

From: [Charlotte Kopf](#)
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Mobile Section, AlabamaAGC e-Newsletter

September 1, 2011

This eNewsletter is a service provided by the
Mobile Section, AlabamaAGC
754 Downtowner Loop West – Mobile, AL 36609
251-344-8220 Email: mobagc@bellsouth.net
Contact: Charlotte Kopf
www.theconstructioncenter.org
www.alagc.org

September-October Events at a Glance

September 1st - USA Tailgating Party at Ladd Peebles Stadium
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

September 5th - Labor Day - The Construction Center will be Closed

September 8th - YCF Bowling Social - Skyline Bowling Lanes 5:30 to 7:30 P.M.

September 28-29 – Worlds of Opportunity Career Expo
at the Greater Gulf States Fairgrounds

October 4th - September MCRBA Meeting moved to October 4th
5:30 P.M. Country Club of Mobile

October 20th - MCRBA-AGC Fall "Joe Verneuille Memorial Golf Tournament
Heron Lakes Country Club

Over 450 Attend AGC Bonanza Day Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo and Golf Tournament held August 12-13, 2011

Over 450 fishermen, golfers, and landtrollers attended the 43rd Annual Bonanza Day Deep Sea Fishing and Golf Tournament held in Orange Beach August 12th & 13th.

Appreciation is extended to all who have so generously donated to Bonanza Day.
Thank you for making this event one of the best ever.

To view the Bonanza Day Newsletter with photos and a listing of the winners please click here:

[Bonanza Day Newsletter with Photos, Winners, and Sponsors](#)

To view Bonanza Day photos on our Facebook page – please follow links:

[Bonanza Day Photos Album 1](#)

[Bonanza Day Photos Album 2](#)

CompTrust AGC Update

Trustees for CompTrust AGC voted last week to return \$4.5 million (in Bonanza Credits) in 2012 to qualifying CompTrust members in good standing.

Amendments to Alabama's Statute of Repose Legislation become effective September 1st

Amendments to Alabama Statute of Repose Limit the Potential Liability of Architects, Engineers, and General Contractors

The Alabama legislature recently passed amendments to the Statute of Repose which significantly limit the potential liability of architects, engineers, and general contractors for damages relating to their work

on construction projects. (Ala. Code § 6-5-220 *et seq.*) The amendments provide that no lawsuit may be filed against any architect, engineer, or licensed general contractor for any cause of action (whether in contract, tort, or otherwise) which arises more than seven years after substantial completion of the construction project.

(Formerly, lawsuits could be filed up to thirteen years after substantial completion of a project.) Under the statute, a cause of action "arises" at the time of injury or, where the injury is latent in nature, at the time the injury should reasonably be discovered. In general, a lawsuit must be brought within two years after the cause of action arises, but a latent defect may not cause any actual injury or be discovered for many years after the project has been completed. This would create a situation where potential liability could go on almost indefinitely. Under the Statute of Repose, however, if the cause of action does not arise within seven years of substantial completion of the project, then the injured party is forever barred from filing a lawsuit against the architect, engineer, and general contractor on the project. The amendments have been approved by Gov.

Robert Bentley and go into effect on September 1, 2011.

The amendments are not retroactive, so the new time limits will only apply to projects that are substantially completed on or after September 1, 2011.

Information Provided by:

Jaime W. Betbeze

Hand Arendall LLC

11 North Water Street, Ste. 30200

Mobile, Alabama 36602

251-432-5511

As you may recall Alabama AGC was instrumental in getting this important legislation passed!

3% Withholding Law Update:

YOUR Immediate Action STILL Needed:

AGC of America needs your help to ensure Congress understands the impact of withholding 3 percent of payments to contractors. You can help by contacting your congressional delegation, writing to the local media and spreading the word with your friends, family and industry partners.

[To view talking points, sample letters, etc. please click on this link.](#)

Sessions, Bonner and Shelby need to be contacted Immediately - ask them to vote to REPEAL this legislation.

Background:

On May 9, 2011 the IRS issued [final regulations](#) for the implementation of the 3% withholding law. The regulations delay the effective date from 1/1/2012 to 1/1/2013, providing an extra year before payments are withheld. But the final regs also sunset the exclusion of payments under existing contracts after one year so that all payments will be subject to withholding as of 1/1/2014.

Beginning January 1, 2013, federal, state, and local governments will withhold 3% from each and every payment to contractors for goods and services. This withholding does not just apply to construction contracts, it applies to all contracts.

- This requirement applies to all government entities with total budgets of at least \$100 million; and
- Construction contractors are not alone. This affects payments for all goods and services under government contracts, as well as payments to any person for a service or product provided to a government entity, even Medicare and certain grants.

EPA Delays Nationwide Limit on Dirt in Stormwater; Move Will Help Construction Industry Avoid Billions in New Costs

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) announcement that it is delaying its effort to protect the Earth from dirt gives temporary relief for struggling contractors. AGC's chief executive officer, Stephen E. Sandherr, issued a statement approving the decision by the EPA to withdraw a proposed "numeric limit" on the amount of dirt the federal government will allow in stormwater from construction sites. [Read More](#) →

Classifieds – Resumes on File

Mobile Section has several resumes on file of people seeking employment in the construction industry:

2011 USA Engineering graduates

Civil, Mechanical, and Electrical

2011 Auburn Building Science Graduates

Mobile Section Member News

(All members are encouraged to submit articles for Member News - Please contact Charlotte Kopf - mobagc@bellsouth.net)

Worlds of Opportunity Career Expo – September 28-29
Help us Introduce Construction to over 12,000 8th Grade
Students in Southwest Alabama

The first “Worlds of Opportunity” Career Expo held last Fall in Mobile, hosted over 9000 8th grade students, teachers, and counselors from 8 Southwest Alabama counties. This was the first hands-on expo of this size ever held in Alabama. The “World of Construction” was one of eleven industries included and was by far the largest “world” with hands on demonstrations held inside and outside of the Fairgrounds.

The event is being produced by SAWDC (South Alabama Workforce Development Council). **AGC is helping coordinate the 2011 World of Construction and hope that you will help us with this hugely successful two day event.**

We have already confirmed a number of sponsors but need additional help with hands-on activities, equipment, supplies, and VOLUNTEERS!

[Click here to view 2011 “World of Construction” Exhibit Partners and Sponsors to date.](#)

We are seeking additional exhibitors, hands-on activities, sponsors, and partners. Please contact Charlotte Kopf 251-344-8220 if you are interested in helping.

Overview of Event:

On September 28th & 29th 2011 the Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Commission Region 9, in cooperation with local industries, Municipalities, and Mobile County Public Schools will present the Worlds of Opportunity Career Expo at the Greater Gulf State Fair Grounds.

Every 8th grade student in an 8 county region is invited to attend.
(Approximately 10,000 -12,000 students).

Business and industry leaders, workforce development and career center representatives, along with school representatives are collaborating and partnering to introduce this event to our region. A hands-on event of this type has never been held in Alabama. This event is crucial to influencing the workforce of tomorrow – today, by educating students on the vast availability of careers in the Southwest Alabama region.

The “Worlds of Opportunity” will include the following “worlds” or industry sectors:

1. Energy, (Alabama Power, Mobile Gas)
2. Construction: Industrial, Commercial, Residential and Highway
3. Safety
4. Architecture and Engineering,
5. Maritime,
6. Aerospace,

7. Manufacturing: Paper, Chemical, Steel, Process,
8. Auto Technology/Painting, Collision, Mechanics,
9. Public Service,
10. Health Care, and
11. HOSPITALITY

[Click here to view article and photos from the 2010 World of Construction.](#)

[Click here to View the 2010 Booklet which was given to each student.](#)

View SAWDC's website: www.worldsofopportunity.org to view short video from 2010.

If you are interested in helping us with the World of Construction - please contact Charlotte Kopf 251-344-8220 mobagc@bellsouth.net

Welcome New Mobile Section, Alabama AGC Members

AGC would like to welcome the following New Members to our Association:

The Seawell Firm, LLC

P.O. Box 40848

Mobile, AL 36640

251-476-4419

General and Legal Services for Small Businesses, Corporate Organization and Business Planning

Contact: Henry Seawell, IV

Email: hseawell@seawellfirm.com

Website: www.seawellfirm.com

News from National AGC

Data DiGest dated August 25, 2011

Ken Simonson, Chief Economist, Associated General Contractors of America

Phone: 703-837-5313 • Fax: 703-837-5407 Email: simonsonk@agc.org

DATA DIGEST

Construction jobs edge up nationally and in half the states; costs outpace overall PPI

Click [here](#) to view state construction employment numbers. Click [here](#) to view the latest producer price index for construction.

Nonfarm payroll employment climbed by 117,000 in July, seasonally adjusted, and the unemployment rate was 9.3%, not seasonally adjusted (9.1%, seasonally adjusted), the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported on August 5. **Construction employment** inched up by 8,000 jobs to a 15-month high of 5,532,000, seasonally adjusted, a gain of 32,000 (0.6%) since July 2010, but almost 2.2 million (28%) below the peak set in April 2006. The industry unemployment rate fell from 17.3% a year earlier to 13.6%, not seasonally adjusted. The number of unemployed people who previously worked in construction shrank by nearly 400,000 over the year, suggesting that unemployed workers are leaving the industry at roughly 10 times the rate they are finding jobs in it, which suggests future expansion will be hard to achieve. Employment in heavy and civil engineering

construction—the segment that had previously added jobs as a result of federal funding for stimulus, military base realignment and Gulf Coast hurricane protection projects—shrank for the third month in a row, by 400 jobs, although the July 2011 total was 21,000 jobs (2.5%) higher than a year earlier. Residential building and specialty trade employment dropped a combined 1,600 jobs in July and 11,700 jobs (-0.6%) over the past 12 months. Nonresidential building and specialty trade contractors added a combined 10,200 jobs for the month and 22,400 jobs (0.9%) over 12 months. **Architectural and engineering services employment**, a harbinger of future demand for construction, added 1,300 jobs in July and 21,700 (1.7%) over 12 months

To read more:



Download the one-page Data DiGest

Construction Fatalities Decline by Nearly 10 Percent Between 2009 & 2010

Industry-Led Efforts Contributed to Nearly 40 Percent Reduction in Fatalities Since 2006

The number of construction fatalities declined by nearly 10 percent between 2009 and 2010 and by almost 40 percent during the past five years, according to an analysis of new federal data prepared by the Associated General Contractors of America. Association officials pointed to an industry-wide commitment to improving workplace safety as a key reason for the safety improvements.

“This industry has made safety a top priority in good times and bad, and the new data shows those efforts are helping save lives,” said Stephen E. Sandherr, the association’s chief executive officer. “But even one fatality is too many, which is why this data also serves as a somber reminder of the work that still needs to be done.”

Sandherr noted that the number of construction fatalities in 2010 was 751, down from 834 in 2009 and 1,239 in 2006. He added that the number of construction fatalities was declining faster than the total amount of money invested in construction projects during the past five years. While construction spending declined by 31 percent between 2006 and 2010, the number of fatalities declined by nearly 40 percent.

The construction industry has taken a range of steps to improve workplace safety during the past two decades, Sandherr said. He said that safety planning is now considered an essential part of all pre-construction plans. Construction workers also undergo rigorous and ongoing safety training both at construction sites and within company training rooms. Many firms also now regularly participate in association-led safety stand-downs, stopping all construction activity during a particular day to hold intense safety training and drills.

The association has also worked to establish a host of safety programs and materials from which construction firms are benefitting. Sandherr cited the work the association has done to train construction workers in fall protection measures in helping cut fall fatalities from 447 in 2007 to 260 in 2010, a 42 percent decline. He added that the association offers a wide range of safety training programs and tools to construction firms across the industry.

Sandherr noted that the association remained committed to working with federal, state and local officials to continue improving workplace safety. “Nobody has a monopoly on improving workplace safety.”

Click [here](#) for more information

Baldwin County Road Builders Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, September 13th at 6:30 P.M.
at the Fairhope Elks Club.

The guest speaker will be Vince Calametti with ALDOT.

Mobile County Road Builders Monthly Meeting

The September Meeting has been moved to
Tuesday, October 4th, 2011
at the Country Club of Mobile
5:30 P.M. - Social
6:00 - Dinner

Are you getting the most out of your AGC Membership? ▲

Click here to see [what does AGC does for you?](#)

[Click here to learn more about AGC. AGC Fact Sheet](#)

Calendar of Events for 2011 ▲

Please view an updated [Calendar of Events for 2011](#)

Plans Available in LDI's Plan Room – Mobile, AL ▲

The Alabama AGC Mobile Section is now offering its members a free plan room and weekly project news bulletin - through a partnership with LDI Reprinting Services.

Members can view plans at LDI's location -

1170-B West/I-65 Service Road South-- around the corner from the AGC office.

LDI also offers a full range of copying services available at the location for a fee.

Of course, Alabama AGC members still are encouraged to utilize the on-line services

of **iSqft**, our chapter-wide internet plan room partner. Contact the Mobile Office

at 251-344-8220 or mobagc@bellsouth.net

For more information on the plan room or membership in Alabama AGC.

To view plans available at LDI as of

[August 26th](#)

Or visit our website: www.theconstructioncenter.org

To reach LDI contact Scott Cook: 251-340-6093

Follow Mobile Section on FaceBook

Please visit our Facebook page and click **“LIKE”** :

[Associated General Contractors Alabama Mobile Section](#)

Please view our Facebook photo album which features photos from our events!

[To view photos from events please click on this link](#)

Visit www.GoBuildAlabama.com Website ▲

Alabama Construction Recruitment Institute (ACRI) continues their construction recruitment ads featuring Mike Rowe the host of “Dirty Jobs” . To learn more about joining the construction industry , visit the website www.GoBuildAlabama.com

AGC Member Discounts

[Click here to view AGC Member Discounts](#)