



BUILD UP!

NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA BUILDING DIVISIONS NEWSLETTER

CAROLINAS AGC – WINTER 2010 (JANUARY 15)

NEW CAGC LEADERSHIP

Carolinas AGC is pleased to welcome Cynthia S. Mills, CAE, CMC, as Carolinas AGC's President & CEO, effective Jan. 4. Steve Gennett concludes his 23+ years of excellent service to CAGC at the end of this month. The two are working closely in the first few weeks of the year and both will attend the CAGC 2010 Annual Convention in St. Thomas.

“It is a great privilege to have the opportunity to partner with you in the coming years to serve the CAGC membership,” Cynthia Mills said. “I am excited about taking my background in national trade, professional and international organizations to work on your behalf.

“The last decade of my career has been spent working with companies that range from a billion-dollar, privately held company to small, family-owned businesses and one-person shops. I have dealt with legislative, regulatory, business, standard-setting, economic, immigration, workforce development, safety and compliance, insurance and risk management, and company best practices issues and programs. My expertise is in association management, business management, organizational development, governance, strategic planning, coaching and consulting and serving a membership.

“Thank you in advance for your support, encouragement, and education. I will be counting on you to help me shorten my learning curve and to share your insights and desires for the future of your association with me. I look forward to meeting you as we work to marry our strengths together and move CAGC into the next phase of its evolution, building on the great work of the volunteers and staff that have given us a tremendous foundation for a healthy future.”

Meantime, Natalie Bonanno, with whom many members have worked over the years in her capacity as Steve's Executive Secretary, will be moving into a more leisurely lifestyle as well. Natalie will remain in her current position through March 2010 and also will be missed greatly. [Get more info on Cynthia Mills.](#)

2010 DIVISION GOALS

The Building Division Chair and Vice Chairman, John Muter with Barnhill Contracting and John Farley with Contract Construction, respectively, met on Dec. 11 with staff to plan for the upcoming year. Top goals include:

- Continue highlighting the infrastructure crisis in both states. Involve owners in more CAGC functions by providing more frequent, less expensive meetings.
- Promote training awareness/opportunities among the membership on such topics as getting the full benefit of CAGC's online services, possibly offering seminars across both states, as well as information/seminars on such topics as "green" construction, LEAN construction, BIM, how to improve minority participation, alternative delivery systems and immigration.
- Encourage a level playing field on prequalification and preserve business friendly climates.

CAGC FEATURED IN WRAL-TV CONSTRUCTION STORY

To help stimulate construction funding and the economy, one of CAGC's messages this year is the great deals owners can get now on construction work. WRAL-TV in Raleigh this month aired an excellent story and video to that effect, which included NC Building Division Director Dave Simpson. [Click here for video story.](#)

LEGISLATURES/CAGC SAVE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

NC: Effective Jan. 1, 2010, the construction industry no longer will have to pay what would have amounted to millions of dollars in franchise taxes. That's because CAGC got through the NC General Assembly last year legislation that will prohibit the N. C. Department of Revenue from applying the state's franchise tax on overbillings, which are liabilities – not assets. Also, in another move saving the industry untold liability, CAGC helped lead efforts to exempt construction from statute of repose legislation, which went from 6 to 12 years, effective Oct. 1, 2009. When the NC General Assembly convenes its session on May 12, 2010, we will be fighting for your best interests on infrastructure funding, open-shop and many other issues that will affect your company's bottom line.

SC: The 2010 Legislative session kicked-off in early January. This begins the second year of a two-year session and any bill that does not pass during this legislative session will die and will have to be introduced as a new bill in 2011. SC Building Division Director Leslie Hope says it definitely will be a year of challenges, as it is an election year for all 124 members of the House as well as the Governor, Lt. Governor and the remaining Constitutional Officers. The state is running in a deficit and the Legislature plans to take at least four weeks of furlough, and there are a handful of legislators who are still interested in pushing for the impeachment of Gov. Mark Sanford.

One top issue will involve tort reform. Since the passage of that comprehensive tort package in 2005, the trial lawyers have found a few loopholes in the tort law, which we plan to close with the passage of a new tort reform bill. Specific to the construction industry is a change in the section of the law which affects the statute of repose. Plaintiff lawyers have started using a possible building code violation as a way to get an exemption from the 8-year statute of repose, kicking it back to 13 years.

Senate Bill 384 -- Restructuring the Department of Health and Environmental Control -- is a work in progress and will be the environmental issue of the year. The bill, when initially filed, split the agency into two separate agencies.

GETTING CONNECTED & PLUGGED IN

To get short and timely feeds on info you need to know, follow these Twitter streams by clicking on them: [NC Building Division](#); [SC Building Division](#); [Safety & Health](#); [Human Resources](#). Also, become a Facebook "fan" to keep up with what's happening at CAGC and subscribe to our RSS feed to manage better your incoming communications. Go to www.cagc.org on the lower left corner of the page and click on the links below "Connect With Us."

Another excellent benefit that each of CAGC's 588 general contractor members enjoys involves a plan room home on IBuild. It's your central location for getting subbids on both public and private projects. For privately bid work, when you send bid invitations to your choice of subbidders, they can come to your plan room to see plans & specs whether or not they're a CAGC member. When you post a private project in your GC Plan Room, upload your plans and specs along with your project details, or at anytime afterward. You'll be ready to e-mail your bid invitations through IBuild usually within minutes. Subbidders can download and/or print documents in their office, or order prints at CAGC discounted member rates. CAGC provides continuing free support for subbidders (whether or not they're CAGC members). This service is free with your CAGC membership! For a personal demonstration in your office, contact [Roddy Craft](#) or [Mike Austell](#) at 704/372-1450.

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

"If I could find the guy who invented that game, I'd beat the hell out of him."

- Charles Barkley, in a recent Sports Illustrated story about his love-hate relationship with golf.

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