

Texas

January 2018

MERIT SHOP

Defending the Rights of Merit Shop Contractors

Journal

2018 Election Update

ABC of Texas Strategic Plan

ABC Chapter Initiatives Across the State

Bryan Hughes

Serving his first term in the Texas Senate, representing 16 counties in Northeast Texas, Hughes discusses his views of the free enterprise system.



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LETTER from the Chairman



WESTCOTT

As you will read later in this issue, our Strategic Planning Meeting resulted in ambitious plan. We are not going to put this work on the shelf and come back two years from now to see how we did.

Your State Board's Executive Committee met by phone in early December to establish Executive Committee responsibilities for each of the goals. We'll be using the teams that worked on the goals to implement them. Your State Board will be very active over the next two years.

First and foremost, we have to have a process in place to select a new State President after the next Legislative Session. While we might want otherwise, Jon Fisher is leaving us after the next session. He is actually staying on a session longer than he originally planned.

GPaul Holliman, David Smith, and Craig Messer (with assistance from Jon) are charged with proposing a process and timeline for the Board to consider. We'll begin considering this in January—about 1½ years before we have to act—by beginning the process of writing a job description. Hopefully, by the time we are faced with Jon's departure, we will have identified candidates, interviewed them, and made our decision.

Obviously, we need to be very deliberate and thoughtful as we proceed since so much is riding on this decision.

We think we did it right last time. Luckily, we haven't had to second guess that decision.

Let's see if we can do it right while looking for a new and different State President!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben Westcott". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ben Westcott

2017 - 2019 ABC of Texas Chairman

Andrews Myers, P.C.

LETTER from the President



FISHER

I have now attended my last Strategic Planning Meeting where I won't have anything to do with implementing the Plan!

Hopefully, in two years you will have a new President that will be charged with carrying out elements of a new plan developed in 2019!

Later in this issue, your State Chair, Ben Westcott, will inform you of what resulted from the Strategic Planning Meeting held November 1 of last year.

We are now entering a cycle at ABC of Texas where Mike Toomey and I will be evaluating primary races to determine where our precious PAC resources can best be spent. Almost exclusively, we wait until after the filing deadline to look at races. We tend not to give to those unopposed during the election cycle since we may need those resources for election contests. If we have money left over after the election cycle, we look to remind those that support us that we appreciate their public service. Those contributions are generally post-election.


Of course, all recommendations to the State Board are sent to Local Chapters for their review and each chapter has multiple State Board Members and their Chapter President in attendance when the recommendations are considered (hopefully).

But, this cycle, we have another project—Lien Law Modernization. Wes Johnson and I have already participated in two meetings with other stakeholders held in Rep. Joe Deshotel's office. There will likely be dozens of such meetings between now and the next Legislative Session. We are trying as hard as we can to pierce the veil of “no, we don't want change” and get past the lobbyists (some of whom may not be explaining the entire proposal) to those who actually practice for the stakeholder interests. This is a marathon, not a sprint! We are sincerely trying to accommodate as many concerns as we can, basing our discussions on the House Committee Substitute for HB 3065. If you are interested, this can be accessed by going to Texas Legislature Online.

As we were nearing the deadline for this issue, your new State Chair, Ben Westcott, held a conference call of the Executive Committee to begin to implement the Strategic Plan and plan for my succession. I'll leave it to Ben to share his thoughts, but one of my comments, based on how hard he appears to want to work the Board, is he may end up being an unpopular Chair!

Of course, I say that in jest. The Board has a lot to deal with over the next year and a half and it is certainly not too soon to get started!

ABC of Texas Members should be confident that they have the right leadership in place at the right time!



Jon Fisher
ABC of Texas
President



2018 Election Update

BY MIKE TOOMEY, ABC OF TEXAS

The 2018 election cycle is looking to be a busy one, with 7 congressional retirements and numerous State House retirements, including the Speaker of the House, Joe Straus. As such, the Legislative deck is being shuffled. Early voting for primaries begins on February 20, 2018, and Election Day lands on March 6, 2018. The March primaries will likely have a profound effect on the race for Speaker, with conservative and moderate wings of the Republican Party battling for the 76 votes needed to elect the next House presiding officer. Moreover, the Texas House Republican Caucus has asked its members to vote on a secret ballot that will determine who the caucus will vote for Speaker, as a whole, on the House floor. The secret ballot Speaker candidate will have to win by a supermajority of caucus members (2/3rds vote, or a 3/5ths vote if a 2/3rds winner is not attainable).

However, the fact that the House Republican Caucus vote will be secret, coupled with the fact that the caucus has no enforcement mechanism to ensure Republican legislators vote along with the

caucus, any Republicans who stray from the caucus' Speaker choice may not feel formal repercussions until the next election cycle, if ever. In response, some caucus members have already signed a pledge to vote along with the caucus vote. Those members can be found here: <https://www.texasgop.org/speaker-candidate-forms/>. Thus far, Rep. Phil King (R-Weatherford) and Rep. John Zerwas (R-Richmond) are the only members to formally announce their candidacy to replace Speaker Straus; others are expected to follow.

The high drama this election cycle is that Speaker Straus will likely use much of his remaining war chest to protect Speaker friendly incumbents and to elect Speaker friendly candidates in open seat races. On the other side is Empower Texans, the more tea party-like camp that will campaign to protect Empower Texans aligned incumbents and to elect Empower Texans friendly candidates in open seat races. The current idea is whichever side wins the most open seats and incumbent contested seats in the upcoming primaries might provide momentum into the caucus vote. ➔

Below is a list of all of the announced races, retirements and challenges as of the deadline for this publication.

11 Texas House Republican retirements (open seats)

Speaker Joe Straus
Rep. Cindy Burkett (Seeking Texas Senate seat: Sen. Hall)
Rep. Byron Cook
Rep. Pat Fallon (Seeking Texas Senate seat: Sen. Estes)
Rep. Larry Gonzales
Rep. Jason Isaac (Running for Congressman Lamar Smith's open seat)
Rep. Mark Keough
Rep. Jodie Laubenberg
Rep. Larry Phillips
Rep. Kevin Roberts (Running for Congressman Ted Poe's open seat)
Rep. Lance Gooden (Running for Congressman Jeb Hensarling's open seat)

33 Texas House Republican Incumbents with Primary Opposition

Rep. Ernest Bailes
Rep. Dennis Bonnen
Rep. Dustin Burrows
Rep. Briscoe Cain
Rep. Giovanni Capriglione
Rep. Travis Clardy
Rep. Scott Cospers
Rep. Drew Darby
Rep. Sarah Davis
Rep. Wayne Faircloth
Rep. Dan Flynn
Rep. Charlie Geren
Rep. Lance Gooden
Rep. Justin Holland
Rep. Dan Huberty
Rep. Ken King
Rep. Linda Koop
Rep. John Kuempel
Rep. Lyle Larson
Rep. Will Metcalf
Rep. Chris Paddie
Rep. Four Price
Rep. John Raney
Rep. Matt Schaefer
Rep. Matt Shaheen
Rep. JD Sheffield
Rep. Hugh Shine
Rep. Ron Simmons
Rep. Lynn Stucky
Rep. Jason Villalba
Rep. Terry Wilson
Rep. Paul Workman
Rep. John Zerwas

13 Texas House Democrat Incumbents with Primary Opposition

Rep. Diana Arevalo
Rep. Roberto Alonzo
Rep. Philip Cortez
Rep. Dawnna Dukes
Rep. Harold Dutton
Rep. Mary Gonzalez
Rep. Bobby Guerra
Rep. Ryan Guillen
Rep. Tracy O. King
Rep. Sergio Munoz
Rep. Ina Minjarez
Rep. Ron Reynolds
Rep. Tomas Uresti

1 Texas Senate Retirement

Sen. Van Taylor
(Running for Congressman Jeb Hensarling's open seat)

1 Texas Senator running for other office with Unexpired Senate term (free run)

Sen. Sylvia Garcia (Running for Congress, term expires 2021)

4 Texas Senate GOP Incumbents with Primary Opposition

Sen. Craig Estes
Sen. Bob Hall
Sen. Joan Huffman
Sen. Kel Seliger

5 Congressional GOP Retirements

CD 2: Ted Poe
CD 3: Sam Johnson
CD 5: Jeb Hensarling
CD 6: Joe Barton
CD 21: Lamar Smith

2 Congressional DEM Retirements

CD 16: Beto O'Rourke (Running for U.S. Senate)
CD 29: Gene Green

11 Congressional GOP Incumbents have Primary Opponents

CD 1: Louie Gohmert
CD 4: John Ratcliffe
CD 7: John Culberson
CD 8: Kevin Brady
CD 11: Mike Conaway
CD 14: Randy Weber
CD 22: Pete Olson
CD 23: Will Hurd
CD 26: Michael Burgess
CD 27: Blake Farenthold
CD 31: John Carter

2 Congressional DEM Incumbents have Primary Opposition

CD 9: Al Green
CD 18: Sheila Jackson Lee



FEATURE

ABC of Texas Strategic Plan

BY BEN WESTCOTT

Every two years, ABC of Texas Board Members, Chapter Presidents and special guests from the Chapters meet to assess our direction and prepare a Strategic Plan for the next two years. We meet immediately following the last Board Meeting of odd-numbered years (when the Texas Legislature meets). This is to establish our overall goals heading into the next Legislative Session. We do not establish Legislative Priorities at that time, just overall goals, as Legislative Priorities are established at the April Board Meeting in even-numbered years. We have plenty to do in even-numbered years as well because of the election process.

In years past, we have had as many as 6 guests from the Chapters attend our Strategic Planning session. This year however, we just had two guests and will certainly make a more concerted effort next time to remind the Chapters to bring either an “up and coming” Chapter leader (future or new Board Member) or a young professional.

Generally, we begin with a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats—the first two are internal; the second two external).

In order, our strengths were determined to be strong connection to Texas Lobby Group, a full time staff presence in Austin, strong and broad statewide membership, recognition in the Legislature, solid development of relationships with other business groups, and significant volunteer leadership. Also in order, outlining our weaknesses showed we needed to work on inconsistent communication and marketing downstream

to members, building a larger PAC presence, initiating more grassroots action, the building of a 2030 vision, the development of an operational transition plan and next generation board membership, generating more non-dues revenue and cultivating a more visible social media presence.

Opportunities were determined to be the creation of a construction industry caucus, growth of the ABC of Texas brand and image with both the educational institutions and elected officials, capitalizing on the many member representations we have on State Agencies, unification of our industry voice, early bill numbers, the ability to build relationships with new leaders, generating proactive messaging on issues, and further establishing ourselves as industry leaders. The threats were determined to be UFOs (Union Front Organizations) and disguised Big Labor, a younger generation not understanding the importance of ABC, fragmentation of the Legislature, transition at Texas Lobby Group, an unpredictable regulatory environment, lack of skilled labor and lack of training leadership.

We then asked our group to focus on what we should look like in 2021 (after a staff leadership transition), in order to determine if our existing 2019 Goals were consistent with advancement to the 2021 Goals.

The 2021 Goals were determined to be (not in any particular order—the group did not vote): recruiting younger and/or new membership, transitioning from current to future Board Members and fostering a new ABC President, continuing as a legislative powerhouse and construction leader, creating a



vision for the right way to do politics, tying into ABC National resources, establishing next generation to further the current mission and vision of ABC of Texas, communicating to construction companies on why ABC is important, establishing a renewable process to bring in new people and empowering each chapter to focus on political action.

We also reviewed our established 2019 goals, added to them, and then ranked them in order of importance. After the ranking, we chose Goals 2-6 to work on in small groups. The Goals in order of votes were: complete transition to a new ABC of Texas President, expand existing relationships with elected officials, grow the Board by one person (under 40) per chapter, foster the next generation to further our mission and vision, increase PAC funds raised and distributed, establish a committee to roll out Build Texas Proud—statewide, leverage ABC National resources from an education and marketing perspective and reduce fragmentation related to construction legislation in the Legislature.

The Executive Committee conducted a conference call on next steps December 6, 2017. On that call we discussed how to best implement the 2019 Goals using materials prepared by the small groups at the meeting. Each Executive committee member has agreed to spearhead the efforts of one or more of the subgroups through 2018. The subgroups will meet quarterly and report to the board on their efforts and progress towards achieving our goals. Stay tuned—there is a lot going on at ABC of Texas! 📍

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ONE-ON-ONE



STATE SENATOR

Bryan Hughes

Senator Bryan Hughes is serving his first term in the Texas Senate, representing the 16 counties of Senate District One in Northeast Texas. Prior, he represented District Five in the Texas House of Representatives for seven terms, from 2003 to 2017.

Born and raised in East Texas, Bryan attended Tyler Junior College and the University of Texas at Tyler, receiving his BBA in Economics, cum laude, in 1992. He went on to Baylor University School of Law, where he received his law degree in 1995. Bryan then served as law clerk to US District Judge William Steger of Tyler from 1995-1997.

He has received numerous awards for his work in the Legislature, including the Taxpayer Champion Award from Texans for Fiscal Responsibility, the Horizon Award from Texas Right to Life, and "Defender of the American Dream" from Americans for Prosperity. In 2011, Texas Right to Life named Bryan Hughes the Pro-Life Whip of the Texas House. Bryan was also the first member of his family to receive a Bachelor's degree.

As a small businessman, he knows about hard work and the value of a dollar. Bryan is a leader in his church, a Red Cross disaster relief volunteer, and is active in civic and community organizations.

Please describe your professional background.

I'm a partner at Beard & Harris in Tyler. We're a full service law firm with offices in DFW and East Texas, representing primarily businesses and entrepreneurs. (My practice is primarily litigation and general counsel work for businesses.)

What is your view of the free enterprise system?

When it comes to the economy, we seem to end up with a dialogue centered on the idea that there is a fixed amount of pie and we are just deciding how big of a slice different folks get. But I believe that our system, the free enterprise system, is special because it's not a fixed pie. We can make more pie. As we open the market up more to innovative and ambitious people, it's our creativity and enthusiasm that allow us as a state and as a country to continue to drive growth in a way that creates more opportunity for everyone. This system has proven time and time again to be the one system that can keep on making that happen. This is especially true here in Texas.

You carried several construction bills last session and you've been a habitual attendee at our Legislative Receptions. What bills were those and why did you think they were important?

The government's best role in business is to make sure there is a basic fairness and then get out of the way. Our biggest construction bill, SB 1215, sought to bring Texas more closely in line with other states so that a contractor is not responsible for damages caused by a faulty design. The goal was for every person to be responsible for the part of the project they performed. This bill almost became law, and I believe it is a common sense principle that is worth continuing to work on in the future.

Two other bills that are the law today go back to the same principle of creating a level playing field, and specifically where the state is a party to the construction contract. The state historically has retained some asymmetrical bargaining power in contracting for construction services, and I sponsored House bills 2121 and 3021, which put the state on the hook for some contract provisions that it had not previously been held to. HB 2121 allowed for the recovery of attorney's fees in certain contract cases between an engineer or contractor and the state. HB 3021 prohibited state agencies from requiring a contractor to indemnify the agency for the agency's own negligent acts.

These are just making sure we meet basic standards of fairness, saying the state can't breach its contracts or require you to pay for their negligence.

What is your opinion of the role the construction industry plays in our state's economy?

It's hard to overstate what an important job-creating engine the construction industry is. But even beyond creating jobs for so many folks who work in construction, the thing that makes the construction industry unique is that it is a part of almost every other industry. As you guys build hospitals and refineries and tech manufacturing facilities and retail centers, you help build a state economy that is benefiting from more and more economic diversity. Our state economy is insulated from the worst market fluctuations now more than ever because we have so many different industries coming to Texas, and the long-term success of those ventures relies in large part on having reliable, high quality construction resources available.

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing Texas that you will have to address next session and what do you see as your priorities?

Many of the priorities for the state next session will be familiar challenges that we've been addressing as recently as this last session, including public school finance, pension funding, and property tax reform. All of these carry enormous implications to the budget and the people of the state.

Another high priority of mine this past session that I will be working even harder on next session relates to over-regulation by state bureaucrats. I filed legislation the last two sessions, the latest being SB 813, which addressed frivolous regulatory actions. We have a lot of great people working to make sure everyone plays fair and does right in Texas, but every now and then some government regulators can make things hard on individuals and businesses in totally unreasonable and even unlawful ways. To protect businesses from this problem, my bill would allow a business to sue the state when an agency brings a frivolous regulatory action. Strong businesses operate on tight margins to begin with, and paying lawyers to fight state agencies if you aren't doing anything wrong just shouldn't be something Texas businesses have to worry about. We need to level the playing field. ♣



South Texas Chapter conducted a Volunteer Work Day at the Coast on Friday, October 13, bringing around two dozen volunteers to assist with the clean-up.

SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER

This past October, the South Texas Chapter was scheduled to host the annual fishing tournament in Rockport, however Harvey changed these plans. Instead of a fishing tournament, the chapter conducted a Volunteer Work Day at the Coast. Around two dozen volunteers spent Friday, October 13 assisting with the clean-up. The crew from Central Electric provided lunch for the ABC volunteers, volunteers from Samaritan's Purse and the homeowner. The reconstruction of the Coastal Bend area is going to be a long term process. Let's not forget about them.

Every other month the chapter hosts a meeting with representatives from the various public agencies to offer advice on how to improve the construction process and to have project specific issues addressed. At the November meeting it was the agencies' turn to let the contractor community know how they could improve the process. These open communication forums have resulted in a smoother plan review, permitting and inspections process, as well a better understanding of each other's views.

High school outreach efforts the last quarter of 2017 included another high school counselors' construction industry tour, participation on an industry panel for counselors, numerous career fairs, and working with a number of high schools wanting to utilize the NCCER curriculum. After the tour in October one counselor commented she learned more about the industry in one day than all of the other programs combined.

The chapter's Fall Golf tournament was held this past September at the Hyatt Hill Country resort on their three nine hole courses. This was a rather unique set up as not every team played on the same two nine hole layouts. In November over 200 shooters participated in the annual sporting clays shoot at the National

Shooting Complex, The event also featured the first annual barbeque cook-off, with 20 teams competing in the chicken, ribs and brisket categories. Members of the San Antonio Fire Department and San Antonio Police Department served as judges.

And finally, in December the construction industry came together for the annual "Construct A Kid's Christmas Gala." Over 1,000 attendees helped raise over \$50,000 and collected over 1,200 gifts benefitting the foster children in Bexar County.

TEXAS GULF COAST CHAPTER

ABC Texas Gulf Coast has experienced a whirlwind of activity since the last issue of Texas Merit Shop Journal. Sadly, Hurricane



ABC Texas Gulf Coast Chair Mark Monical, 2017 ABC National Chair Chuck Goodrich, and ABC Texas Gulf Coast President & CEO Terry McAlister at the ABC/BSC/MSTI Joint Membership Event & Luncheon in October, 2017.

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ABC Greater Houston held its annual Excellence in Construction Awards (EIC), which showcased forty-one projects, built by ABC Greater Houston members, that were rigorously judged on an array of criteria.

Harvey severely impacted the Texas Gulf Coast with multiple landfalls August 25-29 and many families are still recovering. In times like these we are often able to see not only the worst, but the best of things. We experienced neighbors helping neighbors, and our good friends at Alliance Safety Council in Baton Rouge were quick to respond with help. We are grateful for their support and for the support from many others during this difficult time.

With so much devastation, it was a double-blessing to have the Astros make it to the World Series! Staff members of ABC Texas Gulf Coast banded together in wearing team attire to cheer the Astros on, and everyone enjoyed the team spirit. It allowed so many to come together in support of the team, and with their first ever World Series Championship, they brought a ray of sunshine that dissipated the memory of the storm and gave everyone a new sense of hope and possibility!

Later in October, the ABC/BSC/MSTI Joint Membership Event & Luncheon was an event to remember.

ABC National Chair Chuck Goodrich paid our chapter a visit, personally presenting the 2017 STEP Safety Awards and delivering an impactful message on ABC's Merit Shop Philosophy. Guest Speaker Dwight Edwards, best-selling author and co-founder of "High Octane for the Mind", then delivered a motivational message encouraging attendees to live to their full potentials. It was a timely and exhilarating message, and attendees left with a spring in their step!

We all know inspiration is not effective without action, but with ABC CEO Mike Bellaman's appointment to the Task Force on Apprenticeship Expansion for all Americans, a spotlight has been shone on Workforce Development. ABC Texas Gulf Coast is excited to come alongside of this effort to reduce barriers and meet the needs of the construction industry and provide career opportunities for many Americans. From existing craft training programs to new initiatives that include veterans transitioning to civilian life, ABC is leading the way in workforce development. The latest local milestone was achieved recently as ABC Texas Gulf Coast educational affiliate Merit Shop Training, Inc. (MSTI) held its Local Craft Championship on November 2, 2017

resulting in two candidates from two different crafts being selected to compete in the National Craft Championships in Long Beach, California.

GREATER HOUSTON CHAPTER

This past October, ABC Greater Houston held its annual Excellence in Construction Awards (EIC), which showcased forty-one projects, built by ABC Greater Houston members, that were rigorously judged on an array of criteria. This event, established in 2000, recognizes outstanding projects in the commercial and industrial construction industry. Top scoring projects were showcased at the evening program, and winners were given local and national media attention including ABC Greater Houston's Build Houston Magazine. Categories included general contractor and specialty contractor projects, and the selected projects excelled in safety, quality, ingenuity, and workmanship. With twenty-three categories and two major awards, the Merit Award and the ICE Award, the selected entries are considered among the best in merit shop construction.

In November, ABC Greater Houston hosted its quarterly Membership Breakfast at Crowne Plaza. Harris County Judge Ed Emmett discussed the Astrodome, Hurricane Harvey, and taxes. We had over two hundred attendees, and featured expo tables for members to showcase their specialties. This event was an excellent networking and collaboration opportunity for members to make valuable industry and business connections.

This December, ABC hosted the Political Action Committee Christmas Party at Karbach Brewing Company. Public officials Council Member Jack Christie, Council Member Dwight Boykins, State Representative Wayne Faircloth, and State Representative Dwayne Bohac attended the party, and the funds collected from the evening went toward the PAC for future events and fundraisers.

This coming January, ABC Greater Houston plans to have its annual Inaugural Celebration to recognize incoming board members and committee chairs. In celebration of the New Year, we will discuss plans for 2018, and recognize the 2017 Members of the Year.

TEXAS COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

Currently the Texas Coastal Bend chapter is gearing up for 2018! In a few weeks, we will have our annual Board of Directors Planning Conference where we meet to discuss our strategies regarding membership, member services, fundraisers, political goals and other aspects of our chapter for 2018.

In the past few months, the chapter had several monthly luncheons and mixers. The monthly mixers are always a great opportunity for our members to network and socialize. Our most recent mixers were sponsored by Repcon for the month of September. Our October mixer was sponsored by Service Radio, and November was sponsored by Garrett Construction.

Unfortunately, a large portion of our area was affected by Hurricane Harvey in late August. Our members have been very busy trying to get all the areas put back together. It's an ongoing effort but the dedication to get everything done is incredible. Repcon held a supply drive where they collected much needed water, clothing, cleaning supplies and food. Ram Tool went out to Port Aransas the first weekend and served nearly 400 bowls of fresh, hot Jambalaya. Dawson Recycling continues to work 7 days a week in an effort to remove the piles of debris. So many members put together teams to go out and work for individuals that needed help with tree removal, minor home repairs and deliver important supplies.

Although we were faced with the destruction of Hurricane Harvey in parts of our area, we decided to continue with our plans for the 16th Annual Skeet and Trap Shoot on September 15th & 16th. The goal was to host an event that would be fun and relaxing for our members. To help them enjoy a day or two outside of the stress from the hurricane cleanup. Thank you to Mark Roach with Dealers Electrical Supply and Robert Parker with Repcon our committee chairmen, along with the Skeet Committee who worked tirelessly to organize and coordinate the details for the event all while working to keep the community

moving forward during their day jobs. We look forward to some changes for next year's event!

Thank you to everyone who supports the ABC Texas Coastal Bend Chapter as Board Members, Committee Chairs, Volunteers, event attendees and Sponsors. Your continued support helps Associated Builders and Contractors remain a strong association in support of the Merit Shop philosophy!

TEXAS MID COAST CHAPTER

The ABC Texas Mid Coast Chapter has recently directed focus to developing member safety programs, collecting ABC of Texas PAC funds, increasing member benefits, encouraging our future workforce, and developing a stronger community presence plus much more!

- STEP (Safety Training Evaluation Process) participation within the Chapter has increased for a total of 23 companies. Awards will be announced at the 35th Annual Installation of Officers and Awards Banquet to be held on Thursday, January 18, 2018.
- This year, our Chapter exceeded the ABC of Texas PAC goal thanks to the generosity of Mike & Kim Weaver and Scott & Kathy Lewis.
- On September 28, our Chapter proudly sponsored the Chamber of Commerce Transportation Conference at the Victoria College Conference & Education Center. There were numerous speakers that updated community leaders on projects and planning for the Mid Coast area.
- In September, we held the election of 2018 Board Members. We would like to congratulate the following Board Directors: Scott Lewis (Chairman) of MMR Constructors, Corbin Lauger (Vice Chairman) of Lauger Companies, Brant Jacobs (Secretary) of Weaver & Jacobs Constructors, Tom Stocker (Treasurer) of NewFirst National Bank, Jared Tomanek (Immediate Past Chairman) of K&T Construction, J.R. Hartman, Jr. of VCS Companies, Jim Johnson of American Bank, Ken Lester of Lester Contracting, Randall Ruiz of Brock Services, Steve Seekamp of Sherwin Williams, Stephen Turek of Hall Electric, Mike Weaver of Weaver & Jacobs Constructors, and Aarin Wendt of Wendt Electrical Services.

• Another NCCER Construction Site Safety Technician course started on October 3. This program will span over 5 months and will earn each student 8 NCCER safety certifications!

• The ABC Texas Mid Coast Chapter is proud to support the commercial and industrial construction industries in Bee, Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca, Refugio and Victoria Counties.



The Mid Coast Chapter was proud to present donations to Ronald McDonald House Charities and The Boys & Girls Club of Victoria.



Central Texas "Best of the Best" EIC winners, Airco: (L-R) Kennon Robbins, Cody Gaines, Jack Greeson, and Shayne Terry

ABC CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

On October 11, members of ABC Central Texas gathered at Austin's JW Marriott to celebrate and recognize their exemplary safety and project quality performance in 2017.

The evening kicked off with ABC's focus on safety and training, honoring several members who received the local and national STEP awards for 2017. Eight ABC Central Texas members were recognized as "Best of the Best" in safety: Harvey-Cleary Builders, Beckett Electrical, Flintco LLC, Lee Lewis Construction, Lasco Acoustics & Drywall, TD Industries, White Construction, and Slater Painting.

The annual Excellence in Construction awards banquet honors and recognizes ABC member companies who exemplify the highest quality of workmanship in their projects, while upholding a dedication to building projects safely, on time and on budget. This year, 12 member firms, representing 15 projects totaling over \$500,000,000 received the association's prestigious EIC Merit and Eagle Awards. Two projects received "Best of the Best" level recognition for surpassing the judging threshold with the two highest scoring projects. Those were White Construction's Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd and Airco Mechanical's Round Rock ISD Middle School No. 11.

Chuck Goodrich, ABC 2017 National Chairman, and State Rep. John Cyrier attended the chapter's Membership Breakfast on October 25. ABC Texas President Jon Fisher presented Representative Cyrier with an ABC Texas 2017 Free Enterprise Award for his great work on our industry's behalf in the 2017 Legislative Session. Chuck Goodrich spoke to chapter members about ABC National initiatives and the importance of member engagement at all levels. He also conducted the Oath of Office induction ceremony for the incoming 2018 ABC Central Texas Board of Directors.

In November, the chapter held its 4th annual OSHA Partnership Safety Rodeo, a unique event that trains workers in 5 areas of safety in both English and Spanish. This year, over 200 workers from over 18 member firms received OSHA Awareness Training certificates in Fall Protection, Injury Response, Ladder Safety, PPE/Silica, and Trenching/Excavation. The event also featured a fully catered BBQ lunch sponsored by Spectrum as well as a dozen vendor tables providing safety product information and demonstrations.

The chapter was recently awarded a Trimmer Grant to be used to replace and upgrade our presentation equipment in the chapter

training rooms, which will be of great benefit to the UTA OSHA classes, member apprenticeship classes, and the ongoing training and educational programs offered at ABC.

We will kick off 2018 with a new Executive-Level Leadership Class, "Building a Winning Team", facilitated by James Talafuse with Leadership Management Institute as well as our Construction Leadership Development Program, offered to new and up & coming leaders.

ABC SOUTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

On August 8th, the ABC Southeast Texas Chapter hosted its "23rd Annual Hurricane Party". The guest speaker was Jefferson County's Emergency Management Coordinator. He had up-to-date information and procedures for emergency situations, as well as, played out the various "what-if/worst-case scenarios", while stressing the importance of hurricane preparedness and the need to develop a plan for your family, pets, property, and employees. During this event, new 2017 members were also recognized. All those in attendance not only enjoyed great food and timely information, but everyone had fun networking with the other ABC members.

Only a few weeks later, on approximately August 30th, Southeast Texas would be drastically affected by the epic floodwaters of "Hurricane Harvey". Now known as the largest storm to hit the U.S. since 2005, Harvey dumped more than 40" of rain as it slowly moved across Southeast Texas. It would prove to be the wettest and one of the costliest storms in our history. Luckily, the ABC-Southeast Texas' Offices & Training Center in Nederland were spared from the storm with only minimal roof damage. In the days and weeks that followed, the resilience of Texans, as well as the Gulf Coast construction industry, were put to the ultimate test. In true ABC fashion, many members



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The TEXO Foundation launched the Construction Collegiate Pathway at Wilmer Hutchins High School, allowing students to graduate with an Associate's Degree and a certification in a trade of their choice.

volunteered to help with evacuations, food, clothing and shelter, and also aided customers with repairs and restorations, even in the midst of dealing with their own personal losses.

Fortunately, on October 26th, in spite of Hurricane Harvey's devastation, our Chapter was able to hold its "24th Annual Outdoor Extravaganza/Member Trade Show". This event continues to get bigger and better, and 2017 was no exception. It's commonly known as the "must attend" event of the year by everyone in the Petro-Chemical Industry. Approximately 3,000 people came out that night and purchased chances to win over 300 door prizes, 9 shotguns/rifles and 9 pistols. This year, the Chapter was especially honored and privileged to have the 2017 ABC National Chairman, Chuck Goodrich, President of Gaylor Electric, Inc. of Indiana, attend and speak at the event while on his "October Texas Tour". He expressed how much he enjoyed meeting and networking with all the members and Southeast Texans who also work in construction.

TEXO Chapter

The last quarter of 2017 has been a busy time for TEXO and its members. The Young Constructor's Council, a group of identified emerging leaders, raised over \$10,000 for their scholarship fund and 16,625 cans of food to donate to hurricane relief efforts during the annual TEXO YCC Tailgate. The third annual Construction Safety Professional's Day took place in November where the STEP awards were celebrated and members learned about the importance of practicing safety not only at work, but in every aspect of life. After three separate rainouts, the 11th Annual Softball Tournament took place in November, where companies competed against each other in a grueling double elimination series. On December 7th, the TEXO Holiday & Awards Gala celebrated the industry's achievements as well as the Distinguished Building Awards that allowed those winners to move on to the ABC Excellence In Construction Awards.

Another important highlight of the last quarter was the completion of the Bark + Build Competition, where an AIA Architect paired up with a TEXO Contractor Member to design and build a doghouse. These doghouses go on display and are auctioned off, with the proceeds benefitting the SPCA of Texas. The competition serves to foster relationships between architecture and contractor firms, raise awareness and support for SPCA of Texas' mission, and exhibit to the public the high-quality design and construction talent of the participating professional teams.

The TEXO Foundation spent this quarter aligning its mission: to educate, recruit, train and retain the next generation of construction professionals. In order to accomplish this mission, the TEXO Foundation launched its first KIDSBUILD event, dedicated to garnering interest from younger children to work in the construction industry. The Foundation also launched the Construction Collegiate Pathway at Wilmer Hutchins High School. This program allows students to graduate with an Associate's Degree and a certification in a trade of their choice. With over 200 applicants to the program, 109 students were selected and entered into the program as freshmen. The TEXO Foundation is looking forward to expanding the opportunities for students to enter the construction industry and make it easier for them to find those opportunities. The Foundation aims to become the most highly utilized career resource for construction in North Texas.

With many planning sessions underway, TEXO looks forward to 2018 and accomplishing new goals and initiatives to better serve DFW, our state, and the industry at-large. ➔

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