into the twenty-first century!



The bill encountered stiff and united opposition from other stakeholders, but a Committee Substitute was reported unanimously from the House Committee on Business and Industry. It died in the House Committee on Calendars.

This substitute made two significant changes. First, it took out the majority of homebuilders giving them a simplified “fund trapping” mechanism and took out employees who couldn’t be expected to file early notices, giving them the same simplified fund-trapping mechanism.

Second, the Committee Substitute has been the basis for almost two dozen meetings held by ABC of Texas, TCA, and AGC-TBB through Representative Deshotel’s office with individual stakeholders to drill down into each group’s individual concerns. Almost every group we met with said that the biggest problem was the belief that this bill increased owners’ liability for liens. No group would drop their opposition until this issue was settled. No amount of explanation could get us past the belief that the bill increased owners’ liability even when we explained that the bill allowed owners to totally eliminate any exposure to liens by the use of lien releases. The theoretical liability was the big hang-up.

Lastly, we proposed a new system where we still eliminated statutory retainage, but capped the owners’ liability at 10% (the amount of the current statutory retainage) plus the amount of funds paid over simplified funds trapping letters which could not include money paid to the prime contractor prior to receipt of the fund trapping letter. This proposal, which we are hopeful will get us past the opposition, does cause subcontractors and suppliers to file a second notice (simplified fund trapping), but it is still much simpler than the current law.

So, after thousands of hours spent by attorneys who drafted the initial bill and another fifty-plus hours meeting with individual

stakeholders, we may have a working concept that can take us forward to modernize our Lien Law.

By now you are asking, just tell me, what is in it for me? For owners, banks, title companies, and general contractors, no more surprise liens. Everyone who is eligible to file a lien will be known.

For owners, this means a faster way to “close out” a project.

For banks, this means a better way to secure superior lien rights.

For general contractors, this means no more double payments.

For subcontractor and suppliers, this means a much simpler way to preserve lien rights without the complexity and deadlines of the current system including many “gotcha’s” and tripwires.

ABC of Texas, AGC-TBB, and TCA are hopeful that we can put a simpler, more modern system in place that will result in everyone getting paid and much fewer liens being filed. 📌

Darlene East is President/COO of Holes Inc. (a Subcontractor specializing in concrete sawing, drilling and demolition) and a member of the ABC of Texas Board representing the Greater Houston Chapter.

Russ Garrison is President/CEO of Sedalco Construction Services (a General Contractor, Construction Management and Design/Build Firm) and a member of the ABC of Texas Board representing the TEXO Chapter (DFW area).

Ben Westcott is Co-Managing Partner of Andrews Myers (a Real Estate and Construction Law Firm), Board Chair of ABC of Texas (from the Greater Houston Chapter) and Legislative Liaison for the Construction Bar.

ONE-ON-ONE

TEXAS SENATOR

Lois Kolkhorst

Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) is a fifth-generation Texan, with ancestral roots dating to the Texas War of Independence. Born and raised in Brenham, she went on to graduate from Texas Christian University where she played collegiate golf. After serving seven terms in the Texas House, she was elected to the Texas Senate in a special election in 2014. She proudly represents Senate District 18, which spans 21 counties, covering a third of the Texas coastline and nearly 1 million constituents.

As the Chair of the Committee on Administration, Senator Kolkhorst oversees many administrative functions of the Senate and controls the Local & Uncontested Calendar, where nearly half of all bills are considered each session. Recognized as a fiscal conservative, she is a member of the Senate Finance Committee, and holds the distinction of being the only lawmaker in Texas history to serve twice in both the House and Senate as a member of the Budget Conference Committee to write the final version of the state budget. In addition, Senator Kolkhorst serves on the Senate Transportation Committee, Senate Health and Human Services Committee, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs.

Known for common sense solutions, Senator Kolkhorst has led statewide initiatives and written bills that impact every code of Texas law. Married to her high-school sweetheart, Jim. Senator Kolkhorst and her husband have two children, Lois Kate and Jake. Her hobbies include hunting, fishing, and gardening. She is also a frequent volunteer at her local church.

Last session you voted for SB 452 that would have kept government neutral on whether or not pre-hire collective bargaining contracts (Project Labor Agreements) could be mandated or prohibited on construction using state funds or state credit. That is a big deal to ABC members. The bill has passed the House twice (2013 and 2015) and the Senate once (2017). Can you share with ABC members any prediction for its fate in 2019?

Senate Bill 452 is designed to promote fairness and equity in the contracting process. It would have in no way prevented or required a person bidding on public works projects from working with unions. Local governments and universities that require contractors to deal only with union-represented companies ultimately raise the price of these contracts and result in more local tax dollars going to fund union operations. This is not a usurpation of local control, but rather a protection of individual liberty. These contracts should be open to anyone qualified and willing to do the work. They are not meant to subsidize union activity. This bill was voted out of the Senate chamber along party lines. In order for it to have success in 2019, it is imperative that Republicans work to maintain their majority in the legislature.

Lately, local governments have started enacting ordinances that interfere with employer/employee relations like Paid Sick Leave and Fair Chance Hiring. Some are proposing to go further. Do you believe that local governments should be expanding regulatory authority into these areas and, if not, do you believe the Texas Legislature should preempt such actions?

The state has an appropriate and legitimate interest in regulating economic activity to further the goals of free-flowing commerce and enterprise. The legislature has a duty to promote intrastate commerce in the same manner that the Federal Government promotes interstate commerce. When a local government enacts ordinances that would disrupt the flow of commerce or markets, especially in our growing and active urban areas, the state must step in to preempt these measures. These measures, often promoted by unelected bureaucrats are an unnecessary impediment to our economy. The Texas Miracle happened through low regulations, low taxation, and the free-flow of commerce.

What will be your personal priorities in the upcoming 86th Texas Legislature?

Texas Senate District 18 experienced the brunt of Hurricane Harvey's impact. From Port Aransas to Fort Bend and West Harris Counties, I intend to work with the lieutenant governor and fellow members to ensure that these areas rebuild completely, and in the case of Fort Bend, continue the rapid and miraculous growth they have experienced over the last two years.

Please describe your business background.

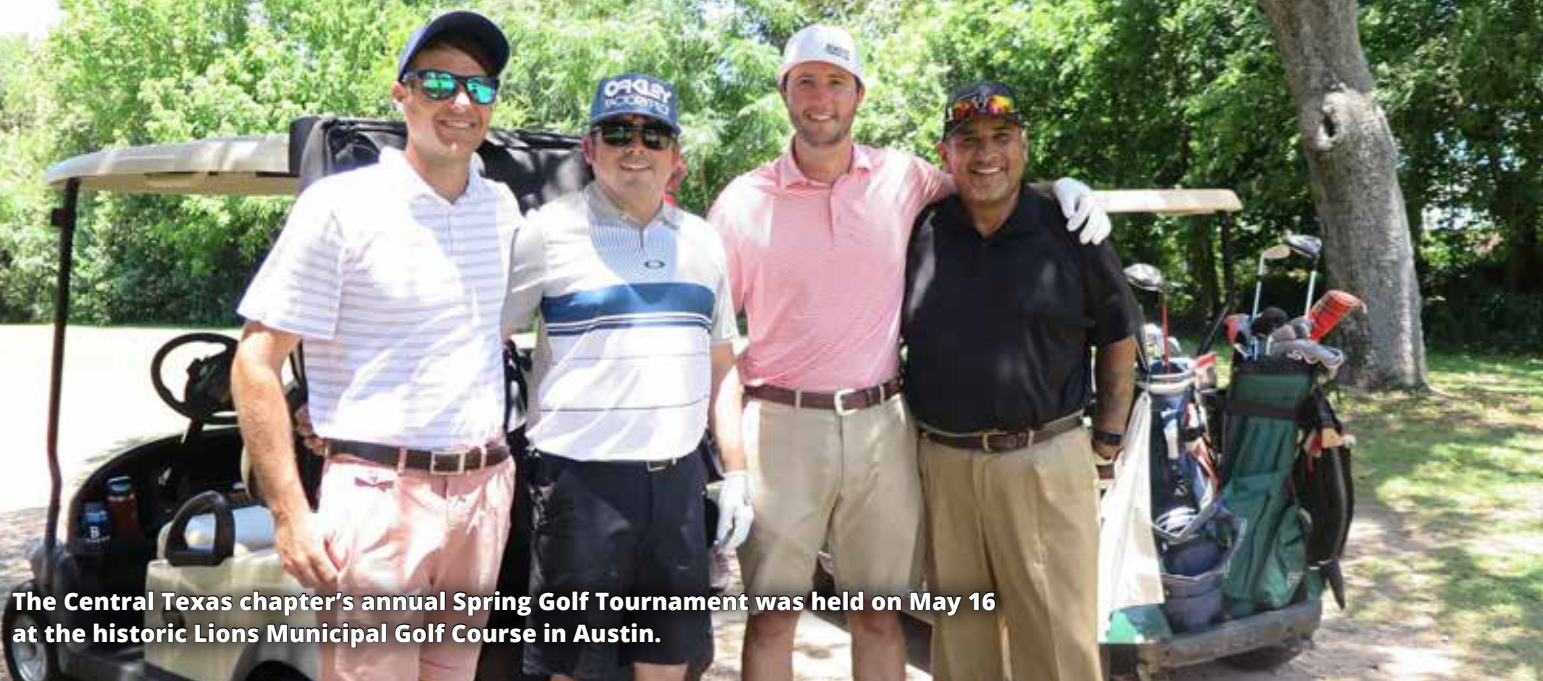
Aside from being a mom, wife, and Senator, I own a business alongside my husband Jim. For most of our adult lives, we grew Kolkhorst Petroleum, a company that started with less than twenty-five employees and blossomed into a series of corporations that employed nearly four hundred people. Recently, we sold much of the business and are pursuing new investments. Before running for the legislature, I was hired by our local chamber of commerce as president.

What is your view of the free enterprise system?

My view of the free enterprise includes four main principles: the freedom to choose our businesses, the right to private property, competition, and consumer sovereignty.

You chair the Senate Committee on Administration. What do you believe are the most important functions of that committee?

As the Chair of the Senate Committee on Administration, I work with the Lieutenant Governor to oversee the many administrative functions of the Senate including, but not limited to, setting committee budgets, reviewing administrative policies, issuing payroll, and monitoring the purchasing and expenditures of the senate. During the legislative session, the Administration Committee controls the Local & Uncontested Calendar, where nearly half of all bills are considered. ➔



The Central Texas chapter's annual Spring Golf Tournament was held on May 16 at the historic Lions Municipal Golf Course in Austin.

GREATER HOUSTON CHAPTER

Fall is right around the corner, and the Greater Houston Chapter and its educational affiliate, Construction & Maintenance Education Foundation (CMEF), have wrapped up a busy summer.

This past May, the Greater Houston Chapter had two graduation ceremonies. The first was to recognize twenty-three graduates from the 2018 Leadership Forum, which was designed to teach young professionals how to hone their leadership skills and work up the career ladder. The second ceremony commemorated CMEF's graduates, who completed a full NCCER Craft Program in their respected areas of study including pipefitting, electrical, instrumentation, welding, millwright, scaffold building, boilermaking, crane, and NCCER's CSST Program (Construction Site Safety Technician).

In June, the Chapter had its Captain's Party and Fishing Tournament, which was attended by over 315 members. The tournament was a success, as over \$25,000 was raised at this year's Calcutta.

In July, the Greater Houston Chapter held its annual Membership Breakfast and recognized 110 STEP award recipients. The chapter is at 50 percent of membership who have applied for STEP, which is a new record for the chapter!

In August, the chapter held its annual Scholarship Casino Night, where proceeds benefitted the ABC Scholarship Foundation to award students pursuing a career in construction. The scholarships are given out annually and recipients were chosen from an extensive application process.

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

Even through the "dog days of summer," ABC Central Texas has been busy! The chapter is most pleased with the hiring of a new chapter membership director, Jodi Bunyard, who came to ABC after several years at the Society for Underwater Technology (SUT). She is busy securing new members and reaching out to the chapter's current members.

The chapter's annual spring golf tournament was held on May 16 at the historic Lions Municipal Golf Course in Austin. Lions is the favorite hometown course of Ben Crenshaw, and many of the tournament's early arrivals were delighted to have a chance to meet him. The tournament was a sell-out and the weather was perfect.



The Central Texas chapter hosted a Casino Cruise on Lake Austin in early June.



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Southeast Texas Chapter's Construction Site Carpentry Program, facilitated by Lamar State College-Pt. Arthur. The class, which feeds its graduates into local industrial construction jobs, is offered at no cost to students.

The chapter hosted an inaugural Casino Cruise on Lake Austin in early June. Another sell-out, this event was a great way for chapter members to network and have fun playing casino games and winning prizes. The members all said they look forward to this again next year.

In May, the chapter's Career and Workforce Outreach committee made three presentations to high school construction classes, discussing career paths, training opportunities, job skills, and even life skills as they pertain to our industry. This committee also met in July to formulate programming to present to future high school classes, with a focus on speaking both to students as well as counselors.

ABC Central Texas Emerging Leaders Group has been busy this summer planning for educational and community outreach events for the fall. In October, State Representative John Cyrier will host the group at the Capitol to discuss "Public Affairs 101" and take the group on an insider's tour of the Capitol Building. Plans are also underway to partner with the Texas State University Construction Student Association to assist with their Ramp Build project they take on each year in San Marcos.

The chapter is gearing up for its annual Clay Shoot, set to take place on September 7 at Capital Clays. Entry fees to the Flurry competition will go towards the chapter's PAC.

SOUTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

A workforce training partnership prepares a new generation for refinery construction jobs—"If You Build It, They Will Come" is turning out to be more than just a great movie line.

Total Refinery announced two years ago that it would be building a \$1.7 billion ethane steam cracker in Port Arthur. Immediately, a group of industrial-related partners realized that a local construction workforce must also be built.

The resulting collaboration is the Construction Site Carpentry Program, facilitated by Lamar State College Pt. Arthur. The class, which feeds its graduates into local industrial construction jobs, is offered at no cost to students.

"Two years before Total announced plans for the construction of a \$1.7 billion ethane steam cracker in Port Arthur, a team of professionals from Lamar State College Pt. Arthur, ABC-SETX, Total, Golden Pass, and Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas met to foresee and meet the workforce problems the project would face," said Dr. Ben Stafford, Dean of Workforce for LSCPA.

When McDermott was chosen as the general contractor, professionals from this organization joined the planning meetings, and when Bo-Mac Construction was chosen as the foundation contractor, they too joined the team, Dr. Stafford explained.

Together this team designed a curriculum that allows students to earn NCCER certificates in Core; Carpentry (level 1); Construction Craft Laborer (level 1); and Scaffolding. LSCPA applied and was awarded funds through the Texas Workforce Commission for training which began January 2018 and will continue through 2019 at ABC-SETX's Training Center in Nederland.

"This partnership gives us an opportunity to train more people," said Horace Brown, Director of Education at ABC-SETX. "We

typically only have classes that we sponsor at night, so by going through Lamar State College Pt. Arthur, we are able to offer day classes too, which allows us to help people we wouldn't ordinarily be introduced to."

The partnership also includes Creative Corrections Education Foundation, an organization that offers second chances to those who are seeking to get their careers on the right path. "This is a Foundation created to deal with the unemployed, to help them obtain skills that make them a viable job candidate in our region. This is a second-chance program for those who come to us for help," said Percy Pitzer, President of CCEF. "It helps the person, it helps the community, and also allows those in our program a chance to become self-supporting, tax-paying, law-abiding citizens; this is just a bundle of benefits for everyone."

Those involved in the training and hiring of a viable workforce are excited at this collaboration to expand the local skill base, and are especially interested in seeing this program succeed.

TEXAS COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

During the past few months, the Chapter has had the opportunity to host several events and networking opportunities comprised of the Monthly First Wednesday Mixers and the 30th Annual ABC Golf Classic. The monthly mixers are always a great way to meet and mingle with members and an excellent sponsorship



The Craft Training Center of the Coastal Bend chapter hosted summer camps for middle school students

opportunity. The chapter would like to thank Industrial Piping and Steel for sponsoring the May Mixer and MMR Constructors, the June Mixer Sponsor.

ABC/TCB's 30th Annual Golf Classic was held May 14th. With 36 teams this year, it was a full house. A huge thank you goes to the Golf Committee Chairman, Jeremiah Villanueva, with MMR Constructors and the rest of the committee members for taking time out of their schedules to help plan the event. The chapter also thanks the volunteers and sponsors, without each of them; it just wouldn't be an exciting event. Congratulations goes to the first place team from the Craft Training Center of the Coastal Bend.

In June, the Contractors Safety Council of the Coastal Bend hosted their annual South Texas Industrial Industry Safety Excellence Awards banquet. Every year ABC-TCB, CSCCB and Port Industries of Corpus Christi recognize contractors in the area who have maintained an excellent safety program. A special "Congratulations" goes to the 2018 ABC-TCB Safety Training Evaluation Process (STEP) Award winners: Diamond – Bloch Construction, Brock Services, Ohmstede, Repcon, Turner Industries Group LLC, MMR Constructors, Inc., Mirage Industrial Group LLC., Teal Construction. Platinum –Larson Plumbing & Utilities, Onyx Engineering. Gold – Bay, LTD, D & C Fencing, Inc., Rabalais I & E Constructors, TNT Crane & Rigging, Inc., Tradesman International. Silver – Adrian Enterprises, Inc., Garrett Construction Co., SpawGlass Contractors, Inc., Weaver and Jacobs Constructors, Inc. They have a proven track record of maintaining safety within their companies and on their jobsites.

This summer, the Craft Training Center of the Coastal Bend hosted summer camps for middle school students to get a hands on glimpse of what the training center has to offer. They are allowed the opportunity to learn how to read blue prints, fall protection and safety on the job site. Each day they learn





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The Mid Coast Chapter was proud to present a donation to Ronald McDonald House Charities.

construction industry. For more information, please call 361-572-0299 or www.mcademy.org.

In June, after the 26th Annual Fishing Tournament in Port O'Connor, the Mid Coast Chapter was proud to present a donation to Ronald McDonald House Charities.

On October 2, another NCCER Construction Site Safety Technician class will begin. The chapter is excited about the continued partnership with Workforce Solutions of the Golden Crescent and being able to provide a variety of safety training and education classes to the unemployed workforce.

some basic welding, as well as pipefitting and instrumentation. Approximately 150 students from 7 area schools were able to participate.

Currently the chapter is planning the 17th Annual Skeet & Trap Shoot, set for September 14th & 15th at the Corpus Christi Pistol & Rifle Club.

TEXAS MID COAST CHAPTER

The ABC Texas Mid Coast Chapter is investing in students' lives to prepare them to be successful construction professionals and future leaders. The Chapter has announced the Mid Coast Construction Academy (MCA), set to open on August 23, 2018, offering pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships for plumbers and electricians. The mission of the MCA is to promote and educate students and jobseekers about the construction industry and develop skilled labor. The MCA will prepare students with career-ready job skills to enter the workforce with confidence.

This workforce development initiative will promote regional job growth in: Bee, Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca, Refugio and Victoria Counties. The benefits of MCA are vast, including contribution to the economic development of the region, training of future taxpayers, and offering lucrative career opportunities to students (which promotes better self-esteem, discourages drug usage and high school dropout). Educating local individuals for construction jobs will allow businesses to bid more work, which increases revenue, and fulfills the need for skilled labor in the

The chapter is doing its part to "Make America Great Again!"

SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER

The South Texas Chapter is currently working with over 25 area high schools to develop their construction related education programs. This has resulted in both increased interest and participation by ABC members as well as greater student involvement. A number of South Texas Chapter members implemented or are planning to implement high school intern programs. These interns will become future apprentices. Speaking of apprentices, the chapter's program has seen a 15% increase in enrollment for the 2018/2019 school year.

Last year's hugely successful Contractors Apprenticeship Trust gun raffle, 30 Guns In 30 Days for \$30 dollars, is being conducted once again. This program has allowed the chapter to offer free OSHA 10 and 30 Hour classes in 2018 as well as a few other safety classes. The chapter also conducted an OSHA 10 Hour class and First Aid/CPR class for area Boy Scouts.

Another unique activity designed to increase member participation on committees and attending the bi-monthly social hour is "Members Bucks". In order to be eligible for a \$100 gift card need to attend committee meetings and attend the social hour. If the winning member is not present the drawing increases by \$200 at the next social hour. At the June Social Hour at the Rustic, Nick Metcalf (BizDocs) won \$1,100! This program is achieving its goal

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of increasing committee participation and attendance at the Social Hour.

Chapter events have been doing well. Over 300 members attended the annual Excellence In Construction Awards banquet in August, and the Fall Golf Tournament to be held the second week of September was sold out by August 10. This is a first for the chapter! Upcoming events include the Fishing Tournament, Sporting Clays Shoot and the Construct a Kids Christmas.

Like other Texas cities, San Antonio's city council has taken an interest in numerous anti-business/social justice issues such as the Labor Peace Agreement, Responsible Bidder, Paid Sick Leave, and Predictive Scheduling. While the business community was able to stop the LPA, as of this writing, the Paid Sick Leave is still moving forward. Elected officials need to have a better understanding of the issues and how business operates before moving forward.

TEXO CHAPTER

On Thursday, June 28th TEXO hosted the second annual Raymond

L. Critchfield Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament at Coyote Ridge Golf Club. With over 130 players participating, the following teams placed: A big congratulations to the first place team from Martin Marietta, second place team from Andres Construction Services and the third place team from Brandt Companies.

Raymond L. Critchfield was a dedicated safety professional who impacted the construction industry through his passion, love of people, family, and friends. One of his greatest attributes was his ability to train people to recognize hazards and create a safer workplace. The Raymond L. Critchfield Scholarship Program provides scholarships to individuals pursuing or continuing a course of study in the construction health and safety professions. Raymond worked for TEXO for 7 years as a Safety Director before leaving to work for Satterfield & Pontikes Construction. This was the second annual golf tournament held in his honor. He passed on January 31st, 2016.

Mark your calendars to attend next year's tournament on Thursday, June 27th 2019! ➡

TEXO hosted the second annual Raymond L. Critchfield Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament at Coyote Ridge Golf Club.





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