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**OHIO**  
MAY 2019  
**BUILDINGS**  
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF OHIO

# 2019 Annual AGC of Ohio Convention

More than a hundred AGC members journeyed to sunny, warm Costa Rica for the annual convention held March 10-17. The group was headquartered at the Westin Playa Conchal located on the Guanacaste region of Costa Rica's Pacific coast.

The 2019 leadership team for AGC of Ohio was installed on during the Leadership Luncheon during event. Tom Muraski, president of Kokosing Industrial was elected president of the association. Rounding out the leadership slate are:

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Steve Klinker, Dugan & Meyers Construction, Cincinnati

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Ray Benjamin, The Lathrop Co., Toledo

Treasurer – JD Flaherty, Construction Systems, Inc., Columbus

Deputy Treasurer - Mark Muter, Settle Muter Electric, Columbus

Ex Officio - Mark Panzica, Panzica Construction, Mayfield Village

While enjoying warm Central American temperatures, participants were immersed in educational programs that addressed a myriad of contractor issues. Part of the programming included breakout sessions addressing the implementation of AGC of Ohio's strategic plan.

A huge thank you to all the presenters for their informative sessions!

- *Preferences & Disparity Studies: It's déjà vu all over again* by Kevin McDermott of Barnes & Thornburg LLP (Columbus)
- *"Taxes, Employment and Other Legal Updates"* by Jason Harley of McDonald Hopkins (Columbus)
- *"Killer Contract Clauses"* by Chris O'Shaughnessy of Hahn Loeser (Columbus) & Nate Neuschwander of Touchstone CPM (Lima)

AGC of America Update on *"National & Congressional Issues"* by Steve Sandherr, CEO of AGC of America

In his closing remarks during the Leadership Breakfast, Tom Muraski announced that next years' convention will be held February 23 - February 29 at the South Seas Island Resort on Captiva Island, Florida.

## **About Tom Muraski, P.E., President, Kokosing Industrial**

Tom graduated from Ohio State University in 1989 with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. He started his career working for a consulting engineering firm. Tom decided that the construction side of the industry was where he wanted to build his career, and in 1992 Tom began his career with Kokosing as a project manager on building and water treatment projects in southwestern and central Ohio.

In 1997 Tom was promoted to vice president of Kokosing's Building Division. Tom has led the company on some of its largest and most complex projects including Crew Stadium, the SunCoke Energy projects in Haverhill, St. Louis and Middletown, and the Army Corp of Engineers Marmet Lock and Dam near Charleston, West Virginia.

Over the years, Tom has taken on an increasing leadership role within Kokosing. In 2018 he was promoted to the President of Kokosing Industrial and also serves on the Kokosing, Inc. Board of Directors.

Tom has served on the Central Ohio AGC board since 1998 and will become the 2019 AGC of Ohio President in March. Tom and his wife Karen have been married for 29 years, have 3 children and reside in Powell.

## **COLUMBUS, OHIO'S NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM NAMED BEST CONSTRUCTION PROJECT OF 2018 BY NATIONAL TRADE ASSOCIATION**

*Turner Construction Company Wins Associated General Contractors of America's Construction Risk Partners Build America Grand Award as Well as Top Prize for the Best New Building Between \$10 to \$75 Million*

Columbus, Ohio's National Veterans Memorial and Museum was the most significant construction project of 2018, the Associated General Contractors of America announced today. As a result, the project's contractor, Turner Construction Company, received the association's Construction Risk Partners Build America Grand Award, as well as the award for the best new building between \$10 to \$75 million.

"In a year brimming with exceptional construction projects, this one stood out as the best of the best," said Eddie Stewart, the association's president and president and chief executive officer of Caddell Construction in Montgomery, Ala. "The winning firms demonstrated top-notch skill, teamwork, and innovation to complete projects that serve as benchmarks for our industry and milestones for our communities."

The 55,000 square foot facility features minimalistic interior features and a complex exterior curtain wall. But the custom cast-in-place concrete arch superstructure is the building's defining feature. This challenging design included a distinct geometric curve shape that limited design options, as "out-of-plane" geometry is extremely rare and challenging for cast-in-place, which uses standard formwork system designs. The superstructure is 55,000 square feet consisting of three concentric rings up to 60 feet tall and 300 feet in diameter. An integrated walking ramp connects the front door to the green roof amphitheater. The Turner team worked with the building's designers and structural engineer to develop a three-dimensional virtual model and printed scale model, all while coordinating daily on the survey and layout.

"The Build America Awards recognize the ingenuity, thoughtful planning, and masterful delivery of construction projects across the country," said Joe Charczenko, Construction Practice Leader at Construction Risk Partners. "We would like to congratulate all of this year's award winners and nominees for their accomplishments, and are proud to recognize the innovative projects that are transforming the construction industry."

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 an impressive number of submissions this year, assessing each project's complexity, use of innovative construction techniques and client satisfaction, among other criteria. The awards, which were announced during the association's annual convention in Denver, are considered by many to be the most prestigious recognition of construction accomplishments in the U.S.

[View](#) all the Construction Risk Partners Build America Award winners. [View](#) pictures of winners.

## FREE 8-HR FALL PROTECTION TRAINING

**May 2, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Cincinnati** (cohosted by Allied Construction Industries/Cincinnati AGC, AGC of Ohio and Ohio Contractors Association)

**May 1, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Cleveland** (hosted by Construction Employers Association/Cleveland AGC)

This general awareness fall protection class is being taught by nationally renowned safety instructors and will focus on:

- Fall Protection Statistics
- OSHA Standards for Fall Protection
- Identifying Fall Hazards
- Selection and Criteria of Fall Protection Systems and Equipment
- Fall Protection Training Requirements

The program is being funded by a Susan Harwood Grant obtained by AGC of America; it is open to and free of charge for anyone interested in attending. Certificates of completion will be distributed electronically, by AGC, for this general awareness class. CEUs are also available upon request.

Use the following links to learn more and register: [May 1 in Cleveland](#) and [May 2 in Cincinnati](#)

## TEMPORARY ENFORCEMENT POLICY FOR CRANE OPERATOR EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS TO CONCLUDE THIS MONTH

In addition to being tax day, April 15 marks the last day of OSHA's Temporary Enforcement policy for Crane Operator Evaluation Requirements. The [Cranes and Derricks in Construction: Operator Qualifications final rule](#) published on November 8, 2018 and effective February 7, 2019, requires employers to document their evaluation of their crane operators (see 29 CFR 1926.1427(f)(6)).

After AGC and other construction associations advocated that OSHA give employers more time to comply, OSHA issued a Temporary Enforcement Policy for the first 60 days of enforcement (until April 15, 2019). During that period, OSHA has been tasked with evaluating good faith efforts taken by employers in their attempt to meet the new documentation requirements for operators of cranes used in construction. In lieu of enforcement, for those employers who have made good faith efforts to comply with the new documentation requirement, OSHA has offered compliance assistance. Only if, upon inspection it is determined that an employer has failed to make sufficient efforts to comply, OSHA would cite for that deficiency.

Learn more about the Operator Qualifications rule and other Crane & Derricks requirements [here](#).

## Free WebEd: Design and Construction Outlook

The US economy finished 2018 with record-breaking growth and has enjoyed its second-longest period of economic expansion in history. However, optimism wanes as architects and contractors worry about finding enough employees to execute current commitments, let alone more work. Concerns build as fluctuating materials costs and interest rates threaten to slow growth.

Join us as three leading economists, including AGC's Ken Simonson, take a look at the economic trends and pressures impacting the construction industry today and a look ahead to what's to come during our 2019 Spring Design & Construction Economic Webcast.

Learn more and register [here](#)

## The nation's multiemployer pension plan system is facing a crisis. Over 100 plans and a million participants' retirement security are in jeopardy. Ohio's senators will be key players in the discussion; [tell them to support the authorization of composite plans!](#)

Various measures have been proposed to address the severe underfunding of these plans as well as the federal agency serving as their financial backstop - the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. However, one pension reform policy that should be enacted immediately is the authorization of composite plans.

A composite plan is a hybrid between a traditional defined contribution and a defined benefit plan. Composite plan legislation would be beneficial to the construction industry because:

- The plan design would protect retirement savings from market downturns or other unforeseen circumstances;
- These plans provide lifetime income to participants and give employers certainty as to how much they must contribute to the plans; and
- The plan design is tried, true, and trusted. In fact, a similar, successful model is utilized in Canada.

[Taking action is easy!](#) Simply submit the pre-written message and tweet as is to your members of Congress or customize it with personal information on how this issue impacts you and your company.

## Governor DeWine Names Lt. Governor Husted to Serve as Workforce Director

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine today named Lt. Governor Jon Husted to serve as the Director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation. The announcement was made during a meeting of the Governor's Cabinet this morning.

"I am pleased that Lt. Governor Husted will serve as the point person for Ohio's workforce development efforts," said Governor DeWine. "It is so important that we continue to invest in our state's most valuable asset — our workforce, and Lt. Governor Husted will ensure that our efforts in this area are focused and deliver results."

Then Governor-elect DeWine announced during the Gubernatorial Transition that he would task the Lt. Governor with taking a leadership role in the state's workforce development efforts. Today's announcement formalizes that prior announcement. Before starting in public service, Lt. Governor Husted worked on economic development issues in the Miami Valley as a Vice President at the Dayton-area Chamber of Commerce.

"Ohio's economy has a lot of things working in its favor right now, but if we are going to reach our full potential and make our state more attractive to new businesses, we have to close our skills gap," said Lt. Governor Jon Husted. "If we get this right, we will give job creators the talent they need to expand and we'll give Ohioans more personal opportunity and the chance to grow their career."

Ensuring Ohioans have access to new career opportunities while also providing job creators with a necessary workforce is the focus of 75 different programs across 12 state agencies. The Office of Workforce Transformation coordinates those efforts, reporting directly to the Governor.

The Lt. Governor's appointment is in addition to his other responsibilities within the administration, including serving as Director of InnovateOhio and overseeing Ohio's Common Sense Initiative (CSI).

The position of Director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation was vacated by Ryan Burgess in January when he was named by Governor DeWine as Director of Cabinet Affairs. The Lt. Governor will assume the new post immediately.

## 2019 NATIONAL SAFETY STAND-DOWN

May 6-10, 2019

Is your company ready for this year's National Safety Stand-Down to prevent Falls in the Construction industry? During the Stand Down, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) encourages employers to take a break to focus on safety concerns surrounding falls from elevation. Stand-down events provide employers and workers the opportunity to talk about hazards, protective methods, and the company's safety and health programs, goals, and expectations.

Last year, thousands of worksites participated in the campaign reaching over a million workers. OSHA's Stand-Down [webpage](#) offers information on conducting a successful event, and educational resources. Employers are encouraged to provide feedback after their events, and to obtain a personalized certificate of participation.

The National Safety Stand-Down is a joint effort between [OSHA](#), the [National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health](#), and [CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training](#). Learn more at [www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown](http://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown).



## Register now for the 2019 AGC of Ohio Scholarship Golf Outing!

AGC of Ohio's 2019 Golf Outing will be held on Friday, May 17, 2019 at Northstar Golf Club in Sunbury, Ohio. The deadline to register is May 10<sup>th</sup>.

### [REGISTER HERE](#)

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m., shotgun start is at 10:00 a.m. and lunch will be provided on the course. There will be an after-golf raffle and hors d'oeuvres will be served. All proceeds benefit the AGC of Ohio Scholarship Fund.

If you cannot play golf with us, you can still support the Scholarship Fund by sponsoring a hole, or donating an item for the raffle (i.e golf equipment, tickets to sporting events, cash, etc). Contact Parker Brown at [parker@agcoho.com](mailto:parker@agcoho.com) or call (614) 486-6446 for more info.

## 2019 AGC of Ohio Scholarship Golf Outing

FRIDAY MAY 17TH  
NORTHSTAR GOLF CLUB, SUNBURY, OHIO  
REGISTRATION @ 9  
SHOTGUN START @ 10  
REGISTER BY MAY 10

Sponsorships Available

## Ohio Senate Leadership Pushes to Take Work Away from Private Contractors and Give it to Local Govts, Further Slashes Gas Tax Proposal

The Ohio Senate passed its version of the state's Transportation Budget hours after the Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce Committee made a host of changes and approved the legislation, [H.B. 62](#). The committee slashed the Governor's \$0.18 gas tax proposal to \$0.06 (the House had approved \$0.107). The \$7.94 billion spending measure is a reduction of \$904 million from the budget proposed by Gov. DeWine.

In what is worthy of an episode of the Twilight Zone, conservative Senate Republicans and their leadership pushed to increase force account limits on roads and bridges. (A force account is the monetary limit in which local governments can do work with their own workforce; projects over the force account limit must be put out for bid to contractors; AGC and a coalition of other industry associations regularly oppose any limit increases.) While the Republicans were ultimately pushing to expand government at the cost of private businesses, Senate Democrats pushed to remove the increases.

While the force account increase survived the committee process, it was ultimately removed on the Senate floor. Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) wanted [H.B. 62](#) to pass with some Democratic votes, but Democrats withheld their votes until Senate leadership agreed to amend the legislation to restore force account limits to their current statutory thresholds, along with two other unrelated items.

The two-year spending bill was amended on the Senate floor to exclude force account increases, and the final legislation passed on a 24 to 6 vote with three Republicans and three Democrats voting against it: Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo); Matt Huffman (R-Lima); Tina Maharath (D-Canal Winchester); Rob McColley (R-Napoleon); Michael A. Rulli (R-Salem); and Vernon Sykes (D-Akron). Senators Maharath, McColley and Sykes also voted against the bill in committee.

The Ohio House and Senate hashed out the major differences between their respective versions, including the gas tax increase.

While most AGC of Ohio members may not directly benefit from an increase in Ohio's motor fuel tax, AGC supports it because well maintained and new roads spur economic development that results in increased building construction. Given the political posturing and shenanigans that have gone with the transportation budget—the legislature's first budget of the General Assembly and considered a preview of what's to come with other budgets like the state operating budget that usually contains policy impacting commercial builders—we think it's important to recognize those senators that stood up for contractors' best interests... our construction champions.

### **Senate Construction Champions for the Transportation Budget:**

**Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood):** Vocally pushed for increased funding and other contractor issues during the committee process; she voted against the bill in committee, but ultimately voted for it on the Senate floor after it was amended.

**Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard):** Bucked fellow Republicans during the committee process and voted against tabling a Democratic amendment to remove the force account limit increases.

**Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering):** The only Senate Republican that publicly stated on the Senate floor that the \$0.06 gas tax increase was inadequate and that she hopes it is further increased during the conference committee deliberations.

**Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville):** Bucked fellow Republicans during the committee process and voted against tabling a Democratic amendment to remove the force account limit increases.

**Minority Leader Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Hts) and the entire Minority Caucus:** Senate Democrats under Sen. Yuko's leadership pushed for increasing transportation funding and removing the force account increase.



## I Build America – Ohio, Changing the Conversation Around Construction

AGC of Ohio continues to promote I Build America – Ohio (IBAOhio) across the state to aid in the recruitment of people into our industry.

So far in 2019 AGC staff has attended many regional construction events in an effort to educate and promote all the resources available. Content is being sent out daily through the IBAOhio social media pages where it is reaching thousands of people across the state. In the month of April post sent out on just Facebook reached over 9,000 individuals!

As employers, your participation in workforce development is critical! I Build America - Ohio is here to make it as simple as possible to enhance your workforce development programs. We recently added more photos, talking points for the industry, downloadable flyers, and videos for employers across the region to use. Check out the latest updates in our highly organized, easy-to-use online Employer Toolbox. You can download the toolbox [HERE!](#)

Additionally, if you haven't already done so, we strongly encourage you to sign up as an employer on the site. Each month we deliver important resources, news, and current events in the industry across Ohio and our region right to your inbox!

## Upcoming Events

### National Safety Stand-Down

May 6-10, 2019

Learn more: [www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown](http://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown).

### Free 8-HR Fall Protection Training

Learn More: [May 1 in Cleveland](#) and [May 2 in Cincinnati](#)

### AGC Ohio Scholarship Golf Outing

May 17th, 2019

NorthStar Golf Club

Learn More: [Parker@agcoho.com](mailto:Parker@agcoho.com)

### OFCC Conference

August 1, 2019

The Ohio State University—Ohio Union

Sign up @ [ofcc.ohio.gov](http://ofcc.ohio.gov)

## 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!

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## **BuildingOHIO**

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I Build America - Ohio 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)