

Louisiana AGC was named AGC of America's 2018 Large Chapter of the Year at an Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C. this year.



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## LAGC Spotlight

# Louisiana AGC Annual Report 2018

The Voice of the Construction Industry



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## Message From the President

Ryan Gootee, President, LAGC

**Anyone associated with the construction industry** knows that change seems to hit us from many directions on a daily basis. So too was my advancement on the Board of Louisiana Associated General Contractors (LAGC). On my way to attend our annual Summer Conference with my family, I received a phone call from LAGC CEO Ken Naquin, who informed me that current LAGC President Lew Love was stepping down and asked that I assume the role. I immediately accepted the position and was told that the official announcement would be made at our Board of Directors Meeting on the last day of the Summer Conference.

Lew had a great opportunity to work with an LAGC associate member and as such was ineligible to serve as the board president. He has been such a tremendous leader for LAGC and has really set the bar high for me. Thank you, Lew, for the past year and a half of leading LAGC through a merger with the Shreveport Chapter, a Long-Range Planning Task Force session and the renovation of our headquarters in Baton Rouge.


I spent the next few days of the Summer Conference observing the event with a new perspective. I'm proud to say that there have been quite a few changes in the conference over the past couple of years that showcase the many different ways in which our association is evolving. We now have a more appealing and expanded agenda. This year, we enjoyed hearing from a four-time Olympic competitor who never gave up on his dream, as well as a motivational speaker who presented a session on effective communication and refining your company's message.

Our Featured Project presentation was delivered by 2018 AGC of America (AGCA) President Eddie Stewart and Rod Ceasar of Caddell Construction. They have successfully established themselves in a niche market for building U.S. Embassies all over the world. This year also marked the highest attendance in 32 years, and I'd like to thank all those who attended and helped make the 2018 conference such a success.

I've been in office for only a few months now, but I'm pleased to report that we are off to a busy start. At our first State Board meeting, we had a great turnout and welcomed new members from our recent merger with the Shreveport Chapter, making us the seventh-largest chapter in the nation. It's the first time in our state's 99 years with an AGC chapter that we're all under one roof. I truly believe that our unity is a position of strength and will serve us well moving forward as we endeavor to carry out our mission.

Speaking of unity, LAGC and specifically the Highway Division is a part of a large statewide coalition of associations that is gearing up to address the 29-year-old unchanged gas tax. It's time for Louisiana to catch up with other states around the country and pass legislation that will fund highway and utility work desperately needed all over our state. The full board also passed an amended version of the Legal Affairs Committee's policy document that had not changed since it was originally drafted 1988. This was the first step in my goal of reviewing and modifying, if needed, all of our policy documents as well as the chapter bylaws to ensure that governance of the chapter is consistent with today's issues.

During the first week of October, I had the opportunity to attend AGCA's National & Chapter Leadership Conference held in our nation's capital. I hadn't been to Washington, D.C., in several years and was amazed to see the economic growth since my last visit and the amount of construction projects currently underway. Although LAGC attends this event on an annual basis, this trip was a little more special than others. At the Awards Luncheon, LAGC was selected as the 2018 Large Chapter of the Year. What a fantastic accomplishment for our leadership and staff to be recognized by AGCA on its 100-year anniversary. At the awards luncheon, I was fortunate to sit between AGCA CEO Steve Sandherr and current AGCA President Eddie Stewart to hear about both the good and the bad, and what the association is doing to combat the bad. Again, it makes me appreciate everything they do for us and our industry.

Lastly, I'm happy to announce that we're in our new, old building in downtown Baton Rouge! We have received such positive feedback about the new layout and design. A special thanks to AGC member **Stuart**  **o.** for the wonderful work it did in renovating the space and being brave enough to do a job for an owner that consisted of 150 contractors. Not only did the project transform the building, but it also transforms the image of LAGC as a new, progressive, forward-facing association of which we can all be proud.

I want to thank all of our members and associate members for giving me the opportunity to serve as president of this great chapter. I look forward to the coming year's opportunities as we celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. ♦



## Message From the CEO

Ken Naquin, CEO, LAGC

**Wow, what a 2018.** We finalized a merger with the Shreveport Chapter, completely renovated headquarters, completed our first year goals from the Long-Range Planning Task Force, and offered unprecedented educational classes for the members thanks to upgrades in our technology.

After many years of side conversations and quiet whispers, the LAGC and Shreveport Chapter finally merged. We are now one family, making LAGC the seventh-largest chapter in the country. The Joint Merger Committee, four members from both chapters and the two chief executives worked hard on the details of the merger to make it happen. Many thanks must go to the Shreveport Chapter Executive Director Chuck Penn for being such an advocate of the merger and making the transition smooth. Since the merger, AGCA Chief Economist Ken Simonson visited the new Shreveport District of LAGC and delivered his famous state-of-the-state report of construction in the country and in northwest Louisiana. More than 40 members turned out to hear Simonson detail the current construction picture and what the future will hold.

While the merger was ongoing, LAGC headquarters staff moved from its downtown Baton Rouge location to a temporary location, as the 50-year-old headquarters was being totally renovated. The LAGC member contractor and low bidder Stuart & completely demolished the existing building except for three walls and the foundation. The project started in January and was fully completed end of October. Staff moved back in early October so both the contractor and staff worked under each other's feet. To say October was a trying time would be an understatement, but Stuart & did everything in its power to make life in an incomplete building as comfortable as possible. The newly renovated LAGC headquarters building shines in downtown Baton Rouge and is one that members can be proud of—after all, it's their building!

When designing the layout for the new headquarters, the architect asked me what my top priorities were for the new building. I had two: the first was to have bathrooms like those at Buckee's (If you've ever stopped at one, you know!), and the second

was to be the best in technology for conferencing. Now if you come by, I'll proudly show you the bathrooms—but the conferencing technology that was installed puts LAGC in a position we've never been in before. At the same time of the renovation, and as a result of the Shreveport Chapter merger, LAGC now has a north LAGC Headquarters building. We upgraded the technology in that building to link with the Baton Rouge headquarters, and we can now offer classes and meetings in either location and teleconference them to the other. We have already utilized it, and it's remarkable. So look for more education classes to be held in and at both headquarters.

In 2017, LAGC took a good look at ourselves from within. The Long-Range Planning Task Force met and provided some immediate and long-range goals. This year, we started the process of enacting the short-term goals, and I must say, the results are very pleasing. We surveyed the membership as to what the top services are that they utilize from LAGC. The feedback we received somewhat surprised our staff. Of course, our legislative actions are always at the top of the list, but also up there was direct contact with staff and other members. Safety, education and regulation information were high too. My question is, if direct contact is important, then why do we struggle with attendance at district meetings, charity events and some educational classes? We are currently looking at the structure of the chapter; deciding if we should change and make it more streamlined is a mid-range goal. In all, we will continue to work on the goals from the Task Force.

All this leads into a very exciting 2019 and my 40<sup>th</sup> year with AGC. I look forward to many more. ♦



Caption

## About Louisiana AGC

### Who We Are

LAGC is the only statewide full-service construction trade association representing more than 1,000 general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and service firms throughout the state. We are now the seventh-largest AGC chapter in the nation. Formed in 1949, LAGC is one of the 96 chapters of the 25,000-member AGCA headquartered in Washington, D.C. LAGC works for its members in areas such as legislation, governmental relations, workforce development, safety and training, human resources, and liaisons with awarding authorities and design professionals. We serve as the voice of the construction industry and are constantly striving to protect and preserve the livelihood of our members.

### What We Do

Together with our members, LAGC promotes skill, responsibility and integrity through construction and services that enhance the quality of life for those who live, work or travel in Louisiana. We provide members and their employees with opportunities to learn through seminars and professional development training courses and network with industry peers through meetings, conferences and social events. We also collectively influence public officials and private-sector owners through our longstanding relationships as well as help members develop business growth. LAGC is the voice of the Louisiana construction industry, helping our members to stay informed in areas that will directly impact their bottom lines.

### How We're Structured

LAGC has four occupational divisions: Building, Highway, Utility Infrastructure, and Flood Protection and Coastal Restoration. Each of these four occupational divisions are composed of members performing similar types of construction with mutual concerns. All of our members benefit from the

long-standing relationship that LAGC has with local, state and federal authorities, which dictate day-to-day construction life, either as owners or as regulatory bodies. These divisions meet on a regular basis to address concerns of all involved parties to resolve any

issues in a mutually beneficial manner. Currently, we have seven districts across the state: Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Lake Charles, Lafayette, Alexandria, Monroe and Shreveport. Each of these districts is represented/serviced by its local district manager. After our

## BUILDING TOMORROW FROM A STRONG FOUNDATION



**THE BEST PROJECTS NEED THE BEST PEOPLE**

**THE VOICE OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY**


**LOUISIANA ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS**  
**LAGC.ORG**

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Long-Range Planning Meeting in 2017, our members spoke up and relayed the need for us to be a more unified, cohesive chapter. In response to that, we have started the transition of eliminating “districts” and moving to “areas,” which will encompass larger regions streamlining our communications. This will hopefully make it easier for all members’ voices to be heard regardless of location. As we continue to unify our members, we will eventually look to restructure our chapter—a change you can expect to see in late 2019.

### How to Get Involved

There are so many ways to get your foot in the door here at LAGC, and we encourage all members to join a committee they’re interested in, attend as many events as possible and truly see the full benefits of what we have to offer. For our new members, we provide them with a list of committees they can join, which is beneficial to both the


member as well as LAGC.  **have an Associate Member Advisory Council, Legislative Council, Future Leaders Council, Leadership Committee, Audit & Finance Committee, Legal Affairs Committee, Long-Range Planning Task Force, Membership Committee and Public Relations Committee.** Anyone who would like to join can visit [www.lagc.org](http://www.lagc.org) and fill out an application to serve on any of these.

### Future Leaders Council

LAGC’s Future Leaders Council is a group composed of member firms’ construction industry professionals currently transitioning into roles of leadership.

The council provides an avenue for professionals to form long-lasting relationships, network and exchange ideas. The group meets quarterly and holds a voting seat on the Board of Directors through the council’s elected chairman. The Future Leaders

Council represents the next generation of contractors that will be leading our industry, and LAGC is proud to provide a platform for their development.

Each year, this group of talented professionals hosts and attends the LAGC’s Future Leaders Forum. This business forum is designed to provide valuable information as it relates to our industry and serve as a launchpad for professional development and leadership. Whether you are a general contractor or an associate member, this forum will help to advance and improve the industry we all work in and strive to make better. This was our fourth year putting on this event, which was attended by a variety of professions that make up our industry, from contractors, engineers and architects to associate members such as insurance/bonding and legal firms. To demonstrate the variety of professions that benefit from this, we invited  **McNeely**, executive director of the Louisiana Motor

Shields Mott

LA Cat

## Alliance Safety

Transportation Association, as our keynote speaker. He spoke to attendees on the importance of realizing your true value and potential and discussed strategies to maintain a positive attitude as you work your way up through management. McNeely also spoke about the hurdles he overcame when he was appointed to a senior-level staff position for the Blanco administration. He moved to Washington, D.C., shortly after accepting his position and quickly learned that he would need to prove to his new colleagues of high-ranking officials that despite his age, he had what it took to succeed.

The forum also held a Legal Panel that discussed legal issues and trends. Panelists included moderator Amanda Messa (partner, Phelps Dunbar), Matt Emmons (shareholder, Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz), Benjamin Grau (Simon, Peragine, Smith & Redfearn) and Jessica Derenbecker (Shields | Mott).

There was a Legislative Session brought to us from our legislative partner Jesse McCormick of Capitol Partners. He touched on Louisiana's crumbling infrastructure and the direction we're moving as we approach 2019. McCormick also discussed the outlook for increasing infrastructure spending as well as the measures that need to be put in place to better the chances of getting a record vote to ultimately succeed in legislature.

To close out the event, we heard from LAGC's Michael [redacted] regarding our 401(k) plan and the importance of investing early on. Since 2016, the LAGC 401(k) Plan has added more than 20 companies, helping to grow the plan's assets to more than \$210 million. We currently have more than 80 companies participating in the program, making it the second-largest AGC 401(k) plan in the nation. The program has four trustees at the AGC chapters and provides many benefits. This plan has allowed employers and employees the ability to put more of their hard-earned money into retirement savings. Based on the findings of the 2017 survey, it's estimated that the AGC Southwest Chapters 401(k) Plan saves more than \$1 million in expenses for participating companies and their employees.

Another benefit that was recently added is the 401(k) Education Program, which is designed to help you plan for retirement with both live webinars and in-person seminars. There are four in-person seminars held across the state throughout the year. We understand convenience is important and want to make it as easy as possible to help you achieve your retirement goals. This program is hosted by our financial advisors at Baird and is open to employees of companies participating in our 401(k) plan. It provides a hands-on tutorial of your 401(k) plan. For more information about the education program, contact Baird at 888-792-7650 or mep@rwbaird.com.

### LAGC Staff

LAGC is served by a staff of 10, combining resources in our headquarters office in Baton Rouge, area managers, and most recently three new employees due to our merger with the Shreveport Chapter. The staff operates as a team and is always striving to continuously improve our association to make real changes for the good of our industry. ♦



# Get Involved Committees List



## Associate Member Advisory Council

### Primary Role

- Disseminate information and exchange ideas to more efficiently carry on the business of all members of the association
- Aid in developing construction interests in the state of Louisiana
- Protect and further the interest of AGC members

### Leadership

- Chairman and vice chairman
- Elected by the council prior to the annual meeting of the chapter's Board of Directors; the chairman shall serve on the chapter Board of Directors

### Council Members

- Two representatives elected from each district

## Legislative Council

### Leadership

- Chairman and vice chairman (appointed by the president and serve until successors are named)

### Structure

- No less than two representatives from each district of the association, appointed by the president

### Meetings

- At the discretion of the chairman; any action or recommendation of the Legislative Council will not be considered official until ratified by the chapter's executive or Board of Directors, whichever meets first

## Future Leaders Council

- Expose and educate young industry leaders to all aspects of the construction industry through continuing education, peer networking, annual Future Leaders Forum and charity fundraising events

## Leadership Committee

- Chairman is elected by the members of the Future Leaders Council to serve on the Board of Directors

## Audit & Finance Committee

- Prepare the annual budget of the association
- Bylaws
- Review and make amendments to bylaws

## Legal Affairs Committee

- Receive requests for LAGC's participation in litigation

## Long-Range Planning Task Force

- Evaluates the chapter structure and develop long-range goals

## Membership Committee

- Work to promote and retain membership

## Public Relations Committee

- Work to create a positive public awareness of the construction industry in general
- Enhance member engagement
- Promote LAGC
- Promote members to win continued projects
- Maintain alliance with OSHA to promote safe working habits in the industry

LA One Call

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# LAGC 2019 Calendar of Events

## JANUARY

- 9-11:** Traffic Control Training Classes (New Orleans)
- 16-18:** AGC Safety Conference (Miami)
- 23:** Future Leaders Council Officers Luncheon
- 24:** Cocktails With Contractors (Baton Rouge)
- 27-28:** UTA OSHA Training (Baton Rouge, Shreveport)
- 31-Feb. 1:** Political Issues Summit (Baton Rouge)

## FEBRUARY

- 4:** LAGC Podcast Series – Episode 1
- 4:** UTA OSHA Training (Shreveport)
- 5-7:** Traffic Control Training Classes (Baton Rouge)
- 5:** Cocktails With Contractors (New Orleans)
- 19-22:** UTA OSHA Training (Baton Rouge)
- 20:** LAGC Statewide Report (Baton Rouge, livestreaming)
- 26-March 1:** UTA OSHA Training (Baton Rouge, Shreveport)
- 28:** AGC Safety Meeting (Baton Rouge)

## MARCH

- 4:** LAGC Podcast Series – Episode 2
- 4-7:** UTA OSHA Training (Shreveport)
- 6-7:** Professional Development Workshop With Anthony Huey (Baton Rouge)
- 12-15:** UTA OSHA Training (Baton Rouge)
- 12-14:** Traffic Control Training Class (Shreveport)
- 14:** Crawfish Boil (Baton Rouge)

- 21:** Crawfish Boil (Lafayette)
- 21:** Crawfish Boil (Shreveport)
- 27:** Future Leaders Council Meeting (Baton Rouge)
- 28:** Crawfish Boil (New Orleans)

## APRIL

- 1:** LAGC Podcast Series – Episode 3
- 1-4:** AGC Convention (Denver)
- 2-3:** Traffic Control Training Classes (New Orleans)
- 4:** Crawfish Boil (Lake Charles)
- 8-12:** UTA OSHA Training (Baton Rouge, Shreveport)
- 11:** Crawfish Boil (Alexandria)
- 15:** Golf Tournament (Shreveport)
- 24:** Future Leaders Council – Leadership Series (Baton Rouge)
- 25:** LAGC Safety Meeting (Baton Rouge)

## MAY

- 3:** Golf Tournament (Alexandria)
- 6:** LAGC Podcast Series – Episode 4
- 14-17:** UTA OSHA Training (Shreveport)
- 15:** LAGC Statewide Report (Baton Rouge, livestreaming)
- 21-23:** Traffic Control Training Classes (Baton Rouge)
- 30:** 2019 Annual Sponsors Cocktail Social

## JUNE

- 3:** LAGC Podcast Series – Episode 5
- 18-20:** Traffic Control Training Classes (Monroe)
- 20:** LAGC Safety Meeting
- 26-30:** LAGC 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Summer Conference (Sandestin, Fla.)

## JULY

- 10-12:** Traffic Control Training Classes (New Orleans)
- 15:** LAGC Podcast Series – Episode 6
- 24:** Future Leaders Council – Leadership Series

## AUGUST

- 5:** LAGC Podcast Series – Episode 7



- 21:** LAGC Statewide Report (Baton Rouge, livestreaming)
- 22:** Cocktails With Contractors (New Orleans)
- 27-29:** Traffic Control Training Classes (Baton Rouge)
- 29:** AGC Safety Meeting

## SEPTEMBER

- 6:** Clay Shoot (Lafayette)
- 9:** LAGC Podcast Series – Episode 8
- 11:** Future Leaders Council Meeting (Baton Rouge)
- 16:** Golf Tournament (Monroe Scholarship)
- 26:** Cocktails With Contractors (Baton Rouge)

## OCTOBER

- 1-3:** Traffic Control Training Classes (New Orleans)
- 7:** LAGC Podcast Series – Episode 9
- 17:** Future Leaders Council Meeting (Baton Rouge)
- 17:** 2019 Annual Sponsors Cocktail Social
- 24:** Golf Tournament (New Orleans)
- 31:** AGC Safety Meeting

## NOVEMBER

- 4:** LAGC Podcast Series – Episode 9
- 12-14:** Traffic Control Training Classes (Baton Rouge)
- 20:** LAGC Statewide Report (Baton Rouge, livestreaming)

## DECEMBER

- 2:** LAGC Podcast Series – Episode 9
- 5:** LAGC Christmas Social
- 19:** AGC Safety Meeting



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