

**From:** Michigan Chapter AGC

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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.

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

**>HB 5675 Passed by Senate Committee:** House Bill 5675 passed the Senate Judiciary Committee yesterday. Lobbyist Jim Crawford talked with the Chairman (Senator Alan Cropsy) following the committee meeting. He again confirmed that it is the Senate's desire to pass this bill this week.

While the bill was changed in committee, it still clarifies that the definition "REGULARLY AND CONTINUOUSLY WORK UNDER CONTRACT" does not apply to school construction.

Therefore, construction contractors will not be forced to require all employees to have background checks. We will send a full report when the Senate acts and when signed by the Governor.

**>Michigan Supreme Court Declines Review of ABC Prevailing Wage Lawsuit:** This afternoon we learned that Michigan's Supreme Court has decided not to hear the appeal of ABC's lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Michigan's prevailing wage law. The Court let stand an Appeals Court decision that denied ABC's claims that the prevailing wage law should be voided on constitutional grounds.

The impact of the decision is to preserve the status quo on the administration of Michigan's prevailing wage law.

We will cover this decision and more at a Prevailing Wages in Michigan Workshop on March 28, 2006 from 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (lunch included) at the Lansing Center, Lansing. Confirmed speakers include Peter Cockshaw, national labor analyst; Peter Phillips, Ph.D., Professor of Economics, University of Utah; Dale Belman, Professor - Labor & Industrial Relations, MSU; Bob Patzer, MITA and Bart Carrigan, Michigan Chapter AGC.

Current sponsors are Michigan Chapter NECA, IBEW, Michigan Chapter AGC, MITA, LECET and the Michigan Building Trades Council. Registration information will be available soon.

**>DLEG Re-enforcement for Michigan's Prevailing Wage:** Attached is the first in a series of articles about the fair enforcement of Michigan's Prevailing Wage law provided by David Plawecki, Deputy Director, Michigan DLEG.

**>Granholm Signs Landmark Legislation to Protect Great Lakes:** Governor Jennifer M. Granholm signed legislation on Tuesday, February 28 that for the first time protects Michigan waters from large-scale diversions and withdrawals. The landmark legislation fulfills a commitment Michigan made more than 20 years ago to join with other states and Canada to protect and preserve the waters of the Great Lakes Basin. Contractors should know that there will be increased scrutiny of dredge sediments, ground water discharges and increased fees for NPDES permits. [[press release](#)]

**>What Ever Happened to the Great Lakes Water Quality Bonds (Proposal 2)?:** The

answer to this question is detailed in the DEQ's fall 2005 *Loan Arranger* publication. In addition, the DEQ announced seven new loan commitments from the Clean Water States Revolving Fund (SFR) and six from the Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRP). Both funds help make needed improvements to wastewater collection, treatment facilities and public drinking water systems. [[The Loan Arranger – pg. 3-5](#)]

**>Legislation Information from Lansing:** In the February 23 issue of the Karoub Report, an outline of the current ballot issue campaigns is reviewed including a petition in support of repealing the state's Single Business Tax and raising the state's minimum wage. [[Karoub Report](#)]

**>AGC Members Honor Bob Fontana at Funeral Services in Iron Mountain:** Last Friday, many AGC members and friends attended Bob Fontana's funeral in Iron Mountain. Janis Fontana and her family asked me to thank AGC for the support we have given Bob over the years.

Many AGC members, including past-presidents Bill Verette from Gundlach Champion, Inc. and Bob Root, E&L Construction Group, make kind remarks about Bob during the service.

Several requests have been made by the membership for the creation of a scholarship in Bob Fontana's name. We are pleased to report the request has been approved...see details in article below.

**>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 requested that one of this year's named scholarships be designated 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.

This year a scholarship will also be given in the name of Pat Cunningham, Past President of the Michigan Chapter AGC and Cunningham Construction. Pat was recently recognized as an Honorary Member of the Chapter.

Two of the scholarships are designated as long term scholarships for continuity: the Jeltema Memorial Scholarship and the H.L. "Bud" Conrad Memorial Scholarship.

**>Get in the Swing of Spring...Mark Your Calendar Now to Chip in 'Fore' Education at AGC's Golf Classic at Timber Ridge Golf Club, May 24, 2006:** Michigan Chapter AGC's 15th Annual Golf Classic is at a new location this year, Timber Ridge Golf Club in East Lansing. It is easy to reach, just minutes off of I-69 on Park Lake Road, between Interstate 69 and Lake Lansing Road.

Timber Ridge Golf Club is one of only 12 public courses in North America to be honored with the highest possible rating, five stars, by Golf Digest readers. This Michigan golf course is also listed in the Top 50 in terms of value, service, price, course condition, and in the Top 10 courses for unrestricted walking. In 2004, Timber Ridge was ranked in the top 10 public golf courses to play in the State of Michigan.

Register your foursome today! [[sponsorship & registration](#)]

**>Eight MI AGC Members Express Interest in CEO Roundtables:** We'd like to invite you to join with other contractor members and be a participant in an "AGC CEO Roundtable" in cooperation with the Family Business Institute. The Roundtable program is open to commercial building contractors, specialty, highway and heavy contractors, and utility contractors.

The purpose of the Roundtable is to help you make more money in less time with fewer headaches and a higher quality of life. Partnering along with 23 other AGC chapters, this will be a substantial member benefit to those who have wanted to meet with non-competing peers. This program has been a big hit with contractors around the country, and this could be one of the most powerful business building tools we've ever been able to offer our members.

The Roundtable groups will consist of seven to ten companies that are similar to your own in size and type of work. Groups meet twice per year at pre-designated sites for peer review, open sharing and discussion of industry issues, profit opportunities, business building strategies, and group interaction. The Roundtable program is open to commercial building contractors, mechanical contractors, electrical contractors, and plumbing contractors.

Please refer to the on-line presentation located at <http://mi.agc.org/content/public/pdf/AGC%20CEO%20Roundtable%20Presentation.pdf>.

**>Have You Tried Web-based Safety Training?:** The Interactive Construction Safety Training Program (I.C.S.T.) is now offering 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 safety and health topics for the construction industry. The topics are:

- Aerial Lift Safety
- Concrete & Masonry – Construction
- Construction Safety Orientation
- Electrical Safety
- Excavations, Trenches & Shoring
- Fall Protection – Construction
- Fire Safety - Construction
- Mobile Crane Safety – Construction
- Personal Protective Equipment – Construction
- Scaffolding Safety – Construction
- Stairways & Ladders – Construction
- Steel Erection – Construction

[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.

**>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 at a rate of 11.63 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.

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Don't forget about the "[2006 Construction Career Graduates of Michigan Universities](#)" that is now available!

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.

**>Women in Construction Week:** The Lansing Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) is pleased to announce the launch of its ninth annual Women in Construction Week. The focus of Women in Construction Week is to help build the future of women in construction. NAWIC exists to enhance the success of women in the industry, and every year, it dedicates a week to concentrate on doing just that. NAWIC helps to build careers, build lives and build the future of women working in the construction community. [[press release](#)]

**>MI AGC Member Named “Policyholder of the Year” for 2005:** The Christman Company was named Accident Fund Insurance Company of America’s first “Policyholder of the Year” during the company’s annual All Employee Meeting at the Lansing Center on January 26, 2006. [[more](#)]

**>Sharpening the Language:** In Guy Snyder’s latest issue of Dragline, concerns about Michigan’s new law revamping background checks on school employees is the topic of discussion. There’s already been a big public fallout over it. Many are upset by the extension of the law to construction employers and AGC is now trying to exempt contractors from the requirements. This news analysis can be accessed at Michigan Construction News [michiganconstructionnews.com](http://michiganconstructionnews.com).

**> Construction Price Indexes Rise Steeply; Manufacturing Output, Housing Starts Leap:** The only PPI that tracks completed construction, an index for new warehouse buildings, was up 1.5% for the month and 7.6% over 12 months. The PPI for construction machinery and equipment climbed 1.2% and 5.2%. The PPI for construction materials and components rose 1.1% and 6.2%. [[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](#)