

THE FIRST WORD

August, 2006

PSMJ Project Manager's Bootcamp Set for October in Oklahoma City

PSMJ, in association with ACEC OKLAHOMA, will host PSMJ's critically acclaimed **PROJECT MANAGERS BOOTCAMP**, Thursday-Friday, October 26-27 at the Courtyard by Marriott in downtown Oklahoma City.

A special ACEC OKLAHOMA Registration Form is available on the ACEC OKLAHOMA website (www.acecok.org) for your use. By using the ACEC OKLAHOMA Registration Form, you will receive free of charge PSMJ's Project Management Checklist, which will provide you and your firm 47 innovative ways to increase efficiencies and financial returns, from addressing quality control and growing client relationships to generating positive cash flow and attaining winning negotiation skills. This is a \$47.00 value FREE OF CHARGE to anyone using the ACEC OKLAHOMA Registration Form.

Two years ago, PSMJ and ACEC OKLAHOMA conducted the PROJECT MANAGERS BOOTCAMP, with over 50 Oklahoma engineers and architects attending. It was the highest rated program ever hosted by ACEC OKLAHOMA, and we are excited to provide the opportunity again this year.

PSMJ literally wrote the book on project management methodology in the A/E/C industry. When you attend this Bootcamp, you master the skills necessary to develop a baseline project planning method in your firm. You'll learn how to ensure client comfort and profitability on every project through real-world lessons from the world's leading A/E/C project management experts.

PSMJ seminars are the best because each and every class is tailored to participants' specific needs. In each session, our instructors work with you to identify your specific needs and address crucial issues facing each and every attendee. PSMJ uses this unique GUARANTEED approach because with nearly 30 years of experience, we KNOW what the

issues are and have compiled a 300-page workbook to address virtually any subject that arises. And, if it is not covered in our workbook, our instructors follow up with you to get you the information you need.

Registration for the PROJECT MANAGERS BOOTCAMP is \$995.00 per person if you pre-register by September 26th. After that date, registration is \$1,095.00 per person. Also, discounts for three or more attendees from the same firm are available.

Also, all attendees will earn 12 Professional Development Hours (PDHs).

Space may be limited, so don't delay in registering.

For more information, call ACEC OKLAHOMA at (405) 525-7696.

Mark Your Calendar

ACEC OKLAHOMA General Membership Meeting

**Thursday, August 24, 2006
11:45am**

**Oklahoma Engineering Center
Oklahoma City**

Details and Program Coming Soon!!!!

Use of "Engineer" Still Under Attack Legislative Interim Committee To Study Board Restriction

During the recently concluded Legislative Session, one of the biggest issues ACEC OKLAHOMA faced was that of use of the term "Engineer" by individuals or companies that do not have engineers on staff and/or do not offer engineering services.

While ACEC OKLAHOMA and the State Board of Licensure successfully fought off this attack on the engineering profession, the issue has not and will not go away!

Rep. Kris Steele, R-Shawnee, has requested an Interim Study to look at the debate that centers on a business in his district. The request for the study has been approved by Speaker Todd Hiatt, and the Interim Committee for **Interim Study 2006H-012** will meet later this year. At issue is the name of a business which manufactures oil field/water well drill bits.

In the July 7, 2006 issue of *The Journal Record* (yes, there was a newspaper article about this!), Tom Gault, owner of GT Engineering of Shawnee, said that his reputation had been built on the name of his company and that changing names at this point was something he was not willing to consider according to *The Journal Record*.

Gault moved GT Engineering from Indiana to Shawnee in 2000. At that time, GT Engineering had a licensed professional engineer on staff and received a Certificate of Authorization from the State Board of Licensure. In subsequent years, however, Gault says that his engineer lost his license and returned to Texas.

Now, without having an engineer "in responsible charge", GT Engineering is in violation of the State Licensure statute, and Gault is unwilling to comply. Instead, he wants the Legislature to grant an exemption to allow manufacturing companies to use the term "engineer or engineering" in their company name.

If the Legislature won't comply with Gault's demands, he told *The Journal Record* that he was more willing to relocate to Texas or another state than to have to change the name of his company. "If I have to change my name, I'll just move out of state," Gault told *The Journal Record*. The company has 18 employees with a payroll of nearly \$1 million.

A review of state licensing laws in states surrounding Oklahoma finds that all of the contiguous states, including Texas, have similar restrictions on the use of "Engineer" in company names.

Of course, ACEC OKLAHOMA and the State Board of Licensure are strongly opposed to any change in the statutes.

From the profession's perspective, restricting the use of "Engineer" is a public safety, health and welfare issue. The statutes protect the public from businesses using misleading company names thereby appearing to be something they are not. In this instance, GT Engineering is not an engineering company and doesn't have an engineer on staff. The profession will argue that GT Engineering is misleading its customers by holding themselves out to be something they are not, and, by implying that their product is of a higher standard through the use of the term "Engineering."

Non-engineering businesses wanting to use the word "Engineer/Engineering" in their company name is not unusual. In fact, the State Board of Licensure deals with this issue frequently. Usually, the businesses want to use the term to give themselves a "competitive advantage".....a testament in and of itself of the high degree of respect which engineers enjoy.

ACEC OKLAHOMA will keep close tabs on this Interim Study, and will do everything possible to convince the Interim Committee that the arguments raised by Mr. Gault are without merit.

For your information, below are the Members of the Interim Committee along with the office phone numbers at the State Capitol.

<u>Representative</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Capitol Phone</u>
Wilt, Mike (Chair)	R	(405)557-7358
Worthen, Trebor (VC)	R	(405)557-7335
Cooksey, Marian	R	(405)557-7342
Hamilton, Rebecca	D	(405)557-7397
Morrisette, Richard	D	(405)557-7404
Peterson, Ron	R	(405)557-7338
Shumate, Jabar	D	(405)557-7406
Steele, Kris (Co-Chair)	R	(405)557-7345
Thompson, Mike	R	(405)557-7403
Toure, Opio	D	(405)557-7393

For more detailed information and biography on any of these Representatives, go to the Oklahoma House of Representatives website at <http://www.okhouse.gov>, and click on the "House Membership" tab.

And, if you know any of the Interim Committee members, please do not hesitate to contact them expressing your opposition and concern regarding this issue.

ACEC Fall Conference Set for September in Charleston, South Carolina

The ACEC Fall Conference will be held September 18-21 in historic Charleston, South Carolina.

This year's Fall Conference will expand to include the "National Conference on the Built Environment," co-sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), and National Association of State Facilities Administrators (NASFA).

Owners and practitioners will search for creative answers to industry challenges on a variety of topics, including:

- Transportation, Water and Commercial Markets and Issues
- Best New Ideas in Business Management
- Today's Project management and Project Delivery
- BIM and Other Hot Technologies



In historic Charleston, South Carolina – you are instantly transported to a timeless place, surrounded by narrow cobblestone streets, horse-drawn carriages, charming antique stores, fine restaurants, sophisticated galleries and spectacular antebellum homes – what a perfect destination for the 2006 National Conference on the Built Environment.

ACEC offers engineering Professional Development Hours (PDHs) during the national meetings. Attendees can earn up to 23 PDHs, which may be applied to each state's requirement. A PDH form will be in your on-site registration packet. After the conference, your PDH certificate will be kept on file at ACEC headquarters and a copy will be mailed directly to you upon request.

The host hotel for the conference will be the historic **Charleston Place Hotel**. One of the finest hotels in Charleston South Carolina. A perfect blend of 18th century style and 21st century comfort, Charleston Place is situated in the heart of Charleston, South Carolina, one of America's oldest cities. The hotel is famous for its traditional southern hospitality with the award winning Charleston Grill restaurant and beautifully appointed rooms and suites. Charleston offers horse-drawn carriage rides, mansions and museums, and nearby, historic monuments such as Fort Sumter, where the first shots of the Civil War were fired. A few miles from the city are a number of magnificent old plantation houses, such as the eighteenth century Middleton Place.



The ACEC rate for the Conference is \$209 single/double plus tax. To make reservations call the hotel direct at 843-722-4900 and reference ACEC. The cut off date for reservations is August. 25.

ACEC's discounted hotel rates are available through the cut-off date or until the rooms in the block are sold out, whichever occurs first.

Registration information has been sent to all ACEC member firm principals, and can be found on ACEC's website at www.acec.org.

ACEC OKLAHOMA PAC

Needs Your Support Now!!!!!!

With the election season in full swing, ACEC OKLAHOMA Chairman of the Board Jim Stewart has issued a special request to all ACEC OKLAHOMA member principals to contribute to ACEC OKLAHOMA PAC.

ACEC OKLAHOMA PAC was formed to give the consulting engineering community a voice in the election process through the support of candidates who will support our profession as well as be open to ACEC OKLAHOMA's position on issues of importance to the profession.

As you know, every year there are many issues facing Oklahoma's engineering community in the Oklahoma Legislature any time that it's in session (and sometimes when it's not in session). Among the issues that happened during the last session, as described in this month's "First Word" include:

1. Increased Transportation Funding.
2. Expansion and strengthening of QBS.
3. Protection of our livelihood by controlling the use of the words "Engineer" and "Engineering."

These were the successes, but one of the concerns that we were pushing was related to "Tort Reform" which would have limited "Joint and Several Liability" to your share of the harm rather than potentially all of the harm if your pockets are the deepest. If we had been a part of the process by having an adequately funded PAC, we might have had some impact on this bill. At the very least, we would be known for our support of this bill.

If ACEC OKLAHOMA is going to continue to be successful in protecting the interests of the consulting engineering community, and the engineering profession as a whole, your support and contributions to ACEC OKLAHOMA PAC is critical!!!!!! Chairman Stewart is asking ACEC OKLAHOMA members to accept his challenge and match he and his partner's contributions of \$250.00 each. If you can't match the \$250.00 contribution, send what you can. Most importantly.....send something!!!!!!

In Chairman Stewart's July 5th letter to members, the State-mandated "Contributor Statement" was enclosed. Please complete the "Contributor Statement" and return it with your check to ACEC OKLAHOMA PAC. If you have misplaced the "Contributor Statement," call Jim Sullins at ACEC OKLAHOMA and he will gladly provide one to you.

Please don't delay!!!!!! ACEC OKLAHOMA PAC needs to have funds available to get involved in the General Election races as soon as the primary run-offs are completed in late August.

ACEC OKLAHOMA needs a strong, well-funded ACEC OKLAHOMA PAC, which can only be strong and well funded with your support. Send your contribution to ACEC OKLAHOMA PAC today!!!!!!

ACEC Opposes Planned Federal Withholding Mandate

ACEC sent a letter this week to Senator Larry Craig (R-ID) in support of legislation he introduced—S. 2821, the Withholding Tax Relief Act of 2006—that seeks to repeal a planned tax withholding requirement for all government contracts.

Section 511 of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 is a new mandate that directs federal, state and local governments to withhold 3 percent from payments for goods and services beginning in 2011. This new tax withholding requirement affects all government contracts as well as any payment to any person for a service or product to a government entity.

ACEC is a part of a multi-association coalition dedicated to the repeal of Section 511 because the withholding would be based on revenues from government payments with no relationship to a company's taxable income. The withholding also would have an adverse impact on an A/E firm's day-to-day operations.

ACEC OKLAHOMA Salary Survey Coming Soon

ACEC OKLAHOMA is partnering with ZwiigWhite to conduct a regional salary survey in mid-August. This is the first time that Oklahoma has been included in the ZwiigWhite survey.

The survey will be mailed directly to the "key" principal of each member firm.

Please watch your mail for this important survey, and PLEASE complete the survey and return it to ZwiigWhite.