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President's Message *by Joe Makar, P.E.*



The November 2, 2010 general election is over. Now our work begins to meet with legislators to advocate for infrastructure funding and other issues of importance to our member firms. Legislators understand the need for funding infrastructure; however they have many competing demands, including “no increase in taxes”. In order to be heard, as constituents we must meet with our local legislators to explain the effect of infrastructure improvements on the economy. The goal is to increase the Transportation Trust Fund to meet the underfunded infrastructure needs, as well as to maintain

the integrity of the Fund. Trying to achieve this goal with a structural deficit looming over the General Fund is no easy task. We also need to discuss the negative implications on the economy of taxing professional services. In addition to meeting with legislators in your District, it is important to show strong support in Annapolis at the upcoming Maryland General Assembly session, including the ACEC/MD Legislative Action Day on January 20, 2011 in Annapolis.

Semi- Annual MDOT Modal Meeting: On November 17, 2010 each mode of the Maryland Department of Transportation gave the status of their programs for the next year. The overall message was that flat is the new up, and it appears that the programs will be maintained. All agencies talked about the focus on system preservation, which includes all transportation facilities, including roads, bridges, transit and maintenance facilities, which is good for all firms in our organization. There was also a discussion on the depletion of “shelf jobs” with the stimulus program and the need to replenish “shelf projects”. This requires the design of projects, which is also good for our industry.

Local Transportation Funding Initiatives: The Governor’s “Blue Ribbon Commission on Maryland Transportation Funding” is moving ahead with its mission to look at the transportation funding issues and provide recommendations on how to fund “much needed” infrastructure improvements. ACEC/MD is tracking the progress, providing input and looking for an opportunity to make a formal presentation.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
/ UPCOMING EVENTS**

January 20, 2011

ACEC/MD's Legislative Action Day

Annapolis, MD. Featuring morning visitations with elected officials and a luncheon in an informal setting. Contact the ACEC/MD office with both your firm's legislative district and home district.

February 1-4

Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Communities: Opportunities in Expanding Markets

San Antonio, TX. Sponsored by ACEC. To register or for questions, contact La'Creshea Makonnen at 202.682.4338 or lmakonnen@acec.org.

February 17

ACEC/MD Awards Banquet

Baltimore, MD. For reservations contact the ACEC/MD office at 410.539.1592 or acecmd@aol.com.

March 9-11

4th Annual Transportation & Infrastructure Convention

Washington, DC. Presented by Dean International. For information call 214.750.0123 or go to www.transportationsummit.com.

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**Awards Banquet:** Remember to put on your calendar the ACEC/MD Awards Banquet and General Membership Meeting on February 17, 2011. There are many good projects that have been shortlisted and we look forward to congratulating all entries on their successful projects. In addition, we will honor the 2011 President's Award winner, and the Young Engineer and Community Service award winners.

I wish everyone a safe and joyous Holiday Season, and a prosperous New Year!

**ACEC/MD Rolls Out 2011 Business Agenda**

The 2011 General Assembly Session convenes on January 12, 2011, and your Legislative Committee, chaired by McCormick Taylor's Dana Knight, has been laying the ground work for success in what promises to be a very challenging 90 days.

In addition to a record number of legislative breakfast held during the Fall and Winter, individual meetings have been conducted in the interim with House Ways & Means Committee Chair Sheila Hixson and newly-appointed Chair of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee Ed Kasemeyer.

In order to individualize and illustrate the unfunded projects in legislators' districts, CEPAC Chair Alan Straus (URS Corporation) and Legislative Committee member Sean McCone (Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson) developed a graphic demonstration of unfunded SHA projects. In addition, legislators have been advised of the financial impact of the numerous environmental regulations that have dramatically grown since the last gas tax increase in 1992.

We would like to express our appreciation to member firms Whitney, Bailey, Cox & Magnani, Michael Baker, Jr., Inc., RJM Engineering, McCormick Taylor, and A. Morton Thomas & Associates for hosting these important legislative breakfasts.

While elected officials appear to understand the need to address the transportation crises, among some legislators there is a reticence to commit to supporting a gas tax increase due to the lack of integrity in the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) and gas prices that are hovering around \$3.00 per gallon. This is where you, their constituents, need to make your voice heard.

Led by ACEC/MD's Transportation Funding Subcommittee Chair Steve Zentz (Rummel, Klepper & Kahl), ACEC/MD has also played an integral role in assisting the Greater Baltimore Committee in organizing a coalition that consists of 40 business groups including the Maryland Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Washington Board of Trade.

In addition to championing additional infrastructure funding in the state of Maryland, ACEC/MD continues to be vigilant to ensure that legislation is not introduced that would tax engineering services. While we were recently told by House Ways & Means Committee Chair Sheila Hixson that the tax is not being considered, with a \$1.6-billion structural deficit looming we cannot afford to let our guard down.

Firms can assist in the Legislative Committee's efforts by:

- Contacting their elected officials to share their viewpoint on these important issues.
- Responding to Legislative Alerts issued by ACEC/MD.
- Attending ACEC/MD's Legislative Action Day on January 20, 2011.
- Providing ACEC/MD with the legislative districts of both the firm and employees.

ACEC/MD's 2011 Business Agenda was officially rolled out at the Annual Legislative Breakfast, as follows:

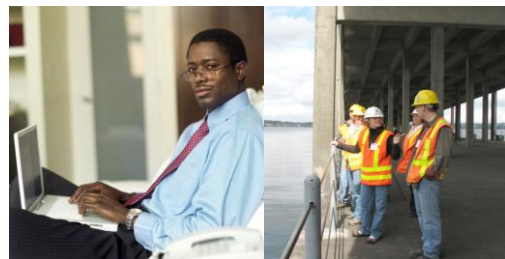
**INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING** Maryland is facing an **infrastructure crisis**. To maintain the state's economic competitiveness and viability, it is critical that we invest now to build new infrastructure systems and replace aging ones. Infrastructure includes transit systems, roads and bridges, water and wastewater distribution networks, schools, public buildings and the energy grid.



**Spending on much needed design and construction of these systems provides immediate jobs and economic benefits for the entire economy.**

**For example, the state portion of the motor vehicle fuel tax has remained 23.5- cents per gallon since 1992. As a percentage of the cost of gas, the state tax was 21% in 1992 and is just 8% in 2010.**

**ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT NOW WILL:**



**CREATE MANY TYPES OF JOBS AND STIMULATE THE ECONOMY**

**EXTEND THE LIFE OF OUR EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC**



The tax would need to increase to 61-cents per gallon in 2010 just to maintain the same percentage based on a \$2.90 per gallon gas price. Failure to secure adequate state funds will place federal matching funds for transportation projects in jeopardy.

**TRANSPORTATION FUNDING** An immediate increase in transportation funding (2011 legislative session) will stimulate Maryland's economy and create jobs building needed transportation improvements.

Without funding, jobs will leave Maryland. Roads, bridges and transit systems will continue to decay and our quality of life will suffer.

Few new projects are being designed, which has led to unemployment of engineers and will lead to unemployment of construction workers when stimulus projects are finished.

### PUT "TRUST" BACK INTO THE TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND

ACEC/MD supports policies/legislation that ensures transportation revenues are only used for transportation projects

**TAXES ON PROFESSIONAL SERVICES** ACEC/MD strongly discourages a tax on professional services.

- This tax would hurt Maryland firms as it would not apply to out of state firms doing work in Maryland. Professional jobs will move out of Maryland.
- It has been proven in several other states that the burden and cost of administering the plan is significant.
- Many of our firms perform work for the state. Taxing them would increase the cost to the state by the same amount as the tax.

**MINORITY BUSINESS/SMALL BUSINESS SUBCONTRACTING** ACEC/MD supports legislative initiatives in Maryland to enhance participation of small, minority-owned businesses on state-funded contracts. We also support the following:

- ACEC/MD supports Maryland's Small Business Reserve Program, and is currently working with State agencies to utilize this program more frequently in engineering and related services sectors.
- One third of ACEC/MD member firms are small businesses or small minority-owned/disadvantaged businesses (MBE/DBE's). All of our member firms collaborate with each other to continue to provide high-quality engineering services while meeting the State's MBE/DBE subcontracting goals.



- Our legislative agenda priorities: infrastructure funding, taxes on professional services and qualifications based selection (QBS), profoundly affect the viability of small and MBE/DBE engineering and related services firms in Maryland.
- Any small/minority business participation goals should be based on the availability of firms that are professionally qualified, and are ready and able to provide the requested services.

**QUALIFICATIONS-BASED SELECTION (QBS)** The procurement of engineering and related services is one of the most important parts of the process for ensuring quality in a constructed project. A qualifications-based selection (QBS) process allows the owner to choose the firm determined to be the most qualified based on objective criteria. **Selecting the most qualified firm results in the least expensive project over the long run**, as a high quality design phase will result in less expensive construction and maintenance costs.

### ACEC/MD Legislative Action Day

Thursday, January 20, 2011 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Governor Calvert House  
58 State Circle, Annapolis

***Legislative visitations commencing at 8:30 AM.***

The Council's Legislative Committee and CEPAC (the Consulting Engineers Political Action Committee) invite you to attend an informal luncheon with members of the Maryland General Assembly.

**For more information on this program and to register, contact the ACEC/MD office at 410-539-1592 or [acecmd@acecmd.org](mailto:acecmd@acecmd.org).**

### Awards Banquet Sponsorships Available

The American Council of Engineering Companies/Maryland (ACEC/MD) is pleased to offer interested firms the opportunity to cosponsor the ACEC/MD Awards Banquet. This annual event recognizes all finalists in our Engineering Excellence Awards Program, along with the recipients of the President's Award, the Young Professional of the Year Award, and the ACEC/MD Community Service Award. The banquet will be held at the historic Garrett-Jacobs Mansion, 11 West Mount Vernon Place, Baltimore, on Thursday, February 17, 2011 from 6:00 – 9:00 PM.

Member firms, suppliers to the industry, and other interested parties are invited to participate in this celebration by co-sponsoring the event. Included in this sponsorship are:

- *Recognition on a sign board posted at the event.*
- *Acknowledgement in the March-April, 2011 ACEC/MD Newsletter.*
- *Advertisement in the February 17, 2011 event program.*



The investment for sponsoring the February 17, 2011 event is only:

|                 |                                                            |          |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <u>Platinum</u> | <i>inside front or back cover (6½" high x 4½" wide)*</i>   | \$750.00 |
| <u>Gold</u>     | <i>full page <u>vertical</u> ad (6½" high x 4½" wide)*</i> | \$500.00 |
| <u>Silver</u>   | <i>½ page <u>horizontal</u> ad (3½" high x 4½" wide)*</i>  | \$250.00 |
| <u>Bronze</u>   | <i>Business card ad*</i>                                   | \$100.00 |

(Please note: Platinum and Gold ads must be portrait; Silver and Bronze ads must be landscape.)

\* Ad must adhere to the layout and size requirements; otherwise ACEC/MD is not responsible for the appearance.

To take advantage of this opportunity, email your color ad (.pdf or .jpg format) to [acecmd@acecmd.org](mailto:acecmd@acecmd.org) or [acecmd@aol.com](mailto:acecmd@aol.com) by the close of business on January 24, 2011. For further information, please contact the ACEC/MD office at 410-539-1592.

We hope that you will join us in this celebration of "Excellence in Engineering," and at the same time take advantage of this chance to promote your company's name.

### ACEC/MD's Newest Fellows Honored

It was great to once again have the Fellows Committee host ACEC/MD's December General Membership Meeting. Recognized at this event were ACEC/MD's newest Fellows – former Whitney, Bailey, Cox & Magnani (WBCM) principals Richard Magnani, P.E. and David Mongan, P.E., along with ACEC/MD Immediate Past President Michael W. Myers, P.E.

ACEC/MD Fellows are individuals who have been principals of a member firm for not less than five years at the time of their election and have notably contributed to the advancement of consulting engineering in administrative leadership, design, science, by literature, in education or by service to the profession.

It is with extreme pleasure that we acknowledge the following newly appointed Fellows of ACEC/MD:

#### **MICHAEL W. MYERS, P.E.**

ACEC/MD Past President Mike Myers, is a Partner with RK&K, responsible for the firm's water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, utility relocation, hazardous waste, natural gas/petroleum, energy, water resources/stream restoration and GIS/programming services throughout the firm's area of operations. Mike has over 25 years of experience in civil and environmental engineering, and is a registered professional engineer in Maryland and six other jurisdictions.

Prior to joining RK&K, Mike was an officer and sanitary engineer in the U.S. Army stationed in Denver, Colorado, and was responsible for assisting Army installations located west of the Mississippi River to comply with water, wastewater and hazardous waste regulations. After completing

active duty, Mike began his RK&K career in 1990 as a design engineer, was promoted in 1995 to associate and in 2008, was invited into the partnership.

He graduated from Penn State in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and in 1989 earned a Master's Degree in Business Management from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri. In addition to being a past president, Mike has served ACEC/MD as Alternate National Director, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director and Chair of the Environmental Committee, and is a graduate of the inaugural ACEC/MD Leadership Program in 2000. He is also a member of Maryland Association of Engineers, County Engineers Association of Maryland, Society of American Military Engineers, Water Environment Federation and American Waterworks Association.

**RICHARD MAGNANI, P.E.**

Dick Magnani retired in 2002 as a Principal from WBCM, which he helped to found in 1977. He remains employed with WBCM on a part time basis as a Consultant. Prior to the formation of WBCM in 1977, Dick was an Associate with Ewell, Bomhardt and Associates (EBA) and was Chief Structural Engineer.

Dick received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the Johns Hopkins Evening College in 1967 and has taken graduate courses in Structural Engineering at the Catholic University and the University of Maryland. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in the Maryland and nine other States. For the past several years, he has been a consultant to the Board of Registration for Engineers, advising the Board on complaints filed against structural engineers.

Dick is a Past President of the Building Congress and Exchange of Metropolitan Baltimore, and the Maryland Chapter of the American Concrete Institute, and he remains active in the BC&E as a member of the Craftsmanship Awards Committee.

A long time active member of the Engineering Society of Baltimore, Dick has served as a Director for fifteen years, and was chair of the Associate Council. He has been involved with the Engineers Week Council since 1987, and has overseen the fund raising activities for Engineers Week for the past seventeen years, and chaired the Engineers Week Awards Committee for ten years. Dick has also been involved with the updating and implementation of the Master Plan for the restoration and improvements of the historic Garrett-Jacobs Mansion.

He was a member of the Board of Directors for the Baltimore Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, representing the Baltimore AIA Affiliates, and was only the second non-architect and the first engineer to serve as a Baltimore AIA board member.

For the past nineteen years, Dick has been a member of the School Board's Advisory Council for Career and Technology Education for Baltimore County, which he chaired for three years.

Dick has been active on ACEC/MD's liaison committee with the Department of General Services, and is currently Chair of the Advisory Council for the Department of Civil Engineering of the Johns Hopkins University.

**DAVID MONGAN, P.E.**

David Mongan retired last year as the President of WBCM.

Dave is active with the American Society of Civil Engineers at the National Level and served as President in 2008. He has been the District 5 Director, Zone 1 Vice President, Treasurer, and served as chair of numerous committees. The Past Chair of the Council on Federal Procurement of Architectural and Engineering Services, David is also past member of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, past member of the Board of Directors of the Engineering Society of Baltimore, and past Co-Chair of the ACEC-MD Legislative Committee.

In addition to serving on the Maryland State Board For Professional Engineers, he is the incoming Chair-Elect of the American Association of Engineering Societies and is a member of the Board of Direction for Engineers Without Borders-USA. He received the ASCE Maryland Section's Civil Engineer of the Year Award in 1998 and the Engineering Society of Baltimore's Engineer of the Year Award in 1999. In 2003 he was awarded the William H. Wisely American Civil Engineer Award by ASCE. Dave holds a Bachelors and Masters of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Maryland and a Masters in Business Administration from Loyola College of Baltimore, Maryland.

**Sponsors Needed for New Student Outreach Initiative**

While the engineering industry continues to suffer from a lack of funding for sustainable projects, it does not take a crystal ball to determine that when the recovery hits full stride the profession will suffer from a dearth of young talent.

Starting in 2011, the ACEC/MD Executive Committee would like to change course in providing give-a-ways at career outreach events. Because of numerous restrictions on the type of items that can be given to students, the ACEC/MD Public Relations Committee chaired by Jacob's Jenny Radech has been tasked with selecting items that would be permitted in schools. In addition, to better carry the message of the valuable benefits that engineers provide to society, the committee has developed a new logo that depicts the various types of projects that our member firms undertake. This approach would eliminate the need for firms to provide items with their logos that often cannot be distributed to prospective



employees.

We are calling on all member firms to assist in this important initiative by becoming a sponsor at one of the following levels:

Gold Sponsorship - \$500

Supporting Sponsor - \$250

All sponsors will have their logos featured in a slideshow/board displayed at the event where the items are distributed and at ACEC/MD's events, including the Spring MDOT Modal Program.

By January 10, 2011, so that your firm can be recognized as supporting ACEC/MD's career outreach efforts, please advise the ACEC/MD office of your interest in cosponsoring this initiative.

## Member News

**A.D. MARBLE & COMPANY** is proud to announce that the firm is celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**AECOM** is pleased to announce the recent promotions of the following:

- **Ash Kumta, P.E.** – Vice President, Transit/Rail Market Segment
- **Christopher Fronheiser, P.E.** – Associate Vice President, Highway/Bridge Market Segment

**AMERICAN GEOTECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (AGES)** is pleased to announce that the firm is celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**GMB**, celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, recently announced that after forty years with the firm former ACEC and ACEC/MD President **James R. Thomas, Jr., P.E.** will retire. The firm's new President and Managing Member effective January 1, 2011 is **James (Jim) H. Wiley, Jr.** Please update your membership information to reflect this change. We wish both of them well in their new endeavors!

**JAMES POSEY ASSOCIATES (JPA)** announced **Thomas M. Clippinger, P.E., LEED AP; Patrick J. Marquez, P.E., LEED AP;** and **Michael P. Sherren, P.E., LEED AP** were elected Associate Principals. All three are Project Managers and long-term employees of the firm.

**KCI TECHNOLOGIES, INC.** has appointed Executive Vice President **Harvey M. Floyd, P.E.** and Senior Vice President **Joseph J. Siemek, P.E.** to its Board of Directors. Harvey was recently named discipline manager for the firm's companywide Transportation Discipline, while Joe serves as operations manager for the firm's Telecom/Utilities Discipline.

**URBAN ENGINEERS** was recently honored by PENJERDEL Council as the 2010 Company of the Year.

**WHITMAN, REQUARDT & ASSOCIATES, LLP** was recently named to the Baltimore Business Journal's Top 50 list of fastest-growing private companies based in the Baltimore area.

**WBCM** recently welcomed **Stephen Udzinski, P.E.** as Chief Engineer for the firm's Highway and Environmental Water Resources Engineering Groups.

### Baltimore County Career Technology Advisory Council Seeks New Member

There is an opening for an individual to serve on the Career and Technology Education Advisory Council of the Baltimore County Public Schools.

This three-year appointment would assist the school system in ensuring a quality career and technology education experience for every student. It is expected that the appointee would attend four meetings per year commencing in September, 2011 and their Annual Banquet. For more information, please contact EBA's Kunal Gangopadhyay ([kunal@ebaengineering.com](mailto:kunal@ebaengineering.com)) or WBCM's Richard Magnani ([rmagnani@wbcm.com](mailto:rmagnani@wbcm.com)).

### Seeking Employment/Internship

The following individuals are seeking employment/internship and have complete resumes on file in the ACEC/MD office. Please phone 410-539-1592 if you are interested in obtaining a copy.

1. Bachelor of Science Degree holder with 15 years of experience in **Electrical Engineering** seeks position.
2. Junior working toward a Bachelor Degree in **Mechanical Engineering** at Elizabethtown College seeks internship position during the summer of 2011.

### Save The Date!

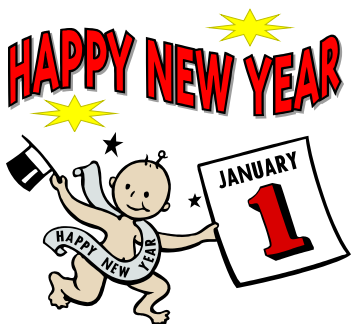
#### ACEC/MD 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference

The Greenbrier

White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia

**Questions on the Conference?** Contact Jim Otradovec at 410.539.1592 or [acecmd@aol.com](mailto:acecmd@aol.com).

**June 15-17, 2011**



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