



AGC of Texas

Highway, Heavy, Utilities & Industrial Branch

E-BULLETIN

QUICK LINKS:

[January 2010 CD Request Form](#)



December 18, 2009

AGC of Texas Regional Safety Conference in Tyler, Texas Wednesday, February 17, 2010

[Conference Flyer](#)

The theme for the 2010 Regional Safety Conference is "Safety from the Ground Up." The conference educates supervisors, foremen and others with a direct role in providing safety for their organization. Topics include Job Safety Analysis, Work Zone Safety, Excavation Safety and Crane Signal Operations. Participants will receive .6 CEU Credit for attendance, a certificate of completion, and a TxDOT/AGC Crane Training Video. To register, and for more information, click on the link above or contact Nicole Bertram at nbertram@agctx.org.

Chapter Scholarship Payroll Stuffers Available

[Stuffer- English](#)

[Stuffer- Spanish](#)

The AGC of Texas Scholarship applications for 2010 will be available from the chapter in January 2010. The scholarships will be awarded to Texas residents who are employees or dependents of employees of AGC of Texas members who are in good standing with the chapter. The scholarship is intended for undergraduate education at a college, university, or vocational institute. Selection criteria will be based on academic performance, financial need, and anticipated field of study. A strong emphasis will be placed on students who intend to pursue construction and building related degree programs.

ALL MEMBERS are encouraged to distribute information on the chapter scholarship program to their employees for consideration by eligible applicants. Attached with this bulletin is a sample payroll stuffer for requesting an application and scholarship information from the chapter. Please reproduce the payroll stuffer for distribution to your employees! Please contact Jennifer Newton at the chapter office in Austin, 512/478-4691, with any questions or comments.

National AGC Safety Awards Program (NASA)

[Flyer](#)

Please review program notice from AGC of America regarding the National AGC Safety Awards Program. In order to be eligible for this award you must have participated in the National AGC Safety Awards Program for three consecutive years. This means a member must have participate in the program for the years 2007, 2008, 2009 in order to be eligible to receive an award in 2010. NASA provides a great opportunity for contractor members who have excellent safety records to compete for nationally recognized awards. If you are interested, fill out the attached form and fax it back to Paul Causey at 972/753-1044 by **Friday, January 29, 2010**.

DECEMBER COMMISSION RESULTS AND PROJECT FUNDING UPDATES:

Of the 23 state let highway maintenance and department building construction, all were awarded. Of the 64 highway and transportation enhancement building construction contracts, all were awarded. Of the 9 ARRA projects, all were awarded.

State official approved ARRA funding for two additional mobility projects estimated at \$165 million and eight additional transportation enhancement projects funded at \$12.7 million. The nation's economic condition and its accompanying effect on construction contracting continue to result in project cost underruns, allowing additional projects to be funded. Expansions to Interstate 10 in Houston and Interstate 45 in Conroe make up the two additional mobility projects approved for funding.

Another \$46 million of Proposition 14 bonds were also approved, to provide mobility improvements to the State Highway 71/U.S. 183 interchange in Austin and the State Highway 349/State Highway 158 interchange in Midland. Prop. 14 bonds are paid back with future gas tax revenue. To date, approximately \$3.1 billion in Prop. 14 bonds have been issued. State law authorizes TxDOT to issue up to \$6 billion total in Prop. 14 bonds.

The Commissioners gave final approval on four separate pass-through projects, totaling an estimated \$56 million. The approved projects are U.S. 82 in Bowie County (\$26.2 million), U.S. 67 at Rail Port Parkway/Miller Road in Midlothian (\$9.8 million), Farm to Market 663 at U.S. 287 in Midlothian (\$2.5 million), and Loop 463 in Victoria (\$17.5 million).

Additionally, the Cameron County RMA received preliminary approval on a \$36 million grant to construct segments of SH 550. TxDOT plans to use ARRA funds to make the grant to construct the toll road.

January Letting Estimates PLUS New Locally Let Info Posted on TxDOT Website

The January letting is scheduled for January 5 and 6 and is estimated at 228.66 million for 58 projects statewide and 158.67 million for 9 projects locally let. The monthly luncheon will be held January 5 at the Four Seasons Hotel.

To view the approved schedule, go to <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/business/schedule.htm>. *NEW* You can view info regarding the locally let projects by clicking on the appropriate month at the very bottom of the page.

In Memoriam

On Sunday, December 13, Mr. Odell Geer passed away at a local hospital, surrounded by a loving family. Odell was born Jan. 31, 1922, in Birthright to Charlie and Lutie (Morgan) Geer. He served his country in World War II from 1941 to 1945 with the U.S. Navy Seabees. On April 9, 1947, he married Hilda Jean Wilson in Killeen. She preceded him in death on April 18, 1987.

Mr. Geer was a construction contractor in the Belton area his entire career. After being a member of the Associated General Contractors of Texas for more than 40 years, he was honored in being named a life member of the association in 2009. He was a member of the Belton Independent School District school board and former president for four years. He was also a member of the National Cutting Horse Association and the American Cutting Horse Association serving as director for four years.

Mr. Geer was a longtime member of the Belton Church of Christ. He is survived by two sons, Randall Odell Geer and wife, Sharon, of Belton and Rodney Paul Geer and wife, Lori, of Plano; one brother, Delbert Geer of Whitefield, Okla.; five grandchildren, Jordan Dawkins and husband Justin of Temple, Morgan Elaine Geer, Collin Odell Geer and Wyatt MacLachlan Geer, all of Plano, and Robert Trulson of Pflugerville; and two great-grandchildren, Jayci Brooke Dawkins and Jackson Charles Dawkins, both of Temple.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions may be made to the Odell Geer Scholarship Fund, c/o Belton Education Enrichment Foundation, 400 N. Wall St., Belton, TX 76513. Tributes to the family can be placed on the Heartfield Funeral Home Web site at heartfieldfuneralhome.com.

Deepest sympathy and sincere regret are extended to the family at this time.