

THE FIRST WORD

December, 2016

Consulting Engineers PAC Has Successful Election Season

In it's first year, Consulting Engineers PAC had a very good election night in Oklahoma for the Consulting Engineering community, which should bode well for the coming and future legislative sessions

Of the 18 races on election night in which Consulting Engineers PAC was active, we were on the winning side in 17 of the races.....a success rate of 95%!!! The only race lost was House District 87 where Bruce Lee Smith (R) lost to Colin Walke (D). Consulting Engineers PAC was also active in 4 races which were decided in the Primary, and won in all 4 of those races.

So, with a record (Primary & General) of 22 - 1, Consulting Engineers PAC had a 96% win rate!!!!

On the Financial side, since inception in late 2014, Consulting Engineers PAC received \$23,755.00 in contributions from ACEC OKLAHOMA members. During the 2016 election cycle, Consulting Engineers PAC made \$15,000.00 in contributions to House and Senate candidates. Current balance in the PAC account is \$8,755.00.

Here is the breakdown of the Senate & House races:

SENATE Republicans

Kyle Loveless - Primary
Bryce Marlatt - Won
Adam Pugh - Won
Dan Newberry - Won
Joe Newhouse - Won
Dave Rader - Won
Greg Treat - Won

HOUSE Republicans

Casey Murdock - Won
Mike Sanders - Primary
David Brumbaugh - Won
Carol Bush - Won
Leslie Osborn - Won
Tammy West - Won
Rhonda Baker - Won
Kevin West - Won
Elise Hall - Won
Mike Osburn - Won
Bruce Lee Smith - Lost

SENATE Democrats

Kevin Matthews - Primary

HOUSE Democrats

Scott Inman - Won
Cyndi Munson - Won
Jason Lowe - Won
Eric Proctor - Primary

ACEC OKLAHOMA Reaches National ACECPAC Goal

With a last minute push, ACEC OKLAHOMA reached our national goal with members contributing **\$11,675.00**, exceeding the goal of \$11,657 by a whopping \$18.00!

Eighty five (85) employees of twenty nine (29) member firms contributed to ACECPAC during 2016.

Under the leadership of Oklahoma ACECPAC Champion Joe Davis, ACEC OKLAHOMA reached the national goal for the first time in several years.

Special Thanks!!!!

Also, special thanks go to ACECPAC Champion Joe Davis; Consulting Engineers PAC Chairman Jim Benson and Vice Chairman Keith Angier; Mike Vahabzadegan; and, Brent Schniers, all of whom donated a variety of Thunder basketball and Sooner football tickets, coolers and beverages for the raffles held throughout the year, as well as Consulting Engineers PAC Trustee Mike Homan. Through their efforts it was a great year for both PACs!!!!

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!!

Consulting Engineers PAC Annual Meeting Notice

The Annual Meeting of Consulting Engineers PAC will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at the Oklahoma Engineering Center beginning at 11:30am (Lunch Provided). The election of a new Trustee will take place at that time as well as consideration of By-Laws revisions and an update from the ACEC OKLAHOMA Lobbying Team.

Nominations for PAC Trustee are now open. If you would like to serve or nominate someone, contact Jim Sullins.

In Memory

P. G. Wilson, Jr.

ACEC OKLAHOMA is saddened to report the passing of Past Chairman and Past National Director P. G. Wilson, Jr., who passed away on November 18, 2016.

Born on August 19, 1926, P. G. was a native of Oklahoma City and attended Culbertson Elementary and Taft before transferring to Oklahoma Military Academy to complete his primary schooling. He attended West Point Academy before serving in World War II as an Army First Lieutenant ORC ARTY.

Following the war, he became a proud alum of Oklahoma State University where he earned a Bachelor's of Science in Civil Engineering (1951) and became a loyal and true cowboy.

Following graduation he was immediately recalled to serve during the Korean War. After returning from Korea he married his wife, Patricia Ann (Fowler) Wilson whom he met at Maywood Presbyterian church and married at Capitol Presbyterian church, where they were founding members. They were married for 57 years, raised four children and traveled the world, until she preceded him in death in 2007.

He was a Registered Professional Engineer and Surveyor and was Senior Vice President of HTB, Inc., in Oklahoma City, working on assignments world-wide, until his retirement. A loyal ACEC OKLAHOMA member, Wilson served as the Council's President in 1980-81 and was a fixture in Council activities until his retirement.

He loved the beach, ocean, reading and spending time working on projects. Recently, he had moved from the Vintage Gardens Community to Epworth Villa where he made many friends.

Paris was preceded in death, by not only his loving wife, but also his parents, Paris and Beatrice Wilson and sister Marilyn. He is survived by his four children, Michael Wilson and wife Joyce of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Pamela and husband Bobby Bryant of Pawnee, Oklahoma; Vicki and husband Layne Duncan of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Curtis Wilson and wife Wendi of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and grandchild Megan Bryant, and step-grandchildren April Rhodes, Justin Rhodes, Cassandra Yarbrough and Chad Duncan.

The family requests donations to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, OMRF or to a charity of your choosing.

ACEC OKLAHOMA extends our deepest sympathies to Michael, Pamela, Vicki, Curtis, and the entire family. P.G. was a great man and a dear friend to many. ACEC OKLAHOMA is a better organization because of his leadership and vision, and we will always be grateful for his guidance and counsel.

Op-Ed by AOGC Executive Director Bobby Stem

The following was published in *The Oklahoman* on Saturday, November 26th, and we wanted to pass it along in case you missed it.

Point of View: Alternative-fuel vehicles must contribute equally to road wear and tear

On Nov. 3, the Federal Highway Administration designated Interstates 35, 40 and 44 in Oklahoma as alternative-fuel corridors, a special designation aimed at improving the mobility of passenger and commercial vehicles that run on alternative fuels such as natural gas and electric vehicles.

Although the Association of Oklahoma General Contractors commends the program and believes we can be proud of Oklahoma's effort to improve alternative-fuel infrastructure, we must ask if these vehicles are contributing equally to provide Oklahomans with better roads and bridges across the state.

It may surprise some that alternative-fuel cars are heavier than their traditional fuel counterparts. While natural gas itself weighs less than gasoline, the storage tanks needed to hold the propane to the vehicle weigh a considerable amount. This added weight is detrimental for road pavement.

For comparison, let's consider the 2014 Honda Civic and its alternative-fuel model, the 2014 Civic Natural Gas. The gasoline-powered model holds 13.2 gallons of fuel and weighs 2,871 pounds. The natural gas model holds 8 gallons of propane and weighs 3,870 pounds. That means the driver of the alternative-fuel model is not only contributing less to fuel taxes that help to build, maintain and repair our bridges, but the vehicle is close to 1,000 pounds heavier. While this might not seem significant, this added weight contributes to road wear and undermines pavement sustainability over time.

As demonstrated by the recent TRIP report, Oklahoma road conditions are the worst in the nation. On top of contributing to the state gas tax, Oklahoma drivers are forced to deal with the additional cost, time and aggravation of vehicle maintenance due to poor road conditions. The effects of driving on poor roads cost Oklahoma City drivers \$1,025 a year in added vehicle maintenance, while Tulsa drivers pay more than \$998 a year.

The AOGC isn't opposed the use of alternative-fuel vehicles or green technology on Oklahoma roads. However, we as Oklahomans cannot continue to maintain our state's transportation infrastructure while we continue to divert the critical funds necessary to their preservation.

We look forward to a discussion in the next legislative session on transportation funding that will help our economy. If there are any measures taken, they should be initiatives that move us further away from relying on a gasoline fuel tax to repair, maintain and replace Oklahoma's roads and bring us closer to creating an educated and long-term solution to ensure that every Oklahoma driver is contributing fairly.

Stem is executive director of the Association of Oklahoma General Contractors.

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

December, 2016

David Raymond, President & CEO

The November 8 elections resulted in a 97% win record for ACEC/PAC-backed candidates. We are pressing ahead to help them in retiring their campaign debts, strengthening relationships with newly-elected Members, and laying the groundwork for an aggressive advocacy program in 2017. We've been in contact with President-elect Trump's transition team, including Transportation Secretary-designate Elaine Chao, on our recommendations. Our annual leadership orientation sessions in Washington, D.C. – attended by 64 MO officers from 31 states – again received positive ratings, reflecting the value of the program and the strength of ACEC moving forward. Hope you have an enjoyable holiday season.

General

- Sent policy recommendations to President-elect Trump's transition team for 2017, emphasizing a strong infrastructure and energy agenda, as well as tax and regulatory reforms.
- Ninety-seven percent of the candidates that ACEC/PAC supported for the House and Senate won their races on Election Day; PAC-funded candidates won seven of eight open congressional seats, and were winners in 13 of the 16 "toss-up" races.
- ACEC/Alabama received a Minuteman Fund grant to help defray the advocacy costs of fighting for QBS regulations in the Administrative Rules of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BOL).
- ACEC/PAC has surpassed \$900,000 in total receipts on its way to \$1 million this year, and has distributed nearly \$2 million to date for the 2015/16 election cycle; ACEC/Nebraska, ACEC/North Dakota, ACEC/Kentucky, and ACEC/Oklahoma met their ACEC/PAC fundraising goals, bringing the total number of states already at goal to 24.
- *Engineering Inc.* won five top honors in the 2016 MarCom Awards – an international competition recognizing communications excellence, with more than 6,500 entries from the U.S., Canada and 17 other countries.
- Submitted comments to the House Ways and Means Committee on its tax reform blueprint, stressing the Council's support for a comprehensive approach to tax reform that provides the same top tax rate for all business structures.
- Joined business allies in asking the Treasury Department to withdraw a proposed estate tax rule that would harm family-owned firms.
- The ACEC-AASHTO Joint Committee meeting featured discussions on DOT performance management rules and streamlined project delivery; the need for a revenue solution for the Highway Trust Fund; and support for state-level infrastructure funding campaigns.
- Congressmen Dave Reichert (R-WA) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) introduced ACEC-backed legislation to make improvements to the Section 179D energy efficient commercial buildings tax deduction.
- Joined with industry stakeholders on a letter urging Congress to support the extension of key tax provisions that promote energy efficient buildings.
- Launched a new study in partnership with a number of member firms and outside partners to highlight the value of EPA's hazardous waste Superfund program, with the goal of using the study to build support in Congress for increased funding.

Government Advocacy

- Voters approved more than \$200 billion in ballot initiatives for transportation projects in 22 states on Election Day, including a number of initiatives supported by the Minuteman Fund.
- A federal judge issued a preliminary injunction on the Department of Labor's overtime pay rule, which was scheduled to take effect on December 1, giving ACEC and its coalition partners time to work with Congress and the incoming Administration on a more moderate increase of the salary threshold.

Business Resources

- With 33 registered sites, November's most popular online class, *Ethical Decision-Making for PEs: Today's Standards and Benefits*, reviewed the ACEC Professional and Ethical Conduct Guidelines and applicable standards of practice.
- Coalitions' best sellers for November included CASE's *Full Set of Sample Contract Documents*, and Land Development Coalition's *Marketing Your Land Development Firm With Greater Success* both available at www.acec.org/bookstore.