

# ACEC OKLAHOMA

The Voice of Oklahoma's Engineering Industry

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## THE FIRST WORD

August, 2016

### ACEC OKLAHOMA Board/ General Membership Meeting Set for Aug. 25th

ACEC OKLAHOMA's next Board of Directors and General Membership Meeting will be held Thursday, August 25th in Oklahoma City. Both the Board and General Meetings will be held at the offices of the Association of Oklahoma General Contractors. (AOGC).

The General Membership Meeting will begin at 11:45am, and will be preceded by the Board of Directors meeting at 9:00am.

The Senior Staff of ODOT will present an update on the status of the current transportation program, and the outlook for the coming year.

Registration information has been sent to all ACEC OKLAHOMA members.

We look forward to seeing everyone on August 25th!!!

### Consulting Engineers PAC Update

Consulting Engineers PAC, the political action arm of ACEC OKLAHOMA, met on Thursday, July 21st.

ACEC OKLAHOMA Lobbyist Pat Hall provided a recap of the June Primary election as well as a look at the upcoming August Runoff and November General Elections.

Following Pat's report, the PAC Trustees and Voting Members authorized the following contributions:

- Adam Pugh (R), \$1,000 - Runoff, Senate District 41 (Edmond)
- Sen. Dan Newberry (R), \$1,000 - General, District 37 (Jenks/Sand Springs)
- Rep. Cindi Munson (D), \$500 - General, District 85 (Oklahoma City)

Consulting Engineers PAC will meet again in September to discuss further contributions for the November General Election.

### Hulin Named ODOT Deputy Directors

Russell Hulin was appointed to Deputy Director in June 2016, filling the role previously held by newly appointed OTA Executive Director Tim Gatz. Hulin will continue to serve as Chief Financial Officer of the Department which was delegated to him in September, 2013. He also serves as the Director of Finance and Administration Divisions and branches within this group include Civil Rights, Comptroller, Human Resources, Media & Public Relations, Office Services, Programs, Purchasing and Transit Programs.



He has served in various financial and management-related positions since beginning employment with the State of Oklahoma in 1984. He served as the

Chief Financial Officer for the Oklahoma Tax Commission from 1997 through 2012 and most recently Deputy Executive Director prior to joining ODOT. Prior to his experience with OTC, Hulin worked for the State Auditor and Inspector's Office.

Hulin is a Certified Public Accountant and member of the Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants. He is also a member of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and American Road Builders Association. He holds a bachelor's of Science in Business Administration from the University of Oklahoma. He and his wife, Debbie, live in Tecumseh and have two children.

### Support Consulting Engineers PAC

With election season upon us, now is the time to contribute to YOUR Consulting Engineers PAC.

To make your personal contribution via credit card, go the to ACEC OKLAHOMA website ([www.acecok.org](http://www.acecok.org)).

# PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

August, 2016

David Raymond, President & CEO

July was eventful in many ways, discussed below, but I would like to highlight that the Rhode Island Consulting Engineers (RICE) have applied for membership in ACEC and been approved by the ACEC Executive Committee (as our 50<sup>th</sup> state!) subject to a favorable vote of the Board of Directors. Balloting is currently underway and I encourage National Directors who have not yet voted to do so in order that we may seat Rhode Island at our next Board Meeting at the Fall Conference in October. Registration for the Fall Conference is significantly outpacing last year, and if you haven't yet seen the program for this extraordinary business conference at the beautiful Broadmoor in Colorado Springs [click here](#).

## General

- \* An e-ballot has been sent to ACEC National Directors this week to approve the Rhode Island Consulting Engineers (RICE) request to become a state member organization of ACEC –the 50th state to become part of the ACEC family.
- \* ACEC's Engineering Business Index (EBI) fell in the second quarter, but continues to reflect a strong overall engineering market environment.
- \* ACEC Chairman Peter Strub and President Dave Raymond participated in a White House meeting with the U.S. DOT Secretary and state DOT leaders on transportation funding: the message is that a lot more will continue to happen at the state level in infrastructure funding until greater political consensus is reached at the national level on how to finance significant increases.
- \* Minuteman Fund grants were awarded to ACEC/Michigan and ACEC/Washington, respectively – for an amicus brief to the Michigan Court of Appeals to defend the Economic Loss Doctrine, and to pass a November Washington state infrastructure ballot initiative.
- \* Promoted balanced tax treatment for corporations and pass-through businesses in a letter to House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX).
- \* Helped secure extension of airport infrastructure funding and other FAA programs through September 2017.
- \* Participated in the AASHTO Audit conference with representatives from 40 state DOTs, FHWA officials, featuring sessions to resolve FAR compliance questions, executive compensation, and collaboration on education and training to promote more consistent interpretation and application of federal standards.
- \* ACEC's Federal Agencies and Procurement Advocacy Committee raised concerns with federal agency officials and congressional committee staff over efforts by contracting officers to cap overhead rates; also promoted greater use of QBS in the programs of the Department of Homeland Security.
- \* ACEC's International Committee promoted the use of life-cycle costing with the head of procurement at the World Bank as a way of encouraging greater use of QBS.

## Government Advocacy

- \* Succeeded in securing report language in the *2017 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations* bill that urges USAID to make greater use of U.S. engineering firms in international projects.
- \* Senators Dean Heller (R-NV) and Bill Nelson (D-FL), and Congressmen Mike Kelly (R-PA) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), have introduced ACEC-backed legislation that would add public buildings to the list of facilities that qualify for private activity bonds.
- \* Secured a majority of Senate Republicans on a letter calling on Senate leaders to vote on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).
- \* Collaborated with the U.S. China Business Council in hosting a program outlining China's water programs.
- \* ACEC/PAC co-hosted events for Representatives Mike Capuano (D-MA), Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Mike Kelly (R-PA), Rick Larsen (D-WA), Randy Hultgren (R-IL), John Katko (R-NY), and Adam Kinzinger (R-IL); and ACEC/PAC checks were provided to Representatives Todd Rokita (R-IN), Peter Visclosky (D-IN), and Fred Upton (R-MI).

