The South Florida AGC

Building Tomorrow’s Florida

WHAT'S INSIDE
- A Legacy of Dedication and Achievement
- Raising Industry Awareness
- Advocating for Members’ Legal Interests
- AGC Activities in Florida
Celebrating 45 Years of Building Success and over three decades of steadfast commitment to The South Florida AGC.

IT’S GOOD TO BE CURRENT!
Letter From the President

This year marks Current Builders’ 45th anniversary of building success. It is an exciting time for my firm and the South Florida construction community. This optimism is in large part thanks to the continued support of The South Florida AGC (SFAGC), an organization Current Builders has counted on for more than 30 years. In turn, our leadership has remained dedicated to the association through active participation, including serving in key positions of the SFAGC. I am honored to be the third representative from Current Builders to hold the office of president, and my tenure has been especially exhilarating during this construction boom.

As our industry celebrates another year of unprecedented growth, evidenced by the sea of cranes in the South Florida skyline, the value and need for the SFAGC’s support has never been greater. We require strong leadership to promote the interests of our industry, be our voice at the legislative level, solve the growing challenges of workforce development and continue to advance a culture of safety. Our sustained support of the SFAGC’s mission is imperative.

If you are reading this letter, you understand the critical needs facing our industry, and you should be aware of the friend and advocate the SFAGC has been to our business community since its inception. So, whatever issues the industry faces, you can rest assured that our chapter of the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of America is uniquely positioned to confront them, as it has done for nearly a century.

Together with an inspired and highly motivated board of directors, I remain committed to continuing our legacy of dedication and achievement on behalf of South Florida’s construction community. We are focused on serving the needs of our industry and your company. If you haven’t already done so, I encourage you to engage, get involved and benefit from all that is The South Florida AGC.

My firm has benefitted from the SFAGC for decades, and I can say without reservation that it’s been a win-win for Current Builders. There has never been a better time to make the SFAGC a part of your team, so join us by becoming a member of South Florida’s oldest and most prestigious construction organization.

Michael C. Taylor
President, The South Florida AGC
President, Current Builders

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We all benefit by raising the level of expertise expected in the construction industry. The South Florida AGC’s focus on general contractors provides a unique opportunity to temporarily set aside competition and focus on elevating its members through more effective risk management, better financial management and creating safer worksites.

Risk Management
Without question, one of the construction industry’s premier risk management event is the AGC’s annual Conference on Surety Bonding and Construction Risk. Every year, the industry improves incrementally in large part due to the sharing of risk management best practices and trends among construction executives at this annual meeting. When the sessions adjourn, the participants all return to their respective corners of the country and begin improving their companies’ risk management and resultantly the industry as a whole.

We created The South Florida AGC Risk Management Forum as a mechanism to keep the momentum going all year long. We meet and discuss trends and tactics to control costs in workers’ compensation, subcontractor prequalification best practices, condo conversion risk and topics of concern specific to our region. Meetings are held every other month, and discussions are led by subject-matter experts. We are focused on delivering exceptional, relevant, useful content.

CFO Forum
As a companion to our Risk Management Forum, we developed the Chief Financial Officers Forum. The CFO Forum is also a reflection of an AGC of America product, The AGC’s Financial Issues Committee, which meets twice a year and provides professionals who work for construction firms with information on current financial matters in the industry and best practices. Members of the CFO Forum meet every other month to discuss content that impacts their sector of our industry, the latest technology, regulatory and tax trends, and more. Content for each meeting is dictated by forum participants who are owners, CFOs, controllers and treasurers of SFAGC member firms.

Safety
The SFAGC has a legacy of focused content delivery in the safety space. The SFAGC’s Safety Committee hosts monthly meetings of safety directors and safety personnel, known as our Second Wednesday Safety Sessions. These meetings provide members of our industry with a vehicle to share best practices, engage with our local OSHA office, confront region-specific issues like Zika or heat illness prevention, and create programming that meets the needs of executives and personnel engaged in their firms’ health and safety operations.
The Safety Committee is responsible for the creation of two products unique to the entire state of Florida. The SFAGC is the only organization in Florida engaged in an OSHA Partnership, which grants participating general contractors an opportunity to work alongside OSHA and tap into the knowledge and experience of The University of South Florida’s OSHA Training Institute, which is part of the partnership agreement. The Committee is also responsible for the SFAGC’s Safety Fair, which provides free training and certifications for members of our industry.

Continuous Improvement

Our goal with these three focused communities—the Risk Management Forum, CFO Forum and Safety Committee—is to provide value by arming participants with actionable, high-level information. Top-notch executives and firms must be committed to continuous improvement, and the SFAGC is a partner in this endeavor, providing a forum for the exchange of information. I have personally benefited from my involvement in the SFAGC, as has my firm. I invite you to join us and see how The South Florida AGC is bettering its member companies by delivering focused, relevant content.

The SFAGC’s Safety Fair provides free training for industry members.

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I take pride in serving as chairman of The South Florida AGC’s Legislative Committee. We are the only contractor organization dedicated to advocating exclusively on behalf of general and prime contractors in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. In the past 12 months, this association has lobbied successfully for changes to Florida’s Statute of Repose, joined local business leaders to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform, filed an Amicus Brief in defense of our industry, hosted representatives from three of the country’s largest public contracting entities at our events, hosted a legislative update for AGC members in Central Florida, North Florida and the Gulf Coast, and we are now preparing endorsements for state and local races occurring later this year.

The Florida Legislature
The 2017 Legislative Session saw the lowest number of bills passed in recent history. Thanks to the hard work of The AGC Florida Council and its legislative team, one of the bills that passed was our top priority, reforming the state’s statute of repose. We also successfully opposed the elimination of community redevelopment agencies and the dissolution of local transportation authorities like Miami-Dade County’s Expressway Authority, two major contributors to our construction economy. There was quite a bit left on the table, namely reform to Florida’s 558 Statutes, which favor plaintiffs’ attorneys over general contractors.
From our Florida roots to the national stage, Moss has a reputation for innovative, award-winning construction, bold thinking, outstanding employee satisfaction, and trusted business partnerships.
Florida’s Legislative Session begins in January of 2018, and the SFAGC and The AGC Florida Council are already gearing up for the fight. Reforming the 558 Statutes is a priority for us, as is ensuring that general contractors are entitled to collect attorneys’ fees when pursuing a subcontractor’s performance bond—something they are unable to do in the state of Florida.

Legal Defense

Another theatre where we engage on behalf of Florida’s general contractors is in the courts. Earlier this year, AGC General Counsel Gary Stein of Peckar & Abramson filed an Amicus Brief on behalf of the SFAGC and The AGC...
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Florida Council. The aim of this brief was to provide the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals with a real-world perspective regarding a ruling that would allow sureties to seek legal fees from general contractors even though the surety was not a party to the subcontract with the general contractor. This decision would make the cost of construction more expensive by heaping more risk onto the general contractor.

Local Outreach
Miami-Dade County, Broward County, and the municipalities and public contracting entities within their boundaries have a direct impact on our industry. They provide billions of dollars in work, influence business practices and account for an additional layer of oversight on our member firms. Ensuring that our members are part of an ongoing conversation with local elected officials and those in charge of local contracting authorities is imperative for our association. The SFAGC does this through direct engagement on particular issues, but much more importantly, we develop relationships with our leaders by providing them with opportunities to interact with our members and take part in conversations at events like our First Friday Luncheons or Quarterly Members Only Dinners. Recent guests have included representatives from the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization, Port Everglades, Miami-Dade Water & Sewer, and City of Miami and Broward County commission members.

It Starts With Us
The benefit of being an SFAGC member is that our voices, those of general and prime contractors, are always the loudest when deciding what issues to confront. The SFAGC Legislative Committee offers industry-leading value to its membership base by focusing efforts on identifying, monitoring and engaging on issues that are important to us. The committee is composed of experienced executives ranging across multiple industry sectors—from heavy civil and infrastructure to building, industrial, commercial, residential, hospitality, office and mixed-use construction—and decision making is exclusively in the hands of general contractor members. As successful as we were this past year, there is always more to be done and always room for more. We invite you to add your voice to those of your peers and allow us to do even more for our industry. Become a member and join us.

“Aileen Boucle, executive director of the Miami-Dade County Transportation Planning Organization, addresses SFAGC members at a First Friday Luncheon.”
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It’s good to be in South Florida right now. According to data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the South Florida area had a GDP of $318 billion in 2015. That number is likely increasing quickly given indicators such as declining unemployment, wage growth and South Florida’s recent No. 1 ranking for startup activity in the United States as per the Kauffman Foundation. Anecdotal data reflects this trend as well, as construction cranes seem to be everywhere.

South Florida’s economic growth is not unique within our state. A study conducted by the University of Central Florida released last year predicted that Florida would become a $1-trillion economy by 2018. Given what we are seeing in our chapter region and the growth in Orlando, Tampa and Jacksonville, it is likely that the $1-trillion mark is in our rearview mirror.

Though our geographic region covers South Florida, our members are working throughout the state.

More than 70% of the companies represented on our board of directors are working outside of South Florida with a significant presence in Orlando, Tampa and Jacksonville. This means our chapter must take a holistic approach to our programming and government affairs to best serve our members. Earlier this year, our chapter hosted a Legislative Update in Orlando, and given the response we received, we will be hosting more events throughout

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Florida to ensure that the state’s general contractors have access to programming tailored specifically to them.

Transportation, Highway & Civil Committee

Another new development is The South Florida AGC’s creation of a Transportation, Highway and Civil Construction Committee to engage directly with local contracting entities, such as the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority, Broward and Miami-Dade Counties’ aviation departments, and major ports Port Miami and Port Everglades. The development of this committee has been swift thanks to our board, including several contractors working in the transportation and civil space. AGC of America’s legacy of activism and engagement through its Highway and Transportation Division gives us a template to follow and a way for us to engage at the national, state and local level.”

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The AGC Fishing Tournament is now in its 16th year and is one of the most popular events.
PROUD MEMBER AND SUPPORTER OF THE AGC SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER


Maximizing Value for our Clients - Delivering Award Winning Projects
A Community for General Contractors

The SFAGC has a simple value proposition: We are focused on the needs of general and prime contractors. This focus is obvious when reading about our government affairs or our CFO and Risk Management Forums, but it is even more obvious when taking part in one of our events. Seeing executives from firms who are competing for multimillion-dollar projects come together at a social event is gratifying to me as an association executive because it shows that this organization has allowed these professionals to form bonds based on their companies’ common interests.

“We work hard to ensure that our legislative activism is driven by our GCs, that the educational content we provide is valuable and actionable, and that our community is served well by our events and outreach.”

This year, in addition to our long-running golf and fishing tournaments, we added a sporting clays event to our calendar. The event exceeded our expectations and will be an annual event for our chapter. We are also planning to host a construction technology fair, which is needed locally given the pace at which our industry is seeing changes impacting design, planning, management and project delivery. The event that members seem most excited about is a return of our Awards Program recognizing our member’s finest construction projects in February of 2018.

A Family

The South Florida AGC was formed in 1922 and has proudly served South Florida’s contractors for 95 years. We have been able to survive real estate busts, wars and depressions because of the dedication of our members and our focus on their needs. We work hard to ensure that our legislative activism is driven by our GCs, that the educational content we provide is valuable and actionable, and that our community is served well by our events and outreach.

If you are a general contractor in South Florida, you should feel compelled to become a member. No other organization has done more for general contractors, and no other organization places a focus on the unique needs of GCs quite like the SFAGC. Find out more about becoming a member of our family at www.sfagc.org.
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