



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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





JIM SOUKUP

Soukup Construction, Sioux Falls

2021 President, AGC of SD - HHU

It is so hard to believe another year is over. I know everyone says that but I find it to be so fitting. I am also feeling like each year passes more quickly than the last so I want to slow down for a moment to recap some of the great things happening in our organization.

Looking back over the last year, our organization definitely has many things to be proud of. It is very exciting that we were able to start the CDL program. This program offers an entry point into our industry and bringing more people into the industry will be something we can all benefit from. The program also offers current employees an opportunity to get their CDL which is a benefit to the employee and to their employer. This program has the potential to make a big, positive impact for many of our members.

In addition to adding the CDL program, the AGC met our goal in recruiting new members this year. This tells me that the AGC has great things to offer and that people recognize and value the benefits. We had a great meeting with DOT this fall. That meeting is becoming so well attended that we may soon have to find a larger room to hold it. The large attendance shows the importance of the relationship between the AGC and the DOT. The AGC convention in Sioux Falls in January was a success. The convention was well attended and featured great speakers. The food was good and the company was better. I always enjoy the opportunity to catch up with friends in the industry. I would like to personally thank the AGC staff and the convention committee for all their hard work putting this together. Planning such an event has never been easy and I know the circumstances of the present time only add to the task. Finally, one of the things I appreciate most about our organization is the people. Our staff is dedicated and hardworking. Year after year they are working diligently to assist the board to accomplish any goals in front of us.

As I look forward to the upcoming season, I am hopeful and energized. The AGC has so much to offer its members including safety training, engagement with DOT, CDL training and more. We also have a lot of young members getting involved and stepping into leadership positions. I am excited for RC Scull as he takes over the role as AGC Chapter President. His energy and enthusiasm for the industry will keep us all moving forward. Take care and have a safe and productive 2022 season.



Soukup
CONSTRUCTION, INC.
SIOUX FALLS, SD



2021 AGC of SOUTH DAKOTA LEADERSHIP

2021 OFFICERS

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

2021 CHAPTER DIRECTORS

Melissa Austin / Rapid City
Elroy Buren / Rapid City
Tim Davis / Huron
Tim Foerster / Rapid City
Travis Haarsma / Sioux Falls
Andy Johnson / Ft. Pierre
Shaw Loiseau / Flandreau
Robert Sopher / Mobridge
Derek Suhr / Rapid City

NATIONAL GOVERNORS

Jared Gusso / Sioux Falls
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 - Wade Planting / Sioux Falls
VP - Andrew Heitzler / Sioux Falls
Sec./Treas - Toby Royer / Aberdeen
Past Pres. - Derek McTighe / Pierre

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 is something for everyone!

2021 concluded with a total membership of 260 (104 contractors & 150 associates). Over the past 5 years, membership continues to rise. In 2021 sixteen new members joined AGC!

Each spring AGC hosts a 4th grade billboard coloring campaign and press conferences held at winning schools. Thank you AGC members who sponsored a billboard this year: Jensen Construction, Morris, Inc., BX-CC, Simon and SFC Civil Constructors! This is an annual opportunity for all members to be involved in, shedding some positive light on our great construction industry!



EVENTS & NETWORKING

Networking opportunities are a key ingredient of member involvement and although our 2021 State Convention was postponed due to the on-going pandemic, we hit record attendance numbers at our other events in 2021! In late January, AGC hosted our 4th Annual John Shoemaker Ice Fishing Tournament. The event raised over \$6,000 for our Annual Scholarship Program.

AGC successfully hosted our Spring and Fall Membership Meetings in Rapid City and Sioux Falls. In addition, we hosted our Summer Fishing Tournament, two Golf Tournaments and two Summer Socials. All of our Summer events hit **RECORD attendance numbers**, with over 600 members attending a summer event. All of these events combined raised over \$30,000 for our Annual Scholarship Program!

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 members!



AGC rolled out an all new Membership Benefit in 2021: Enova!

Enova are the "experts" in construction recruitment and retention! They work hand in hand with members to strengthen the ability to recruit top candidates as well as retain them, by utilizing their innovative recruiting and hiring software. Members have started utilizing this new benefit by participating in a FREE HR Healthcheck, a FREE state-wide jobs board and training webinars!



SAFETY & TRAINING

The AGC Safety Services Team offered Safety and Leadership training to 1,212 participants throughout the state in 2021! Seven different leadership offerings accounted for 19 sessions with 177 attendees. Twenty-three different Safety classes accounted for 120 sessions with 1,035 attendees.

To get ahead of the February 7th newly mandated Entry Level Driver Training (ELDT) requirements, the AGC worked diligently to roll-out an all new CDL training program to members in 2021. With the addition of a new contract trainer focused solely on CDL training, AGC is now a registered provider in the National Training Provider Registry (TPR) system. Trainings that are offered include; a 3-Day Theory Training class, Range Training and Behind the Wheel Training. These new offerings allow AGC members the benefit of training new and current employees. All CDL trainings are offered to meet the new ELDT standards.

The AGC Safety Committee was active in 2021 hosting meetings bi-monthly across the state. Topics of discussion at these meetings included: AGC's Annual Training Calendar, trench safety, fall hazard prevention, OSHA updates, and professional development opportunities. The purpose of the AGC Safety Committee is to bring together safety professionals from member companies across the state to discuss areas of concern and provide a sounding board for safety related issues.



In 2021, AGC Safety Trainer, Jim Heaphy, completed all requirements to obtain a Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP) certification. This highly respected certification is awarded

by BCSP to individuals who meet eligibility and experience criteria in safety, health and environmental discipline and have passed rigorous examination. Congratulations Jim!

AGC's MSHA Alliance was active in 2021 hosting meetings quarterly across the state. Topics of discussion at these meetings included; AGC's Annual Training Calendar,

"You keep your people safe. AGC helps you stay at your peak safety performance."

Powered Haulage, Significant & Substantial (S&S) Violations, and MSHA realignment of jurisdictions. The purpose of the MSHA Alliance is to promote mine safety and health by combining the unique respective talents, efforts and resources of the membership, facilitating the exchange of information and providing a unified voice for the industry.

Members of the West River Safety Committee held an October Trench Safety Stand Down with over 125 individuals attending to bring attention to the importance of trenching and excavation safety in response to 3 incidents involving unsafe excavation practices in Western South Dakota.



"Whether you're a large firm with multiple full-time safety directors or small firm with one person wearing multiple hats, AGC exists to provide you with tools and services to help you ensure that your employees go home safe each night!"



2021 Safety Tidbits

OSHA 10hr. for Construction was the most attended Safety class in 2021! There were 143 attendees in 16 classes from 21 different companies!

Did You Know?

Traffic Control Supervisor was the most popular Leadership class conducted in 2021! There were 96 attendees in 4 classes from 24 different companies!

Forklift Operator was the most requested class of 2021. It was requested 18 times with 117 attendees from 19 different companies!

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

AGC was one of three organizations that received a \$50,000 grant from the Department of Labor in 2021. The grant's intent was to enroll students ages 16 and 17 in AGC's Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) and Carpentry Apprentice programs. We successfully enrolled 14 students into the program and added new technology that allowed us to provide training statewide. The grant will wrap up in spring of 2022.

In 2021, AGC was awarded a SDDOT training grant to develop a CDL training program for our members. The grant addresses a new rule set by the FMCSA requiring formal training for entry level drivers, and drivers looking to up-skill their current CDL. A marketing campaign consisting of television, radio and online advertising started running in 2021 to recruit new drivers into the industry as well as provide Entry Level Driver Training. The campaign will continue through spring 2022.

AGC of SD celebrated Careers in Construction Month by hosting four construction camps in Aberdeen, Pierre, Sioux Falls and Yankton. The camps provided an inspiring hands-on experience for the over 465 students who attended and gave them the opportunity to network with industry professionals who shared why the construction industry is a great place to be. Thank you members for your support!

The HR Alliance was active in 2021 hosting monthly meetings. This year the networking group met to discuss topics pertinent to the construction industry such as: HR Law, Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse, Driver Qualification File (DQF), Employer Filing Questions, AGC of America Resources and much more! The HR

Alliance has established itself as a consistent and critical way for AGC HR professionals to connect and is a great networking tool.

In 2021 AGC went into overdrive to stay on top of the evolving Marijuana Legalization in our state. We assisted members by providing them with valuable resources and legal expertise. AGC hosted a special session with attorney David Kroon of Woods, Fuller, Schultz & Smith at the State Convention to address the recent approval of medical marijuana. The presentation provided guidance for the verbiage needing to be placed in the company manuals of all AGC members.



AGC's innovative Construction Career Academy was a success in summer 2021. Seven students in Sioux Falls

and five students in Rapid City completed the program. This was the inaugural year in Rapid City. The Construction Career Academy is a ten-week program that blends technical college education with on-the-job work experience for a sponsoring AGC member company. Members have the opportunity to create long-term relationships with the students, which is an excellent way to start developing a high school talent pipeline! Applications open in January, so consider getting your company involved.

 2021 was a banner year for supporting & recruiting the next generation of the construction workforce!



INDUSTRY LEADER

Our industry relationships ensure the construction industry remains at the forefront of key discussions!

In spring 2021, AGC & SDDOT hosted the **2021 Construction Industry Summit** virtually for the first-time ever. Over 100 attendees participated in the two-day event and great discussion was had by all.

AGC/MDU and **SD One Call** hosted a **Contractors Forum** in late April in Rapid City. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss MDU's new approach to utility line hits and how the changes affect contractors.



After the pandemic induced pause in 2020, the Annual AGC/Corps of Engineers Meeting resumed in Omaha, NE in early May. This two-day meeting has been an annual event since approximately 1984. Thirty-nine contractors from across the region attended this event - which is the highest attendance ever!

AGC members and staff were unable to meet with our **Congressional Delegation in Washington, D.C.** in 2021. However, an open line of communication was in place throughout the year on issues such as: mask mandates, supply chain and material shortages, and the Infrastructure Bill.

In late March, Governor Kristi Noem announced that **Joel Jundt** had been promoted to serve as the **Secretary of Transportation** for SDDOT!



The **AGC/SDDOT Annual Fall Meeting** was held in early December. Over 100 attendees participated in the two-day event and great discussions took place on several key topics. In 2021, AGC & SDDOT worked collectively on material price escalation, product shortages and delivery delays.

ADVOCACY

AGC is THE VOICE of the Construction Industry!

Why do we wade through hundreds of bills, spend 37 long days in the capitol, build relationships with 105 legislators and countless lobbyists, and add to the hot air by testifying in committees? It boils down to this: AGC fully engages in the legislative process to protect and advance the construction industry in South Dakota.

AGC of SD HHU's efforts at the 2021 Legislative Session were about money, marijuana and COVID. AGC was able to:

- Stand up for employers' rights as South Dakota implements medical marijuana, by supporting a bill prohibiting marijuana use while driving.
- Set the stage to capture electric vehicle user fees by helping to pass the first license fee bill for e-cars.

AGC of SD had some fun along the way. Due to COVID restrictions, we were unable to host our annual Legislative dinner, instead we hosted our first-ever legislative lunch in the Capitol Rotunda. It was a successful event we plan on continuing each year.

- Secure nearly \$10 million in federal COVID relief money for township and country road and bridge projects.
- Ensure Ellsworth Air Force base secured the new bomber mission as part of a team that helped secure \$10 million to build a recreation center. The new bomber mission will bring billions of dollars in development to South Dakota.
- Defend employers from frivolous COVID lawsuits by helping to pass a law.



AGC of SD's success is driven by our members, who make the Contractors Political Action Committee (CONPAC) one of the most active and effective

PACs in South Dakota! Our members also lean into the political process and use the relationships built with our CONPAC program to reach out and influence construction-friendly legislation.



YOUNG CONSTRUCTORS

Developing a talent pipeline of future AGC Leaders!

On the mend from the COVID-19 pandemic, both Chapters of the AGC Young Constructors were successful in 2021! The Rapid City Chapter hosted a community project in April at the Star of the West Softball Complex as their first event of the year. YC members came together and demolished four dugout roofs at the complex for future replacement. In May, the chapter hosted a corn-hole tournament for members to socialize and work on team building.

The Sioux Falls Chapter of AGC's Young Constructors hosted their 2021 kick-off meeting & social in March at Great Shots. The event was very well attended and during the event several community project ideas were discussed, as well as setting their upcoming meetings/socials.

Both Chapters were busy during the summer months. In June, the Rapid City Chapter hosted their 2nd annual YC Golf Tournament at Hart Ranch and in July, members and their spouses/significant others rode a chairlift to the top of the mountain at Black Hills Tramway for dinner followed by a fun-filled alpine slide ride.

The Sioux Falls Chapter hosted a successful

gun raffle in July, with all proceeds going to fund their community projects. 150 tickets were sold for the Diamondback Firearms Semi Auto 308 AR. The winning ticket was drawn at the conclusion of the Sioux Falls Golf Tournament, and the lucky winner was Herb Lohnes!

In August, two YC teams played in the annual Rapid City Golf Tournament. One of the teams even took the top prize in their flight!

The Rapid City Chapter hosted a trap shoot in September, followed by a VR demonstration in October. And the Sioux Falls Chapter hosted a monthly social in September at Escape 605.

In November, both Chapters worked together to host the annual Young Constructors Pheasant Hunt in Pierre and Draper, SD. This was a two day event with record attendance!

The rest of the fall months were spent planning the Sioux Falls YC Chapter sponsored Pub Crawl during the State Convention! The event was a huge success with over 150 participants, and fun was had by all.



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! Contributions were made to Executive Vice President Toby Crow's daughter who was diagnosed with glioblastoma. A second contribution was made to an employee of Titan Machinery in Sioux Falls whose family was in a horrific car accident.

AGC Cares closed out 2021 by awarding each of our Build South Dakota project winners \$500 to the charity of their choice. Charities receiving a donation were: United Way - Heartland Region from Asphalt Paving & Materials, Make-A-Wish Foundation from SFC Civil Constructors and Sioux Falls YMCA "Leif Ericson Camp Scholarship Fund" from D&G Concrete Construction.





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."

CONTACT US



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