



Wyoming Chapter

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March 2009

Wyoming's Merit Shop News

Blueprints

ABC of WY Annual Convention April 3-5 Early Registration Ends March 20th

The Associated Builders and Contractors, (ABC) of Wyoming will be holding their 2009 Annual Convention April 3-5th at the Holiday Inn in Cody, Wyoming.

"We are very excited about the speakers and the education programs we have lined up for this year's convention," says ABC of Wyoming President Josh Carnahan.

Confirmed Convention speakers include U.S. Congresswoman Cynthia Lummis, ABC National Chairman, Jerry Gorski, ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu, and State Senator Ray Peterson.

Others invited to speak include U.S. Senators Mike Enzi and John Barrasso, Wyoming House Speaker Colin Simpson, former Speaker Roy Cohee, and more members of the Wyoming House and Senate.

Convention programs will include a discussion regarding Wyoming's resident preference laws with noted Wyoming construction attorney, Don Riske; breakout session on Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEEDS), Occupational Health and Safety Administration

(OSHA) Safety Programs, and starting your own Apprenticeship Training Programs.

"Not only will this convention be valuable and informative for business owners and operators, but also for their key personnel," Carnahan continued. "I'm not only encouraging our members to bring themselves, their employees, and their industry partners, but their spouses as well, we have a lot of extracurricular activities specifically for spouses."

Extracurricular convention activities include trips to the local spas, a wine tasting, museum and trolley tours, not to mention receptions and a live band to round out the convention s closing night party.

"This is by far the most ambitious Convention we've ever put together, and it will be one of the most beneficial for ABC of Wyoming members and their allies," says Carnahan.

For more information or to register for the ABC of Wyoming 2009 Convention, visit the ABC of Wyoming website at www.abcwyoming.org or contact the ABC office at (307) 577-6460.

2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAPS UP Session Driven by Economic Concern

Legislators ended the 2009 Legislative session on March 5th. While some have called the session a disappointment others have hailed Legislators for stepping back from spending programs and taking a "wait and see" approach to Wyoming's Economic future.

Wyoming was one of the few, if not the only state that continues to enjoy a budget surplus, although the surplus of over \$900 million last summer dwindled to projections of well over \$200 million when the session began.

Economic fears almost certainly played a role in program funding, and the creation of new programs. Most bills dealing with funding had their funding cut, and most bills dealing with new

programs were scaled back if not killed completely.

The bills that will likely have the most impact to ABC of Wyoming members are bills related to Worker's Compensation, especially the Worker's Comp Amendments bill that increases benefits through worker's Compensation by at least \$10 million annually, but the actual cost to employers is not precisely known as of yet.

For more information about the 2009 Legislative session, visit the Wyoming State Legislature's website at <http://legisweb.state.wy.us> or check out the Legislative Update on the ABC of Wyoming website, www.abcwyoming.org



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SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED!

For the PAC Fundraiser at the Annual Convention

Donations are voluntary and not tax deductible

ABC of WY Holds Strategic Planning

In February, for the first time in its history, ABC of Wyoming held a strategic planning session to set short and long term goals and priorities. Directors, members ABC Wyoming staff, and ABC National Vice-President of Member Services, Tim Welsh, conducted the strategic planning session.

Attendees of the strategic planning developed four different sections, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis; goal setting, and plan implementation.

After much discussion and evaluation, the group developed four broad goals for the association, Image Improvement, Activating Committees, Expanding Education, and Membership Development.

The group further discussed strategies to achieve these goals, and developed a plan of action.

Image Improvement: The Association should be involved in more community service projects, trade shows and career fairs throughout the state. We need to build the ABC brand, and promote our members through that brand.

Activate Committees: Each committee must have a mission statement, and recognition of where and how the committees fit into the organization. Committees must be given important work that they can accomplish for the benefit of the whole association. The Board must reach out to recruit, and keep committee members as well as be actively involved with the committees.

Expand Education: ABC of WY must have more involvement with OSHA, MSHA and other safety organizations. The Association should research and implement new apprenticeship programs across as many trades as possible. ABC should implement more labor and legal programs for members.

Membership Development: ABC of WY must address the concerns of smaller members, including the establishment of trade related pier groups on a state, and if possible national level. The association has to establish the value of ABC to all members.

While the Strategic Planning session has concluded, the ABC of Wyoming Board wants to be sure that all members have the ability to share their vision of the organization with staff and the Board. If you would like to voice your opinion about the strategic planning, or your vision for ABC of Wyoming, please contact Josh Carnahan, at (307) 258-0685 or you may also contact individual members of the ABC of Wyoming Board; their contact information can be found at www.abcwyoming.org.

EVENTS CALENDAR

MARCH 2009

5th 2009 Legislative Session Adjourns

12th WABIT Trustees Meeting

16th – 17th SFC Meeting Casper

19th ABC of WY Board of Directors Meeting

APRIL 2009

3rd-5th ABC of WY Convention, Cody

15th – 17th ABC Construction Education Conference, Las Vegas, NV

20th -21st SFC Meeting Casper

MAY 2009

14th WABIT Trustees Meeting

16th – 17th SFC Meeting Casper

21st ABC of WY Board of Directors Meeting

25th Memorial Day

26th – 29th Governor's Conference on Workforce Solutions, Jackson

REGISTRATION: <http://wyowdc.org/summit/2009>

JUNE 2009

23rd – 25th ABC Legislative Conference, Washington, DC

REGISTER NOW!

Associated Builders and Contractors of Wyoming

CODY 2009

ANNUAL CONVENTION

www.abcwyoming.org