

# NEWS

**ACEC**  
American Council  
of Engineering  
Companies  
of Oregon

October 2005

**Alison Davis**

Executive Director

[adavis@acecOregon.org](mailto:adavis@acecOregon.org)

**Merideth Webber**

Executive Assistant

[mwebber@acecOregon.org](mailto:mwebber@acecOregon.org)

[www.acecOregon.org](http://www.acecOregon.org)

*Member of the  
American Council of  
Engineering Companies  
Washington, D.C.*

## *Coba's Capitol Commentary...*

### **OREGON LEGISLATIVE REVIEW: WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED AND WHAT'S NEXT**

by ACEC Oregon lobbyist Marshall Coba, Coba Company

At 6:40 A.M. on August 5, 2005 the second longest legislative session in Oregon's history ended after 208 days. While the economy was better in 2005 than in 2003, making budgetary decisions somewhat easier, the process was still hampered by a very partisan process due to a Democrat-controlled Senate and a Republican-controlled House of Representatives.

The strong philosophical differences between the parties made compromise on key legislation very difficult and ultimately led to a select group of seven legislative leaders sequestering themselves in the Capitol until they reached key decisions usually reserved for the entire 90-person body.

The legislative process faces ongoing problems from internal forces other than the partisan caucus activities. To help find a remedy to this, the 2005 legislature passed a bill creating a Public Commission on the Oregon Legislature. It is expected the Commission will recommend significant structural changes to Oregon's current legislative process to the 2007 legislature. Among these recommended changes could be annual sessions with statutory length limitations instead of the current biennial sessions and increased pay for legislators. The 2007 legislature would then make these recommendations into ballot measures and place them on the November 2008 ballot for the public to support or oppose.

While there are many reasons to scoff at the Oregon legislature and the process that has led to ever increasing lengths of sessions, it is also important to appreciate those individuals who have come forward to serve at this difficult time. Even with low pay and an uncertain schedule, 90 men and women from all over the state converged in Salem in January and proceeded to work through an imperfect process called democracy. They made many significant decisions and left themselves open to personal and professional scorn and ridicule. For this we owe them our appreciation and support and, while not perfect, we must appreciate the sacrifice and commitment they make to ensure Oregon has every opportunity to move forward socially and economically.

#### **KEY ACEC OREGON ISSUES SUMMARY**

##### **HB 3272-A —**

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/O5reg/measpdf/hb3200.dir/hb3272.en.pdf>

ACEC's priority bill for the session passed with only two votes in opposition and goes into affect on January 1, 2006. This bill reaffirms Oregon's commitment to Qualification Based Selection (QBS) by removing the sunset provision from the 2001 bill. When a bill has a sunset provision it simply means that on a certain date (in this case July 1, 2008) the law would revert back to the law when the bill was passed unless the sunset is removed or extended prior to the sunset date taking effect. For our purposes, the law prior to 2001 required that state agencies in Oregon must use QBS on all projects. In 2001 the legislation that passed added to the state requirement that local governments use QBS when certain thresholds were met. The thresholds were a \$400,000 minimum project size and a minimum of 35% state funding in the project. Since the addition of the local government portion was new and was strongly opposed by the local governments, the sunset provision was added as a "limited duration test run" to gauge its effectiveness. By removing the sunset, ACEC  
*(continued, please see page 6)*

#### **YOU'RE INVITED! Join us for a QBS Celebration on October 11**

The ACEC Oregon Board of Directors and Legislative Committee invite you to join us for a QBS Celebration in honor of passing qualifications-based selection legislation. The celebration will begin at 5:00 P.M., Tuesday, October 11 at David Evans and Associates, 2100 SW River Parkway, Portland. If you have not already done so, please let us know if you'd like to attend. Contact Alison Davis at [adavis@acecOregon.org](mailto:adavis@acecOregon.org) or call (503) 292-2348. We hope to see you there!

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Ken Wightman, P.E., P.L.S.

September is the time of year that the fall activities for ACEC Oregon and our national organization start up and this year started off with a bang. We held a joint conference at Skamania Lodge on the Columbia River with both the Oregon and Washington organizations. It was a great conference focused on building leadership in firms and providing opportunities for younger staff to grow and prosper.



**Ken Wightman**  
David Evans and Associates, Inc.

I am very excited about the health of our organization and amazed by the leadership we have on our Board of Directors. It will make my year as president an easy one! One of the tasks we tackled at Skamania was to update our strategic plan by developing a vision statement, strategic objective and goals for the next three to five years for implementation. With these goals in place we can plan our activities and tasks to align with the strategic plan elements and truly achieve our vision of "bettering our profession and the world in which we work."

In addition to the fun and fellowship, ACEC Oregon was able to grow our scholarship fund by \$8,100 from the golf tournament and auction. *Please see related stories on pages 4-5.*

There are several things I want ACEC Oregon to be looking at during my year as president. We have developed a closer relationship with ODOT and worked through some of the issues that our members had in contracting this last year. The Cracked Bridge Program is a major opportunity for many of our member firms and *(continued on page 4)*

### 2005-06 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### PRESIDENT

**Ken Wightman**, David Evans and Associates, Inc.

#### PRESIDENT-ELECT

**Dwight Hardin**, GRI *Geotechnical & Environmental Consultants*

#### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

**Cynthia Lowe**, Parsons Brinckerhoff

#### SECRETARY/TREASURER

**Gregg Scholz**, R&W Engineering, Inc.

#### VICE PRESIDENT

**John Martin**, Pacific Energy Systems, Inc.

#### VICE PRESIDENT

**Gayle Harley**, OBEC Consulting Engineers

#### VICE PRESIDENT

**Mel Sears**, Parametrix, Inc.

#### VICE PRESIDENT

**Jory Abrams**, CH2M Hill, Inc.

#### REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

**Darryl Anderson**, Anderson Engineering & Surveying, Inc.

## AMONG OURSELVES...

The ACEC Oregon Board of Directors is pleased to announce the following new member firms. Please welcome...

**Ferguson Surveying & Engineering, Inc.**, PO Box 519, Mount Vernon, OR 97865, phone (541) 932-4520, fax (541) 932-4430, e-mail: lindyfse@ortelco.net. Firm representative is **Doug Ferguson, P.E.** The firm's activities include land surveying and civil engineering; bridges, roads, and subdivision plans; consulting work for cities, counties and municipalities; plan design services for contractors; land development; water and sewer upgrades and development.

**Huff and Sons Engineering and Computer Services**, 27688 S. Highway 213, Mulino, OR 97042, phone (503) 829-3937, e-mail: rmajj@molalla.net, web: www.huffandsonsengineering.biz. Firm representative is **Mary Ann Huff, P.E.** Firm activities include mechanical and facilities management; green and sustainable facilities management design; retrofit; retro commissioning. The firm also provides operator training for buildings and related installations using life cycle cost, cash flow, value engineering and resource recycling and conservation to maximize occupant and user health, safety, comfort and productivity.

**HNTB Corporation**, 1001 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97204-1121, phone (503) 535-0748, fax (503) 220-1815, e-mail: slitchfield@hntb.com, web: www.hntb.com. Firm representative is **Steve Litchfield, P.E.** HNTB is a full-service consulting firm offering design and construction management services in aviation, bridges, tunnels, highways, program management, rail, public transportation, urban design and planning, homeland security, water resources, building architecture, and federal services.

**Parsons Transportation Group**, 9320 SW Barbur Blvd., Suite 135, Portland, OR 97219, phone (503) 892-8217, fax (503) 452-3853, e-mail: christina.bui@parsons.com, web: www.parsons.com. Firm representative is **Keith Sabol, P.E.** Other key personnel are **Greg Orsolini** and **Christina Bui**. The firm provides expert multidisciplinary transportation planning. For transportation, the Quality Management System used on all projects is ISO 9001: 2000 certified. Parsons provides one source for end-to-end design/build transportation engineering capabilities, from experienced transportation planning through all phases of construction and implementation.

**T.Y. Lin International**, 1500 Liberty Street SE, Salem, OR 97302-4392, phone (503) 363-5270, fax (503) 363-5274, e-mail: [snettleton@tylin.com](mailto:snettleton@tylin.com), web: [www.tylin.com](http://www.tylin.com). Key personnel are **Scott Nettleton, P.E.** and **David Goodyear**. T.Y. Lin is a civil and structural engineering firm specializing in the planning, design, and construction engineering/inspection of transportation infrastructure.

*(continued on page 3, see "More Among Ourselves...")*

### ACEC OREGON VISION STATEMENT, STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE, AND GOALS

**Vision Statement:** (ACEC Oregon is) A community of engineering companies working collaboratively for the betterment of our profession and the world in which we work.

**Strategic Objective:** To provide service and value to our members by being visible, effective, and making a difference.

#### Goals:

1. Provide value to member firms.
2. Promote the growth and health of the consulting engineering industry.
3. Foster communication and a sense of community among engineering companies and our partners.
4. Increase the visibility and stature of the organization.
5. Attract new members and retain existing members.

## MORE AMONG OURSELVES...

AMEC, a project management and services firm with offices in Portland, Seattle and Tacoma, Washington has acquired **Shapiro & Associates Inc.**, a natural resources and environmental consulting firm with offices in Seattle and Boise, Idaho. The acquisition broadens AMEC's Seattle offerings and gives the firm a presence in Idaho for the first time. It also increases AMEC's opportunities related to large-scale transportation and infrastructure projects in the Pacific Northwest, AMEC and Shapiro officials said.

**Exeltech Consulting Inc.** has moved. Their new address is 2264 McGilchrist Street SE, Suite 100, Salem, OR 97302-1019. Phone and fax numbers remain the same.

**Kennedy/Jenks Consultants** has promoted **Travis Tormanen** to manager of the Portland office. **Ron Walz** has been promoted to manager of the Eugene office. **Gordon Munro** has been promoted to manager of the Portland public works group and designated chief engineer of the Portland office. **Ted Schilling** will continue as manager of industrial services.

**Lee Engineering Inc.** of Oregon City has been acquired by **PACE Engineers Inc.** of Kirkland, Washington. **David Lee**, co-founder and president of Lee Engineering, said that the acquisition will be beneficial to both firms. "The staff of Lee is excited about the opportunity to expand our presence in Washington by offering our water system expertise and structural engineering to the clients of PACE," Lee said. "At the same time, we will better be able to serve our clients with PACE's experience in surveying, planning, GIS and surface water management." Lee will remain with the firm as principal engineer. **Jim Shaver**, who has been employed by Lee Engineering for 17 years, will be the manager of the Oregon City office. The firm is now called **Lee-PACE Engineers Inc.**

The trustees of the **Pacific Northwest Consulting Engineers Health & Welfare Trust** are pleased to announce that **Arne R. Berger of Sparling, Inc.**, has been elected to the Board of Trustees for a five-year term, which began January 1, 2003. He will replace **John Littler**, who passed away December, 2004.

**Power System Engineers Inc. (PSE)** of Tigard has been acquired by Portland-based **Elcon Associates Inc.** PSE is a 10-year-old consulting firm that specializes in transmission and distribution planning and design. Founded in 1975, Elcon Associates is an electrical engineering firm that offers a broad range of services, from planning and studies to design and construction management for various industries. It aids utility, transit, marine, transportation and wastewater treatment plant projects throughout the West Coast. Inder Chawla, president of Elcon Associates, said that the acquisition will be beneficial to both firms. In his new role as principal electrical engineer at Elcon Associates, **Michael Unger**, the former president of PSE and an ACEC Oregon past president, will manage the firm's transmission and distribution group.

**URS Coporation** has promoted **Brian Willman** to manager of the engineering group and has added **Tamara Kranz** as an environmental engineer in the commercial/industrial group.

---

---

## NAT'L DIRECTOR REPORTS FROM ORLANDO, FLORIDA

by Raymond T. Miller, P.E., S.E., FACEC

There were two voting items for National Directors to consider at the Board of Directors meeting held in September during the ACEC Fall Conference in Orlando, Florida.

The first was a national policy statement on state and local preferential procurement, which encourages fair and open competition for contracts. Oregon, at the direction of the Board of Directors, voted against the stated statement. The policy statement was deferred to the next Board meeting in April with new information and clarifications to be forthcoming.

The second item was an amendment to the Strategic Goal # 5 on the Minuteman Fund. It was proposed to extend the program past the present \$1 million goal line and expand its scope. This item was voted on and passed.

A presentation on "The Cost of Perfection" by **Jack Beemer**, David Evans and Associates, discussed several aspects of what clients are requiring and expecting today. This includes indemnity for any loss or imperfections and elevated standard of care. The ACEC Risk Management Committee is reviewing these requirements and expectations, and coming up with items the design professional can do to work within these changing conditions.

Another item which is under review for a possible policy statement are cost recovery issues for the Department of Transportation. DOT is in the process of recovering non-value-added costs resulting from the negligent performance of the professional design engineering services. ACEC believes the process should be fair, equitable and involve model language which can be used under several conditions.

At the national level, the HR3 SAFETEA-LU legislation passed with a 30 percent increase over TEA-21. The bill provides enhanced provisions for the private sector in building, operating and maintaining transportation facilities.

The Class Action Fairness Act passed and is the first step for additional items on tort reform.

Future items, at the national level, which are being watched or worked on include "Good Samaritan" legislation, Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) for the Army Corps of Engineers, water infrastructure (Water-21), healthcare reforms, pension reform and cash accounting.

Your input on these items or any questions on ACEC national issues can be directed to **Alison Davis** or **Raymond T. Miller** at the ACEC Oregon office, phone (503) 292-2348 or [adavis@acecOregon.org](mailto:adavis@acecOregon.org).

---

---

## FROM THE PRESIDENT: LET US KNOW YOUR ISSUES *(cont. from page 2)*

there are still concerns with the delivery of the program. I will be asking the ODOT Liaison Committee to take an active role in working with the Oregon Bridge Delivery Partners to solve some of these remaining concerns.

In every way, a healthy organism and organization is a growing one. If we can provide value to our member firms we will be seen as an organization worth belonging to. I want our membership to grow not only by member firms, but by individual participation. We have great programs that can and do provide wonderful opportunities for all professionals in a firm to grow and learn more about our industry. Take the plunge and get involved. If you are aware of staff in your firm who could benefit by participating in our events, please make sure they do. Also, if you are aware of other firms who would make good new members, also make sure to pass their names along to one of the board members so we can contact them.

I was also very proud to attend the national ACEC convention this last month in Orlando as your President. Oregon has a great reputation nationally thanks to the many efforts of **Ray Miller, Steve Anderson** and **Jack Beemer**. Dave Barry was one of the featured speakers and he noted that Oregon is also famous among the engineering community for the way it “uniquely” handled the whale disposal 30 years ago on our coast line. It seems some infamous things just never go away.

As we move forward this year with the business of ACEC Oregon, please get involved and also let us know your issues. This organization is here to better the business of engineering and we can only do that if you tell us what you want accomplished.

## A BIG THANK YOU TO JOINT ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS!

In recognition of our sponsors and exhibitors....

### SPONSORS

**ACEC Business Insurance Trust** *sponsor of Friday night entertainment*

**Axiom** *host of champagne reception*

### EXHIBITORS

**A&E Systems**

**Daily Journal of Commerce**

**Hall & Company**

**IMAGINiT Technologies**

**Pacific Northwest Consulting Engineers**

**Health & Welfare Trust**

**PBS Engineering and Environmental**

Thank  
you!

Thank you!

## THANK YOU, AUCTION DONORS!

Auction donations raised \$7,200 during the recent Annual Meeting auction held at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, WA. Funds collected support the ACEC Oregon Scholarship Fund.

**AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc.**  
**Anderson Consulting Services**  
**CH2M Hill, Inc.**  
**Cornforth Consultants, Inc.**  
**Daily Journal of Commerce**  
**David Evans and Associates, Inc.**  
**Dick Fosbury, P.E.**  
**DKS Associates**  
**Embassy Suites/Portland Downtown**  
**Harper Houf Peterson Righellis**  
**Hilton Garden Inn**  
**Kittelson & Associates, Inc.**  
**Kleinfelder, Inc.**  
**Kpff Consulting Engineers**  
**Langdon Farms Golf Club**  
**Marvin, Chorzempa & Larson, P.C.**  
**Mason, Bruce & Girard, Inc.**  
**Miller Consulting Engineers**  
**Murray, Smith & Associates, Inc.**  
**Northwest Geotech, Inc.**  
**OBEC Consulting Engineers**  
**Pacific Energy Systems, Inc.**  
**Parametrix, Inc.**  
**Parsons Brinckerhoff**  
**PBS Engineering and Environmental**  
**Peterson Structural Engineers, Inc.**  
**Quincy Engineering, Inc.**  
**R & W Engineering, Inc.**  
**Salishan Spa & Golf Resort**  
**Shannon & Wilson, Inc.**  
**T.Y. Lin International**  
**The Hotel Mallory**  
**TW Environmental, Inc.**  
**Urban Wine Works**  
**WEST Consultants**

## HOLE SPONSORS SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Hole sponsors raised \$900 during the recent Annual Meeting golf tournament held at Indian Creek Golf Course in Hood River.

**David Evans and Associates, Inc.**  
**GeoEngineers, Inc.**  
**GRI Geotechnical & Environmental  
Consultants**  
**Kpff Consulting Engineers**  
**Marvin, Chorzempa & Larson, P.C.**  
**R & W Engineering, Inc.**

Thank  
you!

## SECOND SCHOLARSHIP FOR FISCAL YEAR AWARDED TO ROSEBURG HIGH GRAD

Scholarship Committee Chair, **Julia Kuhn, Kittelson & Associates, Inc.**, is pleased to announce the committee's selection of **Kenneth Fehringer** of Roseburg as the recipient of a second ACEC Oregon scholarship for 2005. The Scholarship Committee reconvened to select a second recipient this year upon notification of a previous scholarship recipient's intent to change majors. **Galen Kovak-Lewis**, the 2003 scholarship award winner, said that "this decision has been a long process and a difficult one."

---

**I realized that engineers are involved in almost everything that is designed, created, or built, no matter how large or small. To me, creating something that will stand the test of time is an immensely rewarding prospect.**

---

along with knowledge gained from basic engineering courses will be of great benefit to him in the geography and GIS program as well as throughout his career.

Fehringer graduated from Roseburg High School in June and is currently enrolled at Oregon State University and majoring in civil engineering. When asked what lead Fehringer to become interested in engineering he said that from a young age he's always been interested in designing and building things. "During my senior year in high school I learned more about the role engineers play in society. I realized that engineers are involved in almost everything that is designed, created, or built, no matter how large or small. To me, creating something that will stand the test of time is an immensely rewarding prospect."

When asked what he likes about civil engineering in particular, he said, "The most appealing aspect of civil engineering is the scale and variety of projects that civil engineers undertake--everything from massive bridges to expansive road layouts are designed by civil engineers."

During high school Fehringer was a member of National Honor Society, Boy Scouts (he achieved the rank of Eagle), and Phi Theta Kappa (National Honor Society for two-year colleges). He said he's not currently participating in any college organizations but is looking into joining a club called Formula SAE. Formula SAE designs, builds, and races small formula-style racing cars.

In high school, Fehringer also participated in SkillsUSA VICA competitions for three years. During his junior year in high school, along with a partner, he competed in the 3D Animation and Visualization contest at the state level. He and his partner placed first, and then went on to compete in the national competition where they placed fourth overall.

In his spare time Fehringer enjoys weight lifting, technology, hiking, camping, rock climbing, sports, and "almost anything having to do with cars."

*Congratulations, Kenneth!*



*Excellence 2006*

### OCTOBER 24 ENTRY DEADLINE IS NEAR

*On your mark...get set, go!* It's that time of year again to prepare your entries for ACEC Oregon's annual Engineering Excellence Awards Competition. **Phase 1 submissions are due in the ACEC Oregon office by 5:00 P.M. on Monday, October 24.** Completing this phase will automatically place the firm as an honor award winner and the firm will receive recognition in promotional materials and at the awards dinner.

Also being held on October 24 is an optional **Phase 2 Q&A Session** from 4:00 - 5:00 P.M. in the ACEC Oregon office. If you are unfamiliar with the Engineering Excellence entry process, this is a good time to review boards from previous years.

Whether the project is big or small, special engineering achievements deserve recognition. If your firm has an outstanding project or study that was undertaken between November 2003 and October 2005, we encourage you to submit it to the competition.

If you haven't already, download the 2006 Call for Entries and Official Entry Form from the Engineering Excellence page at [www.acecOregon.org](http://www.acecOregon.org).

Participating in Engineering Excellence is an excellent marketing opportunity. Please contact ACEC Oregon at (503) 292-2348 or [mwebber@acecOregon.org](mailto:mwebber@acecOregon.org) with any questions you may have.

#### Other Dates to Remember

- **Phase 2 Q&A Session** (optional)  
Monday, October 24, 4:00 - 5:00 P.M.
- **ACEC Oregon Phase 2 Deadline**  
Monday, November 21
- **ACEC Oregon Judging of Entries**  
Thursday, December 1
- **ACEC Oregon Awards Dinner**  
Wednesday, January 11
- **ACEC National Entries Due**  
January 13, Washington, D.C.

## SESSION VERY PRODUCTIVE FOR ENGINEERING PROFESSION

Oregon has codified QBS into state law and the law will not revert back to the pre-2001 legislation that required QBS only on state agency projects.

As of January 1, 2006, QBS will be required on all state agency projects and on local government projects that meet the following project size thresholds:

HB 3272-A will:

- Require QBS for all local government projects in Oregon that are more than \$900,000 and have at least 10% state funding participation in the project's overall cost. If the project falls below these thresholds then local governments may use any selection process they deem appropriate.

The passage of HB 3272-A is a significant step in the evolution of QBS in Oregon. In 1997 ACEC Oregon passed the requirement for QBS at the state agency level; in 2001 the local government provision with a sunset clause was added and in 2005 the sunset was removed and slight changes were made to the funding thresholds. We need to continue to educate local governments and other partners about the value of this procurement selection process.

Special thanks to all the ACEC Oregon members who were actively involved in the interim, supported the ACEC Oregon PAC, wrote letters, made phone calls or testified during the hearing. ACEC Oregon's efforts were led by Immediate Past President **Cynthia Lowe**, Parsons Brinckerhoff, and Legislative Committee chair **Melissa Johnson**, David Evans and Associates.

In addition, a very special and heartfelt professional and personal thank you to **Kurt Corey**, Eugene Public Works Director from Eugene. His willingness to be an active and public supporter of our legislation was very impressive. Corey was instrumental in the Oregon chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) endorsement we received during session and had the professional courage to testify on our behalf. Hopefully when we move forward to expand QBS to all projects in Oregon in a future legislative session we'll have more supporters like Kurt Corey to assist in our efforts.

### SB 2, 3, 4, 5 —

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/05reg/measpdf/sb0001.dir/sb0002.en.pdf>  
<http://www.leg.state.or.us/05reg/measpdf/sb0001.dir/sb0003.en.pdf>  
<http://www.leg.state.or.us/05reg/measpdf/sb0001.dir/sb0004.en.pdf>  
<http://www.leg.state.or.us/05reg/measpdf/sb0001.dir/sb0005.en.pdf>

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Senate President **Peter Courtney**, the seismic safety package was partially funded. The last day of the session the legislature approved four bills designed to help improve earthquake safety in Oregon. A press

release summarized the Senator's support: "As Oregonians, we face the very real threat of a severe earthquake just off our coast, like the earthquake and tsunami that hit Indian Ocean nations last December," said Senate President Peter Courtney, sponsor of the bills. "Communities throughout our state also have earthquake faults. We must prepare ourselves in many ways, including protecting schoolchildren and strengthening emergency responses."

The bills Courtney introduced are:

- **Senate Bill 2:** Directing the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to assess the earthquake safety of schools, colleges, police and fire stations, and hospitals statewide. This was funded with \$500,000, which was well below the \$1.3 million DOGAMI initially requested. However, once the process is begun DOGAMI is requested to return to the emergency board during the interim and make the case for additional funding.

- **Senate Bill 3:** Directing the Oregon Office of Emergency Management to create a grant program for local communities to strengthen the most vulnerable schools and emergency service buildings. State general obligation bonds Oregon voters authorized in 2002 would fund grants.

- **Senate Bills 4 and 5:** Directing the state treasurer to issue voter-approved bonds.

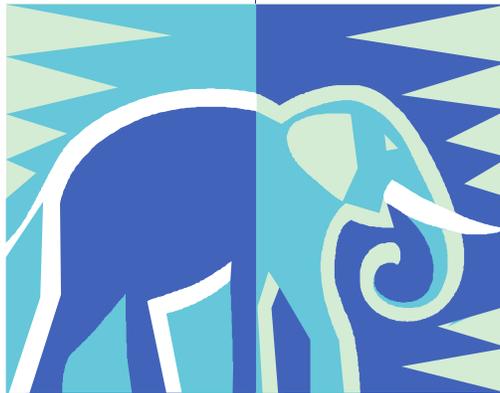
ACEC Oregon was a leader in passing Ballot Measures 15 and 16 in November 2002. We took the lead in forming a coalition of business, labor and safety officials and ran the campaign as "Oregonians for Earthquake Safety." Both measures passed, but because of the tight state budget in 2003 no funding was appropriated until now.

### SB 71—

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/05reg/measpdf/sb0001.dir/sb0071.en.pdf>  
*Connect Oregon* is a lottery-bond-based initiative (\$100 million) to invest in air, rail, marine and transit infrastructure to ensure Oregon's transportation system. It is focused on improving the connections between the highway system and the other modes of transportation to better integrate the components of the system, improve flow of commerce, and remove delays.

SB71 list the kinds of projects that can be funded through *Connect Oregon* including aeronautics and airport projects, marine and port projects, rail projects, and public transit projects. Projects eligible for funding from the State Highway Fund are not eligible.

The Oregon Transportation Commission will develop specific criteria over the next 6-12 months. SB71 provides broad criteria for project consideration which include whether:



## IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN CONSISTENT PRESENCE, MESSAGE

- The project reduces transportation costs for Oregon businesses; it benefits or connects two or more modes; it is a critical link in a statewide or regional transportation system; much of the cost can be borne by applicants; the project creates construction and permanent jobs in the state; and the project is ready for construction.

The legislation directs the Oregon Department of Transportation to adopt rules specifying the process to apply for loans and grants for projects. The Oregon Transportation Commission will oversee this process over the next 6-12 months. SB71 requires the Oregon Transportation Commission to solicit project recommendations from the State Aviation Board, the Freight Advisory Committee, and public transit and rail advisory committees.

The Oregon Transportation Commission will select the projects. The Department of Administrative Services will sell the bonds and deposit proceeds into the Multimodal Transportation Fund established by SB71. The Oregon Transportation Commission will transfer proceeds for aeronautic and airport projects to the Oregon Department of Aviation, which will administer those projects.

### SB 55 —

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/05reg/measpdf/sb0001.dir/sb0055.en.pdf>

The "George Gross" bill passed after having some early problems with the Senate business committee. The bill was sponsored by OSBEELS and clarified that a person may not practice photogrammetric mapping in this state unless the person is registered and has a valid certificate to practice land surveying, engineering, or photogrammetric mapping issued under ORS 672.002 to 672.325. The land surveyors worked long and hard to get this bill passed after several amendments were drafted.

### HB 2596 —

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/05reg/measpdf/hb2500.dir/hb2596.en.pdf>

We worked to amend a bill sponsored by the electrical trade unions to require the Director of DCBS to consult with OSBEELS prior to adopting rules designating classes of board licensees that may design, plan and layout noncomplex electrical installations. **Mark Wirfs** from R & W Engineering, Inc., **Stu Albright** from Ash Creek Associates, and others were involved in these amendments.

### HB 2725 —

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/05reg/measpdf/hb2700.dir/hb2725.intro.pdf>

An ACEC sponsored bill that received a hearing but had no other action taken. This bill limited the liability of construction

design professional for injuries occurring to workers while on construction project. Opponents included local governments, SAIF, AGC, Oregon Home Builders Association and others. This bill will be brought back in the 2007 session.

### HB 2369 and HB 2428 —

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/05reg/measpdf/hb2300.dir/hb2369.intro.pdf>

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/05reg/measpdf/hb2400.dir/hb2428.intro.pdf>

Both bills related to fire sprinklers and who could design the layout of the sprinklers. Both bills died in committee.

### HB 3158 —

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/05reg/measpdf/hb3100.dir/hb3158.intro.pdf>

The legislation reduced the statute of ultimate repose from ten years to six years following substantial completion or abandonment of construction, alteration, or repair. The bill died in committee. The original bill was sponsored by the Associated General Contractors Oregon-Columbia Chapter and Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council. Both ACEC Oregon and the Oregon Home Builders Association were also in support of the legislation. This bill will be brought back in 2007.

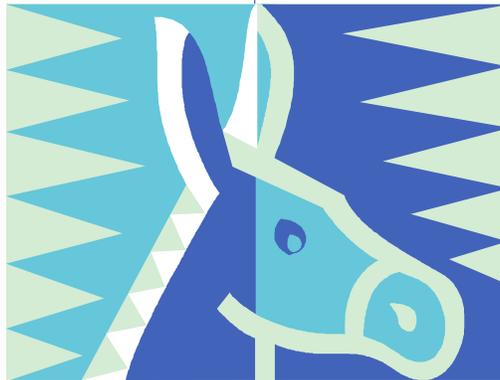
### SUMMARY

Overall, the 2005 session was very productive for ACEC Oregon and the engineering profession. Politically it will be remembered as a session where legislative leadership, especially in the House, flexed their muscle and kept close control of the agenda

and the issues that were important to the caucus and their supporters. All of this political wrangling is setting up the 2006 legislative campaigns as well as the gubernatorial campaign. In November 2006 all 60 House members will run and 15 of the 30 members of the Senate. Most likely the Republicans maintain control of the House but up for grabs is control of the Senate, as 11 of the 15 races are Democratic seats. Governor Kulongoski has announced his re-election intentions and is the early favorite to maintain his position.

An improving economy may be just the ticket to keep him in control of Oregon through 2010.

Whatever the scenario, it is important for ACEC Oregon to continue to build upon their political relationships to develop an agenda for the 2007 session, and to begin to gain early support from other interest groups as well as candidates and incumbents. The political process does impact the engineering profession and it is important to maintain a consistent presence and a consistent message to regulators and policy makers of Oregon. An active and focused ACEC Oregon membership will pay dividends in the 2007 session.



# Mark your calendar...

## OCTOBER

- **October 17 Monday**  
Dinner Program: Case Study in Award-Winning Public/Private Partnerships: Construction of the New Lewis & Clark Fort-to-Sea Trail  
For more info & registration form, go to <http://www.acecoregon.org/Fort%20to%20Sea%20dinner.pdf> or visit [www.acecOregon.org](http://www.acecOregon.org) or call (503) 292-2348.

Good for 1  
CPD credit!

- **October 24 Monday**  
Engineering Excellence Phase 1 deadline
- **October 24 Monday**  
Engineering Excellence Phase 2 Q&A Session (optional)

## NOVEMBER

- **November 10 Thursday**  
Risk Management program with Chuck Schrader
- **November 16 Wednesday**  
Dinner program TBD
- **November 21 Monday**  
Engineering Excellence phase II deadline

## DECEMBER

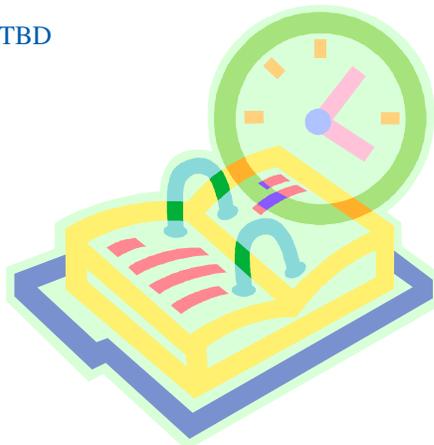
- **December 1 Thursday**  
Engineering Excellence judging

## JANUARY

- **January 11 Wednesday**  
Engineering Excellence awards dinner
- **January 25 Wednesday**  
Risk management program TBD

## FEBRUARY

- **February 8 Wednesday**  
Educational program TBD
- **February 15 Wednesday**  
Dinner program TBD



## MARCH

- **Early March TBD**  
ODOT Project Delivery Workshop *tentative*
- **March 8 Wednesday**  
Dinner program TBD
- **March 22 Wednesday**  
Educational program TBD



## APRIL

- **April 5 Wednesday**  
Dinner meeting TBD
- **April 19 Wednesday**  
Educational program TBD
- **April 30–May 3 Sunday-Wednesday**  
ACEC National Annual Convention, Engineering Excellence Awards Dinner and Consulting Congress Day, Washington D.C.

## MAY

- **May 10 or 17 Wednesday**  
Educational program TBD
- **May 24 Wednesday**  
ACEC Oregon business dinner

## JUNE

- **June 28 Wednesday**  
Networking Day – golf and dinner

## SEPTEMBER

- **September 7-9 Thursday–Saturday**  
ACEC Oregon Annual Meeting at Salishan
- **September 18-21 Monday–Thursday**  
ACEC National Fall Conference  
Charleston, South Carolina

**ACEC Oregon**

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF OREGON  
5319 SW Westgate Drive, Suite 221, Portland, OR 97221  
phone (503) 292-2348 ♦ fax (503) 292-2410  
[www.acecOregon.org](http://www.acecOregon.org)