



The Bolt

Happy Holidays from all of us at the AGC Office!



New Executive Director Named Veteran Marketing, PR Pro Takes Reins at AGC

Ed Anderson, AGC Board Chair has announced that veteran public relations professional, **LARRY TREJO**, has been named the new Executive Director of the Chapter. He is a native El Pasoan, UTEP graduate and son of a former El Paso general contractor and homebuilder. He began work on December 1st. Trejo replaces Joe Gomez who left the position to pursue other interests.

Anderson said Trejo's primary responsibilities will be membership growth and development and representing AGC member's interests with the City, County, school boards, Ft. Bliss and others. Said Anderson, "We are fac-

ing unprecedented growth in commercial construction in El Paso. AGC will play a key role in insuring members are represented in that growth."

Trejo has worked in both the public and private sector, most recently as Executive Director/CI at the Ysleta ISD. He previously owned **Larry Trejo & Associates**, which did extensive work for **Asarco, El Paso Electric, Southern Union Gas, El Paso Central Appraisal District, UTEP** and others.

A former news broadcaster and reporter on local TV, he also was a loaned executive from El Paso Electric to the U.S. Committee for Energy



Larry Trejo

Awareness in Washington, D.C., working on electric utility/nuclear power issues. Trejo is known for his expertise in crisis communications/crisis management. His wife Gloria is a former teacher and his daughter majors in education at the **University of Texas at El Paso**. **TB**

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Need information on our Apprenticeship Program? Our Safety Program? Membership? Call Christy or Pat @ 585-1533.

Special points of interest:

- March 24, 2009: AGC Legislative Day in Austin
- February 11, 2009: YISD to vote on Construction Quality RFP
- General Membership Meeting Coming in January!
- Web Page down but help is on the way!

Ysleta ISD Closes Bids on Construction Quality RFP

The RFP (request for proposals) search for architectural services for a forensic inspection of a number of Ysleta Independent School District (YISD) school projects, many built by AGC members, has closed and is now awaiting further School Board action. On December 4th, YISD Purchasing opened bids for the \$6,000,000 project. Two bids

were received, one from **Mcarch Construction-McCormick Architects**, an El Paso company. The second bid came from **Bureau Veritas**, headquartered in Plano, Texas but with a world-wide presence in over 40 countries and 26,000+ employees. YISD representatives said the bids will be reviewed in detail and ranked on conformity to the

RFP, after which both bids will be presented to the school board and made public at either the board's January 14th or February 11th meeting. Christine Gerlach, YISD Purchasing Director, declined to reveal the bids to AGC, and said it was most likely that the bids will be made public at the February YISD board meeting. **TB**

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**We're on the Web! But
DON'T GO TO**

<www.agcelpaso.org>

**at least not yet. Our webpage
is temporarily DOWN as we
rework it into a more modern
and user friendly version.**



Crane Safety Presentation Draws Crowd

About 30 persons attended the first Crane Safety Update & Overview presentation on December 5th at Thomason Hospital in the offices of general contractors Robbins and Morton. Phil Cordova, owner of Alliance Riggers & Construction gave a very interesting presentation detailing causes for some of the biggest crane failures in the U.S. in the past 20 years. Michael Rivera, Area Director, OSHA then spoke on his agency's role in promoting safe working conditions on job sites and how contractors can get the most out of their relationship with OSHA. Ron Uribe, AGC Safety Consultant oversees our Safety Partnership which brings contractors and OSHA together in a cooperative effort to improve worker safety. The program was so well received that a second Crane Safety presentation was scheduled for December 18 from 12:00-2:00 pm at the Westside Regional Command Center. Thanks to Robbins and Morton for use of their offices and to Hensel-Phelps for providing lunch for all attendees at the December 18th meeting. **TB**

YISD: Misstep? AGC Looks to Inform Public on YISD Quality RFP

A group of concerned business people were recently convened by AGC to look at how the Ysleta ISD "construction quality" RFP might negatively impact our community. With lawsuits always a concern for any business, YISD's proposal to perform extremely costly and potentially damaging forensic testing on completed school projects just does not look to some as a good idea. This especially true in a community that will soon be bursting at the seams with nearly a hundred thousand new residents courtesy of the U.S. Army. It's also probably not the best way to get the school board's questions and concerns answered. More to come . . . **TB**

**Report from the
State Capital**



**AGC Legislative
Agenda Highlights State
Board Meeting**

AGC El Paso Board Chair Ed Anderson and new chapter Executive Director, Larry Trejo, attended the state board meeting in Austin and the following items highlighted the AGC statewide legislative agenda for 2009.

The AGC PAC also met and donations to key reps were proposed and approved including a donation to Governor Rick Perry.

**AGC Negotiates
Indemnification legislation**

AGC-Texas Building Branch (our state organization) held a video/audio conference call on Dec. 15 for AGC Chapter reps interested in legislation which would modify **indemnification clauses** in construction contracts. The state legislature, convening in January, will consider legislation that could impact AGC members. AGC-TBB is negotiating with the **Texas Construction Association** and the **Texas Civil Justice League** on a bill to reduce negative impact to AGC members. AGC El Paso participated in the conference call. A final bill is almost complete.

**Safe Schools Legislation
Needs Revision**

AGC is sponsoring efforts to

clean up Safe School/Employee Background Checks legislation. It was not foreseen that it would impact construction employees on school construction sites by requiring **ALL** persons on school property to be fingerprinted. AGC is supporting legislation to define what "contact with students" is and who does the certified fingerprinting.

**AGC Throws Weight Behind
"Jobs For Texas" Bill**

With Texas' population predicted to **double** in two decades, job worker training is more important than ever. AGC fully supports the **Jobs for Texas** coalition which is supporting fully funded **Workforce Development** legislation to provide up to 12,500 trained commercial

construction workers annually by 2018.

**Will Alternative Delivery Bill
Clear Gov's Desk?**

The third time may be the charm for legislation which seeks to consolidate commercial construction building methods regulated by four different statutes into one single code. Texas Governor Rick Perry has vetoed legislation that would streamline this issue twice in the past. AGC lobbyists feel the final bill will not be vetoed by the Governor this time.

**AGC Legislative Day At The
Capital Set For March 24**

Wanted! AGC members to travel to Austin on March 24 to impact our state legislators. It's a chance to spend some time with our Senator and State Reps (and their staffs!) on their turf! **TB**