

# THE FIRST WORD

December, 2009

## *Leadership For Engineers*

### Registration Deadline Nears

Only **Five (5)** slots remain for ACEC OKLAHOMA's *Leadership for Engineers* ..... our new program **targeted to all rising industry professionals** who are committed to developing their leadership and management skills and abilities, and identified by your firm as a "future leader" of your business.



The **Registration Deadline is December 15, 2009** and only one individual from a member firm will be allowed. Tuition will include all meeting materials, professional development hours, and meals/breaks as appropriate. **Tuition does not include lodging or travel expenses.**

The program was created to provide professional and personal leadership development for Oklahoma's most promising professionals in the design community. The program launches up-and-coming professionals on a development track leading to successful general management, project management, and principal positions within design firms.

A distinguished faculty of professionals from both inside and outside the engineering profession has been put together to address a variety of management topics including: **Leadership; Human Resources/**

**Managing People; Ethics; Strategic Planning; Government Affairs; Economics of Private Practice; Business Development; Risk Management/Contract Language; and, Communications/Public Relations/Community Involvement.**

Firms nominating an individual will be making a commitment of that person's time to attend ALL sessions regardless of work conflicts. For that reason, the application **MUST BE SIGNED** by a firm Principal to verify the firm's commitment to the individual as well as the *Leadership for Engineers* program.

***Leadership for Engineers*** -- ACEC OKLAHOMA helping your firm prepare for the future!!!!

## State Board of Licensure Proposes Rule Changes for 2010

The Oklahoma State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors is proposing changes to the State Board's "Rules of Procedure."

The revisions in their draft form have been approved by the State Board, and are now open for review and public comment.

The proposed rule revisions have been posted to the front page of the Board's website [www.pels.ok.gov](http://www.pels.ok.gov). If you would like a hardcopy, please contact Kathy Hart at 405.521.2874, ext 24.

Per the state Administrative Procedures Act, following public review and comment and final adoption by the State Board, the proposed Rules will be submitted to the Oklahoma Legislature and Governor for review. If the Legislature or Governor do not formally reject the rules within 45 days of submission, the Rules will automatically become effective.

Written comments will be accepted until the board meeting on January 21-22, 2010.

Members are urged to carefully review the proposed rules and submit comments to the State Board of Licensure, 201 N. E. 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 120, Oklahoma City, OK, 73105

## Welcome New Member

ACEC OKLAHOMA is excited to welcome our newest member firm, **Nicholls Consulting**.

Nicholls Consulting is a two-person Structural Engineering and Consulting firm in Owasso.

Steve and Geneva Nicholls are the principals of the firm.

We welcome Steve & Geneva to ACEC OKLAHOMA, and look forward to having Nicholls Consulting as an active member of the Council.

## Mark Your Calendar

The next ACEC OKLAHOMA Board and General Membership Meeting will be Thursday, January 21, 2010 at the Oklahoma Engineering Center in Oklahoma City.

The Board meeting will be at 2:00pm, with the General Membership Meeting and Dinner at 5:00pm.

## In Memory Fred Delano



Frederick Dean Delano went home to be with his Savior after a courageous battle with cancer. He was 93 years old.

Fred, born March 23, 1916, on the family farm north of Guymon, Oklahoma. He proudly served his country during World War II in the European Theater of Operation in the 95th Infantry Division, 358th

Field Artillery Battalion. He achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant. He was honorably discharged in 1945.

Fred attended Oklahoma A&M College and graduated in 1949 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. Fred's first job as an electrical engineer was with OG&E. He then worked for Black, Sivall, and Bryson before taking a position with Carnahan Thompson Engineering. He later became a joint owner of the firm. He was instrumental in preparing electrical design specifications for many buildings in Oklahoma City.

Fred, a long-time active member Oklahoma's consulting engineering profession, served as President of the organization in 1978-79 when the organization was known as the Consulting Engineers Council of Oklahoma.

He was also a member of the Oklahoma Society of Professional Engineers and the Council of Illuminating Engineers. Fred was also a member of the American Legion and the Heritage Foundation.

Fred accepted Christ Jesus as his Savior as a young man. He was a faithful student of the Bible throughout his life. He was an Elder in the Christian Church for many years. With all of his lifetime accomplishments, his greatest was that of faithful husband and loving father. He was a hard-working man who provided well for his family and taught his children about the important things of life.

Fred was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers. He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Emagene Delano of Choctaw; his children: Rod Delano and wife Jeanette of Camargo; Joel Delano and wife Carilee of Choctaw; Linda Delano of Claremore; and Jana Swyden of Tulsa; nine grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; 2 brothers; 3 sisters; many other family members and friends.

ACEC OKLAHOMA extends our deepest sympathies to Emagene and the family. Fred was a dedicated family man and engineer, and the entire Oklahoma engineering profession shares your loss and is thankful for his years of service.

## Federal Jobs & Highway Bill Update

### Steve Hall, ACEC Vice President of Government Affairs

Steve Hall, ACEC Vice President of Government Affairs, sent the following to all ACEC state executive directors late last week, and we wanted to share the information with you. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact ACEC OKLAHOMA.

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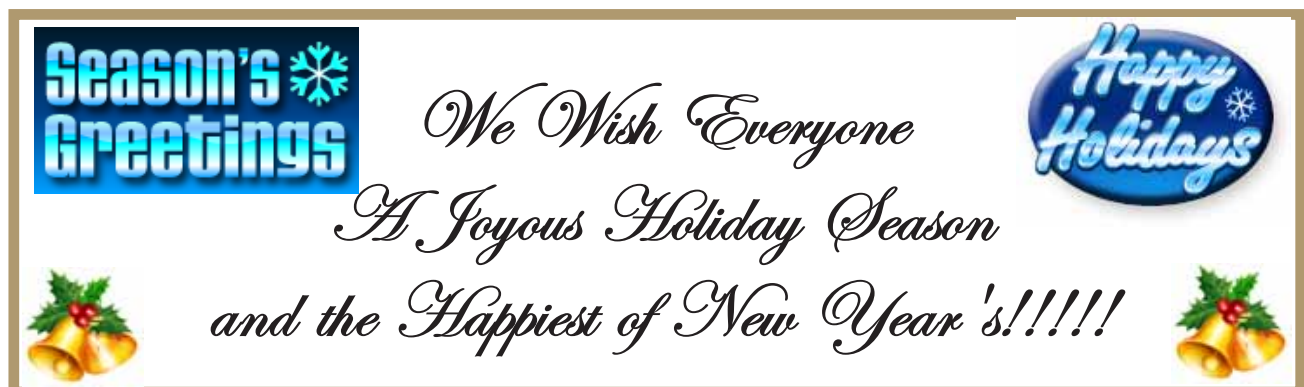
As Dave Raymond referenced in his recent President's Update (See Page 4), the continuing high unemployment numbers (now topping 10%) are putting increased pressure on congressional leaders to produce a new "jobs" bill that is expected to include major investments in infrastructure. The numbers are potentially significant — in recent meetings with Senate Majority Whip Richard Durbin (D-IL) and leaders of the newly created Jobs Now Caucus in the House, as much as \$20 billion in new water funding and \$69 billion for transportation projects has been discussed for 2010. The package is likely to be funded in a similar manner to the Recovery Act (stimulus) program, through General Fund appropriations on top of the regular federal spending, although House and Senate leaders are evaluating whether to re-direct unspent funds from the first stimulus program or the TARP (bank bailout) program to support the new infrastructure investments (as opposed to additional borrowing). The funds will likely be distributed under the same formulas to states and metropolitan areas. A vote is expected to happen in the House before Christmas, with Senate action to follow in January.

While this is encouraging, specific details have yet to emerge, and a continuing concern is that the funds would come with "use-it-or-lose-it" spending deadlines for states with a focus on "ready-to-go" projects, which will lead to more basic maintenance projects that do little to create and sustain jobs. As we did during the run-up to the first stimulus package, ACEC is urging Congress to give states and localities sufficient flexibility to go beyond "shovel ready" projects and fund both the design and construction of major infrastructure upgrades that will create jobs quickly and sustain those jobs over a longer period.

Dave sent a letter today to House and Senate leaders making this case, and a number of other stakeholder groups are making similar arguments. (ACEC OKLAHOMA has a copy of Dave's letter if you would like to see it.)

The continued down economy is also having the effect of keeping open the idea of doing a new six-year highway bill in 2010. A proposal being pushed by House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Jim Obertsar (D-MN) and Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey (D-WI) would suspend payments from the Highway Trust Fund for two years and replace it with General Fund spending in excess of \$100 billion. The Highway Trust Fund would continue to accumulate tax revenues during this period, and would resume outlays to the states for the remaining four years of the six-year program (in effect, spend six years worth of Trust Fund revenues in four years). Because few in Congress want to consider the idea of boosting the federal gas tax to pay for the new program, this proposal may be the only viable pathway that secures passage of a new program. One item of significant concern under this proposal would be the potential loss of budgetary firewalls that protect transportation trust funds, which is something ACEC and the other major stakeholder groups would fight to defend.

It remains uncertain whether congressional leaders will embrace this idea, particularly because it would be a very sizeable General Fund allotment. It's also uncertain whether this will be done as a component of the new jobs package or done separately. We will circulate new information as it becomes available.



## PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

**David Raymond, ACEC President & CEO**

December 1, 2009

As we go into the final political stretch of the year, Congress is struggling to finish work on a healthcare bill and we are bending every effort to make sure that it does not include onerous new mandates on us. We are also encouraging Congress to pass new infrastructure legislation including a strong infrastructure component to any new jobs bill. The 6-year highway bill may have new life within the context of renewed emphasis on job creation (More later). To support our legislative agenda, we're working with many of you on a December fund-raising drive for ACEC/PAC to generate the political capital we need. I'm about to head out the door now to have dinner with the House Majority leader, and I recently had the opportunity to visit the White House to discuss health care and related issues. These and other activities are made possible because of the strong political program you have helped to create. Your end-of-the-year push for ACEC/PAC will pay big dividends.

### General

- Participated in White House meeting on the health care reform; and opposed the House-passed health care bill's onerous business mandates.
- Briefed 61 ACEC leaders representing 32 state organizations, as well as representatives from the Life/Health and Retirement Trusts, on Council programs during the annual Leadership Orientations at ACEC headquarters.

### Government Affairs

- Renewed national grassroots effort to encourage the Senate to pass a \$40 billion water infrastructure bill.
- Launched grassroots effort with ARTBA, AGC and other stakeholder groups to pressure Congress to pass a new six-year surface transportation program.
- Awarded Minuteman Fund grant to ACEC/Washington for an amicus brief to oppose the liability of engineering firms for construction site safety of client employees.
- Awarded Minuteman Fund grant to ACEC/Wisconsin to help defray costs of fighting the state DOT's unilateral efforts to reduce contracted fees of engineering firms.
- Assisted several ACEC state organizations with analysis and talking points for responding to proposed reductions in engineering contracts by their state agencies.
- Advocated QBS for contractor selection in public comments submitted to Federal Transit Administration on proposed changes to its project management oversight program.
- Lobbied the Small Business Administration to credit work subcontracted by primes toward federal agencies' small business goals.
- ACEC/PAC recently co-hosted congressional fundraising events for Congressman Richard Neal (D-MA), House Ways and Means Committee, and Leonard Boswell (D-IA), House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

### Institute for Business Management

- Continued the AASHTO Audit Guide series of highly successful online seminars, with four sold-out presentations:
  - *AASHTO's New Uniform Audit and Accounting Guide: New Rules on Allowable and Reasonable Compensation* with Dan Purvine, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.; Lynda Konomos, External Audit Manager, HNTB Companies and Chair, ACEC Audit Subcommittee, and Julie Garber, Compliance Manager, Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.
  - *AASHTO's New Uniform Audit and Accounting Guide: New State DOT Compensation and Audit Rules that Will Affect Your Bottom Lines*, a repeat of the October 27 session, featuring Dan Purvine, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.; Jerry J. Jones, CPA, Chair, AASHTO Subcommittee on Internal and External Audits, Michigan Department of Transportation; David Bruce, Office of Chief Financial Officer, Federal Highway Administration
  - *AASHTO's New Uniform Audit and Accounting Guide: Basic FAR Compliance in a Time of Increased Government Oversight*, Julian Rosenberg, HDR
  - *AASHTO's New Uniform Audit and Accounting Guide: New Guidance for Successful Overhead Audits*, T. Wayne Owens, Deemer Dana & Froehle, LLP
- Senior Executives Institute Class XIV fourth session was held in San Francisco, focusing on "transformational change," "Blue Ocean strategies," and new markets.
- Applications received from growing numbers of engineers seeking the Engineering Expert Witness (EXW) designation.
- Offered substantial discount on engineering contracts through the ACEC Bookstore including 10% discount on all EJCDC documents.