



John Nelson, President ACEC of Maine

By John Nelson

As this will be my final letter as President, I want to thank you for allowing me to serve you and our organization.

The past two years have certainly flown by and I only hope that I leave the organization to Scott Graham

in the same wonderful shape that Jack Palmer left it to me. There are a number of hard working volunteers that make our organization thrive and I am deeply indebted to all the officers, Board members, committee members, Executive Director and members who put in endless hours looking out for our interests and moving ACEC of Maine forward. Ours is an organization that is indeed moving forward with an energetic Board leading the way.

Reflecting on the past two years, we have worked hard to improve our advocacy program, building on our historically strong A/E Legislative Task Force which does a great job at monitoring legislation coming out of Augusta and supporting issues that are important to the industry and opposing those that are not. We have taken steps to become more proactive, rather than reactive, and have had a number of meetings to position ACEC with other organizations to advocate for design-construction issues and broader infrastructure needs. This effort is finally starting to bear fruit.

Our advocacy effort began with discussions with the Maine Chamber, whose Board Chair happens to be one of our own, Jim Atwell from Sevee & Maher. We have had a number of discussions about developing a broad coalition of organizations that have an interest in infrastructure improvements, not only because they are needed, but necessary for economic development. We plan on continuing

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these discussions and very much appreciate Jim Atwell's leadership as we move the coalition forward.

We have also had a number of discussions with the Associated General Contractors of Maine. AGC has developed a strong advocacy program and has invited us to participate in a number of initiatives. A non-profit 501(c)(4) corporation, Venture Maine, has been created to advocate for improved public and private sector resources needed to develop and maintain public facilities, utilities and transportation infrastructure. I am pleased to have been asked to serve on the founding board. The corporation will provide a vehicle to promote both specific and general issues important to our industry. Currently, Venture Maine is implementing the Maine Plan to position us for the best and most efficient delivery of dollars from the stimulus program. A meeting with Governor Baldacci, his senior staff, and many industry representatives was recently held to discuss this plan and how best to coordinate our resources.

ACEC has also lent its support to the Maine Affordable Housing Coalition (MAHC), with Rip Patten attending a number of meetings. MAHC is advocating for an

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Save these Dates

March 10 - "Design/Construction Legislative Breakfast" - 7:30 AM Senator Inn

March 18 - "ACEC of Maine Annual Meeting" Senator Inn, Augusta

April 26-29 - "ACEC Annual Convention" Washington, DC

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aggressive program to increase the supply of affordable, energy-efficient housing. Part of the plan is also to renovate existing housing stock to make it more efficient. MAHC has many supporters and Senate President Mitchell is the prime sponsor of legislation with the backing of much of the leadership. This is a 10-year initiative with \$30 million in revenue bonds (up to \$200M) being issued backed by a dedicated portion of real estate transfer taxes. It is anticipated that these bonds, along with other tax credits, will attract additional federal and private monies that could approach \$2.5B.

I have also participated in a discussion about ways to reduce the \$50M annual gap between funding and need for water and wastewater infrastructure. Original discussions began with AGC, ACEC, Maine Wastewater Control Association, Maine Water Utilities Association and Maine Rural Water Association and have now expanded to involve representatives from DEP and Safe Drinking Water programs and some of the larger utilities in the State. We have a legislative sponsor willing to submit a bill for consideration that will authorize revenue bonds to be issued based on a dedicated income source. We are currently discussing what the income source should be. Should this bill not materialize we are confident that we can get a resolve passed that would further study the funding need and come up with recommendations for the next legislative session.

As you can imagine, we have also had many, many meetings to discuss the stimulus plan with a number of organizations. A number of state agencies had expressed concern that we could not handle the potential monies coming in. With your help, the Maine Better Transportation Association and ACEC completed a survey that indicates that there is sufficient capacity to perform the work. This survey was undertaken at the request of DOT, but the data allowed us to also provide some assurances to the DEP and Safe Drinking Water folks that capacity was available for their programs as well. Dale Mitchell of our Board (and HNTB) and Maria Fuentes of MBTA were recently interviewed by

WCSH about the stimulus work and our ability to provide services.

On March 10, the 10th annual Design & Construction Legislative Breakfast will be held at the Senator Inn. You should have received invitations by now and I encourage you to attend to network with your legislators. More importantly I urge you to invite your legislators or legislators that you know. Personal connections are extremely important and I encourage you to reach out to your legislators to lobby them for our industry.

Given the economic meltdown, all the above efforts become even more important to the success of our industry and our individual firms. We will continue to advocate for our needs within the state, while our national organization continues its usual aggressive advocacy on a broader scale. As always, the Board welcomes any input that you may have regarding any of the initiatives we are involved in. Our Annual Meeting in March will focus on our advocacy program. While we are still working on the agenda, John O'Dea, the CEO of AGC, will be joining us to discuss their efforts and how we are working together. As you can see, there are a number of important initiatives and I encourage you to attend to find out more.

I am pleased that we are moving forward and are finally having some success. I look forward to working with Scott Graham and the new officers as these discussions continue.

Thanks for a great two years and your support and friendship.

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Engineers Without Borders Professional Chapter Forming in Maine



A Professional Chapter of Engineers Without Borders-USA (EWB-USA) is being established in Maine this spring. The Professional Chapter will sponsor engineering projects, spearhead fundraising efforts, and provide mentoring and design support to the EWB-USA Student Chapter at UMaine (UM-EWB), which was formed two years ago. UM-EWB is currently working on a sanitation improvement project in Dulce Nombre de Copan, Honduras; students will be making an assessment trip later this spring.

The new Professional Chapter, is being formed with the support of UM-EWB faculty advisors and several EWB-USA professional members. Membership in this newly formed chapter will provide local professional engineers better opportunities to participate in EWB-USA's mission and to provide hands-on mentoring to engineering students here in Maine. For more information, go to www.ewb-usa.org. If you are interested in helping to establish the professional chapter, please contact Katherine Kern at kkern1@maine.rr.com or Alexander Aman at Alexander.Aman@umit.maine.edu.

It seems clear that there will be a role for member firms of ACEC of Maine, and perhaps for the association itself, in the future as it relates to EWB and UM-EWB.

New ACEC of Maine Web Site

We recently opened our new web site, at the same site address <http://www.acecmaine.org>. This new site was developed using a template provided by National ACEC so it looks similar to their web site. We are still in the process of populating it but we are excited because we will now have expanded administrative rights so we will be able to post announcements, add new members, post Newsletters, etc. Please look over your new site and let us know what you think of it, especially ideas for improving it.

10th Annual Design-Construction Legislative Breakfast

ACEC of Maine, AIA of Maine and the Associated General Contractors of Maine are proud to sponsor the 10th Annual Design-Construction Legislative Breakfast on March 10th from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. at the Senator Inn in Augusta. Last year's breakfast was well attended and received by legislators and legislative leadership and we expect a strong attendance again this year. The panel discussion this year will focus on the economic realities facing our industry and an encouragement of continued state investment in infrastructure in addition to the federal stimulus. Please invite your local legislators and those that you may have a personal relationship with. RSVP to Paul Lariviere by March 5th.

New Members

Since the publication of our last Newsletter we have added two new Out-of-state Members and one new Member. The Out-of-state (Affiliate) members are Erdman Anthony, of Rochester, NY and Parsons Brinckerhoff of Manchester, NH. Erdman Anthony's official contact is E. Samuel (Sam) Anthony and for Parsons Brinckerhoff it is Robert Klimm.

Our newest Member Firm is Gorrill-Palmer of Gray. Their Official Contacts are Tom Gorrill and Al Palmer. Welcome to all three firms!

Member Firm Pledges Money to the University of Maine

CES, Inc. of Brewer recently pledged \$100,000 to the University of Maine in Orono to maintain and upgrade a research laboratory for environmental engineering students.

Jim Parker and Shawn Small, both 1970 graduates of UM, recently joined President Robert Kennedy and College of Engineering Dean Dana Humphrey for the dedication of the CES Inc. Environmental Chemistry Laboratory.

The two UM alumni started CES in 1978 in Brewer offering engineering and consulting services throughout eastern Maine. The company has expanded to include offices in Machias, Presque Isle and Southwest Harbor.

In addition to its co-founders CES has had success with UM graduates. All five shareholders and eight of the nine members of the company's board of directors have degrees from Maine's flagship university. Parker and Small also estimate that more than half of CES' 60 employees received their education in Orono.

Engineering faculty at UM praised the generous gift. "We need to maintain materials and instrumentation, and we need to purchase additional instrumentation required by new analytical techniques that are continually being developed," said Aria Amirbahman, associate professor of environmental engineering. "Students can see, touch and smell how the book-based theory applies, and also see the limitations of theories and what complications can arise," added Eric Landis, chairman of the civil and environmental engineering department.



(L-R) Denis St. Peter, P.E. – Executive V.P./ Shawn S. Small, P.E. – Co-Founder /
James W. Parker, P.E. – President/CEO, Co-Founder / Jeff Teunisen, PLS – Vice President /
James V. Lacadie, P.E. – Vice President

2008 Fall Forum

The 2008 Fall Forum and Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) Program were held at the Wells Conference Center on the campus of the University of Maine on November 19. On the evening of the 18th a Networking Reception was hosted at the Buchanan Alumni House, also on the University of Maine campus.

The Networking Reception was sponsored by Ames & Gough Insurance Agency and Clark Associates, also an insurance agency. Both firms are Affiliate Members of ACEC of Maine. This reception was attended by approximately 25 ACEC of Maine Member Firms representatives along with faculty members of the university. There was a very brief program to introduce attendees and to recognize our corporate sponsors, with the rest of the evening spent productively networking.

The Fall Forum was attended by 60 individuals from our Member Firms and the event sponsors, Spiller's, Ames & Gough and Microdesk, Inc. We also had 36 engineering students from the university attend the EEA portion of the day as the guests of Member Firms that sponsored tables for lunch. The table sponsors were Wright-Pierce, Woodard & Curran, CLD Consulting Engineers, S.W. Cole and Haley & Aldrich. A representative of the sponsoring firm sat at the table with the students and did a bit of informal recruiting.

The Fall Forum program had two components: a panel discussion on Ownership Transition and a training session conducted by Professor Dana Humphreys, Dean of Engineering at the university, on Leadership. Both sessions were very well received. The Keynote speaker was Professor Habib Dagher who spoke about the Advanced Wood Composites Laboratory and some successful businesses that have been incubated to deploy research results from the lab. He also captivated the attendees with his presentation on the potential for wind generation of electricity in the Gulf of Maine.

The results of the EEA competition were announced in a luncheon program. The top prize, the Grand Conceptor Award, went to the firm of Woodard & Curran for the Ocean Gateway project in Portland. The other firms and projects that were recognized with an Honor Award were Sebago Technics for the Congress Street Bridge Replacement, Haley & Aldrich for the mercy Hospital at the Fore, and Wright-Pierce for the WPCF – Past, Present & Future (the Falmouth Water Pollution Control Facility). The UMaine engineering students independently select a Student's Choice Award from among the 7 submitted entrants and the Ocean Gateway project also received that honor. Overall it was a very successful and enjoyable day and the ACEC

Board of Directors has decided to continue holding this event at the University of Maine.



(L-R) Chet Rock, PHD, PE, - Associate Dean, College of Engineering, University of Maine/ Aurele Gourneau, III, - Construction Engineer, Maine DOT/ Paul Pottle, - Project Manager, Multimodal Program, Maine DOT/ Barry Sheff, PE - Senior Vice President, Woodard & Curran.

PAC LETTER

As all Members should be aware, the ACEC is a very successful advocate for our industry at the national level, particularly with Congress. To assist them with accomplishing this part of their mission they have a very ambitious fund raising goal for their Political Action Committee (PAC) which is then sub-allocated to each member organization. The ACEC PAC fundraising goal for 2009 is \$900,000 and ACEC of Maine has been assigned a 2009 Goal of \$7,237. Last year we contributed \$540 to the ACEC PAC.

In recent years we have received several very generous PAC contributions for the re-election campaigns of our Congressional delegation as we have reported in various Newsletters. It is time that we, as a Member Organization of ACEC, take the task of raising money for the ACEC PAC more seriously.

What have we gotten from the efforts of the ACEC PAC? As a result of their advocacy efforts we can list the following accomplishments for the past year:

- 9% tax deduction for A/E firms
- “Opt out” fix to prevent state overhead caps, recognition of cognizant audits, enhance QBS
- Fair Labor Standards Act regulations to ease compliance and avoid lawsuits
- Fully funding SAFETEA LU to avoid cuts to state transportation programs
- New student loan benefit to encourage more young people to pursue engineering careers
- Legislation to promote contracting out; defeated all major anti-contractor measures
- Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), authorizing \$24 billion in new water projects

There are a few rules that we must comply with. Contributions to the PAC must be from individuals, not member firms. Contributions should include the name, member firm, and address for the donor. And firms cannot reimburse individuals for contributions to the PAC.

While \$7,237 seems like a substantial sum of money we have 57 member firms, with approximately 1,000 employees. A contribution of only \$125 from one principal in each member firm would get us to our goal. With several significant pieces of legislation being worked on this year, such as the current stimulus bill, reauthorization of SAFETEA LU, repeal of the 3% withholding mandate, and major water and aviation funding, the need for the PAC efforts remain unabated.

One opportunity to contribute to the ACEC/ PAC is by buying a Sweepstakes ticket. There will only be 500 tickets sold at a price of \$200 each. The prizes are : 1st Prize- \$10,000; 2nd Prize- \$5,000; 3rd Prize- \$2,000; and 4th Prize- \$1,000. The winner will be drawn at the April 29 ACEC/PAC Sweepstakes Breakfast at the 2009 Annual Convention and Legislative Summit in Washington, DC. To access the Sweepstakes entry form go to http://www.acec.org/members/sweepstakes_entry.pdf.

If you have any questions of how to make a contribution please contact Dale Mitchell at HNTB who serves as the ACEC of Maine PAC Champion. Dale’s contact information is on our website, <http://www.acecmaine.org>.

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

February | March 2009

Please Post

Telling the Story

The primary activity of Maine's QBS Council is to help educate Public and Private Owners/Clients of the value of the "Qualification Based Selection" Process and how the process is intended to function. In earlier years, this activity was performed primarily by personal contact but more recently electronic communications has become much more important.

In 1999, the Maine QBS Program opened its first website that provides basic information about the Program and the Maine QBS Council. This website included the normal "Hit Counter" but the numbers were far from impressive. In December 2000, our "Website Provider" began providing an extensive monthly statistical report but the information still did not show heavy use; for example in December 2000, there were only 50 "unique visitors" to the QBS site and 41 of these only visited once during the month but the report did show that 2 people came back to the site 5 or more times during the month. The average length of time for these website visits averages just over 3 minutes.

Since the original creation of the Maine QBS Website, it has been expanded several times to include additional information. The complete "Owner Manual" including all of the related forms has been added in a format that is easily downloaded by a visitor to the site and can then be modified for a specific project. The periodic "QBS Newsletters" have been added to the website but modified for easy in "on-line" reading. Two of our sponsoring organizations have provided "Testimonial Letters" that have been added and we are looking for satisfied clients willing to write about their experiences using QBS.

If website visitors are not able to find desired information readily available, there are links to the sponsoring organizations own websites as well as a link to the QBS Facilitator for additional information or special services.

The monthly statistical reports show a significant increase in the use of the Maine QBS website. In November 2008, we had 307 unique visitors to the site of which 228 only visited once during the month. Much more important was the fact that 20 of these people made 5 or more visits and 10 came back 10 or more times during the month. The average time spent on the website for all visits was nearly 11 minutes.

Another statistical item that helps demonstrate the use of the QBS Website is that in November, less than 27% of the visitors entered by way of the website's "Home Page" even though the Home Page is the only address that is promoted. It appears that many had "bookmarked" a page from a previous visit and returned to a specific page.

It is also interesting each year to see the jump in visits to the QBS Website immediately following the MMA Convention in October.

Although the number of telephone calls or email messages is down, the number of visits to the Maine QBS Website is a clear indication the message is being distributed.