Wage and Hour Study Underway

As you should be aware, Kansas is in the midst of a Wage Survey being conducted by the U. S. Department of Labor. This survey which was brought about by a request of the KCA will go a long way in determining what our contractor members will have to pay their employees in the future. This is a friendly reminder that the Davis-Bacon Kansas Highway Wage Rates survey is now open. This survey is critical to establishing the “prevailing wage rates” on federally funded projects. During the two seminar presentations in January by the officials from the Department of Labor they emphasized the survey information should include projects that are not Davis-Bacon. (No use to regurgitate your own rates in the survey). The survey ends March 31. There were some obvious mistakes in the last Highway Wage Rate issued in Kansas and this is our chance to correct those errors.

If you have not been contacted by the U.S. Department of Labor to turn in your wage rates, we still encourage you to fill out a survey on your non-Davis Bacon work.

Chris Hornung of the Chicago office of the US Department of Labor tells the KCA that interested parties can submit data for the Kansas Highway survey right now. Data collection is currently open and will end on March 31, 2017 (subject to be extended). The survey time frame is 5/1/15 – 4/30/16.

Even if you haven’t gotten a letter yet, you can begin filling out the required information by going to the following websites:

Electronic WD-10 Form: https://www.dol.gov/whd/programs/dbra/wd10/index.htm

General Davis-Bacon Survey Information: https://www.dol.gov/whd/programs/dbra/Survey/surveys.htm

For more information on this topic, you are encouraged to contact:

Chris Hornung, Wage Analyst
USDOL – Wage and Hour Division
230 South Dearborn, Room 530
Chicago, IL 60604
Ph/Fax: 312/596-7266
hornung.chris@dol.gov
708/525-0755 (cell)

One thing that some of our members thought was important is that it appears the survey is open to any company whose labor force fits the criteria of the survey (project scope work, time frame, etc.). Obviously, the more survey data the better… and in the briefing it was emphasized the need to obtain project information that is NOT regulated by current Davis – Bacon wages. This can’t be emphasized enough. The Department of Labor wants you to report work that is not subject to the Davis Bacon criteria. A successful survey with truly local prevailing wages should have positive impacts for our industry and ensure cost-effective infrastructure projects for Kansas.

Bob Totten
Executive Vice President

Kansas Construction Education Foundation Continues School Support

The tradition continues as the Kansas Contractors Association’s Construction Education Foundation continues its support of educational institutions in Kansas. The most recent donation was made to the North Central Kansas Technical College in Beloit.

Bob Totten, KCA Executive Vice President presented to Eric Burkes, the president of NCK Tech, $7,500 to be used to lease GPS devices to operate heavy equipment remotely for the next two years. Overall, the donations are made to schools to support education initiatives and students enrolled in construction courses during this academic year. The money will be used for items such as student scholarships, a road grader simulator and manhole covers.

The following institutes that will benefit from the Foundation’s donation are:

- University of Kansas – $5,000
- Washburn Tech – $4,000
- Pittsburg State – $3,000
- North Central Tech – $7,500
- Salina Tech – $2,500
- Kansas State University – $3,000

Over the past 30 years, the KCA’s Construction Education Foundation has donated over $750,000 to support the education of students in the construction industry.

Members of the Construction Education Foundation are: Dean McDaniel, Bob Totten, Jeff Barnes, Bob Lauer, Scott Erickson and Travis Rose.

Calendar of Events:

- March 14, 2017: Republican Reception, KCA Office, Topeka
- April 27, 2017: KCA Spring Fling
- June 1, 2017: KCA Construction Education Foundation Golf Tournament

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KCA Welcomes Briggs as President

When I was handed the presidential gavel at KCA’s 94th Annual Convention in January, I immediately went to work with staff and members on tackling issues and plan to meet with industry members and legislators who can bring about the changes we as association members should make happen. To “get things going” we have met with several legislators at the Statehouse and testified, with fellow KCA members, in the House Committee on Taxation in favor of increasing the gasoline tax.

I plan to regularly attend the KCA’s legislative receptions and encourage all of our members to do so. These receptions provide an opportunity to speak with representatives and senators directly about our transportation funding concerns, or lack thereof, and to get to know our newly elected government officials.

We all should take time to thank those legislators who support highway funding and assure them the KCA is ready to help reallocate solutions that will shore up our infrastructure and please their constituents. Consequences of not addressing these issues now will leave others with this growing and dangerous problem “down the road.”

To get the state’s budget back on solid ground, income tax reform was put on the fast track at the beginning of the legislative session and, unfortunately, is still unresolved. There have been committee hearings, floor debates, a tax bill passed by both chambers, a governor’s veto of said tax bill and an unsuccessful attempt for a veto override in the Senate.

We recognize a structural fix will evolve many times over the course of the session which would include a combination of cuts and tax increases. The KCA is committed to fervently supporting actions that address funding issues to get the transportation program back on track. We, along with all Kansans, should expect nothing less than a safe and solid transportation infrastructure. If our concerns go unresolved we risk crippling transportation for future generations, impeding business commerce, and encumbering the state legislature and budgets for years to come.

I want to thank all of you who serve on KCA committees, as well as those members who attend meetings and receptions. Participation and representation is key if the “voice of the KCA” is to be heard by the legislature. If you are not currently on a committee and would like to add your voice and ideas to our focus groups, please feel free to call me directly.

We have a very long and bumpy road ahead – so let’s “grab the wheel” and raise participation and support for the KCA to a level that will demand attention from the legislature. Let’s branch out and communicate to bring our concerns to all Kansans, statewide. By doing this, the “rough patch” our industry currently faces will recover.

Have a safe and prosperous construction season.

Kelly Briggs
President/COO
Bayer Construction Co.
Did you know Kansas has over 140,000 miles of roads, bridges, and highways? Every Kansan relies on our infrastructure every single day in one way or another, but we frequently take it for granted. We go to work or send our kids to school just assuming that these roads are well-maintained and safe, without giving much thought to how our lives would change if they weren’t.

Strong roads, highways, and bridges also play a key role in our state’s economy. It is a key consideration for companies considering relocating to Kansas, especially given the state’s uniquely helpful location in the geographic center of the United States, intersecting several interstate highways.

This is why infrastructure investment has always been a major component of Kansas’ economic development strategy. In fact, in 2010 when lawmakers enacted a statewide comprehensive transportation plan, three different economic studies confirmed that it would create 175,000 Kansas jobs over the course of the plan.

Unfortunately, Governor Brownback has abandoned his commitment to this proven economic engine. Instead of investing in roads and bridges, the Governor has instead used highway fund money as a means of shoring up repeated budget shortfalls to pay for failed tax policy. In total, he’s taken over $1 billion from infrastructure investment since 2011, equating to over $1 million every day. As a result, Kansas is now ranked dead last in the nation in the creation of construction jobs. In addition to halting new projects, we’re also failing to maintain the infrastructure we have. Kansas used to maintain 1,200 miles of highways per year. In 2017, the number fell to 765 miles and in 2018, the governor is recommending 230 miles be maintained. If that happened every year that would mean our highway pavements would only be touched for maintenance once every 48 years.

Public opinion polls show Kansans overwhelmingly want state leaders to fund transportation projects. Our citizens expect and demand safe avenues to work and school. In addition, Kansas relies on a good infrastructure to compete in the world market in the agriculture arena. Our livestock and grains are sold around the country and when producers can’t get the products to market, our economy suffers.

With the 2017 legislative session well underway, Kansas lawmakers are currently working through their 10th consecutive budget crisis. For the first time in five years, there seems to be widespread agreement that current tax policy is not working and the state cannot continue to operate its finances in such an irresponsible, unsustainable manner. The possibility of enacting comprehensive tax reform seems stronger than ever, which is why so many highway industry professionals support the Rise Up, Kansas proposal. The Rise Up plan recommends lawmakers pair any additional highway fund cuts with a corresponding motor fuel tax increase. We can’t afford to let Kansas roads and bridges deteriorate further.

Kansas roads and bridges are worth protecting. We know tough choices must be made, but we hope lawmakers understand the long term consequences of continued cuts to transportation and we urge them to consider adjusting the motor fuel tax to help get Kansas infrastructure back on the right track.

**Infrastructure Important to Kansas**

By Bob Totten, Executive Vice President

**KCA Hosts Legislative Receptions**

The KCA hosted a reception for the Democrat members of the legislature on February 7th and will host the Republican members of the legislature on March 14th. After making some significant political gains in the elections last year, KCA’s location downtown across from the Statehouse has afforded us invaluable opportunities for KCA members to interact with new legislators and reconnect with those they know. For this we are thankful as the transportation industry is facing an uncertain future and it’s important that we keep them informed of our concerns.

We appreciate your support! See you on March 14th!

**Membership Update**

By Jamie Lane, Director of Member Services

KCA is pleased to welcome Fremar Corporation, Wichita, KS as a new contractor member and McInnes Group, Inc., Fairway, KS as a new Supplier/Service Provider member. KCA is pleased you are members and look forward to a long and beneficial partnership. Welcome!

We have three members each celebrating 70 years of membership with the KCA. They were given awards at our convention in January. This is truly a significant and impressive milestone! Congratulations!

Alsop Sand Co., Inc. of Concordia, KS, member since 1947, was awarded a 70-year membership plaque. Tynan Barclay accepted the award.

Klaver Construction Company, Inc., of Kingman, KS, member since 1947, was awarded a 70-year membership plaque. Jake Klaver accepted the award.

Walters-Morgan Construction Company, Inc., of Manhattan, KS, member since 1947, was awarded a 70-year membership plaque. Scott Mueller accepted the award.

**Construction Industry Training Program Update**

By Wanda Tidball

The 10th Annual KDOT/KCA CIT Program is winding down and classes have gone well. We have completed one Erosion Control class with one more to go and each of the classes have been close to full. Other classes held included Crane Certification/Re-Certification, Leadership Gold, OSHA 30, several CPR/First Aid/AED, Confined Space/Excavation Safety/Fall Protection, Rigging and Signaling/Lifting. With weather being as nice as it was last fall and 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 through 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!!
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. Winners are pictured with KCA President Kelly Briggs and Congressman Roger Marshall.

Category I: Total employee hours of exposure between 3,000 and 50,000 hours
Kyle Phillips
Herzog Contracting Corp.

Category II: Total employee hours of exposure greater than 50,000 hours, but less than 100,000 hours
Butch Riddell
Superior Bowen Asphalt Company, L.L.C.

Category III: Total employee hours of exposure greater than 100,000 hours, but less than 200,000 hours
Don Bond
B & B Bridge Company, LLC

Category IV: Total employee hours of exposure greater than 200,000 hours, but less than 400,000 hours
Bob Henthorne
Bettis Asphalt & Construction Inc.

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