The First Word
December, 2012

ACEC OKLAHOMA
Reaches 2012 ACECPAC Goal

For the second time in three years, ACEC OKLAHOMA has reached its national fundraising goal for ACECPAC, the national political action committee.

Through November 30th, ACEC OKLAHOMA members have contributed $11,510.00 to ACECPAC.

Oklahoma’s ACECPAC Champion Jim Benson, and the entire ACEC OKLAHOMA Board of Directors are to be congratulated for their year-long efforts to assure that ACEC OKLAHOMA reached its goal.

Most importantly, our THANKS go to the 61 individuals listed below who stepped up with their personal contributions to ACECPAC.

Hollis Allen  Marty Hepp  Geneva Nicholls
Keith Angier  Jonathan Heusel  Sam Pappas
John Barker  Mike Homan  Aaron Peck
Lance Benham  Daniel Humphrey  Scott Perkins
Jim Benson  Jim Hunt  Neill Pulliam
John Bocox  Steve Jacoby  Stan Rankin
Jeremy Boswell  Elias Johannsson  David Raymond
Bret Cabbiness  Steven Johnson  Scott Rodehaver
Brandon Claborn  Srihari Koneru  Jenny Sallee
James Cobb  Jason Langhammer  Brent Schniers
Todd Cochran  Stacy Loeffler  Ryan Smith
Geoff Covalt  Syam Mannava  Robert Smith
David Cross  Janet Meshek  James Smith
Joe Davis  Tom Meshek  Alan Soltani
Jerry Edgin  Nic Millard  Teresa Stevens
Kelly Fincannon  Chuck Mitchell  James Stewart
Steve Ford  Susan Mobley  Brandon Wall
Doug Glenn  Dennis Morris  Michael Wilson
Chad Grinstein  Matt Moshiri  Robert Zahl
Julie Guy  Jon Nelson
Tom Hendrick  David Neuhauser

If your name is not on the list, there’s still time to make your contribution for 2012. For only $100, you can enter ACECPAC’s "Last Chance Sweepstakes." Your $100 contribution will earn you a chance to win a $2,000 1st price, with 2nd place paying $1,000 and 3rd place $500. Visit http://www.acec.org/advocacy/committees/pac.cfm to enter the "Last Chance Sweepstakes."

And again, THANKS to everyone who made 2012 a great success!!!!!
Leadership For Engineers
Limited Number of Seats Still Available

Registration information for ACEC OKLAHOMA’s Class #4 of the critically acclaimed Leadership for Engineers still has three (3) seats available. Don’t miss out on sending one of your firm’s “up-and-comers” to this outstanding educational program.

The program, beginning in February, 2013, is designed to prepare your firm’s future leaders, principals, and owners for the challenges and opportunities of leading your design consulting firm.

ACEC OKLAHOMA’s Leadership for Engineers program is 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. This may include design firm business and administrative coordinators, marketing managers, HR managers, project managers, new principals and middle managers……anyone interested in developing solid management skills. 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.

SPACE IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 15 REGISTRANTS!

The Registration Deadline is December 15, 2012 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.

Registration information has been sent to all member firms, and is also available on the ACEC OKLAHOMA website, www.acecok.org

DON’T DELAY IN SUBMITTING YOUR FIRM’S NOMINATION!

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

Newly Elected Oklahoma Congressman Appointed to House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

Second District Congressman-Elect Markwayne Mullin has been assigned a seat on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. Congressman Mullin will join 5th District Congressman James Lankford on the committee, giving Oklahoma 2 seats on this important committee. This is great news for all transportation interests in Oklahoma, and we look forward to working with Congressman Mullin on the issues which are critically important to the engineering profession.
Welcome New Member

ACEC OKLAHOMA is excited to welcome back to the membership Mehlburger Brawley, Inc.

The 31 person firm has offices in Tulsa, McAlester, and Oklahoma City. Roger Ford is President/CEO, Dale Burke is COO, and Todd Brawley is Executive Vice President.

This firm provides Civil, Environmental, Transportation, and Bridge Engineering along with Construction Management and Design/Build services.

Welcome Mehlburger Brawley!!!!!
With the fiscal cliff looming only a few weeks ahead, ACEC is making every effort with legislators to avoid the cliff, protect infrastructure spending, and proceed with measures to speed up and broaden the recovery. It seems likely that Congress will defer some of these tax and spending measures until 2013, but assuming a generally satisfactory resolution, economists are forecasting 6-8% increase in construction next year including a continuing upswing in the housing market.

Although the November elections maintained the prevailing balance of power – with 91% of ACEC/PAC backed candidates winning – we are pressing ahead with active PAC efforts to help candidates in retiring campaign debts and strengthening relationships with newly-elected as well as returning Members. All of these efforts lay the groundwork for an aggressive advocacy and business program in 2013.

General

- 91% of candidates backed by ACEC/PAC won on Election Day – with ACEC’s bi-partisan approach again yielding favorable results.

- ACEC state organizations in Arizona, Kentucky, Utah, Virginia and Idaho all achieved their 2012 ACEC/PAC fundraising goals in November, joining thirteen other states currently at goal; many others are closing in.

- 61 ACEC state, coalition and trust leaders participated in the 2012 Leadership Orientation sessions in Washington, D.C. this month; in the words of one state President “it was an excellent program, a must-attend for all MO leaders.”

Government Advocacy

- Working with lawmakers both directly and through various business coalitions to protect infrastructure accounts during negotiations on the fiscal cliff and sequestration.

- ACEC/PAC crossed into record territory in November, disbursing over $1.3 million in the 2011-2012 election cycle.

- Secured provisions in Senate WRDA bill to: (1) create a new financing mechanism similar to the TIFIA model for transportation to fund larger water projects and (2) to address liability concerns facing firms doing levee inspections.

- ACEC-AASHTO Joint Committee, attended by FHWA Administrator Victor Mendez, discussed the implementation of MAP-21, funding the next transportation bill, improving the quality of environmental documents, industry concerns related to in-sourcing of engineering services, and onerous indemnification and liability provisions in contracts.

- Following-up on an earlier meeting with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on export issues, ACEC engaged with the newly created U.S. Interagency Infrastructure Working Group on actions to improve the competitive position of U.S. firms in key international markets.

- International Committee members met with officials of the Departments of State and Commerce and U.S. Embassy personnel to discuss infrastructure related business opportunities in Kuwait, Egypt, and Costa Rica.

Business Resources

- Don’t miss these December business webinars: If You Haven’t Planned It, You Can’t Control It; Why Corporate Social Responsibility Matters; Industry Economic Update – Where is the Movement for 2013; The Easy Way to Find What You Are Looking for In Contract Documents; What You Need to Know for a Successful 2012 Year-End AASHTO Audit.

- EJCDC updated family of Construction documents, now available, including three new documents: advertisement for bids for construction contract, a bidder’s qualifications statement, and a construction subcontract on the basis of a stipulated price. Save 10% on all EJCDC documents through December 31 at www.acec.org/bookstore/.