

# The Voice

# SEPTEMBER 2013

# Voice



THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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## Celebrating the Engineering Behind The Music City Center

by: *Jeremy Westmoreland, Project Engineer*  
*Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon*

**A** structure that spans 16 acres and features a 65-foot difference in elevation from the northwest corner of the site to the southeast corner now sits along Demonbreun



**Jeremy Westmoreland**

Street in the heart of downtown Nashville, and it is called the Music City Center. This new complex, situated next to the Country Music Hall of Fame and Bridgestone Arena, boasts over 1.2 million square feet of public space with an ample-size exhibit hall

that encompasses 350,000 square feet (Imagine a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier that fits perfectly inside). Ground-breaking occurred nearly three years ago on March 22, 2010, and was completed ahead of schedule with help from more than 7,300 people. The \$585 million dollar Music City Center opened its doors on May 19, 2013, but not without its share of challenges.

In 2006, while faced with difficulty in the site selection phase, key stakeholders joined together in a collaborative effort to begin the journey towards a new con-

vention center for Nashville. One of the difficulties associated with the site included a key NES substation for the downtown area. The relocation took place near Peabody Street in Nashville's SoBro district. Nashville Electric Service decided to take advantage of the opportunity and was able to build a state of the art gas insulated substation and move overhead power lines and equipment underground along Sixth Avenue. To coincide with the Music City Center and improve aesthetics in the area, the relocated substation now has an attractive façade that achieves a welcomed change south of downtown.

One additional complication with the site selected for the convention center was the fact that the Bridgestone Arena, which is located across Demonbreun Street to the north,

*(continued on page 2)*



*Photo Courtesy of Aerial Innovations of Tennessee*

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## Reaching Our Goals Takes a Team Effort

by David Harrell, PE  
President, ACEC of Tennessee

I have been President for just over two months. During this time, I have had the opportunity to meet with several of our committees and committee chairs and am very pleased with the effort that is taking place. As I noted in my previous article, it is going to take active participation and hard work by all of us if we are going to keep ACEC of Tennessee relevant to both the engineering companies and stakeholders in our state.



**David Harrell**

Two of the ACEC of Tennessee goals established to stay relevant are:

- we will become recognized by all engineering companies in Tennessee as their primary resource on business practices and their legislative advocate for the promotion and protection of their business interest
- we will become recognized by all stakeholders in the built environment as the voice of Tennessee's engineering industry.

We accomplish these goals by being able to demonstrate that we bring value to not just the engineering consulting community, but to our community as a whole. This is sometimes a difficult and tenuous task as the needs and desires of our fellow firms do not always appear to mesh with the needs and desires of the stakeholders we serve. However, all of the stakeholders of this state must be seen as our partners and not our adversaries.

As we move head long into football season, I would offer these observations. Unlike football, our organization cannot effectively and consistently win at the expense of another. We only truly win when our efforts on the playing field translate into victories for the stakeholders of this state. Whether it is the general public, our clients or any other group we must first and foremost be viewed as a team member with the common goal of making the state of Tennessee a great place to live, work and play.

The work we are doing today is part of an entire season, not a single play or even a single game. We may have setbacks along the way but we must keep to the game plan and affix our eyes on the big picture. When we are able to do this, it is then, and only then, that we will achieve the goals we established at the beginning of this year.

## Music City Center *(continued from page 1)*

utilized a tunnel under Demonbreun and accessed from Sixth Avenue for their truck deliveries. The access to this tunnel was in the middle of the new convention center. As part of the design and construction of the Music City Center, this tunnel was extended under the new convention center all the way to Korean Veteran's Boulevard and the truck access for both the convention center and the Bridge-stone Arena were consolidated to one entrance off of Korean Veteran's Boulevard near Seventh Avenue.

A facility of this size requires operational efficiency and ease of use at its prime input. If you're flying above downtown, you might notice that on the convention center's rolling 15 acre roof, there are four acres of planted green roof that include 14 different varieties of vegetation. You might ask yourself how one facility spends the amount of resources it takes to water four acres of rooftop. Beneath the Music City Center, a 360,000-gallon underground rain-water tank collects stormwater runoff which is then used to flush the nearly 500 toilets in the building and irrigate outdoor landscaping.

The Music City Center is a celebrated addition to Middle Tennessee. While there were obstacles to overcome in the construction process, the Music City Center has risen to become one of Nashville's most highlighted structures.

## MEMBER NEWS

- **Jon Sparkman, PE**, has been named principal and office leader for **Stantec's** new Chattanooga office.
- **Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon** has added Evie Miller as Marketing Coordinator.
- **Geotechnology, Inc.** has introduced the GeoPort Field Information Management System (FIMS), a new client interface and document management system that allows easy access to Construction Materials Testing reports.

# The Engineering Excellence Awards Are Coming!

## Entries due November 1

**T**he definition of 'excellence': the quality of being outstanding; extremely good.

Being excellent isn't easy, but engineers do it every day. Each year ACEC of Tennessee provides 13 opportunities to put the spotlight on your projects at the Engineering Excellence Awards. The competition recognizes engineering firms for work that demonstrates a high degree of achievement, value, and ingenuity. The Grand Iris Award is considered "Best in Show" and is presented to the project judged to be the best overall in competition. 12 additional awards are handed out in each of the 12 project categories. New this year is a People's Choice category that



will give everyone at the Awards Gala a chance to vote on their favorite project. The Engineering Excellence Awards provides a chance for firms to receive statewide recognition and the bragging rights that come with a prestigious EEA win.

Entries for the Engineering Excellence Awards must be submitted by November 1, 2013. A Call for Entry postcard was included in this newsletter for ACEC of TN members. Or, you can also find the entry form online at [www.acectn.org/callentry.htm](http://www.acectn.org/callentry.htm). For additional information, contact Judy Logue at (615)

242-2486 or [jlogue@tnec.org](mailto:jlogue@tnec.org).

## Thank You, Annual Meeting Sponsors!

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## Legal Issues Addressed at East Tennessee Chapter Meeting

**T**he East Tennessee Chapter of ACEC of Tennessee met in July to hear a presentation by attorney David Draper of Lewis King, Krieg & Waldrop. Draper discussed *Contractual Indemnity - Understanding the "Risks" of Risk Transfer*. The East Tennessee Chapter meets quarterly in Knoxville.



Joe Ledford, Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon; Mike Stomer, S&ME; and Sam Mayes, Management Solutions



David Draper, featured speaker, and Liz Porter, S&ME

## SEPTEMBER

# 12-13

ACEC/TSPE/ASCE

Annual Meeting

Embassy Suites

Mufreesboro

## OCTOBER

# 27-30

ACEC Fall Conference

Scottsdale, AZ

## NOVEMBER

# 1

2014 Engineering

Excellence Awards

Entry Deadline

## NOVEMBER

# 28-29

ACEC of TN/TSPE

Offices Closed

Thanksgiving Holiday

Tennessee Engineering Center  
800 Fort Negley Boulevard  
Nashville, TN 37203

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## SEPTEMBER 2013 INSIDE

- **Engineering The Music City Center** – page 1
- **EEA Call for Entries** – page 3
- **East TN Chapter Meeting Photos!** – page 3

## ACEC of TN is Social!

For more up-to-date news, photos, and events from ACEC of TN, find us on Facebook & follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn!



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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### *More Ways to Participate this Fall!*

by *Candy Toler*  
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

It may be football season and the promise of the changing of the colors in our beautiful landscape, but the fall brings engineers a wide variety of ways to participate in ACEC of Tennessee.



**Candy Toler**

#### **Tennessee Engineers' Conference**

It's not too late to register for the Annual Meeting and Professional Development Conference September 12-13! The conference promises to be a great one, if the education lineup is any indication. The draft schedule is on [www.acectn.org](http://www.acectn.org), under "What's New?" We expect more than 300 people at the Embassy Suites Murfreesboro. Get your professional development hours, including Ethics, for the year and catch up with your colleagues across the state. You might even meet a potential teaming partner. A link to registration is on ACEC of Tennessee's website also.

Mark Cates, Governor Haslam's Chief of Staff, is the featured speaker at the Tennessee Engineering Foundation luncheon and it's not too late to buy a table and support the engineers' educational founda-

tion. The TEF supports scholarships for engineering students and STEM-related activities such as MATH-COUNTS.

The Welcome Reception, with its Tennessee Professional Engineers' PAC Auction, will be fun. 2014 is an election year and we need to be prepared to support legislative candidates sympathetic to engineers' issues. If you will not be at the Auction, please contribute an item to be sold or just write a check to TPE PAC!

#### **Engineering Excellence Awards**

It's Call for Entries time in the Engineering Excellence Awards program and ACEC members will find an insert in this newsletter with more information about the 2014 program. The details on the requirements are on the EEA tab on our website. It's not too early to start thinking about that special project that will be substantially complete in 2013. Local, state, and federal officials can encourage the engineers on their projects to enter, too. The only limitation is that the project must be managed in a Tennessee office.

#### **ACEC Conference in Scottsdale, AZ**

ACEC's fall conference will be in Scottsdale, Arizona, October 27-30. The four-day conference features former Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels, FHWA Administrator Victor Mendez, and much more. Details are at [www.acec.org](http://www.acec.org).

Now's the time to **participate!**