

Texas

May 2018

MERIT SHOP

Defending the Rights of Merit Shop Contractors

Journal

Primary Election Results

ABC Chapter
Hurricane Updates

ABC Chapter Initiatives
Across the State

Dade Phelan

State Representative and commercial broker discusses his opinion of the role the construction industry plays in our state's economy.



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Chapter Contact Information

ABC of Texas

Jon Fisher, President
P.O. Box 1891
Austin, Texas 78767-1891
ph (512)470-5756
www.abctexas.org

Central Texas Chapter

Tracey Evers, President
2600 Longhorn Blvd., Ste. 105
Austin, Texas 78758
ph (512)719-5263
www.abccentraltexas.org

Greater Houston Chapter

Russell Hamley, President
4910 Dacoma
Houston, Texas 77092
ph (713)523-6222
www.abchouston.org

Southeast Texas Chapter

Kimberly Bernard, President
2700 N. Twin City Highway
Nederland, Texas 77627
ph (409)724-2519
www.abcssetx.org

South Texas Chapter

Steven Schultz, President
814 Arion Parkway, Ste. 204
San Antonio, Texas 78216
ph (210)342-1994
www.abcsouthtexas.org

Texas Coastal Bend Chapter

Kathy Burnette, President
PO Box 2584
Corpus Christi, Texas 78403
ph (361)289-5311
www.abctcb.org

Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

Terry McAlister, President
PO Drawer 2650
Freeport, Texas 77542
ph (979)233-1616
www.abctxgulfcoast.org

Texas Mid Coast Chapter

Kristi Stevenson, President
1408 N. Ben Jordan
Victoria, Texas 77901
ph (361)572-0299
www.abctxmidcoast.org

TEXO Chapter

Meloni McDaniel, President
11101 Stemmons Freeway
Dallas, Texas 75229
ph (972)647-0697
www.texoassociation.org

Texas
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4910 Dacoma
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(713) 523-6222 www.abctexas.org

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LETTER from the Chairman



WESTCOTT

I'm pleased to report that the ABC of Texas Board of Directors has met several times this year, working hard towards accomplishing the many goals outlined in our 2018 Strategic Plan. We owe our Texas chapters a huge thanks for supporting these hard working representatives in helping to fulfill our mission, our plan and our legislative priorities for the coming session.

As a reminder, the goals outlined in our Strategic Plan include:

- Expanding relationships with our elected officials
- Increasing participation of the younger generation on the Board, in our chapters, and in furthering our mission
- Increasing PAC funds raised and distributed
- Establishment of a committee to liaison with ABC National to best roll out Build Texas Proud
- Reducing the fragmentation of industry messaging to Legislators

We are also working diligently to prioritize our initial legislative priorities. By next issue of Texas Merit Shop Journal, we will have met and adopted our Legislative Priorities, which will most likely include taking another run at state government neutrality and trying to impact the current practice of governmental entities deducting union dues. We are also focused on continued interactions amongst our construction industry association groups to make sure that we all share one voice.

I'd like to end by thanking our ABC of Texas members for your longtime and generous support of the ABC PAC. By supporting your local chapter PAC, you are also supporting your State PAC, which allows us to further our merit shop mission.

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

We just finished some rather contentious Primary battles—in both parties! However, there are more to come with the Primary Runoffs on May 22. Remember, early voting for runoffs begins May 14 and runs through May 18. You are eligible to vote in the respective party's runoff if you voted in that party's primary or did not vote in either party's primary!

Our outside lobbyist, Mike Toomey, has prepared a report on some key primary races and runoffs that appears later in this issue.

By the time you get this issue, your State Board of Directors will have set our initial list of Legislative Priorities for 2019. That was done on April 11.


As I approach retirement, I cannot help but click off things I am doing for the last time. For example, in November, I participated in my last Strategic Planning meeting. And now, I've participated in my last formal setting of Legislative Priorities.

In previous conversations with my colleague Mike Chatron of AGC-TBB, he would ask me why I was thinking about retiring, stating that he wasn't! Imagine my surprise when he up and retired this year. I called him and expressed my anger and resentment (in a friendly way) that he beat me to the punch. Although he is succeeded by the very capable Corbin Van Arsdale, I will miss the interactions with Mike.

Your State Chair, Ben Westcott, and the State Chair Elect, GPaul Holliman, are driving the Executive Committee and the rest of the Board to really focus on our Strategic Plan. I told Ben he may end up being unpopular with the rest of the Board if he makes them work too hard! All of them have real jobs!

Before I wrap up this President's letter, I do not want to leave the wrong impression about my retirement. I have really enjoyed the people I get to work with at ABC—most of the time! Seriously, the Board members the Chapters send to me are very focused and involved...and I like it that way. The worst thing to hear when you present something to a Board is crickets. The more feedback I get, the better I can do my job. We also have a great group of Chapter Presidents who are very supportive of the mission of ABC of Texas. I know I will miss the people. But, life is short and I want to be free to travel and do what I want to do (subject to my wife's direction).

But, don't get too excited. Unless the Board decides otherwise, I will be in this position another 14+ months.



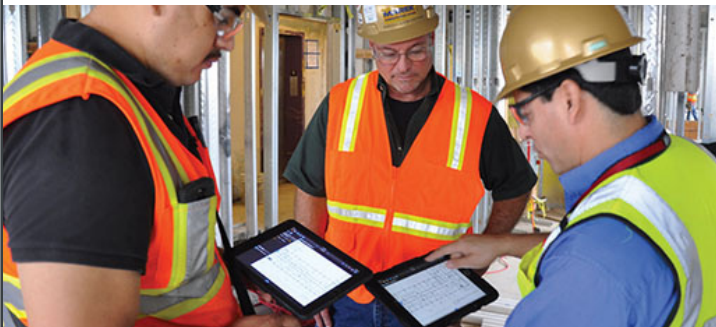
Jon Fisher
ABC of Texas
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2018 Primary Election Results

BY MIKE TOOMEY, ABC OF TEXAS

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This year's March primary saw vast amounts of cash dumped into races from socially conservative Republican groups, (Empower Texans, New Leadership PAC, and Texas Right to Life contributed over \$5 million this cycle), as well as establishment Republican groups (Texas House Leadership Fund PAC, Associated Republicans of Texas PAC, and Texas Association of Realtors PAC contributed over \$3 million this cycle). There are also several seats headed to runoffs pitting socially conservative Republican candidates against establishment Republican candidates.

Primary runoffs are scheduled for May 22nd, 2018. The results of the runoffs will give the winning Republican side momentum heading into the race to replace retiring Speaker Joe Straus (R – San Antonio) as leader of the Texas House.

On the next page is a breakdown of results of closely watched races, including upcoming runoffs.

2018 Primary Election Results

TEXO CHAPTER (DFW)

SD-8: In one of the most expensive primaries (combined nearly \$10 million was spent), sitting Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton's wife, Angela Paxton (McKinney), won a tough primary over largely self-funded businessman, Phillip Huffines (Plano), brother of Sen. Don Huffines (R-Dallas).

SD-30: Incumbent Sen. Craig Estes (R-Wichita Falls), an establishment Republican, lost to Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and Empower Texans endorsed candidate—sitting State Rep. Pat Fallon (R-Prosper) who largely self-funded his campaign.

SD-2: In a Senate race that at times turned personal, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and Empower Texans backed incumbent Sen. Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) warded off a challenge by sitting State Rep. Cindy Burkett (R-Sunnyvale).

HD-99: Incumbent Rep. Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth) easily defeated Empower Texans backed challenger Bo French (Fort Worth) in one of the grittiest campaigns this primary cycle.

HD-114: Incumbent Rep. Jason Villalba (R-Dallas) was ousted by Empower Texans backed Lisa Luby Ryan (Dallas), with Ryan getting 53% of the vote.

HD-106: OPEN SEAT—Empower Texans and U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz endorsed Jared Patterson (Frisco) who defeated Associated Republicans of Texas backed Clint Bedsole (Frisco) in what is now Sen. Fallon's old district.

RUNOFF IN TEXO CHAPTER:

HD-107 GOP: Former US Navy fighter pilot Joe Ruzicka (Dallas) will face Empower Texans backed candidate Deanna Maria Metzger (Mesquite). The winner of that runoff will face incumbent Rep. Victoria Neave (D-Dallas) this fall. It will be interesting to see what happens. HD-107 is one of Texas' few swing districts with an Optimal Republican Voting Strength (ORVS) score of 50.9%, which makes it dead even.

GREATER HOUSTON CHAPTER (Houston)

SD-6: State Sen. Sylvia Garcia (D-Houston) is headed for D.C. having won the democratic primary for the heavily Democratic district, CD-29. Current State Rep. Ana Hernandez (D-Houston) and current State Rep. Carol Alvarado (D-Houston) have announced their runs for the soon to be vacant seat in a special election likely to happen later this year.

HD-18 Incumbent and establishment candidate Rep. Ernest Bailes (R-Shepherd) defeated Empower Texans backed Emily Kebodeaux Cook (Liberty).

HD-23: Incumbent Rep. Wayne Faircloth (R-Galveston) lost to Empower Texans and Governor Abbott endorsed candidate Mayes Middleton (Wallisville).

HD-134: Rep. Sarah Davis (R-West University Place) defeated Empower Texans and Governor Abbott endorsed challenger Susanna Dokupil (Houston). In a district with an ORVS of 53.3%, Davis faces a democratic challenger in the fall from Allison Sawyer (Houston), the owner of an oil and gas safety company.

HD-126: OPEN SEAT— Sam Harless (Spring), husband of former state Rep. Patricia Harless, avoided a run off, beating challenges from attorney Kevin Fulton (Houston) and Gail Stanart (Houston)—wife of current Harris County Clerk Stan Stanart.

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER (Austin)

HD-47: Incumbent Rep. Paul Workman (R-Austin), a big ABC supporter, secured a majority of votes despite a challenge from veteran and Empower Texans endorsed candidate Jay Wiley (Austin).

RUNOFF IN CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER:

HD-54 GOP: Incumbent Rep. Scott Cospers (R-Killeen), another big ABC supporter, will face veterinarian Brad Buckley (Killeen) in May.

SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER (San Antonio)

HD-122: Rep. Lyle Larson (R-San Antonio), facing criticism from Governor Abbott, fended off Empower Texans backed candidate Chris Fails (Hollywood Park) with 59% of the vote.

RUNOFF IN SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER:

HD-121 GOP: Establishment candidate and Speaker Straus supported Steve Allison (San Antonio) will face Empower Texans endorsed candidate Matt Beebe (San Antonio) to replace the seat vacated by retiring Speaker Joe Straus.

MID COAST CHAPTER (Victoria) & COASTAL BEND CHAPTER (Corpus Christi)

CONGRESSIONAL RUNOFF IN ABC-TEXAS MID-COAST CHAPTER & ABC-TEXAS COASTAL BEND CHAPTER:

CD-27: OPEN SEAT: Former Texas Water Development Board Chairman, Bech Bruun (Corpus Christi) will face State Republican Executive Committee member, Michael Cloud (Victoria) in May.

Thank you to all the ABC members who support the State ABC PAC. 🗳️



FEATURE

Hurricane Updates

BY LAUREN HARRELL

GREATER HOUSTON CHAPTER

On August 25, 2017, Hurricane Harvey hit Houston and surrounding areas with a force so powerful, millions of people were forced to evacuate. We watched as Houstonians gathered to help rescue, relieve, and restore fellow citizens impacted by this disaster. We were heartbroken when we saw the people who lost their lives, homes, and businesses due to the high flood waters in our city. But as roads began to clear, there were still so many victims who needed help, and will need assistance for months to come. Many of our fellow citizens along the Texas Gulf Coast felt the devastating effects of Hurricane Harvey, and we are prepared to help our neighbors, friends, co-workers, and fellow Houstonians.

While the ABC and CMEF offices did not suffer any damage, we saw the impact the storm had on our city, and launched a "Members Helping Members" Campaign. We created an interactive tool to help identify members in need and matched them with other members who could provide support or assistance. Updated multiple times daily, the map allowed members to list their specific needs for materials, supplies or volunteer labor.

As we continue to help each other overcome the disaster of Harvey, we will rebuild our city better and stronger. We are committed to helping our city by being a resource to our members who need help now and in the months ahead. Together, we are Houston Strong.

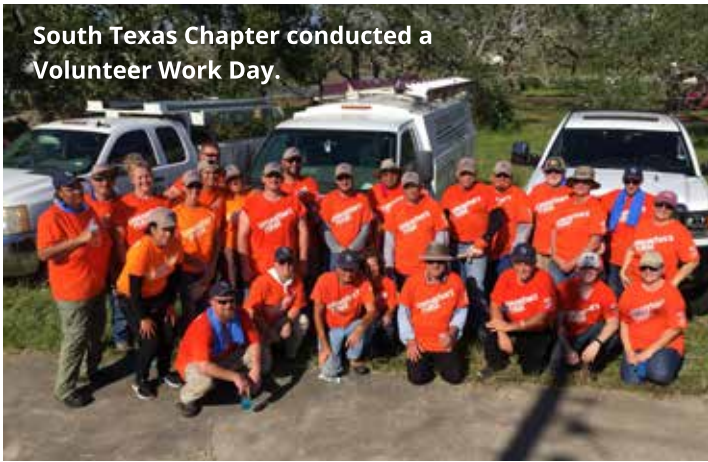
TEXAS GULF COAST CHAPTER

A week after Hurricane Harvey made landfall, roughly two-hundred square miles of Brazoria County became inundated with water from the Brazos River impacting over eight thousand homes. At ABC Texas Gulf Coast Chapter, every employee was impacted in some way. Some were flooded, some housed friends and family who were displaced, and some worked tirelessly to help others.

Ron Speir, of ABC Texas Gulf Coast, who actively participated in rescues said, "It was amazing to see how many responded to the needs of the residents in Brazoria County. Along with first responders we had neighbors, co-workers, employers, church groups, and total strangers from around the state and country.



A flooded neighborhood in Richmond, TX in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey



They all came to the aid of those in need. No one asked or cared if you were rich or poor, liberal or conservative, or what faith you believed in...they just arrived, ready and willing to help others. They came with boats, trucks, tools and truly made a difference in the lives of those devastated by the storm."

In the Freeport area, local industry supported recovery efforts by forming employee work crews, cleaning kits and even supplying travel trailers to be used as temporary lodging for those in need.

As we became bombarded by non-stop media coverage, we saw countless water rescues of families, pets, and livestock. It was a surreal experience. But in the midst of vast destruction, many people opened their homes to provide meals and shelter for those displaced and for the crews who came to help. Teams formed, organized by employers and churches, began to help people cleanout their homes and start the rebuilding process.

While it was incredible to see the outpouring of support for those most affected by the storm, let us not forget them now as they continue to transition through the very long processes of rescue, recovery, and rebuild. Even with all the acts of kindness, generosity and support, there are still hundreds of families displaced and living through the process of rebuilding their lives.

It is our hope that you will continue to keep those affected in your thoughts and prayers, and continue to provide support.

SOUTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

In the days and weeks after Hurricane Harvey's late August landfall, the resilience of Texans, as well as the Gulf Coast construction industry, were put to the ultimate test. The largest storm to hit the United States since 2005, Harvey slammed into Rockport, as a Category 4 hurricane, and then dumped more than forty inches of rain as it slowly moved across Southeast Texas. It would prove to be the strongest and one of the costliest storms in our history, displacing more than thirty thousand people and prompting Governor Greg Abbott to create the Governor's Commission Rebuild Texas program in order to address the billions of dollars in damages.

ABC offices from Corpus Christi to Nederland were impacted at varying degrees, as well as hundreds of member companies. Fortunately, the ABC Southeast Texas office was spared from the storm. In true ABC fashion, many members volunteered to help with evacuations, food, clothing, and shelter, and aided customers with repairs and restorations, even in the midst of dealing with their own personal losses.

TEXAS COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

A large portion of the Coastal Bend area was affected by Hurricane Harvey in late August. Fortunately, Corpus Christi was spared, but the areas from north Aransas Pass through Rockport and Woodsboro and up to Houston, suffered heavy damage. Members have been very busy trying to get all the areas back together. It's an ongoing effort but the dedication to get everything done is incredible.

Repcon, Inc. held a supply drive immediately following the hurricane where they collected much needed water, clothing, cleaning supplies, and food. Ram Tool went out to Port Aransas the first weekend after the hurricane and served nearly four hundred bowls of fresh, hot jambalaya which was very much appreciated by all those working to recover any salvageable items from their properties and the volunteers that worked tirelessly to assist with cleaning up.

Dawson Recycling continues to work seven days a week in an effort to remove the piles of debris from the area homes and businesses. So many members put teams together to go out and work for individuals who needed help with tree removal, minor home repairs, and deliver important supplies.

A recent drive through the Aransas Pass, Rockport, and Woodsboro areas was heartbreaking as there is still so much damage left. Each of the affected areas are slowly coming back together as the communities continue their effort to reorganize and put the pieces back together. There are many businesses open and ready to serve the visitors as the peak season for tourism is upon us.

TEXO CHAPTER

TEXO collected \$16,625 in donations at the TEXO YCC Tailgate for hurricane efforts as well as over 1,200 cans of food at the November Young Constructor's Council meeting.

SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER

This past October, the South Texas Chapter was scheduled to host its annual fishing tournament in Rockport, however, Harvey changed those plans. Instead of a fishing tournament, the chapter conducted a Volunteer Work Day. 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 Samarian's Purse and the homeowner. The reconstruction of the Coastal Bend area is going to be a long-term process. ➡

ONE-ON-ONE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Dade Phelan

Representative Dade Phelan was born and raised in Beaumont, Texas. He is a commercial real estate developer and licensed broker in Southeast Texas. His fourth generation firm owns and manages retail, industrial and office property in Texas and Arkansas. He received his bachelor's degree in Government and Business from The University of Texas at Austin.

Phelan serves as Vice-Chair of the Natural Resources Committee as well as on the Calendars Committee, Appropriations Committee, Appropriations Sub-Committee on Articles VI, VII & VIII and on the Select Committee on Ports, Innovation and Infrastructure. Capitol Inside Magazine named Representative Phelan one of the most outstanding freshmen after his first session and in 2017 honored him again as the Most Valuable Sophomore member of the Legislature. In 2018 Phelan was honored by the Boys and Girls Club of Texas as their Legislative Champion, Legislator of the Year for the Texas Apartment Association and a Most Valuable Legislator for the Texas Association of Community Schools.

Representative Phelan is one of three house members appointed to the State Water Infrastructure Fund for Texas Advisory Committee. The purpose of the panel is to review the overall operation, function and structure of the state water fund and to assist the Texas Water Development Board in achieving its goal of providing \$27 billion in state water plan projects over the next 50 years.

American Council of Young Political Leaders selected Representative Phelan as one of seven United States foreign delegates. In August 2016 he traveled to Asia for a diplomatic exchange with China and Taiwan's next generation of political leaders.

Mr. Phelan is two time Governor appointee to and former president of the Lower Neches Valley Authority. He recently served as a board member to Southeast Texas CASA, Golden Triangle Coastal Conservation Association, The Jefferson Theater, St. Anne Catholic Church and as board secretary of Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas. His wife, Kim, is a solo practitioner attorney and together they have four boys, Ford, Mack, Hank and Luke.

Please describe your professional background.

I am a commercial broker and partner at Phelan Investments, a fourth generation real estate development firm. We build, own and manage retail, industrial and office property in Texas and Arkansas. In a previous life I was a legislative staff member to State Representative Mark Stiles, U.S. House Majority Leader Dick Armey and State Senator Tommy Williams. I received my bachelor's degree in Government and Business from The University of Texas at Austin.

How do you believe the Legislature did last session in addressing our state's needs?

Despite severe budget constraints, the 85th Legislature addressed the needs of an ever-growing Texas while also being fiscally responsible. Just to name a handful of accomplishments - we passed significant mental health and Child Protective Services reforms, avoided draconian cuts to higher education,

continued border security funding and again provided additional resources to assist our retired teachers. The overall budget total was held below population growth and inflation for the second straight session.

What were your personal priorities last session and how did they fare?

My first priority was ensuring Senate Bill 1 did not eliminate the numerous higher education victories of the 84th Session. I represent four higher education institutions in Southeast Texas - Lamar University, Lamar State College-Orange, Lamar State College-Port Arthur and Lamar Institute of Technology. I consider them the lifeblood of our community. They are preparing the next generation of professionals and skilled laborers for the Texas workforce - engineers, draftsmen, welders, HVAC technicians, process operators, health care, maritime personnel, etc. In 2015, we not only funded numerous vocational training programs but also passed a comprehensive tuition revenue bill to provide the necessary infrastructure improvements. The cuts proposed by several versions of the Appropriations Act would have eliminated many of these curriculums. In my district alone several state-of-the-art buildings, built by ABC members, would be sitting empty. Due to tremendous efforts by many, the final version of Senate Bill 1 did not contain the severe reductions. With vocational trades being essential to our economy and the construction industry, the Legislature must continue to invest in higher education.

You have a very good relationship with members of the Southeast Texas Chapter of ABC. What is your opinion of the role the construction industry plays in our state's economy?

The construction industry, especially in Southeast Texas, is absolutely vital to both the state and U.S. economy. The University of Texas, has a slogan "What starts here changes the world" but I like to say "What starts in Southeast Texas fuels the world." Our industrial/petrochemical complex and seaports are not just national leaders but global leaders. With over \$30 billion in the local pipeline, they are preparing for massive expansion. None of this economic growth would be possible without our local construction firms. Southeast Texas Chapter of ABC members can work on the largest refinery in North America one day and build a neighborhood elementary the next - all with local talent.

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

Writing a budget for the world's 10th largest economy is always a challenge but the upcoming biennium's House Bill 1 might be the most difficult in the last decade. We have considerable health care and public education funding shortfalls that would be problematic enough without the added widespread devastation from Hurricane Harvey. Voters have been very clear in expecting property tax reductions and school finance reform as well. Meanwhile thousands of new Texans arrive here every day and they do not bring asphalt, teachers, water, nurses, bridges, state troopers, etc. with them. If Texas wants to continue to be the "State of Opportunity", we must support its growth. It all adds up for an interesting debate beginning January 8th, 2019. 📍



The Central Texas chapter launched its Emerging Leaders Program, an active group of future leaders that will engage with the chapter and provide networking, professional, and personal development opportunities to its members.

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

2018 is off to a great start at the Central Texas chapter! The chapter started the year with a new member breakfast and orientation. Over fifteen new members attended the session to learn about ABC and the many paths to engagement within the various committees and initiatives.

On February 20, ABC Central Texas partnered with the Austin chapter of Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA) to host ABC's Chief Economist Anirban Basu at the University of Texas Club for his lively Economic Forecast presentation and breakfast. Over one-hundred members were in attendance.

On February 21, ABC Central Texas partnered with AGC Austin to host a fundraiser for State Representatives Paul Workman and John Cyrier at the Headliners Club.

The chapter also launched its Emerging Leaders Program, something that's been in the works for the past several months. Co-chaired by Trevor Lundgren from DPR and Damani Alexcee from Heartland Acoustics, this active group of future leaders will engage with the chapter and provide networking, professional, and personal development opportunities to its members. They recently hosted a networking event and will be meeting on a regular basis to set strategic goals.

Additionally, the chapter has formed an Industry Speakers Bureau, made up of industry professionals from all walks of life to speak to the high school students being trained at the chapter's NCCER-accredited high schools. The group will focus on the various career opportunities to be found in the industry and tell their own individual stories of how they got to where they are today in their profession.

Last year, the chapter formed a partnership with Skillpoint Alliance, a nonprofit organization in Austin that provides skills training to individuals from historically underserved areas and chapter HVAC/mechanical members to strengthen the connection between the students and employers. This year, Skillpoint will begin conducting the Plumbing/Pipefitting class at an ABC member location, and ABC members will have the opportunity to interview the incoming students and offer part time employment as part of the training. We are excited about this partnership and the progress it's made over the last six months and look forward to expanding this model into other trades and general contractors.

The chapter is gearing up for its annual Chili BBQ Cook-Off, a fun event that helps to support the chapter's OSHA Partnership activities. The chapter's golf tournament will be held on May 16 at the Lion's Municipal Golf Course, one of Austin's iconic golf venues.

SOUTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

On March 23, the Southeast Texas Chapter held its Spring Shutdown Golf Tournament at Bayou Din. The tournament sold out in only twenty-four hours! A total of thirty-seven teams, nine cooks, and eighteen hole sponsors were present. It was a beautiful day to play golf and network with all attendees. Prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd, 5th, and 10th places.

The Spring Training Semester started on Monday, March 26. The training center has over three-hundred students enrolled in various NCCER crafts which include welding, pipefitting, scaffolding, instrumentation, electrical, industrial carpentry, construction site safety, and Core. Lamar State College-Port Arthur has also partnered with our training center to offer welding and carpentry programs during the day. ABC-SETX also has over five-hundred local high school students currently enrolled in its School-to-Work Program.



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South Texas Chapter



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William Fuller, Craft Development Manager at Construction & Maintenance Education Foundation (CMEF), was awarded Craft Instructor of the Year by ABC National.

In April, ABC-SETX will once again be hosting the DTB Education Foundation's Annual Crawfish Boil Fundraiser to raise funds for various scholarships throughout Southeast Texas. Over the past five years the Foundation has awarded approximately \$286,000 in scholarships to qualified young men and women who are interested in pursuing a career in the construction industry.

GREATER HOUSTON CHAPTER

Spring is here, and the winter months have come to a close for the ABC Greater Houston Chapter and its educational affiliate, Construction & Maintenance Education Foundation (CMEF).

This past October, ABC hosted their annual Excellence in Construction Awards, which recognized projects built by ABC Houston members. Additionally, ABC held its Fall Clay Shoot, quarterly membership breakfasts, Texas Hold 'Em Tournament, and Spring Golf Tournament.

In December, the Political Action Committee (PAC) had its annual Christmas Party and raised over \$21,000 for the PAC. Also in December, CMEF was awarded \$30,000 from the Society for Maintenance and Reliability Professionals. The funds will be used towards crane training and educating craft professionals in the Houston area.

In March, ABC/CMEF sponsored four students to attend the ABC National Convention in Long Beach, California. Each of the students who participated received CMEF training at either a CMEF sponsored college campus or at the CMEF training facility in La Porte, Texas.

Additionally, William Fuller, Craft Development Manager at CMEF, was awarded Craft Instructor of the Year by ABC National. Fuller

was selected from among five finalists as the instructor who espouses the merit shop ideals through effort and talent in his position.

TEXAS GULF COAST CHAPTER

The New Year did truly seem like a new beginning. And for many who live and work along the Texas Gulf Coast, it was a new beginning for lives forever changed after Hurricane Harvey. As local businesses and residents continued to navigate through the long recovery process, the Gulf Coast Chapter moved forward to advance other important agendas with undiluted focus and purpose.

In the aftermath of a disaster, the importance of maintaining a strong governmental leadership becomes even more evident. With that in mind, ABC members converged to hear Senator Joan Huffman speak to a near-capacity crowd at the ABC/ACIT Joint Membership Event and Luncheon in February, giving an update on the many important issues she and fellow legislators are working to address. Later that month, ABC Staff



Buck Blevins, Chair of the ABC Texas Gulf Coast Government Affairs Committee, and State Representative Dennis Bonnen.



The Mid Coast Chapter is partnering with nine local independent school districts who will provide transportation for their students to attend the pre-apprenticeship classes at the Academy in Victoria.

and Buck Blevins, Chair of the ABC Texas Gulf Coast Government Affairs Committee, attended a local political fundraiser that presented State Representative Dennis Bonnen with an ABC of Texas PAC check in support of his campaign.

Then, in an effort to get out in front of the #MeToo movement, Chapter Attorney Mark Jodon of Littler Mendelson conducted a timely Human Resources training session to address the topic of sexual harassment in the workplace. The training session enjoyed a record attendance of over one hundred representatives from the local industry and contractors who enrolled in the program in an effort to address this issue in a proactive manner.

In March, chapter staff attend the ABC National Convention and Craft Championships in Long Beach, California. Two contestants were sponsored to compete in the millwright and electrician categories. While both did very well, millwright competitor

Jesus Longoria IV of RPM Services earned a Bronze Medal. This week-long event was filled with the opportunity to connect, collaborate, inspire, and compete in an effort to bring excellence in performance to each pillar of ABC's core values.

Now, six months after the storm, Hurricane Harvey is beginning to feel like a memory. Those affected will always remember the first responders, the neighbors, co-workers, employers, church groups, and total strangers that came to the aid of those in need. And while there is still much work to be done, so much has been accomplished already.

Lives may have been forever changed, but like the structures and institutions we have built and repaired, we have come out stronger and better.

TEXAS MID COAST CHAPTER

The ABC Texas Mid Coast Chapter is developing the Mid Coast Construction Academy (MCA) for electrical and plumbing craft training with expectations to be opening fall 2018.

The mission is to promote and educate students and unemployed individuals about the construction industry and develop skilled labor through pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships. The attained skills will promote local and regional job growth that pay wages that are at least equal to the prevailing wage for the applicable occupation in the local labor market area.

The Pre-Apprenticeship program is for 11th and 12th grade high school students. Currently, the chapter is partnering with nine local independent school districts who will provide transportation for their students to attend the pre-apprenticeship classes at the Academy in Victoria. From the nine school districts that have



Mid Coast chapter's pre-apprenticeship classes.



The TEXO Foundation Student Competition held on February 19, featured 12 schools from the ASC Region 5 with twenty-five teams competing in Heavy Civil, Commercial, and Design-Build/International Design-Build.

partnered with the Mid Coast Construction Academy (Calhoun, Cuero, Ganado, Goliad, Industrial, Refugio, Yoakum, Yorktown, and Victoria), fifty-four high school students will be enrolled as soon as the application process has been completed.

These students will concurrently earn Career & Technology Education (CTE) credits with their local high school as well as NCCER Training Credentials and Certifications. Upon high school graduation, they will have direct entry into the adult apprenticeship program upon completion of the application process. The chapter is also exploring possibilities of partnership with a local community college to offer dual credit CE hours while students are enrolled in the program.

Additionally, the Apprenticeship program at the Mid Coast Construction Academy will offer Department of Labor-approved electrical and plumbing apprenticeship programs. Local employers, many of which are chapter members, will partner with the MCA to provide on-the-job training for students while they work to earn a certificate of completion from the Bureau of Apprenticeship & Training, as well as from NCCER. Upon completion of the program, apprenticeship students will be eligible to sit for the journeyman level exam for their prospective craft.

With the MCA launching the first regional program of its kind, the surrounding communities and school districts have shown lots of support and interest. In fact, one of the partner ISDs, Cuero Independent School District, accompanied ABC staff with five prospective students to the Skills USA competition hosted by the Craft Training Center in Corpus Christi on April 6 to get an idea of what a similar program looks like.

The MCA is excited to boast small classes with hands-on training, NCCER accredited courses and certified instructors with journeyman level experience, and job placement assistance.

TEXO CHAPTER

2018 began with a series of strategic planning sessions for TEXO and its members. The Board of Directors met for their yearly planning meeting with major outcomes that included new governmental affairs fundraising ideas, a shifted direction and focus for the Build

Texas Proud campaign, the future of professional development offerings, and general improvements to TEXO processes and procedures.

This quarter highlighted the introduction of a new monthly networking series, Colleagues + Cocktails. With an emphasis on networking to build relationships and foster business within the construction industry, the event series travels to various locations in the Dallas and Fort Worth areas. Each month has proved to be successful with increasing interest and popularity among members and non-members.

The 2018 TEXO Foundation Student Competition took place on February 19. The competition featured 12 schools from the ASC Region 5 with twenty-five teams competing in Heavy Civil, Commercial, and Design-Build/International Design-Build. Students competed using member companies' construction projects to show their skill and interest in careers in construction. In addition to the competition, the event featured a networking lounge where members had the opportunity to meet the interested students and receive resumes from potential future employees.

A solid foundation has been laid for many new initiatives as well as continuing and completing current ones. With the launch of the 2018 Challenge Cup Competition, more opportunities will be available to members for networking, team building and unifying the construction industry. The TEXO staff and its members look forward to the continuing evolution of the company and its services.

SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER

Filling the pipeline from high school to a career in construction has been the focus over the last few months at the South Texas Chapter. As a result of House Bill 5 a few years ago, the interest in CTE programs has skyrocketed. ABC members have joined with the chapter in participating in area career fairs and providing guest speakers. In addition to the School Counselors Construction Industry Tour, the chapter received requests to conduct tours for high school students starting in May. One new program, a modified boot camp, will be conducted over a four-day period in

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Texas Coastal Bend 2017 Chairman, Mike Garza, Chapter President, Kathy Burnette and ABC National Vice Chairman, Tony Rader.

June. This is open to graduating seniors who have been enrolled in construction-related classes, have obtained their OSHA 10-Hour training, and are interested in getting a job. The first day will provide an overview of the construction process, the second day will be a resume review followed by a day of interview tips and practices. The final day will be face-to-face interviews for potential full-time employment in the industry. After discussing with four high schools, the instructors said many of the students already have some construction experience, whether working summers with family members or as interns for the school maintenance departments. The chapter will also be conducting its first Boy Scout Merit Badge Academy in May.

2018 events are starting strong. The annual Casino Mixer was held in February, Chili Cook-off in March, Top Golf Mixer and Wine Festival in April, and the Spring Golf Tournament in May at the TPC course at the JW Marriott.

The chapter's bi-monthly Social Hour attendance has increased as a result of the Progressive Member Bucks program which is now up to \$1,000! To be eligible to win you must attend at least one committee meeting and be present for the drawing at the Social Hour. Needless to say, the board member who missed the March Social Hour won't miss the one in May.

On the Advocacy front, things have taken a decidedly left turn in San Antonio with the city council talking about passing a Labor Peace Agreement, mandatory paid sick leave, \$15 minimum wage, and a Responsible Bidders Ordinance. Also, a number of job sites have been targeted. As a result, the chapter held a You Are the Target Seminar in April which sold out in days, with another to be held in May. Remember – Get Into Politics Or Get Out of Business!

TEXAS COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

The Texas Coastal Bend Chapter is off to a busy start for 2018! The chapter started the year by welcoming ABC National Vice Chairman Tony Rader to Corpus Christi. Tony installed the 2018 Chapter Board of Directors and addressed the audience during the January General Membership Luncheon. Tony's message rang strong throughout his presentation. ABC members must, "Get

into politics or get out of business," and become active within the organization. Tony emphasized the importance of having ABC members involved facing the current 2018 political climate.

In February, the programs committee, chaired by Carla Moore with Prosperity Bank invited District 27 Congressional Candidates to the February Luncheon to have an opportunity for members to meet each of them. The goal was to assist members in better understanding the goals of each candidate for district if elected and allow them to make an educated decision when voting in the primaries.

The chapter also held two mixers this year. The First Wednesday Mixers are a great way for members to meet and introduce themselves to other ABC members in the area. The goal is to give members an opportunity to network and find new business partners and clients to help them increase their business. The chapter can't thank members enough for their support in making monthly mixers possible.

Also in April, the Craft Training Center of the Coastal Bend hosted the annual Skills USA State Championships for the fifth year in a row. The CTC hosted the welding, electrical, and plumbing competitions with over six-hundred student competitors. In attendance were a number of exhibitors, hands-on activities, seminars and several company BBQ teams that cooked for the competitors, guests, and volunteers.

The Texas Coastal Bend Chapter has also started plans to get their 30th Annual Golf Classic underway. The membership is looking forward to another successful and fun event! 🇺🇸



Employees with Ram Tool, Texas Coastal Bend members, preparing jambalaya to be served in Port Aransas in the wake of Hurricane Harvey



**LEGISLATIVE
WEEK 2018**



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Using our collective voice to send one powerful message to Congress about ABC's impact, from Main Street to the nation's capital.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION SUMMIT
Monday, June 25

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS SYMPOSIUM
Tuesday, June 26

FREE ENTERPRISE ALLIANCE RECEPTION
Tuesday, June 26

LEGISLATIVE DAY
Wednesday, June 27

LEGAL CONFERENCE
Thursday, June 28

Each year, ABC members come together to send one powerful message to Congress. ABC members educate lawmakers about the issues that affect their businesses and showcase the opportunity and diversity that ABC members contribute to our industry and the economy, from Main Street to the nation's capital.

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