

Texas

September 2017

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Journal

Construction
Industry Gains in the
85th Texas Legislative

Build Texas Proud
Campaign

ABC Chapter Initiatives
Around the State

J.M. Lozano

Texas State Representative discusses his personal priorities, higher education, and why he thinks working with ABC is so important.



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Texas
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Although we did not get everything we asked for, the 85th Texas Legislature was productive for ABC of Texas and the entire construction industry.

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LETTER from the Chairman



WESTCOTT

It's hard to believe that I attended my first ABC commercial committee meeting in the summer of 1998 and that I now have the opportunity to serve this great organization as its State Chairman nearly 20 years later. Mark Roach and Wes Johnson, both of whom have ably led the group for the past four years, have agreed to remain active and assist me. I will also be substantially supported and directed by ABC of Texas, strong leadership group, President - Jon Fisher, Chair-Elect - GPaul Holliman, Treasurer - Craig Messer, Secretary - David Smith, the board of directors, and the Chapter Presidents.

ABC of Texas' leadership philosophy is that all construction industry business should be accomplished using a free enterprise and merit shop platform. During the next year, ABC of Texas will focus on its responsibility to further this philosophy by educating voters on candidates which also support these values. Further, ABC of Texas will support, through monetary contributions and individual efforts, those candidates and other organizations which support these free enterprise beliefs.

There is a lot to keep up with as the Trump Administration attempts to roll back and in some cases repeal and replace many Obama - era policies. At the same time, our State Legislature is currently slogging through a special session. The topics to be covered include the continuation of the Texas Medical Board and other State Agencies and then:

- Preventing local governments from changing rules midway through construction projects
- Preventing cities from regulating what property owners do with tress on private land
- Bathroom legislation
- Teacher pay increase of \$1,000
- School finance reform commission
- Property tax reform
- Caps on state and local spending
- Speeding up local government permitting process

The ABC of Texas leadership will also be formulating legislative priorities for the next legislative session. This task is quite fluid and there is no shortage of topics requiring attention. Lien law reform, proper classification of employees, responsibility for design defects, right of repair, neutrality in state government contracting, and state breach of contract remedies are only a few of the many concerns which may be selected by the leadership group as priorities for the 2019 legislative year.

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

Later in the issue, I reflect on our successes (and failures) in the recently completed Regular Session of the 85th Texas Legislature.

At the July meeting, following a discussion of who helped ABC of Texas last session, the Board selected the following legislators for awards from ABC of Texas:

- Rep. John Kuempel
- Senator Craig Estes
- Rep. Joe Deshotel
- Senator Juan Hinojosa
- Rep. René Oliveira
- Speaker Joe Straus
- Senator Bryan Hughes
- Rep. John Cyrier
- Rep. Paul Workman
- Senator Brandon Creighton
- Rep. Todd Hunter
- Rep. J.M. Lozano

Each of these Legislators went above and beyond in serving the interests of Free Enterprise and the Merit Shop Philosophy, the construction industry, or the State of Texas. We should have all the awards in by the end of the month and will be contacting chapters to arrange for presentations.

Of course, the Board also elected new officers for 2017-2019, but your new Chair covered that in his letter.

We've got a Strategic Planning Meeting scheduled for November 1. Chapters are encouraged to bring one or two up-and-coming leaders to participate. We do that to keep our focus on the future and to be responsive to our overall membership.

This issue goes to the editors a week before the Special Session ends. If I have anything to report, I will do it by VoterVOICE.

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



Construction Industry Gains in the 85th Texas Legislature

BY JON FISHER, ABC OF TEXAS

It is tempting to focus on losses when one looks back on any Legislature. No group ever gets everything it wants, especially when it has an ambitious list of goals.

None of our three highest priorities passed. But, as you will see later in this article, I count one as a victory because of what was accomplished.

Our Neutrality in State Government Contracting bill fell victim to last minute petty fighting by a member of the House Calendars Committee who wanted our Senate author to hear his bill in the Senate Committee he chaired. Timing was not insignificant in this matter. Had we gotten the bill into Calendars earlier, this might have not happened.

The Public Employee Dues Deduction bill had been hijacked by a group that lacks credibility in the House. That is the major factor leading to its demise.

But Lien Law Reform should be recognized as a major victory because we got the bill further than we thought. At the beginning of the session, we believed a committee hearing would be a major victory. But, with the help of Chairman René Oliveira, we were able to get the bill reported from committee unanimously—sending a signal to other stakeholders in opposition that they need to work on this issue! Chairman Oliveira even held a hearing during the Special Session to punctuate the message. Thanks to Rep. Joe Deshotel and Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa for authoring the bill in their respective houses.

ABC of Texas was able to secure passage of another of its priorities—Journeyman Industrial Electrician. This was no easy task since any bill with the word “license” in it is subject to initial

dismissal in the current regulatory climate. We were successful, with the help of Mike Toomey (our contract lobbyist), to focus the attention on the regulatory relief this bill would offer to industrial electricians by focusing the test solely on industrial activities. We still had to deal with some staff skeptics, but their bosses got it. The bill was even endorsed by a member of the Freedom Caucus in the House where it passed 143-2 (one of the two was a mistake). The bill ultimately passed the Senate on the Local and Uncontested Calendar. We thank Rep. John Kuempel and Senator Craig Estes for authoring the bill in their respective houses.

And, although the bill did not pass, ABC of Texas was successful in having the Senate insert language that protects companies from liability if the company were to get a false negative from E-Verify. That was one of our priorities.

As you may be aware, since coming on board in 2008, your State President has made significant progress in working in concert with other groups. Thus, there are some significant victories on efforts championed by other groups and supported by ABC of Texas.

Legislation to finally make sense of school background checks was passed. With the passage of this bill, contractors working on new schools will not have to get background checks for their employees. And, if there is a physical barrier, separate restrooms and no access to students, contractors will not have to get school background checks.

We were also able to get half a loaf for State Breach of Contract. The bill that allows recovery of attorney’s fees for disputes under \$250,000 (which go to an administrative law judge) was passed. Ironically, the bill that would have dealt with change orders and attorney’s fees for matters that go to court failed in the Senate.



Another bill prohibits cities (many of whom previously licensed electricians) from continuing to collect fees for registration.

Texas Legislature was productive for ABC of Texas and the entire construction industry! 🇺🇸

And, a bill dealing with law and venue for construction lawsuits also passed. This bill includes the entire construction process (for example, architects) in a statute that previously only dealt with contractors.


Although the general Right to Repair bill (allowing a company a chance to correct a construction defect before a lawsuit can be filed) did not pass, a Right to Repair bill for ADA issues did.

Quite a few bills addressed workforce issues. A bill passed making it easier to certify CTE teachers. Another bill passed requiring the Texas Workforce Commission to produce an inventory of workforce credentials for in-demand occupations. And, school districts are now permitted to provide insurance for private entities they partner with on workforce training. The Legislature also added CTE to the mission of public education.

Perhaps most important was what did not pass. Bills seeking to further regulate the construction industry all failed.

As you can see, although we did not get everything we asked for, the 85th

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Build Texas Proud

BY BRITTANY SCHNEIDER, TEXO



It's no surprise that Texans are proud. TEXO is equally as proud to be Texans in the construction industry. The workforce are the unsung heroes. Every day, thousands of workers set off to not only build the economy, but build a legacy. This is one of the many reasons why TEXO embarked on the Build Texas Proud campaign.

TEXO engaged this campaign in summer of 2016 by hiring VOX Global – a global public relations firm who specializes in crisis management, digital advocacy, grassroots, and media relations over a variety of industry sectors including education, energy, financial services, healthcare and technology. VOX's impressive portfolio of key clients range from AT&T, Crocs, The Hershey Company, and Bank of America.

The purpose of the campaign is twofold. First, TEXO wants to foster a sense of pride within the existing construction community. Secondly, TEXO wants to raise awareness to those outside of the industry about the diversity of professions and steps one can take when considering a career in construction.

The Build Texas Proud campaign focuses on a variety of audiences ranging from high school students, current construction workers, returning veterans, individuals interested in changing careers, and stay-at-home parents looking to return to the workforce.

The industry builds the foundation for Texas' current and future

prosperity. It generates economic growth, improves quality of life in communities, and provides fulfilling careers for thousands of workers. With \$6 billion in new DFW commercial real estate investment in 2015 alone, it's vital to the future growth of our communities across the state.

Construction provides 665,000 jobs more than the energy and technology sectors combined. These are American jobs that are here to stay and can never be exported. As part of the Build Texas Proud campaign, TEXO hopes to bring positive awareness to the construction industry at-large. The vision of the campaign is to educate the public on the diversity of professional jobs within the industry and to act as a conduit for individuals interested in construction to get involved.

With the help of VOX, TEXO has been diligently working behind the scenes over the last year leading up to the rollout of this campaign. With an established messaging summit to acutely define what the purpose of the campaign, TEXO plans to implement their strategy by educating the market.

This past June, TEXO held a VIP Kick-Off Reception for TEXO's key influencers group. Key influencers were selected through TEXO Board of Directors, individuals leading workforce development initiatives at TEXO, and people passionate about the future generations coming into the construction industry. VOX presented the toolkit they developed over the last 10 months, which includes facts, figures, and statistics about the industry



for a variety of audiences including parents and educators, high school students, veterans, and current workers.

TEXO is currently finishing the Build Texas Proud website that will go live by the end of 2017. The website will be a portal for all audiences listed earlier to come and learn more about construction and the opportunities that exist within the industry. The website will also serve as a place for current workers to share their personal stories of why they've chosen a career path in construction. TEXO members will have the ability to use the Build Texas Proud website as an additional resource for listing job postings within their respective companies. The hope is for other ABC chapters throughout our state to also adopt the campaign and utilize the site for its capabilities.

Build Texas Proud will encourage people in the construction industry to leave their mark not only in their field of expertise, but the cities and economies they help build. People can spread the word of Build Texas Proud and their pride for the industry by sharing the Build Texas Proud logo and the campaign's purposes. To assist in this, there is a dedicated branded apparel website where companies and chapters can co-brand with the campaign in order to spread the word. Please visit <http://www.buildtexasproudswag.com/> to learn more. ➔

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ONE-ON-ONE



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

J.M. Lozano

J.M. Lozano serves as State Representative for Texas House District 43, which includes Bee, Jim Wells, Kleberg and San Patricio Counties. The son of a medical doctor, J.M. was raised in Premont, Texas with his five sisters. Today, J.M. and his wife, Abby, are small business owners and live in Kingsville with their three children: Penny, Pepito, and Carlitos.

As the Chairman of the House Higher Education Committee, J.M. advocates for our colleges, universities, and trade schools in the Texas House of Representatives. He is a leading voice for better funding and ensuring Texas leads the country in higher education.

J.M. also serves on the House Environmental Regulation Committee, advocating for Texas' industry and jobs. J.M. holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from The University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Business Administration from University of Incarnate Word.

Please describe your professional background.

I'm a small business owner with four Wingstop restaurants in the Coastal Bend. While studying for my MBA at Incarnate Word in San Antonio, I would study at a Wingstop near my apartment. I started out in Kingsville and now have stores in Alice, Calallen and Portland. I'm also proud to serve as State Representative for Bee, Jim Wells, Kleberg and San Patricio counties. I was first elected in 2010 and am in my fourth term.

You chaired the Committee on Higher Education in the House this session. What was the biggest challenge you faced?

There are some challenges, but also many opportunities for higher education in a fast-growing, economically-viable state. We've got to make sure that public colleges and universities are affordable, that they're admitting students who represent the diversity of Texas, and that they are studying for jobs upon graduation. But on the other side of that is the many high-paying, high-skilled jobs that require hands-on training rather than a degree. Those skilled labor jobs are important to our economy and we've got to build a better pipeline from high school into the trades.

What were your personal goals in chairing this committee?

Chairing Higher Education is such an honor because getting a college degree or trade certificate is an important stepping stone in a person's life. In my district, we have a number of kids going to college this fall who will be the first in their families to get higher education, which is especially meaningful. As Chair of this committee, I want to make sure that higher education has a strong advocate, but also that higher education programs

are available in districts like mine, where we have Texas A&M Kingsville with world-renowned programs. You shouldn't have to move to Austin or College Station or half way across the state to get a good degree. That really limits who can get higher education.

What did you see as the biggest challenges facing the state this past Regular Session?

I grew up in the small town of Premont, Texas with good, hard-working people. When I look at the challenges facing the Legislature, such as the budget shortfall we experienced, I prioritize the issues that mean the most to my constituents in rural South Texas. In my opinion, those are well-funded, successful public schools, good roads, accessible jobs, training programs and reasonable taxes that don't burden the mom and pop businesses.

You agreed to introduce a bill for ABC in the Regular Session—HB 2284, that would have broadened the industrial electrician exemption. You were told this was an alternative to another bill. Our State President said you were the quickest "yes" he has ever gotten. Can you share why you agreed so quickly?

As a State Representative, my job is to consider all perspectives. From individuals, to trade groups, and the like. I have an open door policy. Working with ABC is especially important and meaningful because of your contribution to South Texas. I see first-hand how ABC helps to fuel growth and jobs in the Coastal Bend. So for me, the opportunity to carry your bill was an opportunity to help my home region. 🗝️

ABC Texas Gulf Coast and its educational affiliate Merit Shop Training (MSTI) honored 103 craft training program graduates at their 41st Annual Graduation Ceremony and Dinner.

TEXAS GULF COAST CHAPTER

While the summer season often evokes images of rest and relaxation, it has been an action-packed summer at ABC Texas Gulf Coast Chapter.

In June, ABC Texas Gulf Coast and its educational affiliate Merit Shop Training (MSTI), proudly honored 103 craft training program graduates at their 41st Annual Graduation Ceremony and Dinner. Recognitions of training completion and NCCER Gold Card certifications were awarded in the areas of electrical, industrial crane operation, millwright, pipefitting, rigging, scaffold building, and Construction Management Academy. Industry, contractor, and college instructor representatives were also honored and recognized.

Earlier in the year, ABC Texas Gulf Coast sponsored two 2017 ABC National Craft Championship winners—Mr. Robert Broadway, Gold Medalist, (McGill Maintenance & Fabrication) and Mr. Timothy Sargent, Bronze Medalist, (RPM Services, Inc.). Both medalists were honored at the graduation ceremony. Instructor Jim Slick, Millwright and Machining Coordinator at Brazosport College, was given an award of excellence for his outstanding contributions to the millwright program and continued efforts resulting in an impressive total of 17 ABC National Craft Championships winners.

Also in June, ABC Texas Gulf Coast Chapter Board Chairman Mark Monical, President & CEO Terry McAlister and ABC Texas Gulf Coast Chapter Board Director Buck Blevins attended National Legislative Week 2017 in Washington, D.C. The annual event offered members the opportunity to network with each other and hear from dynamic speakers knowledgeable about issues important to ABC members. It included a breakfast presentation with Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-Ala), Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA), Rep. Laurence Francis Rooney III (R-Fla), and Vice President of the United States Mike Pence, a true friend of ABC, followed by a day on the Hill speaking to members of Congress. While the speakers vocalized there are many challenges faced with passing legislation through Congress, all the ABC board members who attended were very encouraged by the fact that ABC has many advocates among the current administration, and their agendas are in alignment with ABC key priority issues. And as the activity on Capitol Hill heats up,

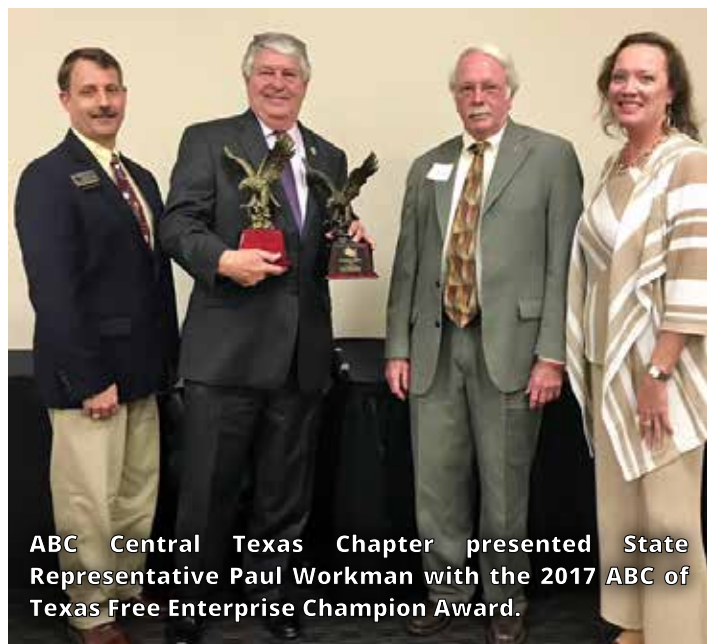
the days will begin to cool down with the end of summer and the arrival of a new season.

Activities on the upcoming fall agenda include the 33rd Annual ABC Texas Gulf Coast Golf Classic on September 15th, followed by the Joint Membership Event & Luncheon on September 21st featuring STEP Awards, new member recognition and the election of 2018 Chapter Officers & Directors.

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

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

In June, ABC Central Texas pulled together several members from the HVAC/Mechanical trades to meet with Skillpoint Alliance, a local nonprofit organization that provides NCCER training and workforce development for the construction and health care industries. In an effort to combat the severe labor shortage facing this group of members, the chapter is undertaking a



ABC Central Texas Chapter presented State Representative Paul Workman with the 2017 ABC of Texas Free Enterprise Champion Award.

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The South Texas Chapter conducted a Construction Industry Tour for 26 high school students from 8 area high schools.

project to develop recruiting and training initiatives through Skillpoint Alliance. This program is anticipated to roll out before the end of 2017.

Members from ABC Central Texas attended the annual ABC National Legislative Conference held in June in Washington D.C. The chapter was pleased to host two students from the ABC Student Chapter of the Year: Texas State University. Keely and Chase attended the legislative breakfast, keynoted by Vice President Mike Pence, and all of the Capitol visits throughout the day. At the group dinner following the conference, both students expressed a new appreciation for ABC and the work undertaken every day to support and protect the construction industry.

Over 100 members and guests attended the chapter's Meet the Contractor/Chapter Dinner event where Procore was the host of an informative and entertaining technology-focused panel discussion featuring representatives from DPR, Harvey Cleary, TDIndustries, and Journeyman Construction. This year's Chapter Dinner featured State Representative Paul Workman as the keynote speaker. Rep. Workman highlighted the ups and downs of this year's regular and special legislative sessions. He was presented with a 2017 ABC of Texas Free Enterprise Champion Award. Also present at the dinner was Austin City Council member Ellen Troxclair who received special recognition for her hard work and lone vote of support for taxpayers and job creators on Austin City Council.

The chapter is looking forward to its Fall golf tournament in September and its annual Excellence in Construction awards banquet in October.

SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER

In an innovative approach for high school student outreach, this past August the South Texas Chapter conducted a Construction Industry Tour, normally provided for high school counselors, for 26 students in grades 9 through 12, from 8 area high schools. Tour sites included an engineering firm (Terracon Consultants), two subcontractors (Baker Triangle and TDIndustries), a general contractor (Joeris General Contractors) and an active construction site.

In anticipation of the implementation of the new silica standards a class was held in early August to review the proposed standards and actions contractors should implement. Texas Med Clinic and Hilti tools, along with former OSHA Area Compliance Officer Raul Carrillo, conducted the half day seminar. The chapter also conducted one free OSHA 10 Hour class and two free OSHA 30 Hour classes this year thanks to member sponsorships to help cover the costs of books and donated instructor time.

In an effort to increase awareness of potential organizing efforts, the chapter conducted a briefing for contractor members on the Responsible Bidders Ordinance and Workers Defense Project efforts. A special meeting was also held with other area construction trade associations to bring them up to date and to discuss strategies. Alpha Building Corporation held a meeting with Congressman Will Hurd in August to discuss tax reform and impacts on small businesses, especially contractors.

The South Texas Chapter events have been resounding successes. The Spring Golf Tournament was changed slightly this year by being held at the JW Marriott resort with a morning shotgun start. This afforded participants the great opportunity to network after the tournament. In August, the 25th Annual Excellence In Construction Awards Banquet was held at the Omni Hotel where 17 Eagle Awards, 34 STEP Awards, 9 Safety Excellence Awards and 6 chapter awards were presented. Over 350 ABC members and guests thoroughly enjoyed this year's emcee, San Antonio Spurs announcer Chuck Careau.

SOUTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

The ABC Training Center articulates with the Region 5 Education Service Center to provide NCCER curriculum and consumables to those local high schools who have expressed interest in participating in the School-to-Work program. By partnering with Region 5 the chapter is able to reach over 700 students each year, with the main goal being to recruit these young people into the construction industry upon graduation. Currently 16 local high schools are teaching NCCER curricula (Core, Welding, Pipefitting, and Carpentry); the books and instructional aides are provided to the schools, free of charge, by ABC Southeast Texas.

ABC Southeast Texas participates in several high school career fairs throughout the school year, with the largest one being a Career Expo hosted every September by the Texas Workforce's Youth Solutions of Southeast Texas for all the Region 5 high schools. Staff and members also volunteer and speak at several civic and church organizations' youth outreach events (i.e., Salvation Army's Boys & Girls Club, Jr. Achievement, Boys & Girls Haven, area Chambers, etc.) so that all future graduates receive information about ABC Southeast Texas' Training Center and programs. Additionally, ABC employees spend time at many local high schools' CTE classes, sharing information about their post-secondary options and opportunities at the Training Center to pursue a career in construction. The chapter has assisted the Southeast Texas Human Resource Association in conducting mock interviews with seniors in order to prepare them for future employment. The Training Center also hosts a large Welding competition every January with approximately 20 high schools participating. These students are able to showcase their skills to the local member contractor judges and get a chance to win valuable Welding items and gift cards to assist them in their training and careers.

This past 2016-2017 school year, ABC Southeast Texas awarded 15 qualified graduating seniors with craft scholarships to attend the Training Center (an estimated value of over \$72,000 for Welding and Carpentry alone). ABC Southeast Texas has a motto, "Our Community, Our Commitment", and they truly stand by those words and are committed to training a safe and successful workforce. These scholarships will yield a high return on the financial investment and help fill the severe projected craft shortages as well as giving motivated young people the opportunity to earn a great living in construction and the petrochemical industry.

TEXAS MID COAST CHAPTER

The ABC Texas Mid Coast Chapter has recently directed focus to increasing member benefits, encouraging the future workforce and developing a stronger community presence.

- The Chapter has partnered with member construction firms, local outreach programs and local schools and is investing in students' lives to prepare them to be successful construction professionals and future leaders.



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

In May, the Chapter awarded two scholarships for students pursuing construction careers. Congratulations to Chase Conn of Skidmore-Tynan High School and Garrett McCann of Ganado High School. For 2018, the Chapter will announce the scholarships in the Fall and set up presentations in every high school in their 8 county region.

- On April 13, the Chapter hosted a dinner social, sponsored by Weaver & Jacobs Constructors, Inc., with the topic of discussion being "Top Ten Ways to Avoid a Construction Lawsuit" featuring Clayton Utkov and Carson Fisk with Andrews Myers Attorneys at Law.
- In June, after the 25th Annual Fishing Tournament in Port O'Connor, the Mid Coast Chapter was proud to present donations to Ronald McDonald House Charities and The Boys & Girls Club of Victoria.
- On October 3, another NCCER Construction Site Safety Technician class will begin. Through the new partnership with Workforce Solutions of the Golden Crescent, the chapter provides a variety of safety training and education classes to the unemployed workforce.
- On October 5, the Chapter will hold their Annual Dove Hunt.
- A membership dinner, sponsored by VCS Companies, is scheduled for November 16 that will feature officers from the Department of Transportation who will educate members on regulation changes.

TEXAS COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

It has been another exciting quarter for the Texas Coastal Bend Chapter! The monthly First Wednesday Mixers were a hit, and a special "Thank You" goes to this summer's sponsors: April – RamTool.; May – Kelly Honeycutt & Price; June – Larson Plumbing & Utilities; July – MMR Constructors, Inc. and August – Scott-Macon Equipment.

The chapter's 29th Annual Golf Classic at the Corpus Christi Country Club was held in early May. Heading up the Golf Committee once again this year was Jeremiah Villanueva with MMR Constructors, Inc., who delivered another successful event. Extreme gratitude goes to this year's wonderful committee members, sponsors, participants and volunteers. This year's 1st Place Team was Fields Nemec. Funds from the tournament went to benefit scholarships for students attending the Craft Training Center of the Coastal Bend (CTCCB).

In June, the Contractors Safety Council of the Coastal Bend (CSCCB) hosted their annual South Texas Industrial Industry Safety Excellence Awards banquet. Every year ABC Texas Coastal Bend, 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 2017 ABC Texas Coastal Bend Safety Training Evaluation Process (STEP) Award winners: Diamond – Repcon; Turner Industries Group LLC; MMR Constructors, Inc.; Mirage Industrial Group LLC. Platinum – Ohmstede, Larson Plumbing & Utilities. Gold – Brock Services, LLC; McKinney Drilling. Silver – Garrett

Construction Co.; T & T Construction. They have a proven track record of maintaining safety within their companies and on their jobsites. At the June General Membership Luncheon, ABC Member and State Representative Todd Hunter, guest speaker, gave an update to members on the 2017 Texas Legislative Session.

In July, the 23rd Annual Fishing Tournament was held at Bluff's Landing. Co-Chairs Mike Garza and Cliff Johnstone, both with Swantner and Gordon Insurance Agency, along with a very dedicated committee organized a fun and successful event with 35 teams.

To wrap up a busy summer schedule, planning will begin for the 16th Annual Skeet and Trap Shoot scheduled for September 15th & 16th at the Corpus Christi Rifle and Pistol Club.

TEXO CHAPTER

With increased construction activity across the Dallas-Fort Worth market, TEXO and its member companies have been busy tackling key issues that face the industry, preparing workers and future leaders with necessary training, and developing new safety tools that will change the way workers manage safety on the jobsite.

TEXO's Professional Development Department has grown in order to handle the demand for training in multiple areas including leadership skills, marketing, and Spanish for construction. A new Director of Member Services and Programs has been hired in order to manage the courses, partnerships and grants TEXO has received in order to provide high caliber training to its members.

The TEXO Foundation, a 501-(c)3, has developed exponentially this year. With a dedicated TEXO staff member and a newly appointed board of directors, the TEXO Foundation is able to tackle the workforce development issue at both the high school and college levels. This year, TEXO has partnered with DISD to roll out the first Construction Collegiate Academy where students will earn a certificate in a trade as well as an associate's degree in Construction Technology upon completion of high school.

Safety is the main priority on a jobsite and TEXO's safety team is dedicated to helping its members make it as easy as possible to keep workers safe. In partnership with Ridgemont Commercial Construction and mySafetyProfiler, the TEXO safety department is developing a new safety application that will make walk-throughs and safety evaluations more efficient and effective. This mobile application will be able to process reports in a more user-friendly and legible format as well as identify and categorize safety related observations in order to complete thorough analyses of jobsites. The final product is close and the chapter looks forward to sharing it with the membership.

TEXO works to keep its members informed of all issues facing the construction industry, including governmental affairs. On August 14th over 50 TEXO PAC and Advocacy Fund supporters gathered at the TEXO Conference Center to meet for a Congressional update with Congressman Pete Sessions. Those in attendance received a first-hand account of the challenges and issues the Congressional representatives are working on through the remainder of 2017.

The chapter is excited about the progress it has made on multiple initiatives and looks forward to laying the groundwork for success in 2018.

GREATER HOUSTON CHAPTER

The height of the summer months have come to a close and the Associated Builders & Contractors of Greater Houston (ABC) Chapter and Construction & Maintenance Education Foundation (CMEF) had a very successful third quarter.

STEP participation has been a strategic goal of the Greater Houston Chapter for the last several years and this year is no different. The 2017 goal is to reach 60% contractor participation, which is 133 contractors. The chapter is almost halfway to meeting this goal with 93 contractors currently participating in the STEP program, roughly 42%. The Safety Committee is hard at work recruiting applicants and is on track to hitting the goal. The July breakfast was the chapter's third membership breakfast of the year and focused on the topic of safety. Mike Bellaman, the President of ABC National and keynote speaker, gave an informative presentation on the importance of safety in the industry and how ABC National is helping local chapters and member companies improve industry-wide safety.



State Representative Todd Hunter presenting the State Legislative Update during the Texas Coastal Bend Chapter's Membership Luncheon.



The TEXO Foundation is able to tackle the workforce development issue at the high school and college levels.

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Mike Bellaman, President of ABC National, was the keynote speaker at the ABC Greater Houston July Breakfast, where 93 participating contractor companies were recognized for their STEP participation.

performance. He stressed the importance of the STEP program and the positive impact it can have on a company's safety performance. In addition to the presentation by Mr. Bellaman, the 93 participating contractor companies were recognized for their STEP participation and presented with their awards.

Since 2008, several chapters of ABC of Texas and the Texas Offices of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the United States Department of Labor (OSHA) have had an established partnership with the goal of encouraging companies to voluntarily improve their safety and health performance and to recognize companies with exemplary safety and health programs. At the July membership breakfast, this partnership was renewed through the end of 2019 and Kelly C. Knighton, OSHA Regional Administrator for Region VI, was in attendance to sign the new agreement. Participating chapters include Central Texas, Texas Coastal Bend, Texas Mid-Coast, South Texas, and Southeast Texas.

In addition to the July Membership Breakfast, the Greater Houston chapter hosted their annual Casino Night, PAC Clay Shoot, and the September Breakfast. Casino Night raised in excess of \$16,000 for the Scholarship Foundation. 📍

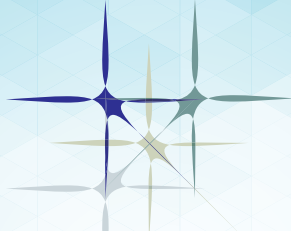
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