

ACEC Indiana

Short List

PUBLISHED FOR ACEC INDIANA MEMBERS

Membership Benefit

Did you take the time to attend one of ACEC Indiana's "Newsmaker & Networking" luncheons or other events this year? If so, you heard from some of the state's most influential officials with impact to the consulting engineering profession. If not, you missed:

Dave Sherman,
Indy DPW Director

Forrest Lucas,
President & CEO
Lucas Oil Products

Greg Ballard,
Mayor, City of Indianapolis

David Raymond,
President & CEO
ACEC

Tom Easterly,
IDEM Commissioner

Nate Feltman,
CEO
IN. Economic Development
Corp./Sec. of Commerce

Tom Henry
Mayor, City of Ft. Wayne

Plus others.

Make plans to participate in ACEC Indiana's events in 2009!

Upcoming Event

Wednesday, Dec. 10th
ACEC Indiana Luncheon
featuring
Mayor Tom Henry,
City of Ft. Wayne
Hilton-Grand Wayne
Convention Center
Reservations required

Go to www.acecindiana.org
or call (317) 637-3563

State Budget & Local Government Reform Face 2009 General Assembly

The 2009 General Assembly is scheduled to convene on January 7th. Since it will be a "long" session, it is scheduled to conclude by April 30th.

The "main event" will be passage of the two-year state budget, which is expected to be more difficult than in recent years as a result of the economic downturn, declining sales and income tax revenue, the expense of general funding for schools now borne by the state, and more "needs" to be met.

Another big issue is expected to be additional local government "reform" based on the Kernan-Shepard report released last year. A few of its recommendations were addressed in the 2008 legislative session, such as property tax limits and the role of township assessors, but other ideas are still on the table that may

have an impact on consulting engineering firms.

Plus, ACEC Indiana, along with allied organizations, intends to continue its effort to push for adequate, stable and long-term funding for water and wastewater infrastructure, and local roads and bridges.

And this is just the beginning.

To read more about these issues, go to the members-only section of ACEC Indiana's website under the "Government Affairs" section, www.acecindiana.org. It will give you the key talking points you need to educate your legislators on these critical issues.

You can see that we will need your firms to help in the legislative arena this year. How can you help? Become part of the ACEC Indiana Grass Roots Network. Tell us who

you know in the legislature by completing a very simple form and send it to the ACEC Indiana office. It can also be found at the same section of the members-only ACEC Indiana website.

It is especially important this year since there were 17 newcomers elected to the Indiana House of Representatives and 6 new State Senators. Overall, that is a significant turnover and it is essential to build relationships with them.

There is strength in numbers and we need more members to be willing to call or email their State Representatives and Senators about important issues. To find out who your legislators are, go to <http://www.in.gov/apps/sos/legislator/search/>

Don't delay!

ACEC Indiana State PAC Helped 49 Legislative Candidates Win

Your ACEC Indiana State PAC was established in 2000 to help candidates for the General Assembly who support the issues of concern of professional consulting engineering firms.

It is non-partisan and gives to candidates of both parties that seek to serve in either the Indiana House of Representatives or the Indiana State Senate.

Funds for this PAC are

given voluntarily by member firms; ACEC Indiana includes this request for support on your annual dues statement since corporate funds are acceptable for these campaigns.

This election cycle, the state PAC Trustees approved contributions for a total of 49 candidates over the Primary and General elections. In total, just over \$14,000 was given on a bi-

partisan basis, and all of these candidates won their elections.

The elections are over for now and we thank the member firms that supported the state PAC this year. It allowed ACEC Indiana to support good candidates who care about your business concerns. If your firm didn't participate in the state PAC, please do so in 2009.