Gala Speech

Thank you Mariela, allow me to start with our mission: To develop and promote the Hispanic Construction industry in Georgia. It is my hope that what we have delivered tonight is in line with this mission. Please join me one more time and give the award winners another round of applause. **Well, looking at some of you, it is evident that my position in the program was less than optimum since I stand between you and the music of a great band that will play just the right tunes for your dancing pleasure, so I promise to make it brief.**

Those that know me understand how much I like data for just about anything. So as I saw this event taking shape, I wanted to have a better appreciation of the level of effort taken to produce this event. Let me start with the table's centerpiece. My lovely wife spent and incredible amount of time decorating and putting them together, so I really hope you like them. **Frankly, I actually know the within a small margin of error time but if I tell you, she will likely kill me!** On the communication side, I stopped counting after I crossed over 1900 pieces of information through platforms such as whatsup, e-mails, text messages, etc. The commitment and enthusiasm has been amazing. So please help me acknowledge

the team that has worked so hard to make this event a reality. May I have the event committee and all the volunteers stand up so you can be acknowledged?

So you have seen synopsis of the association's accomplishments during 2016. It's incredible to think the year is almost over. While humble and proud of the success, there is much work that has yet to be done to reach our community and stay true to our mission and vision. Looking forward to 2017, we have initiatives that serve as a catalyst to propel the growth of our members to new levels.

Our plans for the coming year include:

- Refining our Internet portal so members can best identify common ground and business opportunities.
- Structuring a mentor/protégé program designed to help smaller companies reach their next tier.
- Improving our meet and greets so they can serve as a more effective platform for matchmaking.
- Creating greater synergy with our government entities so our members can best position themselves to public opportunities.
- Modifying our management development programs to create better alignment to specific member needs.

- Shaping our student chapter so the future of the organization is aligned with the new generation.
- Lastly, we know that safety is key to our community; therefore we must continue to enhance our safety training in order to further minimize work related injuries.

In line with our theme of the evening, as organizations and individuals we must FIND THE WAY and accept that obstacles and challenges are part of becoming a better version of ourselves. So to conclude, I want to leave you with a quote from Cory Booker.

No matter what,…..we always have the power to choose hope over despair, **engagement over apathy, kindness over indifference, enthusiasm over lethargy, love over hate.** This is our true freedom. Whatever life may throw at us, we have the freedom and ability to choose our attitude. And I believe it is in those moments of choice that we manifest our destiny.