Associated Builders and Contractors is a national construction industry trade association representing more than 21,000 members. Founded on the merit shop philosophy, ABC and its 69 chapters help members develop people, win work and deliver that work safely, ethically and profitably for the betterment of the communities in which ABC and its members work. ABC’s membership represents all specialties within the U.S. construction industry and is comprised primarily of firms that perform work in the industrial and commercial sectors. ABC member firms spend $1.5 billion on workforce development and provide craft, leadership and safety education to more than 1.1 million course attendees annually.

ABC Events offer members and chapter staff the opportunity to access education, network with peers and celebrate the best in merit shop construction.

Annual Events For Members and Chapters

Held in March, the ABC Convention is the event of the year for merit shop construction, featuring networking events and thought leader sessions for members. The ABC Convention is home to the National Craft Championships, Construction Management Competition and the presentation of the Construction Workforce, Association Excellence and Excellence in Construction® Awards. The first of three national board meetings and national committee meetings takes place prior to the opening session of the convention. Convention registration opens in October of the year prior to the event.
The exclusive ABC Users Summit brings together construction users and merit shop contractors for discussions about how to collaboratively improve the planning and delivery of high-quality industrial, health care and multisite construction projects. Attendance at the summit is limited to project owners, who receive complimentary registration, and ABC contractor members. There are a limited number of sponsorships available for contractors, associate and supplier members. The Users Summit is held annually in May in Dallas.

Held in June in Washington, D.C., Legislative Day offers the opportunity for members to learn about issues affecting merit shop construction and advocate for pro-merit shop policies during visits with members of Congress and government officials. The second of three national board meetings and national committee meetings also takes place prior to the Legislative Day program.

The Legal Conference provides the latest information on labor and employment law and its impact on merit shop contractors, with content presented by ABC leaders, legal and regulatory experts, and government officials.

Held in conjunction with Legislative Day in Washington, D.C., the Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Summit brings industry leaders and key stakeholders together to spark thought-provoking discussion—and action—on creating and sustaining the construction worker pipeline through workforce and supplier diversity, as well as focusing on the business case for IDE.
Held in November, ABC Leadership Institute offers chapter board volunteer leaders and C-suite executives from ABC member companies the opportunity to hone their leadership skills, develop business acumen and share operational tactics to help achieve ABC’s strategic goals and improve company performance. Day One, the Executive Leadership Forum, offers general content for all ABC member and chapter leaders. Day Two is specifically focused on chapter leadership and includes content focused on governance, best practices and topics to develop effective volunteer leaders—all in a collaborative, solutions-orientation environment. Leadership Institute also features year round content and opportunities to connect and collaborate. The final national board meeting of the year and national committee meetings also take place prior to the Institute programming.

ABC’s Project Management Institute is the premier education and professional development opportunity for future project management leaders. Developed by experienced contractors and Kirk Alter, a nationally recognized subject matter expert, this course is designed to meet the needs of today’s contractors and help participants successfully handle all aspects of project management.

Exclusively For Chapter Staff

Newly created in May 2021, this professional development conference is designed exclusively for chapter staff at all level. The format includes general and concurrent sessions designed for marketing, membership, education and operations professionals, as well as peer-to-peer and networking sessions to promote best practices and sharing.

This peer-to-peer conference held each summer, is designed to help chapter presidents enhance their association management skills, share effective best practices and network with peers.