



Annual Meeting Recap

Free drinks and friendly conversations warmed over 150 guests at our 2019 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, January 16. Hosted at the Town & Country Club, attendees enjoyed a social hour and sit-down luncheon and program. MBEX board President Malia Oesterreich of R M S Rentals began the meeting, recounting the many successes of MBEX during 2018. Oesterreich passed the presidential gavel to the incoming 2019 Board President, Beth Nde of Adolfson & Peterson Construction. MBEX also recognized the 2018 Volunteer of the Year, Jennifer Crowder of G R Promotions, and the 2018 Distinguished Member, Greg Ochs of Snow-Larson Inc, presenting them with plaques for their achievements in helping further the mission of our organization, and giving back to the industry as a whole.

Our guest speaker, Ron Wirtz, Regional Outreach Director at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, presented data and insight on economic trends as well as an overview of how these trends affect the construction industry. While he noted that the Minnesota metro area seemed to grow at a better than average rate compared to national numbers, Wirtz mentioned a workforce labor shortage that could grow to be a larger problem, as a result of the uptick in current projects out for bid. Despite this shortage in labor, Wirtz commented that, "given the fact that the construction industry represents a sector with leading job growth for the last 5 years, 2019 looks to be a good year for the labor force issue within the industry."

BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

Erik Molin (incumbant)
Molin Concrete Products Co

Ben Newlin (incumbant)
Terra Construction

Kelli Lind
John A Knutson and Co PLLP

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Cemstone Products Co

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Jennifer Crowder, *G R Promotions*

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD

Greg Ochs, *Snow-Larson Inc* (retired)
1999 MBEX Past President