



John Nelson, President ACEC of Maine

By John Nelson

Belated wishes for a successful New Year for you and your firms. It is hard to believe that we are already into February and that I am writing this letter a mere two hours before Super Bowl kickoff. If only ten percent of

the money spent on Super Bowl hype could be diverted towards infrastructure improvements, ACEC and our firms would be extremely happy. Perchance to dream...oh well, back to the letter, because the Doritos are getting stale and Patriots and Giants are gearing up.

Since my last letter, ACEC of Maine held a successful Fall Forum and associated Engineering Excellence Awards luncheon. The Fall Forum focused on LEEDs/green design and challenges associated with our clients pushing perfection, rather than the traditional standard of care. Richard Graves of WBRC Architects conducted two sessions on the green issue, while a panel of Brian Ames of Ames A/E, Mike Herlihy of Ames & Gough, and Becky Farnum of Thompson & Bowie held court on standard of care issues. All who attended left with a better knowledge and appreciation of both topics.

The Engineering Excellence Awards luncheon was held after the Fall Forum sessions. Again we were grateful to Steve Bradstreet of Oak Engineers for running the EEA program. While the quality of the entries was outstanding, we were unfortunate to have only three submittals and hence per the current rules could only award one winner. Haley & Aldrich was awarded the Grand Conceptor Award for their project "Non-Stop Shopping", which used light weight geofoam fill to keep a bridge serving the Maine Mall open while it was being replaced. Wright-Pierce and Neill & Gunters, Inc. were given

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honor certificates. I believe that the number of entries was due to our ever increasing time constraints and we plan on publicizing next year's event sooner to encourage participation. This is truly a wonderful way to reward your clients and project team for the successful and innovative work that we do.

Jack Palmer of Kleinschmidt Associates, Past President, Paul Lariviere, Executive Director, and I had the pleasure of meeting with Congressman Michael Michaud recently to present him with a \$1,000 check from our national ACEC/PAC. We had a great conversation about the need for increased infrastructure funding, something which he is pushing in his transportation and economic development work. While not in the current economic stimulus package, he is encouraging his colleagues to include infrastructure investment in future stimulus efforts to assist our long-

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Save these Dates

February 26, 2008: Design-Construction Legislative Breakfast, Senator Inn, Augusta. Sponsored by ACEC of Maine, AIA of Maine and AGC of Maine

February 29, 2008: Engineers Week Banquet at 6:45 PM, Penobscot Valley CC, Orono

March 1, 2008: Engineers Week Exposition, University of Maine Field House, Orono

March 19, 2008: Annual Meeting, at the Augusta Civic Center. Maine DOT and Maine DEP Commissioners will be invited to attend.

May 2, 2008: Annual Board Retreat, Maple Hill Farm. An all day event for our Board of Directors

2008 FALL FORUM

The Board of Directors is considering holding our 2008 Fall Forum at the University of Maine campus in Orono. This would give us a chance to tour the facility, in particular the Gorrill-Palmer Consulting Engineers Soil Mechanics Laboratory in Boardman Hall. We would also hold sessions with both students and faculty for both of us to get a better understanding of our needs and how we both can assist in developing our future engineers and leaders. However, we are mindful of the membership survey that clearly indicated that location was extremely important, so we would like your feedback as to whether the Fall Forum in Orono would be something the membership is interested in attending. Please let Paul Lariviere know via phone or email.

Design-Construction Legislative Breakfast: The annual Design-Construction Legislative Breakfast will be held on February 26th at the Senator Inn in Augusta. Please invite your local senators and representatives, as well as those who you have a personal relationship with. Your attendance will also lend support to our cause and show our legislators that the design and construction industry is important to our state and our economy.

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term problems along with addressing these short-term needs. The ACEC/PAC has enabled us to have these important face-to-face meetings with Senator Snowe and Congressman Michaud in recent years and I challenge all of the leaders of our firms to make a contribution to the ACEC/PAC so that these dialogues can continue.

Our March Annual meeting is scheduled for March 19th, most likely at the Civic Center in Augusta. In response to the membership survey, we are hoping to have senior officials from both DOT and DEP to discuss project priorities, funding needs, regulatory changes, and other issues related to our firms. Hopefully, those senior officials will be the commissioners, but schedules need to be confirmed. These discussions will certainly be ones that all our firms will want to hear.

ACEC of Maine, along with AIA Maine and the Associated General Contractors, will be sponsoring another legislative breakfast on February 26th also at the Senator Inn. I encourage you to invite your local senators and representatives and to attend so that our voices are heard in Augusta. The A/E Legislative Task Force is also maintaining a watchful eye on legislative developments. Currently, there are no real hotbed topics, although we are always nervous about various tax reform proposals and their impact on our services.

Somewhat along those lines, the ACEC National Convention will be held in Washington from April 27 to April 30. I encourage all members to attend this educational convention. I also hope that many of us will be available to meet and greet our legislative delegation. Please let me know if you will be in Washington so that I can work with ACEC to get us an audience with our legislators.

There are a number of other initiatives that the Board of Directors is working on. First, we are holding our annual planning retreat on May 2nd. If you would like to participate, or if you have any issues that you would like us to discuss, please let us know. Second, we are working with the University of Maine, through Chet Rock, to develop an easy way to quantify how much engineering work is generated in Maine for non-Maine projects. We are often short-changed in the export argument and this will allow us to somewhat level the playing field. We will be seeking your input once the methodology is finalized. Third, a committee is working on a much needed redesign of our web site. We hope to have an RFP on the street soon. Fourth, the conversion to United Healthcare by the ACEC Life/Health Trust has been discussed by the Board. To say that we are not pleased with the conversion would be an understatement. On behalf of the Board and you, I have sent a letter to the Chairman of the trust and the President and Chairman of ACEC. We will continue to fight for improvements to the program on your behalf.

Enough for now as I need to go stir the chili and get back to the hype. Look forward to seeing you at the Legislative Breakfast on February 26th and the Annual Meeting on March 19th. Go Pats. Go Giants. We have to play both sides of the aisle at ACEC!

2008 Maine Engineers Week Events - Get Involved!

Maine Engineers Week Banquet on Friday February 29th - The Maine Engineering Promotion Council and its sponsors will host the Maine Engineers Week Banquet at the Penobscot Valley Country Club in Orono at 6:45 PM (social beginning at 5:30 PM). This year's banquet speaker will be Mike Fisher, NASCAR's Managing Director, Research and Development.

Mike spent 16 years in Detroit before joining NASCAR in North Carolina. He will give an inside view on how engineers have become an integral part of every NASCAR team, specializing in data collection and analysis, research and development in this highly competitive industry. This is an opportunity for engineers and their spouses, friends and family to gather, renew friendships and meet others in their profession. For more information or to register for the banquet, visit www.engineeringme.com or contact Be Schonewald, P.E. (be.schonewald@gza.com).

Maine Engineers Week 2008 Exposition - The Expo will be held at the University of Maine Field House in Orono on Saturday March 1, 2008 from 9 AM to 2 PM. This year's expo will be bigger than ever with over 1,000 children and adults expected to experience first hand the many contributions that Maine Engineers make to our communities and way of life. Thanks to our sponsors, the first 500 kids through the door receive a free T-shirt celebrating Maine Engineers Week.

Maine's top engineering firms, engineering schools, educators, government agencies, industry, and engineering societies will exhibit throughout the field house. Your participation will help encourage our youth to pursue careers in engineering and provide a diverse and vigorous workforce for the future. This is an outstanding opportunity to gain positive exposure for your organization while inspiring the next generation of engineers. Sign up your organization as an exhibitor by downloading the registration form at www.engineeringme.com or contact Chet Rock, P.E. at Chet_Rock@umit.maine.edu or (207) 581-2218. The registration deadline is February 17th. Space is limited so sign up early!

Maine Society of Professional Engineers Continuing Education Seminar on Friday February 29th - The banquet is preceded by the Maine Society of Professional Engineers and the University of Maine's full-day continuing education symposium at The Buchanon House at the University of Maine in Orono. The seminar will offer 6 PDH's; a buffet lunch; and refreshments throughout the day. Visit www.mespe.org for more information.



Pictured left to right:

John Nelson, ACEC of Maine President, Paul Lariviere, ACEC of Maine Executive Director, Congressman Mike Michaud, Jack Palmer, ACEC of Maine Immediate Past President.

The Maine Engineers Week activities could not happen without the support of Bath Iron Works, The Maine Department of Transportation, Fairchild Semiconductor, Stantec Consulting, University of Maine College of Engineering, S.W. Cole Engineering, Maine Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, The Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers, The University of Southern Maine, Maine Turnpike Authority, R.W. Gillespie & Associates, Sargent Corporation, our volunteers, and many other fine organizations.

For more information about 2008 Maine Engineers Week Events, visit www.engineeringme.com

ACEC of Maine PAC Initiative

We are just beginning a bright new year, 2008, and on behalf of the ACEC of Maine Board of Directors I would like to make a request of each of you. *Please consider a contribution to ACEC PAC.* We, as a profession, should consider the benefits derived from our very healthy and active national ACEC PAC. The list below is a brief account of activities for 2007. In addition, over the past two years, ACEC PAC has donated over \$5,000 to Maine's Congressional Delegation due to their support of the Engineering Community and legislation aimed at bolstering it. *Please consider a contribution to this worthwhile effort.*

ACEC/PAC = Legislative Success in 2007

- New 9% tax deduction for A/E firms
- "Opt out" fix to prevent state overhead caps, require recognition of single audit, enhance QBS
- New Fair Labor Standards Act regulations to ease compliance and avoid costly lawsuits
- New 6-year highway bill—30% increase in funding
- New energy bill stimulating power sector
- Defeated all major anti-outsourcing measures

Support of ACEC PAC translates into better futures for our firms, our careers, and our families. It's the single best investment we can make in our business. ACEC PAC is also the best protection we have against bad legislation that could cost ACEC members millions of dollars down the road. If we and our fellow ACEC members don't support ACEC PAC to help look out for our legislative/business interests, you can be sure that a competing, better funded organization will be only too happy to intervene – and the consequences could be serious and long lasting for our profession. This is our PAC; if we don't support it, no one else will.

The bottom line: we need your help to make 2008 the year that Maine makes a real contribution to the ACEC PAC. If our profession is really committed to making sure our Capitol Hill lobbying effort is as strong as it must be heading into a Congressional election year, then we need to do the work now.

ACEC of Maine is looking to start 2008 off right with a goal of contributing \$1,500; that's just \$25 from 60 of us (or better yet \$50)! I am asking for each of you to consider a donation today and to forward this request to your co-workers who are also committed to a great future. Please remember, these donations must be made on a personal check and are not tax deductible. Please make the check out to ACEC PAC, fill out the PAC Contribution Form at http://www.acec.org/advocacy/pac_contribution_form.pdf and mail it to the address indicated on that form.

Wishes for a bright and prosperous New Year!

Thanks for all of your help!

Dale Mitchell
PAC Champion
ACEC of Maine

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The QBS Newsletter

5 MRSA 1742: Approve selection of architects and engineers. To approve the selection of architects and engineers registered in Maine in the planning, design and monitoring of construction of public improvements consistent with the policy of this State that proposals for architectural and engineering services for public improvements be publicly announced, and that contracts for architectural and engineering services be negotiated by the contracting authority on the basis of evaluation of professional competency and qualifications required for the type of services contemplated at fair and reasonable prices.

The American Institute of Architects-Maine Chapter
The American Council of Engineering Companies of Maine
The Maine Society of Professional Engineers

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Please Post

QBS Facilitator Services

Last issue, we discussed the Maine QBS Booth at the Maine Municipal Convention. One of the ways that has been used to create interest in QBS is to have “Think QBS” scattered around the Exhibit Hall. Many of the members of one of the Sponsoring Organizations have graciously posted one of these signs in their own booth. As a result, Convention Attendees arrive at the QBS Booth having seen several “Think QBS” signs in other booths which has created some interest.

Even those that have some familiarity with the Maine QBS Program are not familiar with the Facilitator Services that are offered as a part of this program. Many are additionally surprised to know that the “Facilitator Services” are FREE to those that desire some assistance in using the QBS method of acquiring professional services. In the event there are readers of this Newsletter who are also unfamiliar with these services, we would share the following information.

The “Facilitator Services” that are provided by the Maine QBS Program are intended to assist the owner in a variety of areas. The Facilitator is available to make presentations to governing bodies, administrators or to the public on the purpose, benefits, and procedures that are related to the use of the QBS method of selection. Frequently many of the objections to the use of this method are the result of lack of information or understanding of the benefits. The Facilitator can also provide guidance in the

preparation of public advertisements or invitations to potential firms or individuals. The Facilitator does not and will not become involved in the actual selection of a professional firm or the evaluation of submissions but, if requested, the Facilitator will assist in the establishment of an evaluation process and help those that are doing the evaluations to better understand the process and what is expected to be accomplished.

The free services of the Facilitator provided by the Maine QBS Program are intended to not only supplement the “Owner Manual” that is a part of the material included in the Maine QBS Website but also help the Owner fully understand the value of the QBS Process. The published material that is on the Website is intended to be customized for specific projects and for specific applications. Frequently having some guidance on this task by an experienced Facilitator will make the work of the Owner’s Selection Committee much easier.

All of the contact information for the Maine QBS Program Facilitator, Richard A Eustis, is located below. Remember there is no cost for the services of the Facilitator.

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