

THE FIRST WORD

October, 2018

ACEC OKLAHOMA Leadership For Engineers Class Filling Fast; Register Today!!!!

Registration is open for Class # 10 of ACEC OKLAHOMA's "Leadership For Engineers" program.

Eleven (11) of the fifteen (15) available seats are filled, and we expect the rest of the class to fill quickly. If your firm has not yet registered someone, we urge you to do so quickly.

Info is available on our website: www.acecok.org

Consulting Engineers PAC November Elections Just One Month Away

With the November General Elections set for November 6th, Consulting Engineers PAC is hard at work on behalf of the consulting engineering profession.

The Trustees and Voting Members met on Tuesday, September 25, and authorized some \$18,500 in contributions to candidates from both parties, as well as one statewide race.

Consulting Engineers PAC will be involved in 15 House and 14 Senate races, and one statewide race.

House races include 6 open seats as well as several contested races, some of which involve House Republican and Democratic Leadership.

On the Senate side, Consulting Engineers PAC is involved in 6 open seat races along with other races involved Senate Republican and Democratic Leadership and key Committee Chairpersons.

Also authorized was a contribution to former State Representative Leslie Osborn who is the Republican nominee for State Labor Commissioner. Consulting Engineers PAC has supported Rep. Osborn while she was a House member. The issue of "Occupational" and "Professional" licensing is being discussed now within the Legislature and Labor Commission, and the PAC believed that Ms. Osborn will be open to understanding our concerns of changes which might impact the practice of engineering in Oklahoma.

Of course, Consulting Engineers PAC is still accepting your contributions to the PAC. To make your "personal" contribution, visit the Advocacy tab of the ACEC OKLAHOMA website: www.acecok.org

ACEC OKLAHOMA Welcomes New Member Firm, ESDC, Inc., Tulsa

ACEC OKLAHOMA is excited to welcome our newest member firm, **ESDC Engineering, Inc.**

ESDC Engineering is a 40-person full service, multi-discipline consulting engineering firm based in Tulsa. Patrick Hurst, P.E., leads the firm which has office in downtown Tulsa.

The firm provides Civil/Structural, Electrical, Mechanical, Fire Protection, and Project Management services to the Oil and Gas industry.

Welcome **ESDC Engineering** to ACEC OKLAHOMA!!!!

Engineering Excellence Awards Entry Deadline Fast Approaching

The deadline for submitting your entries in the 2018 ACEC OKLAHOMA Engineering Excellence Awards competition is rapidly approaching!

All Entries must be received no later than close of business on Friday, November 2, 2018.

Entry information has been sent to member firms, and is also available on the ACEC OKLAHOMA website.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the ACEC OKLAHOMA office.

We look forward to receiving your entry!!!!

President's Monthly Update

July, 2018

Linda Bauer Darr, President & CEO

For the second month in a row, our thoughts go out to our members impacted by disasters. Following Hurricane Lane, which struck the Hawaiian Islands in August, Florence devastated the Carolinas with severe flooding this month and causing at least 47 deaths across multiple states. A series of gas fires and explosions broke out in the Merrimack Valley region of Massachusetts costing one life and causing significant property destruction. As I wrote last month, engineers – our members – play a role that is both vital and inspiring in designing infrastructure that is resilient to these kinds of events. ACEC's mission is to promote a business climate that best supports engineers as they go about this important work. To that end, I have had the pleasure of meeting with many of you at the first two of four "listening sessions" at central locations around the country. This is giving me the opportunity to hear first-hand from you on how we can work together to accomplish our common goals for the benefit of our members. I look forward to the next two sessions, in Denver on October 4 and in Napa on October 11; volunteer leadership of the MOs and executive directors are invited and encouraged to attend. And later in October, we've got a great Fall Conference at the world-renowned Bellagio in Las Vegas. See you all there!

Government Advocacy

- Secured an expansion of QBS requirements on federally funded airport projects in the final FAA reauthorization bill; the legislation also features a new \$1 billion annual airport infrastructure grant program and provisions to authorize more risk-based permitting for unmanned aircraft systems.
- The House and Senate have agreed on a new version of the *Water Resources Development Act* (WRDA), authorizing new Corps of Engineers water projects and increasing investments in drinking water infrastructure.
- ACEC engaged with ACEC/California to circulate information to the broader membership about the effort to defeat a November ballot initiative to repeal the state gas tax increase, which would remove \$5.4 billion annually for road and bridge improvements.
- ACEC Chair Manish Kothari led the ACEC delegation to the 2018 FIDIC International Infrastructure Conference held in Berlin; major topics were FIDIC's leadership transition and goals of greater use of member association expertise; strengthening FIDIC staff; and improvement of its annual conferences.
- ACEC national staff made presentations at emerging leaders' programs in Michigan and Kansas, an ACEC/Maine event to support ACEC/PAC, and at the SEI Class 18 reunion in Portland, Maine.
- Submitted comments in support of the Treasury Department's proposed rule to implement the Sec-

tion 199A 20 percent passthrough tax deduction, which is available to engineering firms organized as S corporations, partnerships, LLCs, and sole proprietorships.

- Joined a coalition of business allies in supporting legislation that would make the new passthrough tax deduction permanent.
- House and Senate leaders included language in a major spending bill to prohibit the Administration from moving forward with a proposed transfer of a significant portion of the Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program to the Departments of Transportation and Interior.
- The House passed legislation that would amend the Affordable Care Act to change the definition of full-time employee from those who work 30 hours per week to employees working 40 hours per week; the measure would also repeal penalties that apply to employers with more than 50 employees that do not offer qualified health insurance, and delays the so-called 'Cadillac tax' on high-cost health plans until 2023.

Business Resources

- With more than 80 registered sites, September's most popular online class, *The Nitty-Gritty on the New Pass-Through Deduction*, walked member firms through the requirements for claiming the new tax benefit, including discussion of what qualifies as eligible business income, rules on reasonable compensation for owners, anti-abuse safeguards, and aggregation rules for firms with multiple legal entities.

