



THE FIRST WORD

August, 2014

August General Membership Meeting Set for August 28th Director of Transportation Mike Patterson Invited Guest Speaker

The next ACEC OKLAHOMA Board and General Membership Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 28th in Oklahoma City. The Luncheon Meeting will begin at 11:45am at the Oklahoma Association of General Contractors office.

Director of Transportation Mike Patterson has been invited to be our Guest Speaker and will be joined by many of the ODOT Senior Staff. ACEC OKLAHOMA members will be updated on the current status of the ODOT program.

Registration information will be sent soon to all ACEC OKLAHOMA members. So mark your calendar today for Thursday, August 28th! We look forward to seeing you then!

Hawaii Calls!!!!

Many of you are too young to remember the "Hawaii Calls" radio show which ran weekly for 37 years until 1975, broadcast from the Banyan Tree Courtyard of the Moana Hotel on Waikiki Beach.

Well, "Hawaii Calls" all ACEC members again today for the ACEC Fall Conference, October 22-25 at the beautiful Hilton Waikoloa Village on the "Big Island" of Hawaii.

Everything you would ever want to know about the Conference can be found on the ACEC website...www.acec.org. We look forward to seeing you in Hawaii in October!!!!



Welcome New Members

ACEC OKLAHOMA is excited to welcome two new member firms!

Marquardt Engineering is a 2-person firm headed by Keith Marquardt, which provides Civil Engineering, Design, and Construction Management. Keith is a graduate of our "Leadership For Engineers" program.

Spencer Technology & Management Solutions (STMS, Inc.) is an Electrical Engineering, Inspection, Consultation, and Management firm in Lawton. Alan Spencer is the principal of the firm.

Both firms joined in the Spring, and our apologies to both firms for not announcing their membership earlier! We Welcome both Marquardt Engineering and STMS, and look forward to having them as active members.



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Free Worker's Compensation Webinar, August 20th, Presented by ACEC Business Insurance Trust and The Hartford



Your employees are your most valuable resource and losing them for any period of time can be extremely challenging. It can also be a challenge to integrate employees back into the workforce once they are ready and able to return. That is why you are receiving this **exclusive invitation** for an upcoming webinar presented by The Hartford® and Marsh Sponsored Programs, Program Administrator for **The ACEC Business Insurance Trust (BIT) Program**.

A Practical and Tactical Approach to Return-to-Work is a complimentary loss control webinar that will be presented on **Wednesday, August 20, 2014, 12:30pm to 1:30pm(Central)**.

This webinar is designed to help firms control Workers' Compensation costs, while also maintaining a healthy workforce and productive operations. Participating in this webinar will provide firms with a high level overview of:

- Cost of employee absence
- Impact of disability
- Return-to-Work checklist
- What is transitional duty and how to identify transitional duty opportunities
- Online Hartford resources
- And more

Register Today!

Click Here: <http://acecbit.com/>

Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2014

Time: 12:30pm - 1:30pm Central Time

(May be eligible for Professional Development Hours.)

After a few opening remarks, I will turn the event over to The Hartford representatives, host Greg Zuendel and presenter Judy Sehnal. Judy, a Technical Manager for The Hartford, will present the material as well as answer any questions that arise.

Please know, attending this webinar carries absolutely no obligation on your part.

However, you will come away with valuable advice that you can use to help mitigate your losses and reduce your insurance costs.

This is one hour you will be glad you built into your schedule, so please, **register today!** *Note: If this is your first time registering for a Hartford webinar, you may be prompted to select your time zone preference. Once this is complete, you will be directed to the registration page.*



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President's Report

August, 2014

David Raymond, ACEC President

Congress this week passed short-term highway funding legislation to ensure that the flow of federal funds to the states continues uninterrupted. While we want Congress to stay focused on enacting a longer term bill, we are pleased that Congress addressed the short-term problem with strong bi-partisan majorities. In addition, 44 Senators signed the ACEC-backed bi-partisan preservation of cash accounting letter; and 175 Members of the House and counting have signed a similar letter that doesn't close for signatures until the end of August. At the same time, 242 ACEC members participated in our business webinar on the SEC Municipal Advisor Rule "exemption" for engineering firms – yet another issue on which there is significant member interest. We are also lobbying hard for Ex-Im Bank reauthorization, as well as a responsible balanced approach to energy and environmental regulations. Heading into the August Congressional recess, lawmakers are now focused on the November election, which puts a premium on the performance of ACEC/PAC in helping to elect "ACEC friends". Our PAC has raised over \$500,000 so far this year, but we need more to address our political agenda, and hence the strong push in all states to meet PAC goals. Our Fall Conference at the Hilton Waikoloa Village in Hawaii is drawing near – [register now](#) if you haven't already done so. Have a great August, and stay cool!

General

- Secured House and Senate passage of a \$9 billion "patch" to the Highway Trust Fund through May 2015; defeated effort in Senate to "devolve" all current federal funding to the states.
- Senator John Boozman (R-AR), who serves on the Senate Appropriations and Environment and Public Works Committees, visited ACEC headquarters to discuss the importance of regulatory reform and long-term infrastructure funding.
- *Washington Post* said ACEC "has big business clout," in a reference to its growing PAC and status as a "top contributor" to Congressional races.
- ACEC Executive Committee summer meeting focused on public and private sector practice issues, membership, ACEC's political program/PAC fundraising, leadership training and the Emerging Leaders program.

Government Advocacy

- ACEC "action alert" engaged members in lobbying their legislators to preserve cash accounting.
- House passed ACEC-backed "bonus depreciation" legislation to allow firms to write off 50 percent of the cost of new equipment in the year it is purchased.
- Ran ads over the past three weeks in Politico (newspaper most widely read on Capitol Hill) in support of Congressional infrastructure funding efforts.
- Provided recommendations to the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets on how to improve foreign market access for U.S. engineering firms; continued to lobby Congress for reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank; and met with Department of Commerce officials to address challenges facing U.S. engineering firms trying to do business in India.



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