

ACEC OKLAHOMA

The Voice of Oklahoma's Engineering Industry

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THE FIRST WORD

January, 2017

Thanks for Your Support of Consulting Engineers PAC!!!

On behalf of Consulting Engineers PAC Chairman Jim Benson, Vice Chairman Keith Angier, and Trustee Mike Homan, we want to take a moment to thank all of the ACEC OKLAHOMA members who supported Consulting Engineers PAC through their contributions during the just-ended election cycle.

From the inception of the PAC in late 2014/early2015 through the Annual Meeting held earlier this week, Consulting Engineers PAC raised \$27,255.00.....an unbelievable amount!!!!

With those resources, we were able to make \$15,000 in contributions to 24 candidates from both parties in the November elections, and had a win rate of 96%!

Our focus now turns to the upcoming 2017 Legislative Session, and the 2018 election cycle. With over \$12,000 still in the coffers, we are well positioned to be able to be involved in even more races in 2018.

If you would like to "get a leg up" on getting your 2017/2018 contribution in to Consulting Engineers PAC, we've attached a contribution form for your use. **At the PAC Annual meeting on Tuesday, December 13th, the PAC received an additional \$3,500 in contributions, so even though the elections are 2 years away, it's not too early to become involved.**

Again, THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS PAC!

ACEC OKLAHOMA Board, General Membership Meeting, Engineering Excellence Awards

The next ACEC OKLAHOMA Board and General Membership Meeting will be held Thursday, January 26th in Oklahoma City.

In addition to our regular business meeting, the annual ACEC OKLAHOMA Engineering Excellence Awards will be presented.

The dinner meeting, to be held at the Association of Oklahoma General Contractors headquarters, will begin at 5:00pm, and will be preceded by the Board meeting at 2:00pm.

Registration information will be sent to all ACEC OKLAHOMA members in the next few days, so mark your calendar now for Thursday, January 26, 2017!!!

IRS Lowers Standard Mileage Rate for 2017

The Internal Revenue Service has announced that the 2107 Standard Rate, has been lowered to 53.5 cents per mile, down from 54 cents in 2016.

The standard mileage rate for business dropped half a cent based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The charitable rate is 14 cents per mile, and is unchanged because it is set by statute.

Taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates.

**2017 Oklahoma Legislative Session
Begins February 6th!
Watch Your E-Mail for Updates/Alerts
from ACEC OKLAHOMA!!!**

President's Monthly Update

January, 2017

David Raymond, President & CEO

Happy New Year! We blasted through the Council's Strategic Goal of \$1 million for ACEC/PAC – and are still counting receipts. This accomplishment is all the more remarkable considering that we raised only one-fifth that amount not so long ago. These funds lay the ground work for propelling our aggressive advocacy agenda on Capitol Hill in infrastructure, energy, regulatory and tax code measures. We look forward to working closely with you in the New Year.

General

- Crossed the \$1 million threshold in ACEC/PAC contributions in 2016, with 40 MOs meeting or exceeding their goals, and ACEC/Illinois raising \$75,000 (175% of their goal), a new record for a state in a single year.
- Optimism over the Trump Administration's plans for infrastructure investment, regulatory reform, and tax relief pushed the ACEC *Engineering Business Index* (EBI) up 5.1 points to 66.5, the largest ever quarterly increase.
- Entry deadline for the 2017 national Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) competition is Friday, January 6, 2017.
- With Stantec recently providing ACEC with 7,000 employee names and addresses to add to our mailing list for receipt of Council news and educational material, ACEC's direct distribution list has grown to 75,414.
- At the fiscal mid-year point, ACEC's membership statistics are trending up with 5,351 firms – a 1.3% increase since July 1, and 580,095 employees.

Government Advocacy

- Congress cleared, and the President signed into law, the ACEC-backed Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 (previously called WRDA), which authorizes over \$11 billion for flood control, navigation, other water infrastructure needs.
- In December, ACEC/Iowa, ACEC/Arkansas, ACEC/Massachusetts, ACEC/North Carolina, ACEC/South Dakota, ACEC/Alabama, ACEC/Virginia and ACEC/Michigan met their ACEC/PAC fundraising goals for the year; other MOs made their goals earlier; and additional states are expected to meet their goals when all contributions are processed in January.

- ACEC staff provided national updates at meetings in Georgia, Nebraska, Washington, Oregon, Metro Washington, and South Carolina.
- Secured report language in the FY'17 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to limit the use of single-step design-build in military construction projects.
- Jason Webber with Kimley-Horn, the ACEC/PAC Co-Champion for Florida, became the 14th member of the Capitol Club, comprising donors who contribute the maximum amount allowable (\$5,000) to the PAC.

Business Resources

- Nearly 600 copies of ACEC's timely new publication, *Public-Private Partnerships and Design-Build: Opportunities and Risks for Consulting Engineers, 2nd Edition*, have been sold since the book's release in late November.
- With more than 24 participants, December's most popular online class, *Five Contrarian Steps to Winning the Shortlist Interview*, explored how member firms could differentiate themselves and lay the groundwork for big project wins.
- Registration is now open for ACEC's new *Essential Training: Fundamentals of Effective A/E Operations Management*, February 1-2, 2017, in Washington, D.C., which will examine the essentials of effectively managing your business operations or business unit.
- Participants in the Pathways to Executive Leadership Program met for their first online course on December 13, focusing on time management and delegation of authority.
- Coalitions' best sellers for December included CASE's *Agreement for the Provision of Limited Professional Services* and CAMEE's *Submittal Checklists*.

