



SITE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION HONORS ONE OF ITS MEMBERS

SITE Improvement Association, for only the tenth time in its 54-year history, has awarded one of its members with its highest recognition, the President's Award. Joe Leritz, President of Leritz Contracting and CEO of Busy Bee Paving, received the President's Award for his years of service to the organization.

"Joe Leritz has given his time and talents to the association," said SITE Executive Director Terry Briggs. "This award is just a small token of the membership's appreciation of his service in helping the association grow and serve the construction industry in eastern Missouri."

SITE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Terry's Tidbits - P. 3

Legislative Report - P. 4

**New Officers & Board
Members - P. 6**

**2020 Investment in
Infrastructure Expo - P. 7**

Labor Report - P. 10



The announcement of the award, at SITE's January general membership meeting, seemed to catch Leritz by surprise -- a rarity. "We didn't tell him beforehand that he was getting the award," said Briggs. "His family, wife Mary Beth, son Joseph and daughter Caroline were all informed about it and came into the room as the award was being announced. It was pretty neat having everyone there to share in the moment."

The award is given to a SITE member who has provided outstanding guidance, foresight, time and leadership contributions that have assisted SITE Improvement Association in reaching and maintaining its role within the construction industry.

As past president, it was Jennifer

Bouquet's decision to recognize Leritz with the award. "Joe has and continues to make great contributions to the Board and the Association. He is never shy about speaking his mind and providing a sometimes-opposing viewpoint on issues which are important for the Board to hear and understand before making a decision."

Leritz Contracting joined SITE in 1984. Leritz himself has served on the SITE Board of Directors for 33 years, serving as president of the association for three years. Additionally, Leritz has represented the association on various labor union committees with whom SITE contractors have contracts and on association committees.

Congratulations, Joe, on a well-deserved recognition.

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”



TERRY'S TIDBITS

BY TERRY BRIGGS

Congratulations to Joe Leritz upon receiving the SITE President's Award recently. Joe has been a long-time member of the association as well as a Board member, Board president, committee chairman -- the list goes on and on. The award is just a small token of the thanks this organization owes Joe for all the time and expertise he has shared with us.

It was especially nice to see his family, wife Mary Beth, son Joseph and daughter Caroline, share in the moment with him along with his long-time office manager, Joann Martorelli. The award, given at the January 8 membership meeting, caught Leritz completely by surprise.

Leritz becomes only the tenth recipient of the award in the history of the association. On hand for the event were three past President Award recipients: Mark Bussen, Bussen Quarries, Inc. (2009); Joe Hoette, Hoette Concrete Construction Co. (2012); and Mike Jerome, Bi-State Utilities (2013).

This year's Missouri legislative session has begun, as noted in the article by Chris Davis. Chris will be our point person in Jefferson City again this year, helping to shepherd through bills that we support while working to defeat legislation harmful to the construction industry.

With 2020 being an election year, in which nearly all the statewide office holders, half the state senate and all house members face reelection, the prospects of getting controversial legislation approved are slim (i.e. another vote to increase transportation funding).

As noted by Chris in his legislative article, SITE, along with others, is advocating that state lawmakers approve a bill to fine underground facility owners (utilities) for failure to properly or timely locate their systems before excavation begins. I have heard numerous accounts from contractors who have waited days, sometimes weeks before a location for excavation is marked for utilities and just as many incidents where the markings were incorrect.

First and foremost, this is a safety issue for the public. Individuals can be and are injured when underground facilities are struck. Second, improper or no markings for underground structures has a cost to the contractor and the owner of the project. When a construction crew has to wait on a locate or the equipment sits idle at a job site, that costs the contractor money in down time for his/her crew and equipment. The owner may have the project delayed because of the failure to locate. Our thanks to Representative Aaron Griesheimer for sponsoring the bill.

We will also be watching Congress this year. The five-year highway funding bill expires in September, and representatives and senators will need to approve either a new plan or a continuation of the existing legislation to avoid a shutdown of federal highway funding coming to the state.

One Missouri Congressman should play a key role in this process. Rep. Todd Graves, from the sixth district stretching across the northern half of Missouri, is the ranking Republican on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and is now ready to get back to building or repairing things.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

BY CHRIS DAVIS

2020 MISSOURI LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS

The 2020 Missouri Legislative Session began on January 6 and got off to a blistering fast start. The very next week, Governor Parson took the spotlight (a week earlier than customary) to deliver his State of the State address. He enthusiastically declared the State of Missouri as strong and used the opportunity to laude the success of his first full year as Governor. He specifically referenced accom-



plishments in workforce, economic development and infrastructure, including the expansion of the Wentzville GM plant, Bunge relocation, I-270 reconstruction, and the planned reconstruction of the I-70 Rocheport Bridge.

Governor Parson used the speech to introduce a Cash Operating Expense Fund, more commonly known as a “rainy day fund.” Governor Parson committed an immediate infusion of \$100 million into the fund. The fund would then receive any and all general funds generated from implementation of online sales tax (approximately \$80 million annually). Upon obtaining a balance equivalent to 2.5% of the State General Funds receipts (approximately



\$250 million), any excess funds or any interest or investment income derived from the Fund would be dedicated to two sources:

- 1) A local cost share transportation infrastructure program; or
- 2) Payment on bonds and other state debt.

Eventually, as the fund grows, transportation funding would benefit.

In addition, Governor Parson committed another \$50 million toward a local cost-share transportation infrastructure program. Last year, Parson and the General Assembly committed \$50 million to a local cost-share program that funded 19 transportation projects and \$120 million in investment.

By the end of January, the Missouri Senate experienced the first filibuster of the year, as Republicans expedited a showdown with Democrats over CLEANER Missouri, an effort to change many of the reforms approved by Missouri Voters in CLEAN Missouri, including campaign finance limits, lobbyist gifts, and redistricting. The eight Senate Democrats held firm, and shut the Senate down til 3:00 a.m. on January 29. It was the first test of wills this year, one of many to come.

As reported in December's newsletter, SITE has introduced HB 1970, sponsored by Representative Aaron Griesheimer (R-Washington). This legislation would fine and penalize underground utility owners for failure to timely and accurately locate and mark underground facilities when requested. Currently, if an excavation contractor notifies Missouri One-Call of intent to excavate and requests a locate, then any and all underground utility owners that own infrastructure in the designated territory have that calendar day plus 48 hours to identify and mark the location of their utility infrastructure. If underground facilities are not located, at that time, the individual intending to excavate must call and provide second notice. Then, the underground utility owner has two hours to comply, and locate

“Governor Parson committed another \$50 million toward a local cost-share transportation infrastructure program.”

the underground infrastructure. If this two-hour requirement is not met, the excavator may use care and discretion and commence excavation. However, more frequently, this causes significant delays and cost to a contractor that has crews and equipment on site, and ready to excavate.

The legislation would fine the utility not less than \$500 but not more than \$5,000 per violation, per day. However, the contractor would be obligated to document losses and damages in determining the fine amount, which would be payable to the excavator.

Since the introduction, SITE has heard from many contractors about the significance of this problem. In addition, we have heard from utilities with “concerns.”

The Senate Transportation Committee has already passed by a vote of 5-2, SB 539, sponsored by Committee Chairman Libla (R-Poplar Bluff). The legislation would increase the Motor Fuel Tax \$0.02 and index the Motor Fuel Tax to inflation, annually. SITE was one of over a dozen interested parties that testified in support of the legislation. While there are numerous bills addressing motor fuel taxes and transportation funding, there is little optimism that much progress, other than the \$50 million for local matching funds, will be made on the issue this year. Rather, industry stakeholders are gearing up for a major infrastructure program in 2021, following the 2020 election season.

NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2020

SITE Improvement Association has elected new Board members and officers for 2020. Joining the Board as new members are: Tom Kelpé, President of Kelpé Contracting, representing the sewer/utility division, and Chris O'Hagan of J.D. Kutter insurance company as an associate member.

Kelpé started working with the business, which his father started, in 1965. Except for a three-year tour of duty in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, he has worked continuously for the company for 54 years. He is a licensed drainlayer in both St. Louis City and County and has served on numerous SITE committees, including Labor and the MSD/SITE/AGC joint committee.

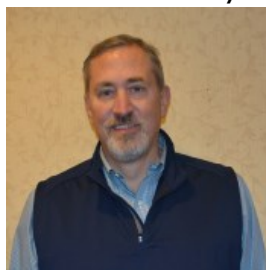
O'Hagan is a principal at JD Kutter, a longtime active SITE member. He has served on the boards of ASA and the AGC of Missouri. J.D. Kutter is a specialty insurance and bonding agent that works exclusively in the construction industry.

Current Board members reelected to a two-year term on the Board were; Mike Steiniger, Kuesel Excavating Co., representing the Earthmoving Division; Pat Moriarity, Concrete Strategies, LLC, representing the Concrete Division; Chris Gottman, Millstone Weber, LLC, representing the Highway/Bridge Division; Steve Roden, Roden's Landscaping, representing the Landscaping Division; Jaime Chier, Premier Demolition, representing the Specialty Construction Division; and Joe Leritz, Leritz Contracting, representing the Asphalt Paving Division.

All the contractor division members were also elected to the SITE Advancement Foundation (SAF) Board of Trustees. SAF helps generate funding to spur the creation of work for contractors and employees in the construction industry.



Tom Kelpé



Chris O'Hagan

NEW OFFICERS CHOSEN FOR SITE

The SITE Board of Directors has chosen a new slate of officers for 2020. Elected Association President was Mike Steiniger, President of Kuesel Excavating Company. Steiniger was first elected to the Board in 2007 and served until 2009. He was elected again to the Board in 2017 and recently reelected.

Pat Moriarity, President of Concrete Strategies, was elected as Vice President of the Association. Moriarity was first elected to the Board in 2018 and reelected to another term this year.

Chris Gottman, Senior Vice President of Operations for Millstone Weber, was elected secretary/treasurer of SITE. Gottman was elected to SITE's Board in 2018 and recently reelected.

All three officers will hold similar roles on the SITE Advancement Foundation (SAF) Board of Directors as well.



Mike Steiniger



Pat Moriarity



Chris Gottman

2020 INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE EXPO

More than \$1 billion in new infrastructure-related construction projects to be started around the St. Louis metropolitan area in 2020 will be unveiled for interested contractors and the public at the SITE Improvement Association's 2020 Investment in Infrastructure Expo on Tuesday, February 25, at the St. Charles Convention Center.

The Expo will begin at 1:30 p.m. with concurrent presentations outlining new construction work and what prospective bidders for that work need to know. The trade show and networking session will then be held from 3:45 – 6 p.m. in the exhibit hall, with refreshments available at no additional cost. Presenters include the following:

- ◇ Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
- ◇ Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD)
- ◇ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- ◇ Forest Park Forever
- ◇ County Highway Directors
- ◇ Federal Reserve Construction Economic Forecast
- ◇ Diversity Panel

Cost is \$30 per person. Visit sitestl.org to purchase tickets.



NEW LEADERSHIP IN COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENTS

Two of the county highway departments in the St. Louis metro area have new leadership. St. Louis County welcomed Deanna Venker as the new director of Transportation and Public Works beginning last December. Former SITE President and long-time contractor in the area Jim Grutsch has been on the job now for a couple of months as the Franklin County Highway Administrator.

Venker left the city of St. Louis, where she served as Commissioner of Traffic. Prior to her four years with the city, she worked 20 years for MoDOT. She has a civil engineering degree from the Missouri University of Science and Technology (formerly known as Rolla). In 2013, Venker was honored by the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers as the Government Employee of the Year.

Many SITE members remember Jim Grutsch who served as SITE's president from 1991-1993 while he was with Maplewood Construction and Grutsch Paving. Grutsch was also with N.B. West Contracting for a while before leaving to pursue other interests. Both Venker and Grutsch will be making presentations at SITE's Investment in Infrastructure Expo on road work planned to start this year.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

SITE scholarship applications for high school seniors and/or college students are now available!! Applicants must be the child or step-child of a full-time employee or officer of a SITE contractor or associate member in good standing. Such employee or officer shall be employed at the employer's facility located within the St. Louis metropolitan area. Applications for scholarships and the 2020 Eligibility Rules & Application Process have been mailed and emailed to all member companies and are available at www.sitestl.org on the front page listed under 2020 Scholarship Information. Contact Leah at (314) 966-2950 should you have any questions.



2020 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Thank you to all SITE members who have renewed their 2020 memberships. If you have not renewed your membership, please remit renewals to SITE's office. Invoices for membership dues were mailed out late December 2019. If you have any questions regarding your 2020 membership dues, please email Leah at leah@sitestl.org or call SITE's office at (314) 966-2950.

Dues and any other SITE invoices can be paid via credit card. Contact Leah to make a payment by credit card over the phone.

A strong membership means

success for our Association.

Thank you for your continued support.

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathies to the family of Anthony J. Kochanski (S&S Utility Contracting Company), who passed away in October 2019. S&S Utility Contracting Company has been a member of SITE since 1983.

CHANGES AT MSD

Many contractors have worked with Marie Collins, the MSD Assistant Director of Engineering for years. Marie will be retiring at the end of February after many years of service at the sewer district.

Taking Marie's place will be Allen Muehlher, who was recently promoted to the position of Assistant Director of Engineering – Division of Construction Management. Allen has worked at the district for more than 15 years, most recently as Program Manager within the Construction Management/Capital Construction Facilities, Tunnels & CIPP Group.

SITE wishes both members well in their new career roles.



FIRST MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE NEW YEAR

The first SITE General Membership meeting for 2020 attracted a good crowd, not only to see Joe Leritz presented with the President's Award, but also to hear from featured speaker Jason Hall. Hall is the CEO and co-founder of Arch to Park, a civic initiative established to foster collaborative projects and creative solutions to accelerate economic growth in the central city of St. Louis and the region.

Hall is an unabashed supporter of the St. Louis area and its potential for growth and economic development, despite what individuals may hear or see in the media, both mainline and social. He noted in his presentation that the statistical metropolitan St. Louis area, which includes several Illinois counties, is one of the top 20 metropolitan areas in the country in a number of categories. Hall said construction, in particular, is driving some of the new opportunities in the region.

Several SITE members after his presentation remarked how refreshing it was to hear someone say positive things about the region instead of all the negative comments.



LABOR RELATIONS

BY JEREMY BENNETT

UPCOMING CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

SITE Improvement Association has a busy spring ahead working with our Labor counterparts to negotiate new collective bargaining agreements.

On May 1, 2020, SITE's collective bargaining agreement with Operating Engineers Local 513 expires. SITE will be sending out a meeting notice for signatory contractors in February. This meeting will give contractors the chance to ask questions about the negotiating process and provide input on the terms to be discussed at the bargaining table. SITE will be encouraging its members to assign their bargaining rights to SITE so we can represent you during the negotiations.

OTHER CONTRACTS EXPIRING SOON

June 1, 2020 - Asphalt Paving Contractors Agreement with Laborers Locals 42, 110, 660 and 840. Meetings are currently taking place with the Asphalt Paving Contractors and the Eastern Missouri District Council. Both groups are working diligently to settle a new agreement before the expiration.

June 1, 2020 - Asphalt Paving Contractors Agreement with Operating Engineers Local 513. There have been no meetings to date between the Asphalt Paving Contractors and Local 513. The Operators wish to negotiate the SITE heavy/highway/commercial agreement before meeting with the Asphalt Pavers. More information on these meetings will be forthcoming.

Notice to Bookkeepers: Wage allocations for this year's increases under SITE's agreement's with the Cement Masons and Laborers will be going out within the next few weeks. Wage allocations for Local 513 will be sent out after negotiations are complete.

Davis Bacon Wage Survey

Contractors may have seen information mailed to their offices regarding a Federal Davis Bacon Wage Survey for Building Work. The Federal Davis Bacon Wage Survey is important to participate in because it will determine future wage rates on federally funded projects. Federally funded building projects, such as the NGA in downtown St. Louis, will have wage determinations for the project. In future years, this survey will assist in determining what the wage rate will be per hour, per occupational title, on those future projects. SITE will be sending out information to member contractors that will explain this process and assist contractors that are participating in the survey. The survey process ends April 30, 2020.



Upcoming Safety Courses

SITE has kicked off the year with a number of safety training courses which continue to provide great learning opportunities for management and field employees alike. Below are upcoming class opportunities thru March.

- ◆ *Excavation Competent Person* – February 13
- ◆ *MoDOT Advanced Work Zone* – February 28
- ◆ *Adult CPR/First Aid/AED Training* – March 5
- ◆ *Confined Space* – March 12
- ◆ *OSHA 10 Course* – March 26 and 27

Should your company have a specific class request, please contact Jeremy Bennett at SITE's office.



FROM THE SAFETY SIDE

QUICK TOOLBOX TALK: “TALKING BACK”

Back Strain and Back Injury Cause Serious Pain and Disability. Personal habits can make back injury more likely.

- ◇ Back injuries are one of the most common causes of work-related disability
- ◇ Back pain is the second leading cause of lost workdays after the common cold
- ◇ Once back strain occurs, it often returns
- ◇ Back injury often requires extended bed rest and in some cases surgery
- ◇ You're more likely to have a back injury if you're in poor physical condition, overweight, under stress, have poor posture, or overexert yourself.

Ways to Prevent Back Pain at Work

- ◇ *Pay attention to posture.* When standing, balance your weight evenly on your feet. Don't slouch. To promote good posture when sitting, choose a chair that supports your spinal curves. Adjust the height of your chair so that your feet rest flat on the floor or on a footrest and your thighs are parallel to the floor. Remove your wallet or cellphone from your back pocket when sitting.
- ◇ *Lift properly.* When lifting and carrying a heavy object, lift with your legs and tighten your core muscles. Hold the object close to your body. Don't twist when lifting. If an object is too heavy to lift safely, ask someone to help you.
- ◇ *Modify repetitive tasks.* Use lifting devices, when available, to help you lift loads. Try to alternate physically demanding tasks with less demanding ones. Avoid unnecessary bending, twisting and reaching.
- ◇ *Listen to your body.* If you must sit for a prolonged period, change your position often. Periodically walk around and gently stretch your muscles to relieve tension.



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Mike Steiniger - Kuesel Excavating Co.

Vice President

Pat Moriarity - Concrete Strategies, LLC

Secretary/Treasurer

Chris Gottman - Millstone Weber, LLC

Executive Director

Terry Briggs

WWW.SITESTL.ORG

2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

Tues., Feb. 25 **2020 INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE EXPO**

St. Charles Convention Center

Wed., March 4 **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - LUNCH**

Syberg's Dorsett

Mon., August 17 **SITE GOLF TOURNAMENT & DINNER**

Norwood Hills Country Club

Visit sitestl.org for more upcoming events