

ABC TODAY



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ABC Promotes Merit Shop Issues at Republican Convention

ABC Members Meet with Key Decision-Makers, Sponsor Convention Events to Promote ABC and the Merit Shop

For one week in August, Philadelphia was once again the center of the American political universe, and ABC was right in the heart of the action. George W. Bush, federal, state and local politicians and the national media were on hand for the 2000 Republican National Convention. ABC members and staff were there in force, promoting ABC's merit shop philosophy to decisionmakers attending this meeting.

ABC was one of two sponsors of a skybox honoring Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) and helped sponsor a number of events attended by key lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

At a number of events, ABC members and lobbyists promoted the key tenets of ABC's legislative agenda, including the association's

opposition to union-only project labor agreements.

Several ABC members had the opportunity to meet with key lawmakers, including Mark Miller, of Miller, Miller & McLachlan Construction, Inc., who spoke with Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.).

Among the other ABCers attending were Bonnie Musser, wife of ABC President W. Thomas Musser; Musser's son and daughter, and PAC Committee Chairman Scott Ziegler, who met with numerous political leaders.

ABC did its part to support Bush, whom the association officially endorsed in May. "Gov. Bush has a strong record of support for ABC's merit shop philosophy of open competition and free enterprise," said ABC

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George W. Bush's vice presidential choice Dick Cheney, pictured with his wife, Lynn, receives a warm response from Republican convention attendees.

President Vows to Veto Death Tax Repeal Bill

President Clinton has threatened to veto a bill to repeal the death tax that was approved by the Senate last month. Congressional leaders plan to formally send the bill to President Clinton in late August or early September.

The bill received the support of ABC and similar pro-business organizations, which worked vigorously to ensure its passage. The Senate approved the bipartisan pro-small business legislation 59 to 39 in July. The House passed an identical measure in June, 279-136.

"The key issue here is right and wrong," said Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Texas), a staunch supporter of the legislation, as quoted in the *Washington Post*.

Despite Clinton's veto threat, the bill's supporters are continuing to wage a public relations battle in support of the bill and could be gaining support among American taxpayers, according to the *Washington Post*.

However, unlike in the House, the Senate does not have the necessary two-thirds majority to override a presidential veto.

"Once again, President Clinton is standing in the way of common-sense reform that would benefit the small businesses that are the foundation of our free enterprise system. ABC has long believed that the American family business should be preserved. Death taxes not only jeopardize the survival of family-owned construction companies, they also divert funds to estate planning costs that could be invested in the business and its employees."

Musser added, "President Clinton's veto threat underscores the need for a new mindset in the White House."

ABC Denounces New BCTD Chief's Threats Against the Merit Shop

ABC President W. Thomas Musser said ABC will not be intimidated by threats from new AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department President Edward Sullivan to "take [ABC] on and take them out."

ABC sharply criticized Sullivan for making antagonistic remarks at the BCTD's annual convention in Chicago this summer essentially encouraging BCTD members to view ABC and merit shop contractors as "the enemy."

In a statement released to the news media, Musser said, "Sullivan's not-so-subtle threat is yet another attempt by organized labor to attack ABC when the BCTD has only itself to blame for its dwindling influence and market share in the construction industry. It is no surprise that union members represent less than 20 percent of the construction workforce when the AFL-CIO continues to

adhere to inefficient and outdated philosophies and work methods."

The BCTD also passed a resolution to push for the enactment of a union-only project labor agreement on the renovation of the Wilson Bridge outside of Washington, D.C.

Musser said, "The BCTD's defense of union-only project labor agreements typifies its non-competitive mentality. It is disappointing that Sullivan would resort to threats against the merit shop when the BCTD ought to focus on making union contractors more competitive in today's free market. Sullivan should also ask himself

why such an overwhelming majority of the construction workforce has chosen to work for merit shop contractors."

New environmental justice guidelines have been issued. Contact Jacqueline Lescott for more information, (703) 812-2036, lescott@abc.org.

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ABC Chastises EPA for Two Decisions That Disregard Congressional Wishes

ABC lambasted the Environmental Protection Agency for two decisions it believes deliberately circumvent the will of Congress.

ABC said it opposed an EPA decision to fast-track the promulgation of a highly controversial water regulation as well as EPA's proposed "settlement" with the building trades requiring Davis-Bacon rates to be paid on waste water treatment facilities funded by the Clean Water Act, a requirement which ended for projects Oct. 1, 1995.

TMDL Rulemaking Is Abuse of Power'

The military construction spending bill recently approved by both chambers of Congress included a provision that prohibited the development of new "Total Maximum Daily Load" wa-

ter regulations. ABC has expressed concerns that the rule would significantly increase the costs of development and redevelopment in affected areas and would inequitably transfer authority from the states to EPA.

"Congress rightfully recognized that the TMDL rule would have enormous ramifications on all segments of the economy and sought to delay its release to allow time for further scientific review," said ABC President W. Thomas Musser. "EPA's release of the TMDL rule July 11, in the waning days of the Clinton administration, is a blatant back-door attempt to circumvent the will of Congress," he said.

ABC Denounces Settlement

The settlement was proposed to resolve a complaint filed by the AFL-CIO's Building and Construction Trades Department that arose after

EPA decided that the Clean Water Act did not require the payment of prevailing wages on waste-water treatment facilities beyond fiscal year 1994. At that time, EPA said Section 602(b)(6) of the Clean Water Act limited the prevailing wage requirement to projects "constructed in whole or in part before fiscal year 1995."

"The settlement represents an unprecedented expansion of the Davis-Bacon Act into an area in which Congress has said it should not apply," Musser said. "The language in the Clean Water Act is clear. EPA should not succumb to pressure from organized labor to impose a costly and burdensome requirement when it does not have the statutory authority to do so."

For more information, contact Jacqueline Lescott, (703) 812-2036 or lescott@abc.org.

ABC Maintains Strong Presence At Republican Convention

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President Musser in a statement released to the news media. "As president of the United States, Bush will bring back to the White House an appreciation of the value of America's small businesses and their employees."

ABC also supports Bush's running mate Dick Cheney, the former secretary of defense who for the past five years served as chief executive officer of Halliburton Co., Dallas, the parent company of ABC member-firm Kellogg Brown & Root.

Before he became defense secretary, Cheney



ABC PAC Chairman Scott Ziegler, of Ray A. Shaffer, Inc., left, with House Speaker Dennis Hastert.

served 10 years in the U.S. House of Representatives,

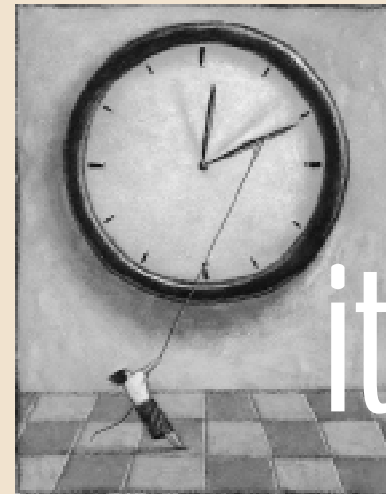
where he had an 83 percent voting record with ABC.

"Cheney is a long-time friend of ABC, and we look forward to working with a White House that is much more amenable to the concerns of ABC," Musser said.

ABC met with the GOP platform committee prior to the convention, and several planks of the Republican National Platform adopted at the convention correspond to ABC's positions on the issues.

Some of the platform planks ABC supports include: capping the top marginal tax rate; ending the death tax; cutting through red tape; legal and product liability reform; 100 percent deductibility of health insurance

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Putting it Briefly

House Approves Measure To Block Enforcement Of Blacklisting Regs

The House last month approved a measure that would delay enforcement of the Clinton administration's proposed "blacklisting" regulations. The regulations would not be implemented until a General Accounting Office study examining how often government contracts are awarded to companies that are considered "bad actors" would be completed.

The measure was attached to the fiscal 2001 Treasury, Postal Service & General Government spending bill.

ABC has been vocal in its opposition to the proposed regulations and played a role in the Clinton administration's decision to revise its original proposal. However, the changes do little to mitigate the essential problem with the proposal: The regulations would impose drastic new penalties on contractors accused of violating a variety of different laws unrelated to their ability to perform on government contracts, opening them up to possible threats and coercion by labor unions and other special interests.

ABC Executive Director Wins State Primary

Congratulations to ABC West Tennessee Chapter Executive Director Paul Stanley, who won the Republican primary election for the Tennessee State House District 96. He received 73 percent of the vote.

Stanley defeated an 18-year incumbent and will now face a Democrat considered by political insiders to be a long shot in the November general election.

Stanley says, "I thought that winning a seat would be a great way to ensure that the merit shop voice is heard in the legislature."

He said he plans to focus largely on fiscal issues: "We'd like a seat at the table to help design a state fiscal structure that is fair to everybody, especially the construction industry," and that he will work to advance pro-merit shop legislation.

Workers Spend Long Hours in Summer Heat

During the dog days of summer, many contractors find it necessary to educate their employees about how to beat the heat. That guidance may prove necessary, based on results from a new FMI survey.

The survey showed that approximately 68 percent of workers spend more than six hours per day in the sun.

Nearly 50 percent of the contractors responding to the survey said they hold safety talks about the sun's harmful effects. However, 21 percent said they don't offer any training related to sun protection.

The survey was published in *Job-Site Supervisor*, an FMI newsletter focusing on safety issues. To order a copy, call FMI at (800) 877-1364 or visit www.fminet.com.

ABC Chapters Partner With Local OSHA Offices

ABC chapters continue to sign agreements with local OSHA offices modeled after the association's national agreement.

To date, chapters that have signed agreements are:

- Ohio Valley
- Wisconsin
- Eastern Oklahoma
- Pelican
- New Orleans/Bayou
- Kentuckiana
- Hawaii
- Western Pennsylvania
- Northern New Jersey
- New Jersey
- West Virginia

Many more have agreements in the works. For more information, contact Ralph Riley, (703) 812-2024 or riley@abc.org.

CEF Announces Recipients Of Construction Scholarships

ABC's Construction Education Foundation has announced the recipients of \$20,000 in scholarships to two and four-year construction degree programs for the 2000-2001 school year.

The CEF conducts an annual nationwide scholarship competition as a way to encourage young people to pursue careers in construction. Since its inception in 1971, the CEF has awarded more than \$200,000 in scholarships.

This year, the CEF created two new presidential scholarships honoring former ABC presidents David Bush and Pat Alibrandi.

Approximately 50 students applied for scholarships this year, a significant increase over the 35 that applied last year.

A list of the recipients is listed below.

- Long Memorial—Starla Dunn, Washington State University
- Bill Gentry Presidential—Jennifer McAlister, University of Florida
- Mike Perkins Presidential—Michael F. Willey, Bradley University
- Jean Hails Presidential—Matthew J. Willey, Bradley University
- John Smith Presidential—Matthew Pruss, University of Nebraska at Lincoln
- Gary Hess Presidential—Jeremy Snyder, Auburn University
- Ben Houston Presidential—Brian Kriss, Texas A&M University
- Steve Westra Presidential—Tina Serafin, Minnesota State University at Mankato
- Leo Anhalt Presidential—John Cleveland, IV, Bowling Green State University
- Joe Ivey Presidential—Brandon Sandberg, Bismarck State College
- Gary Vos Presidential—Jeremy Careau, Wentworth Institute of Technology
- Johnny Jones Presidential—James Ivory, Brigham Young University
- Bob Turner Presidential—Lynelle Gremban, University of Cincinnati
- John Jennings Presidential—Chad Kruse, University of Nebraska at Lincoln
- Pat Alibrandi Presidential—Todd W. Makela, Oregon State University
- John Chapin Presidential—Jeffrey Garner, University of Oklahoma
- David Bush Presidential—Chris Brooks, Arizona State University
- Rocky Mountain Fund—Dallas Ley, Aims Community College
- Amos D. Bridge Endowment Fund—Joseph Hinton, Vermont Technical College
- Thomas P. Harkins Fund—unclaimed
- Westra Endowment Fund—unclaimed
- Joe LaMonica Fund—unclaimed

ABC Highly Visible At Republican Convention

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premiums; allowing small businesses to band together across state lines to purchase insurance through association health plans; and ending OSHA's ergonomics regulations.

The platform also recognizes the role of small businesses and specifically calls on the government to replace "antiquated laws that restrict opportunities, increase costs, and inhibit innovation."

ABC Partners with Junior Achievement

ABC continues to forge relationships with organizations that seek to educate our nation's youth about free enterprise and the working world.

In July, ABC signed a partnering agreement with Junior Achievement that seeks to increase students' understanding of business and the free enterprise system.

The agreement encourages ABC members to visit their local middle school classrooms to explain—using the Junior Achievement curricu-

lum—what the free enterprise system is all about.

In exchange for structured volunteer training, curriculum materials and access to the classroom, ABC will encourage members to volunteer for Junior Achievement within their chapter areas.

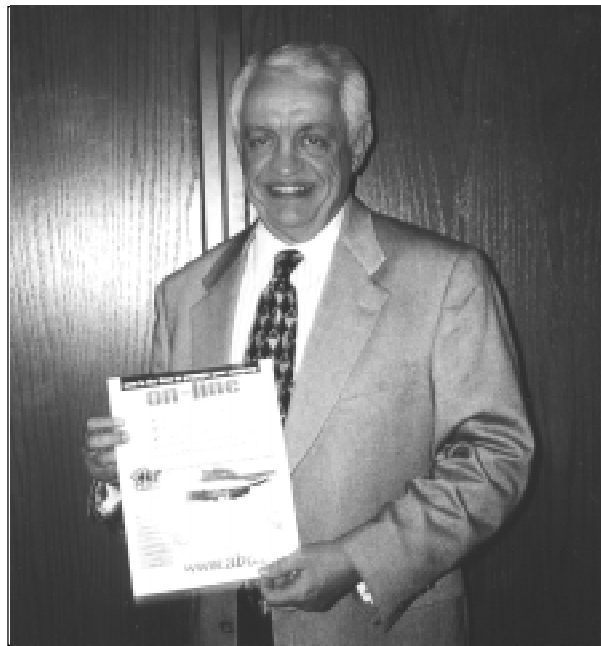
Currently, ABC has dozens of members that participate in Junior Achievement

independently.

Each organization will promote the other in national publications, national meetings and websites.

ABC will announce six national demonstration sites for a September kickoff. Look for more information in upcoming issues of *ABC Today*.

To volunteer, contact your chapter, or contact Fred Day at (703) 812-2003, day@abc.org.



You Can Now Advertise Your Company in ABC's Online Directory

You can now advertise in ABC's online directory.

ABC President Musser, pictured, was one of the first ABC members to advertise in the directory, which includes a 50-75 word corporate profile.

The profiles include links to your webpage and a description of your company. The profile remains on ABC's website for 12 months.

For rates, call Bob Kruhm at (800) 578-3216,

Lasso a New Member



for your chance to win

a Jeep Wrangler



For each new member you sponsor from July 1 until Dec. 31, your name will be entered into a prize drawing. If your name is drawn at the National convention in March 2001, you will be the owner of a brand new Jeep Wrangler. Contact your ABC chapter for further details or email joinabc@abc.org.

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