

THE FIRST WORD

October, 2012

Leadership For Engineers

2013 Class Already Half-Full

Registration information for ACEC OKLAHOMA's **Class#4** of the critically acclaimed *Leadership for Engineers* has only been out for 4 weeks, and already the 2013 Class is half-full!!!!

The program, beginning in February, 2013, is designed to prepare your firm's future leaders, principals, and owners for the challenges and opportunities of leading your design consulting firm.

ACEC OKLAHOMA's *Leadership for Engineers* program is **targeted to all rising industry professionals** who are committed to developing their leadership and management skills and abilities, and identified by your firm as a "future leader" of your business. **This may include design firm business and administrative coordinators, marketing managers, HR managers, project managers, new principals and middle managers.....anyone interested in developing solid management skills.**

The program was created to provide professional and personal leadership development for Oklahoma's most promising professionals in the design community. The program launches up-and-coming professionals on a development track leading to successful general management, project management, and principal positions within design firms.

SPACE IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 15 REGISTRANTS!

The **Registration Deadline is December 15, 2012** and only one individual from a member firm will be allowed. Tuition will

include all meeting materials, professional development hours, and meals/breaks as appropriate. **Tuition does not include lodging or travel expenses.**

Registration information has been sent to all member firms, and is also available on the ACEC OKLAHOMA website, www.acecok.org

**THE CLASS IS FILLING FAST
SO DON'T DELAY IN
SUBMITTING YOUR FIRM'S
NOMINATION!**

*Leadership for
Engineers* -- ACEC
OKLAHOMA helping your firm

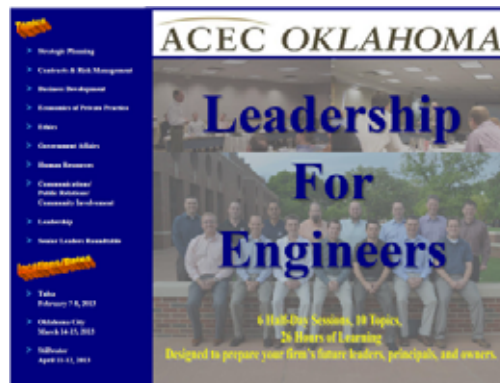
prepare for the future!!!!

ACEC OKLAHOMA Office Closed October 5th-17th

We want members to be aware that the ACEC OKLAHOMA offices will be closed October 5th thru October 17th.

Jim will be on vacation through October 12th, and following that, will be attending the ACEC Fall Conference in Boca Raton, FL, October 13-17. Jim will be "out of country" the week of Oct. 8th and will not have e-mail or phone access. Once back "in country" on October 13th, he will be able to check e-mail and voicemail, and will respond as appropriate.

Thanks for your understanding!!!!



ACEC OKLAHOMA Just \$3,000 Short of 2012 ACECPAC Goal

ACEC OKLAHOMA is inching closer to our 2012 goal of raising \$11,510.00 for ACECPAC, and we need your help to finish strong before the end of the year.

To date, ACEC OKLAHOMA members have contributed \$8,450, bringing us to 73% of the goal. Our THANKS to those listed below who have already made their 2012 contribution!

With only \$3,060 left to raise, we are asking for your help in meeting this very reachable goal. No contribution is too small, but if just 31 members donate \$100 each, we reach our goal.

PLEASE HELP!!!! Visit the ACECPAC website today to download the contribution form or to make an "on-line" contribution: <http://www.acec.org/advocacy/committees/pac.cfm>

Hollis Allen	Marty Hepp	David Neuhauser
Keith Angier	Mike Homan	Geneva Nicholls
Lance Benham	Daniel Humphrey	Sam Pappas
James Benson	Jim Hunt	Aaron Peck
John Bocox	Elias Johannsson	Stan Rankin
Bret Cabbiness	Steven Johnson	David Raymond
Brandon Claborn	Srihari Koneru	Scott Rodehaver
James Cobb	Jason Langhammer	Brent Schniers
Todd Cochran	Stacy Loeffler	Ryan Smith
Joe Davis	Syam Mannava	Robert Smith
Jerry Edgin	Nic Millard	Alan Soltani
Steve Ford	Chuck Mitchell	James Stewart
Doug Glenn	Susan Mobley	Brandon Wall
Chad Grinsteiner	Dennis Morris	Michael Wilson
Tom Hendrick		

ACEC OKLAHOMA Endorses State Questions 764 & 766

As reported in the September edition of "*The First Word*," there are two State Questions on November ballot which have a direct impact on A/E/LS firms in Oklahoma.

After reviewing two questions -- SQ 764 and SQ 766 -- the ACEC Board of Directors unanimously voted to endorse passage of both of these important State Questions.

State Question 766 deals with an Oklahoma Supreme Court ruling that businesses should pay property tax on their "Intangible" Personal Property. For ACEC OKLAHOMA members, this could mean being taxed on your customer lists, databases, trademarks and trade name, patents, employment contracts, and "goodwill," to name a few. SQ 766 would constitutionally prohibit the taxation of "intangible" personal property.

SQ 766 would Constitutionally "exempt" Intangible Personal Property from taxation. Under the Oklahoma Constitution, the Legislature does not have the authority to do this through Statute, so the Constitutional Amendment is required.

Failure to pass SQ 766 could mean a huge increase in taxes on businesses, with the valuation of property left to the sole discretion of each county's Assessor.

State Question 764 would create a \$3 Billion funding mechanism to leverage available funding for water resource and sewage treatment financial assistance programs for municipalities, rural water districts and other public entities.

Passage of SQ 764 will help communities which need to expand or improve their existing water/wastewater infrastructure by boosting the OWRB's funding capacity thereby lowering borrowing costs to the communities which have limited resources due to a small customer base over which the cost of the water needs can be spread....all without a tax increase.

ACEC OKLAHOMA urges all Member Firms to become active in the efforts to secure passage of both of these important State Questions.

ACEC Transportation Committee – Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Update

The House and Senate approved legislation ([H.J.Res. 117](#)) last week to keep federal agencies and programs operating for six months, through March 27, 2013. This stopgap funding bill will avoid a government shutdown scenario and give lawmakers time to negotiate final budget decisions for Fiscal Year 2013 during the post-election lame duck session or in the new year.

The House vote was [329-91](#). The Senate vote was [62-30](#).

The “continuing resolution” funds programs at the \$1.047 trillion discretionary spending cap agreed to in last year’s debt-limit budget deal. This amounts to a 0.6% increase for most programs and agencies.

Most transportation programs will receive the 0.6% increase above current levels. However, for highway programs, the bill caps spending at the current level – \$39.144 billion, which is \$560 million below the funding level set in MAP-21. Transit programs are given the increase and funded at a \$10.673 billion annualized rate.

It is our expectation that the final spending bill negotiated for transportation programs for FY 2013 will fully honor the commitments made in MAP-21. We will be actively lobbying to make that happen.

FHWA and FTA Issuing MAP-21 Program Guidance

The Federal Highway Administration has been conducting a series of webinars on various aspects of MAP-21. They have also released fact sheets and program guidance on implementation of the new law, which takes effect on Oct. 1st.

To view the FHWA fact sheets, webinars and other resources, click here: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/>

The Federal Transit Administration has also developed a series of fact sheets and program summaries for MAP-21 implementation.

To view the FTA site, click here: <http://www.fta.dot.gov/map21/>

FHWA Proposes Changes to Regulations Governing A/E Services

The Federal Highway Administration has proposed changes to the federal regulations governing engineering and design services on federal-aid highway projects.

ACEC has been expecting this rulemaking for quite some time. A task force of ACEC Transportation Committee members is thoroughly reviewing the proposed changes and helping develop formal comments. While many of the changes appear to be consistent with what FHWA has already posted in the

Q&A policy guidance (on which ACEC provided significant input), we are reviewing it carefully. Key provisions in the rulemaking include:

- Procurement methods and procedures:
 - Eliminates the provision allowing for “equivalent” or “alternative” state QBS procedures, as those were eliminated in Section 174 of the 2006 Appropriations law
 - Outlines specific procedures for complying with the Brooks Act
 - Places conditions on the use of consultants in management roles
- Contracts and Administration:
 - Sets requirements for the use of IDIQ contracts, including maximum contract length and total dollar value, and prohibits awarding task orders based on price
 - Defines the responsibilities of an agency employee in “responsible charge” of a project
- Allowable costs and oversight:
 - Provides more detail on establishing indirect cost rates
 - Allows for the limitation or “benchmarking” of direct salaries based on an objective assessment of the reasonableness of the rates; otherwise, actual wage rates must be used
 - Identifies the factors that should be used in setting fixed fees, e.g. scope, complexity, duration, risk, etc.
 - Lays out a risk-based framework for assuring compliance with federal cost principles
 - Requires certification by consultants that indirect cost rates are allowable in accordance with federal cost principles

If you have feedback on any specific items, please feel free to pass it on to Matt Reiffer or Vivian Moeglein at ACEC.

The official deadline for filing comments is November 5, 2012.

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

October 1, 2012

David Raymond, President & CEO

Just two weeks to go to our Fall Conference in Boca Raton – our numbers are going to top Las Vegas approaching 800 participants; we've got the largest number of "first timers" that we've ever had, as well as a new Young Professionals Forum that is shaping up nicely. The Congressman for the Boca area, Ted Deutch, will be joining us, along with the new head of the Army Corps of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Tom Bostick, and a long list of other industry and media leaders (See *Last Word*, 9-26-12). The past month has been most active – even with the Congressional recess – as ACEC is engaged with federal officials on infrastructure, design-build, regulatory, and procurement issues. Our PAC has made impressive gains in order to be able to affect election outcomes in support of ACEC positions. And we are helping the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure recruit and train credentialed users for its new Envision rating system. See you all in Boca!

General

- * ACEC leaders at the annual conference of the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) in Seoul, South Korea called for more aggressive promotion of Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) around the world.
- * Buttressing ACEC's aggressive advocacy program, ACEC/Alaska, ACEC/Nebraska, and ACEC/South Dakota achieved their 2012 ACEC/PAC fundraising goals; several states are close behind.
- * New ACEC lobbyist, Keith Pemrick, Director, Environment and Energy Programs, is a former legislative director for Rep. Tim Holden (D-PA); he succeeds Diane Shea who retired.
- * In a major initiative combat insourcing, the ACEC Minuteman Fund is supporting Prop 35 in California to disallow automatic union payroll deductions for political purposes.
- * At ACEC's request, both House Financial Services Committee Chairman Spencer Bachus (R-AL) and Congressman Robert Dold (R-IL) have raised concerns that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has gone beyond the intent of Congress in efforts to regulate engineering activities as part of the municipal advisor registration requirement.
- * In response to extensive regulatory changes proposed by FHWA for how engineering services will be procured, ACEC has formed a member task force to develop Council positions before the November 5th comment deadline.
- * Leading a multi-association Coalition on Design-Build to limit the use of single-step design-build by federal agencies and strengthen the designer role in all design-build contracting.
- * Discussed industry concerns over sequestration with new Administrator of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy.
- * Hosted fundraising events to support Representatives Nick Joe Rahall (D-WV), Tom Latham (R-IA), Mike Capuano (D-MA), Diane Black (R-TN), John Culberson (R-TX), Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR).
- * Provided advocacy briefings at membership meetings in NE, NY, PA, NJ, AZ, CO, NM, NV, UT.

Business Resources

- * Upcoming business webinars in October: *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Programmatic Outlook; Transportation Project Financing Through Expanded TIFIA Program; Conceptual and Detailed Project Cost Estimating; Team Network Analysis: Fixing Bottlenecks Across High-Functioning Teams; Workplace Wellness; 401(k) Fee Disclosure Rules That You Should Know; Achieving Extraordinary Success with Business Development; Are You Fighting Fires Instead of Managing Your Employees; Workplace Learning Beyond the Classroom.*

Government Advocacy

- * A delegation of 16 ACEC member firms participated in an invitation-only interagency conference—hosted by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton—on the global infrastructure market and business opportunities for American firms.