FALL 2025

CRITICAL PATH

ACEA | OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GREATER AUSTIN CONTRACTORS & ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

An Interview With ACEA'S President

Meet Steve Ihnen, P.E.

by Karen Frankian Aroian





Steve Ihnen, P.E. 2025-2026 ACEA Board President represented ACEA at the ASCE Texas Section release of the Texas Infrastructure Report Card on February 18, 2025.

By the time ACEA President Steve Ihnen, PE, joined ACEA as an engineer in 1995, he had already been a member as a contractor for several years.

"I joined ACEA as a contractor in the early '90s when I worked for Capital Excavation. In 1995, I joined ACEA as an engineer through Garrett & Associates. In those days, ACEA was just focused on working with the City of Austin and the impact of its municipal regulations on our industry. Over the years however, ACEA has expanded its influence to all the surrounding areas, helping cities develop their regulations as they have grown."

BE AN ASSET, NOT A LIABILITY.

Jack Garret of Garret & Associates became Steve's first engineering mentor and champion. "Jack taught me how to focus on central issues and not sweat the small stuff. He encouraged my involvement in ACEA, and he made it possible for me to purchase the company from his estate after his death. Most importantly, he showed me how to balance life and work."

As it happened, Jack was president of ACEA in 1995 and vigorously encouraged his engineers to join the organization with this memorable maxim: "Get involved! Stand around the campfire, but don't piss on it."

As someone who wanted to be a positive contributor, Steve took that to mean, "Don't squash other people's ideas. It's important to let other people's ideas play out. I'm really glad I took Jack's advice at a time when ACEA first proposed the idea for a symposium. I was worried that it would be too expensive and lose money, but I didn't criticize the idea—I just asked questions. I'm glad that I didn't put out that campfire. The ACEA Symposium has grown into a really significant annual event for our organization."

"Jack's influence really moved me toward ACEA involvement as a way to serve my profession and my community. Another takeaway Steve put into action was, "Be an asset, not a liability." As a result, Steve's journey in ACEA began strong and stayed strong as a believer in community service.

> Jack taught me how to focus on central issues and not sweat the small stuff. He encouraged my involvement in ACEA... Most importantly, he showed me how to balance life and work.

BE A SERVANT-LEADER.

Steve also credits other mentors like Jack who inspired and motivated him—beginning with his father. "My dad laid the groundwork for my faith and my understanding of business operations. He owned a farm implement dealership in South Dakota, and he used to take me out on sales calls when I was a boy.

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An Interview With ACEA'S President

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The Bleyl Engineering team brought their best chili recipe to the annual Chili Cook-Off taking home the 3rd Place Trophy and bragging rights.



Steve Ihnen sampling an offering from one of the contestants at the annual Chili Cook-off.

I've seen him overcome great adversity and develop lifelong relationships through his faith and his work."

Don Cunningham of Cunningham-Allen was also a member of ACEA and served on Steve's board of directors as Steve took ownership of the company. Don became a mentor to Steve after Jack's death. Now in his nineties, Don continues to mentor Steve as a man of faith, a businessman, and an engineer. "He has also been an amazing model of faithful devotion to his wife for more than 70 years."

As ACEA's current president, Steve has his own guiding message to ACEA's network of contractors, engineers, and associates: "Don't wait to get involved because you're worried that you won't know enough. Remember, the kind of people we're looking for in ACEA are servant-leaders, men and women willing to work behind the scenes, take initiative, and are enthusiastic about promoting our industry. Your ideas, questions, and participation are a valuable part of the work ACEA is doing!"

BE A UNITED FRONT.

Steve takes pride in pointing out that ACEA is the only organization that brings engineers and contractors together to tackle the unique problems facing both fields of the industry. "This collaboration allows us to provide a united front in helping cities and the state of Texas to understand the impact of their policies and regulations on the cost of living and the cost of development—and ultimately on people's lives."



The Fish Fry provided an opportunity for Steve Ihnen to visit with Adam Boatright, Williamson County Engineer/Development & Drainage Division Director.

> Don't wait to get involved because you're worried that you won't know enough. Remember, the kind of people we're looking for in ACEA are servant-leaders, men and women willing to work behind the scenes, take initiative, and are enthusiastic about promoting our industry. Your ideas, questions, and participation are a valuable part of the work ACEA is doing!

As an example, a few years back, the City of Austin wanted to require a large manhole for every water valve greater than twelve inches. Steve recalls how ACEA helped them realize that this requirement was impractical and financially not feasible. Today the organization

also helps members stay up to date on technology and innovation. "Most importantly, together we can influence practical regulatory outcomes at the city and state level," he said.

Steve is quick to add that more than 300 teenagers registered this spring for ACEA's Construction Expo. "Although it got rained out this year, the Construction Expo has traditionally been a great vehicle for helping high school students identify a future career in construction, surveying, engineering, drafting, or design," Steve said. "High school offers limited exposure in these areas, and ACEA in partnership with the city of Austin is uniquely positioned to offer this integrated type of experience."

BE A MODEL FOR AUSTIN.

Every year ACEA presidents and board members are on the lookout for servant-leaders, men and women willing to work behind the scenes, take initiative, and be enthusiastic about promoting the industry.

"Our industry flourishes when contractors and engineers collaborate in person to solve problems. I served on an ACEA committee to help Austin move to a paperless review process. We actually accomplished that task, but the city didn't implement our suggestions until COVID happened, twenty years later!

"Over the years I've worn several hats with ACEA: Fish Fry Committee, Scholarship Committee, treasurer, and last year president-elect. I served on the board under Danette Shelton. I also served on the board during Covid, which was a challenging time for the organization."

BE THE FUTURE.

Currently the board is working to integrate all committees through Microsoft TEAMS in order to improve communication, promote the exchange of ideas, and develop budgeting tools for all ACEA projects and events. The board is also developing a leadership transition plan for the future.

As president Steve is working hard to create a culture within ACEA where new people feel welcomed and encouraged to participate. "One goal our organization has for the future is to duplicate our model in a new San Antonio chapter of ACEA. I want to establish our organization's reputation with surrounding cities as an industry resource for questions on policy, regulations, and decision-making."

If planning an expansive trajectory for the future is the goal, Steve's servant-leadership is heading in a visionary direction that is bound to inspire members to keep the proverbial campfire going by choosing a niche they can fill, getting involved, and sustaining the organization into the future. \ CP

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CITY OF AUSTIN

Understanding SB 840 and How It Applies in Austin

Senate Bill 840 (SB 840), which took effect on Sept. 1, 2025, allows mixed-use and multifamily residential development in any commercial zone or any commercial use building in Austin.

Changes to Site Plan Exemptions for Change of Use

Beginning Oct. 1, City of Austin is streamlining the Site Plan Exemption requirements for the Change of Use process. The number of required reviews will be reduced from 11 disciplines to three key reviews, cutting the typical timeline from two months to about two weeks. These changes benefit anyone needing a Change of Use, including those opening a new business, repurposing a property, or making updates to an existing space.

New Site Plan Dashboard Now Available

The City of Austin launched a new Site Plan Formal Review dashboard on the Austin Open Data Portal. This dashboard builds on existing Site Plan Performance Metrics, providing real-time data on turnaround times for reviews by discipline, department, fiscal year, and cycle type. This provides a more transparent look into site plan review.

TXDOT CONSTRUCTION DIVISION (CST)

Lunch & Learn Opportunities

TxDOT's Construction Division (CST) is holding a series of Lunch & Learn sessions through December 17.

The Lunch & Learns will be focused on providing demonstrations of construction functions in APCM, the replacement software for SiteManager.

Topics covered include:

- Maintenance Distribution
- Creating and Approving a Change Order
- Running Reports.

For any questions, please email Jason Duncan: jason.duncan@txdot.gov.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

TCEQ Rules Update

New rule projects to amend Chapter 30 for Implementation of Occupational Licensing – Response to Ethics Petitions: It would require continuing education (CE) ethics training for renewal of all levels of public water system and wastewater operator licenses. The petitioners requested that four hours of ethics training be required in each three-year renewal cycle. The proposed ethics training would count towards the 30 CE credits already required to renew a license.

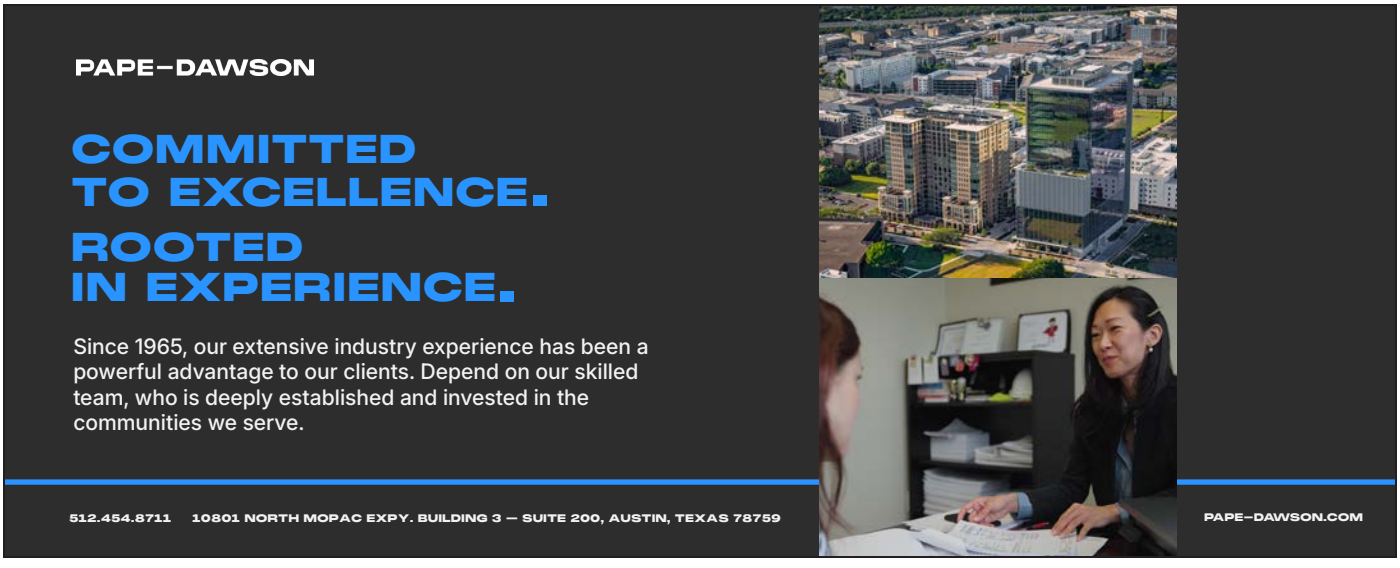
Further, TCEQ proposes to set the renewal fees for 1.5 times the normal fee and two times the normal fee for license and registration applications that are submitted up to 90 and 180 days past expiration, respectively.

CITY OF SAN MARCOS

Land Development Code Amendments

The City of San Marcos is updating its Land Development Code (LDC)—the set of rules that guides how the city grows and develops. This update intends to help implement the Vision SMTX Comprehensive Plan, improve development processes, align with state law, and address new types of development. \ CP

The Regulatory Committee meets on the third Wednesday of the month. If you would like to be notified of upcoming meetings, contact at sara@aceatx.com or 512.893.7067.



Summer Classic Golf Tournament

New Team Emerges Triumphant

The Summer Classic Golf Tournament was held on July 28 at the Onion Creek Golf Club. Onion Creek offered the opportunity to spread the teams out as well as trying a new twist to determine the winner. The top five teams entered into an elimination round and the final victor came down to a fateful chip off where the River City Concrete team was victorious celebrating with champagne and taking the crystal trophy home. Tommy Welch, Morris Bailey, Brian Oliver, and Ben Winter took a figurative victory lap and enjoyed the hard-fought win.

Additionally, Brandi Stark, B Wise Environmental, created a stir with her hole-in-one. She was awarded the hole's flag to commemorate her accomplishment. \ CP

RESULTS FROM THE TOURNAMENT

FIRST PLACE
River City Concrete team:
Tommy Welch, Morris Bailey, Brian Oliver and Ben Winter

SECOND PLACE
AK Fuquay team:
Garrett Shepperd, David Kalifelz, JD Fuquay and Danny Oldani

THIRD PLACE
Ameritex Pipe team:
Jeremy Sholtis, Nick Archila, Tod Alderman, Sebastian Guerra

CLOSEST TO THE PIN
Nick Page
JD Fuquay
Art Cantu

LONGEST DRIVE
David Elizondo
Bob Little
Ben Winter

MEMBERSHIP HOLE: 50/50
Peyton Dove


1


2


3


4


5


6

1. The River City Concrete team gets to display the Crystal Trophy until the next Summer Tournament. **2.** The Ameritex Pipe Team celebrating a good shot. **3.** The AK Fuquay Team took second place. **4.** Closest to the Pin winner. **5.** Peyton Dove won half the cash pot at the Membership Hole sponsored by Austin Wood Recycling. **5.** A happy David Elizondo, The Dispatcher, claims the prize for Longest Drive. **OPPOSITE PAGE: 7.** The Cash Construction Team enjoyed the tournament. **8.** Nick Page, MLA Geotechnical, was one of the winners of the Longest Drive Challenge. **9.** Garrett Shepperd, Golf Committee Co-Chair, congratulates JD Fuquay, AK Fuquay on his win. **10.** Brandi Stark, B Wise Environmental, Hole-in-One, poses with ACEA Executive Director Silvia Pendleton.


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Tax Brief for Contractors *Related to* OBBBA

By Carrie D. Bradshaw, CPA, CEO and Founder of CD Bradshaw & Associates, P.C. CCIFP

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) was signed into law by President Trump on July 4, 2025. OBBBA includes numerous provisions affecting the tax liability of U.S. businesses. For many businesses, the favorable provisions outweigh the unfavorable, but both kinds are likely to impact your tax planning. Now that the dust is settling, construction business owners and their leadership teams can begin to really pinpoint the provisions most pertinent to their operations.

Here are the top six to study up on:

1. ACCOUNTING EXEMPTION

For tax years beginning on or after July 4, 2025, contracts entered into for residential construction projects, per the amended definition under the OBBBA, generally qualify for an exception to the percentage-of-completion method of accounting.

That means, if eligible, you can use the completed-contract method (CCM) or other permissible methods. Under the CCM, for example, you can defer income until a project is substantially completed, which generally improves cash flow through tax savings.

CDBA Tax Tip: Construction businesses should conduct an evaluation of their tax-basis accounting method used to maximize federal tax reporting benefits. There is an almost unlimited number of accounting methods available to construction contractors.

2. ACCELERATED DEPRECIATION

The OBBBA includes multiple provisions that will allow you to accelerate depreciation on eligible capital expenditures. These breaks can also improve cash flow, helping to make new investments in equipment and machinery more viable.

The law makes permanent 100% first-year bonus depreciation for qualified new and used assets acquired and placed in service after January 19, 2025. It also increases the Section 179 expense deduction limit to $2.5 million, with the phaseout threshold raised to $4 million. Those figures are effective for 2025, with annual inflation adjustments going forward.

In addition, the OBBBA creates a temporary 100% deduction for the cost of building "qualified production property" — for instance, facilities used to fabricate materials. This could boost demand for projects related to manufacturing. Construction must have begun after January 19, 2025, and before January 1, 2029, and the property must be placed in service before 2031.

CDBA Tax Tip: Do not buy equipment simply for the tax write-off. Buy equipment to make money for the company in a tax efficient manner.

3. BIGGER BUSINESS INTEREST DEDUCTIONS

If you finance capital purchases, you may be able to deduct more of the in-



Construction businesses should conduct an evaluation of their tax-basis accounting method used to maximize federal tax reporting benefits.

terest under the OBBBA. The business interest deduction is generally limited to 30% of your adjusted tax income (ATI). Since 2022, though, deductions for depreciation, amortization or depletion were ***not*** added back to taxable income when calculating ATI. So, ATI was effectively measured based on earnings before interest and taxes, not earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA).

Beginning with the 2025 tax year, the OBBBA provides that ATI will again include depreciation, amortization and depletion in the calculation. In other words, ATI will revert to being calculated based on EBITDA. This will effectively increase the ATI base, generally raising the allowable business interest deduction.

4. DISTRESSED COMMUNITY CONSTRUCTION INCENTIVES

The TCJA established the Qualified Opportunity Zone (QOZ) program to encourage investment in distressed areas. The program generally allows taxpayers to defer, reduce or exclude unrealized capital gains reinvested in qualified opportunity funds (QOFs) that invest in designated distressed communities. The OBBBA creates a permanent QOZ policy that builds off the original program.

It retains the existing benefits and also provides for investors to receive incremental reductions in gain starting on their investment's first anniversary. In the seventh year, taxpayers must realize their initial gains, reduced by any step-up in basis, the amount of which depends on how long the investment is held. The first round of QOFs available under the permanent policy will begin on January 1, 2027.

The OBBBA also introduces a new type of QOF for rural areas. Investments in such funds will receive triple the step-up in basis.

5. REDUCED TAXATION OF OVERTIME

For tax years 2025 through 2028, the OBBBA allows employees to deduct up to $12,500 ($25,000 for joint filers) of qualified overtime pay. This tax break is available regardless of whether a taxpayer itemizes. However, it begins to phase out when an individual's modified adjusted gross income exceeds $150,000 (or $300,000 for joint filers).

The boost to take-home pay may make overtime more enticing to existing construction workers and job seekers considering the industry. But it also requires employers to track and report the amount of qualified overtime pay. What's more, overtime pay will remain subject to payroll taxes and state income taxes.

6. ELIMINATION OF CLEAN ENERGY INCENTIVES

The OBBBA eliminates many of the Inflation Reduction Act's clean energy tax incentives for businesses, including the:

- Qualified commercial clean vehicle credit,
- Alternative fuel vehicle refueling property credit, and
- Sec. 179D deduction for energy-efficient commercial buildings.

The law accelerates the phaseouts of some incentives and moves up the project deadlines for others. The expiration dates vary. For example, the commercial clean vehicle credit can't be claimed for a vehicle acquired after September 30, 2025, instead of December 31, 2032. But the alternative fuel vehicle refueling property credit doesn't expire until after June 30, 2026.

Here are a few additional provisions included in the new law that may also affect your business's tax liability:

1. QUALIFIED BUSINESS INCOME (QBI) DEDUCTION

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) created the Section 199A deduction for QBI for owners of pass-through



The OBBBA makes the QBI deduction permanent. It also expands the deduction limit phase-in ranges for specified services trades or businesses, and other entities subject to the wage and investment limitation.

entities (such as partnerships, limited liability companies and S corporations) and sole proprietorships. The deduction had been slated to expire after 2025, putting many business owners at risk of higher taxes.

The OBBBA makes the QBI deduction permanent. It also expands the deduction limit phase-in ranges for specified services trades or businesses, and other entities subject to the wage and investment limitation. For these businesses, the deduction is reduced when taxable income falls within the phase-in range and is eliminated for specified services trades or businesses when taxable income exceeds the range. The new law expands the phase-in ranges from $50,000 to $75,000 for individual filers and from $100,000 to $150,000 for joint filers.

The OBBBA also adds an inflation-adjusted minimum QBI deduction of $400, beginning in 2026. It's available for taxpayers with at least $1,000 of QBI from one or more active businesses in which they materially participate.

2. RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTATION EXPENSE DEDUCTION

Beginning in 2022, the TCJA required businesses to amortize Sec. 174 research and experimentation (R&E) costs over five years if incurred in the United States or 15 years if incurred outside the country. With the mandatory mid-year convention, deductions were spread out over six years. The OBBBA permanently allows the deduction of domestic R&E expenses in the year incurred, starting with the 2025 tax year.

The OBBBA also allows "small businesses" (those with average annual gross receipts of $31 million or less) to claim the deduction retroactively to 2022. Any business that incurred domestic R&E expenses in 2022 through 2024 can elect to accelerate the remaining deductions for those expenditures over a one- or two-year period.

3. EMPLOYER TAX PROVISIONS

The new law makes permanent the exclusion from gross income (for employees) and from wages for employment tax purposes (for employers) for employer payments of student loans. It also provides that the maximum annual exclusion of $5,250 be adjusted annually for inflation after 2026.

In addition, the OBBBA permanently raises the maximum employer-provided child care credit from 25% to 40% of qualified expenses, up to $500,000 per year. (For eligible small businesses, these amounts are 50% and up to $600,000, respectively.) The maximum dollar amount will be adjusted annually for inflation after 2026.

The OBBBA also makes permanent the employer credit for paid family and medical leave (FML) after 2025. It also provides employers the option to claim the credit for a portion of premiums paid for FML insurance instead of for a portion of the actual cost of pay to employees on qualified leave.

4. EMPLOYEE RETENTION TAX CREDIT

If you filed an Employee Retention Tax Credit claim after January 31, 2024, you may not see your expected refund. The OBBBA bars the IRS from issuing refunds for certain claims submitted after that date. It also gives the IRS at least six years from the date of filing to challenge these claims.

To be clear, the OBBBA provisions we've discussed are only some of those that could affect your construction business and your individual income taxes.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Since the OBBBA is simply extending or making relatively modest modifications to existing tax law, it probably won't result in the years-long onslaught of new regulations and IRS guidance that followed the TCJA's enactment. (We hope!) \ CP

Follow CD Bradshaw & Associates, P.C. on LinkedIn for more tips and tricks for managing cash, accounting and tax matters related to your construction company.

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ACEA Membership Luncheon Recaps

Monthly Topics Are Relevant and Earn PDH Credits

One of the easiest and most enjoyable ways to earn PDH credits is by attending the monthly membership luncheons offering interesting and relevant topics. Industry leaders provide updates on current issues. Meet new members and guests while enjoying a delicious lunch. The luncheon sponsor has an opportunity to introduce their staff, product or service and is featured at each luncheon while providing a door prize. Block out the second Thursday of the month for this networking event. Here's what happened at the last few luncheons.

JULY 2025

The July luncheon started off with an introduction of the 2025-2026 board and officers. Dustin Goss, Immediate Past President, presented the gavel to Steve Ihnen. Dustin received a plaque from the board in appreciation of his leadership.

Steve welcomed new members Byron Clark, Heidelberg Materials, and ERW Site Solutions represented by Jessica Smith, Zarek Boutaghou, and Trevor Pack. Door prize winner David Rabago, TRC Companies, received a backpack courtesy of sponsor Pape-Dawson.

Jennifer Glaess, P.E., Liberty Hill City Engineer, with Pape-Dawson, provided an update on the growth Liberty Hill is experiencing and the challenges facing the city. She touched on major developments underway. The city is planning for wastewater collection and treatment systems and developing a master plan for water. She also addressed current challenges such as updating the transportation and drainage master plan and other long-term issues.

AUGUST 2025

Steven Snell, Williamson County Judge, visited in August to a full house in attendance. In addition to providing an update on Williamson County, Judge Snell elaborated a bit on his









JULY
1. Steve Ihnen, P. E., presents an award to outgoing ACEA Board President, Dustin Goss, P.E. **2.** ACEA Board President Steve Ihnen, P.E., with luncheon speaker Jennifer Glaess, P.E., Liberty Hill City Engineer. **3.** New ACEA members Byron Clark, Heidelberg Materials, Steve Ihnen, ACEA Board President, and ERW Site Solutions Jessica Smith, Zarek Boutaghou, and Trevor Pack. **4.** David Rabago, TRC Companies was the door prize winner provided by Pape-Dawson and presented by Steve Ihnen, ACEA Board President.

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APRIL 6
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JULY 20
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ACEA Membership Luncheon Recaps

continued from page 12

















AUGUST

5. Williamson County Judge Steve Snell addressed the members at the August luncheon. **6.** New members Texas Area Telecom Luis Espinoza and Melissa Stricklin. **7.** Robby Hub was the door prize winner provided by Darrell Seeds, Joe Bland Construction. **8.** Grant Ballew won the Membership Recruitment prize presented by Steve Ihnen (left) and Membership Committee Chair Frank Castro (right).

SEPTEMBER

9. Garrett Shepperd, Golf Committee Chair, with Morris Bailey representing the River City Concrete golf team, displays the winning team's name plaque on the Crystal Trophy, with Steve Ihnen, ACEA Board President. **10.** Crystal Hall, P.G., Gray Civil, was the guest speaker at the August luncheon with Steve Ihnen. **11.** Robert Martinez, HNTB, won the door prize presented by Colby Harris, Gray Civil. **12.** Steve Ihnen, P.E., ACEA Board President at the membership luncheon.

background, the challenges the county faced after the flooding events over the 4th of July holiday and provided a clear overview of the future for the county. Membership Committee Chair Frank Castro, The Nitsche Group, held the quarterly drawing for the member recruitment incentive. Grant Ballew, Ballew Surety walked away with a nice gift basket for his efforts. Frank welcomed new member Texas Area Telecom represented by Melissa Stricklin, and Luis Espinoza. Robby Hub won the door prize provided by sponsor Joe Bland Construction and presented by Darrell Seeds.

SEPTEMBER 2025

Gray Civil sponsored the September luncheon featuring Crystal Hall, P.G. Crystal's presentation on "Environmental Compliance: Navigating the Current Regulatory Landscape and Your Project" provided a clear explanation of the environmental included the official presentation of the Crystal Trophy to the Summer Classic team represented by Morris Bailey. The plaque with the winning team's names was added to the trophy for all to see and covet. Robert Martinez, HNTB, won a nice door prize presented by Colby Harris, Gray Civil. \ CP

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ACEA MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

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Northcross Mall
2525 W. Anderson Lane
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Details
See the schedule, speakers and topics on p. 18 and online.

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CP \ ACEA EVENTS

NOV 13

MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

TIME: 11:30 – 1:00 p.m.

SPEAKER: Lila Valencia

TOPIC: Austin Population Change and Demographic Trends

Norris Conference Center

2525 Anderson Lane (Northcross Mall)

DEC 11

MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

TIME: 11:30 – 1:00 p.m.

SPEAKER: Pflugerville Fire Chief

TOPIC: Changing Regulations Affecting Development

Norris Conference Center

2525 Anderson Lane (Northcross Mall)

JAN 8

MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

TIME: 11:30 – 1:00 p.m.

SPEAKER: TBD

TOPIC: TBD

Norris Conference Center

2525 Anderson Lane (Northcross Mall)



Connect with ACEA Members over a cup of coffee.

Enjoy a cup of coffee and morning networking with civil engineering and construction professionals.

Attendance is free, but please register so we know how many to expect!

GREATER ACEA

AUSTIN CONTRACTORS & ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

COFFEE CHATS



North

NOVEMBER 7

SURVEY WORKS
Merfolk Coffee
4930 S. Congress
TIME: 7:30 – 9:00 A.M.

South

NOVEMBER 21

AVAILABLE
Location TBD
TIME: 7:30 – 9:00 A.M.

North

DECEMBER 5

SOUTHWEST ENGINEERS
Location TBD
TIME: 7:30 – 9:00 A.M.

South

DECEMBER 18

DKS ASSOCIATES
DKS ASSOCIATES OFFICE
305 Camp Craft Rd., Ste. 525
West Lake Hills, TX
TIME: 7:30 – 9:00 A.M.

AWARDS/RECOGNITION

ABJ BUSINESS AWARDS FINALISTS

Congratulations to the ACEA Member finalists in the ABJ Business Awards

- **Best Places for Working Parents:** Garza EMC
- **Company Culture:** HDR Engineering, Inc.
- **Employee Health & Wellness:** Garver
- **Small Business Excellence:** Civilitude

2025 SUPER LAWYERS & RISING STARS

Congratulations to these four Chapman Firm attorneys on their recognition as Super Lawyers and Rising Stars in the 2025 Texas Super Lawyers selection:



Super Lawyers

- Jeff Chapman
- Jerry Negrete
- Erik G. Moskowitz

Rising Star

- Sarah Scott

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

20 YEARS STRONG

Congratulations to **Pape-Dawson** celebrating 20 years in Austin! The Austin team and clients came together for a fun happy hour to celebrate two decades of growth, collaboration, and community.

HALFF CELEBRATES 75TH WITH LEGACY IN ACTION GIVING WEEK

Halff, an employee-owned infrastructure consulting firm, marked its 75th anniversary by giving back to the communities it serves through its Legacy in Action Giving Week from August 18 through August 22. Employees across Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas contributed more than $45,000 in donations and nearly 1,000 volunteer service hours through the **Halff Community Initiative** (HCI) during the week-long celebration.

ACQUISITIONS/MERGERS

LJA ENGINEERING ACQUIRES G&R SURVEYING AND FAGAN CONSULTING

LJA Engineering has acquired G&R Surveying, Fagan Consulting (Austin, TX), a transportation consulting firm specializing in toll systems and operations. LJA Engineering also acquired MESA Integrated Solutions (Austin, TX), a transportation engineering firm offering engineering software support and production services.

DURWOOD GREENE CONSTRUCTION CO. ACQUIRES 8 ASPHALT PLANTS

Durwood Greene Construction Co., part of the Lone Star Paving family, has expanded with the acquisition of eight hot-mix asphalt plants, along with experienced crews and equipment in the Houston area.

TRC COMPANIES ACQUIRES STRATEGIC ENERGY GROUP

TRC Companies acquired Strategic Energy Group (Portland, OR), an expert in strategic energy management.

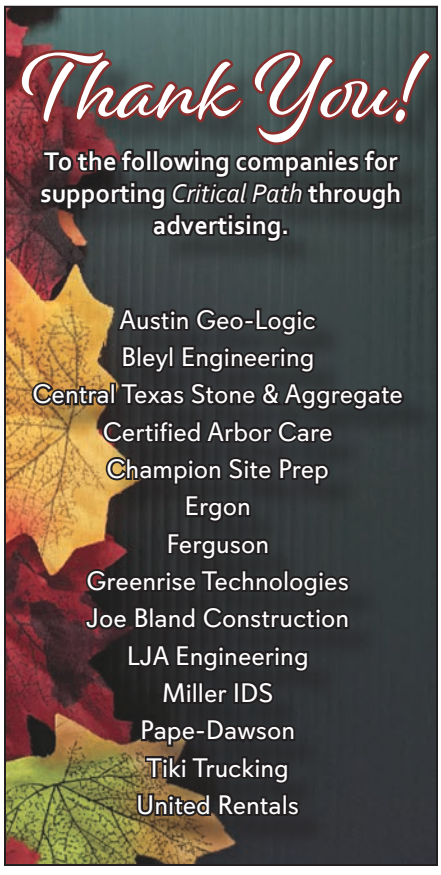
PERSONNEL

CASH CONSTRUCTION ADDS NEW PROJECT MANAGER

Cash Construction Promotes Jacob Maldonado to project manager I



Do you have member news?
ACEA members are invited to share industry-pertinent news for In the Trenches. Please email press releases to info@aceatx.com.




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