

ACEC Minnesota

Engineering, Go Figure



2024 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- ACEC/MN Annual Meeting & Awards
- Legislative Update: Labor Provisions
- NEW Affiliate Membership Program
- Get Involved: MNSEA
- EEFA Scholarship Golf Tournament
- Minnesota Transportation Conference & Expo Recap
- National EEA Project Recognition
- Upcoming Events
- 24-25 Board of Directors

HGA

Project: Westwood Hills Nature Center,
St. Louis Park, Minnesota

Photographer: Corey Gaffer Photography

Description: Westwood Hills Nature Center (WHNC) sought to replace their small, aging facility with a new building whose overarching purpose and vision is connecting people to nature. HGA's site design expands an existing specimen prairie, creates an outdoor classroom, and provides expanded parking. The building forms an experiential and informational threshold to the site. Part of a City effort towards a sustainable future, WHNC serves as an exemplar for sustainability strategies and is Net Zero Energy as well as Net Zero Positive.

www.acecmn.org

July 2024

ACEC Celebrates Accomplishments and the Future of Engineering



The American Council of Engineering Companies of Minnesota held its 2024 Annual Meeting at the Bullard Rainforest Auditorium at Como Zoo in St. Paul on May 9, with more than 100 in attendance from 30 firms. There was a lot to celebrate, as in addition to highlighting the many accomplishments of the organization over the last year, ACEC Minnesota bestowed the Tom Roche Lifetime Achievement Award, the Firm of the Year Award, and the Emerging Leader Award.



Mankato-based Bolton & Menk, celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, took home the Firm of the Year award.



Gene Sieve, PE, of Burns & McDonnell, 2018 winner of the Tom Roche Lifetime Achievement Award presented the same honor to Ed Studniski, PE, of Ayres Associates, who is familiar to many ACEC Minnesota members, given his long association with the organization.

The 2024 recipient of the Emerging Leader Award was Brad Wodash, PE, a structural engineer at Kimley-Horn, who has worked at the company since 2015. Wodash serves on the ACEC Minnesota Workforce Development Committee, with heavy involvement in recruitment efforts, and is involved with the Engineering Education Foundation of America, including outreach to students at elementary schools in the Twin Cities.

[Read the full press release here.](#)



Minnesota Spring Legislative Session Update: Labor Provisions

The 2024 legislative session came to a rather chaotic close on May 20, 2024. In the final hours of the session there were major bills that were combined together into 1400+ page omnibus bills that passed with minutes to spare. We have reviewed the final bills and there were a number of labor provisions that may impact you and your company. The major labor provisions that passed are included in the list below. If you are interested in learning more about what else passed, please review the ACEC/MN Legislative Summary prepared by our lobbyists at Poul Haas.

Minimum Wage Carve Out—Effective January 1, 2025

- Minnesota employees entitled to a single minimum wage.
- Lower tier is eliminated for employees at small business, employees under 18 and foreign workers on J visas (hospitality industry).
- Wages will raise by more than \$2 an hour when they mirror the state's minimum wage for large employers - \$10.85 per hour and will rise with inflation.
- Tips cannot be counted toward the minimum wage.
- Increases the cap on how much the state minimum wage can rise with inflation from 2.5% to 5% (larger increases when there is high inflation).
- DID NOT PASS: separate proposal to eliminate subminimum wage for disabled workers.

Salary Range Posting—Effective January 1, 2025

- Requires employers who employ more than 30 employees to include salary ranges in job postings
- Must include a general description of benefits and other compensation
- If you do not have a salary range you must post a fixed pay rate

Paid Family Medical Leave Fix Bill—Effective Date--Various

- Allows for retroactive payments for people making medical claims.
- Allows for immediate payments for new mothers.
- Increases the payroll tax from .7% to .88%.
- Creates a comprehensive appeals process which may be utilized by employers and employees.
- Allows employers to opt out of the State Paid Leave program if they have their own private plan.
- Reminder: Starting in July, most employers will be able to submit quarterly wage detail reports to the Paid Leave program.
 - Stay up to date on Paid Leave requirements here:
www.mn.gov/deed/paidleave/

Minnesota Spring Legislative Session Update: Labor Provisions

Earned Sick and Safe Time Provisions—Effective May 25, 2024

- Changes how employers must report available and used EEST hours
- Requires ESST to be paid at the employee’s “base rate”
- EEST includes workers “anticipated” to work 80+ hours/year in Minnesota.
- Allows an employer to require documentation after three consecutive scheduled absences using ESST.
- Allows employees to use ESST to attend funeral/memorial or handle related financial and legal matters after a family members death.
- Employers not required to allow ESST use in less than 15-minute increments and cannot require use in more than four-hour increments.

Employee Misclassification—Effective July 1, 2024

- Employers face harsher penalties--\$10,000 for each violation.
- Creates penalties for classifying employees as independent contractors to avoid paying minimum wages, overtime and unemployment insurance and workers’ compensation.
- Allows all workers – not just construction workers – to sue their employers for misclassification.
- Allows the Minnesota Department of Labor to issue stop work orders where violations occur.

Shadow Non-Competes—Effective July 1, 2024

- Restricts businesses and contractors from entering service contracts that restrict workers’ employment options.



AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP



What is Affiliate Membership?

Affiliate membership with ACEC/MN provides companies with direct access to key decision makers in America's engineering and design industry. With membership, Affiliates can support their business and industry through networking, programs, committees and forums, as well as take advantage of many other benefits.

AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

SUPPORTER



- Network with clients and industry partners
- Increase visibility at industry events through sponsorship opportunities
- Be recognized as members in the online directory
- Attend events at discounted member rates
- Participate in Committees and Forums
- Apply for the Board of Directors
- Complimentary ticket to Annual Meeting

\$600

PARTNER



- All Supporter-level benefits
- 1/2-page ad in ACEC/MN newsletter (once yearly)
- Quarterly social media posts
- Opportunity to speak at online education series or events
- Access to ACEC/MN meeting & conference space in downtown St. Paul

\$1200

CHAMPION



- All Supporter and Partner-level benefits
- Complimentary tabletop at Affiliate Expo
- Opportunity to speak in person at education series or events
- Submit article to ACEC/MN newsletter (once yearly)
- 10% discount on ACEC/MN event sponsorship opportunity

\$1800



The Minnesota Structural Engineers Association's (MNSEA) mission is to represent, educate and unite structural engineers in the state of Minnesota to strengthen, empower, and improve the quality of the structural engineering profession and to help those structural engineers uphold their duty to the public. MNSEA takes action through its committees: Steering Committee, Young Member Group (YMG), Structural Engineering Emergency Response (MNSEER), and Media Communications. In the 2023-2024 year, eight monthly general meetings with technical presentations were held culminating in an Annual Seminar and Trade Show; numerous educational and training events, construction site visits, networking and community outreach events were organized, connections were strengthened with other committees and organizations, a new Media Communications Committee was formed, and MNSEA membership saw a resurgence.

Follow [MNSEA](#), [MNSEA YMG](#), and [MNSEA SEER](#) on LinkedIn to stay up to date on upcoming events! Join the YMG for summer events and stay tuned for MNSEA General Meetings starting in September and Fall SEER training events!

[For more information click here](#)



MNSEA
Monthly
Meetings

MNSEA
Structural
Engineering
Emergency
Response (SEER):
Colby Baker,
NCSEA SEER
Chairman,
Presentation &
Interview shared
nationally



Annual
Seminar &
Trade Show:
Sustainability
in Structural
Engineering,
May 2024,
Pinstripes,
Edina



MNSEA at the 2023 NCSEA Summit – Anaheim, CA

MNSEA Young
Member Group (YMG)
North Loop Green
Construction Site Visit



Volunteering & Networking - Feed My Starving Children

MNSEA Media Communications Committee

A Media Response Plan and Decision Tree is being developed to aid in responding to media requests for statements and interviews. [Reach out to MNSEA on LinkedIn](#) if you are interested in joining the roster of structural experts willing to be contacted.

EEFA Scholarship Golf Tournament

June 10, Oak Marsh Golf Course



More than 150 golfers, sponsors and volunteers joined us at the Oak Marsh Golf Course for another excellent [EEFA Scholarship Golf Tournament](#) on Monday, June 10th, raising more than \$30,000!

Despite record rainfall this spring, we had perfect weather for the tournament. There were 32 teams competing for the top spot with group 10A taking first place - congratulations go to Jason Malecha, Brandon Bohks, Logan Vlasaty and Charlie Fredericks.

**We hope to see everyone again next year!
Mark your calendars for Thursday, June 12th, 2025.**





ENGINEERING
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

THE FANTASTIC FORE!



Thank you to our Tournament Sponsors!

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The Science You Build On.



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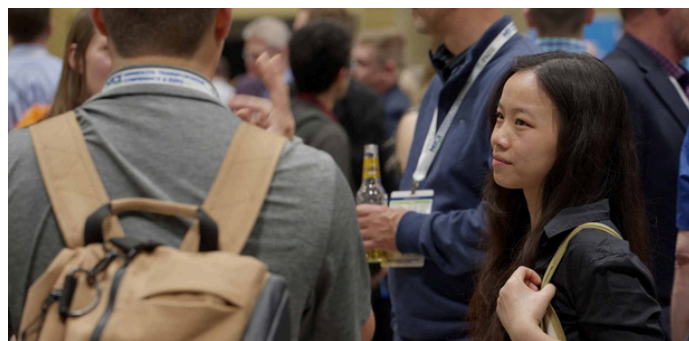
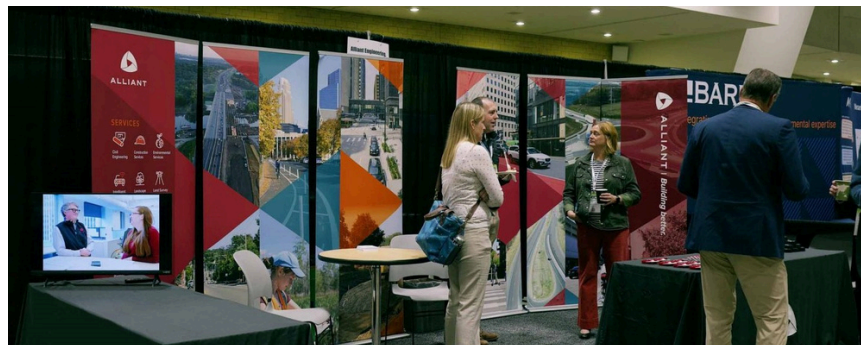
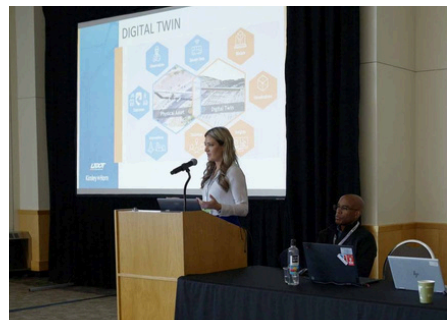


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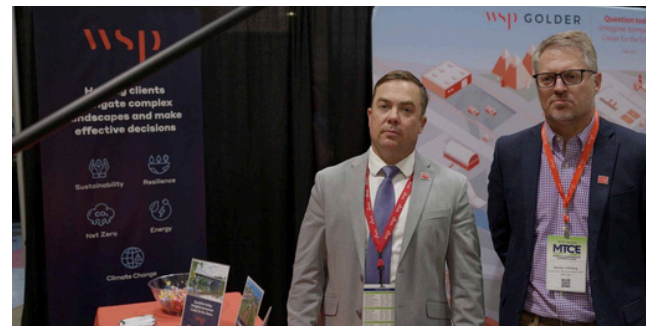


2024 MN Transportation Conference & Expo

This year's Conference, held May 29-31 at St. Paul RiverCentre, began with opening remarks from Minnesota Lt. Governor Peggy Flannagan. Over 2.5 days, the 1,500+ registrants had an opportunity to visit 76 exhibitors and choose from 98 presentations, covering topics from current and past projects, digital delivery, AI, emerging technologies, policy and more. 6,721 PDHs were awarded to attendees!



2024 MN Transportation Conference & Expo



Join us March 19-21, 2025
at the St. Paul RiverCentre
for next year's conference!

2024 NATIONAL RECOGNITION AWARD WINNERS

The following members and their projects were recognized on May 15th at the ACEC National Engineering Excellence Awards Gala in Washington D.C.



Redhead Mountain Bike Park
Chisholm, MN



Highway 10/169 Improvements
Anoka, MN



Capitol Region Watershed
District Campus, St. Paul, MN



Plymouth Community Center
Plymouth, MN



3rd Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation,
Minneapolis, MN



Abbott Northwestern Hospital
Purple Ramp, Minneapolis, MN



Metro Transit North Loop Garage
Minneapolis, MN

French River Bridge
Duluth, MN



Thompson Oaks Transformation,
West St. Paul, MN



Chestnut Street Plaza
Stillwater, MN

Terminal 1 Concourse G Apron
Reconstruction, MSP International
Airport

ACEC/MN Events & Education

July marks the start of the ACEC/MN fiscal year and we're hard at work on great events to fill out this year's calendar. In addition to what you see on the list below, you'll see more events added throughout July, August and September.

We know many of our members are out and about working on projects throughout the summer - as you're delivering top notch projects for your clients, be sure to keep our 2025 Engineering Excellence Awards in mind. It's your opportunity to celebrate the amazing contributions your firm makes to community and business infrastructure in Minnesota and beyond!

Keep an eye on our [calendar page](#), new events are added all the time - See you all soon!

Saturday, August 24th

[EEFA Scholarship Softball Tournament](#)
[Andrews Field, Champlin](#)

Friday, September 6th

[2025 Photo Contest Deadline](#)

Monday, September 9th

[2025 Engineering Excellence Awards Information Session \(virtual event\)](#)

September 10th-13th

[ACEC/MN D.C. Fly-In](#)

September 18th-19th

[PSMJ Project Management Bootcamp](#)

September 16th-20th

Voting for 2025 Photo Contest

September / October

Emerging Leaders Training Series

Thursday, October 3rd

Preliminary Deadline for 2025 Engineering Excellence Awards Projects

Monday, October 7th

[ACEC/MN Campaign Fund Clay Shoot Fundraiser](#)

Horse & Hunt Club, Prior Lake

October 10th

ACEC/MN Affiliate Expo
Location TBA

Thursday, October 24th

Final Deadline for 2025 Engineering Excellence Awards Projects

October 20-23

[ACEC National Fall Conference](#)
New Orleans, LA

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PROJECT MANAGEMENT BOOTCAMP

The Essential Architecture and
Engineering Firm Project Manager
Training Program for Improving
Firm Performance and Client Satisfaction!

Day 1: Wednesday, September 18, 8:30AM - 5PM

Day 2: Thursday, September 19, 8AM - 3:30PM

Southpoint Office Center (in-person only)
1650 West 82nd Street, Suite 600,
Bloomington, MN 55431

For over 20 years, sending key staff through PSMJ's A/E/C Project Management Bootcamp has been standard practice for firms committed to superior financial results, ecstatic clients, and a winning culture. Shrewd executives know their most valuable contributors will return with new confidence and new skills to deliver eye-popping profit and project performance. Join us to learn how to:

- Master the 11 must-use parts of an ironclad project schedule
- Avoid 5 budget busters that put projects in a financial hole
- Keep projects and teams on schedule and budget when working remotely
- Seize new revenue opportunities through upselling and cross-selling
- Negotiate win-win subcontractor agreements
- Apply "wow!" factors that help turn clients into champions
- Spot and fix profit killers before they become major problems
- And 47 additional use-them-now skills for transforming your career and your professional value

Attendees earn 13 PDHs

Early Bird Member Rate: \$1,795

Non-Member Rate: \$2,195

- **Early Bird Discount ends August 7th!**
Rates increase by \$300 after this date.
- 15% Group Discount for more than 3 registrations
- Please reach out to kelly@acecmn.org for help registering or to check if your firm is a member

ACEC Minnesota 2025 Engineering Excellence Awards

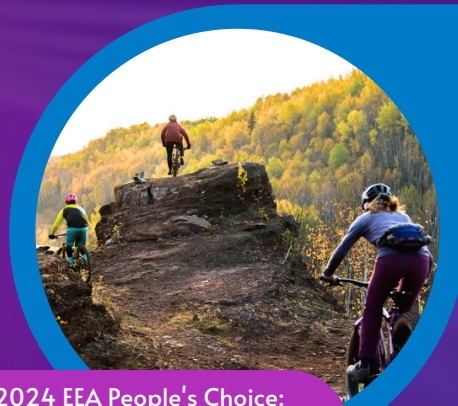
EEA Season is just around the corner - get these important dates on your calendar and join us for the year's biggest celebration of engineering!

- Monday, September 9th: Attend our Information Session to get all the details on this year's Awards competition.
- Thursday, October 3rd: Preliminary EEA Entry Deadline
- Thursday, October 24th: Final EEA Entry Deadline
- Week of November 18th: Results Shared with Entrants
- Wednesday, January 8th, 2025: National EEA Entry Deadline (for Grand Award winners)
- Friday, February 21st, 2025: Engineering Excellence Awards Gala at A'BULAE

2024 EEA Grand Conceptor:
3rd Avenue Bridge
Rehabilitation by HNTB



2024 EEA People's Choice:
Redhead Mountain Bike Park by
Barr Engineering Co.



2024-2025 Board of Directors



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Brett Morse
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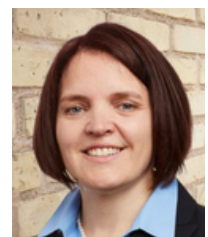
Chair - Elect
Bill Forsmark
Barr Engineering Co.



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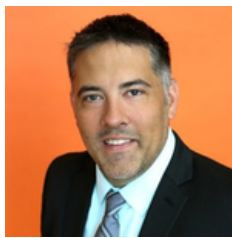


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