

ACEC Oregon

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
OF OREGON
Representing engineering companies in Oregon and
Clark County, Washington for more than 50 years.

SPRING 2008

NEWS

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

It's all happening at the zoo... FUTURE LEADERS TO BE RECOGNIZED AT MAY 21 BUSINESS DINNER



Lions and tigers and ACEC—oh my! Wednesday, May 21
the annual business dinner will be held at the Oregon Zoo.

The event will feature:

- An animal display during the social
- Brief committee reports
- Why the National PAC is important for Oregon

- Recognition of Future Leaders Series participants
- An overview and vote on the 2008-2009 fiscal year budget

“This event is a great opportunity to gain a good overview of the association’s activities.”

Registration deadline is May 15.

WHAT: May Business Dinner

WHEN: Wednesday, May 21

- 5:30 P.M. Social
- 5:45 P.M. Animal display
- 6:15 P.M. Dinner
- 6:45 P.M. Business meeting

WHERE: Oregon Zoo, Skyline Room
4001 SW Canyon Road
Portland, OR 97221
phone (503) 643-5451
www.OregonZoo.com

PARKING: Plenty of on-site parking in lot.
Or, take the MAX to the Zoo!

ACEC Oregon

Registration Form MAY BUSINESS DINNER

Cost: \$45 per registrant, or \$30 for Future Leaders Series participants

Firm Name: _____

Phone: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Make checks payable to ACEC Oregon.

Mail check and registration form (or fax form to 503-292-2410 and mail check) for receipt by May 15 to: ACEC Oregon, 5319 SW Westgate Dr., Ste. 221, Portland 97221. QUESTIONS? Call (503) 292-2348 or e-mail mwebber@acecOregon.org.

_____ registrants @ \$45 = \$ _____

_____ Future Leaders @ \$30 = \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Cancellations must be received on or before May 7. Non-members must pay in advance.



TAKE THE MEMBERSHIP SURVEY!

See President's column on page 2 for more info.

FROM THE PRESIDENT by Mel Sears, P.E., PMP

I would like to engage you in critical activity here at ACEC Oregon. Our (your) organization is in the process of developing a comprehensive review and outreach campaign. You might ask, "What is a review and outreach campaign?"

Well, every organization, large and small, should periodically engage in a review with an eye towards improving its operations, providing better value to members, and evaluating how it can improve the public image of the industry it represents. Simply put, "ask the customers (you) what they need," and then adapt accordingly.

It has been a number of years since ACEC Oregon undertook such a comprehensive review, and after several months of consideration, your board has initiated such a review process. We are hoping that the process can have a number of positive factors, including:

- Ensuring that the goals of staff, the board and members are aligned;
- Identifying improvements that can be made both in structure, function, and messaging;
- Identifying areas where the organization can improve its value to the member firms;



Mel Sears
Parametrix, Inc.

- Providing tools that can be used both by ACEC Oregon and its members to increase market penetration and market share;
- Creating, improving or enhancing the public and political awareness of the organization and its members (also driving market share).

To kick-off this effort, you will be receiving an on-line survey and some of you (lucky ones) will be receiving a personal (and brief) phone call from an ACEC Oregon Board member asking a series of questions. We are attempting to ensure that the process is as quick and easy as possible. But we ask that you take some time in the next month considering your membership in ACEC Oregon, ways that our process or programs could be improved, and ways that ACEC Oregon can work with its members to help position the industry in the region for further growth over the next several years. Are you aware of good examples from your colleagues in other states or in other industries that might be useful to our association? Are there strategies that we should undertake given the potential downturn in the economy or changing industry directions? These are some of the issues that the board wants to address, and we need your help to ensure that we make the right decisions.

To take this brief survey, go to http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=rLi_2fq7VKeicawEiZwNYZ7Q_3d_3d. At the end of the survey you may enter to win one of five prizes. Thank you for taking the time to help ensure ACEC Oregon is heading in the right direction!

Focus on risk management... THE PARALYSIS OF ANALYSIS...WHEN A STRENGTH BECOMES A WEAKNESS*

As a/e design professionals, we share some enormously valuable and needed strengths that enable us to acquire and apply the advanced technical knowledge and skills needed to successfully practice in very complex and challenging technical disciplines. People with natural talents for logical and analytical thinking are drawn to our professions. Powerful skills are developed around these talents that are applied in the workplace to achieve superior performance and propel career advancement. We are the thinkers, the problem solvers, the planners and the designers of the built environment which includes virtually everything we see and touch around us that nature has not directly created. In fact, we even manage much of what exists in the natural environment. Despite all of our wonderful talents and strengths that are the hallmarks of our profession, we also share a common Achilles heal; we often overuse our thinking strengths and we fail to act expeditiously.

*The author is **Kevin J. Cooley, P.E.**

To review this article in its entirety, please go to <http://www.aepnet.org/ge/ppm4.html>. This article is brought to you by **Dave Shipley, Shipley & Associates, Inc.**, a member of the ACEC Oregon Risk Management Committee.



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MEET THE ACEC BUSINESS INSURANCE TRUST (BIT): Providing personalized coverage and protection designed by engineers for engineers

Professional engineers face many unforeseen risks on every project. If you're an owner or partner in an engineering firm, your risks

escalate even further. That's why, while you're busy making sure your engineering projects stay on budget and schedule, you need a "partner" working behind the scenes who can help you navigate the complex world of business insurance, professional liability and overall risk management.

Fortunately, you can have such a partner who is uniquely qualified and dedicated to safeguarding the interests of ACEC member firms – the ACEC Business Insurance Trust (BIT).

Who is the ACEC BIT? The ACEC Business Insurance Trust operates as an expert resource to assist ACEC member firms in effectively managing their practices and protecting them with professional insurance products. **The Business Insurance Trust is guided and managed by practicing engineers just like you** who serve as trustees of the Insurance Program.

For nearly 25 years, the BIT – together with insurance leaders Marsh and The Hartford – has designed business insurance and professional liability protection tailored for engineers and engineering firms. These long-standing relationships and experience assure your program will meet your current risks and future challenges, as well as help you control losses and minimize insurance premiums.

To meet the dedicated professionals behind the ACEC BIT, visit www.ACECBIT.com or call (800) 338-1391. Be sure to watch for discussions of timely issues related to additional risk management services provided by the ACEC BIT in future newsletters.



AMONG OURSELVES...

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

Sparling, 111 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 1575, Portland, OR 97204, phone (503) 273-0060, www.sparling.com. Firm representative is **Kimberly Krull**. Other key personnel are **Mark Peckover, P.E.**, and **Jim Duncan, P.E., FACEC** (Seattle). Sparling is the nation's largest specialty consulting firm providing services in electrical engineering, technology consulting, audiovisual design, lighting design and consulting and acoustical design.

Professional Service Industries, Inc. (PSI), 6032 N. Cutter Circle, Suite 480, Portland, OR 97217, phone (503) 289-1778, www.psiusa.com. Firm representative is **Paul Matera**. Other key personnel are **John Gent, P.E.**, **Rick Hanford, P.E., G.E.**, and **Jay Hathaway, P.E., CDT**. The firm's general fields of practice are environmental consulting, geotechnical engineering, and materials testing and inspection. Specialties include: environmental consulting, indoor air quality and mold services, asbestos and lead-based paint analysis, property and site assessment, speciality engineering and testing, nondestructive examination and testing, materials testing and certification, and facilities and roof consulting.

WRG Design, Inc., 5415 SW Westgate Drive, Suite 100, Portland, OR 97221, phone (503) 419-2500, www.wrgdesign.com. Firm representative is **Tony Roos, P.E.** Other principals are **Jon Reimann, P.E.**, **Ben Williams, P.E.**, **Darren Welborn, P.E.**, and **Jeff Curran, P.E.** Other key staff are **Bob Headrick, P.E.**, **Cedomir Jesic, P.E.**, and **Tana Mallory**. WRG is a multi-disciplinary consulting firm specializing in public infrastructure, transportation, and private development. Firm disciplines include civil engineering, water resources, land use planning, surveying, and landscape architecture.

Affiliate member **BlueDot Group, LLC**, 11700 SW 67th Street, Tigard, OR 97223, phone (503) 624-0108. Firm rep is **Robert Lennox, PLS**. Bluedot Group is a professional land surveying firm. Lennox has more than 19 years of surveying experience.

Affiliate member firm **Holland & Knight, LLP**, 2300 U.S. Bancorp Tower, 111 SW 5th Avenue, Portland, OR 97204, phone (503) 243-2300, www.hklaw.com. Firm representative is **Louis A. Santiago**. The firm provides comprehensive legal services to engineering and other companies in more than 100 practice areas. In addition to his juris doctor, Santiago has a B.S. in engineering. For nearly 30 years, he has trained and counseled engineering and other business clients about the intricacies of federal, state and local employment laws and regulations, and about best employment practices.

Affiliate member firm **i-TEN Associates, Inc.**, 2548 SE Ankeny Street, Portland, OR 97214, phone (503) 546-3577, www.i10assoc.com. Firm representative is **Chris Aldridge**. i-TEN Associates provides geospatial services and products to improve their clients' operational efficiency in multi-platform data migration, transportation systems, utility mapping, and

landbase digital conversion. Aldridge is a registered, professional photogrammetrist in Oregon with 27 years of experience. He spent the majority of his career with **Spencer B. Gross, Inc.** and now continues that position with i-TEN Associates.



Degenkolb announces that **Stacy Bartoletti** has been promoted to President and COO. He is now responsible for overseeing the firm's operations and business development efforts.

GRI is pleased to announce the opening of a branch office at 1101 Broadway, Suite 130, Vancouver, WA 98660, phone (360) 213-1690. Established in 1984, GRI is a geotechnical and environmental consulting firm in Beaverton. The new Vancouver office has a complete soil mechanics laboratory and is managed by **Matt Shanahan, P.E.** (mshanahan@gri.com), with support by founding principal **David Driscoll, P.E.**, and the full GRI staff.

i-TEN Associates, Inc. announces the acquisition of **Spencer B. Gross, Inc.**, Mapping and Aerial Photography, to complement their current variety of leading geospatial products and services. The company is based in Portland, Oregon with regional offices in Corvallis, Oregon; Vancouver, WA; and California.

Knight Engineers has merged with **Miyamoto International, Inc. Structural & Earthquake Engineers**, 700 Washington Street, Suite 204, Vancouver, WA 98660, phone (360) 696-9818 in Vancouver or (503) 252-1614 in Portland, www.miyamotointernational.com. Firm rep and principal in their Portland-Vancouver office is **Brian Knight, M.S., S.E.** Miyamoto provides structural, earthquake and risk engineering services.

Murray, Smith & Associates, Inc. has promoted **David Leibbrandt** to president. Leibbrandt joined the firm in 1985 and has served as senior vice president since 1996.

Pacific Geotechnical LLC has hired **Andre Mare** as a principal and **John Lawes** as an engineering geologist. Mare has 17 years of experience in geotechnical engineering, and Lawes has 15 years of experience in engineering geology.



IN MEMORIAM

R. Evan Kennedy, a charter member of ACEC Oregon (formerly CECO, the Consulting Engineers Council of Oregon), died February 17, 2008 in Portland. He was 91 years old. His life was one of service to society as a structural engineer. He designed many buildings in Oregon during a career which spanned seventy years. One of his first projects was the Central Fire Station in downtown Portland (about 1948); his last technical work was in 2007 for a Verizon cell-phone tower along Highway 26. One of his favorite projects was the Oak Street AT&T building (about 1949); it was on this structure that he pioneered seismic design elements to resist earthquakes, something not previously done in Portland. His innovative design for reinforcing the failing columns of Portland's 100-year-old First Congregational Church won an ACEC National Grand Award in 1996.

Mark your calendar...

MAY

- **May 2 Friday**
Legislative b'fast with Rep. Dave Hunt
Thank you to URS for hosting this event!
For more info & registration form, go to http://www.acecoregon.org/DaveHunt_b'fast_May08.pdf
- **May 8 Thursday**
Board of Directors Meeting
Peterson Structural Engineers, Inc.
- **May 14 Wednesday**
Future Leaders Certification Series (class 8 of 8)
David Evans and Associates, Inc.
Level 1: Client Maintenance
Level 2: Leadership Transition
- **May 21 Wednesday**
May Business Dinner & Recognition of Future Leaders Series participants
The Oregon Zoo
(For more information & registration form go to page 1)

JUNE

- **June 12 Thursday**
Board of Directors Meeting
Peterson Structural Engineers, Inc.



- **June 25 Wednesday**
Networking Day Golf Tournament and Dinner, a joint event with ASCE's Younger Member Forum
Langdon Farms Golf Course
For more information & registration form, go to http://www.acecoregon.org/NetDay_june08.pdf.



SEPTEMBER

- **September 25-27 Thursday - Saturday**
Joint Fall Conference with ACEC Oregon & ACEC Washington
Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort
10000 N. Oracle Road
Tucson, AZ 85704
1-800-325-7832
www.hiltonelconquistador.com

OCTOBER

- **October 19-22 Sunday - Wednesday**
ACEC National Fall Conference
Montreal, Canada
Fairmont - The Queen Elizabeth

THANK YOU, PAC DONORS!

Thank you to the following firms for their ACEC Oregon PAC donation received February 27 through April 18, 2008:

- **Parametrix, Inc.**
- **PB Americas, Inc.**

Thank you to the following individuals for their ACEC National PAC donation received January 1 through April 1, 2008:

- **Jack Beemer**
David Evans and Associates, Inc.
- **Troy Bowers**
Murray, Smith & Associates, Inc.
- **Jim Helton**
Murray, Smith & Associates, Inc.
- **Phil Smith**
Murray, Smith & Associates, Inc.
- **Kevin Thelin**
Murray, Smith & Associates, Inc.
- **Ken Wightman**
David Evans and Associates, Inc.
- **Mark Wirfs**
R&W Engineering, Inc.



APRIL 3 BREAKFAST WITH ODOT DIRECTOR GARRETT A BIG SUCCESS

Pictured above, left to right, are Oregon Department of Transportation Director **Matt Garrett**, ACEC Oregon President **Mel Sears**, ACEC Oregon Executive Director **Alison Davis**, and Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs Executive Director **Sam Brooks**. More than 80 people attended the event to hear Garrett's update on transportation funding.

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