KCA/KDOT Partnering Award Winners 2015

KCA/KDOT Partnering Workshops were held in Districts 3, 4 and 6 in February. Below are the pictures of the award winners in those districts. KCA/KDOT Partnering Workshops for Districts 1, 2 and 5 will be held later this month.

District 3 - Under $1.5 million Category
Wildcat Construction and KDOT - Atwood
Project 83-20 KA 3183-01 in Decatur County

District 3 - Over $1.5 million Category
APAC-Kansas, Inc., Shears Division and KDOT - Hays
Project 026 U 2295-01 in Ellis County

District 4 - Under $1.5 million Category
Amino Brothers Co. and KDOT - Iola
Project 006 U 0070-01 in Bourbon County

District 4 - Over $1.5 million Category
Bridges Inc. and KDOT - Independence
Project U160 U 063 KA 2073-01 in Montgomery County

District 6 - Over $1.5 million Category
Venture Corp. and KDOT - Liberal
Project 106 KA 4029-01 in Stevens & Grant Counties

Calendar of Events:
- March 30 - 31
  Spring Fling Reception at KCA Office
  Golf at Firekeeper Golf Course, Mayetta
- May 10 - 11
  Transportation Fly-In, Washington, DC
- June 2
  KCA Construction Education Foundation Golf Tournament
  Colbert Hills, Manhattan
- July 11
  KCA Summer Fling, Prairie Dunes, Hutchinson
- September 28 - 29
  KCA Fall Days, Prairie Band Casino, Mayetta

As pleased as I am about becoming your next president, I’m even more displeased about what’s transpiring with the state’s budget and the continued raids on KDOT. Kansas took in $53 million less in revenue than anticipated during February putting the projected ending balance to a negative $47 million. In response, the governor cut $17 million from higher ed, and unfortunately, this is just the beginning. There’s more cuts and/or transfers to come. The state met the monthly revenue estimates just one time in the past eight months and that was with the state budget analysts slashing revenue projections. We must be prepared for more harmful fund transfers or cuts to programs.

It’s becoming more and more evident the income tax cuts of 2012 went too far too fast and the expectations for economic growth and jobs creation were too optimistic. We have yet to see that “shot of adrenaline” to the Kansas economy that was promised despite the tax cuts. In reality, what we’ve seen is the squeezing down of state government and the continued transfers from KDOT to the tune of $2.1 billion since 2010 when T-WORKS was passed. Highway projects are in jeopardy of being delayed or cancelled if we see further transfers from KDOT. At the federal level, Congress’ recently-passed highway and transit bill, the FAST Act, temporarily stabilizes the program, but legislators have yet to find a long-term funding source to keep the Highway Trust Fund solvent.

Thankfully, with the bad news comes some good. It’s an election year! Which means we can vote out those who are not supportive of transportation funding. The KCA Board and Legislative Committee are committed to raising funds and supporting those candidates who value a safe and strong infrastructure. Feel free to give any of us on the Board or KCA staff a call if you have questions. Thank you for your continued support of the KCA and best wishes for a long and prosperous construction season. I’m optimistic Kansas will be great again.
KCA Organizes Campaign Strategy
By Bob Totten, Executive Vice President

Kansas has a proud history of providing quality infrastructure and a widespread commitment to the continued growth of our economy. Unfortunately, we have seen in recent years, state leaders making decisions which make us wonder if that will continue to happen. Money continues to be transferred from the Highway Fund at an alarming rate to fill gaps in the state budget caused by unaffordable tax cuts. In a recent report, Duane Goossen, former state budget director, stated that “after paying debt and transfers to cover the budget shortfall, less than half of total Highway Fund revenue will go to transportation.”

These decisions, made by a majority of our elected officials and state leaders, have caused the Kansas Contractors Association to organize a “bundling campaign” in an effort to raise money for this year’s elections. This campaign will allow us to donate funds to those incumbents/candidates who are supportive of funding a quality and safe infrastructure, increasing jobs and building the Kansas economy.

We are grateful to the 35 KCA members who have joined our bundling campaign, but we have not yet met our goal. Please make a decision today and pledge what you can to the bundling campaign and change the direction of our state. All you have to do is contact me at btotten@webuildkansas.com and I will fill you in on the details.

The decision to make Kansas great again has to start with you. So give me a call as soon as you can. Thank you.

btotten@webuildkansas.com

KCA Construction Education Foundation Contributes to Local Schools

Contributions amounting to a little more than $20,000 have been delivered to the various higher education schools in Kansas as part of the KCA’s Construction Education Foundation’s yearly donations. Since the late 80’s, the Foundation has donated more than $750,000 to the various schools which help train employees for the highway construction workforce.

KCA Executive Vice President Bob Totten hand delivered checks to the dean of the Washburn Institute of Technology in Topeka, Clark Coco, and other officials in the amount of $3,000. Washburn Tech will use the funds towards the purchase of a trailer and airbrakes for the trucks.

The Foundation raises funds for the annual gift giving endeavor through a golf tournament held in June. This year’s annual event is being held at Colbert Hills in Manhattan on June 2. If you are interested in being part of the event, please contact Jamie Lane to make arrangements to either play or sponsor our important outreach program. Other schools who benefit from these annual donations include: PSU, KU, K-State and North-west Kansas Technical College.

As a reminder, I’d like to pass along any “Member Milestones” and “Other Association Honors” to our membership, but I have to make a decision today and pledge what you can to the bundling campaign and change the direction of our state. All you have to do is contact me at btotten@webuildkansas.com and I will fill you in on the details.

The decision to make Kansas great again has to start with you. So give me a call as soon as you can. Thank you.

The KCA Organizes Campaign Strategy

KCA Construction Education Foundation Contributes to Local Schools

WELCOME KCA MEMBERS!

KCA is pleased to welcome four 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!

Pfefferkorn Engineering & Environmental LLC, Overland Park, KS
Feih Farm Seed Company, Alma, KS
Theis Dozer Service, Inc., Spivey, KS
Commercial Credit Group Inc., Naperville, IL

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.

We have three members celebrating a total of 170 years with the KCA. They were given awards at our convention in January. Congratulations!

Membership Update
By Jamie Lane, Director of Member Services

We have three members celebrating a total of 170 years with the KCA. They were given awards at our convention in January. Congratulations!

Welcome 70 Years

Hall Brothers Inc. of Marysville, KS, member since 1946, was awarded a 70-year membership plaque. Rob Lauer accepted the award.

Welcome 60 Years

Bayer Construction Co., Inc. of Manhattan, KS, member since 1956, was awarded a 60-year membership plaque. Neil Horton accepted the award.

Welcome 40 Years

Comanche Construction, Inc. of Shawnee Mission, KS, member since 1976, was awarded a 40-year membership plaque. Joe Ritz accepted the award.

Construction Industry Training Program Update
By Wanda Tidball

The 9th Annual KDOT/KCA CIT Program is winding down and classes this season went well. We have completed two Erosion Control classes with each class being completely full. Other classes held included OSHA 10 Roadway Specific and regular; CPR/First Aid/AED, Nuclear Gauge with HAZMAT, Roll-over and Run-over Safety, Confined Space/Excavation Safety/Fall Protection, Fork Lift Certification. With weather being as nice as it has been so far this spring, getting the enrollment needed for classes has been difficult. This resulted in some classes being cancelled or rescheduled. Many of you have taken advantage of your CIT dollars and have completed in-house training, as well and taken advantage of the many classes offered thru KCA.

As the weather gets warmer, the CIT 2015-2016 program will come to an end. Training expenses must be submitted into KDOT before June 30th. I encourage you to submit your training expenses for reimbursement as soon as possible. This money does not roll over, so if you don’t use them, you lose them!!

KCA Spring Fling 2016 - March 30 & 31, 2016

Don’t miss out! Sign up today.

Wednesday from 5 PM to 7 PM, the reception will be held at the KCA office, 800 SW Jackson, Topeka, KS.

Thursday morning’s breakfast meeting will be held at Prairie Band beginning at 8:30 AM with tee off at Firekeeper at 11.
KCA CONVENTION 2016

The 93rd Annual KCA Convention was held in Kansas City in January. The convention kicked off with Wednesday night’s “Margaritaville” reception followed by meetings on Thursday and Friday. Sessions covered topics in safety excellence by Doug Sterbenz, KCA division meetings, and lunch with former NFL quarterback, Trent Green. Other presentations were given by the state’s chief economist, Chris Courtwright, KDOT Secretary Mike King and Congressman Mike Pompeo.

Thursday night was the 29th Annual KCA Action Auction. This event kicked off with a welcome from Senate President, Susan Wagle, R-Wichita. Those in attendance bid on live and silent auction items and raised $77,000 towards the KCA PAC. Thank you to those who attended, donated items and bid high for some wonderful goodies. Congratulations to Doris Spray, Venture Corporation, who won the $10,000 in the grand prize drawing and Neil Horton with Bayer Construction Co., Inc. who earned the Broken Shovel Award. Thank you to all the convention and auction sponsors. Your continued support is what makes our convention a success!

KCA Legislative Receptions

The KCA hosted a reception for the Democrat members of the legislature on February 9th and the Republican members of the legislature on March 8th. KCA’s location downtown across from the Statehouse has afforded us invaluable opportunities for KCA members to interact with legislators. For this we are thankful as the transportation industry is facing a troubling future and it’s important that we keep them informed of our concerns. Thank you to those of you who attended and were sponsors. We appreciate your support!
SAFETY AWARDS PRESENTED AT KCA ANNUAL CONVENTION

Safety awards are presented annually to winners in five categories (listed below with winner's picture). Recipients of awards are determined based on a combination of total man hours, lost time and total number of OSHA recordable incidents.

Category I: Total employee hours of exposure between 3,000 and 50,000 hours
Deb Beachner
R.F.B. Construction Co., Inc.

Category II: Total employee hours of exposure greater than 50,000 hours, but less than 100,000 hours
Trent Newton
Herzog Contracting Corp.

Category III: Total employee hours of exposure greater than 100,000 hours, but less than 200,000 hours
Jeff Hamm
Hamm, Inc.

Category IV: Total employee hours of exposure greater than 200,000 hours, but less than 400,000 hours
Gary Jacks
Dustrol Inc.

Category V: Total employee hours of exposure greater than 400,000 hours
Brad Gover
APAC-Kansas, Inc.
Shears Division