

Volume XXXVIII, No. 6 May-June, 2006

President's Message

by Dan Cheng, PE

With the end of the 421st Session of the Maryland General Assembly on April 10, 2006, I began my last quarter as your President. The many hearings and traveling to Annapolis became part of my weekly routine. The legislative session showed me the important role of CEPAC, ACEC/MD's legally-designated political action committee. The activities of this committee provide access for ACEC/MD to key legislators who introduce important bills affecting our Business Agenda. In reviewing our legislative accomplishments, we have successfully, through SB 423, provided Mechanic's Lien Coverage for Design Professionals, and through SB 971 have clarified the level of participation before you are precluded from participating in a Design Build project.

The engineering industry needs to be more active in our political advocacy to address the many infrastructure funding and engineering issues facing Maryland. Your contributions to CEPAC at our Governmental Golf Outing on May 8th and throughout the year make our legislative advocacy a success.

It is our obligation as a professional organization to secure our future and to do what ever we can to educate students and their parents about the challenging careers available to them in our industry. With the shortage of students entering the construction and engineering professions, the Executive Committee has created an Ad Hoc Education Committee, led by Ray Streib of Development Facilitators, Inc., to develop programs to provide outreach to students and schools.

Initial committee members include Harvey Floyd and Amy Lambert of KCI and Joe Makar of WR&A. This group will be meeting this spring and summer to develop ACEC/MD's student outreach program. Please contact any of the Committee members or myself if you would like to participate in this important initiative.

ACEC/MD members volunteered once again to organize and participate in the Maryland Quality Initiative (MdQI) 3rd Annual Construction and Engineering Career Day held on April 25th at the Timonium Fairgrounds. This year's event focused on 500 Baltimore County high school students that had expressed a genuine interest in Construction and Engineering careers. The students were divided into Engineering and Construction Trade groups and then proceeded to participate in timed presentations for Construction in an outdoor setting with live demonstrations of construction equipment for site preparation, materials handling, maintenance and asphalt and concrete placement. The Engineering stations included timed presentations of ten engineering disciplines (Civil/Roadway Design, Structures, Surveys, Natural Environment, Landscape Architecture, Traffic, Geotechnical, Mechanical/ Electrical, Project Planning and Hydrology/Hydraulics) with live demonstrations of principles of engineering and the computer tools used to deliver the planning and design of projects. We would like to thank the following ACEC/MD firms for their sponsorship and participation in this Career Day:

Development Facilitators, Inc.

Dewberry

DMJM Harris

Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson

KCI Technologies

McCormick Taylor, Inc.

Rummel, Klepper & Kahl

STV, Incorporated

Sabra, Wang & Associates

Schlenger/Pitz & Associates

The RBA Group

URS Corporation

Wallace Montgomery & Associates

Whitman Requardt & Associates

Whitney, Bailey, Cox & Magnani

ACEC/MD Director Joe Makar of Whitman, Requardt & Associates, who coincidentally is Co-Chair of the MdQI Training and Recruitment subcommittee, will use these engineering discipline stations with our Education Committee to continue a more aggressive school visitation program this fall.

The meeting year continues to provide many opportunities and events for improving our business practices and working with our industry partners. ACEC's Annual Conference and Legislative Summit in Washington, DC (April 30 to May 3) focused on "Engineering America's Future 2006". Because of our proximity, I hope you were able to participate in this convention, which provided ACEC/MD with a unique access to the many resources of ACEC. We even had an

unanticipated visit by President Bush, who discussed the economy, key tax policy priorities, and other related initiatives to promote jobs and economic growth.

Our continued focus for quality was addressed in our “Partnering for Success” Workshop on May 24th, which was presented in cooperation with the Maryland State Highway Administration. On June 8th ACEC/MD’s Environmental Committee spearheaded the annual Environmental Business Opportunities Forum, which featured a keynote address by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Secretary and presentations from various state and local representatives on watershed protection.

Finally, please join me for the finale of our meeting year at our 18th Annual Conference in Key West, Florida from June 21 -24, 2006, where we will conduct environmental tours, learn business practices from Michael Ingardia, install the new 2006-2007 officers and enjoy beautiful sunsets and warm breezes.

ACEC/MD Throws Its Full Weight Behind Successful Mechanics

Lien Legislation

The 2006 General Assembly was characterized by several political pundits as the most polarized in history. While slots legislation took a back seat early in the session, the imminent 72% rise in BGE rates hijacked the second half of the proceedings.

Staying above the fray, ACEC/MD was able to gain passage of legislation that clarifies the coverage of design professionals under the mechanics lien statute. In the first year that ACEC/MD placed the issue on its business agenda, HB1060/SB423 was passed by both houses almost unanimously, and was signed into law by Governor Ehrlich in April.

ACEC/MD also introduced legislation that was the catalyst for a bill that further expands the ability of a firm to provide preliminary engineering on a design/build project without being eliminated for consideration in the main portion of the project. Under Section 15-508 of the State Government Article, SB971 now allows for a person or firm that does not receive more than \$500,000 for design services to pursue the main portion of a design/build project regardless of the amount of the procurement contract.

Also of interest was passage of legislation that repeals the provision in the law that required the successful offeror to pay the cost of the advertisement for the project on eMaryland Marketplace. While the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) was allowing firms to submit the cost as a line item, the Maryland Department of General Services (DGS) was requiring the cost to be borne by the successful firm. HB819/SB794 takes effect in FY2008.

On the negative side, HB1538, which would have increased the threshold for service firms to participate under the Small Business Reserve Program from \$2-million to \$8-million was defeated in committee. Consistent with ACEC/MD's position during deliberations over the current law, ACEC/MD had lobbied for a \$4.5-million threshold that reflects the federal standard for design service providers.

In all, your Legislative Committee, chaired by Whitney, Bailey, Cox & Magnani's David Mongan, reviewed in depth over 10% of the 2,400 pieces of legislation that were introduced in this year's session. For a complete list of the bills of interest during the 2005 session, please contact the ACEC/MD office.

Businesses for the Bay Awards to Recognize

Waste Reduction & Natural Resources Conservation

Are you aware of an organization that has a waste reduction, energy, water, or natural resource conservation success story to share? Businesses for the Bay is currently accepting applications until July 15, 2006 for the following awards:

- * Outstanding Achievement for Pollution Prevention (separate awards for Small, Medium, and Large-Sized Businesses)
- * Outstanding Achievement for a Government Facility (separate awards for Local, State and Federal government)
- * Outstanding Achievement for Nutrient Reduction
- * Partner of the Year
- * Mentor of the Year

To apply, the organization must be a member of Businesses for the Bay, which they can join online at www.b4bay.org. There's no cost to join.

For more information, please contact Laura Armstrong, Pollution Prevention Coordinator, Maryland Department of the Environment, (410) 537-4119; or larmstrong@mde.state.md.us; or the ACEC/MD office.

The Sun Almost Shines on ACEC/MD's Golf Tournament

Following thirty years of great weather, ACEC/MD's Governmental Golf Tournament has run into a rough patch of foul weather. Since the bar has been set pretty low at this point, it was with great pleasure that shadows were actually spotted briefly at this year's tournament. A record 130 golfers took on the challenging course at Greystone Golf Course, located in White Hall.

Century Engineering's Tony Frascarella successfully navigated the course and garnered the tournament's trophy with a gross score of 71. Also for the first time, at this year's tournament, Art Ebersberger of Affiliate Member firm CBIZ scored a hole-in-one on #12 to win his choice of two airline tickets to anywhere in the Continental US or a luxury cruise for two. Other winners in this year's tournament included:

2nd Low Gross – Harry Stephen (Century Engineering)

1st Low Net – Shawn McCone (Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson)

2nd Low Net – David Mongan (Whitney, Bailey, Cox & Magnani)

3rd Low Net – Jim Frazier (Michael Baker, Inc.)

Least # of Putts – Charlie Adams (SHA)

Most # of Putts – Rudy Holley (PBQD)

Men's Longest Drive – Art Barrett (Gannett Fleming)

Ladies' Longest Drive – Heidi Van Luven (A. Morton Thomas & Associates)

Closest to the Pin (#8) – Perry Nutter (Greenman Pedersen, Inc.)

Closest to the Pin (#12) – Art Ebersberger **Hole In One!** (CBIZ)

The golfers at the tournament also opened up their wallets to contribute, through the purchase of mulligans, a record \$900 to ACEC/MD's Scholarship Program.

A special thanks to the following firms for sponsoring a hole, contributing items to this year's auction, and to the individuals that generously provided the winning bids.

Hole Sponsors (alphabetically):

Ames & Gough

CBIZ

Century Engineering

Development Facilitators, Inc.

Dewberry

DMJM Harris

EBA Engineering

EBA Engineering (2)

Edwards & Kelcey

Gannett Fleming

Gipe Associates

Greenhorne & O'Mara

Greenman Pedersen

Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson

KCI Technologies

Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.

Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quade & Douglas

Pennoni Associates, Inc.

URS Corporation

Wallace, Montgomery & Associates

Whitney, Bailey, Cox & Magnani

Silent Auction:

Putter donated by the firm of A. Morton Thomas & Associates; winning bid \$65 by Art Barrett (Gannett Fleming)

Gift certificate for Velleggia's in Little Italy, Baltimore donated by the firm of Alpha Corporation; winning bid \$85 by Jim Montgomery (Wallace, Montgomery & Associates)

4 field box tickets to June 3, 2006 Orioles game v. the "Hated" New York Yankees, Section 22, behind the Orioles dugout (w/parking pass) donated by the firm of Century Engineering; winning bid of \$160 by Doug Bobb (EBA Engineering)

Party Bucket, containing Bombay Sapphire Gin, Tequila with Margarita Mix, Lemonchello Liquor and more donated by the firm of Century Engineering; winning bid \$60 by Dan Cheng (Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson)

2 club box tickets to May 31, 2006 Orioles game v. the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, Section 246, row CC, seats 13 & 14 donated by the firm of Development Facilitators, Inc.; winning bid \$50 by John Wiser (Greenhorne & O'Mara)

Evening Out in Baltimore!: 2 tickets to the Hippodrome to see Ray Lewis' Mega Comedy Jam, June 10th at 7:30PM and gift certificate for dinner at Legal Sea Foods donated by the firm of DMJM Harris; winning bid \$75 by Chuck Beall (Charles County)

Autographed framed picture of Brooks Robinson at bat with the Orioles donated by the firm of Edwards & Kelcey; winning bid \$90 by Hank Pokigo (Hardesty & Hanover)

Golfing Raven Fan: Raven Golf Shirt, Raven Logo Club Towel, and Raven Logo Club Covers donated by W. Arthur Barrett/Gannett Fleming; winning bid \$110 by Ray Streib (Development Facilitators, Inc.)

Fairway Wood, Taylor Made donated by the firm of Hardesty & Hanover; winning bid \$135 by Dan Cheng (Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson)

4 tickets to August 23, 2006 Orioles game v. the Minnesota Twins, Section 29, row B, seats 3, 4, 5, & 6 (w/parking pass) donated by the firm of Hatch Mott MacDonald; winning bid \$40 by Jerry Janetti (Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quade & Douglas)

14 Hands Merlot wine, case (Washington State) donated by the firm of Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson; winning bid \$180 by Harvey Floyd (KCI Technologies)

His & Her Baskets donated by the firm of Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quade & Douglas

Honey Do Basket, assorted tools & Home Depot gift card; winning bid \$55 by Marco Avila (Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quade & Douglas)

A Day of Beauty Basket, cream, towel, scented candles & Day Spa; winning bid \$100 by Ray Streib (Development Facilitators, Inc.)

4 lower level tickets to a Ravens game, Section 153, game choice donated by the firm of Rummel, Klepper & Kahl; winning bid \$220 by David LaBella (MdTA)

Bucket of Bubbly for Two, Champagne, glasses, and candle donated by the firm of Schnabel Engineering; winning bid \$60 by Harry Stephen (Century Engineering)

Chocolate Martini Delight Basket: Bacardi Vanilla, DeKuyper Crème de Cacao, Godiva Liqueur, chocolate and more donated by the firm of Schnabel Engineering; winning bid \$110 by Ray Streib (Development Facilitators, Inc.)

4-hour fishing trip for 2 people at Karl's Bassin' Adventures of Aberdeen, MD donated by the firm of Straughan Environmental Services; winning bid \$100 by Ray Streib (Development Facilitators, Inc.)

2 field box seats to June 6, 2006 Orioles game v. Toronto Blue Jays, Section 16, row HH, seats 7 & 8 (w/parking pass) donated by the firm of Wallace, Montgomery & Associates; winning bid \$50 by Ray Streib (Development Facilitators, Inc.)

2 field box seats to July 13, 2006 Orioles game v. Texas Rangers, Section 16, row HH, seats 7 & 8 (w/parking pass) donated by the firm of Wallace, Montgomery & Associates; winning bid \$50 by Art Ebersberger (CBIZ)

Member News

- Celebrating its 25 year anniversary, **ALPHA CORPORATION** is pleased to announce the relocation of its Baltimore office to:

1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 425

Baltimore, MD 21230

The firm's contact information remains the same:

Telephone 410-646-3044

Fax 410-646-3730

www.alphacorporation.com

- **A. MORTON THOMAS & ASSOCIATES, INC.** is pleased to announce that the following professionals have joined the firm as Associates: **Robert K. Harrison** as Director of Construction Services and **Gregory J. Osband, RLA** as Director of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Services. The firm also announces the opening of two new offices in Washington, DC and Raleigh, NC.

- **EA ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, INC.** appointed *Ian MacFarlane* Chief Executive Officer of the firm.
- **FROEHLING & ROBERTSON** recently announced that ACEC/MD representative *Robert L. Mashewski* has been promoted to regional vice president for the firm's newly created Baltimore-Washington Region.
- **GREENHORNE & O'MARA** is pleased to announce that the firm's Silver Spring office has relocated to their new national headquarters facility at:

6110 Frost Place

Laurel, MD 20707

Telephone 301-982-2800

Toll Free 866-322-8905

www.g-and-o.com

- **JOHNSON, MIRMIRAN & THOMPSON** is pleased to announce the following: *Charlie K. Watkins* has joined the firm as a Senior Associate, responsible for managing the firm's county and municipal contracts for construction management and inspection services in Maryland. The firm also announced the following promotions: *Neil M. Beach, PE*, *James E. Good, PE*, *Matthew J. Grice, PE*, and *Lawrence E. Rowland, Jr.* have all been promoted to Senior Associates; *Senaka Aturaliya, PE*, *Ifter W. Lashley, PE*, *David S. Lutz, PE*, *Brian M. Maher, Andrew L. Mocca, PE*, *Richard A. Partlow, Ralph W. Poff, Shawn E. Reynolds,*

PE, David A. Simon, CPA, Daniel N. Stasko, RLA, Steven D. Swarr, Rita Tschammer-Osten, AICP, Charles T. Turner, Jr., and William H. Zumbrun, Jr. have all been promoted to Associates.

- **KCI TECHNOLOGIES** has appointed *Peter Mattejat, PE* as Senior Water Resources Engineer and Assistant Division Chief in the firm's Laurel, Maryland office.
- **MUELLER ASSOCIATES, INC.** has named *Bob Marino*, President of the firm, as the new ACEC/MD representative. He will replace long-time ACEC/MD supporter Gary Johnson in this role who will retire as an employee of the firm, effective July 1, 2006.
- **SABRA, WANG & ASSOCIATES, INC.** is pleased to announce that *Shaojia Du* recently passed the PE exam. The firm also announces the hiring of the following individuals:
Structural Engineers: *Yawo Ananga, Praful Patel, and Dustin Schilpp*
Highway Engineers: *Teresa Bondi, Shayaq Ahmed, and Habeeb Mohammed*
Traffic Engineers: *Dimitrios Zafiris, Rene Lord-Attivor, Jyothi Paladugu, Pramodh Sunkari, Aneesha Griffin, Youcef Hamroun, Seng NSang, Ming Chen and Kosti Jain*
Electrical Engineer: *Antony Abraham*
CADD Designers: *Paul Mitchell, Sr. and James Wood, Jr.*
Accounting: *Alexis Miskimon and Gina DeMaria'Koontz*
IT Manager: *Robert Marzola*

Professional Development

June 21, 2006

Roof Asset Management

June 22-23, 2006 *Rooftop Quality Assurance*

Schaumburg, IL. For more information, please call the Roof Consultants Institute at 800-828-1902.

July 11, 2006 *Advanced Zoning and Land Use In Maryland*

Baltimore, MD. Presented by Lorman Education Services. For more information, please call 866-352-9539 or go to www.lorman.com.

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