Kansas Construction Education Foundation Makes Allocations

The KCA Construction Education Foundation Board of Trustees met earlier this month and approved allocations of $21,250 to six Kansas schools to further the education of potential students in Kansas. The allocations were as follows:

- **University of Kansas**: $4,500  For various items including lab balance and soil shear strength tester
- **Washburn Tech**: $3,000  To help pay for used trailer
- **Pittsburg State**: $3,500  To help purchase Topcon GPS unit
- **North Central Tech**: $2,250  For nine business band radios
- **Salina Tech**: $3,500  For purchase of dump bed trailer
- **Kansas State University**: $4,500  Three scholarships and the rest for equipment

Members of the committee are Chairman Dean McDaniel, Vice Chair Troy Sporer, Mike Laird, Jeff Barnes, Rob Lauer and Bob Totten.

Last week, on behalf of the committee, Dane Barclay of Alsop Sand presented a check to Mark Jones and Corey Isabell of the North Central Kansas Technical College in Beloit.
From The President’s Desk

As the current president of the KCA, this will be my final column for the KCA Newsletter. For those who read this, I want to express my sincere gratitude for having the opportunity to lead this organization these past two years. It has certainly been a highlight in my career and one I will cherish.

My wife, Lois, and I wish to thank the KCA staff, Board Members and KCA members for their support throughout these extremely difficult times we face in our industry. Hopefully in the months ahead, things will change to better our position for future funding we all need to continue as Contractors, Suppliers and as an Association.

I am not at all pleased with what has happened to our funding picture in the past couple of years and what is likely to happen in the future. I wish there could have been more myself and your Board of Directors could have done to prevent it, but try as we did, sometimes things don’t go the way we want them to. We will continue to work with whomever we need to at any level of government and with other associations to get the promises that were made in 2010 and again in 2014 fulfilled for us and the taxpayers of Kansas.

I am pleased we have some talented individuals in place ready to take over the fight and although I won’t be in charge, I will be right there ready to help whenever I am called upon. Thank you again for your support these past two years and I’m confident the KCA will continue to thrive into the future.

Revenue Estimates Hold Key for KDOT Funding

By Bob Totten, Executive Vice President

The budget picture for Kansas continues to look bleak and that will mean KDOT will still be on the forefront as our leaders will again have to make up the shortfall this coming legislative session.

KDOT leaders assure us everything is going to be fine but in reality the amount of maintenance work is way down and it does not look like it is going to get any better. The budget gurus I talk to point to the fact sales tax is off 3.7%. And from what I understand, sales tax is a good indicator of how the economy is working and with sales tax off almost four percent, the indications are not good.

The idea has often been suggested that if you give the rich a tax break, the money saved will be invested and the economy will improve but that is just not happening.

It is a vicious circle and KDOT will again be on block for cutting funds. November 6th is the day the consensus revenue estimates come out...and about two weeks later the governor will make his announcement about how he plans to fund government in 2017. His budget director Shawn Sullivan says K-12 is off the table meaning any cuts will not come from K-12. That leaves transportation number one with a bullet along with four other groups...but the bulk of the potential money available is at KDOT. It does not look very good.

Construction Industry Training Program Update

By Wanda Tidball

The 9th Annual KDOT/KCA CIT Program began July 1 with $340,000 as the approved training amount. This year’s amount was decreased from what was available last year, unfortunately members didn’t use the entire amount last year so the decrease shouldn’t be that noticeable. KDOT has sent us the allocated dollars for all contractors and the notification letters and surveys for KCA classes were sent about the first week in October.

A few new courses this year will include leadership with many different topics to choose from as well as a crane certification class in English and Spanish. Crane certifications will start expiring and by taking the three-day recertification class contractors will save time and money. The deadline is November, 2017 to have crane operators certified so we will plan on several classes to meet this deadline. We will continue to offer OSHA 10 Roadway Specific and OSHA 30 Roadway Specific, (if it is Roadway Specific participants can get their Flagger Certification as well), OSHA 8 Hour Refresher, NCCCO Crane Operator Certification in English and Spanish, Excavation, Confined Space, Fall Protection for Competent Person, Erosion Control, First Aid/CPR/AED with Blood Borne pathogens, Fork Lift Operator Certification and HAZMAT.

We have three Erosion Control classes planned for this year for November, February and March, but with weather as nice as it currently is, we may have to cancel the November class due to low enrollment. We will try to have a crane recertification class in November or December and in January classes will begin weekly.
Summer Fest 2015

The 21st Annual KCA Summer Fest Golf Tournament at Prairie Dunes Country Club in Hutchinson came off without a hitch July 13th with 100 KCA members participating. Following an outstanding buffet dinner, trophies were presented for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place as well as the Longest Drive and the always coveted “Crapper Award,” given out to the team with the highest score. The 1st place honors went to the team of Chadd Blackwell, Jacob Wilson, Jeff Maes and Craig Easterberg. Each received a personal trophy and have their names engraved on the Summer Fest championship traveling trophy.

In the longest drive contest, Matt Elder won the title and will have his name engraved on the KCA Summer Fest John Daly Longest Drive traveling trophy. Seventeen KCA members generously sponsored Summer Fest which is designed to extend good will from contractors and SSPs to their partners in construction. Without the support of our sponsors, we couldn’t offer this event at such an attractive price.

Fall Days Expo, BBQ and Golf 2015

KCA’s Annual Fall Days Barbecue, Supplier/Service Provider Expo and networking reception was held October 14th and 15th at Prairie Band Casino in Mayetta. KCA members, along with a few professionals from KDOT and the Kansas Turnpike, enjoyed a BBQ reception and visited with a few legislators in attendance. The next morning’s program consisted of an OSHA update on confined space in construction followed by little bit of turnpike history and what’s happening with the turnpike in the future. The last event of the festivities was a beautiful day of golf at Firekeeper Golf Course. The annual KCA Fall Days would not be possible but for KCA members who sponsored and set up exhibits. Thank you for your support!
Membership Update

By Jamie Lane

KCA is pleased to welcome three new contractor members and 15 new Supplier/Service Provider members since the first of the year! Welcome! Thank you for becoming a member and we are happy to have you all!

Contractor members:
- King’s Construction Company, Inc., Oskaloosa, KS
- Mies Construction Inc., Wichita, KS
- Coughlin Company, Salina, KS

SSPs:
- Cobbles Allen, Overland Park, KS
- Sewer Equipment Company of Kansas, Wichita, KS
- BG Consultants, Inc., Manhattan, KS
- Mid-Kansas Construction Services, Kechi, KS
- Sharp Bros. Seed Co., Inc., Healy, KS

Hinkle Law Firm LLC, Wichita, KS
- Kansas Aggregate Producers Association, Topeka, KS
- Kansas Asphalt Pavement Association, Topeka, KS
- Bingham Sand & Gravel Company, Inc., Baxter Springs, KS
- Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc., Peabody, KS
- Frieden, Unruein & Forbes, LLP, Topeka, KS
- Mayer Specialty Services, Goddard, KS
- TransSystems Corporation, Kansas City, MO
- Cornerstone Wealth Management, LLC, Overland Park, KS
- BMO Harris Bank, KC, MO

KCA Safety Picnic

The 9th Annual KCA Safety Picnic was held on September 10th at Lake Shawnee in Topeka. Twenty-two safety professionals enjoyed an afternoon of networking with their peers, a BBQ lunch and an informative “OSHA Update” from David McDonnell, Compliance Assistance Specialist.

Put the Brakes on Fatalities Proclamation

Signing September 30, 2015

About 32,000 people die in traffic crashes each year. That’s nearly 90 fatalities every day. We know that improving safety can help put the brakes on fatalities. School children from across the state entered a poster and video contest and many people shared some pretty incredible stories for a blog series. Organizations that work together on the annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day campaign with KDOT include the Kansas Turnpike Authority, Kansas Highway Patrol, AAA of Kansas, Kansas Contractors Association, Kansas Family Partnership, Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office, Federal Highway Administration and the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers.