Discover strategies for managing risk in engineering practice – April 3

SW Washington Public Agency Liaison Committee meeting – April 4

Coba’s Capitol Comments

In memoriam – Art Johnson

Profitability & Risk Management in Engineering Practice – April 3

Engineers often feel that they are between a rock and a hard place when it comes to risk management and profitability. If they follow all of the risk management advice they are given – e.g., “only sign 100% insurable contracts,” “don’t do business with difficult clients,” “send CYA letters about everything” – they risk losing clients and projects. But engineers are also aware that one claim can have devastating impact on the firm’s profitability in the form of a (often quite large) deductible obligation, lost time, damage to reputation, and the like.

In this interactive session, we’ll offer practical strategies for managing the risks inherent in professional practice, illustrated with real-life claims and examples. Participants are encouraged to bring problems and situations for discussion.

PRESENTER
Karen Erger, Vice President and Director of Practice Risk Management, Lockton, the world’s largest privately owned, independent insurance brokerage.
Click HERE for more details and to register.

Thank you to DEA for providing the event space!

See who’s already registered.

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

ACEC / SW WA Public Agency Liaison Committee meeting – April 4

PRESENTATION
What's new at WSDOT SW Region

PRESENTER
Carley Francis, AICP, SW Region Administrator, WSDOT

Lunch provided.

Click HERE for more details and to RSVP.

Coba’s Capitol Comments

HB 2679-A, the compromise QBS bill, passed the House floor on Tuesday by a 55-0 vote with five absent. This was the expected outcome from the bill that was worked on through the interim to find common ground on as many areas as possible. The bill will now go to the Senate for hearings and then a floor vote where it should receive similar support.

ACEC members descended on Salem yesterday for ACEC Oregon’s Day at the Capitol and to participate in thirty-five legislative meetings including Senate President Peter Courtney and Speaker of the House Tina Kotek. In addition, we heard from Lyndsey Baker, ODOT lobbyist, and Senator Arnie Roblan, D-Coos Bay. Baker said the implementation of the 2017 transportation package is going well but they are experiencing a difficult time in hiring the staff needed. But overall the package is moving forward.

Roblan spoke on his busy daily schedule and took questions on schools, carbon reduction, state budget PERS and other issues. As a senior member of the legislature his perspective is broad and deep on a number of issues.
In memoriam

Art Johnson, a past-president of ACEC Oregon, passed away overnight March 16 after battling cancer. He was 77.

KPFF provided this brief bio: Art was the founding principal of the KPFF Portland office in 1974. He had more than 39 years of professional engineering experience in the analysis and design of complex structural framing systems. His willingness to tackle any issue on a project honed his problem-solving abilities beyond the realm of structural components. Art’s portfolio highlights his initiative to work out the finer details and retain architectural aesthetics in a safe and purposeful manner.

Art valued his relationships with clients, and as a principal and leader at KPFF he provided space for engineers to learn, grow and go on to excel. He enjoyed working on projects that are meaningful to the community. Art’s extensive work includes the Oregon Convention Center and the structural design of the award-winning VA Medical Center Pedestrian Skybridge.

 dear friend, mentor and leader, a kind and passionate person who always had the best interests of others at heart. The people who worked with him revered his intelligence in every aspect of his life and career. He was a kind and gentle soul who always put others ahead of himself. He was a true gentleman in every sense of the word.

In the video, “Structure with Integrity: Art Johnson, 2014 Architecture Foundation of Oregon Honored Citizen,” Art says he was born and raised in Berkeley, California. He said, laughingly, “My mother went to Cal, my grandmother went to Cal. I lived in Berkeley until I graduated from college. I applied to Cal when I graduated from high school. It was the only school I applied to.”

After graduating UC Berkeley, Art worked for Boeing in Seattle before landing a job with KPFF’s Seattle office. Art says he remembers getting “an offer from a well-known engineering firm for $455 a month, and Boeing offered $1,000 a month. So it seemed kind exciting to move there, and once you get used to the rain in Seattle it’s a pretty nice place.” He worked at Boeing for six years, the first five was with the structural test group, “which is not unlike a consulting engineer.”

Art’s first job in Portland was the Benjamin Franklin Plaza. “We were then hired to do the World Trade Center. Shortly after that there was a building boom in Portland—Banco Building, One Main Place, KOIN Center….all started within a few years of moving down (to Portland).”

According to a May 2014 article from the Daily Journal of Commerce, Art said he’s particularly proud of his contributions to Doernbecher Children’s Hospital, the Grotto’s Marilyn Moyer Medication Chapel, the Oregon Convention Center and the canopy at Portland International

Important player on Tillikum Crossing

“Art was not the bridge engineer on this bridge behind us, but he was a really important player. He was appointed by TriMet to a sort of advisory committee that was led by Mayor Katz. And they selected the most intelligent people they could find to advise them on how this bridge would be constructed, what kind of bridge it would be. And so Art was the person in the room that really brought a different perspective, not only a technical perspective, but knew how to ask all of the right questions of the bridge design team.” —Carol Mayer-Reed, Mayer/Reed Principal
“One of my favorites is...it’s not a building, it’s a stair in ZGF’s new office. If you look at that, as an engineer, it is very unique. Every time I go into their office I feel proud that I had something to do with it. They call it Art’s stairs,” he said laughingly in the 2014 Honored Citizen video by AFO.

UPCOMING

- May 1 – From Doer to Leader: Lessons Learned, Portland
- May 5-8 – ACEC National 2019 Annual Convention & Legislative Summit, Washington, DC
- May 23 – All-Committee Tropical Dinner, Multnomah Athletic Club – Social hour will honor Matt Garrett’s service to industry
- June 19 – Networking Day golf tournament, Langdon Farms Golf Club

COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENT

- April 10 - Benefits Trends for your Multi-Generational Workforce, Multnomah Athletic Club
  This program is a half-day session with lots of interaction. It is more suited for employers with 100 or more employees, but everyone is welcome.

Contribute to the scholarship fund!

- Click HERE for more information and a pledge form, or contact mwebber@acecOregon.org.

SAVE THE DATES

September 19-21, 2019
ACEC Oregon Fall Conference

Comments? Questions? Please e-mail mwebber@acecOregon.org or adavis@acecOregon.org.

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5319 SW Westgate Drive, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97221
phone 503.292.2348 / fax 503.292.2410
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