

YCL Conference Wrap Up

The inaugural AGCVA Young Construction Leaders Conference began on Friday, September 20, 2019 at The Omni Homestead. Gordon Dixon, AGCVA CEO welcomed the attendees, followed by the groups self-introductions including an acknowledgement of their favorite childhood toy. The childhood favorite toys of this group ranged from legos, to riding a bike, to fishing, to playing outside, and electronic gaming!

Missy Gupton, AGCVA Staff, provided a brief overview of AGCVA and Build Your Future Virginia, our workforce initiative with other related associations. The attendees were most inquisitive about our workforce solutions initiatives and efforts, recognizing the need to reduce and eliminate the stigma of being employed in the trades, engaging the school counselors as well as parents in this endeavor. This group believes providing job site tours and career pathways are excellent means of not only telling, but showing the public, the actuality of the opportunities of a construction career. Additionally, the young construction leaders understand the importance of their involvement in our workforce efforts.

Nick Serfass, Exec Director of the Richmond Technology Council, a business association that promotes the regions technology economy presented, Cultivating More Human Humans. Nick provided details of the value of human qualities in work, such as thinking, listening, relating, and collaborating along with the human need to rise to the highest levels. Further, Nick discussed the research of the human and how it is related to the organizational psychology, how it can be effectively applied in day-to-day operations, and how it can be applied in one-on-one tactics, thus providing a confident understanding of how to navigate the human mystery of the human.

Friday's events ended with a cocktail reception in the Tower Suite of The Omni Homestead, allowing the group to relax and network with young construction leaders from all of the AGCVA's districts.

A tidbit of AGCVA trivia! Did you know AGCVA changed the title of the leader of the board of directors from AGCVA President to AGCVA Chairman, with the installation of the 2005 leader? Chandler Swope of Swope Construction and currently WV State Senator, was the last AGCVA President, ending his term from 2004. The work and responsibilities of the President/Chairman changed with the title change as well.

The group reconvened on Saturday, September 21, 2019 with a panel discussion comprised of past AGCVA Presidents and Chairmen. Gordon Dixon, AGCVA CEO moderated the discussion with Senator Chandler Swope, WV, Swope Construction (2004), Carl Harman, Harman Construction (1999), and Kevin Willis, MCAP Advisors LLC (2014). The focus of the discussion provided the panelist the opportunity to offer insight to the young construction leaders, regarding life lessons they learned during their careers, balancing their work and life, as well as dealing with their greatest accomplishments and their biggest mistakes. The panelist and the conference attendees were inspired by one another as there wasn't a "young construction leaders" in the midst when these past presidents and chairmen were serving.

The conference concluded with a legislative update and forecast of the construction industry's future, from Gordon Dixon.

A tremendous thank you to our panelist for taking the time to give back to this group, to the AGCVA member companies who have seen the value of our young construction aders program and for supporting this conference, to the attendees of the conference, our guest speaker Nick Serfass, and our districts for their sponsorship of the conference.