

This Month in Austin AGC History – Austin AGC Barbecue Attracts 250 Attendees in 1947

A meeting of the Austin AGC membership took place at noon on August 19, 1947, in the Chapter office. Among the business discussed that day was a report from Entertainment Committee Chair, Roland Moore with Moore Construction Company, about plans for an AGC barbecue scheduled September 18th at the Shelton Lodge on Bluff Springs. (This venue is believed to have been near what is today the intersection of E. Slaughter Lane and Bluff Springs Road in Southeast Austin, adjacent to Onion Creek.) Chair Moore noted that invitations were extended to all local architects and engineers, as well as to members of the City Council.

According to meeting minutes from a subsequent October 7 Board meeting, “a very enjoyable time was had by all” at this first ever Austin AGC networking event. In fact, Chair Moore reported that while only 96 reservations had been received at the office, an estimated 250 people attended. He then presented a bill in the amount of \$392.81 (roughly \$4,750 in today’s dollars) for reimbursement. That amount included \$40 for musical entertainment, \$85 for food, \$54 for labor, as well as \$185 for 44 cases of beer, 10 cases of soft drinks and 500 pounds of ice. The Chapter was asked to kick in \$150 (about \$1,800 today) toward the bill, leaving a remaining balance of \$242. That amount was divided equally among the 96 registered attendees for a total of \$2.50 per registrant, or roughly \$30 per person in today’s dollars.

Networking, of course, is still a big part of our industry because a large team of people is essential to make any building project successful. Almost 75 years since that first Chapter gathering, we continue to offer events throughout the year that bring together people in the industry for some fun and business development.

MOORE CONSTRUCTION CO. GENERAL CONTRACTORS & BUILDERS 155 RIVERSIDE DRIVE AUSTIN, TEXAS	
September 29, 1947	
Austin Chapter Associated General Contractors P. O. Box 409 Austin, Texas	
Bill to:	
Below is an itemized account of supplies furnished for the Barbecue held at the Falk Shelton place at Bluff Springs on September 18, 1947	
Musicals	\$ 40.00
South Austin Wood Yard 1 rick wood	2.75
Starring & Miles 4 # 2 wash tubs	7.00
Lee Meafords, for barbecuing meat	85.00
Browning Mat. Co. 10 cases beer	38.10
Deep Fox Mat. Co. 10 Cases beer	34.00
Big Bear Food Store, 10 Cases beer	43.65
American Ice Co. 14 Cases beer	56.00
10 Cases soft drinks	12.00
500 lbs Ice	2.50
Paten Food Store Groceries & meat	84.75
J. B. Roberts Furnishing labor for serv.	17.00
R. B. Moore Truck driver and labor	12.00
Lone Star Paper Co. Plates, cups, napkins etc.	20.00
	<u>\$392.81</u>
All the above accounts were paid by R. B. Moore.	
Yours very truly	

The bill for the Austin AGC BBQ in 1947



Guests at the AGC Outstanding Construction Awards Dinner

Starting in February, we host the annual Outstanding Construction Awards where general contractors and their building partners celebrate the best projects completed in the previous year, as decided by a panel of industry judges. This reception and dinner event is held on the University of Texas campus, typically attracts over 300 people, and always brings big smiles to the faces of the award-winning teams.

In the Spring we host a golf tournament where 144 industry professionals get to relax for the day playing a full round on the links with their foursome. Meanwhile, sponsors at each hole get an opportunity to visit with the golfers as well. Prizes are awarded to the best, and even to the worst, scoring teams.

Then in late Summer, we host a “speed dating” event at TopGolf, a modern-day driving range that even non-golfers enjoy. At this outing a member company sponsors a golfing bay, and the remaining 100 or so participants are rotated through each one every 10 minutes in small groups. Over the course of 2 hours, this format allows each sponsor to engage with many industry contacts.

In the Fall, we’ve historically held a very successful Fish Fry and live auction. However, in 2021 we intend to try something new – a BBQ cookoff on a Friday night followed by a contractor rodeo Saturday morning. Member firms will enter one of their employees in a bull riding event, while everyone will enjoy tasty food thanks to the BBQ teams. There will activities for kids, too, at this family-friendly event. Should be fun, and fingers are crossed for a great first event!



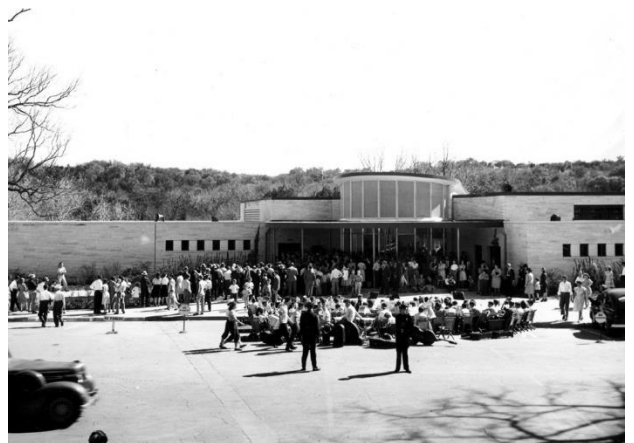
Folks enjoying a networking event at Top Golf

Last, each December we host a holiday mixer, and this year it will be held at the Driskill Hotel, the location of the Austin AGC's first meetings back in 1946.

In addition to the Austin AGC events, our [Construction Leadership Council \(CLC\)](#) hosts a series of gatherings throughout the year as well. Each Spring the CLC heads down to the Bay Flats Lodge on the Gulf Coast for a fishing tournament. This weekend-long event always sells out the 18 team boats, and attendees get a great opportunity to spend quality time with their industry friends both old and new. In the Fall, the CLC hosts another sold out event, a Clay Shoot here in Travis County. Both of those big happenings help sustain the CLC organization while raising scholarship funds for students pursuing a construction career. Additionally, the CLC hosts several happy hour mixers, a "river float/cleanup" community service outing, and a Leadership Forum where industry execs share some of their insights about the construction industry with emerging leaders.

No doubt the Austin AGC founders would be proud to see how the tradition of networking continues today. To stay apprised of all these networking opportunities, simply check out our calendar of events at www.agcaustin.org, or get on our e-mail list via the website.

Looking back at the career of Roland Moore, his company built one of Austin's more iconic recreational buildings, the [Barton Springs Bath House](#), back in 1947 after a previous structure on that site had been destroyed by flood. According to [City Council records](#), Moore Construction was brought on to build what was then known as the Zilker Springs Bath House. The contract covered the cost of construction, plus a fixed compensation fee to Moore in the amount of \$10,000 (roughly \$150,000 today.) The design included a mechanized basket system that was removed circa 1968 after damage from another flood. About this time the primary entrance was moved to the southeast corner of the building where it remains today.



Dedication of the "Zilker Bath House" in 1947



A sign commemorating the construction is still visible near the entrance to [Barton Springs](#). Next time you're headed for a swim there, take a moment to look more closely for it, and be sure to appreciate the work of one of the Austin AGC's founding members that continues to benefit our community today!