Calendar of Events:

♦ November 9, 2017
  5 PM to 7 PM
  House Democrats Holiday Party

♦ November 13, 2017
  EL Bus Tour Pittsburg/Chanute

♦ November 15, 2017
  5 PM to 6:30 PM
  Derek Schmidt Fundraiser

♦ December 12, 2017
  4 PM to 6:30 PM
  KCA Holiday Open House

♦ December 14, 2017
  5 PM to 7 PM
  Senate Democrats Home for the Holidays

♦ January 8, 2018
  First Day of Session

♦ January 16, 2018
  EL Day on the Hill

♦ January 24—26, 2018
  KCA Convention
  InterContinental Hotel
  Kansas City, MO

Message from the President’s Desk

As summer fades away and fall arrives, it’s the time of year to think about closing the construction season before the weather turns cold. For most of us, Mother Nature has been kind this year, so I hope we can all wrap up the season strong and profitable.

It’s been a few very busy months since KCA’s new executive director, Michael White, came on board and I’m pleased he has hit the ground running. He has been on the road traveling the state meeting with KCA members and legislators. Economic Lifelines, which KCA is a member, is holding meetings across the state along with other state groups and lawmakers. The purpose of these meetings is to share the transportation industry’s priorities as the legislature and industry partners work toward an infrastructure proposal. There may be a meeting near you in the future, so please plan to attend where you can and share your thoughts and concerns. The KCA will continue to advocate before the Kansas legislature and remains focused on a long-term solution that provides the necessary revenue to help gain present and future stability in the state’s highway fund.

Safety training and education have always been important KCA initiatives. Last month, Foley and 3M sponsored KCA’s first annual Safety Summit. The information covered included fall protection, Silica, DOT electronic log books and a stormwater update from KDOT. Not only was it a day full of important information, it gave us an opportunity to network with other KCA members and safety professionals. Later that evening, KCA members enjoyed a beautiful evening at the K to watch the Royals. Joining us there was Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer, Speaker Ron Ryckman and Senate Vice President Jeff Longbine. Even though the Royals didn’t win and are not playing in the World Series, it was a great night to be amongst friends and colleagues.

Recruiting, training and retaining workers at all levels is a prime concern for the highway construction industry, so KCA is pleased to once again take part in the KDOT/KCA Construction Industry Training (CIT) Program. This partnership will help ensure the industry has the necessary resources available to achieve training goals. Even though not every KCA member has the opportunity to participate in this pool of funds, it is our hope everyone will be able to utilize a portion of these funds towards future safety summits and safety programs at the annual convention. Unfortunately, funds from the CIT program have been cut, but we will continue to look for ways to stretch these dollars to benefit as many people in the construction industry as possible.

We have several hectic years ahead of us as we start to craft the next comprehensive highway program. I encourage everyone to get involved as we move towards the next session and elections in 2018. Michael and the KCA staff are there to help you at any time. Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season!
Executive Signs & Signals

Hello and thank you for being such loyal members of KCA. It has been an absolute pleasure meeting with members over the last few months. It is always fun to renew old friendships and make new ones as I visit with our membership. I have been reviewing budgets, meeting members and policymakers and planning the 2018 KCA convention. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but as we move forward as a team, I know we can accomplish great things. Here’s what’s been happening the past few months:

1. By now you should have received in the mail our new sponsorship/advertising brochure. One of the first issues I wanted to tackle as executive director was consolidating our efforts around sponsorships and advertising. In talking with a few of our members, I think it would be very helpful for our member companies to budget for these opportunities if we offered them as a package. It will also save staff time by not having to make multiple contacts a year. You will see on the brochure that you may still sponsor or advertise on an event to event basis as you have before. We will work with all members on how you would like these items invoiced. We appreciate everyone’s support in this new endeavor.

2. Advocacy and promotion of the industry is vital for the KCA moving forward. With over 25% turnover bi-annually in the Kansas Legislature, it is important we maintain relationships with key legislators. It is also important we keep transportation supporters elected to the House of Representatives during the 2018 elections. Several key legislators will have tough races in 2018 as they are having their first re-election following a tax increase. AFP (Americans for Prosperity) is already mailing postcards against several strong pro-transportation candidates. I am working on a plan to address the advocacy and promotion of our industry in Kansas. Please look for more information on advocacy and promotion in the coming weeks.

3. It seems far away but Kansas redistricting happens in 2022. I mention this because much of the AFP assault on our friends in the Kansas Legislature is to get control of the Legislature by 2022 to determine redistricting. Redistricting will dictate what our legislative districts look like for 10 years. Therefore, redistricting is important to Kansas and our industry.

4. The Kansas Supreme Court decision on education funding was released a few weeks ago which declared funding for education unconstitutional, both in terms of adequacy and equity, for our school districts. For several state legislators it was a disappointing decision. They made a very good faith effort to address the court’s concerns last year by approving $485 million new dollars to education over the next two years. Even though the court didn’t give the legislature a total amount they would have to approve to satisfy their decision, most people believe it is between $600-$800 million. I don’t anticipate a revenue increase to reach this amount because it is an election year, however, it is a possibility. If the legislature were to consider a revenue package for education next session, I feel strongly we must position the transportation industry to get additional revenue. The legislature will not raise revenues three consecutive years. Therefore, if a revenue package is considered during the 2018 session, KCA must make sure the transportation industry is a part of it! If new revenues are not considered, we are hopeful that a special legislative committee will be appointed by leadership to study transportation needs in Kansas. This special committee would then report back to the Legislature by 2019 with recommendations.

As you can see, our industry has significant challenges ahead. We must stay vigilant to maintaining a statehouse that supports the transportation industry. The 2018 elections are critical for the state of Kansas and moving our industry forward. Please don’t hesitate to call me if you want to discuss further.

Congratulations to
Bob Totten on his Retirement!

Years of Service 1990 - 2017
Membership Update

KCA Welcomes New Members!

KCA is pleased to welcome Pavement Pro’s LLC, McPherson, KS as a new contractor member and Pestinger Heating and Air Conditioning, Salina, KS as a Supplier/Service Provider member. KCA is pleased to welcome you aboard!

Member News

Thomas McGee, L.C, is establishing its first presence in the St. Louis Market and will be led by Dan Greco, who earned his bachelor’s degree in marketing from St. Louis University. Thomas McGee, founded in Kansas City more than 100 years ago as an independent insurance agency, the company now handles third-party claims administration as well as commercial, surety, employee benefits and personal risk for the country’s leading insurance carriers. The firm has more than 80 employees and expects to add about 15 employees in the St. Louis area.

Foley is having a ribbon cutting for their new Wichita facility at 1550 S. West St. from 4 to 7 PM, Thursday, November 16.

As a reminder, I’d like to pass along any “Member Milestones” and “Other Association Honors” to our membership, but I have to hear from you. Please let me know if you have any news you’d like to share. Also, remember to talk to everyone you know and do business with about the benefits of being a member with the KCA.

Put the Brakes on Fatalities 2017

*Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day* is a nationwide safety campaign that started in Kansas in 2001 that encourages all types of traffic safety. Whether in a vehicle, on a bike, riding a motorcycle, or walking across the street, everyone has a responsibility to practice safety. School children from across the state entered a poster and video contest and many people shared some pretty incredible stories for a blog series. One of the featured speakers at KDOT’s news conference was NHRA race car driver Doug Herbert who lost two teenage sons in a car crash in 2008.

Multiple organizations work together on the annual safety campaign, including the Kansas Department of Transportation, 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.
Fall KCA Day at the K

On September 28th, KCA members, along with family and friends, enjoyed an evening at the K in the Blue Moon Taproom to watch the KC Royals play the Detroit Tigers.

Joining us for the game were Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer, Speaker Ron Ryckman and Senate Vice President Jeff Longbine.

Steve Sandquist, United Contractors, won the Early Bird raffle ticket drawing for the KCA PAC Action Auction. Steve is the lucky winner of a signed Mike Moustakas baseball and baseball cards. He will also have a chance to win $10,000 cash at the Action Auction at the KCA convention in January.

KCA Safety Summit '17

Foley and 3M sponsored KCA’s 1st Annual Safety Summit on September 28th. Thirty-two safety professionals enjoyed an informative day networking with their safety peers, which also included a tour of Foley and a BBQ lunch. The schedule for the day included an outside fall protection demonstration, a session regarding the updated Silica standards, DOT electronic log books and a stormwater review by KDOT. The day ended with some social time at Topgolf where KCA president, Kelly Briggs, showcased his fine golf skills. Plans are currently underway for the 2nd KCA Safety Summit in Wichita early next year.