

From: Michigan Chapter AGC

Subject: MI AGC MWB 4-12-06



*The **Michigan Chapter AGC Midweek Briefing (MWB)** is published every other Wednesday. Articles are linked to our web site as well as other sites where you will find more detailed information.*

Please forward articles of interest to your colleagues and customers, and please place each MWB in an electronic folder for future use.

>Contractors & Background Checks - No Requirement!: On April 4, the Governor signed [HB 5675 into law](#) and it is now Public Act 84 of 2006. The bill has immediate effect.

Public Act 84 effectively eliminates contractors from the requirement that background checks be conducted on anyone performing work at a public school. While school districts could still impose the requirement, there is no state mandate on contractors that it be done, unlike the requirement on teachers, administrators, maintenance workers, etc.

Michigan Chapter AGC, AGC Greater Detroit and our lobbyist Karoub Associates are pleased to have led the effort at the State Capitol to remove the construction industry from this costly and burdensome requirement. While no one can argue about the law's objective, we felt strongly that workers not coming into contact with students on a regular and continuous basis should not be required to have a background check.

>Exclusive Industry Reception - Tuesday, April 18, 2006: At the 7th Annual AGC Legislative Leadership Reception you will have an opportunity to meet legislative leaders, chapter and lobbyist staff, in addition to contractors from Michigan and Greater Detroit Chapter AGC. It is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, in the Governor's Room at Karoub Associates in downtown Lansing from 5-7:00 p.m. We need your response so we can make sure that legislators from your area are invited and encouraged to attend. For more information, call Cathy Kester at 517/ 371-1550.

Addresses and phone numbers for current legislators may be found on the internet at the following sites:

Governor, Senate, House & State Depts.: www.michigan.gov

U.S. Senate: www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

U.S. House: www.house.gov

President: www.whitehouse.gov

>Spring = Golf = Networking: Michigan Chapter AGC's 15th Annual Chip in 'Fore' Education Golf Classic, May 24, 2006, is at a NEW location this year, Timber Ridge Golf Club in East Lansing.

Can we depend on you to provide 1 or 2 items for prizes at our AGC Golf Classic? One or two of your promotional items, maybe a company hat, mug, shirt, jacket, etc. would be great and make the outing a success. Just reply by email what you will send or bring.

Of course, we would like to see you there and have you sponsor a tee sign or flag too!! You can [register here](#), give us a quick call at 517/371-1550 or e-mail [Claudia](#).

A big THANK YOU from future Endowment Fund scholarship winners, our upcoming industry leaders.

>Four \$2500 Scholarships Available to University Students!: Scholarships are now available for Sophomore and Junior construction management and civil engineering students. Students can [click here](#) for the application. Return the completed forms to the Michigan Chapter AGC by April 15, 2006.

The AGC Board and the Endowment Fund Trustees have approved a named scholarship in the memory of Bob Fontana. If you wish to send in a contribution to help fund a scholarship in his memory, please make out your check and send it to the AGC Educational Endowment Fund, 2323 North Larch, Lansing, MI 48906.

>22 Policies and Counting...: After an M.A.R.C. presentation nearly two years ago, Swan Valley Schools near Saginaw has approved a policy on Responsible Contracting. M.A.R.C. has now assisted or been involved with 22 school districts adopting Responsible Contracting policies.

Read the current district listing and their policies in the [MARC March newsletter](#).

>Negotiation Activities: The Chapter's LRD department will be posting updates on a regular basis to provide complete coverage of the 2006 negotiations. [Click here](#) to read the latest update.

> Safety Training on the Web: Several types of employee safety training are required by MIOSHA. The Interactive Construction Safety Training Program (I.C.S.T.) can assist you in complying by using online construction safety training! There are many benefits to online training - Cost reduction up to 70% - Reduced training time up to 80% and Self-paced learning.

The training offers 12 different construction safety and health topics:
Aerial Lift Safety; Concrete & Masonry; Construction Safety Orientation; Electrical Safety; Excavations, Trenches & Shoring; Fall Protection; Fire Safety; Mobile Crane Safety; Personal Protective Equipment; Scaffolding Safety; Stairways & Ladders; Steel Erection

[Click here](#) to log onto the training website. After self registering, you can begin the training and tests. A certificate of completion will be mailed to you upon completion of each course.

I.C.S.T. is a training program administered by the Michigan Chapter AGC and funded by a grant from the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth.

>Want to Save \$\$ and Travel Time for Employees? Use the AGC office to Videoconference Your Next Meeting: The Michigan Chapter AGC office has videoconferencing available to you as a member service. The lower level will accommodate from 2 to 60 people, theater style.

This is a real time presentation and interactive. Many of our members have participated in videoconferencing at AGC and have been happy with the results. Locations we can connect with include Detroit, Kalamazoo, Saginaw, Marquette and Hancock. [[more](#)]

>Hire Summer Help with Minimum Effort and Risk: It's time to sign up for one of the 'brightest and best' Summer Work Program students. The ever-popular Summer Work Program allows you to hire a civil engineering or construction management student for the summer. It's a great chance to find a future employee who will make 12.13 per hour which includes the \$1500 tax deductible fellowship.

Many of the students attest to this experience being a stepping stone to their future career. The student receives a salary of \$360 per week in addition to a \$1500 fellowship, funded in part by the contractor employer and by CIAP. You gain an energetic, bright student who is computer savvy and is looking to gain experience in construction to make them more desirable as a future permanent employee. For more details and to sign up, [click here](#) for the interest form.

"2006 Construction Career Graduates of Michigan Universities": This on-line resource includes resumes from both civil engineering and construction management students graduating anytime during the year 2006. These students intend to pursue careers in construction; but, they need your help to get started. Many have quite a bit of industry experience.

The resumes are listed alphabetically by school and major field of study. The date published is also included at the bottom of each page. Included in this book are resumes from graduates from Eastern Michigan University, Ferris State University, Michigan State University, Northern Michigan University, the University of Michigan and Western Michigan University.

>Infrastructure Projects Continue Throughout Michigan: Michigan Construction News (MCN) reports that new developments and additions are taking place in Ann Arbor, Higgins Lake, Detroit and Mt. Pleasant. Access more about these projects and additional construction related news at Michigan Construction News michiganconstructionnews.com.

>Contractor Looking for Construction Estimator: A construction estimator with a minimum of 5 years experience is needed for a Michigan contractor. For details contact [Cathy](#) at the Chapter office.

>Getting the Most Out of Your Public Sector Construction Dollar - April 18, 2006: This one-day conference, April 18, 2006 at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, E. Lansing, is designed for K-12 and intermediate school district and community college leaders and staff responsible for managing school/college construction projects.

This interactive conference, presented by MSU's School of Labor & Industrial Relations, will give participants an overview of many issues and perspectives to aid them in making wise decisions that maximize quality, effectiveness, and value for their public sector construction dollar. [Click here](#) for the PDF registration form.

>26th Annual Michigan Historic Preservation Network Conference - April 20-22, 2006 – Castle Museum – Saginaw: The 2006 Conference confronts the realities of preservation and explores the unique issues facing urban and rural preservation. Conference highlights are ABC's of Preservation, Rural Track, Urban Track, Historic Resource Council Track and Special Tours and Field Sessions. [Click here](#) for additional information and registration.

>Workshop Covers 'Managing Construction': A two-hour class entitled "Managing the Construction Project: A Legal Perspective" will be May 2 at the AGC, Greater Detroit office. Facilitating the session will be Pete Cavanaugh, attorney with Thomas Keranen & Associates, P.C., Bloomfield Hills. [[registration](#)]

> "Greening the Heartland 2006: Advancing Sustainable Practices" Conference, May 17-18, Kansas City, MO: Hosted by The U. S. Green Building Council's Greater Kansas City and Regional Heartland Chapters, this year's conference will focus on innovation and the ability to implement sustainability and market these practices in the region. Join us in May if you want to learn how to help your buildings, businesses, residents and cities achieve higher levels of sustainability. [Click here](#) for additional details and registration.

>Construction Week – University of Wisconsin Madison – Week of May 1-5, 2006: Three courses will be covered during the week of May 1-5, 2006 – 1) Principles and Practices of Estimating 2) Principles and Practices of Construction Project Scheduling and 3) Comprehensive Practices for Effective Construction Project Management. Courses will be held at The Madison Concourse Hotel. For additional information and registration, [click here](#).

>Construction Spending Sets Record in February; Mexican Cement Accord Takes

Effect - Construction spending set a record for the eighth straight month in February, reaching a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1.19 trillion, the Census Bureau reported on Monday. That was 0.8% higher than the upwardly revised January mark and was especially strong, given that the weather in February was thought to be less conducive to construction than the mild, dry conditions of January. [[more](#)]

>ASPE-AGC Estimator Academy to be Held April 21-22, 2006 in St Louis, Mo.: Jointly sponsored with the American Society of Professional Estimators, this non-introductory program is designed especially for construction estimators dedicated to the art and science of construction cost estimating [[more](#)]

Comments? We value your comments and encourage you to let us know how you are using this bi-weekly report. Possibly you have a question we can research, someone needs to be added to the MWB distribution list or you have information to share. Ask any of us!

[Bart Carrigan](#), [Barbara Strachan](#), [Dick Brunvand](#), [Don Bovre](#), [Peter Anderson](#), [Cathy Kester](#), [Claudia Jefcoat](#), [Adriane Truss](#) or [Evelyn Buckelew](#)