

ACEC Tennessee

American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee

GENERAL AVIATION: INDUSTRY CHALLENGES



By: Ryan Sisemore,
Vice President and
Aviation Team Leader
with Garver's Nashville, TN
office

General Aviation (GA) airports in Tennessee remain largely unknown and misunderstood.

However, each plays a vital role in our state's economy as well as offers a myriad of other public services. Unfortunately, the industry is facing aging infrastructure and limited funding, and without a feasible solution, the negative impact could reach far and wide.

The term "just in time delivery" was primarily coined by the automotive industry, though those promises would be difficult to keep without our local GA airports. When an assembly line goes down and the part needs to get there quickly, it's quite often on a small airplane flying through the middle of the night—and having that local airport is critical. Nissan has a significant footprint in Tennessee, however we have also benefited from other automotive manufacturers, including GM and Volkswagen. Having GA airports in many of our small towns allows for plants to be located outside of urban areas and for these jobs to be filled locally. Beyond our economy, these airports also support air ambulance services, emergency management responses, law enforcement, and the military. Spend just one day at Lebanon Municipal Airport to see this firsthand.

Our state's GA airports are strong indeed, but they are facing new challenges. As the pavement, drainage, and electrical systems age, a robust funding stream is needed to maintain the required

service levels. Announced at the May Tennessee Aeronautics Commission meeting, the local funds match for federal and state grants is set to double. With this return to matching levels seen prior to 2012, the impact on our city and county governments will be significant. The additional financial burden will likely result in some projects failing to move forward due to lack of matching funds.

As an engineering community and serving as consultants to these governments, we are challenged to stretch the project dollar even further. In this environment, innovation is king. One of our greatest tools has been pavement recycling, both in concrete and asphalt. Concrete can be crushed and screened to be used as an aggregate base layer and asphalt can be milled and repurposed through a process referred to as Full Depth Reclamation (FDR). Several airports including the Shelbyville Municipal Airport have used this process to speed the pace of construction and save critical dollars. While sustainability remains a direction that must be maintained for the health of our planet, often we are financially unable to make those material and construction method selections. However, when we can marry these two by making a project less expensive and sustainable, I have yet to come across a client that doesn't get on board. So, while the challenge remains with an ever-aging airport infrastructure in the face of limited funding, we are encouraged by an engineering community and contractors alike who are embracing new processes that allow us to continue moving forward. Tennessee is well known for the quality of its General Aviation airports and we intend for that legacy to live on.

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JULY

4

Offices Closed for Independence Day

SEPTEMBER

5

Offices Closed for Labor Day holiday

SEPTEMBER

14 - 16

TN Engineers' Conference Music City Center

SEPTEMBER

15

TN Engineering Foundation Luncheon

OCTOBER

19 - 22

ACEC Fall Conference Colorado Springs, CO

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OPPORTUNITIES GALORE AT THE 2016 TENNESSEE ENGINEERS' CONFERENCE

In addition to the TN Society of Professional Engineers, ACEC of Tennessee, and the American Society of Civil Engineers-Tennessee Section, the Tennessee Structural Engineers Association will join in for the **2016 TN Engineers' Conference** and premier gathering for engineering professionals on **September 14-16, 2016**, at the **Music City Center in Nashville**.

We will kick off with a **Wednesday Night Social** and registration will open mid-afternoon Wednesday for those who want to beat the crowds. The two-day conference will provide even more significant opportunities to network with peers in the industry and complete continuing education requirements.

Individuals who participate in all of the seminars will have even broader options

for professional development hours (PDH), which makes the conference an extremely easy, cost-effective way to meet your PDH requirements.

On-line Registration is now available! In an effort to simplify the process, we have created two separate **On line links**...one for **Registration at <http://tinyurl.com/hhw3ljm>** and one for Sponsorship and Exhibiting Opportunities, at **<http://tinyurl.com/j8azbkd>**. For additional information, contact Judy Logue at 615-242-2486 (**jlogue@tnc.org**) or go to **www.acectn.org**, click on "Get Involved" and "TN Engineers' Conference" to download the forms. More details on activities, educational offerings, and speakers are still developing, so look for additional information

TENNESSEE ENGINEERING FOUNDATION LUNCHEON

**Special Guest Speaker,
LIEUTENANT GENERAL ARNOLD W. BUNCH JR.
United States Airforce**



We are excited to announce the keynote speaker for the Tennessee Engineering Foundation (TEF) Luncheon will be Lt. General Arnold W. Bunch, Jr., United State Airforce. Lt. General Bunch is the Military Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of

the Air Force for Acquisition, the Pentagon, and Washington, D.C. He is responsible for research and development, test, production, and modernization of Air Force programs worth more than \$32 billion annually.

We hope that you will plan to attend the Luncheon this year as well as support the TEF. The Luncheon will be held at the Music City

Center on Thursday, September 15th. To Sponsor and/or purchase luncheon tables or tickets by mail, download the TEF Luncheon Brochure or purchase tickets online at <http://tinyurl.com/z8u6sx9>.

The Foundation gave four scholarships to engineering students across the state in 2016. Please support the Foundation and help us to continue these good works with your sponsorship and attendance at the 2016 TEF Luncheon!

The Foundation was created in 1986 to advance and support the engineering profession in Tennessee. TEF raises funds for scholarships and other K-12 STEM education support activities such as MATHCOUNTS, Lego League, etc. - the primary source of funding for these initiatives is the TEF Luncheon.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE MONTHLY UPDATE



By: John Kenny, PE
President of ACEC of Tennessee

We have had quite a close to the Legislative sessions. Many thanks to all in responding to both the National and State calls to action...your voice has been heard! Nashville hosted our 2016-2017 Planning Retreat on June 3rd/4th. This will be a great opportunity to "sharpen the saw"!

Thank you PAC Champions Jerry Stump (Volkert) and Steven Field (Stantec) as **Tennessee met its 2016 National ACEC/PAC state fundraising goal**, joining four other states.

Federal Government Advocacy:

- Over 1,300 attendees at the **ACEC Annual Convention in Washington, D.C.** (including Tennessee's Steven Field, Jerry Stump, Houston Daugherty, Al Pramuk, Tim Tucker and David Harrell) lobbied on Capitol Hill for infrastructure, energy and regulatory reforms. ACEC/PAC activities at the Convention raised a record \$271,700.
- Senator Lisa Murkowski, Chairwoman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, spoke to Convention attendees and thanked ACEC for supporting her Energy Policy Modernization Act; the bill passed the Senate later the same day.
- Secured Senate passage of FAA reauthorization legislation that includes a **\$400M increase in Airport Improvement Program funding for 2017**.
- ACEC-backed **Water Resources Development Act of 2016** – which authorizes new Corps water projects, improves drinking water programs, and expands QBS – was passed by the Senate Environment and Public Work Committee.

- Met with officials from the Department of Labor (DOL) and the Office of Management and Budget to **oppose a proposed overtime pay rule** that would increase the salary threshold by 113%. Also opposed a proposed **DOL sick time rule** in formal comments, as it would cause significant fees for required weekly reporting and reduce flexibility for employee benefit packages.

- **Co-hosted fundraising events** for House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX), Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

State Government Advocacy:

- ACEC backed efforts regarding **Additional Services and Prompt Payment Legislation (SB1672/HB1726)** resulted in a revised Designer Contract approved at the State Building Commission on May 12th. Look forward soon to a road show across the State with ACEC, AIA and the Office of the State Architect to provide information on the new contract.

- ACEC of Tennessee representatives Kasey Anderson (ED), Mickey Sullivan (GS&P), Steven Field (Stantec), Charlie Smith (BWSC) and I attended the **Statesmen's Dinner on May 13th** at the Music City Center. Governor Haslam, Tennessee's US Senators and Representatives, and State Senators and Representatives were in attendance with special tributes to Senator Fred Thompson and retiring Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey.

- ACEC of Tennessee representatives Kasey Anderson and I participated with AIA, ABC, and AGC representatives in the quarterly **Quality in Construction (QIC)** Session with the State Architect's Office and stakeholders from UT, TBR, and STREAM Offices. The focus of this meeting was the **performance review for Designers and Contractors on State Projects**. Next session has been slated for August 2016.

MEMBER NEWS

TDOT's DBE Contractor of the Year Award

K.S. Ware and Associates was honored to receive TDOT's DBE Contractor of the Year Award at the 2015 TDOT DBE Small Business Meeting

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JUNE 2016

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- **Member News**
- **Engineering Conference**

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A LOOK FORWARD, A LOOK BACK



By: Kasey Anderson
kanderson@t nec.org

As ACEC/TN wraps up its fiscal year this month, there is much to celebrate. I want to publically thank John Kenny for his tireless efforts. ACEC/TN's mission, to advance the business environment of the engineering industry, was top of mind in all that he did. John's presidency has been nothing short of exceptional, and much of our success this year can be directly attributed to his leadership.

Earlier this month, the board and committee chairs gathered for their annual planning retreat. It offered leadership the opportunity to take a look at where we've been and to strategically position ourselves for what is to come. Building on last year's success, we are well-poised to continue to proactively address issues as they arise. There is work to be done for sure, but your board leadership is committed to doing what it takes to elevate our position at the local, state and national level.

While our volunteer leadership is an essential component of our success, so too are each of you. I encourage you to get involved in the important work happening at the committee level. Their efforts are raising the bar, and truly advancing the business environment in our state and beyond. For example, under Mickey Sullivan's leadership, the Business Practices Committee has developed a plan to identify and respond to threats and opportunities to our industry. As they begin to

implement this strategy, member engagement will be critical. Similarly, important work is happening at all of our committees, and their success depends wholly on engaged volunteers. Opportunities to volunteer will be published later this month, and I encourage you to identify the areas where you can help.

Great things are also happening at the local level, with ACEC/TN's four regional chapters offering a myriad of opportunities for education and networking throughout the year. And this summer, we're taking ACEC/TN on the road! In an effort to educate the designer community about the changes in the new State Designer Agreement, how Additional Services are addressed, and what to expect from the State Procurement Agencies moving forward, ACEC/TN will be hosting events across the state with AIA and the State Architect this month. Plenty of time will be reserved for Q&A with the State Architect, and we look forward to a lively discussion.

Lastly, I'm sure you are aware that this is an election year. I cannot emphasize enough how important the Tennessee General Assembly is to the success of ACEC/TN. They have a tremendous impact on the engineering industry and your ability to operate your business prosperously. As ACEC Chairman Ralph Christie says, "the PAC is the currency of the conversation." The Tennessee Professional Engineers' PAC (TPE- PAC) is a critical component of our government advocacy strategy. This year, many legislators who are strong advocates for our industry are in tightly contested races, and they need our help. As we wrap up a successful year for ACEC/TN, I urge you to support our future efforts by making a personal or corporate contribution to TPE-PAC today.



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