LEADERSHIP RECOGNIZED, ABC 2016
ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTED

At the Annual meeting on January 26, the 2016 ABC NH/VT leadership was thanked for their hard work and effort to assure the chapter success. Some numbers representing results were provided, including 93.7 Retention of members, 12 Business Development events with over 1600 attendees, 50 educational Programs with over 600 students, including several “customized” training programs in response to member company needs, ABC NH/VT Members saved over $500k in discount programs and the ABC Group Trust distributed $1 million in dividends. The chapter continued to fight for open competition and free enterprise values with several important victories.

Congratulations to the 2017 ABC NH/VT Board of Directors, we look forward to an exciting year:
LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO ASSURE OPEN COMPETITION ON STATE FUNDED PROJECTS

NH HB446 will prevent state agency construction contracts from requiring contractors to sign an anti-competitive and costly Project Labor Agreement as a condition of winning a state assisted construction contract. The language in the bill has already been upheld in the courts and would allow contracts to be awarded to contractors that voluntarily enter into PLAs.

Fair and open competition in state construction contracting is necessary to provide for more economical, non-discriminatory, neutral and efficient procurement of construction services. Labor affiliation, or lack thereof should not be part of the selection criteria for the award of state construction contracts and project labor agreements should not be included in the project solicitation process.

A Project Labor agreement (PLA) is a collective bargaining agreement unique to the construction industry that typically requires companies to agree to recognize unions as the representatives of their employees on that job, use the union hiring hall to obtain workers, follow union work rules and pay into union benefit and multi-employer pension plans. Because they are unfamiliar with union hiring hall practices, work rules and conditions and the impact of required fund contributions, when mandated, PLAs discourage competition from nonunion contractors and their employees, who comprise over 90% of the NH private construction workforce. Multiple studies of hundreds of taxpayer-funded construction projects found PLA mandates increase the cost of construction between 12 percent and 18 percent compared to similar non-PLA projects. PLAs on publicly funded projects have resulted in litigation, reduced competition, increased costs, needless delays and poor local hiring outcomes.

A total of 22 states—20 since 2011—have passed similar measures allowing the free market—not the government—to determine if a PLA is appropriate for a construction project. Simply put, HB446 will assure open competition, a level playing field in the procurement of state construction contracts, increase competition, help small businesses grow, curb construction costs and spread the job-creating benefits of state funded contracts throughout the entire construction industry.

STATES WITH RIGHT TO WORK LAWS AND NO INCOME TAX GREW FASTEST IN THE OBAMA YEARS

On Thursday, January 19, by a vote of 12 – 11, the NH Senate passed Right to Work legislation. Thank you to all members who responded to an ABC request to contact your Senator to encourage passage of Senate Bill 11, prohibiting collective bargaining agreements that require employees to join or contribute to a labor union. Your calls/emails made a difference. Passage of Senate Bill 11 is about accountability and sustained economic growth. Some opponents of RTW legislation refer to it as union busting. It is quite the opposite. If you provide for workers and invest dues to benefit workers, they will choose to pay dues and join. If Senate Bill 11 passes, NH will be the only RTW state in New England. The bill is now in the House where a hearing has been scheduled for this Wednesday, February 8th. Stay tuned!
ABC NH/VT
Action News Letter
February 2017

ABC EXCELLENCE IN CONSTRUCTION AWARDS, RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING PROJECTS AND THE HEROES THAT MAKE THEM HAPPEN

All member contractors will soon receive the invitation for entry to Associated Builders & Contractors’ 2017 EXCELLENCE IN CONSTRUCTION AWARDS (EIC) program. Be recognized, promote your capabilities and get noticed by prospective customers. The 2017 Awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, October 26, 2017. Projects to be entered must have been completed between 1/1/15 and 1/1/17. The deadline for entries is June 30, 2017.

So, its time: 1) Select a “champion” to be responsible for coordinating the entry production and instigating support from project team members and 2) As soon as possible review the criteria, select your project(s) and plan entry production activities. Please feel free to contact the chapter office to schedule a meeting to assist your planning and preparation of an entry, including questions on entry rules, requirements tips for submitting an entry and examples of award winning submissions and the required project narratives.

16th Annual Ski Day
NEW LOCATION!!!
WATERTVILLE VALLEY

Join us March 10th at Waterville Valley for a day of skiing, food and networking.
Visit our website for information or registration details.

8:30 AM  Registration
9:00 AM  Lifts Open
12:30 PM  Lunch
3:00 PM  Après-Ski Reception

Major and Event sponsors are available. Email paulette@abcnhvt.org for information.

WAGE and BENEFIT SURVEY
We are still gathering data!
Please take a moment and fill out the “wage and benefit survey”.
Your participation will insure the most accurate data for our industry and helps you attract your ideal candidate with current industry standards.

Pay
Benefits
Training
https://www.memberleap.com/members/