



March 2017

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Engineers Take the Hill: 2017 Capitol Consulting Day a Success!

Nearly 70 ACEC/MN members gathered on February 21 to make a case for consulting engineers at the state capitol. Members heard from key legislative leaders before visiting with their individual legislators. Speaker of the House, Kurt Daudt, provided a general overview of the session and its goals. Senator Paul Gazelka (Senate Republican Majority Leader), Tom Bakk (Senate Minority Leader), Representative Melissa Hortman (House Minority Leader), and Representative Paul Torkelson (Chair of the House Transportation Committee), all shared their perspectives on transportation funding and the upcoming bonding bill. The key messages that members brought to their legislators this year included:



- Transportation funding
- Bonding
- Energy and natural resources

ACEC/MN continues to push for legislation that positively impacts the membership and encourages all members to reach out to their elected officials in support of bills that affect the consulting engineering community. Your outreach makes a difference – please continue to contact to your senators and representatives on issues critical to the profession. If you need more information, please contact Dave Oxley at doxley@acecmn.org.

Who Will Be Honored at the 2017 Annual Meeting?

Solicitations for 2017 Firm of the Year, Emerging Leader, and President's Awards

Do you know a member who has contributed considerable time and effort over the past year and deserves to be acknowledged for his/her achievements? ACEC/MN members are invited to submit nominees for the President's Award, Firm of the Year Award, and the Emerging Leader Award. These awards are designed to recognize individuals and firms that have made significant contributions to ACEC/MN and the engineering profession over the past year.

Nomination forms can be received by contacting the ACEC/MN office or by visiting our website with the links below. The deadline for nominations is **April 10, 2017**. Please send your completed forms to Kristine Cassidy at Kristine@acecmn.org. It is perfectly acceptable to nominate yourself and/or your firm.

[The President's Award](#) is presented to an individual employed at an ACEC/MN member firm that has made a

significant contribution to ACEC/MN and has been a valuable asset to the consulting engineering profession over the past year. This could include regular or ad hoc committee activity; attendance at the awards banquet, monthly meetings and seminars; promoting ACEC/MN to the public and/or acting in the interests of ACEC/MN; or other activities. Current members of the ACEC/MN Board of Directors are not eligible for this award. [Here is a complete list](#) of President's Award recipients.

The Firm of the Year Award is presented to an ACEC/MN member firm that, through their activities, has made a significant contribution to the advancement of ACEC/MN and the consulting engineering profession. The selection for this award is based on activities or involvement of firm employees. When selecting the recipient, consideration is given to the size of the firm and availability of time and resources. To see a complete [list of firms](#), visit our website.

The Emerging Leader Award was developed to recognize an ACEC/MN member still in the early stages of their career who has already contributed significantly to the association. [Here is a complete list](#) of Emerging Leaders recipients.

The ACEC/MN Board of Directors will select the recipients of these awards by secret ballot at the April board meeting. The awards will be announced at the ACEC/MN Annual Meeting in May.

Tom Roche Lifetime Achievement Award – Accepting Nominations

ACEC/MN is soliciting nominations for the annual Tom Roche Lifetime Achievement Award for any individual member, affiliate member, or a non-member who has played a **significant** role in supporting the association or the consulting engineering profession in general.

Tom Roche Lifetime Achievement Award – Tom Roche was instrumental in establishing ACEC/MN (then the Minnesota Association of Consulting Engineers – MACE). Not only was he a primary force behind the formation of ACEC, he was also instrumental in establishing chapters in other states. He traveled to other states to assist them in establishing their chapters. His passion for engineering was unparalleled, and his passion for ACEC was a close second, which is why we continue to bestow this career achievement award in his name. Nominations for this distinguished award are due to Dave Oxley (doxley@acecmn.org) by **March 8, 2017**.

A selection committee will review nominations in March. The Tom Roche Lifetime Achievement Award will be announced at the ACEC/MN Annual Meeting in May. To see a complete list of Tom Roche Lifetime Achievement recipients, visit our [website](#).

February 27 Executive Round Table Breakfast Recap



Attendees of the 2nd annual Executive Round Table Breakfast received practical advice from executive leaders of member firms on February 27, 2017. Over forty emerging and executive leaders met as a group to give young professionals an opportunity to learn how to become leaders in consulting engineering firms. Executives shared pivotal moments in their own careers and answered questions about how they moved into upper management positions.

Main themes discussed throughout the session were achieving work/life balance, building from a strong technical knowledge base into a well-rounded consultant who understands what drives business, looking for opportunities to take on more responsibility and risks to move to the next level, the importance of setting goals and expectations, and mentorship possibilities.

Executives also reminded younger professionals to be disciplined and think about the long-term implications of decisions, the importance of setting boundaries and communicating them to others, and leveraging contacts and delegating tasks to advance a career.

Member feedback has been very positive for this event. ACEC/MN wants to thank our moderator, **Cathy Paper** of RockPaperStar, who lead the discussion and round table efforts, and the panel of executives who offered great insight: **Dan Larson**, CEO of AET; **John Dillingham**, President/CEO of Alliant; **Ann Johnson**, President of Professional Engineering Services, Ltd.; **Sirish Samba**, President/CEO of Sambatek, Inc.; **John Lee**, President/CEO of Barr Engineer Co.; **Glenn Schreiner**, Vice President, Area Manager of WSP

ACEC/MN K'Nex With Kids During Engineering Week!

For a second year, ACEC/MN visited several middle and high schools in celebration of Engineering Week (officially February 20-24), over two weeks - February 22-28, 2017, with the goal to get students excited about engineering. These visits included an introduction to engineering and a hands-on activity using K'Nex building sets. Over 40 ACEC/MN members from different engineering disciplines volunteered to help with school presentations.



Presentations were made to a total of 600 students at:

- Como Park High School, St. Paul, MN
- Delano Senior High School, Delano, MN
- Edina High School, Edina, MN
- Highland Park Middle School, St. Paul, MN
- Humboldt High School, St. Paul, MN
- Shakopee Junior High School East, Shakopee, MN
- Shakopee Junior High School West, Shakopee, MN
- The Best Academy, Minneapolis, MN

ACEC/MN's Workforce Development Committee leads this effort as part of their mission to positively impact the number of students pursuing engineering careers, and to engage, retain and cultivate an increasingly diverse engineering community in Minnesota. Please keep this activity in mind for next year and if there are employees of your firm who would be interested in volunteering for presentations, please visit our [website](#) to see photos of school visits.

ACEC Annual Convention to Highlight Risk Management

The upcoming ACEC Convention in Washington, D.C., April 23-26 will feature more than 30 business education sessions, including seven focused on risk management:

- *Opportunities and Challenges in Non-Traditional Re-Development Projects*, by Jim Hencke, David Evans and Associates, Jim Durrett, Buckhead Community Improvement District
- *An Overview of Antitrust Law for Association Executives*, by Charles Kim, ACEC; Andrew Bigart, Venable
- *No Disputing It: Risk Mitigation Strategies from an AE Litigator* by Tyler Ferguson, Newforma; Brent Gurney, Wilmer Hale
- *Developing an Internal Culture to Better Manage a Firm's Risk* by Michael Strogoff, Strogoff Consulting
- *Confronting Escalating Threats to Cybersecurity* by Andy Knauf, Mead & Hunt; Dora Mandadjiev, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff
- *Managing the Complexity of Mobile Devices and Authentication* by Stephen Held, Leo Daly; Jim Jacobi, Walter P Moore; Steve Ross, Thornton Tomasetti
- *Evolving P3 Markets* by Jennifer Hara, IP3

Participants at the Convention can earn up to 21.25 Professional Development Hours during the Convention.

The Convention also features leading political and business speakers, Capitol Hill visits, federal market opportunities, business roundtables, industry panel discussions, and the 50th Engineering Excellence Awards Gala.

For more information and to register, [click here](#).

ACEC/MN Partnered with VAA Golf Tournament – We Need You!

14th Annual



The 14th Annual ACEC/MN Partnered with VAA Scholarship Golf Tournament is set for Monday, June 19 at Oak Marsh Golf Course in Oakdale. **ACEC/MN needs volunteers!** If you or someone in your firm is interested in serving on the committee, please contact Melissa Langowski at melissa@acecmn.org. Look for sponsorship information soon.

37th Annual Scholarship Softball Tournament – August 5

Mark your calendars now for the 37th Annual ACEC/MN Scholarship Softball Tournament in Memorial of DuWayne “Dewey” Kasma. This annual event will take place on Saturday, August 5, 2017 at the Dred Scott Fields in Bloomington. The annual tournament raises funds for scholarships that are awarded each year to deserving Minnesota engineering students. The entry fee for members is \$255 for members and \$510 for non-members. **Because of the limited number of fields that are available at the facility, we must limit the tournament to the first 24 teams that enter!** If your firm would like to participate in the tournament, contact Kristine Cassidy at 952-593-5533.

ACEC worked with the Kasma family to remember “Dewey” by naming the yearly softball scholarship fundraiser after him. In return, the family annually makes a generous donation in memory of Dewey that will be added to the ACEC Scholarship Fund. DuWayne “Dewey” Kasma was a registered civil engineer. He graduated from the University of Minnesota and worked his entire career at TKDA from 1963 until his death at age 48 in 1988. He managed the Municipal Department from 1968 to 1976, established TKDA’s Marketing Department and was named Vice President and a member of the Board of Directors in 1978. He was a member of ACEC, MPWA, CEAM and MSPE.

News From Around the Membership

According to the February 17, 2017 issue of Minneapolis / St. Paul Business Journal, of the top 25 engineering firms in the 24-county Twin Cities metro area, ranked by metro-area registered engineers, **23 are ACEC/MN members**. Thank you to all ACEC/MN members who support the association and make this profession stronger!

Amec Foster Wheeler names **Todd Larson** to lead Minneapolis Engineering Operations.

American Engineering Testing, Inc. announces the addition of **Matthew Ruble, PE** as Vice President and Principal Engineer.

LHB announced the following certifications: **Maia Harold, PE (civil)**, **John Imholte, PE (mechanical)**, and **David Booth** is now licensed as an architect.

Northern Technologies, LLC, is pleased to announce the appointment of **Barry Morgan, PE** as its next President.

Sambatek is pleased to announce the promotion of **Mike Kuno** to director of municipal services in its Minneapolis office.

TKDA, St. Paul, promoted DJ Heinle to vice president, architecture division.

VAA promoted Senior Structural Engineer, **Chris Broderson, PE**, and Senior Mechanical Engineer and Department Manager, **Vlad Dain, PE** to Partner.

Save the Date! Upcoming ACEC/MN Events

Monthly meetings, seminars, and brown bags are planned for the 2015-16 year! Please visit our [website](#) for meeting dates and save the dates.

- ACEC/MN Scholarship Basketball Tournament – March 4
 - [Facilitating Minority Entrepreneurism and Professional Services Teaming](#) – March 6
 - [Next Generation Geopier® Ground Improvement](#) – March 10
 - [Women In Engineering: Taking Control of Your Financial Future](#) – March 20
 - ACEC/MN 37th Annual ACEC/MN Scholarship Softball Tournament in Memorial of DuWayne “Dewey” Kasma – August 5
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If you have an announcement you'd like to see included in the next Parameters newsletter, please contact: Kristine Cassidy, kristine@acecmn.org, P: 952-593-5533 F: 952-593-5552