



AGC - West Tennessee News

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In This Issue

- Legislative Update
- New Member Focus
- AGC State Board Meeting
- Executive Director's Note
- Safety Update
- Past Events
- Upcoming Events

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JOIN THE WEST TENNESSEE BRANCH OF THE AGC AS WE CELEBRATE OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF AFFILIATION WITH AGC OF AMERICA

Legislative Update:

The new state general assembly has just been seated for the 2011 session. The bills to be debated in this session are still being formulated. Mr. Bill Young, EVP of the State of Tennessee AGC Chapter may attend the March, 2011 regular membership meeting and share with us the results of the Day on the Hill with state legislatures. Locally, the majority of attention of the Memphis City Council and the Shelby County Commission appears to deal with the possible merger of the MCS and SCS school systems. As this newsletter is being completed, there is ongoing discussion of a plan that will suspend further efforts to merge the schools for at least one year.

New Member Focus:

One new member application was submitted and approved prior to the meeting. Adams and Reese, LLP is a multidisciplinary law firm with 13 locations. The partner in charge of the Memphis Office is Jeffery Smith. We are pleased they have chosen to become member of the West TN Branch of the AGC. Please introduce yourself to their representatives at the February meeting. We are talking to several other companies interested in the AGC. Please let us know if you have any prospects.

State Board Meeting:

The last state board meeting for 2010 was held in Nashville on December 8, 2010. The board reviewed the new member activity for 2010 and inquired of those executive directors present their projections for membership activity in 2011. While the economy will continue to be challenging, the consensus was that now was the time to be a member of associations that are aggressive in promoting actions that will benefit their membership. The newly elected governor is starting to announce appointments to the various division of state government. We should know all the major appointees by the end of January, 2011. The state convention in Nashville was attended by 99 people and resulted in a break-even financial position. The consensus of opinion is for the 2011 convention to return to Destin, FL with tentative dates being October 12-15, 2011. (More information will be forth coming by the middle of February – most likely requiring early deposits by attendees).

Contact Us

Don Sloan
President, AGC of West
Tennessee Branch

Terry Lotz,
Executive Director
tlotz07@comcast.net
901-598-4600

Diane Laird,
Administrative Asst.
agc.wt@Comcast.net
(901) 682-5108



Nick Nanney,
Director of Safety &
Loss Control
agctnsafetymphs@
Comcast.net
(901)762-0026

Executive Directors Message:

During the past few years every segment of our industry has experienced what many have viewed as the most difficult environment in several generations. The turmoil in the financial markets has made private projects virtually nonexistent and many in the industry have come to rely more on public funded projects, albeit at lesser levels. During difficult times we are called upon to reassess our organizational structures, eliminate waste and non essential items and “batten down the hatches” until market conditions improve. However, during these challenging times the question oft times is: Are we simply taking actions that should have been addressed on a regular basis, only to return to our old ways once conditions improve or are we really intent on “changing” the way we manage our business that will position us to better address future industry problems – and there will be future problems? I am sincere when I encourage all of us to look at how we manage our businesses, employ the use of our assets, mentor our personnel and develop relationships with our customers and suppliers. 2011 will present continued challenges and opportunities. Use your membership in the AGC as a resource as you move forward in 2011!!!!

Safety Director's Message:

The FEDERAL ANNUAL MONITORING EVALUATION REPORT of the Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Program is now available on the OSHA website. Some items of interest to the construction industry can be found in this report.

The report states that The Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Administration (TOSHA) state plan was originally approved back in July of 1973 and presently has 26 safety compliance officers and 16 health compliance officers. There are 83 (at the time of the report) TOSHA positions funded by a Federal 23 (g) Grant and as such does not have any 100% state funded positions.

The state program covers most construction sites within the borders of Tennessee, with the exception of contractors operating on marine terminal operations, at Government-owned/contractor-operated (GOCO) facilities, railroad yard sites, military installations, and Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) sites. Construction workers are covered by Federal OSHA on these sites.

During the FY October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009, 33% of TOSHA inspections were conducted on construction industry work sites. This compares to 61% for Federal OSHA inspections which (also) covers the nearby states of Mississippi and Arkansas. Overall, the TOSHA inspections consisted of 2% accident investigations, 13% complaint inspections, 8% follow-up and 77% programmed inspections. TOSHA programmed inspections are conducted from the University of Tennessee’s Dodge Construction Scheduling System as well as Special Emphasis Programs including Fall Hazards, Trenching, Amputations and Carbon Monoxide.

TOSHA’s primary objective is to improve occupational safety and health on workplaces throughout the state. Each inspection report and proposed citations are reviewed by the safety/health supervisor in the state area office where the inspection was conducted. The inspection report and proposed citations are then forwarded to the safety/health section manager in the Nashville office for additional review. Any citations are issued by signature of the TOSHA Administrator.

TOSHA is complying with the recommendations of this Federal audit—one of the nine is as follows:

At the conclusion of a fatality investigation the state should send the next of-kin a letter and a copy of any citation(s) issued, or a letter advising them that no violation was found. The next-of-kin should be informed of informal conferences and hearings, as well as any changes in the citations as a result of a settlement or hearing.

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During this audit process, stakeholder interviews were conducted with several representatives from industry groups, labor unions and professional organizations. Overall, these individuals voiced confidence in TOSHA's ability to perform its mandated occupational safety and health activities.

One of the ongoing issues for all companies is the tracking of the safety training each employee has received and the tracking of requisite continuing education training. The AGC Comp...Trust is presently completing a software program that will provide a system for tracking all items relating to safety matters and the employee. Once this software is available, our Safety Director will provide details of the software availability, etc. Watch for this information in the near future.

Meeting Re-Caps:

The West TN Branch of the AGC held its **Annual Christmas Party** on December 4th at The Butcher Shop. This was a very relaxing, fun evening, which was shared by us with our friends from the Builder's Exchange. In addition to excellent refreshments and dinner, the evening concluded with dancing provided by the Whiskey Bent Band, with our very own incoming President, Mr. Don Sloan on the drums!! We had somewhere in the neighborhood of 100 people in attendance and the remarks about the evening were all positive. I also want to extend a special thanks to our sponsors of the evening, Ferrell Paving Company and The Hayden Law Firm. We greatly appreciate their special contribution to the success of the evening. Everyone's participation is appreciated.

The first 2011 meeting of the West TN Branch of the AGC was held on the 18th of January. There were 42 in attendance (a great way to start the New Year). This was an "Open Forum" meeting and the discussion from the members was enlightening and welcomed by the Board and all the members. The Board will be focusing on the comments and if there are other thoughts, etc. please let the board or staff know.

As a side note, we are in discussions with several other construction associations regarding a Christmas Gala in 2011. We are hopeful of putting together an event that will highlight the whole construction industry and the impact we make to the area economy. As developments take place during the year, you will be kept advised.

**WE ARE HOLDING A CONTEST TO NAME OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER.
SUBMIT YOUR RECOMMENDATION TO AGC.WT@COMCAST.NET. THE WINNING
SELECTION WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND
THEIR DINNER WILL BE COMPLEMENTS OF THE AGC WEST TN BRANCH. THE
NEW NAME WILL APPEAR OUR THE MAY NEWSLETTER.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

All members were recently sent a copy of the Calendar of Events for 2011. As noted, this is a tentative list of the events planned for 2011 and will be updated accordingly.

If you have a question or comment regarding items or programs you would like the West TN Branch of the AGC to consider, please contact the branch office or one of the members of the Board of Directors. We are here to make your membership in the AGC a valuable and important part of your business!!!!

THE ASSOCIATE GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA
The Association of the Construction Industry