

ACEC Tennessee

American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee

THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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These companies provide Tennessee engineering firms with products and services and support the activities of ACEC of Tennessee through participation in the Partners Program. Additional information about these Partner Program participants is available at www.acectn.org.

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Understanding Qualifications-Based Selection

by Paul W. (Bill) Lockwood
ASLA/CLARB, Vice President Barge,
Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc.
Chair, Tennessee Board of Architectural and
Engineering Examiners

How can local governments save money on the cost of capital projects? Recognizing that money is tight, it is critical that public officials make wise choices when spending taxpayer funds on any type of project. One common attempt to save money is to seek out low bidders for goods and services, including engineering. After all, it is typical and perfectly legal to bid out the construction of projects designed by engineers.



Bill Lockwood

On the face of it, bidding out engineering may seem to make sense. There are, however, two major issues at stake. One, the lowest priced engineer does not equate to the least costly or most appropriate project. Two, bidding engineering services is not allowed in the state of Tennessee for many projects.

In general, state and local government agencies CANNOT select design professionals by a bid process, but are required to make a

selection based solely on the qualifications of potential providers. How does that actually work? Following is a summary of a February 13, 2014, guidance from the Tennessee Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners, issued for the purpose of educating registrants and those who issue Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for architectural, engineering, and landscape architectural services for public projects.

- Design professionals for public projects in Tennessee must be selected through qualifications-based selection rather than the competitive bid process.
- Effective March 11, 2013, registered architects, engineers, and landscape architects are precluded from participating in any system requiring a comparison of compensation for public projects.

• A registrant may not enter into a contract for professional services on any basis other than direct negotiation with any governmental entity that is prohibited by T.C.A.

“... it is critical that public officials make wise choices when spending taxpayer funds ...”

12-4-107(a) from making a selection or awarding a contract on the basis of competitive bids, thereby precluding participation in any system requiring a comparison of compensation. Upon selection, a registrant

(continued on page 2)

2014 Engineers' Conference to be Bigger and Better

It's that time of year—time to make valuable connections and experience professional growth by attending the 2014 Tennessee Engineers' Conference, September 25-26 at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro. The conference will be bigger and better this year with a total of five educational tracks, so there is something for everyone.

The conference is a joint meeting for ACEC of Tennessee, the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers and the Tennessee Section of

the American Society of Civil Engineers. Don't miss out on the opportunity to network within your industry while earning up to 13 professional development hours!

Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are still available and online registration is now open at <http://acectn.org/category/current-events/>. For additional information, contact Judy Logue at 615-242-2486 (jlogue@tnec.org) or Tom Lawrence at 901-237-4819.



Above: the passing of the gavel to incoming President David Harrell, PE, Vaughn & Melton, from outgoing President Steve Field, PE, Stantec at the 2013 Annual Meeting.



Above: Don Friedman, Crow Friedman Group, models a silver sequined fedora at the 2013 Welcome Reception & PAC Auction.

Congratulations New PEs!

The following engineers associated with ACEC of Tennessee member firms have passed the Professional Engineering licensing examination: **Min Chen**, OGCB, Inc., Memphis; **Javier de La Rosa**, TLC Engineering for Architecture, Brentwood; **L. Jordan Draper**, Kimley-Horn & Associates, Memphis; **B. Evan Graves**, ICA Engineering, Brentwood; **Tyler Guldán**, Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Knoxville; **Tyler Hardee**, Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Nashville; **W. Stuart Hartley**, Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Nashville; **Drew Hatton**, Structural Design Group, Nashville; **Melissa McKenzie**, Jacobs Engineering, Knoxville; **Daniel Morgan**, Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Nashville; **Jubal Parris**, Gresham Smith & Partners, Nashville; **Gregory Presnell**, CDM Smith, Knoxville; **J. Andrew Reed**, S&ME, Chattanooga; **Phillip Sutherland**, I.C. Thomasson Associates, Nashville; **S. Curt Williams**, I.C. Thomasson Associates, Nashville. ACEC of Tennessee congratulates you on a job well done!

Member News

- Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon has promoted Paul Darr, ASLA, to Landscape Architect in the firm's Nashville office. He previously worked in the Chattanooga office.
- Liz Porter, PG, was recently elected to the Board of Directors for S&ME, Inc.
- Steve Limback has joined Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon as a Hydrologist in the firm's Knoxville office. He was previously with the TVA.
- Eddie Wade, PE, recently with LDA Engineering in Chattanooga and Southeast Chapter President, has joined Croy Engineering in Georgia.
- Geotechnology, Inc., has added Ziad AlAawari, PhD., PE, as Senior Geotechnical Engineer in the firm's Memphis Office.
- Darlene Reiter, PhD, PE, Vice President of Engineering at Bowlby & Associates, Inc., was recognized by the National Highway Institute as 2013 Instructor of Excellence for her teaching of NHI's Highway Traffic Noise course. Bowlby & Associates was the course's lead technical developer.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

1

ACEC of
TN/TSPE
Offices Closed

Labor Day
Holiday

SEPTEMBER

12

Early
Registration
Ends for
Tennessee
Engineers'
Conference

SEPTEMBER

25-26

Tennessee
Engineers'
Annual
Conference

Embassy Suites
Murfreesboro,
TN

OCTOBER

22-25

ACEC Fall
Conference

Waikoloa, HI

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Judy Logue
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Wheels of Change

by *Chuck Saunders, PE*
ACEC of Tennessee President

Not quite four score years ago, our nation was recovering from economic depression and world wars that ushered in the decade of the Baby Boom. Now in the new millennium, technology evolves faster than most can comprehend. We clamor for products already outdated when purchased. We walk along staring at devices and not looking at what is ahead. Meanwhile, throngs of Generation X and Y engineering graduates departed for other industries and our



Chuck Saunders

Boomers now face working longer while future leaders grow into their roles.

The wheel was invented some six millennia ago, yet we use the age-old technology in analogies of time and change. The wheel reminds us that change cycles are circular. Our country again emerges from recession and war and the economy is slowly rebounding. Tennessee is experiencing a boom of its own, welcoming people from abroad. Will we embrace this change with vision and forethought to serve the needs of our communities? My task as President of ACEC of Tennessee is to keep those wheels in positive motion and cast a light upon our path.

Significant infrastructure was built to support the original population boom. Now that

infrastructure, like those Boomers, is over 50 years old. The Eisenhower Interstate System launched in 1956 primarily for the military, now 60 years later, serves as the backbone of our transportation system moving millions of vehicles daily. Tennessee ranks at the top annually for its well-maintained roads crisscrossing the state. The wheels our roads carry have no definite beginning or end point, but one eminent fate - they eventually wear out, even if exceptionally maintained. I cite transportation infrastructure due to the visible and tangible analogy to life. It is a great vehicle to make the conversation personal. At 60, and in the prime of life, many people feel great and appear timeless, yet they are all mortal. Infrastructure, too, will eventually fail. Let us take a lesson from the wheel and focus on our future, our children and our communities now.

For over 45 years ACEC of Tennessee has served the business interests of engineering firms. I am grateful to all who served ACEC, and especially David Harrell for his extraordinary service as President. I am honored to serve alongside the leaders of our profession, our companies, and ACEC. I hope to steer ACEC toward focusing on our mission, strengthening our profession, rebuilding our infrastructure, and being a valuable resource to our state and community leaders. I encourage everyone to get involved and be an influencer. Guide and mentor our engineers and let us steer the wheels of ACEC toward positive change.

Understanding QBS *(continued from page 1)*

may state compensation to a prospective client in direct negotiation where architectural, engineering, or landscape architectural services necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare have been defined.

- Once the public body/client has selected the most qualified design professional/firm, it may request a fee proposal from that firm. The agency may then negotiate a satisfactory contract with the selected firm. If an agreement cannot be reached and the negotiations are formally terminated, the agency may then proceed to select the next most qualified design professional/firm on

the list and continue negotiations until an agreement is reached.

- A registered architect, engineer, or landscape architect who violates this rule may be subject to disciplinary action by the Board.

The overall responsibility of the engineering community is to provide professional services in consideration of the safety, health, and welfare of the public. Part of that responsibility includes looking out for the tax dollars spent in projects we design. QBS is the law of the land and is intended to assist federal, state, and local governments in choosing professionals that will provide cost-effective and safe designs.

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JULY/AUGUST 2014

INSIDE

- Understanding Qualifications-Based Selection
– page 1
- Annual Meeting Growing
– page 3
- Member News
– page 3

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For more up-to-date news, photos, and events from ACEC of Tennessee, follow us online!



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Professional Development Opportunities are Everywhere This Fall!

by *Candy Toler*
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

Want some leadership training designed specifically for engineers? Need some professional development hours? ACEC of Tennessee has some outstanding opportunities coming up.



Candy Toler

2014 Tennessee Leadership PE

The Tennessee Leadership PE Program will be offered this fall to help firms sharpen the skills of emerging leaders. The Business Practices Committee is finalizing details, so you will be hearing more in the next several weeks. To provide a quality experience, enrollment is limited to 15 participants.

Tennessee Engineers' Conference

The Tennessee Engineers' Conference will be a big one; ACEC of Tennessee, the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers, and the American Society of Civil Engineers Tennessee Section have joined forces to put on quite a show September 25-26 at the Embassy Suites Murfreesboro. On-line registration is already available - just click on the link at <http://acectn.org/category/current-events/>

There will be something for everyone in the five

educational tracks. A Conference brochure is enclosed with this newsletter for members. Plan to attend the Engineering Foundation Luncheon on September 25, too. Tim Corbin, the Vanderbilt baseball coach of the 2014 College World Series winning team, will be the speaker!

PAC Appeal

It's an election year and the telephone calls, solicitation letters and emails from legislative candidates are arriving . . . and your PAC needs your help so that we can support legislative candidates who are sympathetic to engineering issues. The Auction at the Engineers' Conference is one way we raise money and have fun, too! Every year, donated items are up for bid including weekend hotel getaways, UT football and basketball tickets, golf outings, and more. What will you donate this year? We hope that you will contribute something and participate in the auction. Contact me (ctoler@tnec.org) for more information.

ACEC Fall Conference

It might be hard to pass up this opportunity to network with colleagues from across the country and participate in a great education program - it will be on the Big Island in Hawaii at the Hilton Waikoloa Village October 22-25. Does it get much better than Hawaii in the fall for business?!