

SPRING 2020

CROSS SECTION



MITA Annual
Conference:

**THE
BIG
SHOW!**

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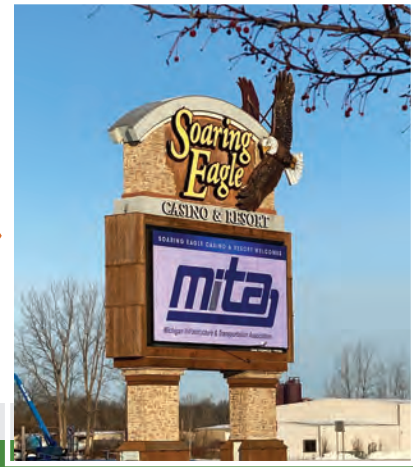
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CROSSSECTION

SPRING 2020

Cover photo:
MITA's Annual Conference was held at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mt. Pleasant.



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Mike Nystrom

Executive Vice President

Welcome to MITA's 1st annual—power-packed—annual conference issue. Since we began hosting the annual conference over a decade ago, thousands of MITA members have attended the event in January at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mt. Pleasant. And every year the numbers climb along with the rave reviews from attendees. Many of you may not have had an opportunity to attend this exciting event, so we decided to share all the details with you in this issue of the magazine.

On page 8, MITA's Vice President of Membership Services Rob Coppersmith outlines the conference and summarizes the

purpose of this magazine: it is for those who don't attend. He said: "I hope it leaves you with an interest in attending the industry's largest event." Keep turning the pages and you will get an idea of what you have been missing.

Be sure not to miss our expanded center spread, which includes a special thank you to all our exhibitors and sponsors who make this great event possible year after year. Please thank those who support MITA by networking and doing business with them.

We hope you enjoy this special issue, and we look forward to seeing you at the 2021 MITA Annual Conference!



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Rob Coppersmith

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MITA 2020 Annual Conference: **THE BIG SHOW!**

This issue of the MITA Cross-Section is dedicated to MITA's largest event of the year: the Annual Conference. As the cover of this magazine indicates, it was held once again at Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort. The resort happens to be undergoing a great deal of renovation, but if anyone can understand progress by way of interruption it should be our membership.

The event is often called the conference within a conference. Confusing right? Not really if you look at the layout of breakout sessions and events that were offered on pages 12–13. MITA does this in an effort to have something for everyone. The MISS DIG Annual meeting held in conjunction with the MITA Annual Conference gives participants that deep dive into utility issues facing the

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MITA 2020 Annual Conference: **THE BIG SHOW!**

industry. With \$3.5 billion dollars of additional funding over the next five years via the Governors Road to Michigan's Future initiative (for details see page 53) and last year's colossal system failure with conservative estimates of over 20k locate tickets unmarked, then add on the additional enforcement efforts by the Michigan Public Service Commission, the time to get engaged in these issues is now.

Another added bonus for conference attendees is the continuing education credits that can be earned by the engineering community. It would take weeks to obtain the credits that can be earned in days at the conference. The line up of sessions change from year to year based on what's happening within the industry; but, rest assured, there is always something for any contractor in the heavy construction industry.

The event is sponsored by a wide variety of vendors and individual donations that allow MITA to book speakers that are typically

found at large national conventions. Over the years we've had some big names. This year's Wednesday keynote, Chef Jeff, will be the subject of a Will Smith movie that is currently being worked on. A special page in the center spread of this magazine outlines all the sponsors of the event; but, four require a big nod: AIS/CRC, Alta Equipment, Guy Hurley, and Michigan CAT all sponsor major portions of the event thus contributing to the quality of the food, beverage, and entertainment that we have all grown accustomed to enjoying at the event. MITA believes firmly that we should support those who support the industry. This applies to every vendor and sponsor and is why the center spread of this magazine has been dedicated to acknowledging their efforts and participation.

The event also provides an opportunity to honor those who have gone above and beyond in their contributions to the industry. Those individuals take their

company hat off and help shape what's good for the industry as a whole. It is a MITA honor to recognize Bruce Lowing of Hardman Construction, Tom Wagenmaker of Anlaan, and Mike Donohoe of John Carlo. These three individuals gave it all for the industry throughout their careers. You can see photos and details on page 21.

The ultimate purpose of this issue is for those who don't attend. I hope that it leaves you with an interest in attending your industry's largest event. Your association is your industry family! We don't always get along, we have issues, we come in all shapes and sizes; but, in the end, we all need to learn from each others mistakes and successes. I've personally witnessed new and lasting work relationships be built at the event. MITA has staff but is ultimately only as strong as its' members! 🚧



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MITA 2020 Annual Conference: **THE BIG SHOW!**

UNDERGROUND SPOTLIGHT



Pictured at the front of the audience on the left during a MISS DIG Annual Conference presentation is retiring Dirk Dunham of Consumers Energy, who has been recognized for his work in the damage prevention arena.

The addition of the MISS DIG Annual Conference to the MITA Annual Conference has been a partnership for the last couple of years. It is attended by Facility Owner Operators (FOO) and contractors alike and is an opportunity for the contracting community to stay up to date on changes to a system that have a direct impact on your day to day operations.

MITA doesn't always see eye to eye with Facility Owner Operators, but the exchange at the conference allows for ideas and a deeper understanding of the obstacles all contractors face—in particular underground contractors as it relates to marking. It is no secret

that last spring was probably one of the worst in years concerning locating or a lack thereof. Contractors were sending crews home not because of a lack of work but because of a lack of staking. This is unacceptable to all those involved, and MITA just happens to be a lot more vocal about the situation. The Michigan Public Service Commission, the state entity in charge of the enforcement of the MISS DIG Act fined one FOO over \$500k to make a point about this issue. MITA expects nothing but more problems in this area. Most everyone is having workforce retainment issues—locating companies are too—and it takes a considerable amount of time to get

a person trained to be a locator. (Not an excuse but an observation.) The system works well from a notification standpoint, but unravels due to the volume of ticket requests during peak times of the year. The only way to fix these concerns is by working together and demanding accountability for all parties.

The fact is Michigan continues to be a leader in damages when compared to other states, which can be attributed to a wide variety of faults and system failures. The finger-pointing regarding this issue has been done, and everyone needs to be better. The MISS DIG portion of the conference is an excellent opportunity to get off the sidelines and be heard. 🚧



MITA's Future Leaders Class #10 is pictured here during their private session with Wednesday's Keynote Speaker Chef Jeff!

Future Leaders Hits Year 10!

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The MITA Future Leaders Program hit year 10 this year and the group is pictured her with MITA's Keynote speaker Chef Jeff in a private session held annually for all Future Leader participants.

The participants go through a variety of classes that pertain to the industry including a legislative day where appointments are made and talking points provided to each leader so they can promote the issues the industry face. This year we even did psychological testing with Dr. John, because if you don't know yourself, how can you deal with others!

This successful program that helps members round out and develop talent will go continue. We may even have an annual get together for program participants. As an FYI, last years' MITA Board President Brandie Meisner of M & M Excavating was in class 1. Class size is limited to less than 20 for interaction purposes and is open to both contractor and associate members. Keep an eye out on the MITA website for program details. 🚧

Here's what you missed at the MITA 2020 Annual Conference.

MITA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 22

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY

7:30 A.M. - 8:30 A.M.

MISS DIG 811 BREAKFAST
For MISS DIG 811 Conference Participants

Black River Room

8:00 A.M.

MITA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPENS

Lanyards provided by Stoneco

Registration Desk



9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.

MISS DIG 811 FIELD BASICS (CEH=1.0)
Presented By: MISS DIG 811

Black River Room

This module is a basic overview of Public Act 174 and how MISS DIG 811 helps field workers, new onboarding employees, and facility owner operators comply with the law. This can be used for one of the requirements of becoming Gold Shovel Standard (GSS) Certified.

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

MISS DIG 811 CERTIFICATION (CEH=3.0)
Presented By: MISS DIG 811

Ojibway Room

The certification program is a thorough explanation of the history of MISS DIG 811, how to use the MISS DIG 811 system, and what tools and resources are available to the user. The certification program has been updated with new modules and processes. MISS DIG 811 Certification qualifies for Continuing Education Credits (CECs) for multiple professions. It also qualifies for the training portion of your company's safety management program. This can be used for one of the requirements of becoming Gold Shovel Standard (GSS) Certified. Upon completion of this session, participants will be MISS DIG 811 Certified. Certification is currently good for three years.

9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

MITA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Three Fires Room

Due to space constraints, this meeting will be limited to Board Members and invited guests only.

10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Gold Shovel (CEH=1.0)
Presented By: MISS DIG 811

Black River Room

A representative from Gold Shovel Standard will be on hand to discuss the program. Gold Shovel Standard is a nonprofit organization committed to improving workforce, public safety and the integrity of vital buried infrastructure. Participants will learn how Gold Shovel can help their municipality with protecting their vital infrastructure.

10:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

WAYNE COUNTY AIRPORT UPDATE (CEH=1.0)
Presented By: Bryant W. Holt, C.M., Chief Development Officer, Wayne County Airport Authority

Saginaw Room

The Wayne County Airport Authority has an anticipated \$600 million, 5-Year Capital Improvement Program for the Detroit Metropolitan Airport and Willow Run Airport. The Master Plan Improvements at both airports will require a variety of construction and services providers and will include a focused outreach initiative to attract qualified Small Business Enterprise (SBE) companies to participate in the available opportunities. Attend this session to learn more.

10:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

SALES AND USE TAXES - WHO PAYS WHAT?
Presented By: Michael Bannasch, Rehmann

Swan Creek Room

There are many things that can go wrong on one of your projects - don't let sales/use tax be one of them. In this session, you will learn how the Michigan Department of Treasury views the work you do in order to know which party to your contracts is responsible for paying sales or use tax. Whether your company builds roads, recycles concrete, leases equipment, supplies materials, or performs hauling services, we'll cover your situation and answer your questions.

11:00 A.M. - 11:50 A.M.

MISS DIG 811 ONLINE: E-SUITE
Presented By: MISS DIG 811

Black River Room

Join us for a guided tour of MISS DIG 811's online features, where we will explain how to navigate through our system. We will talk about the new features and review some old features. This will be an open forum where you can ask questions, and a demonstration will be given to answer any question that you have on our system. We will cover all topics related to our e-Suite.

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

MICHIGAN TECH & LINE 5 TUNNEL DESIGN
Presented By: Mike Nystrom, MITA; Audra Morse, Jim Morrison, Michael Prast, and Taylor Rudlaff of Michigan Tech

Three Fires Room

This session will demonstrate Michigan Tech's critical involvement regarding the feasibility of the Line 5 tunnel. It will also provide insight regarding the role of the U.P. Energy Task Force in the process.

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

FUTURE LEADERS MEETING WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER JEFF HENDERSON
(FUTURE LEADER PARTICIPANTS ONLY)

Anishnabeg Room



12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.

TRADESHOW OPENS & STROLLING LUNCH, SPONSORED BY GUY HURLEY

Entertainment Hall

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1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: JEFF HENDERSON

Entertainment Hall

From overcoming hardship to identifying one's personal talents, Jeff reveals his hard-knock yet transformative life lessons and the secrets to rising above and realizing your potential. His dynamic and engaging presentations help audiences discover their hidden business aptitudes, make life-changing decisions, and gain a new foothold on the ladder to success.

2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

PRESIDENTIAL EXCHANGE & AWARDS CEREMONY

Entertainment Hall

MITA Board President Brandie Meisner and Executive Vice President Mike Nystrom will deliver the welcome message. Future Leaders Class #10, as well as Honorary Members Bruce Lowing of Hardman Construction and Tom Wagenmaker of Anlaan Corporation, will be recognized. Additionally, MITA will give out the annual DBE award.

4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

DBE COCKTAIL RECEPTION, SPONSORED BY AIS & CRC

Saginaw & Swan Creek Ballroom

Come meet, mingle and network with certified and MDOT prequalified DBE contractors, prime contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, and MDOT's Office of Business Development representatives in a relaxed social atmosphere.



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MITA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 23

THURSDAY, JANUARY

7:30 A.M. - 8:30 A.M.
PRESIDENT'S BREAKFAST
SPONSORED BY ALTA, EQUIPMENT

Black River Room
ALTA EQUIPMENT COMPANY

Join us as we honor outgoing Board President, Brandie Meisner

9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.
ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLAN
Presented By: The Salus Group

Ojibway Room

Healthcare is a big threat to the bottom line. It also can be one of the reasons you retain or lose employees. The Salus Group will explain the MITA Association Health Plan and provide you with ideas for properly managing this key benefit.

9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. **Three Fires Room**
PROJECT DELIVERY SYSTEMS (CEH=1.5)
Presented By: Ed Boucher and Tyler Phillips of Kotz Sangster

Public owners increasingly use innovative contract structures for their projects. This course explains the risks and opportunities presented by CM/GC, Design-Build, DBFM, P-3, and other project delivery systems being tried on today's projects.

9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. **Saginaw Room**
MDOT ROUNDTABLE (CEH=1.5)
Presented By: Various MDOT Staff

Topics for this session will include, but are not limited to, e-ticketing, electronic bonding, the 2020 Spec Book, and new truck permits.

9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. **Anishnabeg Room**
ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT (CEH=1.5)
Presented By: Ronald C. Fisher, professor of economics at Michigan State University

Our world is being transformed by rapid cultural, technological, economic, regulatory and other changes that will have a significant impact on the construction industry. What strategic business moves will your company make to manage these impacts?

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. **Swan Creek Room**
HUMAN WORKPLACE MOTIVATORS, HOW TO IDENTIFY & ACTIVATE THE TALENT WITHIN YOUR ORGANIZATION
Presented By: Dr. John Mlinarcik, PhD, PCS Global

Dr. John will provide insight to common human workplace motivators. He will provide ideas to help you have happier and more productive employees if you can recognize and respond to the seven principals.

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. **Three Fires Room**
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS
Presented By: Ken Bertolini, Director of Workforce Development, MITA

Get the most up to date information concerning MITA's efforts and involvement regarding this critical issue.

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. **Black River Room**
DON'T JUST SURVIVE, THRIVE: RECESSION READINESS FOR CONTRACTORS
Presented By: Laura Cataldo and Kurt Siebenaller, Baker Tilly

Construction companies need to think strategically to thrive during different economic cycles. This session will discuss how to prepare your company for a potential recession and benefit from the various economic phases, including: economic indicators and construction outlook, strategic growth and partnerships, organizational structure that supports strategy and strengthening financial management.

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. **Saginaw Room**
WORK ZONE SAFETY TASK FORCE UPDATE (CEH=1.5)
Presented By: Multiple Presenters

The MDOT industry safety effort will be discussed. Topics include: how it was formed, the roles of the various action teams, and how you can help.

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. **Anishnabeg Room**
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CEH=1.5)
Presented By: Ali Khraizat, PE, Director of Capital Improvement Planning and Sonya Collins, CPPB, Interim Chief Procurement Officer

The Great Lakes Water Authority will present its five year Capital Improvement Plan for water and sewer projects. The five year projected spend is \$1.58 Billion with an annual spend of \$3.19 Million.

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. **Ojibway Room**
CLAIMS (CEH=1.5)
Presented By: James Urban, Eric Flessland, Michael Decker and Paul Mersino of Butzel Long

The Butzel team presentation will be an interactive session on recognizing various claims arising on a construction project. You undoubtedly will recognize your company on a similar project, and learn what you need to do to bring your project teams up to the next level for identification, documentation, preservation and presentation of winnable claims.

12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M. **Entertainment Hall**
TRADESHOW OPENS & STROLLING LUNCH, SPONSORED BY GUY HURLEY

1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. **Entertainment Hall**
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: WALLY ADAMCHIK



Wally will explain his 2019 People in Construction Report and provide ideas for retaining and recruiting employees. He will leave you with many ideas for improving your own processes.

2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. **Entertainment Hall**
MDOT UPDATE (CEH=1.0)

MDOT's leadership will give us a glimpse of what to expect for the 2020 Construction Season. MITA will also be presenting the MDOT Partnership Award.

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. **Saginaw & Swan Creek Ballroom**
INDUSTRY RECEPTION SPONSORED BY MICHIGAN CAT



Come attend the industry's largest networking event of the year. Need we say more?

8:00 P.M. - 12:00 A.M. **Ascend Sports Bar & Night Club**
AFTER PARTY



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Annual Conference Line 5 Tunnel Discussion: **A Huge Success!**



Participants in the Michigan Tech and The Line 5 Tunnel Design session during the MITA Annual Conference in January were (from left to right): Audra Morse, MTU Engineering Department Chair; Mike Nystrom, MITA's Executive Vice President; Michael Prast, MTU Engineering Alum; and Taylor Rudlaff, MTU Engineering Alum.

With all the buzz surrounding the design and construction of a tunnel connecting the upper and lower peninsulas through the Straits of Mackinac, MITA decided to host an informative session at the 2020 Annual Conference in Mt. Pleasant to highlight this legacy project.

During the opening of the session, aptly named Michigan Tech and The Line 5 Tunnel Design, Audra Morse, the Department Chair for the Civil

and Environmental Engineering School, laid out the importance of Michigan Technological University's (MTU) involvement with the heavy construction industry in Michigan. She shared information about the number of graduates coming out of the university and expressed hope for an expanded relationship with the industry going forward.

During the next part of the presentation, Taylor Rudlaff and Michael Prast, both MTU School

of Engineering alums, went into great detail for the standing room only crowd regarding the class project that ultimately came up with the original idea for a tunnel to house the pipeline that currently rests on the bottom of the Straits of Mackinac. Tech's engineering student group played a critical role in developing the feasibility and design concept of what will eventually become the Mackinac Straits Corridor.

Rudlaff went into great detail with regard to the geotechnical data that the team had gathered, including the various substructures of soil and rock that lie beneath the Straits of Mackinac. She also explained how their investigation helped to determine how the tunnel would be aligned, along with the approximate location of the outlets on each end (upper and lower peninsulas). The presentation also included an in-depth overview of the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) that the team believes might be needed, as well as very well thought out estimates for what the overall project might cost.

Prast then gave an extremely interesting review of the public recognition campaign that then developed over the course of approximately six months, whereby the team was invited to present on and about their project. Not only did the board of trustees at MTU

find interest in the class project, but ultimately the students were invited to give a full presentation to various legislative committees in Lansing, which is where the idea truly developed into a potential reality for the state of Michigan.

To close out the session, MITA Executive Vice President Mike Nystrom, who also serves as the Mackinac Straits Corridor Authority Chairman, gave a legal and political update regarding the Tunnel Agreement between Enbridge and the State. The overview highlighted decisions recently made by the courts, which have put this unique public private partnership back on track, and it provided some details as to the future of this incredible project.

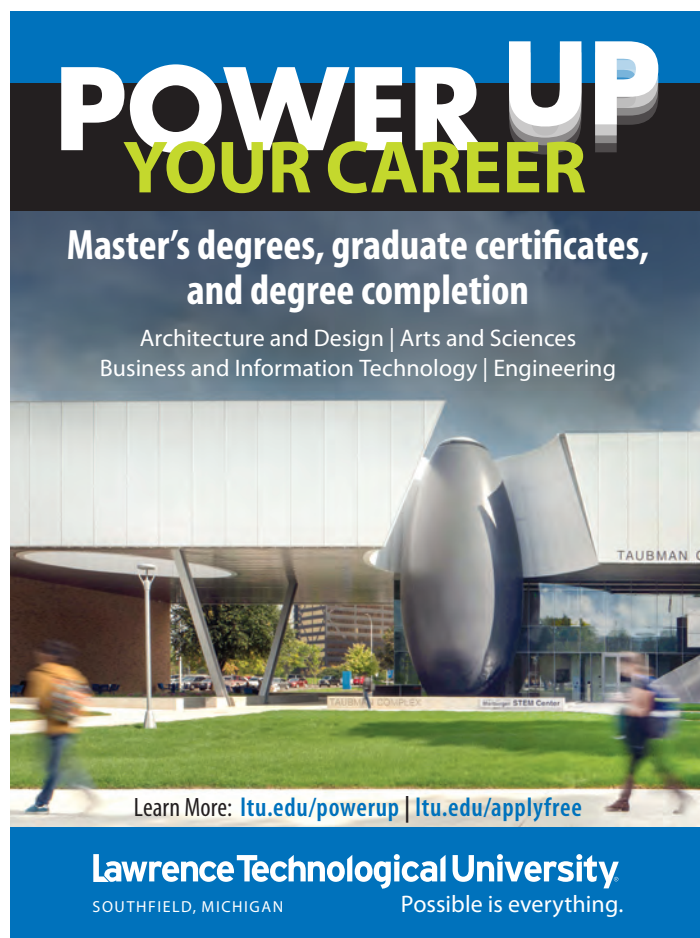
In the end, numerous members mentioned that the presented information, coupled with the enthusiasm of the student team from MTU, made this presentation one of the more memorable MITA Annual Conference breakout sessions in recent memory.

When this project gets built, it will be a legacy project for the people of the state of Michigan, offering a second crossing of sorts that connects the upper and lower peninsulas. It will offer opportunity for economic expansion to Michigan's upper peninsula with likely expanded utility options. And, by having a tunnel, Michigan's great lakes will be protected by having a fuel pipeline that is housed in a corridor, under 100 feet of bedrock,

rather than one lying on the bottom of the Straits.

This is ultimately and honestly a win for everyone, and much of the credit goes to an ingenious group of students from MTU who conceived and designed this project only three short years ago.

To donate or to become more involved with Michigan Tech, please contact Marney Kloote, Director of Advancement at (906) 478-3395.



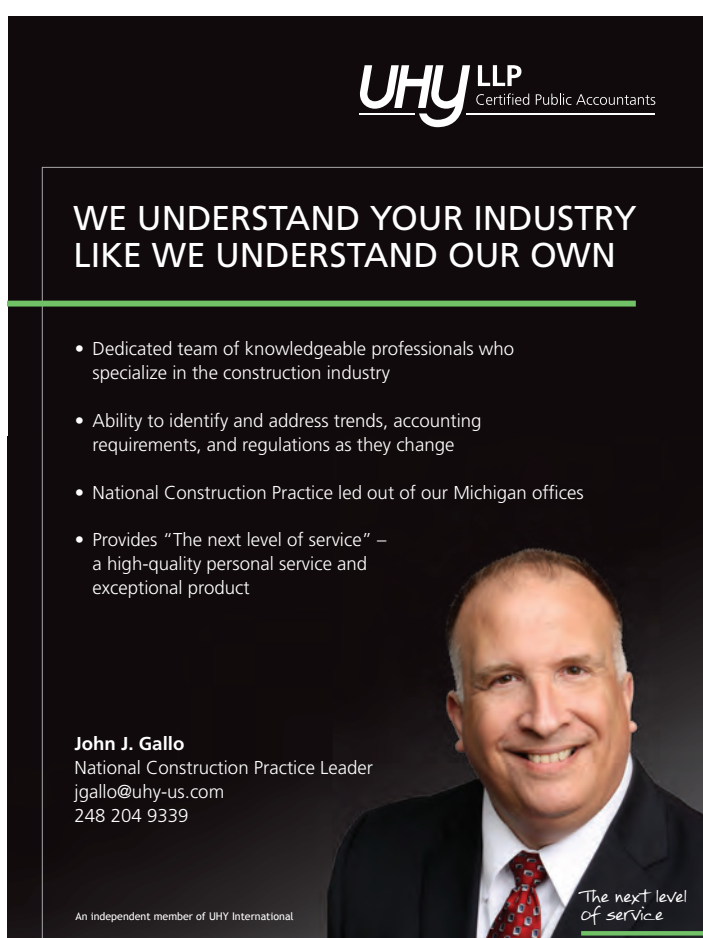
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MITA 2020 Annual Conference: **THE BIG SHOW!**

COMMENT—Vice President of Engineering Services



Glenn Bukoski, P.E.

To contact Glenn Bukoski, email him at glennbukoski@thinkmita.org or call the MITA office at 517-347-8336.

MITA 2019 Emerging Business Award

Traditionally at the MITA Annual Conference we would present our MITA Emerging Business Program Award to recognize the efforts of one of our MITA member DBE companies who takes advantage of the opportunities their MITA membership provides them to grow their business and support the MDOT DBE Program.

But this year we decided to do

something different.

This year we presented seven awards to seven industry representatives, two from MDOT and five from our MITA member companies, who came together and proved that collaboration is still a thing, and that together they could “make a difference”.

If you are a MITA member

Continued on page 18

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The MITA 2019 Emerging Business Program Award was presented on Wednesday during the annual conference by MITA's Vice President of Engineering Services Glenn Bukoski, P.E. Pictured from left to right: Glenn Bukoski, P.E., Todd Schrader of Hardman Construction, Inc., who accepted the award for Heidi Anderson; Ean Ridley, Ajax Paving Industries, Inc.; Kathy Powell, Dan's Excavating, Inc.; Linda Chamberlain, C&D Hughes, Inc.; Kimberly Farlin, MDOT; Nick Sundberg, MDOT; and Lisa Evans, Michigan Paving & Materials Co.

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COMMENT—Vice President of Engineering Services

Continued from page 16

company that does work in the MDOT world, you will recall that in the spring of last year the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued clarifying guidance on the intent of, what we refer to as, the “DBE at Time of Bid” regulation. Under the new guidance the US DOT said that *all bidders* are required to submit their DBE participation documentation within 5 calendar days of the bid letting.

This was a significant and concerning change for our industry as the approved “DBE at Time of Bid” process we had been operating under since 2015 required only the two lowest bidders submit their DBE participation documentation within 5 calendar days of the letting.

Recognizing the significant administrative effort this new submittal requirement would impose on all prime contractor bidders, the DBE community and

MDOT staff, the MITA/MDOT DBE Committee quickly seated a select subcommittee of “industry practitioners” and tasked them with finding a workable solution to this new submittal requirement.

Over the course of a few of months, that involved a couple of 2–3 hour meetings and a handful of email conversations, the subcommittee moved forward a revised submittal process that was eventually approved by MDOT and the Federal Highway Administration.

By now you all should be familiar with the *revised “DBE at Time of Bid”* process as its implementation was effective with the MDOT bid letting of January 10.

We are hopeful you will agree with us when we say that we think the subcommittee hit a “home run” with their solution, as the revised submittal process involves a new, simplified, single smart form

that minimizes the administrative burden on all the bidders, the DBE community and MDOT staff, while keeping bidders compliant with the intent of the federal regulations and the requirements of the MDOT bid documents.

For their excellent work on the subcommittee, on Wednesday during the annual conference MITA presented the *2019 MITA Emerging Business Program—“Making a Difference Award”* to: Heidi Anderson, Hardman Construction, Inc. Linda Chamberlain, C&D Hughes, Inc. Lisa Evans, Michigan Paving & Materials Co. Kimberly Farlin, Michigan Department of Transportation Kathy Powell, Dan’s Excavating, Inc. Ean Ridley, Ajax Paving Industries, Inc. Nick Sundberg, Michigan Department of Transportation. 🏆



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MITA's newest event, a Classic Car Show and Low Country Boil & Barbecue, will be held on Friday, June 26, 2020 at the MITA offices, located at 2937 Atrium Drive in Okemos.

The fun will begin at 11 a.m. and wrap up about 2 p.m. The attendee registration fee is a \$100 MITA PAC donation. The vehicle registration fee is a \$250 MITA PAC donation. AIS is sponsoring the boil, and Stoneco is sponsoring the barbeque.

Visit the MITA website at www.thinkmita.org for details and to register by June 1.

In addition to the low country boil, beer, pop, burgers, brats and hot dogs will be provided for all attendees.

We hope to see you and your classic car in June!

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Friday, June 26, 2020

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2020 MITA Honorary Member Awards

Honoring the Service, Commitment & Longevity of Three Industry Giants

By Mariam Robinson

As we do every year on the first official day of the Annual Conference, MITA bestowed three well-deserving individuals with Honorary Member Awards during the Presidential Exchange and Awards Ceremony.

These three gentlemen had a lot in common: they'd all been in the industry for more than 30 years, everyone had great stories to tell about them, and no one could ever question the wonderful legacies each of them built for themselves.

Congratulations on your awards, gentlemen, and thank you for your many dedicated years of service to the heavy/highway construction industry!



MIKE DONOHOE

College: University of Detroit
of Years in the Industry: 32
Company: John Carlo, Inc.
Positions of Distinction: President of MRBA in 1997
Children: 3
Grandchildren: 7



BRUCE LOWING

College: Michigan Tech
of Years in the Industry: 42
Company: Hardman Construction
Positions of Distinction: President of AUC in 1997, President of MRBA in 2003, President of MITA in 2011
Children: 3
Grandchildren: 1



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TOM WAGENMAKER

College: Muskegon Community College
of Years in the Industry: 41
Company: Anlaan Corporation
Positions of Distinction: President of MITA in 2016
Children: 2
Grandchildren: 5

MITA 2020 Annual Conference: THE BIG SHOW!

SPRING 2020: MITA PAC UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the MITA PAC. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. If you haven't donated to the MITA PAC yet this year, please consider making a contribution today. [▲](#)

First Name	Last Name	Company	Donation
Tom	DiPonio	Jay Dee Contractors, Inc.	\$10,000.00
Mike	Malloure	C. A. Hull Co., Inc.	\$5,000.00
Bob	Nobbs	Edw. C. Levy Co.	\$500.00
Kurt	Shea	P.K. Contracting, Inc.	\$500.00
Lee	Johnston	Johnston Contracting, Inc.	\$1,000.00
Brent	Gerken	Gerken Paving, Inc.	\$1,000.00
Brian	Dodds	D & R Earthmoving, LLC	\$500.00
Dennis	Scully	Mapes Insurance Agency	\$200.00
Keith	Rose	Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc.	\$5,000.00
Jim	Urban	Butzel Long	\$100.00
Terry	Pieprzak	T.R. Pieprzak Company	\$500.00
Ryan	O'Donnell	Anlaan Corporation	\$2,000.00
John	Zito	Zito Construction Co.	\$500.00
John	Fortier	Bacco Construction Co.	\$1,000.00
Jamie	Lemke	Give 'Em A Brake Safety	\$2,500.00
Ron	Acciavatti	Pamar Enterprises, Inc.	\$1,000.00
John	MacInnis	JRM Consulting, LLC	\$50.00
Jacquie	Katterman	Katterman Trucking, Inc.	\$200.00
Lincoln	Noel	Payne & Dolan, Inc.	\$250.00
Amy	Hall	Ebony Construction Co., Inc.	\$500.00
Dave	Sturuss	Grand Valley Concrete Products	\$750.00
Andrew	Ross	Utility Contracting, Co.	\$200.00
Dan	Cortis	Cortis Brothers	\$250.00
Donn	Ellis	CSI Geoturf, Inc.	\$500.00
Remi	Coolsaet	R. L. Coolsaet Construction Company	\$500.00
Dave	Maas	Diversco Construction Co., Inc.	\$1,500.00
Ed	Boucher	Kotz Sangster Wysocki P.C.	\$500.00
Troy	Broad	Team Elmer's	\$5,000.00
Dale	Chambers	Jensen Bridge & Supply	\$250.00
Paul	Muscat	Cortis Brothers Trucking & Excavating	\$250.00
Marc	Van Til	Give 'Em A Brake Safety	\$1,000.00
Pete	Vandenbos	Pete's Contracting, Inc.	\$500.00
Toni	Vandenbos	Pete's Contracting, Inc.	\$500.00
Andy	Rose	Rehmann Robson	\$500.00
Mike	Buck	The Salus Group	\$500.00
Amy	Trahey	Great Lakes Engineering Group	\$1,000.00
Doug	Kaltz	M.U.E. Incorporated	\$1,000.00
Todd	Schrader	Hardman Construction, Inc.	\$500.00
Scott	Bazinet	Lowe Construction Company	\$4,000.00
Richard	Rohde	Rohde Bros. Exc., Inc.	\$100.00
Chris	Shea	P.K. Contracting, Inc.	\$2,000.00

First Name	Last Name	Company	Donation
James	Dykema	Dykema Excavators, Inc.	\$500.00
David	Marsh	Peninsula Prestress Company	\$300.00
Steve	Jackson	Jackson-Merkey Contractors, Inc.	\$1,000.00
Gary	Merkey	Jackson-Merkey Contractors, Inc.	\$1,000.00
Brad	Poggi	HUB International	\$250.00
Evan	Weiner	Edw. C. Levy Co.	\$1,000.00
Mike	DeFinis	Angelo lafrate Construction Company	\$250.00
Jim	Kloote	J.E. Kloote Contracting, Inc.	\$1,500.00
Mike	Peake	Action Traffic Maintenance	\$1,000.00
Darrell	Kaltz	Kaltz Excavating Co., Inc.	\$1,000.00
Jeff	Irvin	Action Traffic Maintenance	\$100.00
Jessica	Kaltz	Kaltz Excavating Co., Inc.	\$100.00
Jeff	Stover	Toebe Construction LLC	\$500.00
Pat	Dunigan	Dunigan Bros., Inc.	\$2,500.00
Alan	Sandell	Cadillac Asphalt LLC	\$200.00
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Karl	Schweitzer	GM & Sons, Inc.	\$1,000.00
Sean	Morrissey	GM & Sons, Inc.	\$200.00
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Dave	Pytlowany	AIS Construction Equipment	\$500.00
Dave	TerBeek	AIS Construction Equipment	\$500.00
Bob	Allison	AIS Construction Equipment	\$500.00
Byron	Miller	AIS Construction Equipment	\$500.00
Gabe	Nowicki	M&M Excavating	\$250.00
John	Landrie	M&M Excavating	\$750.00
Brandie	Meisner	M&M Excavating	\$1,000.00
Jack	Dykstra	Jack Dykstra Excavating, Inc.	\$1,000.00
Dave	TerBeek	AIS Construction Equipment	\$1,800.00
John	Zito	Zito Construction	\$1,000.00
Brent	Gerken	Gerken Paving, Inc.	\$1,000.00
Robert	Wilson	Mid Michigan Materials	\$1,000.00
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Kyle	Fortier	Bacco Construction	\$1000.00

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MITA–MDOT Partnership Award Presented to Lindsey Renner, P.E.

During the 2020 MITA Annual Conference, the third annual MITA-MDOT Partnership Award was presented to MDOT Field Operations Engineer Lindsey Renner, P.E.

MDOT Director Paul Ajegba, P.E., said this annual award was established to recognize the outstanding achievement of an MDOT employee who exemplifies what it means to engage in collaborations with colleagues on all sides in a way that positively impacts projects, as well as industry and MDOT working relationships as a whole. Since this award is all about partnerships and collaboration, MITA and MDOT leadership collaboratively select the award recipient each year.

Before announcing the winner, MITA's Vice President of Industry Relations Rachelle VanDeventer, P.E., said that the award is in recognition of the value MITA places in the ability to partner with MDOT.

"We know that we are not always on the same side of every issue," VanDeventer said, "but the ability to openly communicate and work together on resolutions is really invaluable and provides a benefit for all of us in the industry."

The winner of the award, Lindsey Renner, P.E., is responsible at MDOT for construction field technical operations and the advancement of digital technology in construction, including AASHTOWare Project Construction and Materials (APCM) and FieldManager applications, work zones and the administration of the MDOT Work Zone Safety and Mobility Manual, grading and drainage, pavement markings, and survey technology of federal and state funded transportation projects.

Renner has also played an important role on the Work Zone Safety Task Force, as well as in other work zone efforts.

"We recognize that in order to maintain a true partnership there needs to be two key ingredients," VanDeventer said, "sustained trust and joint interest. We present this award to Lindsey in appreciation of outstanding partnering and fostering these two key ingredients." 🏆



From left to right: MDOT Director Paul Ajegba, P.E., MDOT Field Operations Engineer Lindsey Renner, P.E., and MITA's Vice President of Industry Relations Rachelle VanDeventer, P.E.

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MITA Scholarship Update

By Mariam Robinson

The 2020 Annual Conference was full of wonderful surprises this year! To the delight of MITA staff and The Dave Fons Memorial Fund for the Advocacy of Truck Safety, Alec Sherwood (the 2019 recipient of the 1st Annual Dave Fons Memorial Fund MITA Scholarship), attended the Annual Conference and took the time to put faces to names by introducing himself.

Alec is a senior at Ferris State University, where he will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management in the spring of 2020. Alec already has a job lined up for his post-college life, and it is with none other than Anlaan Corporation, a long-time MITA member.

Seeing the MITA Scholarship Fund come full circle is a real pleasure for the association, the Board, the staff, and for recipients like Alec. It is our sincere hope that all of our scholarship recipients have success stories like Alec's.

From January to March, the MITA Scholarship Fund accepts applications from any individuals looking to pursue a career in the heavy/highway construction industry. This includes high school seniors, current college/trade school students, and industry individuals looking to further their education or trade school training. Recipients are notified in June of every calendar year.

The MITA Scholarship Fund accepts donations all year round,



Alec Sherwood, the 2019 recipient of the Dave Fons Memorial Fund MITA Scholarship, attended the 2020 Annual Conference. As a student assistant, he helped at the registration desk. Joining him at the desk were other student assistants from Ferris State University. From left to right: Jesse Britton, Tristen Nelson and Alec Sherwood.

and we welcome them. With the continued backing of seasoned industry members, we can continue to support young people looking to pursue a career in the heavy/highway construction industry, as well as individuals who might be looking to join us at a turning point in their professional careers.

The MITA Scholarship Fund is proud to have supported 18 individuals with a total of \$23,000 since its inception in 2016.

To donate to the MITA Scholarship Fund, please make checks out to MITA, Inc. with

the words "MITA Scholarship Fund" written on the memo line. They can be mailed to MITA, Inc., P.O. Box 1640, Okemos, MI 48864. Questions about the MITA Scholarship Fund can be sent to Mariam Robinson, Director of Strategic Affairs, at mariamrobinson@thinkmita.org, or by calling 517-347-8336. 📞



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Keynote Speakers



Jeff Henderson

MITA Annual Conference Keynote Speaker Jeff Henderson spoke on Wednesday, January 22, about workforce development and the prison to workforce pipeline.

Jeff Henderson inspired the audience with his story about his emotional journey of redemption from the streets to the stove. He shared real-life strategies to help you achieve your dreams, no matter your stage of life.

Henderson's life story began in South Central Los Angeles, and led to being an imprisoned drug dealer. After prison, he was able to use skills he learned to become an award-winning celebrity chef and best-selling author. As a public speaker, he serves as a popular and powerful voice for self-transformation. He created Food Network's reality series, "The Chef Jeff Project," hosts "Family Style with Chef Jeff," stars in the television series "Flip My Food with Chef Jeff," and he is also the best-selling author of two books.

During his keynote speech at the MITA Annual Conference, Henderson spoke about hiring people

with a felony on their record. An advantage to hiring someone with a felony, he said, is that they have work experience and skills in some of the trades that are necessary for construction. He also spoke about the direct pipeline from prison to the workforce. This pipeline involves companies going into the prison and training those who are serving life sentences. Those "lifers" will become trainers and train others in the prison who will be getting out. Thus, training that one person, or a group of "lifers" gives them purpose and they can train the workforce that eventually will be getting out of prison and seeking jobs in the construction field.

To learn more about Chef Jeff, visit www.chefjefflive.com. 📱

Wally Adamchik

Wally Adamchik spoke during the MITA Annual Conference on Thursday, January 23, about workforce development issues, such as leadership in construction, including offering employee referral incentives.

Wally Adamchik, President of FireStarter Speaker and Consulting Service, spoke to annual conference participants about workforce development issues related to the construction industry.

His work has been featured in numerous industry publications, and he is a regular presenter at industry gatherings across North America. A Marine Corps veteran, with work experience in the construction industry, he is the author of “No Yelling: The Nine Secrets of the Marine Corps Leadership You Must Know in Business.” He also wrote “Construction Leadership from A to Z: 26 Words to Lead By.”

Adamchik’s presentation was statistics-based, and the general idea he offered is that there is a disconnect between management and labor in the office and in the field. Your employees should be happy to work for you, he said. They should want to bring in more people to work for you. But, because of that disconnect and a poor new employee referral system, employers suffer. One solution he offered was restructuring your referral programs, if you have any at all, and adding significant incentives, financial and otherwise, to encourage workforce development.

The 2019 People in Construction Report that Adamchik highlighted in his presentation can be found on his website at www.firestarterspeaking.com. 🏠



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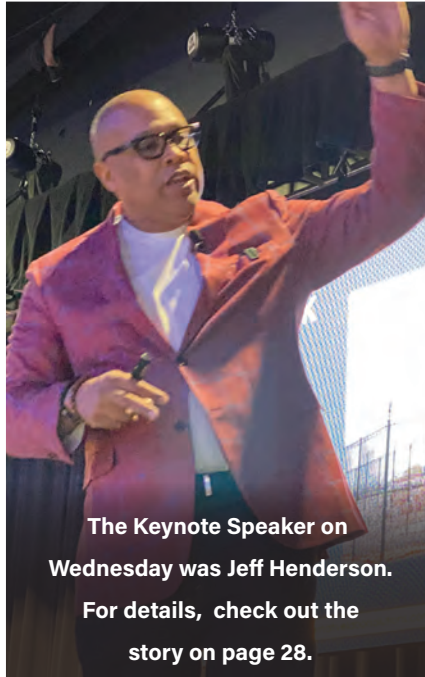
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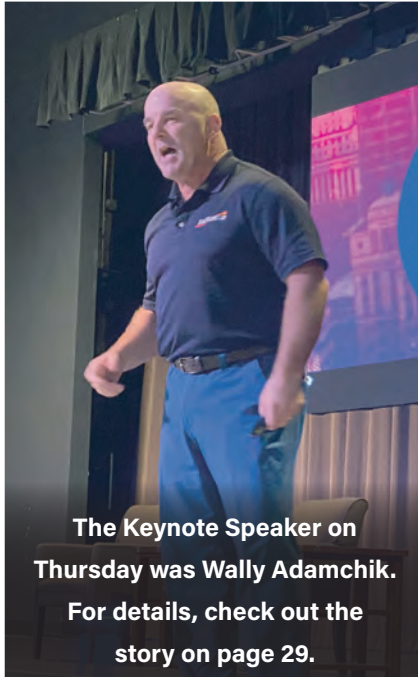
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The Keynote Speaker on Wednesday was Jeff Henderson. For details, check out the story on page 28.



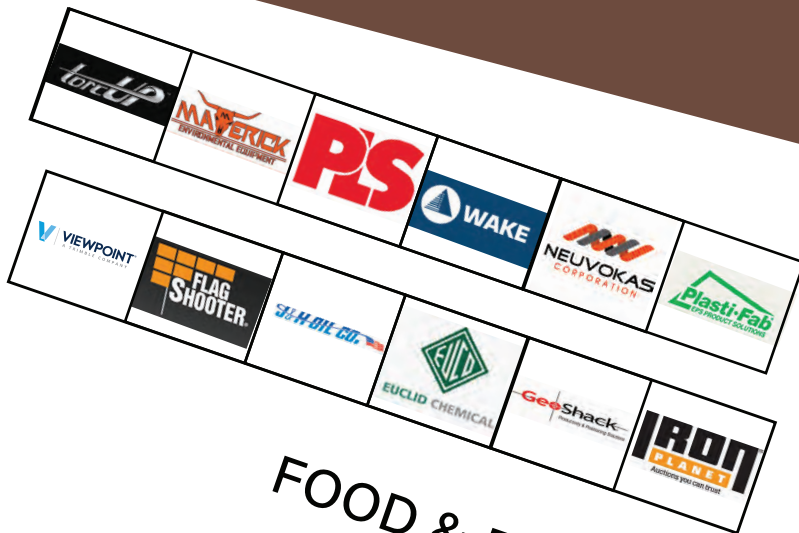
The Keynote Speaker on Thursday was Wally Adamchik. For details, check out the story on page 29.



MDOT Director Paul Ajegba spoke during the Annual Conference.



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ference: The Big Show



The MITA Board of Directors Presidential Exchange took place on Wednesday during the conference.

MITA Board Past President Brandie Meisner (center) and MITA Executive Vice President Make Nystrom (left) delivered the welcome message. They introduced incoming MITA Board President Brian Hoffman (right) to the crowd in the Entertainment Hall.

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What would the MITA Annual Conference be without all of our exhibitors and sponsors?

No much fun, for sure! Thank you to all of the exhibitors (recognized on this center spread) and also to our sponsors. You can see all the sponsor logos if you simply turn this page!

And don't forget the most important thing of all:

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MITA 2020 Annual Conference: **THE BIG SHOW!**

Networking

If you have never been to a MITA Annual Conference, the first question is WHY NOT? The second question is: Do you know what you are missing?

This entire magazine, we hope, answers that second question. And we can also answer it in one simple word: Networking. With over 1,000

attendees, there is excellent foot traffic throughout the exhibit hall, to and from sessions, and during all the social events. Every MITA Annual Conference offers great opportunities to make new business connections, share a laugh with someone you have known forever, or introduce a colleague to

someone they never met.

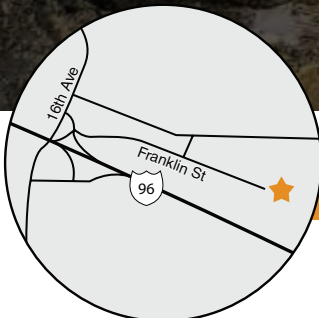
Check out the photos on this page and see what you have been missing, then mark your calendar for next year's conference, which is set for January 2021 at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant.



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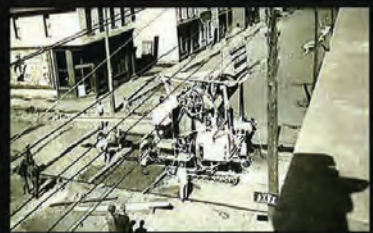
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MITA 2020 Annual Conference: **THE BIG SHOW!**

COMMENT—Vice President of Industry Relations



Rachelle VanDeventer, P.E.

To contact Rachelle VanDeventer, P.E., email her at rachellevandeventer@thinkmita.org or call the MITA office at 517-347-8336.

MDOT Sessions: Industry's Yearly Opportunity To Get Up Close & Personal

Some of the most informational sessions at the Annual Conference are the MDOT Roundtable discussion, as well as the presentation from MDOT leadership and the annual Work Zone Safety Task Force (WZSTF) update. MITA sincerely appreciates the involvement and participation of our many partners at the Annual Conference, which always includes the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). MDOT's presence provides a great opportunity for conference attendees to learn about the latest updates and developments that may be of importance for the upcoming construction season.

In the MDOT Roundtable session, MDOT construction and design staff presented on a variety of topics including Environment, Great Lakes, &



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The Work Zone Safety Task Force Update was among many other informative sessions held on Thursday during the annual conference. The members of the task force who participated in the update sessions are pictured above from left to right: Tony Kratofil, P.E., MDOT COO; Mark VanTil, Give 'Em A Brake Safety; Ryan O'Donnell, Anlaan Corporation; Chris Brooks, MDOT; Mike DeFinis, Angelo lafrate Construction Company; Craig Heidelberg, MDOT; Kim Avery, MDOT; and Mike Malloure, C.A. Hull Co., Inc.

Energy (EGLE) water main permit modifications, innovative contracting updates, Project PDF and plan quantity sheet implementation and impacts, Bureau of Bridges and Structures (BOBS) updates, and Construction Field Services updates. Some of the notable highlights included the efforts MDOT is making to advance e-Ticketing (an electronic solution for the delivery of Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA), Portland Cement Concrete (PCC), and/or aggregate materials for highway construction projects), that LCP Tracker completed implementation for all local projects, and presenting Materials Quality Assurance Procedure (MQAP) updates that will be in effect in the coming season.

The WZSTF Update was a joint effort between industry, WZSTF members and MDOT, and included

an overview of the accomplishments and next steps of the seven WZSTF Action Teams, as well as a special highlight that MDOT has been chosen to host the National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) national kick-off event (to be held on April 21st at the American Center for Mobility). This session helped draw in some special out of state guests, including two of our partners from the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA), who attended the conference specifically to learn more about our work zone safety efforts here in Michigan and to coordinate Safety Stand-Down events with us for the week of the NWZAW event. For everyone in our industry, this informative session provided an appreciation for the movement that has taken off. It was made very clear

that together we are serious about making an impact on work zone safety.

MDOT Director Paul Ajegba wrapped up the last day of conference sessions with an update on MDOT's 2020 budget, 2020 projected lettings information, and an update on the 2020 MDOT Standard Specifications for Construction Book, which is currently being finalized for the 2021 construction season.

MITA is grateful for MDOT's informative sessions at our Annual Conference and their partnership in industry advancements. MDOT's participation adds value to our program that definitely helps contribute to the overall great success of the conference. 🚧

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COMMENT—Vice President of Government Affairs

MITA's PAC is Essential to Our Success



Lance Binoniemi

To contact Lance Binoniemi, email him at lancebinoniemi@thinkmita.org or call the MITA office at 517-347-8336.

The MITA Political Action Committee (PAC) is an essential part of MITA's government affairs program. Each year at MITA's annual conference a break out session is scheduled to go over the PAC in detail. Its purpose: how money is raised and how money is used to support political candidates. In addition to discussing the PAC specifically, general conversation regarding legislative activity from the previous year and goals for the upcoming year are also discussed.

This year was no different and the MITA PAC was discussed in a separate break out session on Wednesday during the annual conference. It was announced that we will be holding a MITA PAC fundraiser this spring to help boost up the PAC to higher levels. MITA members will be invited to

participate in a seafood boil as well as a car show at the MITA offices in Okemos. (See page 19 for event details.) We are hopeful that we can get a large contingent of MITA members to participate in the event.

Your MITA PAC dollars are utilized to help out those candidates who support our industry. Unfortunately campaigns have become more expensive each election cycle, which means it is even more essential for the MITA PAC to be stronger than ever.

There are plenty of groups who are supporting candidates that don't support our issues and won't raise the necessary dollars to fund our transportation network if elected. We have to band together and support those candidates who understand that we've underinvested in our infrastructure, that our industry faces difficult regulatory burdens and the importance that your companies mean to the economic growth of our state.

The PAC breakout session is also a good way for members who attend to listen to the methodology on how PAC contributions are determined. MITA staff goes through a length and thorough process when deciding which candidates and elected officials will receive a MITA

PAC check. Although difficult to determine who to contribute to on the campaign trail before they are elected officials as they do not have a voting record, however some have come from local government where they have taken stances on particular issues. Often we have members who have interacted with particular candidates and can help MITA staff get to know a candidate and potentially garner up a contribution for that candidate.

For those who are already elected and serving in the state legislature, conversations with those individuals, voting records and their committee assignments or leadership positions will help dictate those whom the PAC supports. Ultimately, supporting candidates that are willing to support infrastructure investments is important because there are those supporting candidates financially who do not support more investments into our state's infrastructure. [A](#)



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MITA 2020 Annual Conference: **THE BIG SHOW!**

2020 Annual Board Meeting: **Annual Changing of the Guard**

By Mariam Robinson

The Annual Conference is more than a great learning and networking opportunity for our members. It's also the time of year when we say our official good-byes to outgoing board members, and we welcome the new ones who will take their place. Per the MITA Bylaws, we host this annual changing of the guard at the "Annual Meeting", more commonly known as the board meeting at the Annual Conference.

We are sincerely grateful for the time, commitment and professionalism that each of the outgoing board members brought to the association and their volunteer positions, and we look forward to seeing their continued participation and support at MITA events.

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Chad Listerman
CL Trucking & Excavating
Director At Large

Amy Trahey
Great Lakes Engineering Group
Associate Mbr. Council

We would also like to take this opportunity to offer a warm welcome to the incoming board members, who have chosen to selflessly volunteer their time and expertise to serve the Board of Directors, the association and the industry as a whole. Welcome aboard!

Joe Cook
Pro-Tec Equipment
Associate Mbr. Council

Karl Grant
TCI, Inc. of Michigan
Excavating

Mark Johnston
Ajax Paving Industries, Inc.
Concrete

John Nickels
Etna Supply Company
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Mark Stapleton
G2 Consulting Group, LLC
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Serving the MITA Board of Directors is a great way to stay involved in the association and the industry. Thank you to all 16 of these individuals!

*See page 54 for the full MITA Board of Directors list. [A](#)



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MITA 2020 Annual Conference: **THE BIG SHOW!**

COMMENT—Director of Strategic Affairs



Don't Just Be A Member: Be An Active Networker & Industry Player!

Mariam Robinson

To contact Mariam Robinson, email her at mariamrobinson@thinkmita.org or call the MITA office at 517-347-8336.



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That's a wrap! Ringing in the new decade with the 2020 Annual Conference was not only very satisfying, but, in a bigger way, it was also very humbling. Since the merger of AUC and MRBA, MITA has put on 16 successful Annual Conferences!

These annual gatherings of industry members, partners and supporters are the biggest and best opportunity of the year to network, to learn, and to have a little fun with your peers. We offer a 100-plus exhibitor trade show, breakout sessions to keep you and your business current and up to speed, keynote speakers to inspire you and your employees, as well as breakfasts, strolling lunches and cocktail receptions to provide you with more than enough chances to mix and mingle to your heart's content. At MITA, we are proud of the tradition we have built on your behalf, and, if you missed out this year, make sure you stay tuned for 2021's Annual Conference, an event you surely won't want to miss.

With that said, as your association, we are constantly in outreach mode. Whether we are looking for sponsors, attendees, exhibitors, donors or all of the above, we want YOU to be an active networker and industry player all year round. Maybe your calendar is busy and full of obligations, and

Continued on page 43



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COMMENT—Director of Strategic Affairs

Continued from page 41

that's fine. This is why MITA offers 12 opportunities a year (an average of 1 per month) for you to mix, mingle, and network and to have a great time while you do it. We understand that your businesses are your top priority, and we get it. That's why supporting you and the industry is ours. We want to make your life easier, not harder, so we strongly encourage you to join us at these events when you can.

To sum it up, our outreach to you is for your benefit, not ours. Between the Annual Conference, Summer Conference, the golf outings, the holiday parties and everything in between, we are here for you, and we want to give you the best opportunities we can to be strong successful businesses in Michigan's heavy/highway construction industry.

We look forward to seeing you at all or a few of the remaining 2020 events! Please see the full calendar on page 44 for exact dates and locations, and keep your eye on your emails for MITA bulletins containing additional information regarding registration as specific events get closer. Cheers to a successful, positive and network-heavy 2020! 🇺🇸



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MITA 2020

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For the most up to date information available, and to register for events, visit the events section of the MITA website (www.thinkmita.org). If you have questions, please email MITA Events Coordinator Danielle Coppersmith at daniellecoppersmith@thinkmita.org.

APRIL
14

1 p.m.
MITA Board Meeting, MITA Office

SEP.
15

8:30 a.m.
MITA Board Meeting
Country Club of Lansing

JUNE
10

9 a.m.
MITA Western Golf Outing
Boulder Creek, Grand Rapids

SEP.
24

6 p.m.
Wild Game Dinner
Palazzo Grande, Shelby Township

JULY
8

9 a.m.
MITA Metro Golf Outing
Twin Lakes Golf Course, Oakland

DEC.
11

9 a.m.
Board Meeting
Country Club of Lansing

JULY
23-26

MITA Summer Conference
Crystal Mountain

DEC.
11

11:30 a.m.
Central Holiday Party
Country Club of Lansing

JULY
23

9 a.m.
MITA Board Meeting
Crystal Mountain

DEC.
15

11:30 a.m.
Western Holiday Party, Location TBD

AUG.
26

9 a.m.
MITA Central Golf Outing
Eagle Eye Golf Club, East Lansing

DEC.
17

11:30 a.m.
Metro Holiday Party, Location TBD

MITA 2020 Annual Conference: **THE BIG SHOW!**

COMMENT—Director of Workforce Development



Ken Bertolini

To contact Ken Bertolini, email him at kenbertolini@thinkmita.org or call the MITA office at 517-347-8336.

Although we are in the midst of the winter months, many companies are preparing to gear-up for the 2020 construction season. With the governor's new road funding plan, MDOT is in the process of placing more road construction projects on the books. With this additional work, many of MITA's members will be looking to hire even more employees than in past seasons. At the Workforce Development Breakout Session on Wednesday during the Annual Conference, one of the topics of discussion was about putting together a statewide survey asking companies to describe their workforce needs. Similar surveys have been done nationally encompassing the construction industry as a whole, but none that are specific to Michigan and to the transportation and infrastructure

construction industry.

A base idea for the survey was developed prior to the Annual Conference, and attendees of the breakout session were asked what they would like to have answered by the survey. The discussion served to add additional questions including: Is turnover an issue in your company? Are you losing long term employees? Does your company offer soft-skills training and drug testing education? Are you aware of MiWorks! programs that assist employees? The survey was sent to all members in February, and the results will be organized, concluded and published prior to the 2020 construction season. All MITA members will have access to final

Continued on page 46

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MITA 2020 Annual Conference: **THE BIG SHOW!**

COMMENT—Director of Workforce Development

Continued from page 45



Ken Bertolini, MITA's Director of Workforce Development, spoke during the Annual Conference about MITA's efforts and involvement in workforce development.

results.

We at MITA believe this will be information that will help members hire, train and retain employees. It will be good to share best practices on things that we are doing right, and learn things that we are not doing but should institute

as standard practices within our own companies. The survey itself is being developed with ease in mind. It's our goal to make sure that it takes no more than 10 minutes for a company representative to complete, and there will be NO long answers required.

Much research has already been done reviewing other workforce surveys and it is being refined to be instrumental for our industries workforce needs and requirements. The size and strength of our membership puts us in the perfect position to gather data from a large group of industry partners, and I am looking forward to sharing the results with our membership!

In addition, MITA has been working with the Steve Gruber Show, a statewide radio program, to highlight MITA members, job opportunities and issues in our industry. Contact me direct if you would like to have your company highlighted on the show.

If you have any questions about the survey, the Steve Gruber Show, or any other workforce needs, please contact me. [A](#)

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Did You Meet Greg Brooks, MITA's New Director of Safety and Compliance, at the Annual Conference?



Greg Brooks, MITA's new Director of Safety and Compliance, spoke with MITA members during safety training at the MITA office in January.

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Greg Brooks, MITA's new Director of Safety and Compliance, spent a lot of time meeting new MITA members during the Annual Conference. Did you meet him? If not, here is some information that he would have shared with you!

With 14 years experience in underground and vertical construction as a foreman, skilled laborer and jobsite coordinator, Greg Brooks joined the MITA team on Dec. 5, 2019 as the new director of safety and compliance.

Greg brings with him construction safety training, a strong work ethic and leadership skills that will serve him well at MITA. In addition to his work experience, he served in the United States Marine Corps for five years, with two overseas deployments. Greg lives in Perrinton, and in his spare time enjoys hunting, fishing and golfing.

"I am looking forward to being a safety workhorse for MITA's members," Greg said, "and also working with their employees to ensure safety on jobsites throughout the state."

Greg brings not only years of field experience, but also a great attitude and personality that will fit well with our membership and the MITA team as well, said Mike Nystrom, MITA's Executive Vice President.

Rob Coppersmith, MITA's Vice President of Membership Services, added that Greg has been extremely busy meeting MITA members at the annual conference, the holiday parties, and during spring safety training meetings.

"His learning curve has been like a rocket ship," Coppersmith said. "We've got Greg being trained

like a MIOSHA Safety Officer by the former director of MIOSHA, as well as working with appeals and participating in numerous training events. It should be noted that Greg recently obtained his teaching credentials for instructing CPR and

First Aid. We are expecting great things out of Greg!"

Greg can be reached by calling 517-347-8336 or email him at gregbrooks@thinkmita.org. [A](#)



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MITA 2020 Annual Conference: **THE BIG SHOW!**

LEGAL ISSUES



Jim Urban and Mike Decker of Butzel Long made an interactive presentation on Thursday during the Annual Conference regarding recognizing various claims arising on a construction project.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Stuck Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Dealing with Conflicting Concurrent Projects

At the 2020 MITA Annual Meeting, Jim Urban and Mike Decker of Butzel Long continued the tradition of providing MITA's Contractor Members with useful guidance and practice tips for problem solving on troubled projects through early recognition, preservation and prosecution of claims for compensation and time extensions. The popular "What Would You Do?" interactive format for this seminar, filled the room with owners, estimators, project managers, superintendents and foremen looking to increase their knowledge of claim situations and problem solving skills

when faced with a project that, through no fault of the Contractor, has materially changed from the as-bid, as-planned project awarded to the Contractor.

The seminar this year presented two seemingly routine hypothetical projects to be built on overlapping, concurrent schedules. Both projects were obtained by the same contractor who skillfully planned its resources, determined its means and methods and scheduled the staged work to successfully complete both projects within the time frames specified for each project. As the saying goes: "No

battle plan survives first contact with the enemy".

In the project scenarios presented, the work on each project encountered serious differing site conditions shortly after the work commenced. Those differing site conditions resulted in delays while the Owner was figuring out what to do in response to the conditions encountered; as well as directed major design changes in each project; new, more burdensome imposed restrictions on the Contractor's plan for the work on each project; extra work being added to both projects; re-staging of the

projects to accommodate the design and work plan changes; and ordered changes to the contract duration on each project.

Urban, Decker and those attending the seminar walked through the events on each project to break down what was happening and to formulate the steps the Contractor should take at each step of the process to protect itself and to adequately preserve its remedies for the changes being imposed on each project. The consistent emphasis of the seminar discussion was maximizing the opportunity to resolve project problems at the earliest and lowest level possible by recognizing and anticipating issues and claims early in order to provide early and comprehensive notice of claims for additional compensation and extensions of the contract time and, by doing so, hopefully engage the Owner in working with the Contractor to arrive at workable and acceptable solutions to achieve the mutual goal of a successfully completed project regardless of how significantly the originally conceived project may be changed. Failing that, those same steps place the Contractor in the best position to successfully prosecute contested claims for the additional costs and time incurred to complete the construction under the changed circumstances encountered.

To that end, the scope of the seminar discussion covered:

- Pre-Bid Investigation
- Effective intra-company communication between the estimating and construction staff
- Tactical preparation for and effectively handling the Pre-Construction Meeting
- Identification of events giving rise to claims for Differing Site

Conditions, Directed Changes, Delays, Acceleration and Extensions of Time

- How to prepare and submit effective notices to the Engineer and supplement those notices as the project progresses
- How to document and maintain claim folders on a troubled project and
- How to approach attempted early

resolution of claims and avoidance of claims litigation

At the end of the day, the attendees reported that they had learned things they had not previously considered and had gained a much better understanding of how to protect themselves and the company's project margin when a project goes from routine to chaos. [A](#)

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New MITA Members

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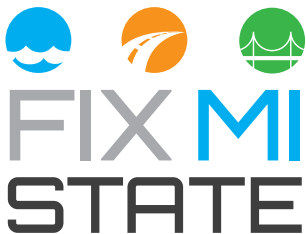
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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Governor Whitmer announces \$3.5 billion in projects in her second state of the state address

Governor Gretchen Whitmer gave her second State of the State address on January 29 and much like her first address, road funding was a major topic of discussion. After a year of failed negotiations with the Legislature, the Governor decided to take matters into her own hands by using her Executive Authority laid out in the Constitution to sell transportation bonds to inject \$3.5 billion of additional investment into the state's transportation network over the next five years.

The Governor has the authority to do this through a simple vote of the state Transportation Commission. The Commission approved the Governor and MDOT's proposal. No legislative approval is needed and this is certainly not the first time transportation bonds have been used for infrastructure investment. Both Governor Engler and Governor Granholm used this authority during their time in office.

In announcing the Rebuilding Michigan Program, MDOT leadership indicated that the approved bond proposal proceeds would focus on addressing the needs of key and high-volume trunkline corridors with the construction of longer life fixes (i.e. more reconstructions vs. rehabilitations).

The now approved, Rebuilding Michigan Program projects MDOT's "new" 5-Year "Road and Bridge" program investments would grow to \$7.3 billion from the current 5-Year "Road and Bridge" program investment level of \$3.9 billion.

In their presentation to the State Transportation Commission, MDOT projected that their "revised" annual Road and Bridge program construction dollar investments would be (millions):

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Previous 5-YR Plan	\$577	\$946	\$801	\$862	\$672
Revised 5-YR Plan	\$931	\$2,124	\$1,987	\$1,354	\$994

MDOT announced that 49 projects in the Rebuilding Michigan 2020-2024 Revised Five-Year Transportation Program Project List will be funded with new bond proceeds (23 shifted from traditional revenue sources to the bond program, 26 new projects funded by the bond program), while 73 new projects have been added to back-fill for those projects shifted into the bond program.

You can view the Rebuilding Michigan 2020-2024 Revised Five-Year Transportation Program Project List (49 bond program projects are highlighted in yellow, 73 new projects are highlighted in blue) on MDOT's webpage at: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdot/mdot_2020-2024_FiveYTP_679723_7.pdf

This not the long-term, sustainable solution that our state roads and bridges need and the debate on finding that solution will continue on. Because this only applies to state roads, local roads will continue to deteriorate and press for a need to invest. MITA will continue to push the legislature on finding a long-term solution to our road funding problem. [A](#)

Visit www.fixmistate.com to stay engaged in the debate.



2020 MITA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Brian Hoffman – 2012	Hoffman Bros., Inc.	President	2021
Pat Dunigan – 2010	Dunigan Bros., Inc.	President-Elect	2021
J.W. Fisher – 2013	Fisher Contracting Company	Vice-President	2021
Troy Broad – 2016	Team Elmer's	Treasurer	2021
Michael A. Nystrom	MITA	Executive VP/Sec	N/A

DIRECTOR	MEMBER NAME	CLASSIFICATIONS	TERM EXPIRES
Brandie Meisner – 2012	M & M Excavating Company	Past President	2022
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J.W. Kalin – 2018	Kalin Construction Co., Inc.	Underground	2022/2028
Karl Grant – 2020	TCI, Inc. of Michigan	Excavating	2022/2028
Mark Johnston – 2020	Ajax Paving Industries, Inc.	Concrete	2022/2028
Joe Cook – 2020	Pro-Tec Equipment	Associate Mbr. Council	2022
John Nickels – 2020	Etna Supply Company	Associate Mbr. Council	2022
Mark Stapleton – 2020	G2 Consulting Group, LLC	Associate Mbr. Council	2022

OHM Advisors

www.ohm-advisors.com

OHM Advisors' Board of Directors and partners recently announced the addition of three new shareholders: John Calhoun, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP; Scott Emmons, PE; and Kimberly O'Rear, PE. The partners were recently elected to the 57-year-old community advancement firm's ownership group by fellow owners and partners. The announcement was made by OHM Advisors President John Hiltz.

The new shareholders, nominated from among the firm's many outstanding professionals, represent a range of disciplines, experience levels and specialties. Each is recognized for their contributions within the firm and dedicated service

to clients and colleagues. The role of the shareholder is to contribute to the firm's leadership and success, elect board members and future shareholders and exercise a voice in the future direction of the company.

"It is an honor to welcome these remarkable individuals to the ownership group," Hiltz said. "Their talents and expertise have served them well in their careers, and we are grateful for the contributions they make on a daily basis to the success of OHM Advisors and our clients."

Calhoun joined OHM Advisors as an architecture principal in 2017. He has more than 20 years of experience as an architect and interior designer.

Emmons, who joined OHM Advisors in 2013, has nearly 25 years of experience in transportation

engineering, infrastructure design and multi-agency coordination.

O'Rear has been a hands-on, trusted advisor and valuable asset to her municipal and state department of transportation clients since joining the firm in 2002.

Headquartered in Livonia, Mich., and with 15 offices throughout Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee, OHM Advisors is the community advancement firm providing award-winning architectural, engineering and planning services. Founded in 1962, OHM Advisors provides multidisciplinary services to clients in both the public and private sector including infrastructure, stormwater and municipal water systems. For more information, visit www.ohm-advisors.com or call 888-522-6711. [A](#)



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G2 Consulting

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G2 Consulting, a leading geotechnical engineering company that specializes in everything below the ground, has been busy with deep foundation work associated with new construction projects in its home state of Michigan and across the country.

“When G2 was founded, we were immediately involved in telecommunication tower projects, an area that’s still important to us,” said Noel Hargrave-Thomas, P.E., a founding principal at G2. “We provide geotechnical investigations, foundation design, and construction quality control services all over the country. This has allowed us to work with many deep foundation contractors over the years and develop an understanding of the many types of installation methods used in difficult soil conditions. Over time, we’ve expanded our drilled pier

expertise into all construction types including high rise buildings, bridges, and industrial structures that have high loads.”

Along with partner Rohrscheib Sons Caissons, G2 Consulting has been working on downtown Detroit’s most transformative project, the Hudson’s site building. Expected to soar as high as 90 stories, the Detroit building will become one of the tallest structures in the state of Michigan and Detroit’s first new high rise to be built in decades. However, before any steel beams are erected, the team must first complete sophisticated geotechnical engineering deep underground.

G2 recently provided value engineering for drilled pier foundations for FCA Mack Avenue, FCA Warren, and several other automotive related industrial facilities.

Team members from Rohrscheib Sons Caissons, Inc., operate a bell auger for drill piers at the FCA Warren project site. G2 Consulting provided value engineering for the project.

According to Hargrave-Thomas, the key to successful drilled piers, or caissons, is in the advanced research they require. “There’s always a lot of ‘stuff’ below ground, especially in historically urban areas. It’s critical to intimately understand soil, groundwater, and gas conditions that impact the building’s foundation construction and long-term stability.”

“Understanding site conditions is paramount for G2 to accurately predict factors that dynamically impact caisson design. Examples include skin friction, essentially the strength of the surrounding soils along the vertical sides of the pier, and end bearing capacity, a complex evaluation of the ground’s ability to support a load at the pier’s deepest point. These, and other factors, can significantly impact costs and effectiveness of the design. However, just as important is the ability to properly construct the drilled piers in challenging ground conditions. This is where we excel.”

Once research is completed and construction begins, G2 stresses the importance of testing and observation at each stage of the pier construction. G2 is one of few geotechnical firms in the Midwest performing thermal integrity profile (TIP) testing. TIP measures the

temperature of the placed concrete at every foot of the drilled pier length to closely monitor concrete curing. The firm also specializes in cross-hole testing, Mini-SID inspection, and other best practices required for economical and consistent foundations.

“Rohrscheib is a company that’s built on solid foundations,” said Jason Egan, chief estimator and senior project manager at Rohrscheib. “We simply can’t construct caissons until we have total confidence that subsurface considerations have been exhaustively researched and planned. Over the past several decades, G2 has earned its reputation as an extremely reliable partner who shares our commitment

to getting the job done right, and in the most efficient manner possible.”

Identifying favorable pier design depths or engineering smart solutions for less-than-ideal conditions requires a skill set that can’t easily be replicated. As active and trusted players in the drilled pier construction business, G2 and partners like Rohrscheib have completed thousands of geotechnical investigations, foundation designs, and cost effective foundation installations ultimately paving the way for successful construction.

“Our mantra is: Smart. Results. Fast.,” said Hargraves-Thomas. “That’s why clients rely on us. Ultimately, it’s about helping projects stay on time and on budget and helping project owners with

structures that are built to last.”

For more information on G2 Consulting Group, visit www.g2consultinggroup.com.

About G2 Consulting Group:

G2 Consulting (www.g2consultinggroup.com and twitter.com/g2_consulting) is a geotechnical, geoenvironmental, and construction engineering firm that has delivered thousands of land development, telecommunications, and civil infrastructure projects for over 25 years across the United States. Based in Troy, Mich., G2 also has offices in Ann Arbor and suburban Chicago. [A](#)

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ARTBA Leaders Help Eliminate 'Pesky Rule' for States

FHWA Repeals Proprietary Products Rule

By Dave Bauer—ARTBA President & CEO

Change is hard. Change in the federal legislative and regulatory policy arena can be even harder.

But the famed 20th century American cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead once observed: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Such a sentiment rings true as it relates to ARTBA's volunteer leaders in the wake of the Sept. 26, 2019 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announcement. The agency said it was repealing the 1916 procurement rule prohibiting state and local governments from using patented or proprietary products on highway and bridge projects that receive federal funding, unless those products qualified for limited exceptions.

FHWA's action was direct response to ARTBA's March 2018 petition, and it highlights once again a hallmark of the association's valued-add as a regulatory reform champion.

"Highway administration eliminates a pesky rule for states," was the headline over a CQ News story, which recognized ARTBA's lead role in "a concentrated campaign" to get it repealed.

For those not well versed—which is most—on this archaic rule, it has obstructed state transportation agencies from utilizing patented or proprietary materials, specifications or processes on federal-aid highway projects. It's had the practical effect of hindering innovation and development of potentially life-saving technologies for use throughout the nation's highway and bridge system.

The repeal gives states the option

to use patented and proprietary products on federal-aid projects if they choose to do so. While the original rule was intended to preserve fair competition, a level playing field must not be confused with celebrating the status quo. States now have the freedom to use federal funds on the full range of transportation products and solutions that best meet their needs.

Such a major regulatory achievement didn't just happen. For many years and during several editions of ARTBA's Dr. J. Don Brok TransOvation© Workshop, ARTBA members cited the rule as a barrier to innovation, in part because of inconsistent implementation of the waiver process among the states.

It's also the result of extraordinary leadership from ARTBA's volunteer leaders. Hats off to Kevin Groeneweg (Mobile Barriers, LLC), who relentlessly pursued this reform for many years, and John Hillman (Parsons Corporation), a leading voice among industry innovators.

Long-time ARTBA members Trinity Highway Products, CRH Americas Materials, 3M, and Transpo

Industries also supported ARTBA's legal efforts.

Another hallmark of a successful advocacy organization is the realization that the job is never truly done.

That's why ARTBA is launching a working group from its eight membership divisions to share information and strategies to integrate proprietary products throughout the states. We also will continue to spotlight the proprietary products issue as FHWA reexamines the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

As Mead reminds us, it takes a "small group of thoughtful, committed citizens" to bring about real change. [A](#)

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