

# Merit Shop *Reporter*

The Resource for Missouri and Kansas Merit Shop Construction

Issue  
04  
Winter  
2017

ABC HOA'S 2018  
STRATEGIC PLAN

CRAFT CHAMPIONSHIPS

TAX REFORM



Heart of America  
Chapter

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Merit Shop Reporter Issue 04 Winter 2017

## Career Fairs - *Save the Date* .....

Friday, March 2 • 9AM– 2PM  
Kansas City Training Facility

Friday, March 9 • 9AM – 2PM  
Eastern Missouri Training Facility

## ABC'S Build Out – interested in being a part of our success?

Interested in assisting with the project plan on execution...

Call Michele by January 31st  
816.994.5990





# Message from the President

Michele Roberts-Bauer



This year ABC Heart of America celebrated two critical accomplishments with our training facilities. We moved into a world class training facility in Eastern Missouri. The facility is centrally located to allow us to train a broader population in the metro and more easily access potential students. We will be hosting our Eastern Missouri Career Fair there in March.

And this month, we burned the mortgage for our training facility in Kansas City. 6 years ago ABC purchased the facility knowing that it had the potential to meet the needs of our growing organization. Through the careful stewardship of our members' investment in the organization, ABC has been able to ensure our financial success in the future and position ourselves to embark on the rehab project that will create new administrative offices for the organization and 4 additional classrooms. The additional space will ensure that we are able to continue to meet the market demands for training as we work to address the skilled trades shortage.

ABC will have a Build Out Task Force that will help oversee the project with the assistance of an owners representative. We have chosen the design build delivery method and will be selecting the team this summer. This will allow plenty of time to design the project before the build out begins in 2019 with a goal of moving in prior to the start of the 2019 – 2020 school year.

If you are interested in being a part of the Build Out Task Force, working on the project, or helping the team secure donations, please do not hesitate to contact me of Chair Dusty Brown of Electrical Associates. We are excited to make this a collaborative, open process that we can all celebrate.

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The Merit Shop Reporter newsletter is published quarterly for all members of ABC Heart of America. Its purpose is to inform, recognize and educate readers by providing information relating to Missouri and Kansas Merit Shop construction. Readers are encouraged to submit article ideas to: Editor, Merit Shop Reporter c/o Whitney Butler, [whitney@abcksmo.org](mailto:whitney@abcksmo.org).

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**Wednesday,  
January 17**

### ***Silica Rule Compliance Seminar***

8 AM - 9:30 AM  
Kansas City Training Facility

**Friday,  
January 19**

### ***ABC Committee Kickoff Meeting***

10 AM - 2 PM  
Kansas City Training Facility

**Monday-Thursday,  
January 22-25**

### ***OSHA 30 Hour***

8 AM - 5 PM  
Kansas City Training Facility

**Tuesday & Wednesday,  
January 30-31**

### ***Foreman Training Program***

8 AM - 3:30 PM  
Columbia Regional Economic Development, Inc. -  
Columbia, MO

**Thursday & Friday,  
February 1-2**

### ***Foreman Training Program***

8 AM - 3:30 PM  
Kansas City Training Facility

**Thursday,  
February 1**

### ***Estimating Academy***

8 AM - 4 PM  
Ball Conference Center - Olathe, KS

**Wednesday  
February 7**

### ***ABC Breakfast Series:***

#### ***Building Pipeline***

7 AM - 9 AM  
Doubletree by Hilton - Overland Park, KS

**Friday,  
February 9**

### ***Project Management Series: Class 1***

8 AM - 5 PM  
Kansas City Training Facility

**Monday & Tuesday,  
February 12-13**

### ***OSHA 10 Hour***

3:30 PM - 9 PM  
Kansas City Training Facility

**Tuesday,  
February 27**

### ***Scissor Lift Training***

3:30 PM - 9 PM  
Kansas City Training Facility

**Wednesday,  
February 28**

### ***ABC Breakfast Series:***

#### ***Legislative Update***

7 AM - 9 AM  
Eastern Missouri Training Facility

Please email [whitney@abcksmo.org](mailto:whitney@abcksmo.org) or visit [abcksmo.org](http://abcksmo.org) for more information or to register for any event.

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# ABC's 2018 Strategic Plan

## ABC HEART OF AMERICA'S 2018 STRATEGIC PLAN



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# SAVE THE DATE

Get involved on an ABC Committee and make your impact on the Merit Shop Construction Industry!

FRIDAY JANUARY 19 10 AM - 2 PM KANSAS CITY TRAINING FACILITY

## COMMITTEE KICK OFF MEETING

**ABC COMMITTEES**

- Building Out Task Force
- Education Committee
- Eastern Missouri Council
- Kansas City Council
- Legislative Committee
- Marketing/EIC Committee
- Safety Committee
- Workforce Development Committee

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# Craft Championships Competition

ABC Heart of America's Craft Championships Competition was held at 54 Country in Fulton, MO on Friday, December 1st. ABC HOA had 14 students compete in the fields of electrical, carpentry, plumbing and pipefitting.

Over 200 high school students from across the state came to the competition to check out career opportunities in construction. ABC members sponsored education booths that had hands on activities to engage the students and increase their knowledge of opportunities in the construction industry.



ELECTRICAL



CARPENTRY



PLUMBING



PIPEFITTING



Plumbing competitor Nick Gardner



Electrical Competitors Connor Johnson and Jordan Klinge



High School students interact with ABC member booths



Pipefitting competitor Greg Cooley



Competitors and volunteers preparing for the awards ceremony





Carpenter competitors Tony Hernandez



High School students engage in a carpentry activity



High School students watch the carpentry competitors in action



Plumbing competitors in action



High School students learn about assembling scaffolding



# Craft Championships Cont.

## Craft Championships Competition Winners:

All 5 first place finishers will be traveling to Long Beach, CA in March to compete in the National Craft Championships Competition along with nearly 200 other competitors from all over the country. We would like to congratulate the following winners and wish them the best of luck (from left to right):

Plumbing: Kevin Coughlin, Thome Plumbing Co.

Carpentry: Jeffrey Burns, HarenLaughlin Construction

Electrical Commercial Industrial: John Taylor III, ALL PRO Electrical Technology, Inc.

Electrical Residential Commercial: Andrew Perkins, Bart's Electric Co.

Pipefitting: Tyler Roland, American Boiler & Mechanical



BROWN & RUPRECHT PC  
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 Email: Dave@graylinginc.com

# From the ABC Safety Committee .....

## Buckle Up Phone Down

The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety and the Missouri Department of Transportation are challenging state agencies and Missouri businesses to join the Buckle Up-Phone Down movement.

The challenge is simple: when you get into any vehicle, buckle up your safety belt. If you are a driver, put the cell phone down. Turn it off if you have to. No texting and no talking unless hands free.

In 2016, 683 vehicle drivers and passengers died in crashes on Missouri roads and An astounding 63% were unbuckled!

In Kansas, there were 432 traffic fatalities, which is a 22% increase from previous years. Texting while driving is illegal in Kansas.

Right now, Missouri has a “no texting” law for drivers 21 years old and younger. But we are challenging all drivers to honor that ban no matter what their age. Reported crashes involving cell phones in Missouri rose 17 percent in 2015. When a driver is texting and driving they are 23 times more likely to be in a critical incident. (source: VA Tech)

With stats like that it’s time for businesses, communities, government agencies and individuals to accept the challenge.

Visit <https://savemolives.com/Buckle-Up-Phone-Down> for more information.



## SAVE THE DATE

**2018 ABC Career Fairs: 9 AM - 2 PM**

» **Kansas City - Friday, March 2**

» **Eastern Missouri - Friday, March 9**



# Annual Meeting and Holiday Reception .....

December 14, 2017







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# New ABC Members

## November–December 2017

COMPANY	CONTACT	PHONE	WEBSITE	EMAIL
Arvest Bank	Nichoel Richards	913.279.3392	<a href="http://www.arvest.com">www.arvest.com</a>	<a href="mailto:nrichards@arvest.com">nrichards@arvest.com</a>
Braco Stone	Jake Mankin	816.471.5005	<a href="http://www.bracostone.com">www.bracostone.com</a>	<a href="mailto:jake@bracostone.com">jake@bracostone.com</a>
Drone on Demand - Reality Capture Services	Mike Raymond	816.541.1595	<a href="http://www.uas4aec.com">www.uas4aec.com</a>	<a href="mailto:uas4ace@gmail.com">uas4ace@gmail.com</a>
Exceptional Waste Solutions, LLC	Alexis Albright	816.446.7369	<a href="http://www.exceptionalwastesolutions.com">www.exceptionalwastesolutions.com</a>	<a href="mailto:alexis@exceptionalwastesolutions.com">alexis@exceptionalwastesolutions.com</a>
HJ Design, Inc.	Nevin Rosner	816.415.3777	<a href="http://www.hjdesign.net">www.hjdesign.net</a>	<a href="mailto:nevin@hjdesign.net">nevin@hjdesign.net</a>
KC Winnelson	Chris Miller	913.262.6868	<a href="http://www.kcwinnelson.com">www.kcwinnelson.com</a>	<a href="mailto:cjmiller@winnelson.com">cjmiller@winnelson.com</a>
Midwest Concrete, LLC	Zach Leo	916.246.8873	<a href="http://www.midwestconcrete.biz">www.midwestconcrete.biz</a>	<a href="mailto:zach.mcllc@gmail.com">zach.mcllc@gmail.com</a>
Prime Built, LLC	Chris Elsey	785.317.5265		<a href="mailto:chris@myprimeplace.com">chris@myprimeplace.com</a>
Treadwell	Chris Barnes	913.396.6216	<a href="http://www.WeTreadwell.com">www.WeTreadwell.com</a>	<a href="mailto:chris@wetreadwell.com">chris@wetreadwell.com</a>
VM Construction, LLC	Tony Valencia	816.944.8916	<a href="http://www.vmconstructionllc.com">www.vmconstructionllc.com</a>	<a href="mailto:tony@vmconstructionllc.com">tony@vmconstructionllc.com</a>

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# Cranes and Derricks in Construction: Operator Certification Extension - Final Rule

On November 9, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published a final rule, Cranes and Derricks in Construction: Operator Certification Extension, which delays its deadline for employers to ensure that crane operators are certified by one year, from Nov. 10, 2017, to Nov. 10, 2018. OSHA is also delaying its employer duty to ensure that crane operators are competent to operate a crane safely for the same one-year period. The final rule became effective on Nov. 9, 2017.

## **Background**

On Aug. 9, 2010, OSHA issued a final rule for cranes and derricks in construction through a negotiated rulemaking process. The final rule required employers to ensure that their crane operators were certified by Nov. 10, 2014. After the final rule was published, several entities informed OSHA that the crane operator certification was insufficient for determining whether an operator could safely operate their equipment on a construction site. In response, OSHA held a number of public meetings to discuss the issue.

Due to the concerns raised at the meetings, OSHA proposed to extend the deadline for crane operator certification by three years, to Nov. 10, 2017, and to extend the existing employer duties for that same period. In advance of the publication of the proposed rule, OSHA presented the proposal to the Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health (ACCSH), which recommended instead that OSHA postpone certification indefinitely pending further rulemaking and continue the existing employer duties for that same period.

On Sept. 26, 2014, OSHA issued a final rule extending from Nov. 10, 2014, to Nov. 10, 2017, the enforcement date for crane operator certification as well as the employer duty to ensure crane operator competency for construction work.

On Aug. 30, 2017, OSHA proposed a second delay in order to address stakeholder concerns about the operator certification requirements. The proposal would delay the deadline for operator certification and extend the existing employer duties for one year, to Nov. 10, 2018.

ABC filed comments on OSHA's proposal to extend the operator certification in Cranes and Derricks in Construction on Sept. 27. In its comments, ABC reiterated its position that while it appreciated OSHA's proposed one-year delay, ABC strongly encouraged the agency to consider an indefinite extension. Extending the certification deadline indefinitely would alleviate any confusion regarding the current compliance deadline and allow OSHA to craft the safest possible solution to the type and capacity issue.

This article is intended for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice or opinion.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact ABC's director of safety, Steve Wiltshire, at [wiltshire@abc.org](mailto:wiltshire@abc.org).



# Advocacy Update

## TAX REFORM

President Trump signed H.R. 1 before the Christmas holiday. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is now law. H.R. 1 is the first major rewrite of the tax code since 1986 and contains numerous provisions of interest to ABC members. ABC will offer a webinar to discuss the matters in detail in January.

- Raises the small contractor exception under section 460(e) from \$10 million in gross receipts to \$25 million - correcting an unintended consequence of the 1986 tax reform that drew many small contractors into the administrative trap of percentage-of-completion and look-back accounting on multi-year construction contracts. And by indexing the figure to inflation, as Congress failed to do 30 years ago, the bill ensures that contractors will not face the same problem three decades from now. (Also known as the ABC Tax Bill).
- A 20% deduction for qualified pass-through income under section 199A brings the top effective rate for pass-through contractors to 29.6%, down a full ten points from today's statutory top rate.
- Retains AMT for individuals, but increases the exemption amount and phaseout thresholds so fewer people have to pay. Corporate AMT is repealed.
- Doubles the basic exemption from the estate, gift, and generation-skipping transfer taxes to \$10 million during the 2018 through 2025 tax years. The exemption was \$5 million as of 2011 and \$5.49 million in 2017 after adjusting for inflation.
- Repeals the individual mandate included in Obamacare by eliminating the penalties used to enforce it.
- Requires two oil lease sales of at least 400,000 acres each in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska and directs the Energy Department to sell as much as 7 million barrels of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. It increases the limit on offshore revenue shared with Gulf States to \$650 million, from \$500 million, in fiscal 2020 and 2021.

## 2018 Outlook

There will be numerous local issues of interest to ABC and the construction industry in the coming year.

Kansas will choose a new governor. The Missouri Senate race and Right to Work ballot initiative promise to bring much attention to the State. Discussions on repealing or reforming Prevailing Wage in Missouri are expected to continue.

The KCI airport project in Kansas City will continue to draw much attention for the industry. ABC continues to maintain that the vast majority of construction workers who choose not to join a union should have an opportunity to work on this transformational project.

## Get Involved

If you would like to be at the forefront of ABC's Advocacy activities, please contact [Whitney@abcksmo.org](mailto:Whitney@abcksmo.org) to be added to our Legislative alerts, or contact [Michele@abcksmo.org](mailto:Michele@abcksmo.org) to learn about joining our government affairs committee

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