“The Voice of Safety in the Construction Industry” is the guiding principle that drives the Safety and Health Council. With over a hundred members encompassing all areas of the construction industry, the voice is powerful and well versed. With the new standards and laws that have gone into effect and are on the horizon, this voice has never needed to be more heard.

Effective this year a new and more stringent crane standard will be put in place. This standard comes in wake of the new standard adopted by OSHA on the Federal level. This standard has an emphasis on training and certification of signal persons and riggers. A new section on operational aids is proposed to be added. This section deals with inspections and safety devices. The proposed standard spans over 100 pages. A committee has been developed and is currently working on keeping up to date with the changes to the language of the proposed standard and how best to prepare the members of the AGC to maintain compliance.

Also on the forefront this year is the passing of AB 2774. The previous law stated that a serious violation was "deemed to exist if there was a substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result from a violation." With the passing of AB 2774 the new language changes the requirement of a serious violation to "rebuttable presumption that a serious violation exists if Cal/OSHA demonstrates that there is a realistic possibility that death or serious physical harm could result from the actual hazard created by the violation."

With the new legislation that is being passed and the new standards being implemented, a strong working relationship with Cal OSHA has never been more important. A committee has been started to bring information from the contractors who already participate in the Cal OSHA voluntary programs to the council to inform others of the benefits of participation in the programs. These programs include the Golden Gate Award and the VPP Program. Both are excellent tools to maintain a safe and healthy worksite while fostering a positive relationship with Cal OSHA.

On the training and education front, AGC is producing training programs to help educate the membership. In 2010 AGC delivered a Train the Trainer Class on Heat Illness. This revamp to the old heat illness standard brought many changes that not only had requirement issues to consider, but financial ones as well. The publication of Safety Snaps also provides a great tool to be utilized in keeping the membership informed. These articles are written by industry experts that sit on the Health and Safety Council and provide insight to many safety and health issues.

The Safety and Health Council will continue to be the voice of the construction industry by informing the membership of issues, developing training programs to keep workers and managers safe and up to date, and to be a value added service to the AGC. If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact myself at (714) 484-2302/ cbykoski@dyna-la.com