

THE FIRST WORD

September, 2013

Leadership For Engineers

**6 Half-Day Sessions, 26 Hours of Learning Covering 10 Topics
Designed to Prepare Your Firm's Future Leaders, Principals, and Owners.**

ACEC OKLAHOMA is excited to announce that registration is now open for **Class #5** of the critically acclaimed *Leadership for Engineers* program beginning in February, 2014. The program 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.

A distinguished faculty of professionals from both inside and outside the engineering profession has been put together to address a variety of management topics including: **Leadership; Human Resources/Managing People; Ethics; Strategic Planning; Government Affairs; Economics of Private Practice; Business Development; Risk Management/Contract Language; and, Communications/Public Relations/Community Involvement, and Senior Leaders Roundtable.**

SPACE IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 15 REGISTRANTS!

**SLOTS ARE ALREADY FILLING SO DON'T DELAY IN
SUBMITTING YOUR FIRM'S NOMINATION!**

The **Registration Deadline will be December 13, 2013** 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

Leadership for Engineers -- ACEC OKLAHOMA helping your firm prepare for the future!!!!

PSMJ Project Managers Bootcamp Registration Open

On November 14-15 in Oklahoma City, ACEC OKLAHOMA will host the critically acclaimed **PSMJ PROJECT MANAGERS BOOTCAMP**, a two-day, in-depth seminar which compresses a lifetime of experience and insight into two days.

Attendees will gain an understanding of the techniques and strategies of today's most successful projects managers to: Improve your personal project management skills and success; Provide a focus and dynamic approach your whole firm can put into action immediately; Strengthen your technical skills including negotiation, budgeting, scheduling and risk management; and, Refine your "people skills" including marketing, communication, and leadership.

Registration information for both programs will be sent to all members next week, and can be found on the ACEC OKLAHOMA website (www.acecok.org). These are going to be two great programs and hope you will take advantage of these great opportunities!

Southern States Mergers & Acquisitions Seminar

M&A activity in the business-friendly states of Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana continues to be hot with nearly 40 firm sales since 2012.

If you are interested in expanding into the South, or your firm is based in a Southern state, Morrissey Goodale's Southern States M&A Seminar is for you.

Join Mick Morrissey, Mark Goodale, Neil Churman and Nick Belitz of Morrissey Goodale in Houston for a one-day seminar designed specifically for AE decision-makers who are interested in learning more about the M&A marketplace – especially in the South – and deal pricing and structuring in the recovering economic environment.

Thursday, October 24, 2013
8:00am - 5:00pm
The St. Regis Houston
1919 Briar Oaks Lane
Houston, TX 77027

This full-day educational seminar is loaded with up-to-date information on AE M&A trends and topics with a focus on the Southern states of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma. The event also provides a premier networking event for AE decision-makers with the ever popular Morrissey Goodale cocktail receptions on the evening before the seminar and immediately after the seminar. Session topics will include:

- Overview of Mergers and Acquisitions in the A/E Industry: Global and domestic trends with a special focus on four core Southern states.
- Drivers of A/E M&A Activity: Exploring the trends and forces that are contributing to industry consolidation in the Southern states of Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas
- Deal Pricing and Structuring: Looking at how buyers decide what a business is worth and a deeper dive on current deal pricing and structuring trends with examples drawn from real-life A/E transactions.
- Panel Discussion: Featuring successful AE buyers and sellers from Southern states. Hear from folks who have "been there, done that".
- The Trajectory of a Deal: Explore the typical paths – and some not so typical ones – that a deal may take from the first meeting through integration.

Welcome New Member

ACEC OKLAHOMA is happy to welcome the newest member of the Council, **Keystone Engineering and Land Surveying**.

The 15-person, Stillwater-based firm is headed by Kelly Harris, and is a registered DBE firm with ODOT. The firm offers Civil Engineering, Engineering Consulting, Land Surveying, and Reproduction.

ACEC OKLAHOMA welcomes **Keystone Engineering and Land Surveying**, and looks forward to having the firm as active members of the Council!

Tort Reform Re-Enacted During Special Session

After just 5 days, the Special Session of the Oklahoma Legislature adjourned Monday, September 8th, after passing 23 separate bills. The bills represented the sections of the 2009 Comprehensive Tort Reform bill which the Oklahoma Supreme Court struck down in June based on the 2009 bill violating the Constitutional "single subject" rule.

Two issues of special interest to the Consulting Engineering community during the Special Session were "Joint & Several Liability" reform and the "Certificate of Merit." During the Special Session it was determined that because amendments to that statute had been adopted since the 2009 law enacted, the Joint & Several repeal of 2009 was unaffected by the Supreme Court's decision, so no action was necessary.

The "Certificate of Merit" was another story, and was the hot-button issue of the Special Session. In its June ruling, the Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional stating that it created a barrier to the courts and was a "special law" pertaining only to "professionals."

The Legislature did reinstate the "Certificate of Merit" provisions, but made two changes in an attempt to placate the Court by refining the waiver process for indigent people to resolve the "access" problem, and, changed the language from "professional" negligence to "all" negligence cases involving an expert witness. The bill passed the Senate 33-11, but after a House vote of 51-36, the House rejected the "emergency clause" meaning the bill won't go into effect until mid-December.

Many at the Capitol expect a court challenge to the revised Certificate of Merit law, so we may not have heard the last of this. But, for now, in mid-December it becomes law again.

In Memory

David Scheirman and Paul Matthews

ACEC OKLAHOMA is saddened to report the passing of two individuals who were, in their own individual ways, an important part of ACEC OKLAHOMA and the Oklahoma Engineering Community, and, who both made a lasting impact to this great state.



David M. Scheirman, 81, passed from this earth to his home in Heaven on September 4, 2013.

David was born March 8, 1932, in Enid, OK to Peter and Dora Scheirman and was raised in Kingfisher, OK. Upon graduation from high school, Dave joined the Army & served in the Korean War.

When he returned to Oklahoma, he obtained a degree in engineering. He began working in Oklahoma City, where he met his bride, Barbara Reuter, whom he married on April 12, 1958. They resided in Oklahoma City, where he partnered with Tom Determan to create Determan-Scheirman Consulting Engineers, where he worked full time up until June, 2013

David served as ACEC OKLAHOMA President in 1990-91, and was a highly respected member of and leader in the Oklahoma engineering community.

He joins his wife, Barbara, in eternal life; as well as his parents; brother, Richard Scheirman; and sister, Marian Scheirman Epperson. He is survived by his children: Sandra Plain and husband Kary, of Plano, TX; son, John Scheirman and wife Lisa, of Norman, OK; and Susan Schmidt and husband Dwayne, of Oklahoma City; as well as four grandchildren, Ryan Plain, Sarah Plain, Jacob Schmidt, and Luke Schmidt.

Dave is described by friends as witty, upbeat, unselfish, as having a happy energy that people were drawn to, "never met a stranger" and lived a great example of a full life. He adored his grandchildren and spent most of his free time with them and his children. He enjoyed music, theater performances, traveling and relished riding the right seat of the cockpit.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to St. Charles Social Ministries, 5024 N Grove, Oklahoma City, OK 73122.



Paul William Matthews, 81, passed away on September 8, 2013, in Nichols Hills. He was born in Joplin, MO, on January 3, 1932, the son of Paul Newman Matthews and Bernice Sutton Matthews. He spent his early life in Neosho, MO, before moving to Miami, OK, and then to Guymon where he graduated from high school.

Paul entered Oklahoma A&M College and majored in political science and graduated from in 1954 with a bachelor's degree in political science and was commissioned a second lieutenant. Following military service at Fort Bragg, NC, Paul entered chamber of commerce management in Mendota, IL, and Kenosha, WI. He received his organization management degree from Michigan State University and then entered association management with the National Highway Users Federation in 1962 as Regional Director of Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Illinois and New Mexico and served until early retirement in 1993. He continued to serve as executive director for the Oklahoma Federation following retirement, and was one of the state's leading advocates for a safe, efficient transportation system.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and his wife of 57 years, Rita. He is survived by his son, Douglas Arthur Matthews and wife Judith, of Glen Carbon, IL; son, David Sutton Matthews and wife Laurie, of Dallas, TX; grandchildren: Kenneth, of Los Angeles, CA; Kevin, of Denver, CO; Jackson, Travis, Michael, and Erica, all of Glen Carbon, IL; Ian, Stewart, and Sarah Rose, of Dallas, TX; and great-granddaughter, Olivia Ann.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, September 14, 2013, at the Hahn-Cook/Street & Draper Chapel. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Paul W. Matthews Endowed Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 1749, Stillwater, OK 74076. Online donations may be made at www.osugiving.com

On a personal note, I had the honor of serving under David's leadership of ACEC OKLAHOMA, and know that he was a strong advocate for the advancement of the consulting engineering profession. And, even before I came to Oklahoma in 1988, I had known Paul for some 8 years from my days with the Kansas auto dealers association. Paul was a true gentleman and proud Oklahoman! David and Paul will be missed by many, but their legacy will live on!

ACEC OKLAHOMA extends our deepest sympathy to David's daughters Sandra and Susan and son John, and the entire Scheirman family, and, to Paul's sons Douglas and David, and the entire Matthews family.

President's Report

September, 2013

David Raymond, ACEC President

As you head into the Labor Day weekend, please know that your Council has had an active August pressing our agenda with key governmental agencies and advancing the recommendations of our various committees, coalitions, councils and forums that form the backbone of ACEC's policy-making and grass-roots activities. September will be a crucial legislative month, with the federal debt ceiling and needed action on overall government funding high on Congress' to-do list. One of ACEC's major priorities is the Water Resources and Development Act which is expected to be considered by House Committee in September with floor action to follow immediately afterwards. At Committee Chairman Bill Shuster's (R-PA) request, ACEC is working with legislators to build support for WRDA; it would represent the first major infrastructure initiative to come out of the House, as well as a key test vote ahead of larger infrastructure initiatives. Our Fall Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona has record numbers of advance registrants spurred by a strong business program and notable speakers; early registration discounts continue through September. Have a great holiday weekend.

General

- * Co-sponsored the State Transportation Leaders' Summit at the National Conference of State Legislatures, August 12, featuring U.S. DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx, state lawmakers and agency leaders focused on transportation funding at the state level.
- * Addressed ACEC/North Carolina's summer conference on current political and business issues (participation included two North Carolina state legislators who are members of ACEC/NC), and briefed ACEC/WV on industry initiatives in Congress.
- * Summer Coalition meetings of CASE, COPS, LDC and DPC were highly productive, creating new practice documents and "tools" and generating support for various ACEC political initiatives.

Government Advocacy

- * Advocated a broad-based national energy policy, hydraulic fracturing, and a broad definition of clean energy with Rep. Diane DeGette (D-CO) and staff from the office of Senator Mark Udall (D-CO) during the ACEC Environment and Energy Committee meeting in Denver.
- * Australian Embassy staff briefed ACEC's International Committee on public and private partnerships (P3s) in Australia and opportunities for U.S. firms.

Government Advocacy (cont)

- * Key government agencies (Corps of Engineers, Small Business Administration, Air Force, and State Department's Office of Overseas Building Operations) briefed ACEC on funding, impact of sequestration, and future programs.
- * Updated representatives of twenty federal agencies involved in export promotion on the needs and challenges facing U.S. engineering firms overseas.
- * Supported an increase in right-of-ways, permits, and temporary easements to construct, operate, and maintain oil and natural gas pipelines on federal lands by endorsing the Energy Infrastructure Improvement Act to grant issuing authority to the Department of Interior (DOI), rather than Congress.
- * Supported the expanded availability of low cost capital for renewable energy projects by endorsing the Master Limited Partnerships Parity Act, introduced by Reps. Ted Poe (R-TX) and Sen. Christopher Coons (D-DE).
- * ACEC/Washington became the sixth state to meet its PAC fundraising goal for 2013, further contributing to this year's record-breaking pace for PAC fundraising.
- * ACEC/PAC hosted fundraising events for Reps. Rick Larsen (D-WA), Darrell Issa, (R-CA), Dave Joyce (R-OH), Rep. Steven Horsford (D-NV), and Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA).

