

# THE FIRST WORD

August, 2008

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## Ridley to Speak at August 21st ACEC OKLAHOMA Meeting

Gary Ridley, Director of Transportation, will be our guest speaker at the August 21st ACEC OKLAHOMA General Membership Meeting.

The meeting is set to begin at 11:45am, and will be held at the Oklahoma Engineering Center, 201, N.E. 27th Street in Oklahoma City.

Ridley will review the successes from the recent 2008 Legislative session and update ACEC OKLAHOMA members on the Department's plans to upgrade and renovate Oklahoma's transportation system over the next few months and years.

Registration information has been sent to all members, and is also available on the ACEC OKLAHOMA website: [www.acecok.org](http://www.acecok.org).

Please register as soon as possible. We look forward to seeing you on August 21st!!!!

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## Moore Named President/CEO of C. H. Guernsey

The Board of Directors of C. H. Guernsey & Company has appointed Michael K. Moore, P.E., as President & Chief Executive Officer of the firm. He succeeds Pat J. Carroll, AIA who retired in May.

Moore has been a part of the Guernsey team for 23 years. His roles have included Director, Senior Vice President, Executive Vice President and Manager of Guernsey's Analytical Group. His professional practice focuses primarily on power supply and industry restructuring.

Our congratulations to Michael, and our sincere Thanks to Pat for his many years of service to and support of ACEC OKLAHOMA.

## Al Poppino Receives Award from EJCDC

At the most recent meeting of EJCDC (Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee) in Minneapolis, Al Poppino, formerly of The Benham Companies, was presented with a plaque for his outstanding service and commitment to the organization.

Poppino recently retired as a delegate of ACEC after 30 years of service to EJCDC

Al was one of the original founding members of EJCDC and has represented ACEC National for the past 15 years. He is known for his expertise in the area of environmental remediation and his close ties with the Corps of Engineers and other branches of the military.

Al has also represented ACEC at many FIDIC meetings around the world. FIDIC is the international association of engineering firms. He will remain on EJCDC as an observer and, between rounds of golf, has vowed to keep the other members on the straight and narrow.

ACEC OKLAHOMA thanks Al for his many years of service and congratulates him on leaving an indelible mark on the EJCDC documents as well as the engineering profession.

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## Thanks to our 2008 Convention Sponsors

Our thanks to the following companies which sponsored various events at the 2008 ACEC Midwest States Convention: **ACEC Business Insurance Trust; ACEC Retirement Trust; ACEC Life/Health Trust/United HealthCare; Holmes Murphy & Associates; the Insurance Exchange; The Crane Agency; Lockton Companies; Ramsey, Krug, Farrell & Lensing; and, XL Design Professional.**

ACEC OKLAHOMA sincerely appreciates their support!!!!

## Thanks for Support, Confidence in ACEC OKLAHOMA

Dues payments for the 2008-09 year continue to roll in, with approximately two-thirds of member firms having already paid dues either in full or in part.

We thank the following firms for their vote of confidence in and continued support of ACEC OKLAHOMA.

(Firms in **RED** are new renewals since last report)

Bebee Engineering  
 BKL, Inc.  
 BWR  
 C. H. Guernsey & Company  
 Carol S. Paulsgrove, PLLC  
 Cobb Engineering Company  
**Consulting Engineers, Inc.**  
**Crafton Tull Sparks**  
 Determan-Scheirman  
**Engineering Solutions**  
 Figg Engineering Group  
 Garver Engineers  
 Graham & Associates  
**Guy Engineering Services**  
**Holloway, Updike & Bellen**  
**Jacobs**  
**JGVE**  
 Kleinfelder  
 Lee & Browne Consulting Engineers  
 MacArthur Associated Consultants  
**MACTEC**  
**MGR**  
**Mike Schornick Environmental Consultants**  
 MKEC Engineering Consultants  
 O.J.C. CO.  
**Poe & Associates**  
 Professional Engineering Consultants  
**PSA Consulting Engineers**  
 PSA/Dewberry  
**Service and Technology**  
 Shepherd Geotechnical Engineering  
 SMC Consulting Engineers  
**Spradling & Associates**  
 Terracon  
**The Benham Companies**  
 Trumble-Dean  
 Wallace Engineering Structural Consultants  
 Walter P Moore  
 White Engineering Associates  
**Zahl-Ford**  
 ZRHD, PC

## Teachers Union Initiates "Money Grab" Petition (under the guise of HOPE)

An initiative petition campaign that would decimate all of the gains in transportation funding in recent years was kicked off last week by the state teachers union. The initiative petition calls for a statewide election to amend the Oklahoma Constitution to require the state to fund schools at the regional average in per-pupil expenditures.

Called HOPE — Helping Oklahoma Public Education — the proposal originated with the Oklahoma Education Association but has support of other education groups and the state Parent Teacher Association.

Oklahoma's per-pupil funding is \$6,900 a year, compared to the \$8,300 regional average. To reach the level which would be mandated if the Constitutional Amendment is approved, the Legislature would have to re-allocate approximately \$850 million a year from other state programs to meet the mandate.

Some state House leaders said the plan would cause massive tax increases or severe cuts in agency funding.

Rep. Tad Jones, R-Claremore, House Education Committee chairman and vice chairman of the House's budget committee, said: **"If we were to cut road funding, eliminate it completely, we would still reach barely half of what the OEA is requesting."**

Neal McCaleb, president of TRUST (Transportation Revenues Used Strictly For Transportation), said, "There is no doubt the OEA's proposed amendment to shift \$850 million overnight to the Department of Education would mean catastrophic cuts to road and bridge funding." McCaleb added that it would take a 12-cent increase in the motor fuel tax to meet the current funding obligations from this past Legislative session.

While it will take over 130,000 "valid" signatures to secure a place on a statewide ballot, the union is hoping to collect over 200,000 signature in the next 90 days. OEA efforts will begin as Oklahoma schools return to classes the middle of this month. News reports indicate that "signature collectors" will be set up at schools statewide on the opening days of school and that classroom teachers will be given petitions and urged to gather signatures from parents during the opening days.

If certified, the question will be placed before the voters on the next statewide election, but no later than the 2010 General Election.