Come Mingle & Jingle at our 40th Anniversary Celebration!

Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc.
Brazosport Safety Council
& Merit Shop Training, Inc.
cordially invite you to our

Annual Christmas Social

Tuesday, December 1, 2015
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
1002 ABC Avenue
Brazos Room A
Freeport, Texas 77541

The Annual Christmas Social is a time for member appreciation, fun and fellowship. Please join us for an enjoyable evening as we celebrate the holiday season and our 40th anniversary as a chapter.

RSVP by November 24, 2015: Ruby@abctxgulfcoast.org or 979.233.0279
ABC Texas Gulf Coast Chapter hosted the poker tournament fundraiser on October 29, 2015 at the ABC facilities. The event brought in past winners, wanna-be’s and those who just enjoy a good time.

A BIG THANKS goes to the sponsors who made this fundraiser possible:

**ROYAL FLUSH**
- All American Screening & Medical
- Freeport LNG Development, LP
- Freeport Welding & Fabricating, Inc.
- Tri-Construction Co., Inc.

**STRAIGHT FLUSH**
- BASF Corp.
- Candlewood Suites, Lake Jackson
- Excel Construction & Maintenance
- ICS, Inc.
- Tolunay Wong Engineers, Inc.

**FULL HOUSE**
- JV Industrial Companies, Ltd.
- National Trench Safety, LLC
- Victory Insurance Agency, Inc.

---

1st Place - Gabriel Michaelidis
2nd Place - Jeff Reynolds
3rd Place - Larry McDaniel
A Salute to ABC STEP Award Recipients at ABC Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

At the September 30th Membership Event/Luncheon, STEP Awards were presented by Amando Gonzalez, ABC Chapter Chairman and Terry McAlister, ABC Chapter President & CEO. The following ABC Contractor Members received awards:

GOLD
- D-Electric Co.
- Thermal Polymer Systems

PLATINUM
- Brazos M&E
- GC2 Specialty Construction, LP
- ICS, Inc.
- Infinity Construction Services, LP
- Infinity Maintenance Services, LP
- ISC Constructors, LLC
- Lone Star Resin Systems, Inc.
- TIC Energy & Chemical, Inc.
- J V Industrial Companies, Ltd.
- McGill Maintenance Partnership, Ltd.
- The Brevard Company
- Thermon Heat Tracing Services

PLATINUM (continued)
- Tri-Construction Co., Inc.
- United Electrical & Instrumentation
- Zachry

DIAMOND
- Brock Services, LLC
- Civil Mechanical, Inc.
- Excel Construction & Maintenance
- Marquis Construction Services, Inc.
- Performance Contractors, Inc.
- PCL Industrial Construction Co.
- Polk Mechanical Company
- S & B Engineers & Constructors, Ltd.
- Skyline Technologies, LLC
- Standard Constructors, Inc.
- Wolfenson Electric, Inc.

Safety is a priority – with STEP, you can improve it. Established in 1989, the Safety Training and Evaluation Process (STEP) serves as a valuable tool for ABC members to consistently build upon their safety training programs and gain recognition for their outstanding efforts.

There are six levels for the STEP program with Platinum and Diamond levels being the highest. For more information about the STEP award program, visit the ABC National web site or contact the local office.

Congratulations to these members for their achievement!

For more information about the ABC STEP Program, you may visit the ABC National web site at: www.abc.org, contact Chris Williams at National: cwilliams@abc.org or call 202.595.1855.
MEMBERSHIP

ABC Board of Directors
Amando Gonzalez  
Chairperson
Mark Monical  
1st Vice Chairperson
John Woods  
Treasurer
Steve Bundick  
Secretary
Gerald Andrews  
Immediate Past Chairperson

Directors
Buck Blevins
Clinton Farmer
Smokey Hebert
Mickey Lester
Jay Mejia
Jack Murphy
James Reynolds
Lisa Bundick Woods
Roy Yates

Industry Advisors
Scott Brandenburg
Tim Daeschner
Debbie Shelton

Legal Advisor
Mark Jodon

Staff
Terry McAlister  
President & CEO
Becky Rinehart  
Director of Education
Ron Speir  
Operations Manager BSC
Gloria Lara  
Client Services Supervisor BSC
Ruby Pratt  
ABC Administrative Assistant
Kay Farmer  
Skills Assessment Administrator
Tricia Patton  
Bookkeeper
Kyle Nairn  
Facilities Manager
Daryl Dauer  
Construction Manager
Judy Botello  
ABC, BSC & MSTI Receptionist
Capri Jinkins  
Skills Assessment Coordinator
Margaret McMahan  
Craft Training Coordinator

Sun  Mon  Tue  Wed  Thu  Fri  Sat
1    2    3    4    5
6    7    8    9    10   11   12
13   14   15   16   17   18   19
20   21   22   23   24   25   26
27   28   29   30   31

December 2015

BRAND
ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Industries Served:
- Refining
- Chemical
- Power
- LNG
- Pulp & Paper
- Cement
- Manufacturing

Services Provided:
- Scaffolding
- CUI Management
- Insulation
- Abatement
- Surface Preparation
- Industrial Coatings
- Refractory
- Fireproofing

Angleton, Texas Office:
2309 West Mulberry
Angleton, Texas 77515
T: (713) 427-5400
F: (713) 427-2500
www.beis.com

MEJIA
INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY COMPANY
Superior Quality & Service

Structural Steel • Fittings • Flanges • Pipe
CARBON • STAINLESS • ALLOY

979.233.2362 • mejiasupply.com
2218 FM 523 • Oyster Creek 77541

2015

www.abctxgulfcoast.org
ABC Public Relations Extends a Helping Hand

ABC Donates $2,500.00 to each of the following charitable organizations:

The ABC Public Relations Committee organizes various activities to assist within the community during the year. The annual ABC Cook-off and ABC Inshore Fishing Tournament events help to raise funds to benefit the local community.

On October 13, 2015 the committee presented $2,500 each to these charities:

**MILITARY MOMS & WIVES OF BRAZORIA COUNTY – Mission Statement:** We are here to support the moral and spiritual health of our American Heroes in the armed forces in combat zones around the world through the letters and care packages that are hand packed with love and are shipped by caring volunteers who support all branches of service.

Military Moms and Wives of Brazoria County sends out over 5,000 care packages twice a year to our troops. We raise money all year long to cover the postage and the cost of the items that go in the care packages. If you can buy a care package or even contribute as little as $1, we would gladly accept your donation and sincerely appreciate your support of our troops. Military Moms and Wives of Brazoria County started in 2002 and operates solely from community donations and volunteers.

Contact information: Phone - 979.236.6861, email - militarymomsandwives@yahoo.com, location – 313 Mulberry, Angleton, Texas/P.O. Box 2345, Angleton, TX 77516.

**POWERPACKS (formerly Operation Backpack) . . . FUELING MINDS AND BODIES FOR LEARNING -**

Operation Backpack has found a new home at Brazosport Cares Food Pantry. The weekend backpack program, now known as POWERPACKS, provides nutritionally dense, easy to prepare food to chronically hungry students who go home to meager or no meals.

Hunger is a reality many students face on a daily basis. Approximately 80% of the students in Freeport schools are classified as economically disadvantaged and qualify for the free or reduced lunch program. Additionally, there continues to be a significant presence of homeless students in the district. Powerpacks are designed to help alleviate child hunger and remove it as a barrier in the classroom. The program is also about empowering students to succeed in school and providing them with a tangible expression that as a community, we care about them.

The Powerpacks program serves seven schools within BISD. Brazosport Cares works with individuals, organizations and the Houston Food Bank to obtain food and supplies necessary to fill the backpacks. Weekly volunteers use these items to fill backpacks for qualifying students. The backpacks are delivered by volunteers to the participating schools at the end of each week. Students take the backpacks home for the weekend and return the empty bag to school on Monday so the process can start over.

As a leader in the fight against hunger in the community, Brazosport Cares Food Pantry knows if a student is facing hunger, chances are the entire family is also. By connecting the student’s family to our pantry program, we are able to meet the needs of the entire family.

There are many ways to help! Brazosport Cares relies on the generosity of the community to meet the needs of chronically hungry students. A shopping list of much needed items is available on our website at www.brazosportcares.org. Food donations may be dropped off at Brazosport Cares Tuesday and Thursday mornings 8:30 – 11:30. The Pantry is located at 916 N. Gulf Boulevard, Freeport, TX 77541. Additionally, look for the Red Barrel at the Freeport City Hall, Lake Jackson Library, Lake Jackson Historical Museum and HEB Lake Jackson to drop off donations. Volunteers are also needed to fill backpacks on Tuesdays and to deliver and pickup backpacks to and from schools.

For more information about the Powerpacks program or Brazosport Cares Food Pantry, contact us by email at bpcares@sbcglobal.net, by phone 979-239-1225, or visit our website at www.brazosportcares.org.

The ABC Public Relations Committee extends sincere appreciation to the ABC members and others in the community for their support of ABC fundraiser events!

**Helping hands working together to assist our fellow man!**
PUBLIC RELATIONS

MERIT SHOP TRAINING, INC.

Merit Shop Training, Inc. is an Accredited Training Sponsor and Assessment Center as well as an endorsed site for Rigging, Crane & Signal Person.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The ABC Public Relations/ABC Cares Committee organizes the annual Cook-off and Inshore Fishing Tournament, as well as promoting the Food, Clothing/Coats and Toy Drive throughout the year. Appreciation is extended to committee members for their contributions and involvement within the community.

ABC Cares

A BIG thanks goes to the ABC members and others in the community for their efforts and contributions to ABC fundraiser events.

These donations to local charities would not be possible without you!

MILITARY MOMS & WIVES

Funds presented to Military Moms & Wives representatives: Karen McTotter (3rd from left) & Mary Moreno (5th from left).

ABC P/R Committee members pictured: David Wesson - ABC P/R Chairman, Terry McAllister - ABC Chapter President & CEO, Lisa Bundick Woods - ABC Board Liaison, Drew Lindsey - Texas Gulf Bank, Jim Mahon - Candlewood Suites Lake Jackson, Ruby Pratt - ABC Staff Liaison, Annie Roberson - All American Screening & Medical, Shanye Salinas - The Brevard Company, Haley Smith - Performance Contractors, Inc., Roosevelt Thompson - All American Screening & Medical.


The ABC Public Relations/ABC Cares Committee organizes the annual Cook-off and Inshore Fishing Tournament, as well as promoting the Food, Clothing/Coats and Toy Drive throughout the year. Appreciation is extended to committee members for their contributions and involvement within the community.

POWERPACKS

Funds presented to Powerpacks representatives: Tracy Bishop (3rd from left) & Christy Frey (5th from left).

ABC P/R Committee members pictured: David Wesson - ABC P/R Chairman, Terry McAllister - ABC Chapter President & CEO, Lisa Bundick Woods - ABC Board Liaison, Drew Lindsey - Texas Gulf Bank, Jim Mahon - Candlewood Suites Lake Jackson, Ruby Pratt - ABC Staff Liaison, Annie Roberson - All American Screening & Medical, Shanye Salinas - The Brevard Company, Haley Smith - Performance Contractors, Inc., Roosevelt Thompson - All American Screening & Medical.


The ABC Public Relations/ABC Cares Committee organizes the annual Cook-off and Inshore Fishing Tournament, as well as promoting the Food, Clothing/Coats and Toy Drive throughout the year. Appreciation is extended to committee members for their contributions and involvement within the community.

ABC Cares

A BIG thanks goes to the ABC members and others in the community for their efforts and contributions to ABC fundraiser events.

These donations to local charities would not be possible without you!
Holiday Food and Toy Drive

Please join ABC and share goodwill this holiday season!

Make a Difference!
We accept cash donations, non-perishable canned items, and new, unwrapped toys to help make the holiday season a little brighter for those in need...

**Donation Drop-off Locations:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ABC Offices</th>
<th>or:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1002 ABC Avenue</td>
<td>Bring donation to ABC, BSC, MSTI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freeport, TX</td>
<td>Christmas Social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours: Monday - Thursday</td>
<td>December 1, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>ABC Brazos Room A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Holiday Food & Toy Drive Donation Deadline:**

*Tuesday, December 1, 2015*

P/R Committee will deliver donations within the week. As donations are made, the P/R Committee will publish information through the ABC newsletter and local newspaper.
Solutions Mechanical is a full service HVAC company specializing in design, construction, installation, modification and servicing of industrial and commercial air conditioning equipment.

P. O. Box 400
Danbury, TX 77534
(713)471-3599
Jeffrey L. Thompson, Owner
jeff@solutionsmechanical.net

Kelly Services - Serving the Greater Houston Area for over 50 Years!
Local Staffing Solutions Provided by Local Staffing Professionals
Welcome New Member!

MMR CONSTRUCTORS, INC.
11620 Bammel North Houston
Houston, TX 77066
Jeremy Bruser | District Manager
409-727-0456 | jbruser@mmrgrp.com

MMR has served as the industry leader in electrical, instrumentation and technical services for over 50 years and is the largest privately-owned merit shop electrical and instrumentation contractor in the United States.

With over 20 offices throughout North and South America, MMR has the unique ability to work across industry lines in the oil and gas, chemical and petrochemical, industrial and manufacturing, and power generation markets.

MMR offers a robust list of services tailored to meet the individual needs of its clients, including:

- Electrical Construction
- Instrumentation Installation & Technical Services
- Panel Fabrication
- Safety Services & Products
- Communications Networking & Security Integration
- Power Distribution
- Commissioning & Start-up Assistance

Experience the MMR tradition of success. Call 1-800-880-5090 or visit www.mmrgrp.com to learn more about our company and the job opportunities we have available.

1st Combined ABC Cook-Off & Fishing Tournament

March 18-20, 2016

Safety Violations Will Be More Costly in 2016: OSHA Penalties to Increase

By: Thomas Benjamin Huggett & G. Mark Jodon, Littler Mendelson

Under the new budget, signed by President Obama on November 2, 2015, OSHA is obligated to raise its citation penalties for the first time in 25 years. Since 1990, OSHA has been one of only three federal agencies that were specifically exempted from a law requiring federal agencies to raise their fines to keep pace with inflation. A section of the budget bill—entitled the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015—eliminates this exemption for OSHA.

The law now requires an initial penalty “catch-up adjustment,” which must be in place by August 1, 2016. The catch-up adjustment is tied to the percentage difference between the October 2015 Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the October 1990 CPI. Because the October 2015 CPI will not be available until November 17, 2015, the actual percentage increase is unknown at this time. However, based on recent CPI, the increase will likely be in the range of 75% to 80% over current penalty amounts.

The budget allows OSHA the option of implementing a smaller penalty increase if (1) the agency determines increasing penalties by the maximum amount would have a “negative economic impact” or the “social costs” of the increase outweigh the benefits, and (2) the Office of Management and Budget agrees with the agency’s determination. Because the Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA, Dr. David Michaels, has been a vocal proponent of increased OSHA penalties (including congressional testimony just a month ago), it is unlikely he would authorize anything less than the maximum increase.

Although OSHA must go through the rulemaking process to effect the penalty increases, the budget directs that the increase be issued as an interim final rule, meaning OSHA does not have to issue a proposed rule, which would be subject to a public notice and comment period before finalized. Rather, the rule will become effective immediately upon publication. In most cases, the agency stipulates it will alter the interim rule if warranted by public comments. If the agency decides not to make changes to the interim rule, it will publish a brief final rule in the Federal Register confirming that decision.

Further reducing the likelihood that a less-than-maximum penalty increase will occur, the new law specifies that a lesser penalty must go through full notice and comment rulemaking. This step which would delay the agency from increasing fines serves as a disincentive to institute a lesser penalty.

Assuming OSHA will impose an 80% catch-up adjustment, the new maximum penalties would be as follows: (1) Other than Serious violations: $12,600; (2) Serious violations: $12,600; (3) Willful violations: $126,000; and (4) Repeat violations: $126,000. After the initial adjustment, OSHA will be required to implement annual cost-of-living increases, with the adjustment tied to the increase in the CPI. Adjustments must be made by January 15 each subsequent year.

Littler Mendelson, P.C. is part of the international legal practice Littler Global, which operates worldwide through a number of separate legal entities. Please visit www.littler.com for more information.
The Marquis difference: Local provider with the ability to plan, coordinate, staff, and perform high value services at low cost.

504 S Highway 288 • Clute, TX 77531 • (979) 265-4480

Read owner’s manual before operating Honda Power Equipment
Happy Holidays!

December 2015

ABC, BSC, MSTI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Christmas Social &amp; 40th Anniversary, Brazos A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>MSTI Board Meeting, Boardroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>11:30 p.m.</td>
<td>ABC Board Meeting &amp; Goals Presentation, Boardroom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MSTI & BSC Classes & Training Opportunities**

Dec 8:00 a.m. Basic Plus, 8:00 a.m. Mon - Thurs, *7:30 a.m. Fri CR#4
Dec 12:00 p.m. Work Permit Acceptor Training, Thursdays, CR#1
Dec 8:00 a.m. Enhanced Foreman Training, CR #1
Dec 4 - 12 8:00 a.m. OSHA 30, Fridays & Saturdays, CR #3
Thru Dec 6:00 p.m. CSST Classes - Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, CR #3
Thru Dec 6:00 p.m. CMA Class - Project Supervision, Wed, Thurs, CR #4

**Peppermint Meltaway Cookies**

Yield: 20 cookies

**Ingredients:**

- 1 cup butter, softened
- ½ cup powdered sugar
- ½ tsp peppermint extract
- 1-1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup cornstarch

**Frosting:**

- 2 Tbs butter, softened
- 1-1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 2 Tbs milk
- ¼ tsp peppermint extract
- ½ cup chopped Peppermint Ghirardelli Squares

**Instructions:**

1. In a medium bowl, cream butter and powdered sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in peppermint extract.
2. In a separate bowl, combine flour and cornstarch - gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well.
3. Shape into 1-in. balls (you can use the large end of a melon scoop).
4. Place 2 inches apart on an ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 350° for 10-12 minutes. Do not overcook or cookies will crumble.
5. Remove to wire racks to cool.
6. Frosting: In a small bowl, beat butter until fluffy. Next, add the powdered sugar, milk, and peppermint extract - beat until smooth.
7. Spread frosting over cooled cookies and sprinkle with chopped Ghirardelli squares.

*Photo and recipe adapted from www.Cleverhousewife.com*