NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF LICENSURE
KSPE & ACEC-KY is tasked with submitting names to the Governor’s office for selection of a new member of the Kentucky Board of Licensure for Engineers and Land Surveyors. The Coordinating Committee of our organizations will ultimately decide on the three candidates that will be submitted in early November. The Board seat currently occupied by Linda Bridwell, PE (Kentucky American Water) will expire at the end of the year. You may recall that Linda was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Mike Ritchie, who resigned last year.

If you are interested in being considered, or know someone that would make a great candidate, please submit that name to me. I will ensure that it be submitted to the Coordinating Committee for consideration.

ACEC PAC
We are rounding into the home stretch for collection of contributions to the ACEC PAC. Under the guidance of Karen Wood, Kentucky has reached the annual goal each year that she has headed up the campaign.

If you intend to contribute to the ACEC PAC, please contact Karen (kwood@hmbpe.com) soon so that Kentucky can meet its PAC goal!

STATE HIGHWAY ENGINEER STEVE WADDLE RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD
Kentucky State Highway Engineer Steve Waddle has been awarded the 2015 Alfred E. Johnson Achievement Award by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). The award was announced Sunday, Sept. 27, in Chicago at AASHTO’s annual meeting.

The prestigious award, given annually by the Association, recognizes the many contributions to management in the field of highway engineering made by Alfred E. Johnson, former Executive Director of AASHTO. It is awarded to the individual selected by the award committee as the person rendering the most outstanding service to their department in the field of engineering or management, covering technical and administrative aspects.

The award is the capstone of Waddle’s 27-year career as a civil engineer, all with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. He retires on Thursday, Oct. 1.

Appointed by Gov. Steve Beshear as State Highway Engineer in 2010, Waddle has served as chief engineer for the Department of Highways overseeing the department’s three offices – Project Development, Project Delivery and Preservation, and Highway Safety – which together comprise 14 divisions.

“Steve has a ‘can-do’ attitude and exemplary leadership skills,” said KYTC Secretary Mike Hancock. “This award is much-deserved recognition for all the wonderful projects and tasks Steve has led the Cabinet through over the years.”

“I am very humbled to receive this award and proud to accept it on behalf of KYTC,” Waddle said. “It’s an honor to be recognized for something I truly enjoy doing.”

Waddle joined the cabinet in 1988, a year after graduation from the University of Kentucky College of Engineering, where he earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in civil engineering.

Early assignments included resident engineer for reconstruction of the U.S. 127 corridor through Franklin and Anderson counties. He was the Division of Construction’s field liaison for the U.S. 119, U.S. 23 and U.S. 460 corridor projects in eastern Kentucky and for construction of the William H. Harsha Bridge over the Ohio River at Maysville.
In 2011, Waddle was instrumental in developing options for dealing with the emergency closure of the Interstate 64 Sherman Minton Bridge between Kentucky and Indiana, leading the project team to a solution that allowed the bridge to be repaired and reopened months ahead of schedule.

In 2012, he was involved in the innovative replacement of a 322-foot span of the U.S. 68 bridge over Kentucky Lake in western Kentucky after the span was struck and destroyed by a cargo ship. A mere 121 days later, just before Memorial Day in a region dependent on summer tourism, a replacement span was in place and the bridge reopened.

Waddle has led the Cabinet in efforts to improve program delivery and to sustain a level of annual highway and bridge construction awards – about $1 billion each year – in Kentucky.

He also has guided KYTC’s technical staff through difficult times as new processes for project development and project delivery were implemented.

ACEC KEEPS UP PRESSURE ON HOUSE TRANSPORTATION BILL

The Council continued an aggressive campaign this week to secure a long-term transportation bill, joining with a wide array of stakeholders in urging House action on a six-year reauthorization that increases investment in highway and transit programs.

House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) said his goal is to move a bill by late September or early October. Progress continues to hinge on the Ways & Means Committee to find sufficient revenues or other budget offsets to supplement the Highway Trust Fund.

In a letter to every House member, ACEC and 68 other business and stakeholder organizations wrote: “America’s transportation infrastructure network is the foundation on which the nation’s economy functions. A six-year federal commitment to prioritize and invest in our aging infrastructure and safety is essential to keep pace with growing demands.” Click here to view the letter.

ACEC members are encouraged to continue contacting their Representatives in support of a six-year bill. Click here for a sample letter, which can be personalized with firm-specific information.