

THE FIRST WORD

April, 2010

ODOT / ACEC OKLAHOMA Partnering Conference Set of April 22nd

The 9th Annual ODOT / ACEC OKLAHOMA Partnering Conference will be held at Oklahoma City's Clarion Meridian Conference Center on Thursday, April 22nd. Registration will begin at 8:30am, with the Conference beginning at 9:00am.

The program format will follow those of previous years, with an education program in the morning, followed by lunch and a series of afternoon breakout sessions.

This year's morning program will be, **COACHING FOR LEADERSHIP: TRANSFORMING POTENTIAL INTO PERFORMANCE** led by Kelly Riggs, Vmax Performance Goup, Broken Arrow. Leadership is the process of influencing people by inspiring them to achieve, by communicating in a manner that they best understand and by building trust such that they will embrace risk. However, the power of leadership tends to distort a leader's perception. A good leader commits to a continual, brutal self examination to minimize this distortion and to maintain a realistic pursuit of the organization's vision.

Afternoon breakout sessions will include discussion on:

- Session 1** **ADA / DBE**
Greg Pringle, ODOT Office of Civil Rights
- Session 2** **DESIGN SPECIFICATION UPDATES**
Design Manual **Susan Davis, Triad Design Group**
Specification Book **Anthony Delce, Office Engineer Division**
Construction Manual **George Raymond, Construction Division**
MUTCD **James Montgomery, Traffic Engineering Division**
- Session 3** **ENVIRONMENTAL / EROSION CONTROL / STORMWATER**
Tim Tegeler, Roadway Design Division
Dawn Sullivan, Environmental Programs Division
Michele Dolan, Environmental Programs Division

Additionally, Secretary of Transportation Gary Ridley will provide the latest information on the progress of seeking the reauthorization of the six-year federal highway funding legislation as well as other legislative issues of interest at both the state and federal level.

Registration information has been sent to all ACEC OKLAHOMA members as well as to all consulting firms on ODOT's consultants list, and the registration form is available on ACEC OKLAHOMA's website, www.acecok.org.

Even if your firm does not provide service to ODOT, you are invited to attend the program, especially the morning educational session, which is applicable to all consulting firms, regardless of discipline or practice area.

We look forward to seeing everyone on April 22nd!

ACEC OKLAHOMA April General Membership Meeting

ACEC OKLAHOMA's April General Membership Meeting will be held Thursday, April 15th at the Doubletree Hotel in Downtown Tulsa. The Business meeting will begin at 5:00pm, and will be followed by dinner and a very special program.

David Bartee, Diversified Benefits, Inc., will present **How the New Federal Health Care Legislation Will Impact Your Firm**, a discussion of the new Federal Health Care Reform Legislation which was recently signed by President Obama. He will discuss specific aspects of the legislation and provide insight as to the impact of the bill on your firm and your employees.

This will be a very informative program and will help you prepare for the implementation of the new reforms.

We look forward to seeing everyone on April 15th!!!!

ACEC Retirement Trust Offers New Program, Complimentary Retirement Plan Review

The ACEC Retirement Trust is a retirement program sponsored by ACEC and created for ACEC member firms that encompass plan design, investment selection/monitoring, fiduciary protection, fee review/negotiation, employee education, enhanced recordkeeping and administration for firms of all sizes.

The Trust is pleased to announce a new investment option, **IncomeFlex**®, which is being offered as an investment option in the ACEC Retirement Trust.

The ACEC Retirement Trustees recognized the need for an in-plan, institutionally priced solution that provides guaranteed lifelong income, full flexibility, and portability. It complements the wide array of retirement product-and-service solutions that are already available. And, most importantly, it provides participants with guaranteed lifelong income without the loss of control associated with other income products. We believe the addition of IncomeFlex clearly enhances the value and appeal of our program.

We would like to offer you a complimentary retirement plan review of your retirement. Our analysis encompasses the following: Fee Structure; Fiduciary oversight; Investment performance relative to benchmarks and peer groups; Asset allocation of participant accounts; Plan Design, with recommendations on Roth, New Comparability, Match, Profit Sharing and Vesting; Auto Enrollment; and, QDIA Investment options

For a complete plan comparison or for more information on the ACEC Retirement Trust, call Nancy Barrett at 1-800-521-9463.

Transportation Day at the Capitol

The TRUST Transportation Day at the Capitol will be held on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 starting at 9:00 a.m. through lunchtime at the State Capitol. Participation in this day of advocacy is critical to the outcome of state transportation funding and policy agendas. It includes morning remarks from State Senate and House leadership, the Governor's office and top transportation officials. Following the morning briefings will be one-on-one legislative visits and a luncheon for TRUST members and legislators. This is a time where all transportation interests collectively join to create a strong show of support for transportation funding and promotes our 2010 legislative agenda.

2010 Transportation Day Program

- * 9:00am – Registration Opens (Room 104, First Floor, Oklahoma State Capitol)
- * 9:15am – Opening Remarks, Neal McCaleb, President of TRUST and Kell Kelly, Co-Chairman of TRUST
- * 9:30am – State Question 744 -- Know the facts: Negative impact to transportation funding and state's economy
Grassroots mobilization: how to help defeat SQ 744
- * 9:45am – Update on State Budget FY 2011 negotiations - House and Senate leadership
- * 10:00am – State of Federal and State Transportation Funding - Sec. of Transportation Gary Ridley
- * 10:15am – Transportation Policy Update
House Transportation Chairman, TW Shannon
House A & B Sub Committee on Gen. Govt. & Transportation Chairman, Guy Liebmann
Senate Transportation Chairman, Cliff Branam
Senate Transportation Vice Chair, Bryce Marlatt
- * 10:45am - Prep for Individual Legislative Visits --Jami Longacre, TRUST Legislative Consultant and Crystal Drwenski, TRUST Executive Director

* 11:00am – 11:30 – Individual Legislative Visits

* 11:30am – 1:00pm – Lunch with Legislators (Second Floor Rotunda)

To register for this important event, visit the TRUST website at: <http://www.restoretrust.org/transportation-day-at-the-capitol>

Service & Technology Chairman/Founder Named Bartlesville's "Most Progressive Citizen"

K. Vasudevan, Chairman & Founder of Bartlesville-based Service & Technology Corporation, was named the "2009 Most Progressive Citizen" at the fourth annual Examiner-Enterprise Most Progressive Citizen banquet and award program Friday, March 26th at the Bartlesville Community Center. Service and Technology Corporation is a longtime member firm of ACEC OKLAHOMA.



K. Vasudevan, left, holds his "2009 Most Progressive Citizen" award at the 4th Examiner-Enterprise Most Progressive Citizen banquet at the Bartlesville Community Center. Right is E-E Publisher Jerry Quinn.

A surprised "Vasu," as he is commonly known, accepted the award, saying he was "embarrassed" to be honored in a community with so many philanthropists. "I'm embarrassed, because I don't deserve this," he said. "Not in this community filled with giants in philanthropy. I just cannot imagine to start naming names."

Vasudevan earned the award by distinguishing himself in a variety of ways, said E-E Publisher Jerry Quinn before introducing the award recipient. "Since 1988, the B.L.E.S.S. Fund he created has awarded scholarship grants valued at more than \$215,000 to 59 students. He has faithfully supported Bartlesville Public Schools, and served as chairman of the Donor Recognition Committee for the Rogers State University fundraising campaign."

Vasudevan founded Service and Technology Corporation in 1986 and preserved a part of Bartlesville's history when he chose to acquire and remodel the former Lincoln Elementary School for

use as the company headquarters. The B.L.E.S.S. Fund (**B**artlesville **L**incoln **E**lementary **S**chool **S**cholarship) was founded to immortalize and honor the students and staff of the Lincoln Elementary which was built in 1914, and to reward those students who might not otherwise be able to attend college due to financial need or personal circumstances. To date, several B.L.E.S.S. scholars have graduated with degrees in Aeronautical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Agricultural Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Technology, Finance, and Education.

Vasudevan is an active member of Bartlesville Noon Rotary Club, and "through that association he spearheaded an international humanitarian project to build a portable crematorium that provides the rural population of an underdeveloped nation the means to safely and respectfully dispose of the earthly remains of its dead," Quinn said. Vasudevan coordinated another Rotary project that provided a library and equipment for a school in his native India. He is also the recipient of the honorary Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts of America for his work in fundraising and development of Camp Cherokee and Camp McClintock.

"For more than 20 years, he has provided funding to assure that the American flag that flies over our police station is always in a presentable state," Quinn said. "A host of local projects that preserve Bartlesville history and culture have been made possible by his ready willingness to get involved."

In accepting the award, Vasudevan said he was humbled and surprised. "I thank the Almighty for all that has happened to me so far and all there is to happen to me later," he said. "I'm very humbled, overwhelmed and taken aback by surprise."

"Nevertheless, if this is not a joke, I thank you very much," he said. "I'll continue to do all my best to serve this community in the greatest nation on earth. Thank you."

ACEC OKLAHOMA would like to add our Congratulations to Vasu on receiving this much-deserved honor. Over the years I've had several opportunities of visit Vasu's firm in Bartlesville, and always come away marveling at the committment of Vasu and his staff to the engineering profession and to serving their clients, as well as their seemingly boundless energy and dedication to improving the quality of life for all of the citizens of Bartlesville and the surrounding area.

ACEC PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

David Raymond, President & CEO

April, 2010

General

- * Recently successful Minuteman Fund-supported initiatives have included passage of limitation of liability legislation in Virginia, and defeat of efforts to repeal the QBS law in West Virginia.
- * New Minuteman Fund grants have been awarded to California to prevent unfair indemnification obligations; to Texas to protect the Economic Loss Doctrine; and to Wisconsin to pass a QBS law.
- * Design upgrade of *Last Word* includes a new “ACEC Index” to track stock performance of publicly traded ACEC member firms, as well as a revamped news section focusing on industry sectors.
- * Conducted “webinar” on ACEC’s new, three-year budget with participation of 71 state Member Organization leaders.
- * Staff briefed ACEC/Oregon, ACEC/Washington, ACEC/Massachusetts, ACEC/Pennsylvania and ACEC/New York on current legislative and related issues.

Government Affairs

- * Lobbied Congress on highways, water and energy appropriations bills, including provisions to move beyond short term “shovel ready” maintenance work and to allow greater flexibility for states.
- * Secured final passage of a “jobs bill” that extends federal highway and transit programs through the end of the year, transfers \$19.5 billion in to the Highway Trust Fund to maintain timely project payments to states, and expand the Build America Bonds program to support additional local infrastructure investment.
- * Led a multi-association lobbying effort to successfully pass Private Activity Bonds legislation in House which will help communities to raise funds for water and wastewater infrastructure projects; focus now on Senate.
- * Testified before the House Committee on Small Business in support of including subcontract work in calculating the level of small firm participation in federal contracts; briefed members of ACEC’s Design Professionals Coalition (DPC) on pending small business legislation and reforms being advocated by ACEC; and provided comments to Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee opposing repeal of Small Business Competition Demonstration Program.
- * Hosted fundraising events to support Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME), Rep. Lee Terry (R-NE), Rep. John Salazar (D-CO), Rep. Glenn Nye (D-VA), Rep. Mark Souder (R-IN), Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA), and Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO).
- * Endorsed legislation that will provide liability protections to A/E firms that participated in rescue/clean-up efforts after 9/11 terrorist attacks.
- * Obtained \$500 million increase in annual airport improvement funding in Senate-passed bill reauthorizing FAA funding and programs for two years.
- * Advocated “infrastructure resiliency” as part of national infrastructure policy; and participated in Department of Homeland Security Workshop on critical infrastructure risk modeling and simulation.
- * Senior staff from Capitol Hill and the EPA briefed members of ACEC Environment and Energy Committee on pending water legislation and issues at the committee’s Washington meeting.