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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Jeffery P. McBride, P.E.*



My second message comes while I am well entrenched with various Presidential tasks and committee meeting attendance. Our various committees are off and running and while the first full cycle of meetings is not complete, we have covered a good bit of ground. Our committee chairs and committee members are really a fine group of people that not only devote their valuable time to the organization, but obviously really care about ACEC/MD, and are committed to getting as much out of their efforts as possible. I tend to be a person that is not easily impressed, but in this regard, I am.

ACEC/MD recently met with representatives of ACEC Metro Washington (ACEC/MW) to discuss our joint memorandum of understanding with respect to legislative affairs in the state and discuss further coordination. I was pleasantly surprised to find that the ACEC/MW President is a fellow "vertical market" engineer. Our discussions also included ways to share events with the respective organizations and also foster Reciprocal Memberships where these make sense to the respective members. ACEC/MW has regular liaison meetings with NAVFAC, GSA and the Architect of the Capitol (AOC), which may be of interest to many of our member firms.

Our October General Membership meeting included a presentation by USACE-Baltimore District Chief Engineer Colonel David E. Anderson on opportunities for consultants with his client agency. This meeting also included the signing of the partnering agreement between ACEC/MD and USACE-Baltimore District. The day concluded with a reception to recognize Terry F. Neimeyer, ACEC/MD Past President, ACEC/MD Fellow and now ACEC National Chairman for 2011-2012.

Many of us are now off to Las Vegas for the ACEC 2011 Fall Conference. This is a reminder that we should endeavor to communicate the value of ACEC and ACEC/MD to our staff and colleagues. ACEC's office in DC is at the front lines looking out for our collective interests in Washington from a national level and ACEC/MD is involved tirelessly at the State and local levels. I am thinking of ways to communicate this message not only to my fellow partners here at EBL, but to our staff as well. It is important for them to realize that all of this does not happen in a vacuum, and what threats exist if ACEC and ACEC/MD were not there.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *(continued)*

October 17th will be the start of the 2011 General Assembly special session. We still do not know conclusively what will be discussed, other than the congressional redistricting process. Our feedback is that the Governor wants to include revenue increases to offset the looming 1 Billion dollar structural deficit created by their spending in a down economy. It is still not clear what will occur, and if revenue increases will be part of the discussion. As stated in my first message, either the 2011 special session, or the 2012 general session, may also see the resurgence of a tax on professional services proposal.

ACEC/MD has participated in the State Transportation Alliance to Restore the Trust (START) since the statewide coalition of advocates was formed this year to protect and enhance Maryland's funding for transportation infrastructure. The primary objectives of the START coalition are to convince state lawmakers to stop raiding Maryland's Transportation Trust Fund for non-transportation uses, to restore highway user revenue to local jurisdictions, and to find a way to increase revenue to the transportation fund by at least \$500 million per year. I believe many residents don't appreciate that Maryland has not seen a gas tax increase since 1992, which at that time represented 21% of the cost of a gallon of gas. In 2011, the current 23.5 cent tax represents about only 7% of the cost of a gallon of gas. As we are all aware, in 2008 the general assembly voted to divert \$250 million in revenue over 5 years from the transportation trust fund, to the general fund. Even with a gas tax increase of 5 cents proposed by the Blue Ribbon Commission on Maryland Transportation Funding, it would take at least 2 years to pay back this revenue diversion, and that assumes additional funds are not diverted in future sessions. This of course would not even make a dent in the much larger estimated expenditures needed for transportation infrastructure in the State.

As is evidenced by the cautious demeanor of the legislature in general, the present political environment is not conducive to a discussion about tax increases of any kind, much less the political will to actually pass one. However, our State's propensity to spend money and seek revenue to cover those expenses is almost legendary. According to Bloomberg reports, Maryland ranks as the 5th highest overall taxed State in the Country, which is not a statistic that is lost on the well-organized anti-tax groups that have arisen in the last couple years. It should not be unexpected that any tax increase discussion is going to be a difficult process. Obviously a multi-pronged approach is going to be needed which involves both legislative and public education. However, I at least feel that restoration of the "trust", as stated by the START Coalition, is critical to this process and should not be abandoned for the sake of the gas tax increase alone. If the gas tax increase is achieved and the legislature makes another revenue diversion, we have achieved nothing.

Lastly, I close with some better news. Our Political Action Committee (PAC) goals are moving along, but we are not quite to the finish line yet. ACEC/MD has met their 2011 ACEC-PAC goal of \$21,500. With the national PAC goal achieved, a reminder to all member firms that we still have work to do to achieve the local Maryland PAC, or CEPAC. CEPAC contributions are both individual and firm contributions. During the current election cycle that commenced in January, only about ¼ of our member firms have pledged funding to CEPAC and we have raised \$18,000 toward our goal of \$25,000 to be raised by December 31st.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *(continued)*

For those of you that get confused by the various PAC's and requests for funding, here is a reminder:

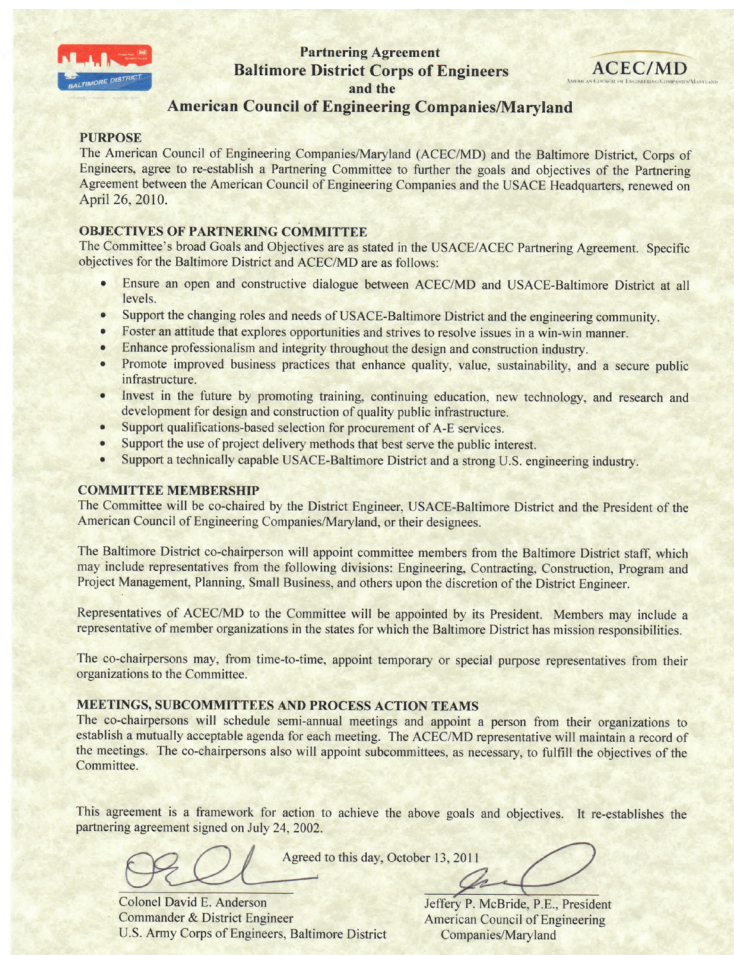
ACEC/PAC – ACEC National PAC, also referred to as “ACEC/PAC”. Our current goal is \$21,500 annually from individual member firm representatives. Contributions to this fund get you the American flag pin on your name badge.

CEPAC – ACEC/MD State PAC is both an individual and firm contribution PAC. Our current goal is \$100,000 over the 4-year cycle, or \$25,000 per year. Individual contributions to this fund gets you the Crab pin (my favorite) and your firm's contribution gets you the MD Logo pin on your name badge.

I look forward to seeing everyone at future events.

## ACEC/MD RENEWS PARTNERING AGREEMENT WITH USACE – BALTIMORE DISTRICT

ACEC/MD renewed its partnering agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Baltimore District at the organization's October 13th General Membership Meeting. Patterned after the agreement signed by ACEC and USACE Headquarters in the early 1990's, this agreement represents a renewal of the agreement originally signed by ACEC/MD and USACE-Baltimore District in 1992 and subsequently renewed in 2002.



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## ACEC/MD RENEWS PARTNERING AGREEMENT WITH USACE – BALTIMORE DISTRICT *continued*

In addition to ACEC/MD President Jeff McBride (EBL Engineers), participating in the signing ceremony was Colonel David Anderson, Commander of the Baltimore District. Also attending the ceremony were ten Division Chiefs of the Baltimore District.

In his remarks, Colonel Anderson thanked the engineering community for their support of the Corps in delivering mission critical efforts in support of the nation. The District was even responsible for developing the model of the Bin Laden compound in Pakistan that was used to bring down the wanted terrorist.

Unfortunately, on the Civil Works side the District expects no earmarks for projects over the next two years. Spotlighting the impact of the engineering profession, the Colonel discussed the tremendous return on investments in flood control in this country. Every dollar spent on flood control equates to a \$7.1 savings by eliminating damage caused by floods.

Following the regular General Membership Meeting, in the spirit of the partnering agreement, attendees were treated to a special presentation by Frank Cirincione, Chief, Master Planning Section. Utilizing his over 39 years of experience with the Baltimore District and his participation in 177 selection boards, Mr. Cirincione walked participants through the required steps to ensure that their SF330 submission is viewed favorably by the Corps. Also on hand to participate in the presentation was ACEC/MD Federal Government Liaison Committee Chair David McCormick (Whitman, Requardt & Associates), who outlined sections of the form that often creates problems for firms when responding to a solicitation. Feedback from attendees of the session, both veterans and newcomers to the industry, was very positive.

## ACEC/MD RECOGNIZES ACEC CHAIRMAN TERRY NEIMEYER

On October 13th, ACEC/MD member firm representatives took time out from their busy schedules to recognize ACEC Chair Terry Neimeyer (KCI Technologies) for his accomplishments. An ACEC Fellow, Terry previously served ACEC/MD as president in 2001-2002, and as ACEC Treasurer.

In his remarks, Terry thanked ACEC/MD's member firm representatives for their support of his initiatives over the years. He also made a point of recognizing ACEC/MD member firm representatives that preceded him in the leadership of ACEC and the leaders of ACEC/MD that he had the pleasure of serving with.

Affiliate Members CBIZ and Stambaugh Ness were sponsors of this event honoring Terry!

Demonstrating his service for the organization, Terry drew the winning raffle tickets for ACEC/MD's ACEC/PAC drawing, ensuring that the four winners departed the evening in a joyful spirit.

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## THANKS AGAIN FOR HELPING ACEC/MD ECLIPSE ITS ACEC/PAC GOAL

Thanks to the generous contributions of ACEC/MD member firm representatives, ACEC/MD has raised over \$21,500 to assist ACEC in carrying the profession's message to our elected members of Congress. Spearheaded by Maryland ACEC/PAC Champion Michael Myers (Rummel, Klepper & Kahl), ACEC/MD achieved its goal for the seventh straight year.

Central to this effort was the tremendous response to the ACEC/MD-sponsored Raffle. Your support has assisted ACEC in its effort to gain favorable legislation to increase long-term funding for infrastructure and to repeal the onerous 3% withholding tax that is scheduled to kick in in 2013. Raffle participants also had the opportunity to win \$3,600 in cash prizes. Assisting in drawing this year's raffle winners was ACEC Chairman Terry Neimeyer.

This year's winners included:

Jamil Pannee (RJM Engineering) - \$2,000  
 Mike Myers (Rummel, Klepper & Kahl) - \$1,000  
 Tom Ritter (Century Engineering) - \$400  
 Bill Smith (Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson) - \$200

Thanks to everyone for helping ACEC support pro-business candidates in Congress, and assisting our representatives in carrying your message to Congress.

A special thanks to this year's raffle sponsors:

A. Morton Thomas & Associates  
 AECOM  
 CBIZ  
 Century Engineering  
 EBL Engineers  
 Gannett Fleming, Inc.  
 Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson  
 KCI Technologies  
 McCormick Taylor, Inc.  
 Moffatt & Nichol  
 Parsons Brinckerhoff  
 RJM Engineering  
 Rummel, Klepper & Kahl  
 Schnabel Engineering  
 Sidhu Associates  
 Wallace, Montgomery & Associates  
 Whitman, Requardt & Associates  
 Whitney, Bailey, Cox & Magnani

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## ACEC/MD ANNOUNCES FINALISTS IN THE 2012 ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS COMPETITION

One of the highlights of the October 13th General Membership Meeting was the announcement of the finalists in this year's Engineering Excellence Awards Competition. Out of the near record 26 projects submitted, our distinguished panel of judges selected the following fourteen projects (in alphabetical order):

An Innovative Method for Tension Assessment of Aged Post-Tensioning (P-T) Bars (Statewide) – *URS Corporation*

Baltimore City Downtown Infrastructure Improvements Project (Baltimore Grand Prix) (Baltimore, MD) – *McCormick Taylor*

Barack Obama Elementary School (Upper Marlboro, MD) – *Sidhu Associates*

BWI Marshall Runway 10-28 and 15R-33L Intersection Program Management (Linthicum, MD) – *Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson*

Feasibility Analysis for Recycled Dredged Material Initiatives (Baltimore, MD) – *McCormick Taylor*

I-70 South Mountain Welcome Centers (Frederick County, MD) – *KCI Technologies*

LED Roadway Lighting Pilot Project (Baltimore, MD) – *Century Engineering*

The Mary Catherine Bunting Center at Mercy (Baltimore, MD) – *AECOM*

MD 355 Interchange Design-Build (Gaithersburg, MD) – *KCI Technologies*

Maryland Port Administration, Innovative Use of Dredged Material (Baltimore, MD) – *Schnabel Engineering*

Maryland Transit Administration – Metro Fire & Security Management Systems Project (Baltimore, MD) – *AECOM*

Masonville 48-inch Water Main (Baltimore, MD) – *Rummel, Klepper & Kahl*

Rehabilitation of the Thomas J. Hatem Bridge (Havre de Grace, MD) – *Wallace, Montgomery & Associates*

Union Dam Removal & River Channel Restoration Project (Howard & Baltimore Counties, MD) – *Gannett Fleming*

This year's judges represent a cross section of the engineering industry including:

William R. Gluck, P.E., Chief, Project Management & Design Division,  
Department of General Services

Douglas M. Hutcheson, P.E., Chief Engineer, Off. of Engineering and Construction,  
Maryland Transportation Authority

Bill Korpman, Baltimore County Department of Public Works

Henry Kay, Executive Director for Transit Development and Delivery,  
Maryland Transit Administration

Rudy Chow, Acting Bureau Head, Bureau of Water & Wastewater,  
Baltimore City Department of Public Works

Ron Pyles, Kim Engineering

Umesh Murthy, Transtech Engineering Consultants

Rachel Ellis, Gannett Fleming (ACEC/MD Awards & Recommendations Comm. Chair)

The initial judging was based on an independent evaluation of an Executive Summary and Press Release for each project. The finalists will now be invited to submit a notebook, due on December 12, 2011, that will be judged by our panel of judges in a group setting. All finalists are now eligible to compete in ACEC's national competition. Mark your calendar for ACEC/MD's Awards Banquet, being held February 16, 2012 when the award winners will be announced.

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## ACEC/MD CONTINUES EFFORTS TO SECURE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

While political leaders continue to focus on reduced government spending, ACEC/MD persists in its efforts to keep transportation funding at the forefront.

Discussions with elected leaders and political insiders reveal that there is understanding that something needs to be done. This provides renewed optimism that there could be a window of opportunity in the 2012 General Assembly session.

ACEC/MD's Transportation Funding Task Force, chaired by RK&K's Steve Zentz, has developed a presentation for member firms to utilize in educating their employees. Accessible on ACEC/MD's website, at [www.acecmd.org](http://www.acecmd.org), this presentation is narrated by long-time radio personality Alan Walden. This resource provides an easy to understand description of the funding process for state transportation project, while demystifying the political process to ensure involvement by our member firm employees. If you have not already utilized this resource, just click on the "Transportation and You" button on ACEC/MD's website.

The goal is to have the 6,000-strong ACEC/MD member firm employees become the spokespeople at community and business gatherings for enhanced transportation funding.

With congestion growing to intolerable levels in both the Baltimore and Washington Metropolitan areas and the influx of new residents from the BRAC initiative, our legislative leaders are sending signals that after nearly 20 years of inaction on increasing the gas tax this may be the time for action. Please take every opportunity to help ACEC/MD in these efforts by encouraging your firm's employees to get involved

## BARTLETT RETURNS TO THE MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (MDTA) AS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Harold M. Bartlett, a veteran in the transportation industry who retired as acting head of the Maryland Transportation Authority earlier in the year, has returned as the permanent executive secretary of the authority. After a 23-year career with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, Bartlett joined the Maryland Department of Transportation as deputy secretary in 2009. He served as acting MDTA Executive Secretary until the first phase of the Inter county Connector opened in February of this year.

## SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

The following individual is seeking employment and has a complete resume on file in the ACEC/MD office. Please phone 410-539-1592 if you are interested in obtaining a copy.

1. Civil Engineer with more than 20 years experience in engineering and construction inspection/management in various disciplines seeks position.

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## ACEC/MD TO HOST FUNDRAISER FOR CONGRESSMAN CUMMINGS

ACEC/MD will host a reception for influential Maryland Congressman Elijah Cummings on Thursday, November 10, 2011, from 8:30 – 10:00 am, at the Garrett Jacobs Mansion's courtyard. A senior member of the powerful Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Congressman Cummings has been a staunch advocate for the passage of legislation to improve and maintain our nation's crumbling infrastructure. Congressman Cummings is also the ranking member of the Oversight & Government Reform Committee that has jurisdiction over federal procurement policy.

Members of the Host Committee include:

Jeff McBride (EBL Engineers)  
 Leon Kriebel (Whitney, Bailey, Cox & Magnani)  
 Jack Moeller (Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson)  
 Mike Myers (Rummel, Klepper & Kahl)  
 Joe Makar (Whitman, Requardt & Associates)  
 Art Barrett (Gannett Fleming)  
 Stu Taub (Wallace, Montgomery & Associates)  
 Jim Blake (Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson)  
 Stu Robinson (A. Morton Thomas & Associates)  
 Bev Pannee (RJM Engineering)  
 Jerry Jannetti (Parsons Brinckerhoff)

The suggested contribution per person for this event is only \$125.00, with proceeds going directly to the Congressman's campaign efforts. Mark your calendar for November 10th, and plan on joining your colleagues and friends at this important political event.

## NEW MEMBERS

The following firms have been elected to membership in ACEC/MD:

### **AB CONSULTANTS, INC.**

1500 South Edgewood Street, Suite 1600, Baltimore, MD 21227

Telephone: 443-524-2891; FAX 443-692-2411

Rep/Contact: Amrish Patel [amrish.patel@abconsultantsinc.com](mailto:amrish.patel@abconsultantsinc.com)

Website: [www.abconsultantsinc.com](http://www.abconsultantsinc.com)

Brief History and Activities of the Firm: Established in 1993, AB Consultants, Inc. is a multi-discipline engineering firm providing professional services in: planning; civil engineering; landscape architecture; structural engineering; environmental engineering; geotechnical engineering; construction management; materials testing & inspection; land surveying; subsurface utility exploration; and environmental site assessments.

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## NEW MEMBERS *(continued)*

### **SAMMS ENGINEERING, LLC.**

9757 Hillsmere Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Telephone: 410-745-9388; FAX 410-750-7346

Rep/Contact: Shahid Qureshi sammseng@verizon.net

Brief History and Activities of the Firm: Established in 2009, Samms Engineering, LLC is a MBE/DBE certified engineering firm whose field operation includes: design of highways/roadways; highway and pedestrian safety; traffic engineering; transportation planning; inspection of highway elements and rating of highway bridges; construction management and inspections; engineering reviews; and project management. Engineering activities include the review of roadway plans, specification and engineer estimates at various stages of design and the review of traffic operations and analysis related to QA/QC.

We welcome these firms as members of ACEC/MD. Be sure to add their information to your records. The next time you see one of their representatives, please take the time to let them know we're glad that they have joined the Council!

## MEMBER NEWS

**EA ENGINEERING, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY, INC.** has announced that its founder and chairman, **Loren D. Jensen, PhD.** has been appointed to a three-year term on the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Academy of Sciences, which is the governing body of the Maryland Science Center.

**EBA ENGINEERING, INC.** is pleased to announce the following:

**Richard Davis, PE** has joined the firm as Quality Control Manager for Water Systems Engineering Department, responsible for providing QA/QC for all projects.

**Richard (Dick) Berich, PE**, a registered professional engineer and surveyor with over 35 years of experience has joined the firm as a Project Manager.

**GREENHORNE & O'MARA** announces that the Membership Applications Review Committee of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) unanimously elected **John J. Healey, Ph.D., P.E.**, as a Fellow of the Society. Fewer than five percent of ASCE members earn this prestigious honor.

**HENRY ADAMS, LLC** announces that the following individuals have joined the firm: With 27 years of experience with healthcare, academic, federal and mixed use projects, **Steve Trageser, PE, LEED AP** has joined the firm as Director of Construction Phase Services.

**Rob Tanner** has joined the firm as an Electrical Project Manager and Senior Engineer, responsible for developing business in the DC metro area.

With 17 years of experience, **Brad Davidson** has joined the firm as a Mechanical Engineer.

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## MEMBER NEWS *(continued)*

Celebrating their 100th anniversary, **JAMES POSEY ASSOCIATES** announces the award of the firm's 6000th project. The firm will do the design of the mechanical and electrical systems in Malone Hall, the new teaching and research building for the Whiting School of Engineering at Johns Hopkins University.

**KCI TECHNOLOGIES, INC.** announces the following:

Vice President **Gary Mryncza, PE, LEED** has been promoted to Resource Management Discipline Head, responsible for overseeing the firm's natural resources, water resources, and ecosystem dynamics practices.

With more than 30 years of experience, **Donald J. Birnesser, PE** has joined the firm as solid waste practice leader.

**KIM ENGINEERING** has relocated their Ellicott City branch office to Baltimore. Ron Pyles, PE will be the Branch Manager for the office at:

1520-E2 Caton Center Drive  
Baltimore, MD 21227  
Phone: 410.501.3669  
Fax: 410.501.3671

The partners of **RUMMEL, KLEPPER & KAHL** are pleased to announce that, after a 30-year career with the Maryland State Highway Administration, **Robert J. Healy, PE**, joined the firm as Director of Structures in the firm's Transportation Group.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Legislative Breakfast

November 30, 2011

The Engineers Club

11 West Mount Vernon Place, Baltimore

8:00 – 10:00am

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*Holiday Party*  
*December 1, 2011*

Baltimore Museum of Industry

1415 Key Highway, Baltimore

6:00pm – 9:00pm

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General Membership Meeting  
December 15, 2011

The Engineers Club

11 West Mount Vernon Place, Baltimore

11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

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For more information on these, and other events, contact the ACEC/MD office.

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**OFFICERS****President**

Jeff McBride, P.E.  
EBL Engineers

**Vice President**

Leon Kriebel, P.E.  
WBCM

**Secretary**

Dana Knight, P.E.  
McCormick Taylor

**Treasurer**

Jack Moeller, P.E.  
Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson

**ACEC Representatives****Director**

Michael Myers, P.E.  
Rummel, Klepper & Kahl

**Alternate Director**

Joe Makar, P.E.  
Whitman, Requardt & Associates

**ACEC/MD Directors****2009-2012**

Art Barrett, P.E.  
Gannett Fleming  
Stuart Taub, P.E.  
Wallace, Montgomery & Assoc.

**2010-2013**

Jim Blake, P.E.  
Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson  
Stu Robinson, P.E.  
A. Morton Thomas & Assoc.

**2011-2014**

Beverly Pannee  
RJM Engineering  
Jerry Jannetti, P.E.  
Parsons Brinckerhoff

**Executive Director**

Jim Otradovec

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT****October 26*****Hidden Risks of Green Buildings.***

This webinar is presented by WPL Publishing. To register go to [mail@constructionpubs.com](mailto:mail@constructionpubs.com) or call 301.765.9525.

**November 4, (Annapolis)** ***Human Resources for Anyone with Newly Assigned HR Responsibilities.***

**November 7 (Towson)** Presented by CareerTrack. To register or for more information go to [careertrack.com/onsite](http://careertrack.com/onsite) or call 1.800.944.8503.

**November 3-5**

***2011 Legislative Weekend Conference. "Building Wealth in the African American Annapolis Community Part II"***

Annapolis. Presented by the Maryland Black Caucus Foundation. For more information go to <http://www.blackcaucusweekend2011.org/>.

**November 9-12*****The Business of Design Consulting***

New Orleans, LA. Presented by ACEC. For more information, go to [www.acec.org](http://www.acec.org) or call 202.682.4338.

**December 1**

***Maryland Water Monitoring Council 2011 Conf. focusing on the Chesapeake Bay TMDL***

North Linthicum. Details are available at [www.marylandwatermonitoring.org](http://www.marylandwatermonitoring.org).

**Save The Date!****June 20-23, 2012**

**ACEC/MD 24th Annual Conference  
Lido Beach Resort, Sarasota, Florida**

Questions on the Conference?

Contact Jim Otradovec at 410.539.1592 or [acecmd@aol.com](mailto:acecmd@aol.com)

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**ACEC/MD 2011  
Engineering Excellence  
Grand Award winning  
entry Olde Towne  
Youth Center submitted  
by Gipe Associates**

