



South Texas Chapter

ABC FACT SHEET—WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

ABC IS A NATIONWIDE NON-PROFIT CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION THAT PROMOTES THE PRINCIPLES OF FREE ENTERPRISE AND FREEDOM OF CHOICE THROUGH ITS MERIT SHOP PHILOSOPHY.

Formed on April 14, 1950 when seven contractors joined forces to protect their right to work, ABC today has over 22,000 member firms in 84 chapters in every state of the Union and has the largest voting membership of any construction industry association in the United States.

ABC believes in a harmonious business climate for both open shop and union firms. ABC also believes employers must show concern for the general welfare of employees, fostering and observing the highest standards of safety and working conditions while actively joining in the training of skilled tradesmen for the future of the workplace. Employers should establish realistic wage schedules for employees commensurate with their abilities so that they may enjoy the fruits of their labors.

ABC further believes that no one segment of the industry deserves preferential treatment. All ABC members are given equal voice in the conduct of Association affairs, regardless of their role in the industry. ABC chapters also offer a complete range of construction-related services and programs to help make its members effective competitors in today's construction market.

ABC SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER SERVES ITS MEMBERS IN THE AREAS OF EDUCATION, SAFETY, LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, COMMUNICATIONS AND NETWORKING.

EDUCATION

ABC South Texas Chapter, using materials developed by the National Center of Construction Education and Research (NCCER) offers apprenticeship-training programs in a variety of crafts. These Department of Labor approved programs are designed to help develop a skilled work force. We also offer supervisory and journeyman upgrade courses, and assist in creating task oriented and competency based training programs for individual companies.

SAFETY

ABC South Texas Chapter has Safety Consortium composed of ABC members that offer flexible, comprehensive safety services to all members. Safety training includes the ten-hour OSHA course, First Aid/CPR, Crane and Rigging, Scaffolding, and Excavation. Help can also be offered to develop safety plans, conduct safety meetings, and train personnel on safety practices. Our periodic "Safety Shorts" luncheon program keeps members abreast of safety-related subjects and topics pertinent to the construction industry.

LEGISLATION

ABC's philosophy that promotes the Free Enterprise System and encourages the Merit Shop establishes the need to monitor all legislative happenings at every level of government. ABC monitors governmental activities at the national, state and local levels and lobbies extensively to insure that the voice of the construction industry is heard. Updates on legislation, laws, rules and regulations are distributed regularly to our members. Alerts and notices are also disseminated immediately as required.

COMMUNICATIONS

ABC South Texas Chapter recognizes the need to establish and maintain communications with members. As a member, you receive our chapter newsletter- **Merit Shop Voice**; our annual Membership Directory and Buyer's Guide; **Construction Executive**, ABC's national monthly magazine, as well as our weekly construction bid calendar, alert notices, event announcements, bulletins, program notices and other publications designed to keep you informed. You can also access us through our web site: www.abcsothtexas.org for further information.

NETWORKING

ABC South Texas Chapter also recognizes the importance of personal contact. We offer members several opportunities to personally meet the people with whom they do; or hope to do, business.

Each month, members can meet other members and potential members at:

- ◆ Committee meetings.
- ◆ Our General Membership Mixers
- ◆ Our New Member Breakfast/Happy Hour
- ◆ Our "Safety Shorts" luncheons.

One can also network at ABC South Texas Chapter's annual events that include:

- ◆ Golf tournaments
- ◆ A Shotgun Sporting Shoot
- ◆ A Family Picnic
- ◆ A Safety Development Chili Cook-off
- ◆ Other exciting special events

INVOLVEMENT

Members can also gain exposure and at the same time help to fulfill ABC South Texas Chapter's objectives by getting involved in any of our eight volunteer committees. Serving on a committee is an excellent way to give back to the community and the industry and help promote growth in the organization. It is also a great opportunity to develop leadership and communications skills while addressing issues that are pertinent to your business, to your industry and to your community.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

There are three categories of active, voting membership:

Contractor Members: All firms in active facets of construction. Includes general contractors and sub-contractors in all trades. Annual dues are based on preceding year's gross construction volume.

Supplier Members: Firms that provide material for all phases of construction but no on-site labor. Annual dues are based on the size of the firm.

Associate Members: Firms that provide services to the construction industry but who are not in construction. Examples include attorneys, accountants, and insurance firms.

The membership investment schedule includes the state and national dues. Firms that are members of other ABC chapters and who join ABC South Texas Chapter under the same name pay only Chapter dues based on construction volume in the South Texas area. Dues are paid one year in advance upon joining. Thereafter, membership is renewed by December 31st. Credit is given to new members for paid up months on their first renewal.