

From: Michigan Chapter AGC

Subject: MI AGC MWB 3-30-06



*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.

[We apologize for the delay of this issue of the MWB due to a computer problem.](#)

>Good News: House Bill 5675 was voted out of a Conference Committee yesterday afternoon. This makes concurrence in the House and Senate very likely either today or tomorrow (before beginning a two-week legislative break). Our language is still intact.

The bill contains language that clarifies that the definition of regularly and continuously does not apply to 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.

>Lawmakers Initiate Legislation to Raise the State Bond Cap to Provide for Capital Outlay Funding for State Building Projects – SB 1189: Yesterday, Senator Mike Goschka introduced Senate Bill 1189 to increase the state building authority bond cap from its current \$2.7 billion to \$4.0 billion, providing for \$1.3 billion to fund capital outlay projects under the State Building Authority.

This has been a key legislative priority for Michigan Chapter AGC. We have worked in a coalition with the Council of Presidents of Michigan's Colleges and Universities to frame the issue for the State's lawmakers. Council of President's Executive Vice President has told AGC that SB1189 will be cosponsored by the Senate Majority Leader Sikkema and other influential senators. We will keep you posted.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the bill.

>Lansing Legislative News: Senate Passes S.B.T. Bill, Curriculum Bill Passes Senate and the State is Looking at Tax Cuts are highlights of the March 23 [Karoub Report](#)

>Clark Construction Company Receives Aon Build America Merit Award: At the Annual Convention of AGC of America in Palm Springs, California, March 22, Clark Construction Company, was awarded a Aon Build America Merit Award for Mountain Grand Lodge and Spa and Avalanche Bay Indoor Waterpark. [[press release](#)]

This is the eleventh consecutive year that a Michigan Chapter AGC member has received an Aon Build America Award. AGC staffer Dick Brunvand has helped many members with their submittals.

>STP Unit 7 Class CANCELED: STP Unit 7 – Prevention and Loss Control schedule to start on Monday, April 3, 2006 has been canceled due to insufficient enrollment. This session wraps up the end of the 2005-2006 STP series. The 2006-2007 class schedule will be available in early fall with classes starting in November.

>Michigan Workers Will Get A Raise! On Tuesday, March 28, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm signed legislation that will give hundreds of thousands of workers in Michigan a pay raise. Senate Bill 318 increases the state's minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$7.40 per hour over the next two years. The minimum wage has not been increased since 1997. [[press release](#)]

> Collaborative Labor Relations Needed to Resolve Serious Issues: The LRD has the following update:

Laborers' Local #1098 – Traverse City Chapter	5/1/03 – 4/30/2006
BAC, Local #9 – Traverse City Chapter	5/1/03 – 4/30/2006
Operating Engineers, #324, Lower Peninsula	5/1/03 – 4/30/2006
Carpenters #202 – Traverse City/Alpena	5/1/03 – 4/30/2006

AGC Contracts that open first in 2006

February 2, the Saginaw and Traverse City Group (consisting of Mike Emmenecker, Duane Bremer, Mike Comstock and Bill Kersaan) met in Clare with five (5) members of the MRCC Carpenters, in an attempt to gain some consensus and understanding as to these serious problems and to work toward solutions. The meetings had a “cooperative tone” and there was progress toward understanding the problems:

- 20% decline in hours since 2003
- 13% decline in Market Share in Saginaw in past four years
- Michigan economy is 47th worst out of 50 states
- Michigan has the 47th worst unemployment rate
- Underfunded Pension Plans that impose an EWL on our contractors
- Non-union Carpenters (the competition) total package is considerably less than Union Carpenters
- Auto industry in Michigan is in serious trouble and getting worse – that impacts our members adversely since we are “Industrial Contractors”

Then on March 10, the group met again with the Carpenters and Laborers in Clare with more discussions on how to gain a larger share of the market share. Again the tone of the meetings was good and many items were discussed.

On April 5, we will be meeting again with the Carpenters and the Laborers to dialog some more. Bargaining committees have been chosen and briefed on our priorities. Please contact Don Bovre (donb@mi.agc.org) with comments or concerns.

>Construction Industry Remembers Ralph Stephenson: Ralph Stephenson's family will be holding a memorial service for Ralph on Saturday, April 8 at 11:00 am. It will be at the First United Methodist Church, 400 East Main, Mt. Pleasant Michigan.

Mr. Stephenson was 83 when he passed away on March 11. The Stephenson family asks that anyone who wishes to make a donation should do so to the charity of their choice. Those who wish to make a contribution to the Michigan Chapter AGC Endowment Fund may do so. If enough dollars are received we will name a scholarship after Ralph. For more information, please e-mail Claudia at claudiaj@mi.agc.org.

>Grand Rapids ‘Race Neutral’ Policy Continues to Have Positive Impact: Over the past two years a policy and guidelines developed in Grand Rapids to increase work for Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) in the construction industry is showing positive signs.

The policy and guidelines replaced a goal orientated race conscious program. Michigan Chapter AGC has been part of a group meeting with Grand Rapids city officials since 2001 to develop, implement and monitor the new policy and guidelines. Others in the group are Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), West Michigan Minority Contractors Association and The American Council of Engineering Companies of Michigan, ACEC/M

In its annual report to the Grand Rapids City commission the staff of the Equal Business Opportunity Construction program concluded: “The Race-neutral EBO Construction program

is perhaps the most exciting and innovative program undertaken by the city of Grand Rapids in recent years. We have crafted and implemented an award-winning program that offers contractors incentives for engaging in activities deemed as important outcomes of our sustainability plan.” [\[report\]](#)

In February the policy and guidelines were presented to West Michigan Hospital administrators and in May Colleges and University representatives will be asked to consider adopting a similar program.

A “Sustainable” Peninsula?: Several articles were published recently that made reference to “sustainability”, “green building” or “improving environmental performance of the construction industry”.

In *Another Point of View* (Detroit Free Press), John H. Hartig suggests that southeast Michigan adopt a market focus based on sustainable development. See his article [“If You Seek Sustainable Model, Look About You”](#).

Today, AGC of America released a [press release](#) detailing AGC of America’s goals for improving environmental performance. The AGC-A derived many of the details of its environmental agenda from its formal partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. AGC-A also drew on its prior success in providing environmental services to its members (through their outstanding staff environmental attorney, Leah Pilconis 703-837-5332) and in working with property owners, design professionals and environmental groups, including the U.S. Green Building Council.

For a downloadable and printable copy of the full text of AGC-A’s new environmental agenda visit <http://www.agc.org/galleries/enviro/FINAL%20AGC%20Environmental%20Agenda.pdf>

Another sustainable resource is the “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. Attend this conference 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.

Michigan Chapter AGC members may want to differentiate themselves from other contractors by strengthening their “environmental excellence”. All the tools needed to do so are there. Assign a staff member to use the AGC-A guidance to increase the value you provide to your construction clients!

>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.

>Time to Polish Your Clubs and Sign Up 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. Take advantage of this opportunity to network and have fun while contributing to fund student scholarships!

Register today! [\[sponsorship & registration\]](#)

> 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" 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.

> Stay Up-to-Date with Michigan Construction News: Michigan Construction News (MCN) delivers construction news and happenings twice a week via email. Tuesday's edition reports that Marquette Township is making building plans and Byron Township has reached a final site place approval for 'Builder's Village'. These and additional construction related news can be accessed at Michigan Construction News michiganconstructionnews.com.

>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](#).

> Tracking the Surge in Construction Costs, 2001-2006 - AGC-A's Construction Inflation Report by Ken Simonson – Second Edition

This report is intended to assist contractors, building owners and developers, public budgeting and planning officials, and others to understand changes in construction costs relative to the rest of the economy over the past five years, the impact of recent developments such as the Gulf coast hurricanes, and factors that are likely to affect costs in the next 12 months or so. [[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](#)