

THE FIRST WORD

February, 2007

Zahl-Ford, Wallace Engineering Win 2006 Engineering Excellence Awards

ACEC OKLAHOMA announced the 2006 Engineering Excellence Awards recipients at the January 25th meeting in Oklahoma City.

Zahl-Ford, Inc., Oklahoma City received the 2006 GRAND CONCEPTOR AWARD for the City Center Parking Garage Expansion & Harvey Ave. Extension in Oklahoma City.

Wallace Engineering, Tulsa, received the 2006 HONOR AWARD for their design of the Morton Comprehensive Health Services Facility in Tulsa.

The original Galleria Parking Garage in downtown Oklahoma City was built in 1980 as part of a larger planned development, which was anticipated to be a multi-story retail building with additional parking levels. However, the planned development did not continue past the construction of the parking garage.



In 2003, the owner commissioned a study to examine alternatives for providing significant additional parking on the site. After evaluating various options, it was decided to replace a portion of the original steel-framed two-level garage with two new six-level garages.

The new 663,000 square-foot structures added 1,000 net parking spaces, with the ability to expand the new west garage to accommodate five more levels, creating an additional 1000 parking spaces.

The structural system consists of precast concrete wall panels with three different face mix textures that are integrated into a surface grid design. An aluminum curtain wall system is used on the prominent stair towers. Perforated metal panels make up architectural accent screens on one building elevation and the illuminated cornices along the top levels of both garages.

The site was subdivided with the extension of a major downtown street creating a separation between the new Oklahoma City Metropolitan Library and the Oklahoma Tower Office building.

Two tunnels link the garages under the street extension, and two bridges link the garages above the street so that parkers may enter on one side and traverse both garages. Also, a pedestrian tunnel links the east garage to an office tower on the north.



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Engineering Excellence Awards Presented (Cont.)

From the beginning, the owner expressed a strong desire to avoid a square, gray, concrete box that is common for parking garages. To that end, a strong architectural element provides a modern complementary tie to the surrounding



architecture in downtown Oklahoma City, and the signature steel arch vehicular bridges at the top levels connect the two garages both visually and functionally.

The Morton Comprehensive Health Services Facility is the new home for Morton Health Care and its distinguished history of providing health services to Tulsa's minority and economically disadvantaged population.



The new \$14 million, 60,000 square foot facility provides space for medical, dental, behavioral health, optometry, podiatry and other services, and also houses pharmacy, laboratory and radiology services.

The signature element of the Center is its long, arching atrium. The atrium structure splits the facility into two parts, and rises above the adjacent roofs to act as a clerestory and extends beyond each end of the building to provide canopies.

The biggest challenge with the design was to satisfy the desire for a light, open structure, while providing the lateral stability that the atrium needed to resist code-mandated wind loads. Wallace Engineering worked with the architect to position the "branches" so that they aligned with roof and wall elements and could act as lateral bracing. A deep roof deck was used to allow longer distances between roof framing members without requiring intermediate purlins. The project demonstrates the ability to meet the architectural



vision of the project while meeting engineering requirements with an elegant and open structure.



Steve Ford & Jerry Hasselwander, Zahl-Ford, Inc. accept the 2006 Grand Conceptor Award from Chairman Jim Stewart.



Tom Hendrick, Wallace Engineering, accepts the 2006 Honor Award from Chairman Jim Stewart.

ACEC OKLAHOMA Questions/Opposes Proposed 16% Increase in ACEC National Dues

During the ACEC Fall Conference in Charleston, SC, the ACEC Board of Directors received the proposed 3-Year ACEC Budget. The Budget proposal includes four possible dues increases totaling an approximate 16% increase in ACEC dues for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007.

ACEC OKLAHOMA Chairman Jim Stewart, ACEC National Director Mike Homan and President Jim Sullins participated in roundtable discussions outlining each of the four "enhancements." Each of the proposals was discussed in depth, and there were a variety of opinions expressed by state Member Organization (MO) leaders from across the country.

Following the discussions at the Fall Conference, ACEC made some minor revisions to the proposed Budget and submitted the revised Budget to MO leaders asking for comments.

In response to that request, Chairman Stewart and National Director Homan sent a letter to the ACEC Budget and Executive Committee raising a variety of questions regarding the need for the dues increase and expressing ACEC OKLAHOMA's opposition.

A copy of ACEC OKLAHOMA's letter is posted on the ACEC OKLAHOMA website (www.acecok.org) along with ACEC's response to the Stewart/Homan letter. ACEC's revised budget proposal is also posted for your review.

The final ACEC Budget will be presented to the ACEC Board of Directors for action at the ACEC Annual Convention in early May. We urge members to review the letters and budget proposal, and welcome any comments you may have.



2007 Legislative Session Begins February 5th

The 2007 Legislative Session kicks off Monday, February 5th with a Republican-controlled House and evenly divided Senate facing over 2,100 pieces of legislation. While much of the attention in recent weeks has been on the Senate as Democrats and Republicans tried to figure out how they were going to deal with the 24-24 tie, new Speaker of the House Lance Cargill was reorganizing the committee system in the House.

Speaker Cargill trimmed the number of Standing Committees and while doing so, assigned each Standing Committee several Sub-Committees which will handle the routine of working bills. For example, the new General Government & Transportation Committee, which formerly were two independent Committees, has three Sub-Committees: County & Municipal Government; Transportation; and, Government Modernization, Agency Review & Administrative Rules. Bills will now be assigned to a Sub-Committee for initial action. The Sub-Committee will then pass the bill to the full Committee, which must give approval before moving the bill to the full House.

In the Senate, emphasizing their commitment to cooperation and bipartisanship, Senators Mike Morgan and Glenn Coffee announced a power-sharing agreement naming Morgan as President Pro-Tem and Coffee Co-President Pro-Tem.

Under the agreement, there will be Co-Floor Leaders, Co-Committee Chairs, and each Committee will have an equal number of Democrats and Republicans. On alternating days, the two parties will preside on the Senate Floor. Co-floor leaders will share the responsibility for scheduling the daily legislative calendar and will rotate management of floor activities on a daily basis. Democrats and Republicans will also share presiding duties. When one party's co-floor leader is managing floor activities, the other party will preside in the chair. Each committee also will have Republican and Democrat co-chairs, who will share the responsibility of running the committee. Conference committees also will be composed of an equal number of each party's members - three Democrats and three Republicans - unless otherwise agreed upon by leadership. A tie vote will result in a failure of either a "do pass" or "do pass, as amended" motion. With equal numbers in the committee, it will fall on those members to work together on legislation.

With the reorganized House and "shared" Senate, this year's session promises to be the most interesting in the state's 100 year history. ACEC OKLAHOMA will keep a close eye on things, and keep you informed as this historic session progresses.

MEMBER FIRM NEWS

The end of the year brought around changes for several member firms as well as the addition of a new member to ACEC OKLAHOMA's ranks.

NEW MEMBER FIRM

ACEC OKLAHOMA welcomes Engineering Services and Testing, Inc. (EST) to the Council.

The 50-person firm is based in Norman, with branch offices around the state, and provides engineering design, consulting, surveying, and testing services.

Mike Vahabzadegan is the principal of the firm located at 3201 S. Berry Road, Norman, 73072, (405) 307-8378.

We are excited to have EST join the ACEC OKLAHOMA family, and look forward to having the firm as active members of the Council.

CRAFTON, TULL / SPARKS JOIN FORCES

The Sparks Company of Tulsa merged with long-time ACEC OKLAHOMA member Crafton, Tull and Associates, and we welcome the Sparks employees to ACEC OKLAHOMA.

The combined firm is now known as Crafton, Tull, Sparks, and Associates, Inc. The firm will have 125 employees in the Tulsa and Oklahoma City offices.

Tom Hopper is the President of the firm, based in Rogers, AR, which has a total of 320 employees nationwide which includes offices in Little Rock and Russellville, AR, and Birmingham, AL, along with the Oklahoma offices. Gary Sparks, president and founder of Sparks, will become a principal of the firm and will serve on the Board of Directors.

While Crafton, Tull already offers architectural services, its foundational strength lies in its engineering departments. Sparks, on the other hand, centers on architecture.

The firm will offer architecture, structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing and civil engineering, along with interior design, landscape architecture and surveying to clients nationwide.

ACEC OKLAHOMA congratulates the firms on their merger, and welcomes the 70+ Sparks employees to ACEC OKLAHOMA.

NEW HOMES FOR MEMBER FIRMS

White Engineering Associates, Inc. of Oklahoma City has moved from its long-time 39th and Classen location to offices on Western Ave. The firm's new address and phone numbers are:

White Engineering Associates, Inc.
5500 N. Western Ave., Suite 204
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
Office: (405) 208-8700
Fax: (405) 208-8702

Tetra Tech/FHC of Tulsa has also moved to new offices. The firm's new address and phone numbers are:

Tetra Tech/FHC
7645 E. 63rd Street, Suite 301
Tulsa, OK 74133
Office: (918) 249-3909
Fax: (918) 249-3930

Determan-Scheirman, Inc., Oklahoma City, has moved after many years at 23rd & Meridian. The firm's new address and phones are:

Determan-Scheirman, Inc.
5749 N.W. 72nd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73132
Office: (405) 603-4820
Fax: (405) 603-4810

Two Webinars Set for February

ACEC OKLAHOMA has scheduled two "Lunch & Learn" seminars for early February on two very important topics, each of which will provide 1.5 professional development hours (PDHs).

Tuesday, February 6th, the Webinar will address changes in the Fair Labor Standards Act entitled, **What A/E Firms Need to Know About Federal Overtime Requirements.**

Wednesday, February 14th, we will host a Webinar entitled, **Trends in Business Ethics that Affect Engineers.**

Registration information for both has been sent to all members and we encourage you to attend both of these important and informative programs.