

CALIFORNIA CONSTRUCTION CHRONICLE



Greg Gutierrez, ABC Pacific Region Vice Chair (L) and Buddy Henley, ABC National Immediate Past Chair (R)
Photo Credit: Associated Builders and Contractors

TRAINING TOOLBOX



Find your next safety course or training program in our **Training Toolbox!**

UPCOMING CLASS DATES

Safety Professional Program - Wednesday, August 6th, 2025*

Core - Wednesday, August 6th, 2025

Electrical 2 - Wednesday, August 6th, 2025

Electrical 3 - Wednesday, August 6th, 2025

Electrical 4 - Wednesday, August 6th, 2025

Oilfield Passport - Every Friday/one Saturday a month (contact for schedule)

**Must reach 10-applicant minimum to host class.*

ALL AVAILABLE COURSES

- Forklift Training
- Red Cross Adult & Infant First Aid/CPR
- California Oil Producers Contractor Safety Passport Orientation
- OSHA 10 | OSHA 30
- Advanced Utility Locator
- Competent Person Trench Safety
- Blueprint Navigation
- Confined Space Entry
- Confined Space Rescue (Tier I and Tier II)
- Backhoe Training
- Loader Training
- Excavator Training
- Class A Truck Driving
- Class B Truck Driving
- ELDT Class A Training

Contact the ABC Central California Chapter to schedule a class!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

VINCENT OVALLES, QUANTUM INDUSTRIES

Can you please introduce yourself and what company you work for?

***“Vincent Ovalles.
Quantum Industries.”***

What does your company do and what is your role there?

“Electrical work, powerlines, wiring panels, and construction. I am an Electrical Apprentice.”

What class are you currently enrolled in at ABC?

“Summer Core”

What led you to pursue a career in the construction industry?

“At first, I wanted to be a welder, but there was not much work for me, so I became an electrical apprentice. I really love hands on work.”

What are your career goals or plans after completing training at ABC?

“I want to get my certification to be a lineman and overall become more knowledgeable in my career.”



INSTRUCTORS

NEEDED!

ABC Central California Chapter is seeking PART-TIME instructors and ON-CALL substitutes. Make an impact in the future of construction! *Must be journeyman level in your trade.*

Currently seeking the following trades:

- Electrical



Photo Credit: Associated Builders and Contractors

For more information:

Call: (661) 392-8729

Email: info@abccentralcal.org



EVENT LINEUP

Check out upcoming ABC events and local industry happenings in our **event lineup**.

- **Fall Semester Craft Training Orientation:** Aug. 6th
- **Virtual Member Orientation:** Aug. 7th
- **Summer Social:** Aug. 27th
- **ABC National Project Owners Summit:** Sept. 29th – Oct. 1st
- **21st Annual Golf Tournament:** Nov. 7th
- **ABC National Leadership Institute:** Nov. 11th – 13th
- **ABC National Virtual Legal Conference:** Dec. 4th
- **ABC National Convention:** Mar. 18th – 20th, 2026



Photo Credit: Associated Builders and Contractors



ANNUAL SPORTING CLAYS TOURNAMENT HITS THE MARK FOR ABC PAC

On Friday, April 11th, our annual Clay Shoot took aim and delivered a fantastic day of fun, camaraderie, and support for ABC PAC at the Kern County Gun Club. With clear skies, great company, and some sharp shooting, the event was a huge success—thanks in large part to all our attendees, participants, and incredible sponsors.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined us, and a special thank you to our generous sponsors who made the event possible. A big round of applause goes to our **Event Sponsor: United Rentals Trench Safety**, and our **Gun Sponsor: Trans-West Security Services**. Your continued support plays a critical role in the success of this event and the mission of ABC PAC.

Shoutout to our **Station Sponsors** who helped create an exceptional experience for all our attendees: **HPS Mechanical, PCL Construction, Berchtold Equipment Company, Enterprise Mobility, JTS Construction, Trench Shoring, Quantum Industries, KSI, CW Phillips Insurance Services, Truitt Corporation, Mid-Cal Labor Solutions, and Dirty Bird Guns & Ammo.** Your contributions were essential!

Congratulations are in order for the winning teams and top individual shooters, whose skills and precision stood out among a field of talented participants. We would also like to recognize the raffle prize winners; we hope you're loving the prizes you took home! Thank you once again to all who attended and contributed to the success of this year's Clay Shoot. We'll see you at next year's shoot!









Photo Credit: Associated Builders and Contractors

ABC NATIONAL CONVENTION 2025 LIGHTS UP LAS VEGAS

From February 25th through 27th, the Las Vegas Convention Center buzzed with energy as more than 1,500 ABC members, industry leaders, and exhibitors converged for ABC's 75th Anniversary National Convention. Attendees explored over 75 vendor booths, enjoyed live demos and even helped build a backyard playset with the Roc Solid Foundation for a family fighting pediatric cancer. The energy was palpable throughout the event. Over three days of education, competition, and celebration, attendees gained fresh insights, forged valuable connections, and celebrated the strength of our community.

Midweek highlights included the Association Excellence Awards Luncheon recognizing chapters for membership growth and STEP® participation, and other major accomplishments for 2024. A special congratulations to **Greg Gutierrez** of Truitt Corporation on his new role as **ABC Pacific Region Vice Chair**.

Greg has been a dedicated leader within our chapter, serving as Immediate Past Chair and previously as Chairman of the Board of Directors. We're proud to see his continued impact at the regional level and know he'll represent our chapter with excellence.

The week also included the fiercely contested National Craft Championships, where apprentices showcased top-tier skills and compete for top honors in their chosen craft. Industry Insight sessions covered topics from data-driven project management and prevailing-wage compliance to mental fitness on the jobsite and strategies for engaging Gen Z in the trades. That evening, 35th Annual National Excellence in Construction Awards Gala honored the most outstanding construction projects and contractors of the year for their remarkable achievements in leadership, safety, innovation and inclusion, diversity and merit.

On Thursday morning, humanitarian and former UFC athlete Justin Wren delivered an inspiring keynote, urging attendees to lead with purpose and resilience. A final slate of workshops and the Careers in Construction Awards, where the winners of the Construction Management Competition and National Craft Championships take center stage, wrapped the convention. The convention wrapped up in true Las Vegas style with the Closing Night Celebration at Allegiant Stadium, where attendees donned their favorite team jerseys for the "Friday Night Lights: Team ABC" event—an unforgettable evening filled with stadium tours, VIP experiences, and high-energy fun to cap off an extraordinary week. We thank everyone who joined us in Las Vegas and hope to see you next year for another unforgettable experience at the 2026 ABC Convention in Salt Lake City!

ABC 75TH ANNIVERSARY

BUILDING AMERICA FOR 75 YEARS

1950 FLEDGLING SERVICES
 In 1950, ABC was born from the vision of seven contractors in Baltimore and, since then, the association has transformed the merit shop construction industry and advocated for members on significant battles such as right-to-work and prevailing wage. ABC's first decade saw the launch of The Contractor Magazine (now Construction Executive), the charter of the first chapter, Eastern Shore (now Chesapeake Shores), in 1957 and, by 1958, hosted the inaugural national convention, bringing members together for the first time.

1960 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
 From creating apprenticeship programs to launching a national safety program, the 1960s solidified ABC as a leader in the merit shop construction industry, with membership surpassing 1,000.

1970 POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT
 The decade saw challenges, such as protests and deadly violence against merit shop contractors, but also marked significant political victories like President Gerald Ford's veto of the common law packing bill as well as the development of the Construction Education Foundation and ABC PAC.

PRE '50 BEFORE THE MERIT SHOP
 Before ABC's founding in 1950, the construction industry underwent significant changes shaped by landmark legislation like the Wagner Act of 1935 and the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947, coupled with a post-war construction boom in the late 1940s and growing union-organizing threat.

1950 CHAIRS
 JOHN TRIMMER (1950-1951)

1951 CHAIRS
 CHARLES MULLAN (1951-1952)

1952 CHAIRS
 CHARLES KNOTT (1952-1953)

1953 CHAIRS
 EDWARD COLWELL (1953-1954)

1954 CHAIRS
 CHARLES FERIE (1954-1955)

1955 CHAIRS
 WILLIAM WILDMAN (1955-1956)

1956 CHAIRS
 WILLIAM FROCHMAN (1956-1957)

1957 CHAIRS
 JAMES CAMPBELL (1957-1958)

1958 CHAIRS
 LARRY BEST (1958-1959)

1959 CHAIRS
 JOHN KNOTT (1959-1960)

1960 CHAIRS
 CHARLES MARSH (1960-1961)

1961 CHAIRS
 TRACY COLEMAN (1961-1962)

1962 CHAIRS
 JAMES LONG (1962-1963)

1963 CHAIRS
 FRED SCHMABEL (1963-1964)

1964 CHAIRS
 JOHN LOONEY (1964-1965)

1965 CHAIRS
 JOSEPH LIMONACA (1965-1966)

1966 CHAIRS
 MIKE CALLAS (1966-1967)

1967 CHAIRS
 PHILIP SARAHNE (1967-1968)

1968 CHAIRS
 JOE M. ROODER (1968-1969)

1969 CHAIRS
 GERALD OLIVER (1969-1970)

1970 CHAIRS
 ROBERT TURNER (1970-1971)

1971 CHAIRS
 TED KENNEDY (1971-1972)

1972 CHAIRS
 FRANZ GUNT (1972-1973)

ABC 75TH ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATE 75 YEARS IN 2025!

1980 ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT
 Growth was swift in the 1980s, and membership swelled to 10,000. ABC launched groundbreaking initiatives like the Wheels of Learning training curriculum and the first National Craft Competition. In 1983, ABC established the STEP Safety Management System, designed to provide the tools and resources for members to measure, strengthen and build their health and safety programs.

1990 ROAD TO FREEDOM
 ABC solidified the association's influence with the Excellence in Construction Awards, grew to 84 chapters and fought government-mandated project labor agreements. ABC earned national attention as a top 50 most influential organization by Fortune magazine and debuted the Accredited Quality Contractor credential.

2000 ENHANCING PROGRAMS
 Through challenges like union opposition to merit shop training programs, ABC launched Construction Executive magazine and the Free Enterprise Alliance, which reached a one-year record of \$2.4 million raised. President George W. Bush twice addressed ABC Legislative Conference attendees. Drawing attention to the association as a leader in the industry.

CHAIRS OF THE ABC NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1981 CHAIRS
 JOHN FIEDLER (1981-1982)

1982 CHAIRS
 ED FROHLING (1982-1983)

1983 CHAIRS
 PAT ALBRAND (1983-1984)

1984 CHAIRS
 WILLIAM BENTLEY (1984-1985)

1985 CHAIRS
 JEAN HALLS (1985-1986)

1986 CHAIRS
 JOHN JONES (1986-1987)

1987 CHAIRS
 MIKE PERKINS (1987-1988)

1988 CHAIRS
 BOB TURNER (1988-1989)

1989 CHAIRS
 JOHN CHAPIN (1989-1990)

1990 CHAIRS
 JOHN SMITH (1990-1991)

1991 CHAIRS
 STEVE WESTRA (1991-1992)

1992 CHAIRS
 JOE JEVY (1992-1993)

1993 CHAIRS
 LEO ANHALLT (1993-1994)

1994 CHAIRS
 GARY VOS (1994-1995)

1995 CHAIRS
 GARY HESS (1995-1996)

1996 CHAIRS
 JOHN JENNINGS (1996-1997)

1997 CHAIRS
 BEN HOUSTON (1997-1998)

1998 CHAIRS
 DAVID M. BUSH (1998-1999)

1999 CHAIRS
 W. THOMAS MURSER (1999-2000)

2000 CHAIRS
 HENRY G. KELLY (2000-2001)

2001 CHAIRS
 KEN ADAMS (2001-2002)

2002 CHAIRS
 EDDIE HOSPINE (2002-2003)

2003 CHAIRS
 CAROLE BIONDA (2003-2004)

ABC 75TH ANNIVERSARY

BUILDING AMERICA FOR 75 YEARS

2010 BECOMING A FORCE
 In the 2010s, ABC solidified its role as a driving force in the construction industry, both politically and socially. Through innovative tools like abovotes.com and the ABC Action app, the organization empowered its members to take action and engage in critical political issues.

2020 BUILDING AMERICA
 During the COVID-19 pandemic, ABC members were recognized as essential workers, demonstrating their role in keeping America's infrastructure strong. ABC was a leader in developing construction safety protocols during that time.

2020
 ABC introduced its Total Human Health Initiative in 2023, as its emphasis on health and safety continued to grow.

PRESENT
 Today and the future
 ABC now represents over 23,000 members and shapes the future of the industry through its work in health and safety, advocacy, workforce development and technology. For 75 years, ABC and its members have been at the forefront of building America, shaping the construction industry through innovation, resilience and unwavering commitment to the principles of the merit shop. From advocating for workforce development and safety to advancing free enterprise and championing legislative victories, ABC members have consistently set the standard for excellence. As we celebrate this milestone, we honor the incredible achievements of the past while looking to the future with optimism and determination. Together, we will continue to build on this legacy, empowering the merit shop construction industry to drive progress, create opportunity and build a stronger America for generations to come.

75 YEARS OF ABC CHAIRS

2005 CHAIRS
 GARY D. ROOSEN (2005-2006)

2006 CHAIRS
 JACK DARNALL (2006-2007)

2007 CHAIRS
 DAVID MEYER (2007-2008)

2008 CHAIRS
 WILLIAM HARRFIELD (2008-2009)

2009 CHAIRS
 JERRY GORNA (2009-2010)

2010 CHAIRS
 JAMES ELMER (2010-2011)

2011 CHAIRS
 MICHAEL WERNICKE (2011-2012)

2012 CHAIRS
 ERIC REISLER (2012-2013)

2013 CHAIRS
 GREG HENNING (2013-2014)

2014 CHAIRS
 DAN BROOKBANK (2014-2015)

2015 CHAIRS
 PAMELA VOLTA (2015-2016)

2016 CHAIRS
 DAVID CHAPIN (2016-2017)

2017 CHAIRS
 CHUCK GOODRICH (2017-2018)

2018 CHAIRS
 GEORGE HAHN (2018-2019)

2019 CHAIRS
 TONY RAEGER (2019-2020)

2020 CHAIRS
 TIM KEATING (2020-2021)

2021 CHAIRS
 STEVE KESLER (2021-2022)

2022 CHAIRS
 STEPHANIE SCHMIDT (2022-2023)

2023 CHAIRS
 MULLEN (2023-2024)

2024 CHAIRS
 BUDGY HENLEY (2024-2025)

2025 CHAIRS
 DAVID PUGH (2025-2026)

Photo Credit: Associated Builders and Contractors

WE ARE RECRUITING NEW VOLUNTEERS!

Make a lasting impact on our chapter and join a committee today!

ABC Central California's committees are the voice of our association! Our committees provide a platform for member collaboration and innovation.

COMMITTEE LIST:



SAFETY COMMITTEE



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



TRAINING COMMITTEE



**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ALEXIS AT
ACHAMBERS@ABCCENTRALCAL.ORG.**

LEGISLATIVE LENS



Photo Credit: Associated Builders and Contractors

Mike Bellaman, ABC National President & CEO with President George W. Bush

Building Support: ABC's Legislative & Local Initiatives

There has been significant activity in the Legislative and Government Affairs areas for our members. Detailed below are three key areas where ABC has been actively engaged at the local, state, and federal levels.

LOCAL:

In recent months, ABC has been diligently involved in and dedicated to local initiatives as they pertain to project development and oil and gas operations.

Foremost, ABC joined a business coalition letter in support of Kern County's Housing Element as it underwent review by state agencies. This letter reflected a unified business community

advocating for housing that meets Kern County's needs, rather than adopting a housing plan that prioritizes Bay Area standards.

Additionally, we are deeply engaged in the Kern County Oil and Gas Ordinance Environmental Impact Report (EIR). On Thursday, June 26th the Kern County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the Oil and Gas EIR. Termed the Second Supplemental Recirculated Environmental Impact Report, this decision will provide a clear path forward for permitting new wells in Kern County, utilizing science-based regulatory frameworks.

Your ABC Central California Chapter is proud to represent you and your employees through supporting this historical achievement for our region, state, and the world. Through the highest level of safety practices, we know our oil and gas industry workers will build and maintain Kern County's critical infrastructure.

Our members build the infrastructure that enables enhanced oil recovery, and with new permits, new projects and increased local oil production naturally follow. As such, we are proud to support the goals of the EIR and assist in creating a pathway for new permits and increased local employment opportunities.

This approval marks a significant step forward in securing a bright future for Kern County's energy sector, and we're proud to have stood together in support.

STATE:

While ABC is monitoring numerous bills, we want to highlight a specific detrimental bill – AB 889 – which we strongly oppose.

AB 889, sponsored by Assemblymember Hadwick, targets merit-shop organizations with state-approved apprenticeship programs.

Currently, guidance from the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations allows our contractors to limit training funds for journeymen only for the hours they work on Prevailing Wage projects. However, if this bill passes, contractors using merit shop apprenticeship programs would be required to pay training contributions for the entire year, even if the journeyman only worked part of the year on prevailing wage jobs. ABC strongly opposes this bill because it seeks to overturn the guidance that has been in place for over ten years and removes the authority of the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations to issue clarifying guidance. ABC of California has submitted a formal opposition letter, citing the potential negative impact of AB 889 on its chapters across the state with approved apprenticeship programs.

FEDERAL:

ABC Central California leadership represented its members in Washington, D.C. during the last week of June for our annual legislative week.

Recently, a court ruling was issued that upheld the Biden PLA mandate for federal projects exceeding \$35 million. ABC has fought against the PLA mandate and its implementation, but with this latest ruling, we are seeing new guidance from the Trump administration that enforces the Court's decision requiring PLAs.

During our visits to D.C., our chapter and ABC leadership met with members of Congress to discuss the importance of the Fair and Open Competition Act (FOCA). FOCA prohibits the use of PLAs on federally funded projects. As we know all too well, PLAs discriminate against non-union contractors and workers, limit competition, and inflate construction costs on federal projects. Our message was clear: implement FOCA, and the Biden executive order becomes unlawful.

Stay tuned for more updates from ABC. For more information on our Government Affairs work, contact **Russell Johnson** at **rjohnson@abccentralcal.org**.



Photo Credit: Associated Builders and Contractors

Safety Bulletin

PREVENT HEAT ILLNESS



It's summertime and the heat is on. It is important to be mindful of best practices to prevent heat illness and heat stroke.

Heat Illness Symptoms

Heat illness symptoms are often mistaken as minor discomforts, when in reality they are red flags. From lesser to most severe, symptoms include:

- Decreased energy
- Light-headedness
- Flush or pale skin
- Nausea
- Headaches
- Rapid or shallow breathing
- Profuse sweating
- Confusion
- Muscle cramps
- Vomiting
- Dry skin, no sweating
- Fainting

Take Action

If someone is experiencing any sign of heat illness—take action!

- If you are experiencing early signs of heat illness, drink more fluids and get out of the sun. Sports drinks can help replenish electrolytes.
- Remove excess clothing layers.
- Move to a cool place if symptoms worsen.

- Pour cool water over the affected person. (You can use ice packs to help cool them off.)
- Lay down and raise feet.
- Call 911 if the victim is vomiting, has fainted or shows signs of confusion, aggression or any strange behavior.

Prevent Heat Illness

- Wear light-colored, loose-fitting and lightweight clothing.
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat to protect your face and neck from sun exposure.
- Wear sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or more. Reapply often—it does wear off!
- Drink plenty of water, and often. Thirst is a sign of dehydration.
- Do the most strenuous tasks early in the day when it's cooler. Avoid overexertion during the hottest parts of the day.
- Slowly acclimate to the heat by gradually spending more time outside each day.

Heat Safety App - Great for Supervisors!



The free OSHA-NIOSH Heat Safety Tool app (for Android and iPhone) calculates the heat index for your worksite and displays a risk level. It provides reminders to drink fluids and rest—and even gives information on what to do in a heat-related emergency. For more information visit <https://www.osha.gov/heat>