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THE FIRST WORD

January, 2009

ACEC OKLAHOMA Membership Meeting and Engineering Excellence Awards Dinner Scheduled for January 29th

The January ACEC OKLAHOMA Board and General Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 29th in Oklahoma City at the Oklahoma Engineering Center. In addition to our regular program, the 2008 Engineering Excellence Awards will also be presented that evening. There were a record number of entries in this year's EEA competition, and all were outstanding projects.

Our Guest Speaker for the evening will be John Morrison, AIA, State Construction Administrator for the Construction and Properties Division of the Oklahoma Department of Central Services.

Mr. Morrison, a native of Kansas, attended high school in Tulsa and received a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design from the University of Oklahoma. He completed graduate work in London, England before receiving a Master of Architecture degree at OU. A licensed architect, he has 30 years of experience in all aspects of building design and construction, with 24 years of private practice with Morrison & Associates/EDM, Inc. In 2005, he was appointed State Construction Administrator at the Department of Central Services, where he is responsible for procurement and management of the State's construction work.

Morrison will provide an update on activities at the Department of Central Services; an overview of the state's venture in LEED certification for new construction and renovation of existing state buildings; and, discuss legislative issues for the 2009 session which may impact state construction services.

Registration information has been sent to all member firms, and we look forward to seeing you on January 29th!!!!

Welcome New Member

ACEC OKLAHOMA is excited to welcome our newest member to the Council, **SMITH ROBERTS BALDISCHWILER, LLC**.

The 52-person Transportation Engineering, Survey, and General Civil Engineering firm is located at 100 N.E. 5th Street in Oklahoma City. Principals of the firm include Mat Smith, Glen Smith, Karl Baldischwiler, Bret Cabiness, and Randy Mansfield.

ACEC OKLAHOMA welcomes Smith Roberts Baldischwiler to ACEC OKLAHOMA and ACEC!

2009 IRS Mileage Rates

The Internal Revenue Service has issued the 2009 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes. Beginning Jan. 1, 2009, the standard mileage rates will be:

- * 55 cents/mile for business miles driven
- * 24 cents/mile for medical or moving purposes
- * 14 cents/mile in service to charitable organizations

Taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates.

ACEC Midwest States Convention, June 3-10, 2009 The Buccaneer Resort, St. Croix, USVI

The ACEC Midwest State Conference, the annual joint convention of ACEC OKALHOMA, Missouri, Arkansas, and Kansas, will be held June 3-10, 2009 at the beautiful **Buccaneer Resort** in St. Croix, USVI.

While the meeting is still a few months away, NOW is the time for you to be making your plans to join with your fellow consultants from the four states and one of the most breathtaking locations in the Caribbean.

Founded in the 17th century and family-run for generations, St. Croix's Buccaneer is the Caribbean's and Virgin Islands' longest running resort. Both historic and modern, the resort blends old world charm with warm hospitality and the amenities expected by today's traveler. More than a hotel, The Buccaneer is a premier destination resort for golf, tennis, water sports, and family vacations.

The Buccaneer is a destination beach resort, family-owned and operated since 1947. Its 340 tropical acres feature an 18-hole golf course, eight tennis courts, three beaches, water sports center, fitness center, four restaurants and shopping arcade with fine boutiques.

The Buccaneer is located on the eastern end of St. Croix, less than a five-minute drive from the sightseeing, shopping and dining found in the historic town of Christiansted.



138 spacious, elegant guest rooms are located throughout the property, from the hilltop main building (where Alexander Hamilton lived as a child) to the ocean's edge, all offering expansive terraces or balconies with sea and island views.

Guest rooms are located throughout the property from the hilltop main building to the ocean's edge. All rooms have a terrace or balcony, small refrigerator, safe, satellite television, central a/c, iron, ceiling fans and two telephones. Other hotel facilities include:

Three beaches, including Mermaid Beach with its "Beach Shack" watersports center and Mermaid restaurant/bar; Grotto

Beach with a shoreline pool and Grotto Grill, and Whistle Beach, an over-the-hill beach favored for its privacy.

Two freshwater pools, one tucked below the main building and built into the foundations of 17th century buildings. The second is a shoreline pool located at Grotto Beach.



Golf and Tennis: A challenging, 18-hole, par-70 course encompasses 5,810 yards with spectacular Caribbean Sea views. The eight-court tennis facility, named by Tennis Magazine "one of the top tennis facilities in the Caribbean." Two courts are lit for night play.

The Hideaway Spa offers daily massage and sauna, seaweed wraps, facials and foot reflexology, as well as salon services.



And, **The Fitness Center** offers complimentary use of treadmills, elliptical machines, recumbent cycles, leg curls, lat rower, bench press, bicep/tricep curl, leg extensions and free weights.

Room rates for the Conference are \$230 per night for Oceanview and Oceanfront rooms. The room rate includes full private American buffet breakfast daily, welcome cocktail, twice daily maid service and turn-down, snorkeling, kayaks, floating mats, use of fitness room and jogging trail.

To make hotel reservations, call The Buccaneer at 1-800-255-3881 and ask for the ACEC 2009 rate. For more information on The Buccaneer, visit their website at: <http://www.thebuccaneer.com/>

While program details have not yet been finalized, attendees will receive approximately 15 Professional Development Hours (PDHs) by attending this Conference. Plus, of course, there will be plenty of free time to enjoy the fellowship with your friends during your week-long stay on St. Croix.

It's going to be a great meeting in a one-of-a-kind location! Don't miss out! Start making your plans now to attend.

In Memory

ACEC OKLAHOMA is saddened to report the passing of two very special individuals.

Carol Davis



Carol A. Davis, wife of Immediate Past Chairman Darold Davis, was born March 15, 1948 in Holdenville, OK, the daughter of Harold and Gentalee (Sneed) McKnight. Carol died Wednesday, December 3, 2008 in Broken Arrow.

She and Darold were married on July 20, 1966 in Greensburg, KS. They moved back to Broken Arrow from Topeka, KS in 2001. Carol was a homemaker. She enjoyed decorating, shopping, going to their cabin on Grand Lake and spending time with her grandchildren. She was a volunteer for the Broken Arrow High School Band and a member of the Mustang Club.

She is survived by her husband, Darold, Daughter, Kim and husband Kevin Bogart, DeSoto, KS, Son, Darrin and wife Karin Davis, Broken Arrow, Grandchildren, Tristen and Taylor, Sister, Gayle and husband Bill Katsakis, Oklahoma City, Brother, Cliff and wife Susan McKnight, Tulsa.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Darold and the family.

Noel Long



Noel Long went home to be with his Lord on November 6, 2008. He was born and raised in northeastern India to Assembly of God missionary parents, Willis and Harriet Long, both deceased.

His most recent occupation was that of Executive Director of the Oklahoma Society of Professional Engineers, working with that organization from 1982 to 2004.

Noel is survived by his wife, Janice, daughter, Sheila and Paul Breeden, children: Phil, Sarah, John, and Samantha Breeden daughter, Connie and Rich Stewart, their children Christina and Ginny Stewart. He is also survived by his sister, Dottie and Joe Reid, brother Ronald Long, sister Oreen and Jerry Eddy, children: Jonathan and Andrew, and special friends, Carol Barton, and Phil and Kay Sturgeon.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Janice and the family.

Study Shows Private Sector Engineers More Cost-Effective than In-House

The use of private sector engineers for the design of public projects in New York State was found to cost at least **14% less than government in-house engineers**, a just-released report by the Polytechnic Institute of New York University reveals.

The ACEC Minuteman Fund helped finance the study which also found that consultants have more flexibility to meet fast-track deadlines than government agencies.

“The Polytechnic Institute findings confirm our long-held belief that increased use of private sector engineering firms is in the best interests of the state,” says Jay Simson, executive director of the American Council of Engineering Companies of New York (ACEC New York).

The results were formulated using comparative data for in-house engineers versus private sector engineers on: direct salaries adjusted for hours of work per week; fringe benefits including medical insurance, pension plans, survivors’ benefits, workers compensation, unemployment and social security insurance; and overhead.

Statistical information for in-house costs was based on New York State Department of Transportation data, April 2007. Private engineering firm statistics were derived from an April 2008 random sampling of salaries, benefits and overhead information from professional engineering firms throughout New York State, indexed and adjusted using the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics’ Employer Cost Index established for private professionals and related groups.

The complete study can be found here:

<http://www.acecny.org/PDF/PolyStudyFinal.pdf>

ACEC's *Engineering Inc* Magazine Needs Member Contact for Article

The May/June issue of *Engineering Inc* will feature an article on best strategies for moving a proposed project through the permitting process. ACEC member firms with unique experience in overcoming challenges in the permitting process will be highlighted.

If your firm has recently achieved success in the permitting process and would represent an interesting addition to the upcoming magazine story, please email a brief description to Gerry Donohue, ACEC, at gdonohue@acec.org. Contact Gerry at 202-682-4313 with any questions.

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

David Raymond, ACEC President/CEO

January 1, 2009

General

- FOX Business News interview with ACEC President on infrastructure-based stimulus legislation (Go to <http://www.acec.org> to view) is part of ACEC's overall legislative and PR campaign to address infrastructure issues.



- Provided guidance to ACEC state organizations for state input to Obama infrastructure stimulus package across a range of areas from transportation and water to schools and energy.
- Draft QBS study by University of Colorado/Georgia Tech research team – first empirical study of the advantages of QBS – was distributed to state leadership. Final editing and publication to be completed by January/February.
- Minuteman Fund grant awarded ACEC/West Virginia to defend against QBS law repeal effort.
- *Last Word* won Gold Award as the nation's best association newsletter – for fifth time in six years – in juried competition sponsored by *Association Trends* magazine. And ACEC's Business Publications

Catalog won Silver Award as nation's second best association catalog.

Government Affairs

- Provided input to Obama transition teams on environmental and energy issues, and for implementation of the new engineering student loan forgiveness program.
- Accelerated lobbying effort for presidential transition and congressional leaders on infrastructure stimulus bill and related priorities.
- Based upon ACEC/PAC end-of-year giving surge, it is expected that 34 state organizations will meet their ACEC/PAC targets for 2008; the complete list of 2008 contributors will continue to be tallied until the end of the first week in January.
- Worked with senior Senate committee staff on concerns with flawed draft DOT Inspector General's audit of firm overhead.
- Participated in ACEC/NM Market Outlook conference.

Institute for Business Management

- State-by-state list of business and organizational requirements for opening an engineering office has been added to the Contracts Central website (<http://store.contractscentral.org/>).
- Hosted five online seminars: *Effective Project Planning to Improve Profits*, Gary Bates; *Showcasing Your Expertise: How to Attract Clients Using Stories and Examples*, Lynne Waymon; *Tapping into the Power of the Press*, Jerry Guerra; *Future Leaders Focus: A Study of the Needs and Priorities of Young Design Professionals*, Barbara Irwin and Cara Bobchek; and *Are You Fighting Fires Instead of Managing Your Employees?* Gary Bates.
- Offered 10% discount on EJCDC documents purchased through the Bookstore by end December.