



The TBB Safety Committee met at the Austin chapter office on April 11-12, 2013. There were a total of 18 members in attendance with the group being made up primarily of general contractors and chapter employees.

04/11/13

After self-introductions from the attendees, Thursday's meeting started out with a presentation given by Joann Natarajan, Compliance Assistance Specialist for Austin OSHA, regarding the changes to the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS). With the HCS adopting the Globally Harmonized System (GHS), there were a number of important changes with deadlines discussed. The first requirement will be for employers to train their workers on the new label elements and safety data sheet (SDS) format by December 01, 2013. After the presentation, the group discussed some DOT, NFPA, and HMIS concerns and other issues that may be affected by the revised HCS. The group will revisit this topic at the upcoming meeting after members have had the chance to review OSHA's updated information and materials on their website.

After the group took a lunch break, they covered national and local AGC matters. Texas has been the target of attack by a number of groups for several different construction industry concerns. Safety is one that has gotten the attention of many contractors, especially those that focus on safety and provide safe work environments for their employees. Many are getting stereotyped as ones that are not concerned with the safety and health of their employees. The group members will seek to showcase the positive things that are being done to promote safety in the construction industry. One such event, the AGC's Safety Stand Down, is held in May each year and is a state-wide event that contractors participate in to bring safety awareness to the workers on their jobsites and at their workplaces. This year's effort is going to be promoted from the national level to increase safety awareness and participation. Along with Kevin Cannon, AGC of America's Safety Director, Brian Turmail, AGC of America's Director of Public Appeal, will help coordinate the announcements to all chapters about the upcoming event and will also help line up media coverage in various locations throughout Texas.

The group then discussed legislative updates, which addressed several safety and health-related bills that have been proposed. Although some bills had measures that the group supported, the means by which they were proposed to be carried out would not be conducive or effective in promoting construction safety on jobsites. Some would likely be infeasible.

The remainder of the day was used for subcommittee breakout sessions.



04/12/13

Friday's meeting started out with a lessons learned discussion with members sharing five items, which included failed snaphooks, crane swing radius precautions, a crane tip-over, soil compaction, and skylight letters of interpretation in both construction and general industry.

The group then reviewed the reports from each subcommittee.

- Safety Initiatives and Work Practices – reviewed the draft version of the safety pages on the new TBB website and made several adjustments to content and layout; will send these edits to Tamara week of 04/15/13 and expect to have additional information from Information & Resources group to post
- Information and Resources – reviewed and initially approved the eight topics to be posted as safety resources on the TBB website; presented to Committee, which unanimously approved all items and also provided some disclaimer language to accompany the guidance items; will prepare a list of future resources (e.g. heat safety, environmental issues, health issues such as flu)
- Government – provided input and comments for the responses for current legislative items; will continue to track legislative items throughout the current session and will continue to convey responses to TBB Board
- Professional Development – worked on presentation for the upcoming meeting in Houston and have two topics in mind to choose from (i.e. new confined space standard or the latest TCEQ revision to SWPPP, which became effective on 03/06/13); will finalize details and schedule appropriate speaker, which will depend on whether the new confined space standard is published between now and the next meeting or not

After the subcommittee reports, an open discussion was held to recap some of the legislative items from the previous day and to visit again about the plans for the upcoming Safety Stand Down. A conference call will be scheduled for the week of April 15, 2013 to firm up the details of the upcoming event. As the last item of business, three members were nominated to fill the vacant Vice-Chairman, At-Large position on the Safety Committee (i.e. Chris Roberts, Jim Fentress & Joe Ryekoff). This position will be confirmed at the next meeting, which is scheduled to be held in Houston on August 8-9, 2013.

