

THE FIRST WORD

December, 2018

Consulting Engineers PAC 2018 Election Wrap-Up

With the 2018 Elections behind us, we wanted to give you an overview of the elections, and the involvement that your state political action committee, Consulting Engineers PAC, had on the elections.

Overall, due to losses on both side of the aisle, term limits, and retirements, there will be 45 new House members when the session convenes in February.

On the night of the election, House Democrats lost 3 seats including the seat of House Minority Leader Steve Kouplen, which gave the House Republican a super-majority of 76 seats. Then, just last week, one incumbent House member switched from Democrat to Republican, which further increased the Republican majority.

On the Senate side, Democrats picked up one additional seat, but the Republicans still have a 39-9 super-majority in the upper chamber.

With Republican Governor-Elect Kevin Stitt taking office in January, if the House and Senate Republicans can keep all of their members of the super-majorities to "toe the line," then it's going to be nearly impossible for the Democrats to roadblock any legislation.

As for Consulting Engineers PAC, we were involved in 29 races, winning 26 of those for a 90% win rate. As for dol-

lars contributed, \$20,250 was allocated, with only \$1,750 going to unsuccessful candidates, which equates to 93% of funds going to successful candidates.

To go a set further, 9 of the 30 candidates supported were for "open" seats. Additionally, 15 of those supported, while incumbents, were first-time recipients of support from Consulting Engineers PAC, several of which are in minority and majority leadership positions in both the House and Senate.

So, in total, 24 of the 30 races in which Consulting Engineers PAC was involved were new "touches" on behalf of the consulting engineering profession.

We would also note that contributions were distributed at face-to-face meetings with each of the candidates, which provided the opportunity for in-depth discussion of issue important to the consulting engineering profession. In many cases, this was the first time that the candidates had been exposed to the engineering profession and our issues, and we believe these meeting will prove to be very valuable during the upcoming and future legislative session.

Thanks to all who contributed to Consulting Engineers PAC during the last two-year election cycle. Consulting Engineers PAC successes would not be possible without your support!

ACEC National Developing New Strategic Plan

We wanted to give you a heads-up that in the next few months you may be receiving a survey or surveys from ACEC as the precursor to a new national Strategic Plan.

The ACEC Executive Committee, along with new President and CEO Linda Bauer Darr, have challenged a new Strategic Planning Committee to take a top-to-bottom look at ACEC to set a new Vision and Mission for the future.

To that end, the rank-and-file members will be asked to participate and provide input.

While we don't yet know the "depth & breadth" of who will be surveyed, if you see something come into your In Box, please respond. Your response will be invaluable and help set the direction of ACEC for years to come.

ACEC OKLAHOMA Reaches National ACECPAC Goal!!!!

For the first time in several years, ACEC OKLAHOMA, through the support of countless individuals at member firms, has reached out national ACECPAC fundraising goal!

As of this writing, ACEC OKLAHOMA members have contributed \$12,475.00, surpassing our national goal of \$11,657.00 by over \$800.00.

To provide a little perspective, ACECPAC contributed over \$13,000 to Oklahoma Congressional candidates in recent months.

Our sincere thanks to our ACECPAC Champion Marty Hepp for all of his efforts. And, a **BIG THANKS** to everyone who made this possible with their contributions!

In Memory James D. Cobb

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of James D. (Jim) Cobb, P.E./P.L.S., the founder of Cobb Engineering Company, now CEC Corporation. He founded the company in 1966, and retired in December, 2016, after 50 years of service.



Jim passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018. He was 87. He was born Nov. 5, 1931, in Norman, OK to Fred and Katie Cobb. Jim spent his childhood in Norman and attended Norman High School. Afterward, he worked at Cobb Engineering, a company his father founded in 1921. In 1952, James enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and proudly served our country in Korea.

Jim attended Oklahoma State University, graduating in 1959 with a degree in civil engineering and earning his Master of Science in 1960.

As a proud OSU alumnus, he would become a founding member of The OSU Posse Club, serve as National President of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, receive the OSU Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award, and member of the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology Hall of Fame.

For the years of devotion to his alma mater, Jim was inducted into the OSU Alumni Hall of Fame in 2008.

He met the love of his life, LaVerna Lee (Hart) Cobb, and they were married on Dec. 1, 1956, at the First Methodist Church, Stillwater, OK. He is survived by his wife and his "4DS," Dan and his wife Shellie, David and his wife Tami, Dena Gawey, and Diana and her husband Darren; and five grandchildren, Tyler, Hunter, Chas, Dawson, and James. He also leaves a brother, Fred; and sister, Nancy Fisher. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers, Raymond, Robert, and Roy.

He was kind and generous in every aspect of his life and devoted to his family and community. He leaves a legacy through his involvement with the Grace United Methodist Church OKC, Rotary International, well as numerous other professional and civic organizations, including ACEC OKLAHOMA where he served as President in 1992-93, as well as representing Oklahoma on the ACEC Board of Directors as National Director from 1993-96.

Donations may be made in memory of Jim to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation benefitting the James D. & LaVerna L. Cobb Scholarship for the OSU School of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Family and friends may send memories and condolences to the family, online at www.schaudtfuneralservice.com

~~~~~

On a personal note, I had the privilege to work and travel with Jim and his wife LaVerna during those years that he served on our and the ACEC national Board of Directors.

He always had a smile on his face, and was one of the kindest and sweetest men that I've ever known. He was a true professional in everything he did and was an "engineer's engineer."

And, while he loved being an engineer and surveyor, that was only third on the list, behind, first and foremost, his family, and second, Oklahoma State University.

He and LaVerna worked together almost everyday, and at one time or another, all of the kids worked in and around the office. And, I really don't think I ever saw Jim not wearing something "orange."

In the hundreds of times, even as recently as a few months ago, when I would answer the phone, the first thing he would ask is, "Did I wake you up?" to which I would generally respond, "Yep, you interrupted my afternoon siesta."

Son's Dan and David gave moving tributes to their father during the funeral, Dan noted that if Jim left someone a voicemail, he would always end with, "End of Message." We talked about that afterward and could only surmise that it came from his time as a radio operator in the Marine Corps. So, I would like to end with this:

Jim, yours was a life well-lived. Your legacy will live on through your children and their children; through the company you built and the values and professionalism which you instilled in those to which you entrusted the company; and, through the uncountable number of past, present and future students at OSU, as well as all Oklahomans, who will benefit from your vision and foresight. We will all miss you, but you will live on in our heart for the rest of our days. Our deepest sympathy goes out to LaVerna, Dan, David, Dena, Diana, and the entire family

God Bless and Rest Well, My Friend!

End of Message.

## ACEC OKLAHOMA Members Meet State & National Candidates

We have previously mentioned the numerous meetings we had over the past couple of months on behalf of Consulting Engineers PAC and ACECPAC. Below are pictures from a handful of those meetings.



Labor Commissioner-Elect Leslie Osborn



Congressman Markwayne Mullin



Congressman Tom Cole



State Representative David Perryman (D-Chickasha)



## President's Monthly Update

December, 2018

Linda Bauer Darr, President & CEO

I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving holiday! I appreciated the great attendance by many of you at our Leadership Orientations earlier this month here in D.C. and I believe we were able to learn much from each other in these sessions. Look for changes in the format of these orientations next year – we may space them out more and give you more opportunities to meet with our staff – but what will not change is our commitment to enhance the mutually supportive relationship between national and the MOs for the betterment of our federation's ability to serve our members. I'm off to New Orleans this week to see many of you again at the Winter NAECE meeting, and I look forward to continuing our conversations there.

### General

- ACEC's recent leadership orientation sessions in Washington, D.C. were attended by 67 MO officers from 33 states as well as representatives from the Retirement and Life/Health Trusts, and staff members outlined current and new services that the national organization provides to the MOs to improve their legislative efforts, education programs, and member recruitment and retention.
- *Last Word* earned Platinum Awards for its 2017 Fall Conference wrap-up issue and this year's Annual Convention wrap-up issue; *Engineering Inc.'s* May/June 2018 issue (EEA Awards) and July/August 2018 issue ("Who Will Fill the Gap?") also won top Platinum Awards for excellence. The MarCom competition is sponsored by the Association of Communication and Marketing Professionals; more than 6,000 entries from the U.S., Canada and 17 other countries were judged.
- Submissions for the 2019 Engineering Excellence Awards competition are due on January 4, 2019; the Annual Gala will be on Tuesday evening, May 7, 2019 at ACEC's Annual Convention in Washington, D.C.
- The ACEC Superfund Workgroup sent a memo to EPA asking questions and making recommendations on the DES SF 330 update.
- Wrote to the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services expressing concerns about the impact of changes in immigration policy and enforcement procedures that are disrupting the operations of engineering firms.
- ACEC/Arkansas, ACEC/New York and ACEC/Nevada all made their ACEC/PAC state goals in November, bringing the total MOs at goal to 22 and keeping the PAC on track to raise over \$1 million for the third straight year.
- ACEC/PAC raised over \$197,685 at the recent Fall Conference, highlighted by the 2018 Fall Sweepstakes and a very successful TopGolf fundraising event, which raised \$11,300 alone.

### Business Resources

- ACEC released its latest publication, *Capture Planning for the Win: A Guide for Public and Private Client Management* which provides a step-by-step approach to scalable capture and pursuit management to help A/E firms evaluate and improve their business development capabilities.
- The December/January issue of ACEC's new Private Industry Briefs focuses on the growing Health Care & Science + Technology market; the brief includes details on top clients, significant market trends, and relevant current legislation and policy.
- Coalitions' best sellers for November included CASE's *National Practice Guidelines for the Structural Engineer of Record (2018)* and COPS' *Skills Checklist for the Young Surveyor*, both available at [www.acec.org/bookstore](http://www.acec.org/bookstore).

### Government Advocacy

- ACEC/PAC distributed over \$1.8 million to pro-business candidates prior to Election Day, winning 90% of those House and Senate races; more funds will be disbursed in December to help newly elected lawmakers with debt retirement.
- Joined with stakeholder allies in sending a letter to congressional leaders advocating for the highest possible funding levels in the final FY 2019 transportation appropriations bill expected to be completed in the lame duck session.

