

OSHA Partnership – History Made

Recently, the ABC Heart of America Chapter made history by becoming the only ABC chapter to enter into agreements with two active OSHA partnerships! The first partnership, with the Missouri OSHA offices, was signed on April 23, 2007. The second, with the Kansas OSHA office, was signed on July 11, 2007.

Judy A. Freeman, Area Director and Dave McDonnell, Compliance Assistance Specialist with the Wichita OSHA Area Office as well as Steve Zink with the Kansas Department of Labor Consultation Program traveled to the ABC office to meet with the Contractors' Safety Council and sign the partnership document. ABC Board of Directors Chairman, Rob Pitkin, also attended the signing.

OSHA partnership application is open to all Platinum Level STEP participants. All applicants go through a thorough inspection process before admission to the program.

The partnership provides outstanding benefits to both parties. OSHA recognizes a better application of its limited resources by working cooperatively with contractors who realize that safety is a priority. This way, more resources can be used to protect workers who are without safe worksites. ABC contractors receive numerous benefits, chief among them, the safety and health of the contractor's workers whose chances of serious injury are greatly reduced. Commitment to safety also results in fewer injuries on the job, which, in turn, historically

translates to lower insurance costs and statistically higher productivity.

If a citation is issued, participants are eligible to negotiate better penalty reductions as long as the violation is abated and the money is used to further improve safety programs.

The Contractors' Safety Council is excited about this landmark opportunity. The Council welcomes questions and participation with regard to the partnerships. The Council is also looking to add council members from mid-Missouri, St. Louis, Springfield and southeast Missouri. Please email brenda@abcksmo.org if you are interested in becoming a part of this exciting time in ABC's safety program.

L to R – Dave McDonnell, Compliance Assistance Specialist of the Wichita OSHA Area Office; Brenda Conway, ABC Director of Education & Safety; Steve Zink, Kansas Department of Labor Consultation Program; Judy A. Freeman, Area Director of the Wichita OSHA Area Office; Rob Pitkin, ABC 2007 Chairman of the Board (Levy & Craig) and Adam Crowl, ABC Contractors' Safety Council Chair (Straub Construction Co.).