CONSTRUCTOR

President's Message .......

2012 – A Year I Won’t Forget

I suspect every outgoing AGC Iowa President shares the same mixed emotions this time of year. I am very excited for my friend Steve Sandquist to take over as AGC Iowa President but I am a little sad to turn the job over so quickly. I know it has been a full year but I really do not know where the time has gone.

We had a lot of monumental accomplishments this past year and it was my pleasure to serve as President. I hope you take a minute to read what I feel was a remarkable year for AGC.

The year started easy enough. After convention a great group of AGC members left for a trip to Panama to witness firsthand the $4 billion dollar construction project that is the rebuilding and expansion of the Panama Canal. From the view of a contractor the size and scope of the entire project was beyond mind-numbing. From dredging the canal bottom to the elimination of small mountains one truck at a time while monster transcontinental vessels slowly floated by was an impressive logistical accomplishment. When completed, the US will need to expand some ports to handle the increased traffic but also much larger vessels coming from the canal.

Upon return from Panama I received word that AGC Iowa had been awarded the James E. Cashman Trophy and we would receive this during the AGC of America Convention in March. The award is given to the AGC Chapter that runs the best membership retention and recruitment effort. I was especially proud to receive the award from AGC of America President, and Iowa’s own, Kris Young. This was not the first time Iowa received this award. We originally won the trophy in 1936 when we were known as the Central Branch Chapter and I think Cork was there to receive it on the chapter’s behalf.

Everyone knows AGC has a strong presence at the capitol. This year I think we took a big step in a new direction for AGC. We took the members to the capitol for AGC Day on the Hill. I, like many members, have had local legislators in my office for years. I thought it was a step in the right direction taking the membership to the capitol and visiting legislators on their ground, reminding them of the work we do back in their districts. Like most new programs, this will take a while to get everyone fully engaged. I will say the people who went to the capitol really enjoyed it and I think we will make this a permanent part of our organization’s regimen for years to come.

Another major accomplishment this year was all the milestones celebrated during Fall Days. First, the 2011 Leadership Academy finished their class project. They knocked down an old sign in front of the AGC Building and removed two overgrown trees and completely changed the look of the building’s façade. A new sign was constructed and placed on two steel i-beams and this sign will not be moved anytime soon. Secondly, we finally have 3 flag poles that stand proudly in front of the building that further complete the external appearance. Next, after 20 years of use the inside of the AGC office was repainted and updated. Finally, the 2012 Leadership Class is working on a project to restore the past presidents’ photos and I am excited to see this finished product.

As long as I have been a part of AGC Iowa I have heard about the Foundation’s Million Dollar Mile Campaign. The goal is to have $1 million in assets and then allow the earnings to fulfill our scholarship obligations each year. I would like to thank the foundation board for getting an appeal out to the membership and then after we came up short on the goal, Kurt Rasmussen and Jensen Construction made the capstone contribution to push the foundation over the $1 million mark. Thanks to everyone for this effort.

AGC has always maintained a strong presence at the Iowa Capitol and this has been true throughout our 90 year history. Many of us have spent countless hours complaining about politicians at the statehouse. During this election cycle one of our members stopped complaining and put his name on the ballot. AGC Iowa and I are extremely proud of Representative Dave Maxwell owner of Maxwell Tiling. He is taking time from his business and other interests to serve in the Iowa House. I look forward to having an AGC Iowa member in the Iowa House of Representatives. Thanks to Rep. Maxwell and we all look forward to seeing him at the capitol this year.

In closing, it’s been a great year. I have enjoyed seeing all of you at events throughout the year and helping grow this great organization. I wish the best of luck to my friend Steve Sandquist who will serve as the 2013 President of AGC Iowa and hope he finds his year as enjoyable as mine.
AGC Iowa Member Dave Maxwell Wins Election

AGC Iowa has some very exciting Election Day news that you might have missed. David Maxwell (Maxwell Tiling) won his election to the Iowa House in District 76. David Maxwell, a Republican, will be sworn-in on the first day of session in January. We are very excited to congratulate David and we looking forward to seeing him at the Capitol.

For those who don’t know this district, HD 76 is comprised of Poweshiek County and most of Iowa County including the Amanas and Williamsburg. David spent considerable time going door-to-door and meeting with countless citizens to win this election. Dave Maxwell captured 52.59% and his opponent Rachel Bly received 47.33%.

AGC Iowa is very grateful to all members who contributed to David’s campaign.

Looking for a Few Good Members – AGC’s 4th Leadership Class

The AGC Iowa Leadership Academy is an exciting program for anyone planning on spending their career in this industry. This year’s class is led by Mark Freier, Godbersen-Smith Construction who is serving as President and Steve Leonard of Norris Asphalt Paving Company as Vice-President. Both are doing an incredible job. With one classroom meeting remaining in February, it is now time to think about the next group of AGC Iowa members to take advantage of the Leadership Academy.

The feedback on the program from members is remarkable. There are sessions on public speaking, managing meetings, becoming a better listener, and even improving memory skills. Ken Bradford, a leadership guru from Dallas, Texas is the facilitator and he is helping sharpen the group’s presentation skills. Additionally, the class provides a great opportunity to network and establish friendships with industry peers. It is these new relationships that will remain in place for many years and better the organization.

The class schedule is easy to accommodate. There are four overnight meetings from May to February all located in Iowa. The two-day classes feature various experts on topics such as accounting/financial management to public relations/ communications. Then, the following day is the Ken Bradford Program on leadership. An added bonus has been the interest in past AGC Presidents to address the group. The four overnight stays during this period are a small price to pay for this experience.

AGC Iowa will soon begin accepting nominations for the 2013-2014 Leadership Academy Class. If you are interested in participating or have someone within your firm you would like to nominate, please contact the AGC Iowa Office today (515) 283-2424 or Gina at gswackhammer@agcia.org.
From the Director of Education

The 2013 Training calendar is listed below. The updated calendar was mailed in late October. Upcoming courses will be listed in the letting report each week; a monthly flier will be faxed and e-mailed listings as well.

The public courses are listed below or on our website at www.agcia.org. If you would like to set up any in-house training or need a training calendar and registration form mailed to you, please contact Becky Bales (515) 283-2424 or e-mail bbales@agcia.org.

Course Schedule

January 2013
- Stepping Up to Supervisor
  January 24
- STP - Unit 5 (Not covered by IDOT Funds)
  January 30 & 31

February 2013
- STP Unit 8 (Not covered by IDOT Funds)
  February 5 & 6
- Truck Driver Refresher
  February 14
- Bridge/Culvert Carpentry
  February 20, 21 & 22
- Plan Reading/Staking & Surveying
  February 26

March 2013
- Competent Person
  March 5
- OSHA 10 Hour
  March 6 & 7
- NCCCO Prep Course & Certification
  March 11-15
- Welding Refresher
  March 18, 19 & 20
- AWS Certification
  March 21 & 22
- Heavy Equipment Operator
  March 27, 28 & 29

Per Request of Contractor
- Toolbox Integration course for Hispanic workers and American supervisors (TICHA)
- Crane Inspection & Certification

Controller Council Meetings Set for 2012

The meeting dates for the 2013 Controllers Council have been set. All meetings will include two different topics, starting at 10:30 a.m. and concluding at 2:30 p.m. If you are a company controller, CFO, owner, vice president, estimator or office manager you won’t want to miss the AGC of Iowa Controllers Council meetings.

The topics of the meeting will be determined by a committee and will be announced mid-January. Look for meeting announcements via fax, e-mail and in the letting report.

Meeting Locations for 2012

- April 18 - Ames (Joint Meeting with CFMA)
- July 18 - Fort Dodge
- October 17 – Iowa City

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CPA Credits

CPA Credits are now available for those attending Controllers Council meetings. You will be required to sign an attendance sheet that will be kept at the AGC of Iowa Office; you will want to keep a copy of the registration form with topics and agenda for your files. Each meeting is worth 3 credit hours unless otherwise noted.

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Reformatted AGC Regional Meetings
Draw Record Attendance

For 2012 AGC Iowa reformatted the Regional Meeting program to provide more of a legislative focus. Initially, the change proved very successful as 297 people attended the 6 regional meetings this year.

The 2012 AGC Regional Meetings featured Iowa DOT Director Paul Trombino III who graciously agreed to attend 5 of the 6 meetings. He could not attend the Iowa City luncheon as he was needed at a DOT Commission Meeting. Fortunately, former Director Nancy Richardson agreed to present. AGC Executive Vice President Scott Newhard also presented a history of the gas tax in Iowa during the program as well.

Another addition to the program this year featured area legislators. Incumbents and newly elected legislators were invited and many attended and spoke. This change gives members another opportunity to visit with legislators and let them know how their businesses are impacted by the lack of a gas tax increase.

A special thanks to the members of the AGC Iowa Executive Committee who gave the officer’s remarks at each meeting. Terri Main, Steve Streb, Steve Sandquist, Brett Finnegan, and Bill Holland should be commended for their commitment to the organization.

Again, thanks to all the members who attended the meetings and we look forward to seeing you again in 2013 and maybe with an additional location.

Thank you sponsors who make these meetings possible:
Illowa Culvert & Supply
Sioux City Foundry Co.
ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Joe McGuire, Ph.D., Environmental Committee Chair

Major Issues
The major issues still remain Storm Water Runoff and Air Quality. Members should take the time to assess their level of compliance with all permits, plans, training and record keeping requirements. While the number of inspections does not appear to have increased, there has been some activity in this area during the past year. With the dry conditions, fugitive dust from plants sites, stockpiles and haul roads (on and off-site) is a problem and generates calls to regulatory agencies.

Green House Gasses
Legislation and changes to air quality regulations will continue be the “new normal”. Expect green house gas and off-road diesel engine emissions to be the focus of US EPA. Rule changes, testing and other requirements will be rolled out in the near future. Permit applications must contain proposed limits for Fine Particulate (PM 2.5) and Nitrogen Dioxide (January 22, 2013 and Sulfur Dioxide June 3, 2013.

RICE Rule
This rule requires owners of “stationary” internal combustion engines to register them with the State or with EPA. Members with portable generator sets and water pumps should review the rule to determine if it applies to them.

New Source Performance Standards
This rule has many subparts, of which some apply to Crushing and Hot Mix Asphalt Plants. One section of the rule is known as NSPS Subpart OOO. Traditionally, Subpart OOO only applied to the aggregate crushing and processing plants located in pits or quarries. However when the rule was amended in 2008, they (US EPA) included language aimed at capturing plants used to crush and process recycled hot mix asphalt, concrete and similar materials. Any equipment located at a site where this activity takes place is subject to the rule up to the point where it is put in a bin or is otherwise introduced into a HMA plant. It might be prudent for members to review this rule and evaluate their level of compliance.

Floodplain and Floodway
When locating plants and stockpiles on sites which have a river or stream nearby, members should make certain they are not placing anything which violates floodplain or floodway regulations. This is an area which is getting more scrutiny due to the recent floods and FEMA requiring states to evaluate and map floodplains and floodways.

Plant Relocation Notice
The portable relocation notice time has been changed. The change from fourteen to seven days was approved and is now in effect.

Iowa Department of Transportation Storm Water Training
The IDOT has developed a Storm Training Program for contractors in the State of Iowa. However, the specification which explains, defines or describes the program has not yet been written. The Association is working with them to ensure the program is reasonable and user friendly.
L.R. Falk Construction

Like many trailblazers in the construction industry Lavern (L.R.) Falk started his business small with a truck and hand shovel. It was 1922 and L.R. had just graduated from high school. He started his business by hauling livestock, feed and gravel in the local area around St. Ansgar. “Hauling gravel soon became the biggest part of his business because of the severe need for roads at the time,” said Lindsey Falk, President, L.R. Falk Construction. Eventually L.R. started screening gravel and then opened his first quarries in the 1940’s. His crushing plants went to Davenport and Illinois, often times being shipped on rail leading to a great start for this company and the rest is history.

Hard to believe 90 years later Lavern Falk’s truck and hand shovel turned into a long running family business filled with hard work, dedication, challenges and love. L.R. and Esther Falk had 3 children, but their son David grew up in the family business and joined full time after returning from the service in the 1960’s. He took over the business in the 1970’s and sadly Lavern Falk passed away in 1976. David is married to Kathryn and they have two children Lindsey and Andrea. He was president until 2011 when his son Lindsey took over and now David is Chairman of the Board.

A company like this, rich in history, has many great jobs and stories to be told. Lindsey said, “A lot of the early jobs, and some of Grandpa and Dads favorites, weren’t necessarily highway projects, but more dealing with the expanding rural and agricultural markets.” L.R. Falk has always been tied to the ag market. The first steady haul for Lavern was taking produce to Chicago and then backhauling oil. In the early 1960’s they saw a boom in ag-time with new soil testing methods and a new way of grading their product. Since the boom, they have been working very close with the rural and agricultural markets.

Along with the agricultural market, L.R. Falk also worked in many other facets of the industry. “I remember twice sending trucks and equipment to Sioux City for flood relief in the 50’s and 60’s,” says David. Around 1956, L.R. Falk was involved in a river cut on the Shell Rock River by Kensett. They bought two new Lima shovels and a crushing plant for the project. They crushed around 100,000 ton of base rock from that project. David says, “We still operate that old Commander Crushing Plant today.”

Another job that stuck in David’s memory occurred in 1965 when a gate went out in the Mitchell dam and they sent equipment down there off and on for a year trying to get it fixed. “It was right after I came back to work after the service and I had a trackscavator down there helping. It wasn’t long before I had it stuck there pretty good,” said David.

Equipment innovations are some of David’s favorite memories and he still loves to run equipment more than anything else. “When the first rubber tires loaders came out, they didn’t articulate, so it was often easier to drive them from quarry to quarry backwards. You’d have to turn around a lot to see where you were going and it was a real pain,” he says.

David also said, “The old Barber Greene front loader was pretty innovative at the time. There was an auger in the back that would feed a bucket line that would carry the material onto a conveyor over the driver and into the trucks. You had to really be careful when the pile caved down, and of course not get too close to the augers that fed it.”

David has many fond memories of L.R. Falk Construction and now his son Lindsey is making new memories. Lindsey graduated from Iowa State University, then spent 2 years in Colorado where he worked construction and also as a ski instructor. He joined the company full time in 1999 and now serves as the President. He is married to Sommer, who also works in the office, and they have three children, Aspen, 7, Ava, 4 and Grayson, 2.

Lindsey enjoys the day to day operation of the company but said, “one of our most enjoyable projects has been the forming of a new company called Falkstone with our partners at Cemstone. We opened a new quarry that ships concrete stone and other products to Minnesota and as far as South Dakota.”

Another passion for L.R. Falk Construction is giving back to the community, which Lindsey also said is one of his favorite things to do. The company works with the conservation board to establish wildlife habitat, as well as raise and release pheasant and quail. They also donate land and materials for bike trails, fishing refuges and parks. Currently, they are helping build a new baseball field in St. Ansgar, using limestone blocks as the focal point. “We enjoy working on these projects that show the many uses and beauty of limestone. We like to help where we can for the good of the schools and the future of the local towns,” says Lindsey.

They have been members of AGC of Iowa for 21 years. Lindsey said, “AGC of Iowa brings all the different facets of the industry together and lets us get to know and work with each other for the betterment of the industry and state. They play a great role and let our voices be heard politically and that helps us make a difference working as a group to get Iowa built the way we need to build it and save the infrastructure before it is too late.”

Working in Iowa and Minnesota, L.R. Falk Construction employs 70 people. They have 10 quarries in Iowa and 4 sandpits. Their dedicated employees have helped to grow and advance their business over the years. “We want to maintain a safe and profitable work environment for our employees and play an active role for sustainability for the area communities,” said Lindsey.

L.R. Falk Construction is a great three generation family owned and operated business that would not be here without the dedicated customers, employees and family members. “Lindsey said, “We’ve always been a rural based company, which allows us to really get to know our local communities and the people in the area. There’s a lot of variety in what we do, and that really makes this a fun business to be in.”

Article written by Mindy Carmichael
Baker Concrete & Excavating (Contractor Member)
Steve Baker, President (Primary Contact)
Mike Baker, Secretary
Blake Baker, Estimator
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245 Lakeview Drive
Clermont, IA 52135
563/423-5000
Fax 563/423-3000
steve.baker@baker-companies.com
www.baker-companies.com

Company Profile: Baker Concrete & Excavating performs a variety of work including demolition, site preparation/grading, water mains, sanitary/storm sewers, box culverts, retaining walls, ponds, machinery hauling, trucking, building foundations, and concrete work including flatwork, curb & gutter, parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, and decorative concrete.

Greentech of Iowa (Contractor Member)
Matt Triggs, President (Primary Contact)
Ed Miner, General Manager
Staly Fisher, Project Coordinator
PO Box 350
Grimes, IA 50111
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mtriggs@absoluteconcreteiowa.com

Company Profile: Greentech of Iowa is a soil erosion contractor.

Wiltgen Construction, Inc. (Contractor Member)
Chad Wiltgen, Vice President (Primary Contact)
Gray Wiltgen, President
Chris Wiltgen, Vice President
204 East Main
Calmar, IA 52132
563/562-3301
800/365-3301
563/562-3300
chad@wiltgenconstructioninc.com

Company Profile: Wiltgen Construction specializes in crushed stone products, ag-lime spreading, sand and gravel. They have been a family owned and operated business since 1945. In the beginning Wiltgen Construction was an excavation operation. They expanded to crushing stone products in 1989. Today they are a third generation business. Wiltgen Construction currently serves five counties including Winneshiek, Clayton, Chickasaw, Allamakee, and Howard with 14 quarries throughout Northeast Iowa.

MWD Steel Fabrication (Visiting Associate Member)
Roger Williamson, Owner/President and Manger (Primary Contact)
Brian Thompson, Owner/Vice President
3720 S. 6th Street, Ste. A
Lincoln, NE 68502
402/420-9209
Fax 866.364.0926
roger@mwdsteel.com
www.mwdsteel.com

Company Profile: MWD Steel Fabrication is a steel fabrication and detailing company. Based in Lincoln NE, they’ve been serving steel fabrication needs for businesses all over the US since 2000. They provide high quality products created with extreme accuracy.

Dahl Trucking, Inc. (Visiting Associate Member)
Marlin Dahl, CEO (Primary Contact)
Kent Dahl, President
Linda Dahl, Secretary
Andy Dahl, Treasurer
305 Hwy. 169 South
Elmore, MN 56027
507/943-3410
Fax 507.943.3415
marlin.dahl@dahltrucking.com
www.dahltrucking.com

Company Profile: Dahl Trucking is a trucking firm specializing in hauling rock, sand gravel and aggregate for road construction work. Over the years they have increased their customer base to include the hauling of grain, fertilizer and ethanol by-products. They are able to provide their customers with End Dumps, Belly Dumps, Tri Axles, Side Dumps, and Hoppers. Dahl Trucking has the versatility to adapt to almost any project that requires trucking in the road construction industry plus it maintains over the road contacts.

United Rentals (Visiting Associate Member)
Eric Juhl, Branch Manager
4010 SE Capitol Circle
Grimes, IA 50111
515/986-5944
Fax 515.986.5945
erjuhl@ur.com
www.ur.com

Company Profile: United Rentals is an equipment and tools rental provider. The Grimes branch specializes in trenching equipment rentals and trench safety.

CONTINUOUS YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2012

5 YEARS (2007)
County Materials Corporation
DeWaaay Capital Management
Hardscape Solutions of Iowa
King Construction
Rev Tech LC

10 YEARS (2002)
Boyer Petroleum Company
Kevin Kent Construction
NAS Surety Group
Truck Country of Iowa
XL Specialized Trailers

15 YEARS (1997)
1ST Insurance
Alexander’s Photography
Des Moines Steel Fence Co., Inc.
Jasper Construction Services, Inc.
Lafarge Upper Midwest Sales
LSB Insurance
Ritchie Brothers Auctioneers Inc.
Service Signing, L.C.
SmithCo Mfg., Inc.
Ulland Brothers Inc.

20 YEARS (1992)
Black Hawk Plumbing Company, Inc.
Construction & Aggregate Products, Inc.
Fint Hills Resources, LP
HD Supply Waterworks
Headwaters Resources, Inc.
Henningsen Construction, Inc.
Ideal Ready Mix Co., Inc.
Kimball Midwest
McCarthy Improvement Co.
Metal Culverts, Inc.
MLS Landscape & Design, Inc.
Olson Brothers’ Sodding & Landscaping, Inc.
OMG Midwest, Inc.
Reding’s Gravel & Excavating Company
Schoon Construction, Inc.
TEK Builders Inc.
TrueNorth Steel
Wise-Mack, Inc.

25 YEARS (1987)
BMC Aggregates L.C.
Central Service & Supply
Cole Construction Co., Inc.
Concrete Foundations, Inc.
Con-Struct, Inc.
Croell Redi-Mix, Inc.
Dormark Construction Co.
Employers Mutual Casualty Company
Engine Rebuilders Inc.
Gritton Associates
Hilipore Auction Co.
L.L. Pelling Company, Inc.
Midwestern Culvert, Ltd.
Muscatine Bridge Company, Inc.
Northland Products Company
PetroBlend Lubricants
The Underground Company

30 YEARS (1982)
McGladrey
Riehm Construction Company

35 YEARS (1977)
H-E Parts Distribution
Watco Construction, Inc.

40 YEARS (1972)
Kooker, Inc.
United Contractors, Inc.

45 YEARS (1967)
Lehigh Cement Company

50 YEARS (1962)
Lundell Construction Co., Inc.

65 YEARS (1947)
Jensen Construction Company
The Rasmussen Group, Inc.

Congratulations to ALL of these members. Members listed above completing 10, 25, 50, and 75 years of continuous membership will be recognized at the 2013 annual convention in Des Moines Friday, January 11th.
From the Technical Director
By Ron Otto

In 2010, the Iowa DOT reached out to a technology partner to look into a solution that could alleviate the burden of paper storage and make accessing needed documents easier. Iowa DOT took a unique approach in that it decided to collaborate with AGC Contractors – both large and small - and with the technology partner, as a group to make sure everyone’s needs were heard.

After several iterations and many rounds of testing, the Doc Express™ service from Info Tech is now ready for production use. There are currently more than 100 users registered with the system. The IA DOT is very supportive of the usage of Doc Express and has used it in multiple resident offices.

Using the Doc Express service, the DOT and AGC Contractors can easily access and exchange electronic contract documents with project stakeholders and business partners. This includes the exchange of material certifications, test results and more in real time from any computer without using an FTP site. The service allows agencies to store documents for the life of a project and beyond, and maintain an online audit trail.

There are certain features of the Doc Express service that contractors particularly requested. First, it is a hosted, web-based service. This means that without VPN or FTP you can get to your documents anywhere, anytime. The service is also easy to use with searchable archives that are convenient at audit or payment time. It allows for a standardized process/location for documents, email notification of document status and adds the convenience of electronic signatures.

When you use the Doc Express service you get real-time access to documents by all stakeholders. The end result will be better communication, less (lost!) paper and improved client and project stakeholder responsiveness.

One thing continually expressed by those participants in the development process was how nice it would be to always know the status of document and if it was submitted. With the Doc Express service, this goal has been achieved. To learn more, visit http://www.docexpress.com/.

I think the sky is the limit with this service as it continues to be enhanced and updated.

The Doc Express service is offered by Info Tech, Inc. With 30+ years of software development experience and more than 40,000 users worldwide, Info Tech is a market leader in infrastructure construction applications and services. Info Tech also provides the Bid Express® Internet bidding service.

THANKS!

From the Director of Field Services
By Ricke W. Welden
I do not know the author of the following, but I thought I would share this with you…

“How OSHA Nearly Killed Christmas!”

Every December, my wife and kids beg me to put Christmas lights on our house, like all the neighbors do. But I cannot for the life of me figure out how to do it in a way that is both safe and affordable, or that does not violate at least 23 OSHA regulations. After all, I’m a safety professional, and I’ve gotta set a good example. So I gave them a made-up story about how our home owner’s insurance policy has a “special rider” that disallows Christmas lights because they’re considered a fire hazard, and that got me off the hook for one more year. But this year, I also began to wonder; how would Santa Claus comply with OSHA regulations? So I did a little research.

Now everyone probably realizes that Santa’s workshop is exempt from OSHA regulations, because it is not located in the United States or one of its territories; it sits on the North Pole at the top of the Arctic, out of OSHA’s jurisdiction. This is made further evident if you watch the animated Christmas special, “Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer.” Did you ever notice that the machinery in Santa’s workshop that has no guards installed? All the nip points on the belts and pulleys are exposed to contact, in violation of 1910.219(d). Also, not one single elf is wearing safety glasses or ear plugs as required by 1910.133(a) and 1910.95(b)(1), respectively, in spite of all the sawing, drilling and hammering that is going on! But once Santa gets into the good ol’ USA, things are different; because here, he must comply with OSHA regulations.

It wasn’t until recently that Santa Claus decided that he needed to do a much better job of following OSHA safety regulations, because his workers comp insurance rates were going through the roof. Also, he wanted to avoid the bad press associated with one of those news releases that OSHA started issuing to embarrass “bad actors” with multiple violations. So Santa decided to bring four elves along on his annual Christmas Eve trip to assist him with complying with the OSHA rules.

When Santa landed his reindeer-powered sleigh atop the first roof in the US (somewhere in northern Maine, I believe), he jumped out of the sleigh and started heading over to the chimney when one of the elves shouted for him to “STOP!” It was Sammy, Santa’s first-ever Safety Coordinator elf. “Claus, you have no fall protection,” explained Sammy, “So we’ll have to perform a JSA to figure out the safest way to get you over to the chimney without you falling off the roof.”

Ol’ Saint Nick had only read enough of the OSHA fall protection standards to be considered dangerous, so when he said “Let’s designate one of the elves to be our safety monitor, per 1926.502(h),” all the elves started snickering. “No can do,
Claus,” cried Sammy. “This work is not covered by the construction regs, it falls under general industry. So we’ll have to build a set of guardrails from the sleigh over to the chimney, with 42 inch top rails, mid rails and 4 inch toe boards per 1910.23(c).”

“Wait,” declared another elf, “all the hammering will wake the kids inside the house; we’ll have to figure out something else.”

So they convened a meeting of the Safety Committee to figure out what to do.

They decided Sammy should use his smart phone to access the OSHA website to look for an alternative. He eventually found an OSHA letter of interpretation that allowed them to use an alternate means of fall protection, such as a properly engineered fall protection system, in lieu of guardrails, as long as the alternate system offered equal or better protection than the guard rails. So Sammy called on Johnny, one of the other elves sitting in the sleigh, to help; Johnny is a RPE (that’s registered professional engineer, not registered professional elf). Johnny designed a fall prevention system for Santa to use, complete with safety harness, lifelines, retractable lanyard, and designated points of attachment that can support at least 5,000 pounds per man attached.

Then Santa slipped on his safety harness (probably one of those special body harnesses designed for “husky” workers), attached his lanyard to the horizontal lifeline, and slowly crept across the roof over to the chimney. But when he started to climb up the chimney, Sammy again shouted for Santa to stop. Seems there was an overhead electrical line running overhead near the chimney, and Santa was about to encroach into the danger zone, a direct violation of 1910.333(c)(3). Because Santa had not been trained as a “qualified person” per the OSHA electrical standards, Sammy called for another elf, Ernie the Qualified Electrician, to install insulators on the overhead electrical line, per the requirements specified in 1910.269, the Electric Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution standard.

Once that hazardous situation was rectified, Santa attached his double-legged lanyard to a vertical lifeline, climbed to the top of the chimney, and was ready began his decent down into the house. But first, Sammy had to use his gas detector to check for a hazardous atmosphere inside the chimney (confined space). “Too much CO” asked Santa? “Nah, only 15 ppm, so we can set up the blower and then enter under the alternate procedures specified in 1910.146(c)(5),” said Sammy. Once the blower was in place, Santa started sliding down the chimney.

Halfway down, Santa mumbled something about it being a little warm inside the chimney. “Getting hot” asked Sammy? “Better stop right there, Claus.” Then Sammy pulled out his smart phone again and downloaded OSHA’s new app designed to protect workers from heat-related illnesses. Sammy entered all the necessary data into the program to get guidance on proper procedures to follow; however the app crashed three times before he could finally get it to work. But after several minutes,Santa finally got the life-saving instructions he needed, and shouted down to Santa; “Claus, OSHA says you need to take a drink of water.”

But Santa never carried a canteen of water on him; he was accustomed to drinking all that free milk that families leave on the mantle with the cookies. So the elves improvised; they put some snow in an old McDonald’s cup they found under the sleigh seat and used their body heat to melt it into drinking water for Santa (an unintentional violation of 1910.141(b), potable water). Of course, that took several minutes, as the elves had difficulty finding snow that was not yellow (it seems that reindeer have small bladders). “Next year,” declared Sammy, “we need to bring a cooler full of drinking water for Claus.” “I prefer Squinch-er,” shouted back Santa. “But not the lemon-lime kind, I like the fruit punch flavor!”

Once Santa and his safety coordinator elf finally made it to the bottom of the chimney, they noticed there were some glowing embers beneath the ash in the fireplace. So Sammy declared that the operation was now considered “hot work.” Santa had to stop work while Sammy filled out a hot-work permit, then he called down the fourth elf, Fred, to act as the designated fire watch. Of course, Sammy had to first make sure that the portable fire extinguisher was fully charged and had its annual inspection tag attached, per 1910.157(e)(3). Then Sammy conducted a quick training session for Fred on the use of the extinguisher, since he was due for his annual refresher training per paragraph (g)(2). And Santa really had to bite his tongue when Sammy reminded him that they would have to wait 30 more minutes after they completed the “hot work,” because OSHA required the fire watch to stick around that long to make sure there were no stray sparks smoldering that could start a fire.

After confirming that all the elements of a fire prevention program were in place, per 1910.39, Sammy pronounced that Santa could proceed with distributing the gifts, just as soon as Ernie finished replacing the electrical plug on the extension cord for the tree lights; it seems the home-owner broke off the grounding pole (1910.304(g)(5)). And finally, after much ado, all the gifts were placed under the Christmas tree. Sammy announced they completed their tasks with no OSHA-recordable injuries or illnesses to enter on the OSHA Form 300, per 1904. So Santa and the elves gave each other high-fives, had a “safety lunch-eon,” and then everyone headed back onto the roof to load up in the sleigh so they could head to the next stop.

As soon as they were airborne, Santa decided to send a text to Mrs. Clause to let her know he would be running later than normal this year, due to the extra time it took them to comply with all the safety rules. But when Sammy saw what Santa was doing, he quickly snatched the phone out of Santa’s hand and chastised him for texting while driving.

“Claus, didn’t you read the new OSHA Alert about the dangers of texting while driving?” asked Sammy. “You need not worry,” replied Santa. “I’ll be careful. Besides, there’s not even an actual OSHA regulation that says I can’t text while driving.” “True,” said Sammy, “but you do have a General Duty, Claus, to provide us with a place of employment free from recognized hazards!”

(Note: if you did not get that last joke, refer to paragraph (5)(a)(1) of the OSHA Act of 1970).
## 2013 AGC of Iowa Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs & Co-Chairs

**Annual Meeting**

Planning of the annual membership convention, developing a theme, program emphasis, speakers, and all details including decorations and entertainment.

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**Business Practices**

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**By-Laws**

Addresses problems relating to the existing framework of the By-Laws.

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**Collective Bargaining**

Committee for union shop contractors who voluntarily desire to have the association collectively negotiate their wage rates, fringe benefits, and other appropriate bargaining issues.

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**Controllers Council**

Provides a networking forum for individuals with financial management responsibilities.

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**EEO/DBE Advisory**

Monitors and advises AGC/I members on legislation, regulations and other issues involving the employment practices of minorities, women and the disadvantaged; as well as working with the IDOT in issues related to the DBE program.

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**Environmental**

Seeks to remain at the forefront of new natural resource programs, mandates and regulates and works with state agencies that promulgate these rules to insure a meaningful and pragmatic approach.

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**Ethics**

Insures compliance with the AGC motto: Skill, Integrity & Responsibility.

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**Finance**

Prepares the budget, reviews the investment portfolio, insurance programs, and other financial interests of the association.

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**Labor Policy**  
Ricke Welden,  
Staff Liaison  
Reviews data on wage rates paid for non-Davis/Bacon and makes a recommendation for the Davis/Bacon rates for the ensuing year, by classification and zone.

**Membership**  
Andy Warren,  
Staff Liaison  
Determines specific approaches to increase membership growth, participation and retention.

**Political Affairs**  
Scott Newhard, Staff Liaison  
Directs fundraising for the PAC treasury and reviews disbursements of PAC contributions to political candidates. Develops and reviews legislation on both state & federal levels as it pertains to the construction industry.

**Safety & Health**  
Ricke Welden, Staff Liaison  
Plays an active role in construction safety and health education and regulations.

**Technical Specifications**  
Ron Otto, Staff Liaison  
Reviews recommendations and adopts proposals to be submitted to the contracting authority’s specifications office.

**Training & Education**  
Becky Bales, Staff Liaison  
Assists with the development and successful delivery of both public and in-house craft, supervisory and management training and education programs for member contractors.

**Workforce Development**  
Becky Bales, Staff Liaison  
Designed to facilitate and coordinate member efforts at insuring adequate levels of incoming field, supervisory and management personnel in the Iowa highway, bridge and municipal utility industry.

**Young Constructors Forum**  
Ricke Welden, Staff Liaison  
Consists of mid-career construction professionals, or those who have been in the industry approximately 7 to 15 years. Functions as a forum in which anyone can network, socialize and exchange ideas on common issues.
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