



The Alaska

Fall 2013

# Contractor

Publication of the Associated General Contractors of Alaska

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## SLOPE TOUGH

Custom-tailored pipe stands up to Alaska's brutal oil fields

Page 64

## THE FUTURE FLEET

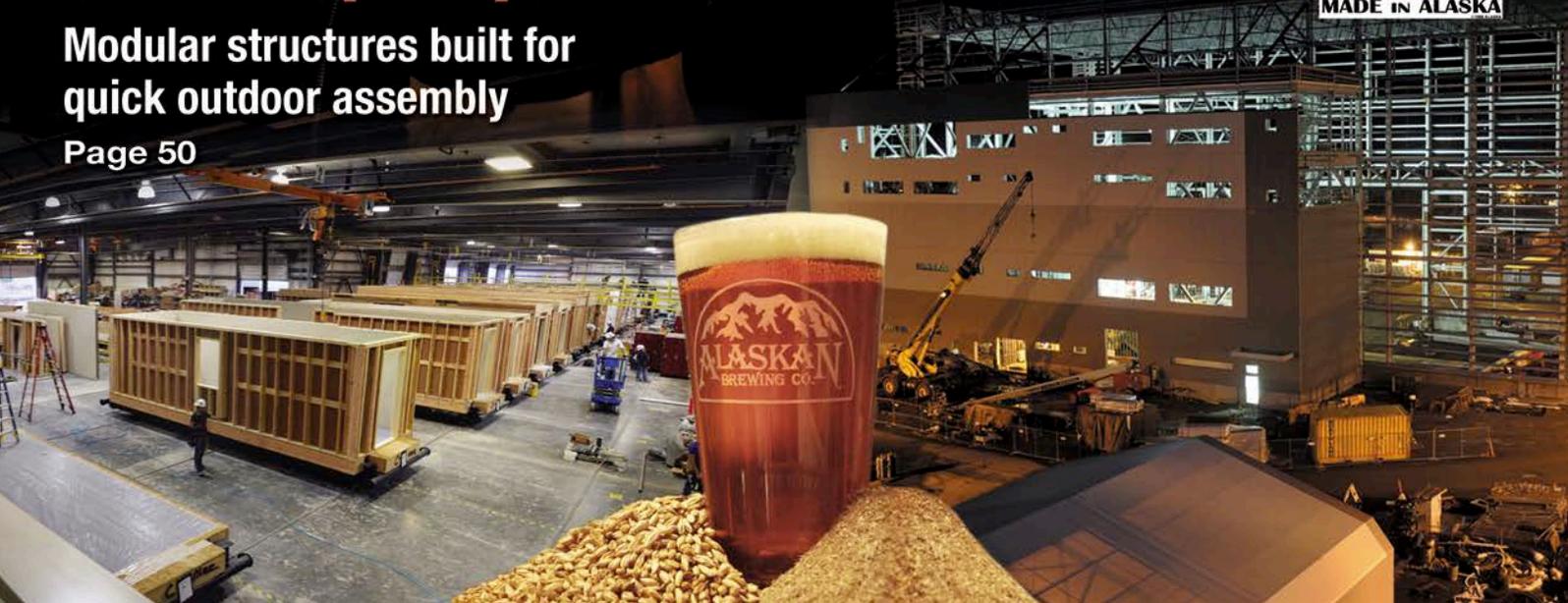
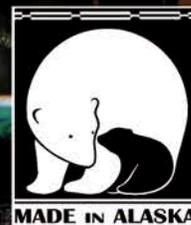
Vessels in demand now  
'Made in Alaska'

Page 36

## MADE IN(SIDE) ALASKA

Modular structures built for quick outdoor assembly

Page 50





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



C. JOHN ENG  
President

# Your time, talents and gifts are your legacy

When Sam R. Brice was our AGC of Alaska chapter president, a portion of the president's message for The Alaska Contractor was devoted to encouraging AGC members and others to consider helping groups that improve the lives of Alaskans. I will make the same plea to AGC members and other readers of this magazine to take action and donate time, talents and money to charities.

If you or your company has a telephone listing, you will receive many calls asking for help with volunteers or donations. My message does not focus solely on needs of charities but a combination of benefits for you or your firm.

Some time ago, I watched a show on public television about the Rockefeller family. When Laurance Rockefeller was featured, the interviewer commented that Laurance must have the easiest job of all the family members since he was in charge of the Rockefeller Foundation and had a "fun job" of giving away money. Laurance Rockefeller corrected the interviewer by pointing out that donating money can result in "doing more harm than good." He went on to say funding in a responsible manner takes time and thorough investigation to actually help advance charities in worthwhile missions. Being a responsible donor is something I personally consider, and it is also a big factor we consider when our firm makes donations. AGC helps charitable groups, and being a responsible donor is important in helping them.

When our firm was founded, development of a charitable donation policy was not high on our list of priorities. But as we achieved some degree of success, we were asked to donate to a variety of causes, and we found it helpful to have a charitable giving policy. A rough outline of items one could consider is as follows:

**Overview:** Start with an overview of what approach to consider in charitable donations.

**Oversight responsibility:** Decide who is responsible for overseeing your firm's charitable donations and how oversight of that person or committee should work effectively.

**Criteria:** Determine what types of charities and causes you will support.

**Exclusions:** If certain causes or types of requests will not be supported by your firm, list these exclusions.

**Focus:** If your firm wishes to emphasize one or more areas as a target for donations, include this.

**Request procedure:** It is helpful to describe how an

eligible charity should make a request when financial help is needed.

**Matching:** Do you want to offer employees an opportunity to make gifts to charities that your firm supports? If so, you could consider the conditions you will use to offer financial matches based upon employee gifts.

Additional considerations that have been helpful to our firm:

- We donate to organizations with missions that we agree with. In such situations, "money follows the mission." These have included promoting education, health and humanitarian causes. Sometimes we receive suggestions from our customers regarding charitable causes that they support. Our donation can support a customer's favorite charitable cause plus build good will with our customers.

- We make donations that involve enjoyable events. These include the Alaska Heart Run, golf tournaments, beverage tastings, charity dinners, etc.

- Sometimes our donations involve both work and money. If this appeals to you, you may want to consider asking for help from union training centers. If apprentices volunteer to work on a construction project while enrolled as an apprentice, their donated hours accumulate toward their required training work hours. Training center coordinators have participated, and some have become so enthused about the worthiness of a project that they come back during weekends to participate.

- Encouragement is extremely powerful. Think of something that you would have not attempted unless you were encouraged by a parent, relative, teacher, neighbor or friend. As a result, your life became more successful and enriched.

- Monitor the success of donated time and money. If you believe the donation was a mistake as a result of what you learned through your monitoring efforts, admit the mistake early and use the information to make better donation decisions in the future.

It is gratifying to be part of a successful group of companies that are members of AGC. When I see competitors listed as participants of CanStruction for the Food Bank of Alaska, donations to service clubs, Alaska Native events, scholarships, First Book for teaching children to read, health fairs and many other charities, I feel proud of our industry. Some of you are aware of Operation

*Continued on page 12*



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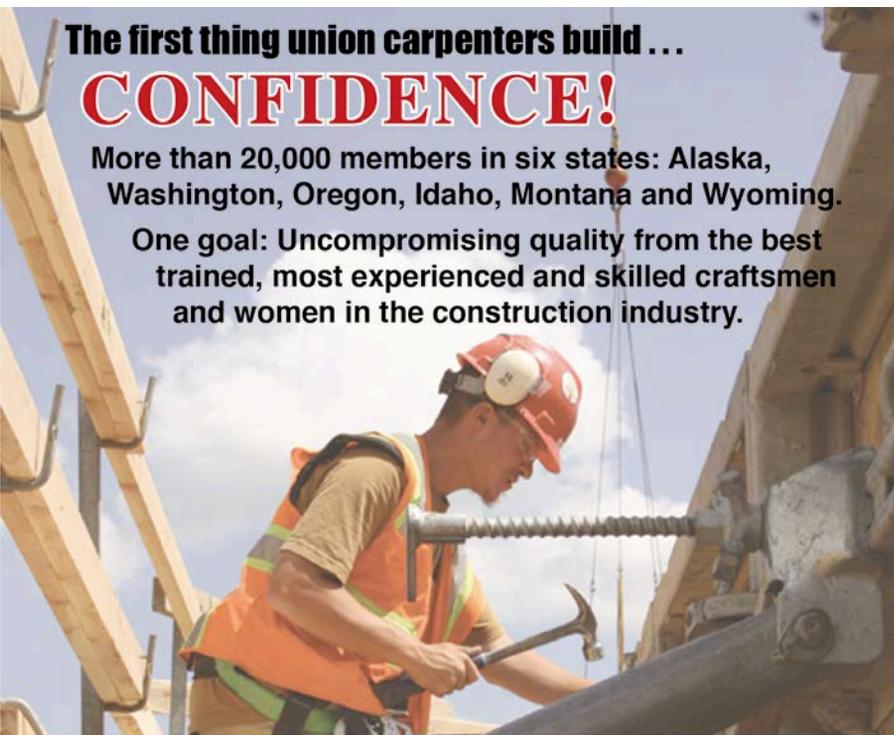
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*Continued from page 10*

Opening Doors, which helps provide home modification when an active duty soldier from Alaska becomes disabled. Neeser Construction, Roger Hickel Contracting, Wolverine Supply, GHEMM Co. and G B C Inc. have worked as project leaders. As current projects for this group are being performed for veterans living in Chugiak and Wasilla, more than 30 companies have volunteered time, materials, equipment and money to improve the lives of veterans. These donations will enrich lives for many years, and all who give to such causes are commended. Such donations are not only a result of enthusiastic businesses engaged in the construction industry but have resulted in contagious enthusiasm by the AGC staff and neighbors of beneficiaries who are kind-hearted. Such accomplishments are motivation in themselves.

I encourage each of you who read this message to develop your own charitable giving policies. The next step includes sharing your business success with people whose lives will be improved. Our life as individuals is limited. I think one of the best legacies each of us could leave would be a long list of people saying, "I am glad they shared something with me. Life was changed and is much better as a result of their actions." If people say such things about you or me, our lives will have been a success. People and charities that we can help will survive whether you or I help as individuals or do not help. But I believe that our lives will be richer if we share our blessings with those who can benefit from our time, talent and gifts. That is our legacy.

This is the fourth and final president's message I will provide. This final article has been the most difficult for me to write. Sometimes causes that are important to me are like family members. With interaction over a long period of time, they dig themselves so deep into my heart that communication about them becomes difficult.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your chapter president. I hope your lives are better because of me and the AGC board of directors and the AGC staff. 🎩