

THE FIRST WORD

May, 2008

ACEC OKLAHOMA Joint Annual Meeting with Missouri, Arkansas & Kansas Set for June

The Mid-State Joint Annual Meeting of ACEC OKLAHOMA, Missouri, Arkansas, and Kansas will be held Thursday-Saturday, June 12-14, at the Chateau on the Lake in Branson, MO.

Thursday will begin with the Welcoming Reception at 6:00pm after which everyone will be on their own to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Branson area.

A full day of meetings and educational opportunities will kick-off with Breakfast on Friday at 7:30am with **Sam Tarkington, Prudential Retirement Services** speaking about changes in the ACEC Retirement Trust for 2008, and **ACEC Vice Chairman Ray Messer, Walter P Moore, Houston** providing his insight - one person's view - on what makes a good company.

Following the Breakfast meeting, each of the states will breakout into their Annual Meetings for the balance of the morning.

The groups will reconvene that afternoon of educational programs and roundtables. **"The Engineer as Activist" - A Panel Discussion & Roundtable** will be lead by **George Barbee, Ed Mulcahy, and Mark Rhoads**. This program will help members explore the arena of political activism and motivate members to become involved and effective in the political process as business professionals. The session will help develop approaches, techniques and a simple roadmap for an individual engineer to be effective as a political activist.

That evening, we will begin an evening to remember with dinner at the Radisson Hotel Branson where you will enjoy a marvelous Titanic themed meal while Titanic cast members entertain you. You will then travel to the Titanic Museum, a one-of-a-kind museum with artifacts taken from the water following the disaster, along with items donated from the families of passengers plus photographs from the recovery site, will help you to more fully understand that fatal night.

Saturday will begin with a Breakfast meeting where **Phillip Best, XL Design Professional** will give us a presentation on the sustainable building market. This presentation will explore the benefits and risks as well as examine how different market sectors are embracing "green" design.

Following breakfast, the balance of the morning will center on **"Creating an Outrageously Successful Organization"**

Scott Hunter, The Hunter Partnership Alliance will lead this highly interactive program, you will learn what it takes, year in and year out, no matter what is happening in your business world, to have an outrageously successful organization. You will discover that success has very little to do with what you do, what you know and how hard you work. Truly successful leaders understand certain principles and use them to outperform the competition.

The Annual Golf Tournament at John Daly's Murder Rock Golf Course (or free time for non-golfers) will be that afternoon, and the convention will close Saturday evening beginning at **6:30pm** with the **Officers / Directors Reception** followed by the **Multi-State Officers/Directors Installation Banquet**.

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

DEADLINE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS

is **MONDAY, MAY 12**, so please call the Chateau on the Lake at **(888) 333-5253** as soon as possible and tell them you are with the **ACEC Mid States Conference**. Hotel rooms are going FAST, so don't delay.

This is going to be another GREAT Convention, and we look forward to seeing you June 12-14 at the Chateau on the Lake in Branson!!!!

Legislature Steams Towards Early Adjournment

The Oklahoma Legislature is in its final weeks with plans to adjourn on Friday, May 23rd. The House and Senate have agreed to the May 23rd adjournment, which is one week prior to the constitutionally mandated "last Friday of May" adjournment date.

With a "stand still" budget already approved, Legislators are working on the final details of the appropriations bills as well as hundreds of bills which have been sent to joint House/Senate Conference Committees.

Most of the bills and issues in which ACEC OKLAHOMA is interested are in Conference Committee, but one has already reached the Governor's desk and has been signed into law.

Here's a complete overview:

SB 1181 - ODOT/OTA Construction Management & Demand Services Contracts. This bill was developed to address issues raised by the Federal Highway Administration regarding the use of CM and Demand Services contracts by ODOT. At issue was a "friendly" disagreement in interpretation of statutory language with ODOT and ACEC OKLAHOMA on one side and FHWA on the other.

Eventually, it was decided by all concerned that rather than having cumbersome language in the statutes, authority should be given to ODOT and OTA to write Commission/Authority Rules to spell out how these types of contracts are handled.

Senate Transportation Chairman Jeff Rabon and House Transportation Chairman Mike Thompson carried the bills in their respective chambers, and both did great jobs.

Late last week, the Senate accepted the House version of the bill, which included the "rule making" changes noted above, and on Monday, May 5th, Governor Henry signed the bill into law.

ODOT, ACEC OKLAHOMA and FHWA will get together soon to write the Rules which will eventually be presented to the Transportation Commission for approval.

HIGHWAY FUNDING ISSUES - With the "stand still" budget, there will be no "new" money for transportation this year other than the \$17.5 million guaranteed under HB 1176.

However, transportation is still on the priority list and several bills are still alive which could provide additional funding in future fiscal years.

Of all of the issues still alive, the elimination of the "trigger" still seems to be carrying the best hope for passage. There seems to be a consensus of agreement in the House and Senate that the "trigger" needs to go. That being said, there is also concern about available growth revenues in future years, especially considering the relatively "flat" growth this year.

The latest rumor around the Rotunda of the Capitol is that the "trigger" will be removed, but the effective date for removal might be pushed back one year to July, 2009. That would mean that the "trigger" would still be in effect when the estimates come out in February, 2009.

As for raising the "cap" from \$200 to \$500 million, and tapping the Title, Tax, & Tag fees.....hope springs eternal, but don't expect anything big on either of these this year.

Also, the talk of a Bond Issue for Transportation is growing stronger. As we pointed out in our "LEGISLATIVE ALERT" of April 25th, there is nothing wrong with a Bond Issue as long as two specific criteria are met:

1. No "Christmas List" of specific projects (i.e., pork barrel projects), and
2. A dedicated revenue stream for repayment of the bonds outside of ODOT budget.

The hope is that if the Bonds are authorized, a small portion of the Title, Tag, & Tax growth revenue will be used for Bond repayment.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS! As we urged in the "LEGISLATIVE ALERT," call your Legislator and ask them to support the removal of the "trigger" and to ONLY support the Bond issue if the two criteria are met.

DB & CM-at-Risk for Schools - Bill is in Conference Committee.

PE/LS BOARD STATUTE UPDATES - Bill is in Conference and should come out soon. No opposition that we know of, so should eventually pass.

LEED CERTIFICATION - In Conference, but is expected to pass.

That's the wrap-up for now. Things will happen VERY quickly as May 23rd draws closer. Please watch your e-mail for updates and alerts, and act quickly if the "call for action" comes.

Engineers, Land Surveyors Required to Provide Proof of Citizenship/Legal Alien Status to State Board

One of the major issues at the State Capitol this past couple of years has been HB 1804, the Immigration Reform Bill. While it's made a lot of news on many fronts, there was one issue in the bill which is a "wollybooger" for engineers and land surveyors, as well as other licensed professionals in Oklahoma.

All licensees of the State Board or those applying for licensure with the State Board.....as well as all other professional licensing boards in the state.....will have to provide proof of U.S. Citizenship or proof of being a Qualifying Alien before a license will be issued or renewed.

Recently, Kathy Hart, Executive Director of the Oklahoma State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, sent out a mailing requesting the following from all licensees. A copy of the letter is below:

House Bill 1804 REQUIRES that all natural persons fourteen (14) years of age or older and present in the United States, applying for a license or renewing their professional license with the Oklahoma State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, by the provisions of 56 O.S. Supp. 2007 § 71, to provide this Board with verification of lawful presence in the United States by executing an affidavit before a notary public or other officer authorized to notarize affidavits under State law. The Board's office is staffed with notaries who are available to provide notary service at no cost to applicants. You will not be allowed to apply for licensure or renew your license without this verification. Please sign and have notarized the applicable form and enclose a photocopy of the appropriate documentation listed on List A or List B as supplied in the mailing. If you are a US Citizen this information will only be requested once by this agency. If you are a qualifying alien, you will need to supply this information for verification each time you renew your professional license. This information is also located on the front page of the Board's website at www.pels.state.ok.us.

It is in your best interest to provide the information as requested in a timely manner. Otherwise, by law you will be required to provide the information at the time of your renewal. If you do not provide the verifiable information by the time your license expires, by law you may renew and have 120 additional days to provide the information before your license is revoked. Once your license is revoked, if you wish to reinstate your license by submitting the required information, all applicable reinstatement fees will also apply.

ACEC OKLAHOMA would like to point out that the State Board of Licensure is simply following the mandates of House Bill 1804, and that ALL licensing boards in the State are requiring their licensees to provide the same information.

If you have any questions, contact the State Board of Licensure at (405) 521-2874.

McVey Reappointed to State Board

Bill McVey, PSA Consulting Engineers, Oklahoma City, has been reappointed to serve a second six-year term on the State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

At ACEC OKLAHOMA's urging, Governor Brad Henry announced McVey's reappointment earlier this year, and the Senate has approved the reappointment.

Our Congratulations to Bill on his reappointment, and our sincere Thanks for his willingness to serve the professions.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ACEC OKLAHOMA ANNUAL MEETING

As required by the ACEC OKLAHOMA By-Laws, this shall serve as official notice of the Annual Meeting of the Council, scheduled for 9:00am, Friday, June 13, 2008 at the Chateau on the Lake in Branson, MO.

The 2008-09 ACEC OKLAHOMA Annual Budget will be presented for consideration and approval, annual reports will be presented, and election of officers for the 2008-09 year will be conducted.

The Annual Budget and the Nominating Committee Report will be e-mailed to all ACEC OKLAHOMA members prior to the Convention.

ODOT, Federal Highway Administration, Turnpike Authority and ACEC OKLAHOMA Renew Partnering Agreement

At the Annual Partnering Conference on April 24th, the sponsoring organizations renewed the Partnering Agreement underwhich the groups had been operating since 2002. Below is a copy of the new agreement which will be the guide for continuing the outstanding Partnership which has been so successful for the past few years.

