



## A HUGE LABOR UNION CASE BEFORE THE U.S. SUPREME COURT

Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> the United States Supreme Court heard arguments pertaining to public unions mandating collection of union dues from everyone working under the Illinois public employees collective bargaining agreement, whether the worker wanted to join/pay or not.

In this action (Janus v. AFSCME), at stake is the overwhelming power public employee unions have assumed over they years with mandatory collection of worker dues. Long a contentious issue among conservatives and the business community, it has been the almost total lock-step collection and distribution of these funds to liberal causes that have perpetuated sky-rocketing public employee costs and long-term obligations (pensions). Many of the public pensions are severely underfunded and will require massive amounts of public money to make them supportive.

You may recall, back in 2010, Ohio was besieged by a statewide ballot issue over SB 5 which would have done away with collective bargaining for all Ohio public employees. SB 5 was overwhelmingly rejected by Ohio voters. Action by the US Supreme Court, which pundits expect will eliminate the mandatory collection provision, will have an earth-shattering impact on Ohio and all states that have similar public employee unions.

What impact this decision will have upon the long smoldering Right-To-Work issues in Ohio are uncertain. However, if public employee unions will be banned from mandatory dues collection, then this will no doubt feed the flames of both sides of the issue.

This action was brought back to life when Justice Scalia passed away several years ago. The measure was heard before the court prior to Scalia's death and ended up as a 4 to 4 tied vote. The measure was agreed to be reheard with the addition of a new Supreme Court Justice, Neil Gorsuch (Trump appointee), who has leaned to more conservative positions.

Stay tuned, a decision is anticipated sometime in June of this year.

## CAPITAL BUDGET & REAPPROPRIATIONS INTRODUCED; SWIFT PASSAGE EXPECTED

The Ohio House and Senate began hearings on the state's two-year capital appropriations budget for fiscal years 2019-2020. The Capital Bill funds the renovation, reconstruction and construction of state agencies, colleges and universities, and school districts, as well as some community projects.

The Ohio House and Senate took a unique approach by introducing companion measures – House Bill 529 and Senate Bill 266 – and including reappropriations for ongoing capital projects (there is usually a separate capital reappropriations bill for continued project funding approved during the previous biennia).

The legislation proposes \$2.62 billion in new spending, and approximately \$1.26 billion in reappropriations. The allocation of new funding includes: \$150 million in community projects, \$600 million for school facilities, \$514 million for local infrastructure projects and \$483 million for public colleges and universities. Bonds are used to cover most of the new spending.

The capital budget tends to draw bipartisan support (lawmakers like to support money allocated to projects in their communities during election years). Legislative leaders have indicated HB 529 will be the vehicle, and it should be voted out by the end of March. At this time, no significant changes are expected to the bill.

## Rudolph Libbe Group Wins Build America Award

Toledo contractor and founding member Rudolph Libbe, Inc. (Maumee) was honored with a Build America Award as the best project in the Building Renovation \$10 million – \$99 million dollars. The project was the renovation of ProMedica's Headquarters in Toledo, Ohio.

Representatives of Rudolph Libbe received the award and recognition at the AGC of America's recent national convention held in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Construction Risk Partners Build America Awards highlight the nation's most significant construction projects. A panel of judges, representing all areas of construction, evaluated submissions for complexity, use of innovative construction techniques and client satisfaction, as well as other criteria.



## AGC of Ohio Education Foundation Scholarships

### Are You Interested in Helping to Determine the Recipients?

Applications for the 2018-2019 AGC of Ohio Education Foundation scholarships have been collected and we are seeking volunteer judges to help determine the recipients.

Volunteers' time commitment will be roughly 10-12 hours including: reviewing a selection panel binder at home; marking preliminary determinations on the score sheets included in the binder (also available electronically); returning the preliminary scoring to AGC of Ohio; and meeting one day at the AGC of Ohio office in Columbus from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. to make the final determinations. The panel meeting in Columbus will take place on a date to be determined in early April.

If you want to participate but cannot travel to Columbus, you are welcome to make all of the preliminary determinations and your scores will be considered toward the final results. We appreciate your assistance and look forward to hearing from you!

Please email Parker Brown at [parker@agcoho.com](mailto:parker@agcoho.com) if you are interested in participating.



## **Dave Soppe Joins Construction Systems Inc. as CFO**

Construction Systems Inc. (CSI) is pleased to announce that Dave Soppe has joined the employee-owned company and will serve as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the organization.

Soppe will manage all accounting, financial planning and analysis, treasury, tax, risk management and human resources functions. He will also provide financial guidance, with respect to strategy and operations, to senior management.

Soppe has 30 years of accounting and financial management experience for local, national and global enterprises involved in manufacturing and distribution. His past work includes many successful process improvement initiatives and projects that resulted in lower costs, enhanced client services, streamlined reporting, and improved employee retention and benefits.



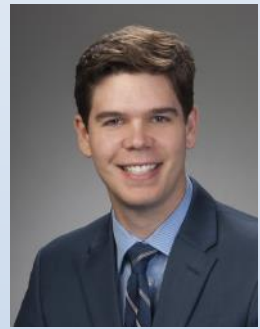
## **Michael Starkey Named CSI Safety Coordinator**

Construction Systems Inc. (CSI) is pleased to announce that Michael Starkey has been named Safety Coordinator for the employee-owned commercial construction contractor.

Starkey's new responsibilities as Safety Coordinator include overseeing and updating company safety programs to minimize risk of accident and injuries, maintaining compliance with safe practices and reports, and helping foster a safety-first company culture.

Starkey will continue to serve as a Project Manager for CSI's Facilities Group where he is responsible for project estimating, scheduling, and oversight of renovation projects in commercial, institutional and medical facilities.

Starkey joined CSI in January 2017 as Logistics Assistant and helped support CSI's renovation and construction crews by scheduling deliveries and coordinating the movement of materials, equipment and tools. Starkey came to CSI with two years of construction management experience where he led two- to eight-person crews performing hotel renovation projects.



## **Rudolph Libbe Group appoints new SE Michigan business development manager**

Tony Alston, of Lake Orion, Michigan, has accepted the position of Business Development Manager-SE Michigan, with the Rudolph Libbe Group. Alston has over 12 years of business development experience in southeast Michigan. He majored in business at El Camino College in Southern California and is Six Sigma Green Belt-Certified.



## **Three local Rudolph Libbe construction projects recognized in Varco Pruden 2018 Hall of Fame**

Rudolph Libbe Inc., of the Rudolph Libbe Group, has received Varco Pruden's 2018 Best-in-Class Hall of Fame Award in the Warehouse Category for Principle Business Enterprises' 47,000-square-foot warehouse, constructed in 2017.

Rudolph Libbe Inc. was general contractor/construction manager and GEM Inc., also of the Rudolph Libbe Group, erected the Varco Pruden pre-engineered steel building. MacPherson Architects, Inc. designed the Principal Business Enterprises warehouse project.

Rudolph Libbe also received 2018 Hall of Fame awards for the Buck & Knobby Equipment Company dealership in Holland, Ohio and the Yark BMW showroom in west Toledo.





## Register now for the Ohio Safety Congress & Expo 2018!

Registration is now open for the Ohio Safety Congress & Expo, March 7 to 9 at the Columbus Convention Center. [Click here](#) to view event information, including the event schedule, hotels, directions and free online registration.



Days one and two (Wednesday & Thursday) offer general sessions, educational sessions and the Expo Marketplace. Day three (Friday) delivers full-day workshops and in-depth training. Attend the number of days which best meet your training needs.

## SAVE THE DATE!

The annual OFCC Conference brings together public owners (state agencies/universities, school districts), architects, engineers, landscape architects and planners, construction managers, design-builders, contractors, subcontractors and suppliers, consultants and specialty service providers, and construction attorneys.

The format for the 2018 conference will be the same as last year: TED-style.

A Call for Speakers and the Registration link will be announced soon.

In the meantime, put these dates on your calendar:

- **Tuesday, August 7, 2018 - Columbus 1 (Gahanna)**
- **Thursday, August 16, 2018 - Cleveland (Independence)**
- **Wednesday, August 22, 2018 - Cincinnati (West Chester)**
- **Tuesday, August 28, 2018 - Columbus 2 (Gahanna)**

We hope to see you at this year's conference!





**Per OSHA, An effective health and safety program can save \$4-\$6 for every \$1 invested. Safety is good business!**

We are excited to share that we are partnering with Safety Meeting App and would like to introduce a helpful and modern way of conducting safety meetings, documenting incidents, and completing daily job briefings and checklists.

Safety Meeting App is an app that provides hundreds of safety topics including plumbing, general construction, utilities, restoration, electrician, and much more. Meetings can be created using the topic content provided and can be saved to be printed as detailed meeting reports.

The Safety Meeting App is one of a kind and was built using input from construction firms of all sizes.

- Preloaded with 950+ English & Spanish topics (and more coming soon)
- Meet's OSHA required meeting laws
- Document meetings and attendees and notes
- Document jobsite accidents or incidents
- Available almost anywhere from your phone, tablet, or PC
- Unlimited Storage/Employees/Meetings
- Tracks active and inactive employees
- One account works with multiple crews

When you sign up, you will receive a free 30 Day Trial to give you time to test the app with your company and to familiarize yourself with all of the features. Safety Meeting App has a great customer support group that will contact you soon after sign-up to help you get started. You can also reach them easily by phone, e-mail, or Live Chat.

When you log into your Safety Meeting App, you'll see our AGC logo letting you know that we put our stamp of approval on this helpful app! If you have any questions, please contact Glenna at AGC of Ohio 614-486-6446 or Dave Carl at Safety Meeting App 503-504-0239.

**It's an amazing app full of topics and one you should give a try.  
Try the Safety Meeting App for 30-days.**

<https://je129.isrefer.com/go/SMAP/AGCOH/>

## Muni Tax decision a Win For Ohio Businesses

A court decision supported by AGC, ensures that business owners across Ohio can continue to take advantage of centralized filing and payment of municipal net profits taxes. This new benefit is especially important for employers who file municipal returns in multiple cities and villages across Ohio. The ruling was issued in response to a lawsuit filed last fall by over 100 cities challenging that centralized filing and other municipal tax reforms were a violation of home rule authority.

Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge David Cain on Feb. 21 ruled the Ohio Constitution “makes it clear that the general assembly has the power to pass laws that limit the power of municipalities to levy taxes.” Further, the cities “can argue the definition of the word ‘levy’ until they’re (sic) blue in the face, but using common sense, the Court can only find that the Collections deal with the levying of taxes.”

Cain also ruled there was no need to continue hearings and terminated the case. That means businesses may continue to register for centralized collection of municipal net profits taxes, a benefit [the Ohio Department of Taxation has said](#) could save up to \$1.6 billion per year.

Ohio Tax Commission Joe Testa [applauded](#) the decision. “It’s an important ruling for business taxpayers in Ohio who for too long have had to deal with this costly, complex process for local tax on business income. This law gives business taxpayers the opportunity to save millions of dollars in the cost of complying with the fragmented municipal tax system.”

### **LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR CENTRALIZED COLLECTION OF NET PROFITS**

Employers may opt in for 2018 to file one single return and make one payment quarterly through the Ohio Business Gateway (OBG) for all cities where they owe municipal net profit taxes. The Ohio Department of Taxation will remit payments due to cities and villages monthly.

Businesses with a calendar year end must both opt in by March 1 and notify the cities they operate in no later than that date to centrally file for the 2018 tax year (make quarterly payments in 2018 and file the tax return in 2019). [Opt in now.](#)

### **SUPPORT ADOPTION OF MULTIEMPLOYER PENSION COMPOSITE PLANS**

*Tell Congress to Approve Composite Plans*

Congress recently introduced the AGC-supported Giving Retirement Options to Workers Act (GROW Act), HR 4997. As such, AGC urges you to support the bipartisan bill by [contacting your U.S. representative and U.S. senators](#). The bill would authorize the adoption of composite plans and strengthen the multiemployer pension system.

The legislation was jointly developed and supported by employer and labor organizations. The composite plan is a hybrid of a defined contribution and a defined benefit plan in that it shares risk, provides lifetime income to participants, and limits employer obligations to negotiated contributions. H.R. 4997 is a separate initiative from efforts to address the funding challenges of the PBGC and critically funded plans. AGC is encouraged by the bipartisan bill and will be calling for its swift consideration and enactment alongside our labor partners.

### **CONGRESS READIES FOR ACTION ON INFRASTRUCTURE**

*Tell Congress to Invest in Infrastructure NOW*

Congress will commence work on infrastructure legislation in early March, as the Senate and House have set hearings on [the president’s infrastructure plan](#). And, as a part of the recent [bipartisan budget agreement](#), lawmakers are considering spending \$20 billion over the remainder of fiscal year 2018 and through fiscal year 2019. As such, it is critical that the construction industry lets Congress know that the time for infrastructure investment is now. [Contact your U.S. representative and U.S. senators](#) right now so that they understand that investing in and improving our nation’s infrastructure helps our nation prosper.



## Upcoming Events

### BWC Safety Congress Meeting

March 7-9

Greater Columbus Convention Center

### 2018 AGC of Ohio Convention

March 11—17

Maui, Hawaii

### Ohio Construction Conference

March 14th

7 a.m.—5 p.m.

Ohio Union

### AGC of Ohio Safety Meeting

May 11th

9:30—12:30

AGC of Ohio office

## ConstrucTalk

Do you have new employees or has someone received a promotion?

Has your company received an award or recently done anything newsworthy that you would like to share?

Send your information  
to Taylor Hobbs at  
[editor@agcoho.com](mailto:editor@agcoho.com).

### SAVE MONEY!

[Businesses and Employees](#)

Support the  
AGC of Ohio  
Education Foundation



is a movement to generate pride and respect for the construction industry, and to recruit young people into the industry as a rewarding and valuable career.

[www.ibuildohio.com](http://www.ibuildohio.com)



## BuildingOHIO

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