

I would like to start by again thanking Bruce for his leadership this past year. Unfortunate for me but very fortunate for the organization Bruce is truly a “raise the bar” kind of guy. The energy, the organization and the amount of thought he has brought to the chairman’s role over the past year has been amazing. So Bruce – THANK YOU!

I also want to thank each of you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Chairman. It truly is a privilege that I am grateful for! I pledge to do my best in maintaining the high bar that Bruce has set.

A couple of years ago, while he was Chairman, we continuously heard Robert state that the Organization was shifting to a more forward-thinking approach. From reactive to proactive. This was cemented through the ongoing strategic planning effort which Robert began with a goal of providing and validating further member value and positioning the AGC as “the Voice” of the construction industry in Virginia. A few minutes ago, we heard Bruce highlight the many successes the organization experienced over the last year. As Bruce mentioned, these successes are a direct result of our nearly 600 member companies working together as a team. It is obvious that, today, working together as a team, the AGC IS a more proactive organization, a more diverse organization and we are THE voice of Virginia’s Construction Industry! Together as a team we are building the future of our industry.

I saw many of you in today's legislative update meeting. And for those that were unable to attend, I'm confident you are well aware of the current situation in Richmond. Since the beginning of the legislative session two weeks ago, the AGC legislative committee has reviewed over one-hundred-twenty (120) bills that have been introduced which could affect the construction industry. One-hundred-twenty (120) is a scary number of bills, particularly when the committee must review, comment and provide a stance on each of them. But what is really scary is that by and large many of these bills represent an aggressively unfriendly position to our industry. Many of these bills represent major changes to the way we currently do business in Virginia. Whether the issue is the Statute of Limitations, Right to Work or Project Labor agreements I'm confident we all share the same stance. More than ever we, as member companies, need to stand together. Throughout this past year, we had almost four thousand (4,000) attendees at AGC events throughout the state. Think about that...thousands of individuals. Think about where we would be if we could get just a fraction of that same turnout to visit with our local legislators or simply make a phone call when we need Richmond to hear us most. Together, we can TAKE ACTION NOW to amplify AGC's already strong voice in Richmond.

So before we dismiss this evening, I am going to issue a challenge to each of you – after you leave here this weekend give one of the AGC staff a call or shoot them a message asking how you can get further involved. The next time you see a Call to Action email from Gordon, make sure the legislature hears our collective voice. The next time Courtney is searching for a volunteer to further our workforce development initiatives, raise your hand. Together we can **TAKE ACTION NOW** to build our industry for future generations!

I look forward to seeing each of you in the upcoming year and I hope you remember my challenge – when you have the opportunity TAKE ACTION!