

ACEC/NEBRASKA PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Fellow ACEC/N Members:

My year of serving as the president of ACEC Nebraska didn't shape up quite like I imagined. It's not that I planned to change the course of the organization as I firmly believe it's been on a good path for quite some time. But I did look forward to my commitment to provide leadership for the year and all that entails. The first six months went about as I imagined, running board meetings, attending the fall convention, and staying in touch with Jackie.

Then January 15th happened. Long story short, we were told that my wife, Kim, has an inoperable malignant brain tumor and I spent the next six weeks doing everything possible to find the right path for her treatment and taking care of my

family. That took me away from my role in my company, away from my role as president of ACEC/N, and away from every routine that we had grown accustomed to. To Jackie, Julie, and the board, thank you for covering me in board meetings, at the legislative day, the Engineering Excellence Awards banquet, and in other ways where you planned for my involvement. And to Jackie, Julie, the board, and many others, thank you for the cards, calls, emails, visits, thoughts, and prayers. There are some stereotypes about engineers that I believe are significantly out of touch with reality. We have witnessed nothing but sincere compassion from so many in this industry and we could not be more grateful. Kim is on a good path and your support has meant the world to us.

While I was not able to give all that I had hoped this year to the organization, I assure you that your organization did not miss a beat. If you have not seen Jackie at work, I urge you to stop in and visit with her or attend one of our events. She is as knowledgeable as anyone about what is important to the success of our companies, has incredible relationships with elected and appointed public officials, and can put even the most nervous person at ease in any situation. She is remarkable and we are blessed to have her. And Julie, her partner in crime, hit the ground running when she started over a year ago and has never looked back.

Your board is a talented collection of individuals that have a unique ability to put aside what is best for their individual firms and rally around what is best for the industry as a whole. Collectively their firms have offices from Scottsbluff to Omaha as well as in multiple states and even countries, range from approximately 30 people to thousands of people in size, and provide a broad range of engineering and related services to both public and private clients. Their varied perspectives are invaluable in the decision making process, particularly when discussing public policy issues.

So what was accomplished this year? We were invited to the table with the new governor to participate in discussions regarding the appointment of a new director of the department of roads. We were instrumental in supporting legislation regarding updates to the engineering and architecture statutes and passage of an increase in the gas tax which will benefit needed infrastructure funding. Our committees continue to bring value to their members, our industry as a whole, and even to non-member firms (thank you committee chairs!). We had another successful year of highlighting the incredible work of firms in our industry at the Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet. We sent a number of delegates to both the fall and spring national conferences, which included the opportunity to once again meet and strengthen our relationship with our elected officials in Washington, D.C. while continuing to share perspective with them about matters important to our industry. And we continued to build our standing with our state legislators, who I truly believe see us as a valued resource. This is a small sample, but an excellent example of the many important things that your organization does.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president and for your support of ACEC/N. The economy has been good to our industry over the last year and here's to wishing us all many more!

2014-15 ACEC/N President

Rob Brigham

ACEC/NEBRASKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Rob Brigham President



Jeff Sockel President Elect



Steve Kathol Past President



Jack Baker **National Director**



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Craig Hunter State Director



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ACEC/NEBRASKA MEMBER FIRMS

AECOM (formerly URS) **HNTB** Alfred Benesch & Company Iteris Alvine Engineering JEO Consulting Group Baker & Associates Kirkham Michael Black & Veatch **KPE-Consulting Engineers CDM Smith** Lamp, Rynearson & Associates M.C. Schaff & Associates CH2M HILL E & A Consulting Group M.E. Group EA Eng., Science, & Tech. Miller & Associates Ehrhart Griffin & Assoc. Morrissey Engineering

REGA (formerly ESP) Farris Engineering Parsons Brinkerhoff Performance Engineering Felsburg Holt & Ullevig George Butler Associates R.W. Engineering & Surveying Gilmore & Associates RDG Geoscience & Engineering **Gonzalez Companies RVW**

Olsson Associates

HDR Engineering **Schemmer Associates HGM Associates** Schnackel Engineers

SCS Aquaterra

Short Elliott Hendrickson

Snyder & Associates

Specialized Engineering Solutions

Speece-Lewis Engineers SRF Consulting Group Structural Design Group **Terracon Consultants**

Tetra Tech Thiele Geotech

Thompson, Dreessen & Dorner Transduction Technologies

TREKK Design Group

Veenstra & Kimm

Wade Trim

Wilson & Company WLA Consulting

2015 ENGINEERING EXCELLENT AWARDS

Engineering Excellence is our annual design competition recognizing engineering achievements which demonstrate the highest degree of merit and ingenuity. 24 projects ranging from research studies and buildings and water resources to transportation entered this year's state competition. Awards were presented on Wednesday, February 25th at Happy Hollow Country Club in Omaha.

Entries were rated on the basis of innovation and originality; technical value to the engineering profession; social and economic considerations complexity; and how successfully the project met the needs, including time and budget constraints, of the client.

GRAND AWARD



US34 Bridge over the Missouri River

HDR Engineering Category C Winner

For the Iowa Department of Transportation & Nebraska Department of Roads

The new U.S. 34 Missouri River Bridge connects Iowa and Nebraska, providing a road to future economic growth. More than 20 years of planning culminated with the October 2014 bridge opening, attended by nearly 250 residents, business

owners, elected officials and media. The three-year, \$115 million project represented a partnership between the lowa Department of Transportation and the Nebraska Department of Roads, with HDR as the lead design engineer. The new four-lane bridge provides a direct connection between I-29 in Iowa and U.S. Highway 75 in Nebraska. The new route has been redesignated as U.S. Highway 34, offering an alternative to existing two-lane toll bridges that connect the states north of the new bridge in Bellevue, Neb., and south of the site in Plattsmouth, Neb. Projected to carry 2,000 vehicles a day, the bridge provides a more efficient route for freight movement and better access for businesses in the community. Elected officials anticipate open land along the new corridor to attract new businesses, while the new route will also help improve community cohesion in southwest Iowa and southeast Nebraska.

Along this reach of the Missouri River, the new 3,276-foot-long, 86-foot-wide structure marks the first bridge constructed on new alignment since the Bellevue toll bridge in 1950. The innovative steel girder design maintained a navigational opening for barges passing on the river with a 515-foot main span extending beyond the traditional length of steel girders. Engineers designed the bridge deck with long-term maintenance and cost-effectiveness in mind.

2015 HONOR AWARDS



144th Street Dodge Road to Eagle Run Drive Felsburg Holt & Ullevig

Category H Winner For the City of Omaha

FHU worked with City of Omaha to complete the design and environmental documentation for roadway improvements along the 144th and Blondo Street corridors, reconstructing

the existing two-lane pavement to a four-lane urban arterial. If you remember what it was like to drive in the bumper-to-bumper traffic at 144th & Blondo during rush hour PRIOR to construction, you understand how badly this project was needed. On 144th Street, a 1.5 mile four-lane boulevard with meandering trails has replaced the heavily- traveled existing two-lane roadway. Blondo Street from 135th Street to Nelson's Creek Drive has also been reconstructed providing a four-lane divided cross section with dual left turn lanes at the intersection with 144th Street. Today, drivers and pedestrians enjoy efficient movement along the corridor, better access to neighboring residential, commercial and educational developments, and a safer user experience. The design ties into a regional transportation system supporting growth and local connectivity between central Omaha and western Douglas County. Sustainability is woven throughout the project. The alignment minimizes impacts to neighborhoods, businesses, greenspace, wetlands, and waterways. Innovative drainage design reduces stormwater runoff and three miles of trails encourage biking and walking. Design elements such as colored concrete medians, a textured noise wall, and eight rain gardens create a visually appealing landscape, adding value to nearby neighborhoods.

Gardens Sewer Separation HDR Engineering

Category F Winner For the City of Omaha

The Lauritzen Botanical Gardens were constructed over a closed balefill, with the City of Omaha's combined sewer being located under the balefill. Over



time, the weight of the balefill had crushed the existing sewers that carried both storm water and sanitary sewage. In addition, extensive settlement of the balefill resulted in several unsightly areas in the Gardens that required constant maintenance. As part of Omaha's CSO Long-Term Control Plan, the combined sewers under the Gardens were required to be separated. In order to preserve the Gardens, the sewer separation necessitated the use of several trenchless construction methods and innovative construction methods. The challenge for the project was to design and construct new sanitary and storm sewers around the perimeter of the balefill; abandon the existing sewers in place; improve the storm water drainage on the balefill; while having a minimal impact on the botanical garden exhibits. The project team met this challenge by implementing four types of trenchless methods of construction that allowed the pipe to be installed under the exhibits without adversely impacting them. A pipe bridge was designed to support the new storm and sanitary sewers over the balefill. The type of pile selected maintained the integrity of the balefill systems and protected the environment.

2015 HONOR AWARDS

UP Santa Teresa Terminal Wilson & Company Engineers and Architects

For Santa Teresa, New Mexico

Located at the eastern end of the Union Pacific Railroad's historic Sunset Route, the Santa Teresa Terminal is at the crossroads of freight movement from west coast ports to major consumer markets located



anywhere from Atlanta to Chicago. This 2,200-acre features a run-through fueling facility, intermodal ramp, and a location for a future block swap yard. The run-through fueling facility consolidates three existing fueling terminals in the El Paso, Texas, area into one centralized facility, which allows increased train speed and efficiency though the region. Less than 10 miles from the U.S. and Mexico border crossing at Santa Teresa, New Mexico, the intermodal ramp provides increased efficiency of container movement and relieves stress from the existing atcapacity facilities in El Paso, both internal and external to UP. West coast ports currently are required to assemble 8,000-foot trains with containers going to the same final destination. By reserving space for a future block swap yard, the Santa Teresa Terminal ultimately allows trains to leave ports more quickly with multiple destination blocks, which increases efficiency of port traffic by allowing trains to be blocked at a separate location. Santa Teresa is a nationally recognized facility for innovation, safety, service performance, and reliability in the railroad industry, and sets a new standard for engineering excellence.



Centralized Renewable Energy System NE Innovation Campus Olsson Associates

Category K Winner For Tetrad Properties

Treated effluent water from the City of Lincoln's Theresa Street Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), which would typically go into Salt Creek, is diverted to a centralized heat exchange facility that is located on Nebraska Innovation Campus

(NIC). The water is pumped through heat exchangers that decouple the WWTP open loop from a closed loop piping system that serves the campus. Only thermal property is transferred between the open loop and closed loop piping systems. The treated effluent water is then returned back to the WWTP discharge point into Salt Creek. The effluent water temperatures range from 57-75 degrees Fahrenheit depending on the time of day and the time of year. This water is more stable than a typical closed-loop geothermal heat pump systems which adds to the Central Renewable Energy System (CRES) efficiency and electrical energy savings. Buildings at NIC are connected to the closed-loop system and they transfer heat in and out of the closed-loop according to the season. The reclaimed water discharge from the WWTP will generate enough heating/cooling for approximately 1.8 million square feet of building floor area. Currently there are less than a dozen similar projects in the U.S. and CRES is one of the largest and most unique among the similar facilities.

2015 HONOR AWARDS



Hastings Utility Enhanced WPCF HDR Engineering

For the City of Hastings Utilities

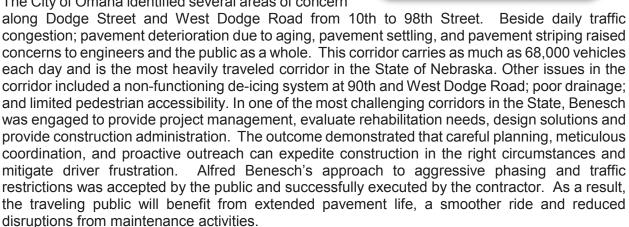
Hastings Utilities is leading the charge in Nebraska to reduce adverse impacts to water quality in the Missouri River Basin, as well as reducing detrimental impacts in the Gulf of Mexico. The new discharge permit from the

Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) had more stringent limits, which significantly reduced the amount of ammonia allowed in the discharge from the Water Pollution Control Facility. In addition, Hastings Utilities had concerns about the overall trend requiring wastewater treatment plants across the Midwest to reduce nutrient loads (nitrogen and phosphorous) discharged from their facilities to diminish the adverse impacts of a growing hypoxic zone (dead zone) in the Gulf of Mexico. These trends, coupled with a permit duration of 5-years, caused Hastings Utilities to rethink its current treatment processes. Hastings Utilities proactively incorporated External Nitrification Biological Nutrient Removal Activated Sludge (ENBNRAS) process into their existing Water Pollution Control Facility. This process, developed for facilities which have a combination of fixed media and suspended growth systems, would meet both the proposed limits and more stringent future nutrient limits. The resulting Water Pollution Control Facility is already reducing the toxicity of ammonia discharged to receiving streams, and is able to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous loads, thus helping to alleviate serious water quality issues in the Gulf of Mexico.

Dodge Street/West Dodge Road Rehab Alfred Benesch Company

Category I Winner For the City of Omaha & NE Department of Roads

The City of Omaha identified several areas of concern



2015 Merit Awards



1. Eppley Airfield Runway 18-36 Reconstruction, Lamp Rynearson & Associates - Omaha Airport Authority



2. Riverbank Filtration Evaluation, Miller & Associates City of Kearney



NDOR Element Level Bridge Inspection Preparation Services Parsons Brinkerhoff - Nebraska Department of Roads



Lexus of Omaha Dealership, Morrissey Engineering Performance Auto Group



University of California Irvine – Paul Merage School of Business, Alvine Engineering - University of California - Irvine



6. UNO Community Engagement Center, Farris Engineering University of Nebraska – Omaha



7. Nebraska Crossing Outlets, Thompson, Dreessen, & Dorner Avant Architects



8. South Omaha Industrial Area, Wade Trim - City of Omaha



9. Waterloo Bank Stabilization, JEO Consulting Village of Waterloo



Arnold Lake & Victoria Springs Lake Rehabilitation, EA Engineering, Science & Tech., Nebraska Games & Parks Commission & City of Arnold in NE



11. Rockbrook Tributary Rehabilitation, CH2MHill - City of Omaha



12. 12th Street Reconstruction, Kirkham Michael - City of Hastings



Norfolk Roundabout, Schemmer Associates Nebraska Department of Roads



14. Waverly Quiet Zone, Schemmer Associates City of Waverly



Streetscape Improvements – Dundee, Snyder & Associates City of Omaha Public Works



126th & West Giles Distribution Center, Schemmer Associates Midwest Contracting



City of Crawford - Wastewater Treatment Plant Baker and Associates - City of Crawford



2015 Young Professional Award

ACEC Nebraska has awarded John Smith the Young Professional of the Year Award. The award recognizes the accomplishments of Nebraska engineers under the age of 30 who have contributed to the state's engineering profession and impacted their communities.

mathematics education.

John Smith, PE, is a transportation engineer and project manager with HDR in Omaha. John earned his BS in Civil Engineering from UNL. John serves as HDR's Roadway Technology Advancement Chair, researching new technologies and organizing staff training. John has designed roadway work for municipal, state, and federal clients as well as specialized drainage and railroad design projects.

John is active in the American Society of Civil Engineers Nebraska chapter and has served as the chapter's Transportation Technical Committee Chair, Younger Member Group Chair, was recently elected Vice President, and named the 2014 Outstanding ASCE Younger Member for Region 7. His volunteer work in the community includes educating teens about safe driving and advocating for science, technology, engineering, and

2015 Charles Durham Achievement Award

The Charles Durham Achievement Award was created to honor Charles Durham's leadership in the engineering profession and his community stewardship through civic involvement. Durham served as chairman and CEO of Henningson, Durham and Richardson, (HDR) headquartered in Omaha. Over the years, he and his wife Marge were active in their community serving in leadership roles with many community organizations and donating millions of dollars to worthy causes.

ACEC Board of Directors is honored to announce 2 recipients of the 2015 Charles Durham Award



Ron Bottorff is a registered Professional Engineer with over 42 years of experience, the last 34 years working with JEO Consulting in Wahoo. Ron has provided design and construction administration services for hundreds of wastewater treatment and sewer collection facility improvement projects throughout Nebraska. Ron has served as a coach for an "Olympics of the Mind" 4th-5th grade design competition and is active in his church. Ron has volunteered in professional engineering organizations and has served as the President and National Director for ACEC Nebraska, as well as Nebraska's Political Action Campaign Champion at the National ACEC.



Larry Lewis, for more than 50 years, has been involved in bridge inspection, evaluation and design of state and local bridges and the design of urban and rural roads and highways. A Professional Engineer, Larry started the Speece-Lewis firm in Lincoln in1974. Larry and his firm have designed a majority of the roadways, parking, camping areas and other facilities in a majority of the major State Parks in Nebraska. Larry has been a current and past representative of many professional organizations at both the local and national levels including President and National Director of ACEC Nebraska.

Membership Chair: Craig Hunter Throughout the year firms were visited by members of the committee who engaged their colleagues in dialogue, sharing the benefits of membership as well as describing their firm's involvement with the organization. At the end of 2014-15, ACEC Nebraska had 51 members representing 2,800 employees and four new members.

These firms became the newest members of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Nebraska:









Omaha Engineering Partnership Chair: Leanne Ziettlow

The committee continued to foster a strong partnership with the City of Omaha by keeping a close working relationship with Public Works, the Mayor's office and members of the City Council. Regular meetings were

held with Public Works Director Bob Stubbe to discuss issues of interest to ACEC membership and ways the committee and ACEC can assist the City with issues of interest to the City. One meeting was held with the Mayor's Deputy Chief of Staff Cassie Seagren.

The committee also organized and presented the annual Omaha Engineering Partnership Workshop in September. The workshop included a mix of private and public sector attendees including representatives of City and County government in the Omaha metropolitan area. The agenda included presentations by Bob Stubbe (Omaha Public Works Director), Scott Aurit (HDR), Greg Youell (Executive Director of MAPA), Cassie Seagren (City of Omaha, Mayor's office), David Fanslau (City of Omaha Planning Department), Jim Theiler and Ryan Haas (City of Omaha Public Works Department), Mike McMeekin (Lamp Rynearson), Kirk Pfeffer (City of Omaha Public Works), Dr. Tim Wei (University of Nebraska College of Engineering) and a panel discussion on the metro area's infrastructure outlook with Dan Kutilek (Douglas County), Todd Pfitzer (City Engineer, City of Omaha) and Dr. Dennis Wilson (Sarpy County Engineer).



This year's workshop also included a two hour technical session held immediately prior to the workshop. "Project Construction: What Happened to the Project Plans?" included a panel discussion with Lorraine Legg (NDOR), Joel Jacobsen (RW Engineering & Surveying), Todd Weidemann (Woods & Aitken), David Jesse (The Harry A. Koch Company) and Matt McFadden (FHU). Mike Piernicky with Olsson Associates moderated the discussion. Over 60 people attended the technical session.

(L-R) Mike Piernicky, Joel Jacobsen, Lorraine Legg, Todd Weidemann, Matt McFadden, and David Jesse

Lincoln Engineering Partnership Chair: Lalit Jha

The ACEC Lincoln Engineering Partnership Committee met several times over the year as a committee as well as in smaller groups with Miki Esposito, Director of Public Works; Roger Figard, City Engineer; and Thomas Shafer,

Engineering Services. These meetings help foster communication on issues, projects and needs as well as build strong relationships between the public and private sectors.

The Lincoln Engineering Partnership Committee hosted another successful Engineering Partnership Workshop on March 11. City participation was great once again this year and it was encouraging to see public and private employees interacting throughout the room. There was a wide array of technical topics with great presentations across the board. Miki Esposito, Lincoln's Public Works Director, kicked off the workshop with an update on the Public Works Department and the self-assessment process they recently completed as well as staffing changes. Other topics included: risk communication; traffic and time; data submission standards; engineers on rescue and search teams; geophysical and non-destructive testing applications for engineers; Central Renewable Energy System: A sustainable heat recovery solution at Nebraska Innovation Campus; and stormwater ordinance requirements effective 2016.

We also hosted a meeting to meet Donna Garden, Assistant Director of Public Works to get to know her better and learn more about her role.

The committee successfully worked with city officials to modify standard contract language regarding accounting for uncompensated over-time for salaried employees. We also assembled a small group of LEP member representation to help the City of Lincoln evaluate proposed changes and/or improvements to the City's construction engineering inspection practices. Jackie McCullough, ACEC/N Executive Director chaired the Mayor's Task Force on Engineering Services. The Task Force presented its recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council in late summer.



LEP Committee met with new Assistant Director of Public Works. Donna Garden

We look forward to continued partnership with the City of Lincoln.

Small Firms
Chair: Tom Senne

The ACEC Nebraska Small Firms Committee met with two law firms this year. Topics covered were estate planning and navigating social media in and out of the work place.

Andrew Louden with Baylor Evnen Law Offices led a business owner's estate planning workshop during the February 12th meeting. In the photo I-r: Keith Gilmore, Gilmore Associates; Chris Lane, Speece-Lewis; Marty Wiedenman, Performance Engineering; Tom Senne, WLA; Andrew Louden; Rob Whorley, Performance Engineering; Russell Falconer, RW

Engineering and Surveying; and not pictured David Holtzclaw, Transduction Technologies.



The ACEC Nebraska Small Firms Committee hosted a lunch and learn at Kirkham Michael in Omaha. Erin Ebeler (left) and Kelly Ekeler (middle) with Woods Aitken law firm presented on "Hiring, Firing, and Marketing in the Age of Social Media: What Employers and Employees Need to Know". The session focused on the consequences of social media for employees and employers.

NDOR Partnership
Chair: Tom Kellogg

The ACEC/NDOR Partnering Committee creates a forum for discussion between the agency and the private sector. Our meetings are a conduit for information between our members and the Nebraska Department of Roads. The committee meets several times a year to identify and discuss situations and topics to bring to the attention of a smaller liaison

group. The smaller liaison group then meets with department representatives responsible for those areas. That smaller committee meets about every six weeks to discuss timely topics and issues raised by our members that are causing concerns. NDOR shares information to the industry through this committee and then to the rest of the committee and our member firms. Often times the groups meet to talk through changes to policy and procedures and how those policies and procedures will work in practice – not just theory. The committee consists of members from the consulting industry, NDOR and FHWA staff.

Highlights from the year's discussion include:

- On-Call Construction Engineering contracts for state and local projects
- NDOR Consultant Procurement Manual
- Invoicing lag in processing invoicing
- LPA Division personnel changes
- FHWA and NDOR project delivery efficiency project
- MAP 21 reauthorization plans
- 2015 surface transportation funding initiatives

The committee also organized and hosted the ACEC/N NDOR FHWA Workshop which included presentations by Randy Peters, NDOR Director; Joe Werning, FHWA Nebraska Administrator; Greg Wood, NDOR Construction Division Coordinator; and Mike Owen, NDOR Planning and Project Development. Special presentations were made by Will Sharp, HDR and Troy Jerman, IDOT, on program management approaches; Mike Hughes on the Prisoners' Dilemma: a classic exercise in game theory used to analyze decision making; and Jessica Jurzenski, FHU, on the American Burying Beetles.

Members of the committee were also engaged in the selection process for the new Director of NDOR. The Governor recognized the value of private industry in the selection process and ACEC was among the three private industry associations included in the selection process from beginning to end. ACEC/N Board of Directors met with the new director on a visit to the state prior to his start date. The full committee will welcome the new director in the fall.



Thursday, May, 14th the ACEC Nebraska Board of Directors hosted a lunch meet and greet with the newly appointed Director of the Dept. of Roads while he was in town visiting with stakeholders.

Kyle Schneweis assumed his duties June 8th.



Environment & Energy Chair: Andy Miller

The committee held planning meetings during the year to discuss current issues and plan for the lunch and learn meetings to be held throughout the year.

The lunch and learn meetings with featured presenters were held during the year. The first luncheon featured Dave Lampe with FHU presenting on the Hell Creek Restoration – I-80 to West Papillion Creek. He talked about the "restoration" work that was completed as part of Phase I on this reach of Hell Creek, including lessons learned, and discussed what

is underway as part of Phase 2 work. Another lunch and learn was a joint meeting with NDOR on current environmental issues and their new staff. The third was held at NDOR and we heard from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality staff members Marty Link and Shelley Schneider on Nebraska's impaired waters and the air quality ozone standards.



Public Relations
Co-Chair: Christine Dyas
Co-Chair: Lisa Willhoite

The committee's role is to promote ACEC/N and the engineering industry. This year, the committee worked closely with ACEC/N staff to develop the LinkedIn site for ACEC Nebraska. They also created an eight page insert in the Omaha World Herald during Engineer's week that highlighted the Engineering Excellence Awards and promoted the

engineering industry. The committee also contributed to the Midlands Business Journal E-Week supplement with featured articles. The committee brought an on-line submittal process alive for the Engineering Excellence Awards in Nebraska. In addition, the committee met with the EEA judges to learn more about how they viewed the entries, what they looked for in outstanding projects and how they would like to receive the information. Using that data, the committee re-vamped the submittal information – creating a much more user friendly format highlighting the details that the judges indicated were important judging factors. This year's judges, as well as our members who entered projects, were very pleased with the new format.



Mayor Beutler signed the City of Lincoln proclamation with Donna Garden, Asst. Public Works Dir.; Roger Figard, City Engineer; Lalit Jha, JEO & LEP Committee Chair; and Jackie McCullough, ACEC/N

Lalit Jha, JEO & LEP Chair, with Virgil Dearmont, Lancaster County Engineering Office, were present for the County Commissioners meeting and received the E-Week Official 2015 proclamation.



State Proclamation signing by Governor Pete Ricketts. Daryoush Razavian, Olsson Associates; Karl Fredrickson, Parsons Brinkerhoff; Stephanie Rittershous, Alfred Benesch, and Jackie McCullough, ACEC/N

Legislative

Chair: Mark Lutjeharms

The ACEC/N Legislative Committee reviews bills introduced and determines if and how the proposed legislation may affect our industry. The committee watches bills that affect our members'

businesses such as changes to the corporate taxes, changes to the E&A Regulation Act, bills that foster economic development, agency's funding and regulatory changes, energy related legislation, and all other issues that could affect our members' bottom line.



ACEC/N Members visit with Senator Jim Smith at the State Capitol during the Legislative Forum. Steve Kathol, Schemmer; Matt Selinger, HDR, Tom Svoboda, Farris; Kyle Anderson, FHU and Mike Piernicky, Olsson Associates.

Bills of interest this session included:

LB23 Changes to the EA Act: the Engineers and Architects Board proposed legislation again this year which would update sections of the EA Act and incorporate several changes. The ACEC/N Board and Legislative Committee reviewed LB 23 and agreed to testify in support of the bill. The bill passed on final reading on March 12.

LB22 Good Samaritan: ACEC/N, working with the American Institute of Architects again this year introduced Good Samaritan legislation for engineers and architects. Senator Bob Krist introduced LB22 that would provide immunity from civil liability for registered architects and professional engineers providing disaster emergency assistance under specified circumstances. The bill did not advance out of the Judiciary Committee and we will continue to work on this legislation.

LB610 Surface Transportation Funding: We testified in support of LB610, Senator Jim Smith's bill to raise the gas tax by 1 ½ cents a year for four years. The bill was vetoed by the governor and the legislature was successful in an override on May 14th.

LB 585 would eliminate the provision requiring the Director of the State Department Natural Resources to be a P.E. We testified in opposition to the bill.

LB 609 would create the Nebraska Bridge Repair Act. We testified in opposition to this bill. That position may seem counter intuitive to our position on infrastructure support. However, the structure of the Act and how it would be implemented was cumbersome. We are working with the Senators and stakeholders to amend the bill and work out the concerns. The bill will likely have another hearing next year where the amendment will be discussed.

LB 142 created the Aquatic Invasive Species Program. This may not seem like legislation that we would have an interest in, but here is the twist: the bill provided funding to the Game and Parks Commission to hire additional staff to monitor and develop solutions to track and combat invasive species in the state's lakes – mainly the zebra mussel. We spoke with Senators to let them know G&P would not have to hire staff – there are private sector entities that can provide the services and the state would not need to incur the additional personnel costs and extend the usefulness of the funding. The bill passed and the conversation continues.

Income and Corporate Taxes and more – there were several bills that we monitored: income and corporate taxes; how municipalities fund certain projects; water storage reservoir permit requirements; renewable energy tax credits; and a state energy plan.

Additional activities and highlights of this year's ACEC/N legislative committee include:

- Attending the annual Business Federation dinner on the opening day of the 2014 legislative session
- ACEC/N members met with individual Nebraska Senators through the fall 2014 and into the 2015 legislative session to be proactive in helping educate Senators about the needs and concerns of our industry. We continued to use these meetings as a way to build our ACEC/N reputation as trusted sources of information.
- ACEC/N,AIA Nebraska, and AGC Building Chapter again hosted the annual Legislative Forum and Luncheon held in Lincoln on January 22nd. Our members had the opportunity to spend time at the capitol meeting with Senators and watching the Legislative session. Governor Heineman was a featured speaker during the morning Forum. During lunch, our members enjoyed conversation with the more than 25 Senators seated throughout the room.



Kolowski and Kyle Anderson, FHU; visit during the Legislative Luncheon with Senators.

Steve Moffitt, HGM; and Mike Piernicky, Olsson Associates; visit with Senator Burke Harr during the Legislative Luncheon.

The Mechanical/Electrical Committee chaired by Andrew Thompson from the ME Group evaluated legislation of interest to ME firms. They reviewed legislation to determine the effects on the industry and to

Mechanical/Electrical
Chair: Andrew Thompson

They reviewed legislation to determine the effects on the industry and to identify any negative or unintended consequences. Legislation such as LB 583 introduced by Senator Schilz that would require a new energy plan for the State of Nebraska. The committee reviewed the legislation and did not identify any adverse impacts on our industry.

ACEC National Convention

The ACEC Annual Convention and Legislative Summit occurs every spring in Washington, D.C. and is filled with educational sessions, congressional appointments and the Engineering Excellence Awards Gala.

ACEC Nebraska members joined over 1,000 citizen lobbyists from the engineering industry on Capitol Hill April 19-22. Discussions included long term transportation funding, energy resource development, tax reform and procurement regulations.

We visited with Senators Fischer and Sasse and met with Congressman Smith during the ACEC Annual Convention and Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C.

Mike McMeekin, Lamp Rynearson; Terry Atkins, Lamp Rynearson; Senator Ben Sasse; Tyler Hevlin, JEO; Jeff Sockel, Benesch.

Tyler Hevlin, JEO; Terry Atkins, Lamp Rynearson; Mike McMeekin, Lamp Rynearson; Senator Deb Fischer; Jeff Sockel, Benesch.

> Tyler Hevlin, JEO; Terry Atkins, Lamp Rynearson; Mike McMeekin, Lamp Rynearson; Congressman Smith; Jeff Sockel, Benesch; Jackie McCullough, ACEC/N.

Mike McMeekin with Lamp Rynearson in Omaha is Chair of the ACEC Business Practices Committee. He made a presentation to the national state execs meeting on QBS, Licensure and NCEES.

2015 ACEC National Leadership Orientation

Terry Atkins, Lamp Rynearson and Associates, joined ACEC Leaders from across the country during Leadership Orientation at the national headquarters in Washington, D.C. The orientation provides an overview of the structure and resources at national that are available to support the state organizations. The day and half long session was attended by Terry, ACEC Nebraska Treasurer, and Jackie McCullough, ACEC Nebraska Executive Director.



ACEC National Fall Conference

Over 1000 attendees attended the educational sessions, major networking events, forums, roundtables and ACEC/PAC fundraising events during the 2014 ACEC

National Fall Conference in Kona, Hawaii October 22-24. The conference was packed with presentations by national political leaders, prominent industry leaders and breakout sessions on industry trends and emerging business practices.

ACEC Nebraska was well represented throughout the conference. In addition to attending the general sessions and topic specific breakout sessions, Jack Baker, Baker and Associates, ACEC National Director attended the Board of Directors meeting. Jack was joined by ACEC Nebraska President Rob Brigham, JEO, for a leadership



Kona, Hawaii

breakfast with several neighboring states. The entire delegation enjoyed an evening together with our National Executive Committee Representative Manish Kothari and his wife, and Gary Cole, VP with the ACEC Life Health Trust and his wife.

ACEC Nebraska was recognized for reaching their national Political Action Committee goal and for attaining 2% member firm growth and 3% increased employee counts for our members.

ACEC Nebraska was honored to receive several awards and three of our member firms employees were recognized for their contributions to the industry and their communities.



Ron Bottorff with JEO Consulting was inducted into the College of Fellows. The College of Fellows is a distinguished class of engineers who have been selected by their peers as deserving recognition for exemplary contributions to the profession. ACEC Nebraska was proud to nominate Ron. Congratulations!

Karen Griffin with Olsson Associates received one of only three Community Service

Awards. Karen was recognized for her work with the Groundwater Foundation in Lincoln. Congratulations Karen!

Joe Flaxbeard was one of five young professionals recognized for their accomplishments. Joe is with Lamp Rynearson and Associates and has an impressive resume, especially for someone



29 years old. Joe was also

selected as the ACEC National representative for the USA Today's New Faces of Engineering section. Congratulations, Joe!



Awards presented by ACEC National President, Dave Raymond.

Business RelationsChair: Randy Kaster

The Business Relations Committee works with the ACEC/N Executive Director to identify agencies or entities that have incorrectly implemented procurement processes. With investigation and conversation, most times we are able to make adjustments to the

processes to bring qualifications based selection into compliance. The committee welcomes our members' suggestions of municipalities and agencies that they would like us to work with to help them better implement the QBS process.

This year we worked with Sarpy County on procurement practices.

The Business Relations committee also hosted a luncheon event February 27th with Senators Jim Smith, John McCollister and Dan Watermeier at the Capitol to unveil the outsourcing study ACEC Nebraska procured. The study was funded by an ACEC Minuteman Fund grant, ACEC Nebraska and members of the Smart Sourcing Coalition (listed on page 4 of the report). Dr. Ernie Goss and Professor Ed Morse at

Creighton University conducted the study of benefits and cost savings associated with outsourcing. The report is available on our website at www.acecnebraska.org

22 Senators in attendance for Dr. Goss presentation



Ron Bottorff, JEO & Professor Ed Morse



ACEC National PACPac Champion: Ron Bottorff

Congratulations and thanks to all of our members that contributed. ACEC Nebraska met the National PAC goal for 2014!

The National Political Action Committee (ACEC/PAC) was established in 1975 to allow ACEC members the opportunity to support federal candidates in office who support a pro-business legislative agenda. ACEC/PAC is bipartisan and operates out in the open in full compliance with the Federal Election Campaign Act and applicable state laws. It is funded solely by ACEC member contributions. Each state is represented by a PAC Champion to help meet its state's annual PAC goal. Ron Bottorff with JEO was the 2014 PAC Champion.

Throughout the year, Ron reached out to individuals in all of our member firms, to past contributors, to the Nebraska ACEC Board members and to the State PAC Trustees to let them know about the importance of supporting the PAC. The National PAC sponsors a number of events throughout the year to encourage members to participate – and have some fun! They offer golf outings at the national fall conferences, a \$10,000 sweepstakes that sells out every conference (you do not need to be present to win!) and provide recognition of "major donors" those individuals who donate \$500 or more.

The 2014 ACEC/N National PAC goal was \$9,619. With the help of our members, we received \$9,775 in contributions. During calendar year 2014 the ACEC National PAC distributed \$13,000 back to the Nebraska Delegation. That included \$5,000 for Senator Ben Sasse, \$5,000 for Representative Terry, and \$3,000 for Representative Smith.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the ACEC National PAC. We all have a vested interest in the success of ACEC's advocacy agenda, and a strong political action committee is essential to the success of our advocacy program

ACEC N PAC committee met with then candidate Pete Ricketts. Rob Brigham, JEO; Matt Tondl; HDR, Steve Kathol, Schemmer; Roger Helgoth, Kirkham Michael; Pete Ricketts; Mike Gorman, Benesch; Jackie McCullough, ACEC/N.

ACEC/N PAC committee met with then candidate Ben Sasse on behalf of the National PAC. The PAC did contribute to the Senator's successful campaign. Rob Brigham, JEO; Roger Helgoth, Kirkham Michael; Senator Sasse, and Steve Kathol, Schemmer.

Members of the ACEC/N Political Action Committee attended an event for Governor Pete Ricketts. Photo: Jackie McCullough ACEC Executive Director, Daryoush Razavian PAC Treasurer, Governor Pete Ricketts, and Rob Brigham PAC President.

ACECN PAC Chairman: Rob Brigham The Political Action Committee led by Rob Brigham, spent the first half of the year preparing for a very busy spring primary election season. With 25 seats up for election in the Legislature, and 17 of them open seats, the PAC Trustees had their work cut out for them. And then there was the Gubernatorial election!

In the last half of 2013, Trustees raised over \$13,000 to add to the coffers in preparation for the upcoming election cycle. The Trustees elected a new President – Loren Steenson, new Treasurer – Daryoush Razavian, a new Assistant Treasurer – Matt Tondl, and a new Secretary – Mike Gorman. The PAC also welcomed Felsburg Holt and Ullevig and EA Consulting at the Trustee giving level and Alvine Associates at the Member Level. The PAC has 11 firms participating at Trustee level and four firms at Member Level.

Also during that time, the PAC Trustees crafted position papers to share with candidates and decision makers and made plans to effectively communicate with our members about PAC activities. The PAC Trustees also created a candidate questionnaire form for candidates in state races to complete as a starting place for the Trustees to learn more about the candidates' positions on matters of interest to our members.

The first half of 2014 brought the Primary Election season – and what a ride that was! After the primary, the PAC sent questionnaires to the successful candidates and conducted one on one meetings with the candidates to learn more about them and to present a check in support of their campaign and to share information about ACEC. The one on one meetings allow us to focus on issues and subjects important to our industry and begin relationship building with the candidates.

The PAC also supported Omahans for Community Betterment – an initiative to approve the infrastructure bond issue in Omaha.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



The development of the modern world has been dominated by science, engineering and technology and the role of the engineer is linked closely to the needs of society. 21st Century engineers are faced with unprecedented challenges of developing a sustainable world in balance with the forces of nature to combat global, environmental, social and economic crises. And our members are up for the challenge.

This year's Engineering Excellence entries highlighted some of our member's very best projects and how they are meeting the challenges of the 21st Century. Congratulations to Schemmer Association on their Grand Award this year and all the firms that entered their amazing projects!

ACEC/N continues to be significantly involved in many issues that affect your bottom line. Working with regulatory agencies, government entities, local, county, and state elected officials, associations and the general public, we represent our member's – your firm's – best interests and create a better environment for your firm to reach greater heights. Many of those activities are highlighted in the annual report.

ACEC Nebraska is successful for many reasons, not the least of which is the outstanding leadership of the Board of Directors and the twelve committees and their chairs. Under their leadership, the association stays invested in the areas that matter the most to you and your firm – because it is important to their firms as well.

I've also been privileged to work with many outstanding engineers over the years. This year two special guys retired – Ron Bottorff from JEO and Loren Steenson from Lamp Rynearson. Both of these gentlemen served ACEC Nebraska in many capacities over the years and were great mentors for me. Congratulations and Best Wishes!

A big thank you to all of our members for your continued support and all that you do to make the association a success. It has again, been an honor to serve as your Executive Director.

ACEC/N Executive Director

Jackie McCullough

ACEC/N PAC President Loren Steenson, Lamp Rynearson, and Jackie McCullough, ACEC N, attended a campaign event for Senator Joni Craighead.