

# THE FIRST WORD

May, 2010

## 2010 ACEC Midwest States Convention June 3-5, Branson, MO

The annual **ACEC Midwest States Convention**, the annual joint convention of Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas ACEC member organizations, will be held Thursday - Saturday, June 3-5 at the Chateau on the Lake in Branson.

This is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow consultants from the adjacent states; participate in outstanding educational programs; and, relax and enjoy the beautiful Branson area surrounding the area's premier resort, The Chateau on the Lake.

The convention will kick-off Thursday evening at 6:00pm with the Opening Reception, *Sponsored by Lockton Companies*, giving you a chance to get together with fellow members for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres on an informal basis.

Friday morning, June 4th will start with breakfast and a program by *Sam Tarkington of Prudential Retirement Services* who will discuss the latest programs offered by the ACEC Retirement Trust. Following breakfast, each of the state organizations will hold their Annual Board of Directors/ Membership Meetings for the balance of the morning.

Following lunch, *Robert E. Staed, Ames & Gough* will present an afternoon program on **BIM-IPD: Here now and building momentum**. Do not miss this opportunity to gain insights into Building Information Management and Integrated Project Delivery. An interactive panel of practitioners will explain the tool (BIM) and the process (IPD), and how they are advancing the industry beyond traditional design/build for small and large projects.

Friday night we will head to **Dinner at Mel's Hard Luck Diner** and **Liverpool Legends Show at The Mansion Theatre**, *sponsored by The Crane Agency; Holmes Murphy & Associates; XL Design Professional*. At this '50s-style diner, you will enjoy a fabulous, relaxing dinner while being entertained with actors, singers, and musicians. Then we

head off to The Mansion Theatre where we will see the **Liverpool Legends** perform, a band was handpicked to recreate the band that changed the face of music forever....**The Beatles**.

Saturday morning following breakfast, *Mike Ingardia, Systems Management Consultants*, will present two programs.

Part 1 will be **12 Steps to Better Accounting Systems**: where Mr. Ingardia will discuss the advantages associated with the new "browser-based" applications now being offered by several of the major software vendors that specialize in the A-E market segment.

Part 2 will focus on **12 Steps to Reducing Project Scope Creep**. Mike discusses numerous techniques to protect project profits during the lean times, starting with proven services contracts with both private and public sector clients.

Saturday afternoon will be free time, where you can enjoy the area, or, play in the annual **Golf Tournament** at the new **Payne Stewart Golf Club**, *Sponsored by ACEC Retirement Trust / Prudential Retirement Services*.

The Convention will wrap up that evening with a Reception and Dinner, with food, fun, and entertainment *Sponsored by ACEC Business Insurance Trust*.

Registration information has been sent to all members and is also available at our website: [www.acecok.org](http://www.acecok.org).

**The room block for the ACEC Midwest States Conference at the Chateau on the Lake will be held until May 11th.** Contact the hotel at (888) 333-5253 for a rate of \$169 per night. **PLEASE CALL THE HOTEL ASAP TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM!!!!**

This is going to be a great meeting, and we look forward to seeing everyone there!

## Inaugural "Leadership For Engineers" Class Graduates

The ACEC OKLAHOMA "Leadership For Engineers" class wrapped up the 6-day program in April in Stillwater, and based on the evaluations from the inaugural class, the program was not just a Home Run, but a GRAND SLAM!!!!

Chairman of the Board Tom Hendrick presented each of the "graduates" with a plaque "In Recognition of Commitment to Developing Personal and Professional Leadership and Management Skills."

Information on the 2011 "Leadership For Engineers" program will be coming this summer. The class is expected to fill fast, so identify your firm's candidate now, and watch closely for registration information.

Pictured below with Chairman Hendrick are each of the graduates.



John Bocox  
Zahl-Ford, Inc.



Steve Harris  
BWR



Conrad Koehler  
Terracon



Bret Cabbiness  
Cabbiness Engineering



Jonathan Heusel  
Tetra Tech



Mike Kohn  
Poe & Associates



Jason Cobb  
C.H. Guernsey & Co.



Steven Johnson  
Cobb Engineering Company



Brent Schniers  
Garver



Gene Crabtree  
The Benham Companies



Doug Klassen  
MKEC Engineering Consultants



Robbie Williams,  
Triad Design Group



Chris Gray  
Crafton Tull Sparks



Chad Grinsteiner  
White Engineering Associates



David Zuk  
Wallace Engineering

## Record Attendance at 9th Annual ODOT / ACEC OKLAHOMA Partnering Conference

Over 300 Consultants and ODOT Staff attended the 9th Annual ODOT / ACEC OKLAHOMA Partnering Conference, Thursday, April 22nd in Oklahoma City. The largest previous attendance was just over 250 individuals last year.



Secretary of Transportation and ODOT Director Gary Ridley (center) is joined by former Secretary's Neal McCaleb (l) and Herschel Crowe (r) at the Partnering Conference.

The Partnering Conference is held each April and provides consultants and ODOT staff specialized training as well as an opportunity for networking in an informal, "away from the office" atmosphere.

This year's program featured a morning educational program entitled, **COACHING FOR LEADERSHIP: TRANSFORMING POTENTIAL INTO PERFORMANCE** led by Kelly Riggs, VMAX Performance Group, Broken Arrow.

Secretary of Transportation and ODOT Director Gary Ridley was the featured luncheon speaker, updating attendees on the current budget crisis in Oklahoma and the possible impact on

the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and its programs. Ridley also provided an overview of federal activities, including the recent 9-month extension of the federal highway program as well as prospects of enactment of a new 6-year federal highway program.

Afternoon sessions focused on ADA/DBE programs and issues; the recent update of the Design Manual, Specification Book, Construction Manual, and MUTCD; and, Environmental/ Storm Water/ Erosion Control issues.

The 10th Annual ODOT / ACEC OKLAHOMA Partnering Conference will be held April 28, 2011 at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center in Tulsa.

## Welcome New Members

ACEC OKLAHOMA is excited to welcome three new members to the organization!

**KEITHLINE ENGINEERING GROUP** is a two-person Tulsa-based civil engineering firm. Dan Keithline is the firm principal.

**SHAFER KLINE & WARREN** is an 11-person multi-discipline engineering, land surveying, landscape architecture, and GIS solutions firm. Daniel Coltrane is the principal of the Tulsa office, which is a branch of a Lenexa, KS based firm.

**WILSON & COMPANY** is a civil engineering and land surveying firm which is a branch office of a large multi-state firm. Jennifer Whitey and Tim Miles will lead the Norman office.

ACEC OKLAHOMA welcomes **Keithline Engineering Group, Shafer Kline & Warren, and Wilson & Company**, and looks forward to having all three firms as active members of ACEC OKLAHOMA.

## 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 3, 2010 at the Chateau on the Lake in Branson, MO.

The 2010-2011 ACEC OKLAHOMA Annual Budget will be presented for consideration and approval, annual reports will be presented, and election of officers for the 2010-2011 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.

All ACEC OKLAHOMA members are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting, which will be held in conjunction with the ACEC Midwest States Convention, a joint meeting of Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas. See Page 1 for more details.

## Thanks ACECPAC Contributors

As you are aware from previous articles, ACEC OKLAHOMA is making a strong effort this election year to support ACEC's national political action committee, ACECPAC.

By now, every member firm senior principal should have received a call from an ACEC OKLAHOMA Board member asking for your support.

ACEC OKLAHOMA's national goal for 2010 is \$8,901, so if each principal of each member firm gave just \$100, ACEC OKLAHOMA will easily reach our national goal.

We are excited to report that as of today, \$5,623.45 has been raised, which puts us at 63% of our goal. Additionally, this amount FAR SURPASSES amounts raised in any previous year.

If you haven't yet made your ACECPAC Contribution, we've included the forms on the following pages. Forms are also available on the ACEC website ([www.acec.org](http://www.acec.org)) and the ACEC OKLAHOMA website ([www.acecok.org](http://www.acecok.org)).

**NOTE** --- There are two forms which you need to complete: the "Pre-Approval" form and the "Contribution" form. Please complete both forms, include your payment, and return to ACEC OKLAHOMA. We will then forward your forms and payment to ACEC.

**ALSO** --- All contributions must be on your "PERSONAL" check or credit card. Corporate contributions are prohibited by Federal Law.

Thanks in advance for your support!!!!

And, **THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE ALREADY MADE THEIR 2010 ACECPAC CONTRIBUTION:**

Benham, Lance	The Benham Companies
Benson, James	Poe & Associates, Inc.
Blickensderfer, John	Guy Engineering Services
Bocox, John	Zahl-Ford, Inc.
Burton, Robert	Cobb Engineering
Cabbiness, J. Bret	Cabbiness Engineering, LLC
Cobb, Jason	C. H. Guernsey & Company
Crabtree, Gene	The Benham Companies, LLC
Davis, Darold	Garver, LLC
Davis, Joe	Triad Design Group
Douglas, Don	Triad Design Group
Ford, Steve	Zahl-Ford
Graham, Jack	Graham & Associates

Grinsteiner, Chad  
Harris, Steve  
Hendrick, Thomas  
Hepp, Marty  
Homan, Mike  
Hunt, Jim  
Johnson, Steven  
Klassen, Doug  
Koehler, Conrad  
Kohn, Michael  
Koneru, Sri  
Loeffler, Stacy  
Meacham, Greg  
Meshek, Janet  
Mitchell, Chuck  
Morris, Kenneth  
Nelson, Kenneth  
Rankin, Stanley  
Richards, Bryan  
Roberts, Herschel  
Schniers, Brent  
Smith, James  
Smith, Theron  
Soltani, Alan  
Steel, Don  
Stewart, Jim  
Updike, Jay  
White, Ronald  
Williams, Robbie  
Williams, Robert  
Wilson, Maria  
Wood, Marc  
Zuk, David

White Engineering Associates  
BWR  
Wallace Engineering  
Cobb Engineering  
Terracon  
PBSJ  
Cobb Engineering Company  
MKEC  
Terracon Consultants, Inc.  
Poe & Associates, Inc.  
Koneru Consulting Services  
BKL, Inc.  
The Benham Companies  
Meshek & Associates  
Crafton, Tull, Sparks  
The Benham Companies  
The Benham Companies  
The Benham Companies  
Cobb Engineering  
The Benham Companies  
Garver, LLC  
Professional Service Industries  
Apposite Engineering, LLC  
The Benham Companies  
Cobb Engineering  
PSA Consulting Engineers  
Holloway, Updike & Bellen  
White Engineering Associates  
Triad Design Group  
Poe & Associates, Inc.  
Cobb Engineering  
Logic Leaders  
Wallace Engineering



Visit [www.stop744.com](http://www.stop744.com) for more information and to join the STOP STATE QUESTION 744 campaign!



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

**PAC PRIOR APPROVAL FORM**

*ACEC/PAC is the A/E industry's prominent political weapon for electing pro-business candidates to Congress. Your support helps advance the legislative priorities that will mean more business for your firm and a brighter future for the industry.*

As the qualified representative of this ACEC member firm, I grant permission to The American Council of Engineering Companies Political Action Committee ("ACEC/PAC")\* to accept contributions from employees of our Firm. I understand this permission may be withdrawn at any time, and also that shareholders, retirees, and family members may also participate in ACEC/PAC activities and receive information materials. Please complete and sign for each year you would like to grant permission.

_____	_____
(Authorized Official)	(Signature 2010)
_____	_____
(Title/Position)	(Signature 2011)
_____	_____
(Company)	(Signature 2012)
_____	_____
(Address)	(Signature 2013)
_____	_____
(City, State, Zip Code)	(Signature 2014)

In addition to the authorization to accept unsolicited contributions as described above, I also authorize ACEC/PAC to communicate with the following individual or individuals from our Firm during the calendar year(s) indicated above regarding activities, events and recruitment opportunities related to ACEC/PAC (please check one):

- All eligible employees of the Firm
- Eligible employees from the following Branch(s) or Subdivision(s) of the Firm:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Only the following individual(s) from the Firm (please attach separate sheet as needed):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- No eligible employees of the Firm

*Please complete and return to Elizabeth Coit, ACEC/PAC Director via mail (1015 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20005), fax (202-682-4376) or e-mail to [ecoit@acec.org](mailto:ecoit@acec.org).*

\*Note: Corporate Firm members of ACEC may grant prior approval to only one national trade association PAC per calendar year. However, granting prior approval for ACEC/PAC does not preclude employees of the Firm from contributing to local or state PACs, national member and ideological PACs (i.e. National Rifle Association or Emily's List), or the Firm's own federal PAC. Eligible employees include those with executive, managerial or senior administrative responsibilities.



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

**Yes! I would like to help ACEC/PAC support Members of Congress who will fight for the business interests of the engineering community.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Job/Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes, I would like to be a member of the  Capitol Club (\$5,000),  Chairman's Club (\$2,500), or  Millennium Club (\$1,000).\***

Enclosed is my  personal check or  personal credit card contribution in the amount of:

\$5,000  \$2,500  \$1,000  \$500  \$250  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MasterCard  Visa  American Express

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Credit Card Holder \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Partnership and sole proprietorship checks are permitted; however, federal law prohibits corporate checks and corporate credit cards. Contributions or gifts to ACEC/PAC are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Contributions will be screened and those from outside the restricted class (non-members) and those from individuals who have not given prior approval may be returned. Contributions are voluntary and amounts included herein are merely suggestions. An individual is free to contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest, but may not contribute more than \$5,000 per calendar year. Federal law requires that our committee report the full name, address, occupation and company name of each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.

Mail : ACEC/PAC  
Attn: Elizabeth Coit  
Government Affairs Department  
1015 15th Street, N.W., 8th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005-2605

Email: [ecoit@acec.org](mailto:ecoit@acec.org)

Fax: 202-682-4376

\* Chairman's Club members either contribute \$2,500 to ACEC/PAC, or contribute \$1,000 to ACEC/PAC and pledge an additional \$1,500 to be contributed throughout the year to directly support candidates for re-election.