



AGC SOUTH DAKOTA
HIGHWAY-HEAVY-UTILITIES CHAPTER
THE CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



President's Message

GARY JOHNSON
A-G-E Corp., Ft. Pierre
2020 President, AGC of SD - HHU



Greetings to all the AGC/HHU members! You all are amazing, along with the HHU staff that makes the AGC of SD - HHU such a great AGC Chapter. Wow, what a fast year! Even with COVID and all it has been a good year for AGC. I have to begin with thanks to our great staff; you made things happen! Without you, our work and mission would be impossible. Next, to my past president Tim Forster who led the association ahead of me; with his experience in SDDOT before coming to the private side helped the construction industry by bringing a depth of knowledge. Also, I want to thank Jim Soukup for stepping up to take a leadership role with an unexpected change in the officer line with Dave Dailey leaving to serve our country. Dave Dailey, thank you for your service to our country. We are lucky! Dividends are coming!

It has been fun. I was SD HHU President in 1999 and wow things have changed. I am grateful for this opportunity and thank all those who have made this journey easier. I could list names but I'd forget someone, each of you know who you are. As we move ahead all I can say is get involved. Make this association yours with your involvement, it's totally up to you for the successes we have ahead of us. I hope you are well and pray for each of you for the safety and success of your business and employees.

~ See ya on the trail, Gary



2020 AGC of SOUTH DAKOTA HHU CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

2020 OFFICERS

President - Gary Johnson, Ft. Pierre
Senior VP - Jim Soukup, Sioux Falls
VP - RC Scull, Rapid City
Sec./Treas. - Chad Hartman, Sioux Falls
Past Pres. - Tim Forster, Rapid City

2020 DIRECTORS

Elroy Buren / Rapid City
Ed Davis / Sioux Falls
Tim Davis / Huron
Derek Suhr/ Rapid City
Robert Sopher / Mobridge
Jared Gusso / Sioux Falls
Andy Johnson / Ft. Pierre
Rob Knight / Webster

NATIONAL GOVERNORS

John Morris / Pierre
Floyd Schafer / Rapid City

LIFE NATIONAL GOVERNORS (ACTIVE)

Gary Johnson / Ft. Pierre
Kari Karst / Dell Rapids
Mark Knight / Aberdeen

ASSOCIATE DIVISION OFFICERS

President Derek McTighe, Pierre
VP - Wade Planting, Sioux Falls
Sec./Treas - Andrew Heitzler, Sioux Falls
Past Pres. - Jon Snedeker, Sioux Falls



COVID-19: AGC WORKING FOR YOU: 2020 was . . well . . it was memorable!

The COVID-19 Pandemic was a chance to prove our mettle and value of our association. This report clearly illustrates the many tasks and challenges COVID-19 presented and how AGC of South Dakota kept you in an advantaged position during a time of crisis in our industry!

When the COVID-19 Pandemic hit, AGC went into Overdrive!



- AGC immediately began lobbying congress, state and local leaders to categorize construction as an essential service to keep our members working.
- AGC issued a letter to Governor Kristi Noem and Mayors of Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Aberdeen and other municipalities asking for their support of continued construction operations, citing the industry's commitment to safety on jobsites.
- AGC created a COVID-19 specific website where we housed industry specific documents and templates for our members, including up-to-date state, federal and local mandates, safety and travel templates for essential businesses, and information on financial relief packages as well as guidelines from the CDC, DLR and other agencies.
- As the pandemic erupted, AGC hosted a virtual Spring Membership Meeting & hosted member-to-member best practices sessions for members to openly discuss COVID-19 experiences within their companies and exchange ideas on how to deal with certain situations.
- AGC was the leader in helping members develop COVID-19 safety plans and procedures to help our contractors standardize the protocols for COVID-19 on the job site. The safety procedures for employers and jobsites were quickly adopted by SDDOT and several local municipalities, and were also made available in Spanish.
- AGC optimized our digital communications, implementing electronic meeting platforms, and formulating new ideas for distance learning.



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The VALUE of your AGC membership is always great, but during a CRISIS like our current pandemic, it is INVALUABLE. AGC has been a leader at both the state and national levels. They help us deal with the uncertainty that we all face in our businesses, and also protect us from burdensome and unclear regulations that have long-term impacts on our businesses. Thank you AGC!

KARI J. KARST, CEO/PRESIDENT BX CIVIL & CONSTRUCTION, INC.

MEMBERSHIP Communicate - Educate - Connect & Save!

Membership in AGC of South Dakota is designed to provide you and your employees with tools for your success! Whether it's workforce development, young constructors, safety training/consulting, or other professional development programs, there's something for everyone!

2020 concluded with a total Membership of 254 (104 contractors & 150 associates). Over the past 5 years, Membership continues to rise!

Networking opportunities are a key ingredient of member involvement and our 2020 State Convention was greatly attended! Soon after, COVID-19 forced several events to be canceled including our Spring & Fall Membership Meetings.

We were however able to host our ice fishing tournament, summer fishing tournament, two golf tournaments and the Summer Socials in Sioux Falls and Rapid City!

In addition, the COVID-19 Pandemic left several people without jobs. AGC altered our hiring messages for our annual public relations campaign to drive job-seekers to AGC's Jobs Bank. 2020 set a record with having over OVER 18,500 jobs viewed on the jobs bank.

Now, more than ever, we all need to leverage our AGC of SD contacts. Let your fellow members know you're ready and willing to do business. AGC encourages all members to do business with other fellow members!



SAFETY AND TRAINING

Leading the Way Through a Global Pandemic

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the AGC of SD Safety Team worked harder than ever to provide **guidance and assistance for safe, continued construction operations** for members. Working with the support of the AGC of America as well as guidelines from the CDC, DLR and other governmental agencies, **AGC lead the way in creating and providing the safety materials** that members put into practice to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, while still allowing construction to move forward.

The unprecedented times pushed AGC's Safety Team to think outside of the box in regards to training in a safe environment. **AGC expanded our menu of Safety & Training Services**, including: OSHA Consultation Services, Safety Toolbox Talks developed exclusively for members; and implemented an electronic platform to provide trainings virtually to members state wide.

Members still utilized all of our safety & training services offered in 2020. These offerings include; site visits & mock audits, OSHA & MSHA citation assistance, Safety Committee meetings, and over 20 different training courses (OSHA, MSHA, competent person, traffic control, etc.) In the workforce training area, AGC offered over 10 different training courses (Supervisor Training, Project Manager Development, Project Scheduling, etc.) **Over 103 Safety & Leadership Training classes** were conducted in 12 different South Dakota cities in 2020.

Trainings opportunities were enhanced with the new AGC Training Center located in Sioux Falls. The facility offers opportunities for

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The AGC of South Dakota played a vital role in helping contractors through COVID-19. They kept us informed on the position of the SDDOT and provided contractors a cut and paste Job Site Safety Plan to implement on our jobs. The AGC is a great partner during uncertain times!

SHAW LOISEAU, VICE PRESIDENT
LOISEAU CONSTRUCTION

hands-on training along with a large training classroom equipped with advanced audio visual capabilities. Plans are underway to enhance the Rapid City Training Room with similar technology.

The AGC Safety team also adapted and switched gears from having in-person meetings to implementing **bi-weekly briefings** for all safety professionals. During the briefings, staff would update attendees on the latest **COVID updates and state-wide resources** available. Members discussed **jobsite best practices and tools** to share amongst the construction industry.

Dedicated to keeping construction working, AGC of SD promoted and participated in the AGC of America COVID-19 Safety Stand Down in May.

Because of our member's participation and dedication to properly implementing AGC's COVID-19 safety plans and procedures for jobsites, our state did not shut down construction projects!

DID YOU KNOW?

OSHA 10 & Manual Elevated Work Platform tied for the most classes offered in 2020 with 14 classes each!

MSHA training was the 3rd most offered class in 2020, with 9 classes conducted

Over 1,000 people were trained by the AGC Safety Staff in 2020!

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

“Adversity has Always Generated Opportunity and Innovation”
And AGC Rose to the Challenge!

AGC of SD’s workforce staff was determine to continue to assist members in **rebuilding and strengthening the workforce** even through the pandemic. AGC developed new certifications, enhancing our already strong connections with tech schools & state entities, and assisted members in **recruiting, training and cross-training the workforce**. Traditionally one of the most significant workforce development efforts that we have done to target high school students has been to conduct statewide Construction Career Camps with the assistance of members and educational partners. However, all **Construction Career Camps were postponed** due to the COVID-19 policies put into place by the majority of our participating high schools and educational partners.

Although the ability to conduct our camps was prohibited, AGC’s Workforce Development staff pushed forward and continued to promote careers in construction. **New materials were developed to share AGC’s career exploration opportunities**. The materials were also available for members to utilize and included a folder that allows customization. In addition, in fall 2020 AGC’s virtual training experiences and industry connections were enhanced using the Zoom platform.

AGC of SD was **Awarded a Youth Apprentice Grant** in 2020 from the South Dakota Department of Labor. The \$50,000 grant has opened the doors for students ages 16 and 17 to join our apprenticeship programs and to join our members on the worksite. In addition to enrolling these students, it has allowed our training

team the ability to train via distance learning with new equipment purchased with grant funding. The grant concludes in May of 2022.

The AGC along with Governor Kristi Noem, via an Executive Proclamation, proclaimed October 2020 as **“Careers in Construction Month”** for the second year in a row across our state.

The HR Alliance was active hosting monthly meetings connecting West River and East River Alliance Meetings with meetings streamed from each side of the state. The 2020 HR Summit was paused due to COVID-19.

Construction Career Academy Events in 2020 were derailed due to COVID-19 but we are moving forward for 2021.

AGC co-hosted virtual Highway Construction Career sessions; **SDRoads2Jobs** to promote open highway construction positions. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ability to meet in person was disrupted, so some sessions were conducted virtually.

AGC awarded **Scholarships** to 28 area students pursuing a career in construction **totaling \$28,000** in 2020!

AGC was instrumental in **education advocacy and impact** in 2020. AGC reviewed the SD Department of Education’s Career and Technical Education **Standards for the Architecture and Construction Cluster**. Changes will be incorporated for all South Dakota high schools starting 2022 and will remain in place until 2025.



INDUSTRY RELATIONSHIPS

In February, AGC hosted two successful **Infrastructure & Utility meetings** in Rapid City & Sioux Falls. SD One Call, OSHA and Allen Gray, AGC of America's Utility Infrastructure Division Director, attended and presented at these meetings.

Prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, the **2020 Construction Industry Summit** with SDDOT Area & Region Engineers, Operations Central Office and other key SDDOT staff was held in early March. Approximately **110 participants** attended this valuable meeting.

March 2020 ... as the COVID-19 outbreak evolved, AGC worked tirelessly with **SDDOT, local municipalities, several state agencies as well as our U.S. Congressional Delegation** to provide up-to-date and accurate information pertaining to the construction industry. AGC then continued to effectively communicate the information to our members.

AGC's COVID-19 safety plans and procedures were **quickly adopted by SDDOT and several local municipalities.**

AGC members and staff were unable to meet with our **Congressional Delegation in Washington, D.C.** in 2020. However, an open line of communication was in place throughout the pandemic between AGC of SD and our delegates.

Secretary of Transportation Darin Bergquist retired in 2020. AGC attended his retirement gathering to bid him farewell. Soon after, Governor Noem announced that **Joel Jundt will serve as Interim Secretary of SDDOT.**

The **AGC/SDDOT Annual Fall Meeting** was held **virtually** in December 2020. Over 100 attendee's participated in the 2-day event and great discussion was had by all.

There is no doubt that throughout the pandemic, the engagement of AGC staff and leaders was inspiring. Our industry relationships help the construction industry persevere in the face of many unknowns!

Through cohesive communication with industry representatives, construction was declared "essential" and AGC members remained working safely throughout the Pandemic!

LEGISLATIVE

AGC is the LEADER in Advocacy for the Construction Industry!

AGC once again had a **full-time presence at the State Capitol** during the 2020 Legislative Session. AGC Lobbyist Deb Mortenson was in the Capitol each day during session and reviewed all bills that were introduced to determine if they were of interest to the construction industry. AGC's Government Affairs Committee was active in providing input on what stance AGC should take on each bill.

With **477 total bills** introduced, the 2020 Legislative Session was a busy one for all involved. AGC was no exception, with 15 bills of interest on our tracking list.

AGC Day at the 2020 Legislature was a success. Participating members were able to attend committee meetings, listen to a live legislative update from Secretary Bergquist and hear from several state officials. Attendees also enjoyed a photo with Governor Noem and a tour of the capitol building. The AGC Legislative Dinner following was also well attended.

AGC's legislative position is further enhanced by our **political action committee (CONPAC).** Through the many campaign contributions our members hand-deliver, valuable relationships are formed with legislators and other elected officials.



YOUNG CONSTRUCTORS Developing AGC's Future Leaders!

The Rapid City Chapter of the AGC Young Constructors hit the ground running in 2020. The group successfully hosted a Pub Crawl during the 2020 State Convention in Deadwood, SD. In addition, monthly socials were held in February and March prior to the outbreak of COVID-19.

The group then took five months off from meeting in-person and reconvened in September for a Golf Tournament at Hart Ranch Golf Course. In October the group helped the Rapid City Area Schools with their Pathways Program and Career Fair. They formed a six-person panel to discuss the industry, opportunities and to encourage upcoming generations to consider a career in the industry/trades. The video will be available to hundreds of students throughout the Rapid City Area School District.

Finally, the group successfully completed a community project, rebuilding the hiking/biking paths at the Larson-Hanson Memorial park in late November. The Rapid City Chapter of the AGC Young Constructors ended 2020 with just over 35 members.

The Sioux Falls Chapter of the AGC Young Constructors officially formed in 2020. The group met and established their bylaws, membership application and appointed a Board of Directors. COVID-19 put a halt on setting up Monthly **Membership Meetings**, but the group recently **committed** to building a shed for the local American Legion to store their flags. The project should be completed in spring 2021. At the conclusion of 2020, The Sioux Falls Chapter of the AGC Young Constructors ended 2020 with just over 30 members.

In November, both YC Chapters came together to successfully host a two-day pheasant hunt including a dinner/social in the Pierre area with 50 hunters attending.



Social Sharing in 2020

AGC HAS OVER 900 TWITTER FOLLOWERS,
OVER 525 LIKES ON FACEBOOK AND AN
AGC OF SD YOUTUBE CHANNEL

AGC of SD
successfully utilized   
our social media platforms to extend our
COVID-19 communications with members!

In conjunction with the AGC of America, our chapter participated in a **nationwide media education campaign** designed to explain to reporters, and through them the public and government officials, why **construction could continue to operate** in a way that protected workers and the public.

In addition, AGC participated in two **social media advertising campaigns** to pressure key **Congressional leaders to pass new infrastructure investments**. AGC also shared daily "safety tips" stressing the critical importance of members following and practicing the proper COVID-19 safety procedures on their jobsites.



AGC CARES

AGC Cares Gives Back to the Communities & Individuals who Support the Construction Industry!

AGC Cares is still doing good things and making a difference in communities throughout South Dakota! During 2020's unprecedented and uncertain times, AGC

Cares stepped-up to give back and support those in need!

Contributions were made to an employee from Swingen Construction and an employee from Prairie States trucking who both were injured in job site accidents.

In addition, AGC cares made donations to two employees from Morris, Inc. who lost all of their belongings in a devastating apartment fire in Pierre.

AGC Cares closed out 2020 by awarding each of our Build South Dakota project winners **\$500** to the charity of their choice. Charities receiving a donation were: **Feeding South Dakota - Jackson County Mobile Food Pantry** from A-G-E Corp, **Reach Literacy** from BX-CC, **Make-A-Wish Foundation** from SFC Civil Constructors and **CASA of the Northern Hills** from R.C.S. Construction.



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Mission Statement:

"The AGC of South Dakota and its members promote Skill, Responsibility and Integrity through construction and services which enhance the quality of life for all who live, work, or travel in South Dakota."

Purpose Statement:

"To be the Voice that Promotes and Represents the Construction Industry."



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