Joe Davis Installed as ACEC OKLAHOMA 60th Chairman of the Board

Joe Davis, Managing Partner of Triad Design Group, Oklahoma City, became ACEC OKLAHOMA’s 60th Chairman of the Board at the conclusion of the Annual Convention in Branson, MO. Davis succeeds Chuck Mitchell, Crafton Tull, Tulsa, as ACEC OKLAHOMA’s chief elected officer.

Joe Davis grew up in Midwest City and received his BS and MS from Oklahoma State University. He worked for Oklahoma Department of Transportation during college where he met his wife, Susan. Following college, he worked for ODOT, then went to work for the City of Edmond as its City Engineer. Joe and Susan have two sons with the older starting his sophomore year at OU in the fall and younger will start his senior year in high school.

Joe Davis joined Triad Design Group’s Civil Engineering Department in 1994. In 1996 he became a Partner of the firm. Davis has responsibility for municipal engineering projects, working with the Cities of Edmond, Midwest City, Piedmont, and Yukon, Oklahoma. His duties include design, analysis, and supervision of construction of paving, highway, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and water resource projects for these municipalities. Mr. Davis is also Partner-in-Charge of Triad’s transportation engineering work for clients that include The Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Oklahoma County, and The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority.

Also elected to serve with Davis on the 2014-15 ACEC OKLAHOMA Board of Directors were:

* Chairman Elect: Brent Schniers, Garver, Tulsa

Welcome New Members

ACEC OKLAHOMA is excited to welcome two new member firms!

AIA Engineers, LTD, Oklahoma City, is a 2-person office providing Bridge & Roadway Design, Hydraulics, Traffic, and Bridge Inspection, led by Ahmed Abd-El-Mequid.

McClelland Consulting Engineers, Sand Springs, is a 3-person office headed by David Cross. The firm offers a variety of services including water/wastewater, roadway, airports, and land development.

Welcome AIA Engineers & McClelland Consulting Engineers!
Below is the Meeting Calendar for the coming year. Please mark your calendars so that you don’t miss any of these important meetings.

**Thursday, August 28, 2014**
Board & General Membership Meeting (Lunch)
9:00am Board Meeting; 11:45am General Meeting & Luncheon
Oklahoma City

**October 22-25, 2014**
ACEC Fall Conference
Kona, Hawaii

**Thursday, November 20, 2014**
Board & General Membership Meeting (Lunch)
9:00am Board Meeting; 11:45am General Meeting & Luncheon
Tulsa

**Thursday, January 22, 2015**
Board & General Membership Meeting and EEA Awards Dinner
2:00pm Board Meeting; 5:00pm General Meeting & EEA Awards Dinner
Oklahoma City

**February, March, and April, 2015 (Dates TBD)**
Leadership For Engineers
Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Stillwater

**Thursday, April 16, 2015**
Board & General Membership Meeting (Dinner)
2:00pm Board Meeting; 5:00pm General Meeting & Dinner
Tulsa

**April 19-22, 2015**
ACEC Annual Convention
Washington, DC

Late April/Early May
ODOT/ACEC OKLAHOMA Partnering Conf.
(Date/Location to be determined.)

**June 4-6, 2015**
ACEC Midwest States Annual Convention
Chateau on the Lake
Branson, MO

Congressional committee leaders are continuing to work on a way to avoid the impending shortfall of the Highway Trust Fund in late July. Both sides appear committed to finding a solution, as no one wants a shut-down of transportation projects at the height of construction season. But, the details have not yet come together.

The Senate Finance Committee postponed action last week on a draft bill to supplement the Highway Trust Fund with $8.4 billion in order to accommodate on-going negotiations.

The Finance Committee meeting will resume during the week of July 7 after the Independence Day recess of Congress. Committee leaders are also reported in talks with House Ways & Means Chairman Dave Camp (R-MI) on what House Republicans could agree to. These bi-cameral negotiations may ease passage of a final deal in both houses in mid-July.

In order to continue to raise awareness of the urgency for action, ACEC is asking all of our members to write to your member of Congress and your two senators on the need for a short-term patch and a long-term transportation funding solution.

To access a sample letter which you can personalize with firm-specific information, visit the ACEC website (www.acec.org), and click on the "ACEC ACTION ALERT" in the left-hand column.
President's Report
July, 2014
David Raymond, ACEC President

Heading into the 4th of July holiday, ACEC’s results-oriented business program was highlighted by: the President’s signature on WRRDA with new funding and procurement reforms advocated by ACEC; major media awards for Engineering Inc. and Last Word as effective membership communication tools; and ACEC’s award of Minuteman Fund grants to our Wisconsin, Missouri and Massachusetts chapters in support of major infrastructure initiatives. Our Fall Conference in Hawaii is coming together nicely, with a great line-up of speakers (See online at www.acec.org or the brochure which mails next week). Happy Independence Day!

General

- President Obama signed WRRDA into law, which includes $12.3 billion in new project authorizations, reforms to the project delivery process, a new requirement to use QBS on federally funded wastewater projects, and language encouraging more contracting out by the Corps of Engineers.

- Engineering Inc. won the APEX Grand Award for publication excellence and Last Word won an APEX award for newsletter excellence – maintaining the continuing tradition of high standards for these two publications.

- Minuteman Fund grants were awarded to ACEC/Wisconsin, ACEC/Missouri and ACEC/Massachusetts to support various state initiatives related to infrastructure funding.

- ACEC’s Land Development Coalition (LDC) grew from 32 to 72 member firms over the past fiscal year, attributable to an active membership recruitment campaign and a rejuvenated market.

Government Advocacy

- The House of Representatives approved the ACEC-endorsed North American Energy Infrastructure Act to establish a clear and efficient approval process for pipelines and transmission lines linked to Canada and Mexico.

- Joined with broad business coalition to support permanent extension of Section 179 expensing, which allows firms to deduct up to $500,000 of equipment in the year it is purchased.

- Lobbied for legislation that would make it easier for S corporations that were previously structured as C corporations to access the firm’s capital without tax penalties.

- Advocated reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, which provides funding, loan guarantees and credit insurance to support the export of US products and services (including engineering).

- Solicited member input in response to an EPA and Corps of Engineers regulatory announcement to expand the Clean Water Act’s definition of wetlands.

- Urged the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) to make changes to the FAR and Defense FARs to eliminate both the 6% limitation on fees and redundant data collection from A/E firms mandated through the enterprise-wide Contractor Manpower Reporting Application (eCMRA).

- Briefed members in Georgia and Kentucky on the SEC municipal advisor registration rule and other key issues.