



## New ABC president plans to seek out new members, oppose PLAs

By MONICA UNHOLD, The Daily Transcript

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Members of the Associated Builders & Contractors San Diego chapter can expect to see their new leader making house calls.

As the new president and chief executive officer of ABC San Diego, Scott Crosby plans to increase membership and get to know current members by "hitting the pavement," he said.

A larger membership will help the group become a strong lobby opposing "any kind of agreement that excludes competition," Crosby said.

"ABC is the only association on a national level that truly represents the merit shop," Crosby said.

At his previous position managing the St. Louis satellite office of the Heart of America chapter based in Kansas City, Crosby was able to double the group's membership. He previously served as regional political manager for the Midwest region of the National ABC.

Crosby's experience in the political arena will help the chapter tackle a variety of issues facing merit shop contractors in the region. Though 85 percent of the construction work force is nonunion, many municipalities in the region have implemented discriminatory labor practices, he said.

At the top of the radar is a local ballot proposition ABC is pursuing in Chula Vista. Expected to be on the ballot in June 2010, the proposition would ban the city of Chula Vista from entering into project labor agreements (PLAs), Crosby said.

With public works driving the construction economy in San Diego, Crosby also is concerned about President Obama's recent executive order that encourages use of union-only labor agreements for federally funded projects, he said.

"I'm concerned our members will be shut out of work," Crosby said.

In addition to political lobbying, Crosby plans for the ABC to continue offering training courses and add more recreational networking activities.

The group recently held the "ABC Cart Racing Challenge," in which 17 teams of five participated in the sold-out event. The cart race was the first event of its kind hosted by the ABC and it was very successful, Crosby said.

"I like trying new ideas," Crosby said.

He already has begun planning for another new activity, a "Merit Shop Picnic" next year that will include members' staffs and families.

Though Crosby is looking forward to new opportunities and spending the warmest winter of his life in San Diego's famously temperate climate, he plans to hold onto his St. Louis roots. An avid sports fan, Crosby's teams are the St. Louis Cardinals, Rams and Blues, with the Padres and Chargers coming at "a close second," he said.

Crosby's other hobbies include playing the guitar. In St. Louis, Crosby and a group of contractors would get together to jam once a month, he said.

He plans to channel the same creativity in his leadership of ABC San Diego.

"I would like ABC to have fresh and innovative programs and events," Crosby said.

Crosby is taking over for George Hawkins, who is retiring after nine years at the helm of ABC San Diego.

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