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better with time.***

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AGCW membership is about making meaningful connections and enjoying tailored benefits, day in and day out, as well as giving our members a needed voice at local, state and national levels.

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## **OUR VISION**

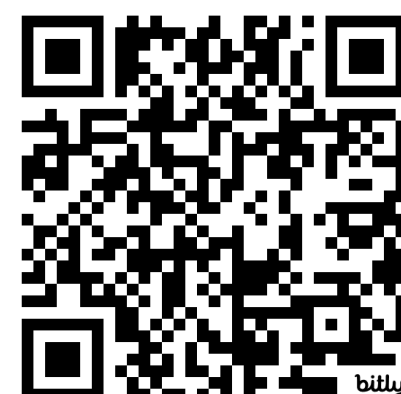
*Building an economic and vibrant Washington where community, family and business prosper.*

## **OUR MISSION**

*AGC of Washington is the leading professional association of contractors in the state of Washington, committed to enhancing the performance of all of our members, advocating for their interests, and increasing the impact of commercial construction.*



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**WASHINGTON CHAPTER**  
THE CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION



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***For more information on AGCW membership, scan the QR code, visit [www.agcwa.com](http://www.agcwa.com) or email Membership Director Stacy Mullane at [smullane@agcwa.com](mailto:smullane@agcwa.com).***



## 2024 AGC officers, board members

### Phil Wallace President

Phil Wallace is an area manager and senior operations manager for Kiewit Infrastructure West. Wallace has over 32 years of construction industry experience, starting his career in 1991 working on the Boeing Everett 40-56 Building expansion as a field engineer. He has managed numerous heavy-civil, marine and transit projects during his career, including WSDOT's Hood Canal Bridge east half replacement, the new SR 520 Floating Bridge and the demolition of the Alaskan Way Viaduct. Wallace has successfully completed complex, technically challenging projects along the entire West Coast, from San Diego to Vancouver, B.C. He is also the AGC of Washington lead executive for the WSDOT/AGC committees, and is a member of the AGC Education Foundation's board of trustees.



Wallace

### Jeff Tiegs Second Vice President

Jeff Tiegs has been president and owner of Puyallup-based Lincoln Construction since 2015. Tiegs is a 1989 graduate of the construction management program at Central Washington University. He has served the AGC of Washington Southern District in several roles, including president in 2016 and 2017, and representative for five years afterward. Tiegs also has been on the construction management advisory committee at Pierce College since 2007, and is an adjunct instructor there. His past volunteer work includes helping the Boys & Girls Club, as well as Habitat for Humanity.



Tiegs

### Glyn Slattery Immediate Past President

Glyn Slattery of Lydig Construction has been in the construction industry since 1977. He graduated from the University of Washington in 1982 with a bachelor's degree in construction management, and from the University of Colorado in 1983 with a master's degree in civil engineering. For the past 36 years, he has been with Lydig Construction and currently serves as the firm's vice president and construction executive. Slattery has been an active AGC of Washington member for over 20 years, serving on various committees, as a member of the board and as a chapter officer since 2020. He is also past recipient of AGC of Washington's Contractor of the Year award.



Slattery

### Bryan Kelley First Vice President

As vice president of legal for Balfour Beatty's Howard S. Wright office in Seattle, Bryan Kelley is responsible for providing counsel, business operations support and managing transactions, compliance and general risk for the Washington and Oregon markets. A four-time "Rising Star" according to Washington Law & Politics magazine, Kelley has served on the AGC of Washington's board of trustees and received the AGC of Washington Associate of the Year award in 2014.



Kelley

### Grace Pizzey Secretary/Treasurer

Grace Pizzey is vice president at Holaday-Parks in Seattle and has served as AGC of Washington's secretary/treasurer for several years. With a bachelor's degree in economics from Colorado College, she brings over 25 years of experience in financial and business management including executive leadership, board membership, financial reporting, legal representation, personnel development, budgeting, risk management/mitigation and human resources.



Pizzey

### Board members

Dave Rollyson, Turner Construction Co.  
Celina Yee, Lease Crutcher Lewis  
Jeff Christianson, Exxel Pacific  
Matt Osborne, Osborne Construction Co.  
Ryan Likkel, Western Refinery Services  
John Salinas, Salinas Construction  
Lindsay Watkins, Ahlers Cressman & Sleight  
JB Gibson, Westlake Consulting Group  
Kelli Desrosier, Prime Electric (2024 CLC representative)

### District representatives

Scott Isenhart, Tiger-Pearson Co. (Northern District)  
Ross Pouley, RAP Consulting (Seattle District)  
Tanya Davis, Western Ranch Buildings (Central District)  
Patrick Hughes, Hughes Group (Southern District)

## Association honors Dully, Pizzey and Hill

By JOURNAL STAFF

The AGC of Washington held its 2024 Annual Celebration and Meeting Friday at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue. The event kicked off with a cocktail party and the installation of 2024 officers, board members, trustees and district representatives.

The association also recognized outstanding member firms and individuals at the event, including Contractor of the Year, Specialty Contractor of the Year, Associate of the Year, and 2023 Leader of the PAC.

The Leader of the PAC award went to Star Rentals, the second consecutive year that Star has won. It was presented by AGC's Build PAC, which supports candidates who support the construction industry.

### Contractor of the Year Brandon Dully

Dully is president at Guy F. Atkinson Construction. He was recognized for his leadership and commitment to the passage of Substitute Senate Bill 5272, which authorizes the use of speed-safety camera systems in highway work zones. Dully and Atkinson were the impetus for this safety precaution.

After a tragic accident in a WSDOT project work zone, Dully did not want an opportunity for positive change to go to waste. A team was assembled that started with the Washington & Northern Idaho District Council of Laborers, Operating Engineers, WSDOT and the AGC of Washington legislative team. The bill was sponsored by Senate Transportation Committee Chair Mark Lias and Senate Transportation Committee ranking member Curtis King. The Washington State



Dully

Patrol was also involved in figuring out enforcement.

Dully testified in favor of the bill, stating, "We focus on complex transportation projects while minimizing impacts on the traveling public; unfortunately, that means we work every day and night out on the roads. We control everything we possibly can, but we can't control the traveling public."

The new law will go into effect July 1.

Among other things at the AGC of Washington, Dully is involved with AGC/WSDOT committee meetings, where he co-chairs the Partnering Committee and participates as a co-chair on the Laborers Negotiating Committee.

### Specialty Contractor of the Year Grace Pizzey

Pizzey is vice president at Holaday-Parks. She was recognized for her commitment to the AGC of Washington, where she is currently serving her second term as secretary/treasurer.

Pizzey's leadership always reflects a positive attitude, great disposition and great sense of humor. Her financial prowess has been a key to streamlining accounting procedures and bringing a practical approach to the organization. She played a key role in the AGC of Washington Building Study as the association looks to the future of caring for this great asset. She participated in the process to plan the six-year capital budget to bring the building into line with city of Seattle building codes.

Pizzey's experience with building systems has proven invaluable. If she doesn't have an immediate answer, she has the resources and pragmatism to lead the AGC of Washington to the right outcome.



Pizzey

Pizzey is involved with AGC's Build PAC and Government Affairs committees. She also is a strong advocate for women in construction and always looks to make sure that women are correctly represented in the industry.

### Associate of the Year Brett Hill

Hill is an equity partner at Ahlers Cressman & Sleight. In 2023, he proposed and took ownership of Senate Bill 5528. This successful legislation limits retainage on private projects to 5%. The AGC of Washington-backed legislation is one of the most impactful for association members in recent history.

Hill introduced the concept and proposed bill language to the AGC of Washington's Legal Affairs and Government Affairs committees. After approval from both committees, the language was introduced in the state Senate and helped by the AGC of Washington legislative team and others, where it ultimately passed unanimously. Hill also made himself available along the way to craft language for an addendum to appease specialty contractors.

After the bill was signed by the governor, Hill made a comprehensive presentation available to AGC of Washington members to help with implementation of the new law. He still avails himself to answer members' questions.

Over the years, Hill has been available to provide commentary on active legislation, both in and out of session, to the AGC of Washington legislative team. He continues to be active on the AGC of Washington Legal Affairs and Government Affairs committees, and is always looking for practical solutions for the Mike M. Johnson case.



Hill

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# What's in store for Washington's construction industry in 2024

■ Contractors remain upbeat about the available dollar value of projects.

By **STEPHEN E. SANDHERR**  
AGC of America

AGC of America and Sage conduct an annual nationwide survey of construction firms to get a better sense of the industry's expectations for the coming year. Early in January, we released our latest construction hiring and business outlook, titled "A Construction Market in Transition." On balance, contractors in Washington and across the country remain upbeat about the available dollar value of projects to bid on in 2024.

Among contractors in Washington state, the net reading — the

percentage of respondents who expect the available dollar value of projects to expand compared to the percentage who expect it to shrink — is positive for 14 of the 17 categories of construction included in the survey.

Washington contractors are most optimistic about infrastructure and federal con-



Sandherr

struction projects. Specifically, the highest net positive reading in the 2024 survey — 55% — was for transportation construction. This was followed in Washington by a 45% net reading for bridge and highway construction projects and a 37% net reading for federal projects.

Most firms in Washington anticipate adding workers in 2024 to accommodate the higher demand for projects. More than two-thirds (68%) of the respondents expect to add to their headcount, compared to only 13% who expect a decrease. However, 69% of Washington contractors report they are having a hard time filling some or all salaried or hourly craft positions.

As a result of these labor challenges, most firms in Washington took steps in 2023 to attract

and retain workers. Fifty-eight percent increased base pay rates more than in 2022. Additionally, 39% of firms provided incentives or bonuses and 19% of the firms increased their portion of benefit contributions and/or improved employee benefits.

Meanwhile, almost equal percentages of firms in Washington report projects were postponed or canceled in 2023 and not rescheduled (44% of respondents) as report projects were postponed but rescheduled (40%). Ominously, 13% have already experienced postponement or cancellation of a project that had been scheduled for the first half of 2024.

These challenges are prompting many firms to invest in technology that will make them more efficient. Thirty-six percent of respondents from Washington

state expect their firms to initiate or increase investments in drones, while 26% will invest in artificial intelligence — many for the first time — and 23% will invest in offsite production.

Here at the Associated General Contractors of America, we are working to make sure the outlook for 2024 remains positive. We are pushing for new funding for construction education and training programs as part of both the Workforce and Innovation Opportunity Act and the Pell Grant reauthorization legislation that are expected this year in Congress.

We will continue to urge the Biden administration to implement mandated reforms to the federal review and permitting process and otherwise ensure that the federal government

no longer serves as the biggest obstacle to its own construction investments. And we will continue to push for improvements to the new Buy America rules, so vital infrastructure projects aren't stymied because a single washer on a single fixture includes some materials that were mined abroad.

The bottom line is we are committed to working with policymakers and our members to make sure the conditions are right for firms to be successful in their efforts to improve the nation's infrastructure, modernize manufacturing and build an even stronger economy.

*Stephen E. Sandherr is the chief executive officer of the Associated General Contractors of America.*

## Wallace lines up 4 priorities for 2024

By **JOURNAL STAFF**

The DJC contacted incoming AGC of Washington President Phil Wallace for a look at his plans as he takes over the reins of the association this year.

Wallace is an area manager and senior operations manager for Kiewit Infrastructure West. He has over 32 years of construction industry experience, working on heavy-civil, marine and transit projects.

This interview was edited for clarity.



Wallace

year university and the expensive student loans that come with that option. High school and skill center students can enroll in a Core Plus Construction program and develop knowledge, skills, and abilities that lead to direct employment in high-wage and high-demand fields, or they can enter two- and four-year college programs better informed about their career choices. We will need these future construction workers to support the industry demand for skilled craft and management professionals.

**Q** What are the biggest challenges facing the industry?

**A:** I think the two biggest challenges we currently face are:

1. Getting our Legislature to provide WSDOT budgeting for maintenance and preservation of our state roads and bridges. There is little to no funding for 2024 and safety is WSDOT's top priority, which includes keeping our transportation hubs safe for the traveling public.

2. We currently have a construction boom in heavy-civil construction in the state and contractors are finding it very hard to find capable trained craft and construction management personnel to run the work.

**Q** What keeps you up at night?

**A:** When I was running projects, I always worried about the safety of our workers and the traveling public. There is an ever-increasing amount of incidents in our construction work zones and this is a huge issue for our industry. AGC of Washington has worked closely with WSDOT to incorporate new legislation in Senate Bill 5273 that includes adding automated safety cameras that will ticket drivers speeding through construction work zones. This new law takes effect July 1.

**Q** What was your path into construction?

**A:** I started with Legos when I was very young and branched up to building forts when I was old enough to use a hammer and a saw. I was always interested in building things from a very young age and that passion never left. I went to university to get my engineering degree and have been fortunate in my career to have been a part of many great teams that have built signature

projects across the state that have won numerous industry awards.

My favorite project was the Hood Canal Bridge project because that is where my partnership with the WSDOT team really began. I still retain those friendships to this day more than a decade later. It has also been a pleasure to watch the people that have worked for me prosper and grow in their careers. We really are an industry that serves the public and I really appreciate that. We are essential.

**Q** What is something that most people don't know about you?

**A:** I am a comic book collector — thank God that Disney purchased Marvel.



Wallace says his favorite project involved a rebuild of the Hood Canal Bridge.

Photo from Kiewit Infrastructure West

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