



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Tennessee



The Voice

THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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A New Manhattan Project for Clean Energy Independence

by Senator Lamar Alexander

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Kenneth McKellar, the Tennessean who chaired the Senate Appropriations Committee, to hide two billion dollars in legislation for a secret project to win World War II. Sen. McKellar replied, "Mr. President, I have just one question: where in Tennessee do you want me to hide it?"



Sen. Lamar Alexander

That place turned out to be Oak Ridge, one of three secret cities that became the principal sites for the Manhattan Project, the top-secret effort to end the war by finding a way to split the atom and build a bomb before Germany could. Less than three years later, the first atomic bombs were

dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

I recently went to Oak Ridge to propose that the United States launch a new Manhattan Project: a five-year project to put America firmly on the path to clean energy independence. Instead of ending a war, the goal would be to deal with rising gasoline prices, electricity prices, clean air, climate change and national security concerns—particularly the danger of being held hostage by other countries for our energy supplies.

Lamar Alexander is the senior United States Senator from Tennessee. He sits on the Appropriations Committee, and the Committee on Environment & Public Works. He also co-chairs the TVA Congressional Caucus.

The Cost We Pay

This year Americans will pay nearly \$500 billion overseas for oil—\$1,600 for each one of us—some of it to nations that are trying to kill us by bankrolling terrorists. That weakens our dollar. It is half our trade deficit. It is forcing gasoline prices past \$4 a gallon and crushing family budgets.

Congress' recent actions have been shortsighted and counterproductive, notably climate change legislation introduced by Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) that would have actually raised gasoline prices 53 cents per gallon by the year 2030 with an additional 90 cents per gallon on top of that over the following two decades. Thankfully, that "climate tax bill" was defeated decisively.

A more sensible approach to providing relief from high energy costs would be to tap the reserves right here at home that we already know exist—offshore on both coasts and in 2,000 acres in Alaska. Right now exploration in these areas is restricted by outdated federal laws.

New Thinking Required

Long term, however, environmental concerns about climate change require new thinking. If worldwide energy usage continues to grow as projected and fossil fuels continue to supply over 80 percent of that energy, humans would inject as much CO2 into the air from fossil fuel burning between 2000 and 2030 as they did between 1850 and 2000. We have plenty of coal to help achieve our energy independence, for example, but no commercial way—yet—to capture the carbon from the coal, and we have not finished the job of controlling sulfur, nitrogen, and mercury emissions. There is much to be done.

(continued on page 2)

Lead Young Engineers by Your Example

by Lillard Teasley, PE
President, ACEC of Tennessee

It's hard to believe that we are beginning another year: new committee members, new legislative issues, new board members, and more. These are exciting times.



Lillard Teasley

I would like to use this column as a way to pass on the items that I see as important. During our Board retreat this year, our consensus was that membership is of primary importance. Along those lines, I would love to see us as a group try to involve more of our employees in ACEC. I believe that the future of our organization and profession relies on our ability to get more of our younger employees involved.

Most of you are aware that there are a number of committees that invite and need the involvement of our members. The work of these committees is significant. They provide leadership and new blood to our profession. They provide opportunities for service and growth to our members and especially young engineers.

I have been involved with ACEC for seven years now, and it is amazing how little the active group has changed. I challenge all firm principals to find employees to involve in our activities such as committees, local chapter functions or the leadership development program. If we don't find ways to involve our younger employees now, there may not be a next generation of leaders.

Lead by Example

We must demonstrate our commitment to ACEC and our profession by being involved ourselves. The current generation has different expectations than our group did. They expect more personal free time and a distinction between work and the rest of their lives. I like to think that our involvement teaches that there is really very little difference between our goals and values at work and away from work. I believe that most of us live our profession; we constantly concern ourselves with how to improve life in our communities, state and nation. Hopefully, through involvement and by example, we will lead our young engineers to a place where they can be our future leaders.

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Clean Energy Independence (continued from page 1)

Fortunately, this country of ours is a remarkable place. Even during this economic slowdown we will produce this year about 30 percent of all the wealth in the world for just the 5 percent of us who live here. Despite the gathering storm of concern about American competitiveness, no other country approaches our brainpower advantage—the collection of research

universities, national laboratories and private sector companies we have. And this is still the only country

where people can say with a straight face that anything is possible—and really believe it.

... no other country approaches our brainpower advantage—the collection of research universities, national laboratories and private sector companies we have.

These are precisely the ingredients we need to place ourselves firmly on a path to clean energy independence within a generation—and in doing so, to make our jobs more secure, to help balance the family budget, to make our air cleaner and our planet safer and healthier—

and to lead the world to do the same.

Thanks to PAC Contributors

Thanks to all of the individuals at ACEC member firms, Partner companies and others who have contributed a total of more than \$10,000 to the Tennessee Professional Engineers Political Action Committee:

Jeff Arnold, Fisher & Arnold
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It's a Celebration on October 10; Make Your Plans to Be There

On Friday evening, October 10, ACEC of Tennessee will celebrate its 40th Anniversary with a gala event at the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville.

The occasion will be much more than a reception and dinner; it will be a celebration of the accomplishments of Tennessee engineering companies and ACEC of Tennessee during the four decades since 1968. Plans for the evening include music (of course!), video



presentations, Minnie Pearl . . . and more.

Lamar Dunn, PE, Lamar Dunn & Associates, is chair of the Anniversary Committee.

Also serving on the Committee are Steve Hays, Mike Pohlman, Lester Smith, Billy Sumner, Campbell Wallace, and Roy Wauford.

Visit www.acectn.org frequently during the next weeks for updates and information about this event.

Annual Meeting Snapshots

Board for 2008-2009: ▶

1st Row (L to R): James D. Morinec, Past President; David Harrell, Director at Large; Chuck Saunders, Treasurer; Lillard Teasley, President; Ed Hargraves, President-Elect; 2nd Row (L to R): Mike Stomer, East TN Chapter President; Steve Lane, National Director; Steve Field, Secretary; Mike Pohlman, Second Vice President; Steve Bostic, First Vice President.



◀ Newly installed ACEC President Lillard Teasley (left) presents an award of recognition for service to outgoing President James D. Morinec.



Fearsome Threesome at Tennessee Engineering Foundation Tournament: Mike Kusch, Sherman Dixie; Pat Wiggins, SEI, Mike Stomer, S&ME.



James D. Morinec, ACEC President 2007-2008 (left), and Robert Campbell, TSPE President 2007-2008 (right), present an award to Brad Thompson, Wilbur Smith Associates, for his continued hard work on the Tennessee Engineering Foundation Golf Tournament.

CALENDAR

**AUGUST
22-23**

Leadership Development
Session
Tennessee Engineering
Center

**SEPTEMBER
12-13**

Leadership Development
Session
Tennessee Engineering
Center

**OCTOBER
10-11**

Leadership Development
Session
Tennessee Engineering
Center

**OCTOBER
10**

40th Anniversary Party
ACEC of Tennessee
Country Music Hall of
Fame

**OCTOBER
19-22**

ACEC Fall Conference
Montreal, Quebec,
Canada
Fairmont – The Queen
Elizabeth Hotel

**NOVEMBER
14-15**

Leadership Development
Session
Tennessee Engineering
Center

ACEC

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WELCOME, New Partner Program Member

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Greenleaf 3D specializes in Autodesk 3D and Visualization software applications, as well as their foundation and vertical applications. Greenleaf 3D also provides training, consulting and support for these products, equipping its clients with the ability to leverage Autodesk technology to increase their service offerings and profitability.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Recharged and Ready for the Year Ahead

by Candy Toler
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

The 2008 ACEC / TSPE Joint Annual Meeting is behind us. ACEC is recharged and ready for the year ahead.

Lillard Teasley is now President of ACEC of Tennessee. The new officers were installed, those who made significant contributions to the work of the association were recognized, the two tracks of professional development seminars were well received, the weather was sunny and warm for the golf tournament, and we raised over \$10,000 for the state engineers' PAC. An impressive two days. Be certain to review the list of the new Board members on page 2



Candy Toler

of this newsletter.

Jim Morinec, now Immediate Past President of ACEC of Tennessee, recognized the contributions to ACEC and the engineering profession by presenting Presidential Citations to the following people:

- Susan Thrasher, PE (Parsons Brinckerhoff,

Nashville) for her service to ACEC of Tennessee as treasurer for three years;

- Mark Askew, PE (Askew Hargraves, Harcourt and Associates, Memphis), for his service to the state organization as an officer and national director;

- Harold Cannon, PE (Cannon and Cannon, Knoxville) for his service on the Board as director at large;

- David Harrell, PE (Vaughn and Melton, Knoxville) for chairing the ACEC of Tennessee Engineering Excellence Awards program; and

- Brad Thompson (Wilbur Smith Associates, Nashville) for coordinating the Tennessee Engineering Foundation Golf Tournament.

There was something for everyone at the Annual Meeting this year and we hope you will make plans to attend next year. We will let you know the dates and details soon.

ACEC's Fall Conference will be in Montreal October 19-22. There will be a veritable plethora of seminars and networking opportunities. It's not too late to get your passport and make plans to attend!

P.S. Although you may have missed our PAC Auction at the Annual Meeting, we would welcome your contribution to the state PAC. Please make your personal check payable to Tennessee Professional Engineers PAC.