

The Voice

NOVEMBER 2013

Voice

ACEC
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING
COMPANIES OF TENNESSEE

THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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You Gotta Get That App!

by: *Charlie Smith, PE*
Associate Partner,
Hanson Professional Services

Who remembers sitting in a living room watching a slide show of a friend's vacation to Nebraska? It was mildly interesting - for about the first two minutes.

Thanks to technology we no longer have to suffer the agony of "just one more reel" of the kids standing in front of the Corn Palace or the world's largest ball of stamps. Love it or hate it the advancement of digital technology and the ease of Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest and others sure to follow have



Charlie Smith

changed the way we live and share information. We no longer have to go to the time and expense of processing film, and our formerly captive friends are free to enjoy or ignore our posted photos. Thank you, "Apps." Even though the development of these little programs is still relatively new, they are quickly maturing into an enormous variety of uses that can save time and money in our work as well (Angry Birds and Words with Friends not included). Whether you are an engineer, a planner, a politician, or the general public, there are a wide variety of Apps that can produce valuable information at your fingertips. Following are just a few examples that apply to our work or can assist our clients and the public we serve.

Public Safety and Information Apps—The state of Tennessee has produced several Apps

that are helpful for quickly getting important or useful information. For the traveling public, the TDOT Smartway Mobile App provides information on roadway conditions, congestion and traffic speeds, access to traffic cameras, construction zones, and more. TEMA has also produced the ReadyTN App intended to "provide enhanced situational awareness during emergencies." Combining information from TDOT, TEMA, the Red Cross and the National Weather Services, the App provides information about emergency alerts, weather, road conditions, local contacts, emergency shelters, and more.

Engineering and Planning Apps—If you check out the App Store or sites like Apps-Catalog.com you will find an impressive array of free and paid Apps to assist with everything from Aerospace design to Waste-water Management and everything in between. There are myriad calculation and reference tools for HVAC, concrete and steel, environmental impacts, hydraulics, pilings, traffic counts, land use maps, bike routes, transit maps and schedules, seismic zones, building codes, electrical engineering, CAD and BIM viewers, survey tools, client relationship management, and you name it.

Public Engagement Apps—engineering organizations and public interest groups have joined the App age as well. A few notable options include the 2013 Report Card for Americas's Infrastructure App and the I'm Stuck App.

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Engineers Seen as Trusted Messengers

by David Harrell, PE
President, ACEC of Tennessee

As I watched and read the news on the partial government shutdown, I came across a recent Gallup poll taken after the shutdown began. The poll noted that Americans



David Harrell

approval rating of Congress has dipped to 11%.

While reviewing the poll I was reminded of a Gallup poll I saw nearly a year ago that asked the question, "How would you rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in various professions?" The list of 45

professions included doctors, lawyers, teachers, various elected officials and even the clergy. Of all those listed only nurses and pharmacists scored higher than engineers. Of those polled, 70% rated the honesty and ethical standards of engineers as very high or high, while nurses and pharmacists scored 85% and 75% respectively.

The poll tells us that the vast majority of people generally believe what we have to say about engineering related issues. However, as a group we rarely speak out on these issues. We need to be more willing to step up to the plate as experts in the field and take advantage

of opportunities to interact with our fellow citizens and even our elected officials.

The first week of October, I attended the Tennessee County Services Association Conference in Chattanooga. While at the conference I sat in on a meeting of the Tennessee County Highway Officials where the Chairman of the House Transportation Committee, Rep. Vince Dean, was speaking about the shortfalls of the state gas tax. He noted that after the election in 2014 there would likely be a willingness in the state legislature to pass some type of legislation that would address the issue in some manner. He encouraged all of us to contact our legislators to make them aware of the need and why the need exists.

This is a perfect opportunity for engineers to speak out on an issue not only of great importance to us but to all of the citizens of this state as well. Next year our Public Relations Committee will be rolling out a presentation to inform Tennesseans about the condition of our state's infrastructure and the need to address the funding shortfall and create some funding mechanism that is sustainable. Don't let yourself be found standing on the sidelines waiting for some other group to carry the message. After all, who better than the honest and ethical engineer to deliver a message of such high importance to our state?

Welcome New Members!

Broadway Electric Service Corporation
1800N. Central Street
Knoxville, TN 37917
(865) 524-1851

David Foster, PE
dfoster@besco.com

Broadway Electric Service Corp. provides electrical, mechanical, structural and controls services for engineering and construction.

Logan Patri Engineering, Inc.
630-C Southgate Ave.
Nashville, TN 37203
(615) 726-2902

Rao Patri, PE, S.E.
rpatri@loganpatriengineering.com

Logan Patri Engineering, Inc. is a structural engineering firm that specializes in the design of hospitals, buildings, office spaces – regular and seismic structures.

Swift Creek, Inc.
249 Blackwell Farm Road
Clarksville, TN 37421
(423) 994-5976

Bill Johnson, PE
billjohnson249@epbfi.com

Swift Creek, Inc. provides water and wastewater treatment system design and solid waste engineering services.

You Gotta Get That App!

(cont. from page 1)

The Report Card provides information in the form of reading material and video on what infrastructure is, what kind of shape it is in across 16 categories, and what it means to our country. The I'm Stuck App allows commuters (planes, trains, and automobiles) to directly email their specific U.S. congressmen in real time as they are delayed.

With the mass of Apps on the market, will any of them actually help you be more productive? Just like any other tool, you need to find the ones that meet your needs and learn to use them efficiently. When you do, you will find there are endless possibilities...right at your fingertips.

Tennessee Engineering Foundation Update

by Claire Barnett, PE, EnSafe Inc.
TEF President

2013 Report

In 2013, the Tennessee Engineering Foundation, with the support of engineering firms and organizations, was able to engage students in activities that advance and promote the engineering profession. Accomplishments include awarding three scholar-



Claire Barnett

ships totaling \$9,500 to three students studying engineering at Tennessee universities, continuing sponsorship of MATH-COUNTS for middle school students, and partnering with the Memphis Chapter of TSPE to provide a mechanism for charitable contributions to support the chapter's MATH-COUNTS program.

Thanks to the success of this year's TEF fundraising luncheon with Mark Cate, Chief of Staff for Governor Bill Haslam, we can continue to support students in the pursuit of engineering careers and ensure the continued success of our profession. The TEF board of directors sincerely thanks all of those who attended, sponsored, and

TEF Luncheon 2013



Eric Gardner, PE, Cannon and Cannon, Inc.; Amy Spann, PE, EnSafe Inc.



TEF Trustees: Bill Johnson, PE, Swift Creek; Claire Barnett, PE, EnSafe Inc.; and Jim Morinec, PE, AECOM



Ian Engstrom, PE, Smith Seckman Reid; David Young, PE, Volkert Inc.; and David Yates, PE, Volkert Inc.

worked behind the scenes to make the luncheon possible.

2014 Scholarships

The TEF looks forward to awarding four scholarships in 2014. Three TEF scholarships at \$3,500 each, are open to any rising junior or senior in an accredited engineering school in the state of Tennessee. The \$4,000 Dorothy & Arthur Crouch Memorial scholarship is open to any rising junior or senior in an accredited engineering school in the state of Tennessee as well as the child/grandchild of any TSPE member at the accredited school of choice (in or out of Tennessee) if all other requirements are met. The deadline for the scholarship applications is February 3, 2014.

The TEF board of directors plans to continue the programs we have in place and to investigate other STEM initiatives, partnerships, and fundraising opportunities that will allow us to expand our ability to support activities to promote the engineering profession.

Suggestions on how we can improve our work to accomplish our mission are welcome at any time. We also encourage all TSPE and ACEC of TN chapters to consider partnering with TEF to establish tax-deductible funds for your local scholarship and educational programs.

Find Us, Follow Us



www.facebook.com/ACECofTN



@acectn_tspe



www.linkedin.com/company/acectn

Educational Opportunities

Once again, the Crow Friedman Group will present a series of seminars in Knoxville, Nashville and Memphis in the month of December. Presentation titles for 2013 are: "Post-Project Reviews: Can You Afford Not to Do Them?" and "Contract Interpretation - What the Judge is Thinking When Deciding a Contract Dispute." The seminars are always popular and meet qualifications for four professional development hours. For more information, contact Candy Toler at ctoler@t nec.org.

- **December 4 - Knoxville**, The Foundry
747 World's Fair Park Drive, 8 a.m. - Noon
- **December 5 - Nashville**, Tennessee Engineering Center
800 Fort Negley Boulevard, 8 a.m. - Noon
- **December 6 - Memphis**, Ewing/Kessler Inc.
1630 Century Center Parkway, 8 a.m. - Noon

CALENDAR

**NOVEMBER
18**

ACEC of TN
PR Committee
10 am at TEC,
Nashville

**NOVEMBER
19**

ACEC of TN
Environment
Committee
1 pm at TDEC,
Nashville

**DECEMBER
5**

TDOT Audit Seminar
1-4 pm at TEC,
Nashville
*ACEC Members
Only*

Information:
ctoler@t nec.org

**DECEMBER
12**

ACEC of TN Board
10 am at TEC,
Nashville

**FEBRUARY
16-22**

Engineers' Week

**MARCH
11**

Engineers' Day on the
Hill

Engineering Excellence
Awards Banquet

Tennessee Engineering Center
800 Fort Negley Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37203

Return Service Requested

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Member News

- **Gresham Smith and Partners** has added **Jenifer Hall** as marketing coordinator in its corporate services division and **David Tocci, EIT**, as a civil engineer intern in the Land Planning and Design division.
- **K.S. Ware and Associates** has added **Kyle Peters, PE, CPESC**, as Senior Project Manager in its Nashville Office.
- **Littlejohn Engineering Associates** has added **Tom Dittmaier, PE**, as Senior Project Manager in its Knoxville office and Business Manager in its Johnson City office.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ACEC and the Foundation Working Together

by *Candy Toler*
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

Both ACEC of Tennessee and the Tennessee Engineering Foundation have been encouraging students to get on the path to engineering while in middle and high school and stay on that path once they are in college.



Candy Toler

One way is the scholarships both offer every year. The qualifications vary but the intent is the same. ACEC of Tennessee has been involved with our national organization's scholarship program for over 10 years and the Foundation has been in the business of awarding scholarships since its inception in 1986.

The 2013 ACEC of TN Scholarship winners were Caleb Drummer, a senior in civil engineering at UT-Knoxville, and Nicholas True, a

mechanical engineering student at UT-Chattanooga.

Qualifications for scholarships include the requirement that students be entering their junior or senior years in 2014 in accredited engineering programs. There is an additional ACEC scholarship for structural engineering students who plan to enter graduate school.

Complete information about eligibility requirements for both the ACEC and TEF scholarships is at: <http://www.acectn.org/Scholar.htm>. The deadline for ACEC scholarship applications is January 24, 2014. State ACEC and TEF winners will be announced next spring.

The Foundation also supports programs in middle and high schools related to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math across the state and I have been pleased to learn that many engineering firms partner with school systems across the state. Together, the two organizations demonstrate their commitment to education and the future of the engineering profession.