

THE FIRST WORD

January, 2012

2012 Legislative Session Kicks-Off February 6th

The 2012 Oklahoma Legislature will convene for the second half of the biennium on February 6th. ACEC OKLAHOMA is already preparing for what promises to be an interesting session preceding the fall elections.

Bill filing is just beginning, so we don't yet have a read on issues which the engineering community will be facing, but be assured that ACEC OKLAHOMA will be keeping a watchful eye on the happenings at the State Capitol.

One issue which we know will be receiving a great deal of attention is Governor Fallin's proposal to repair or replace some 700 bridges in Oklahoma over the next eight years (See the October, 2012, "The First Word" for details).

While there should be universal agreement in the Legislature for the need of the program, as always, funding the Governor's program will be the major hurdle in a down, but recovering, economy.

ACEC OKLAHOMA will be monitoring this and other issues, and will keep you informed as the session progresses.

Welcome New Member

ACEC OKLAHOMA is excited to welcome our newest member firm, **MPW Engineering** of Tulsa.

MPW Engineering is a 66-person firm providing mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protection engineering services.

Scott Webb and Gregory Patovisti are principals of the firm located in downtown Tulsa.

We welcome **MPW Engineering** to the ACEC OKLAHOMA and ACEC family, and look forward to having the firm as an active member of the Council's.

2012 Educational Programs Available from Oklahoma Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)

The Local Technical Assistance Program at Oklahoma State University is one of 58 LTAP Centers located throughout the United States. The Federal Highway Administration and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation fund the Local Technical Assistance Program.

LTAP Centers provide training and technical assistance to government entities that maintain and construct transportation systems at the local level.

Three training courses of interest are available to ACEC OKLAHOMA members this spring:

- * Feb. 16, 2012 - Geo-Synthetic Reinforced Soil Integrated Bridge System
- * April 19, 2012 - Flexibilities in Right-of-Way
- * June 21, 2012 - In Lieu/Mitigation Banking.

All programs of Free to participants. For more information and to register, visit the LTAP website at <http://clgt.okstate.edu/Secondary%20Page%20Layout/ltschedule.htm>

Governor Fallin Featured Speaker at TRUST Banquet

The annual TRUST Transportation Innovation Banquet is set for Tuesday, January 17th at the Oklahoma History Center.

Governor Mary Fallin will be the speaker and outline her Bridge Improvement and Turnpike Modernization Plan.

For more information and to register for this gala event, visit the TRUST website at: <http://www.restoretrust.org/>

OAPA Conference Features Program on Perpetual Pavement

The Oklahoma Asphalt Pavers Association (OAPA) Annual Conference will be held on Wednesday, February 8th in Oklahoma City.

The OAPA Conference will include two programs which should be of interest to consultants, and OAPA has extended an invitation to attend to all interested ACEC OKLAHOMA members.

OAPA Executive Director Larry Patrick to ACEC OKLAHOMA, *"We are going to have a breakout sessions in the afternoon in which we gearing towards consultants and geotech engineers."*

Patrick added, *"We will have folks coming in to talk about perpetual pavements, designing perpetual pavements, and then cover actually perpetual pavement performance both on test sections at the NCAT track at Auburn, Alabama that are Oklahoma mixes and the one Oklahoma project on Airport Road here in OKC."*

For more information and to register, visit the OAPA website at: <http://www.okhotmix.com/2012conference>

ACEC Wins Congressional Support for Corps Outsourcing

At ACEC's urging, Congress included language in the year-end omnibus appropriations bill that promotes contracting out on Corps of Engineers work.

The language was included to balance new authority for municipalities to use the Corps for certain projects that are ongoing and had been previously funded through earmarks.

ACEC raised concerns with Congress that such new authority could result in work being in-sourced by the Corps.

In the conference report accompanying the final bill Congress declared: *"The conferees do not expect these changes to result in more architect/engineer design work being undertaken by Corps personnel. The conferees expect the Corps to continue its contracting efforts for such services as in prior years."*

This is an important victory for ACEC members, and will help in the continuing efforts to increase design work outsourcing by the Corps.

Leadership For Engineers - the 2012 Edition

February 9th will usher in the beginning of "Class 3" of ACEC OKLAHOMA's *"Leadership For Engineers"* program.

This year's class is full, and we have an outstanding group of individuals ready to take the next step forward in their career. Participating this year are:

Hollis Allen	Todd Cochran
Walter P Moore	Schemmer
David Cross	Doug Glenn
Tetra Tech	Cobb Engineering
Chris Hill	Elli Johannson
Meshek & Associates	Crafton Tull
Jason Langhammer	Nic Millard
Garver	SAIC
David Neuhauser	Aaron Peck
CP & Y	Guy Engineering
Scott Rodehaver	Ryan Smith
Wallace Engineering	Poe & Associates
Brandon Wall	Michael Wilson
Wall Engineering	C. H. Guernsey & Co.
Omeed Mollaian	
MacArthur Associated	
Consultants	

Class #3 will meet for three two-day sessions, for a total of 26 hours of classroom training. Specific topics will include Finance Management, Leadership, Strategic Planning, Human Resources, and other areas which are key to a successful professional and business enterprise.

Congratulations to this year's class for the being nominated by their firm, and we look forward to having you in this year's class.

ACEC OKLAHOMA General Membership Dinner and Engineering Excellence Awards

Thursday, January 26, 2012
Oklahoma City

Registration Information Coming Soon!