

## Bruce Tibbetts - 2019 Chairman's Remarks

I am honored to follow Robert Lee as your 2019 State Chairman. Robert is the epitome of a Southern Gentleman and I have enjoyed serving as his wingman whether we have been bending elbows on the legislative front or simply toasting others for a job well done!

33 years ago, my wife, Charlene and I attended our first AGC Va. Convention. Little did we know that my journey in the construction industry would lead me to stand before you today as the first subcontractor to serve as AGCVA Chairman.

Serving as a State officer over the last two years has been an eye-opening experience to say the least. Exposure to the National AGC by attending the National Leadership training in DC has revealed how much of a VOICE the AGC actually has regarding national policies and politics. I encourage you to get someone in your firm more involved.

AGCVA has always been active on the state and local front but under the leadership of my immediate predecessors along with our CEO, Gordon Dixon, and a committed staff, we have made great strides to reach outside of the AGC walls to become a stronger VOICE for the construction industry across the state.

The new 2018 ACE meetings and the Building Virginia Partnership joint venture with ABC are just two examples. If you have not checked out the Build Your Future website which was designed to help fuel the Work Force Development effort, please do so and help spread the word that "construction is not the career of last resort" but rather an unlimited opportunity for personal growth and success!

Our strength is our members within each District. We hold over 80 networking, trainings and giving back to the community events each year. As an AGCVA member, you can and should participate in any of these events.

As an industry we face many challenges but probably none greater than the "war on talent" where donating dollars alone to this effort will not be the answer. The Construction Industry is truly unique in that we are one of the few if not the only industry that repeatedly brings new and diverse groups / teams of people together to build a turnkey structure that has to be done "on time" and "on budget" to be considered a success.

As your 2019 Chairman, I look forward to working with and for each of you to explore new strategies to showcase the skill integrity, and responsibility for building the very best facilities for both public and private sectors across the State of Virginia. In 2017 Chairman, Ed Bowman, often said the "the best is yet to come" and this past year Chairman, Robert Lee, said the "the best is yet to come through giving".

So, in closing I leave you with this thought; "Team up, we are better together".

Thank you,

Bruce Tibbetts – AGCVA Chairman  
EMC Mechanical Services