



Bulletin

FALL
2006

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Purpose

The purpose of the Academy is to provide recognition to past and present industry leaders for their personal contributions to the engineering and construction industry.



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NAC members and their spouses enjoyed fellowship and celebrated individual and academy achievements during the NAC Annual Meeting in Santa Fe, N.M. We hope to see everyone in Denver, Co. for next year's meeting.



Vince Kontry,
2006-07 NAC
President

From the President

For those members who could not attend our Annual Meeting in Santa Fe, it was indeed a good session, as I'm sure all attendees will agree. Santa Fe was enjoyable and our venue excellent. The meetings were productive, interesting and informative, and most important, we added 10 outstanding inductees to our role. Thanks to Jack, Richard, Alicia, and many others for making it such a good meeting.

My only disappointment in the meeting was the attendance—if you weren't able to attend this year, please know that you were missed. Having only one meeting each year, I believe it is desirable for our members to attend if at all possible in order to keep informed and participate in our organization—this is one of my goals for this year. So please mark your 2007 calendars now for our next Annual Meeting to be held in Denver at the Brown Palace Hotel on Thursday and Friday, October 18 and 19. We are working on some activities to make this meeting special for your spouse and/or guests (i.e. attendance in more of our agenda subjects and presentations, a list of things to do or attend at the hotel and nearby). Please come! We promise it will be informative and enjoyable.

My nomination to serve as President for the coming year was approved—and I am honored. I enter this term with no specific agenda—nor even a vision of what the NAC should become in the future. My task is simply to understand the wishes of the members, my constituents, and to guide the organization along that path. The members of the 2007 Executive Committee were approved, and you will find their names on the back page of the Bulletin. It is my intention to work closely

with this committee throughout the year, so feedback from all members is of critical importance. Really, we are seeking your opinion and recommendations on any of a broad spectrum of subjects. Please give us your views. I will ask that you e-mail your comments to the Executive Committee. Simply click on the blue print at the bottom of the Executive Committee block on the last page of the Bulletin and tell us what you are thinking.

As you will note, we have an expanded list of Ad Hoc Committees listed just below the Executive Committee box along with the names of the Committee Chairs. We intend to create additional committees as deemed appropriate. The success of these committees depends on all members and their active involvement. So please contact the designated Chair if you wish to participate.

I believe we have an evolving organization in the NAC as we grow and attract a more diverse membership, therefore, our future direction may slightly change course. We will always conform to our primary purpose as outlined in the By-Laws (i.e. The purpose of the academy is to provide recognition to past and present industry leaders for their personal contribution to the engineering and construction industry). However, with our growth and maturity as an organization, we can now become a more active group to address some of the issues facing the construction industry should we wish to do so. Again, your views are essential.

My pledge is simply to guide the organization according to the wishes of the members. One thing we will not do is solicit members for financial contributions beyond our modest dues. This being said, please be aware that Doy Cole and his committee are working diligently to provide funds for a foundation that will enable us to play a more active role in our industry.

One of my concerns is a perceived lack of industry recognition of the NAC. This seems to be a bit less of a problem in the academic and military sectors than in the industrial industry. On several occasions I have had conversations with recognized leaders in the construction industry that I felt would make excellent candidates for nomination only to be confronted with the question "What is the National Academy of Construction?" If you share this concern, please let us know. Of even more importance, give us any ideas you have of what, if anything, we should do about it.

I look forward to the year ahead, but would like to re-emphasize the importance of hearing from you and receiving your comments—your participation is needed.

Vince Kontry

vincekontry@starband.net

...my task is simply to understand the wishes of the members, my constituents, and to guide the organization along that path.



NAC 2006 New Membership

Richard T. Anderson

New York Building Congress



"Bringing together all of the elements of the construction industry to forge common alliances and cooperate in promoting economic growth and capital investment"

Christopher E. Reseigh

PB Construction Services



"A distinguished history of demonstrated achievement, leadership, innovation and social awareness in infrastructure construction management"

Russell L. Fuhrman

PB Constructors, Inc.



"Leadership and innovation in U.S. infrastructure planning and construction, disaster recovery and management of mega projects in the public sector"

James C. Smith

Texas A&M University



"Outstanding services to the nation through congressional liaison, private sector and academic leadership"

William A. Heine

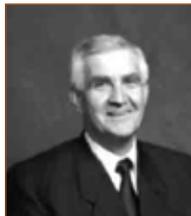
American Constructors, Inc.



"Significant contributions to the profession as a leader and innovator through his company, military and community organizations"

Donald C. Vaughn

M.W. Kellogg (ret.)



"Establishment of highest standards for commitment through dedication of personal and company resources to universities, professional organizations and government agencies"

Benjamin F. Montoya

Smart Systems Technologies, Inc.



"Service to the nation through leadership in the electric power and gas distribution industry and pioneering the Navy environmental program"

Noel G. Watson

Jacobs Engineering, Inc.



"Demonstrated leadership over several decades to create outstanding value for shareholders, clients, employees and the Engineering and Construction community"

William J. Pulte

Pulte Homes, Inc.



"Actively improving the residential sector through many innovations in consolidation and modernization of residential processes"

Peter M. Zuk

London Underground



"Leadership in directing large mega public-private infrastructure projects while introducing engineering, construction and contractual innovations"



Pat Galloway, became a member in 2005, but received her plaque at the meeting in Santa Fe.

Report on National Academy of Construction Annual Business Meeting

OCTOBER 6, 2006

Approximately one-half of the membership of the Academy assembled at the Inn at Loretto in Santa Fe, New Mexico at 9:00 a.m., October 6, 2006 for the annual meeting of the Academy. President Jack Buffington presided. The following significant items of business were conducted:



1. Membership

A. With the induction of 10 new members on October 5, we now have 85 members, five of whom are Emeritus members.

B. The 2006 and 2007 Membership Committees held a joint committee meeting immediately following the annual business meeting, to jump-start the process of identifying and processing candidates for new members in 2007.

- In Las Vegas the cost of construction has increased from \$150 a square foot in 2003 to \$450 a square foot in 2006, because we can't find the people to do the work.
- We need 100,000 high school students to participate in ACE.
- ACE is becoming the number one source for recruiting young people into the industry.
- In the next 20 years, the country will need to build as much construction as was built during the last 400 years of the country's history.

4. California Infrastructure Initiative

Richard Little reported on California's critical need for infrastructure and the work of the USC Keston Institute for Infrastructure.

5. Academy Volunteer Opportunities

Richard Tucker outlined the many initiatives of the Academy and invited members to volunteer to participate in the Academy's programs. The following ad hoc committees and chairs for 2007 were approved: Bulletin (Kontny), Endowment (Cole), Ethics (Kennedy), Liaison (Buffington), Safety (Mihm), Dispute Prevention and Resolution (Groton), Faculty Intern Program (Vorster), and Engineering Talent (Ahearn).

6. Dispute Prevention and Resolution

A. Lynda Stanley distributed the current version of the book of "Proceedings of the NAC/FFC Forum on Best Practices in Dispute Prevention and Resolution" that is being published by the National Academies Press. The Academy owes a great debt of gratitude to Lynda for her work in organizing this forum and getting the proceedings written and published.

2. Board on Infrastructure and the Construction Environment (BICE) Studies

A. Lynda Stanley of BICE and Dave Nash reported on the almost-completed BICE Study of Core Competencies for Federal Facilities Asset Management 2005-2020.

B. Lynda Stanley described opportunities for possible participation in a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Research Study, which is now being organized.

3. Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Program

Charlie Thornton reported on the ACE program. There is a crisis in the industry because there are not enough young people coming into the industry. For example, less than 20% of freshman civil engineering students actually graduate. He described ACE's mentoring program for high school students. Significant quotations from his talk:



B. Ed Gibson presented the results of Academy-sponsored research into the transaction costs of processing disputes.

C. Jim Groton, on behalf of the Dispute Prevention and Resolution Ad Hoc Committee, pointed out that the Academies Press book and the research into the transaction costs of disputes, are two significant milestones of progress in the Academy's dispute prevention and resolution initiative. They can both be put to good use in helping to implement greater efforts in the industry to prevent disputes.

7. Leadership Research

Bill Badger described a unique research program that is under way to identify leadership skill sets, differentiate leadership from management, and profile the leadership characteristics of successful professionals in the industry. The researchers are seeking volunteers from the Academy to be interviewed and profiled, to help benchmark the executive level of successful leadership.

8. Safety

John Mihm distributed the five Academy "Safety White Papers" supporting the "zero injury" concept that have been published, and he outlined plans for future white papers on this subject.

9. Strategic Plan

Richard Tucker and Jack Buffington reviewed the Executive Committee's recommendations as to intermediate and long-range strategic plans. The present draft of the Strategic Plan, which was published in the NAC Bulletin during the summer, was approved. Jack pointed out that this is a fluid document, which is expected to change over time.

10. Possible NAC Foundation

Doy Cole outlined the concept of a possible NAC Foundation and the formation of an ad hoc committee to identify what such a foundation would look like. The committee would also consider the possibility of creating a lifetime membership opportunity for members. A meeting of this committee was held immediately following the annual business meeting.

11. 2007 Leadership

Officers, Membership Committee, and chairs of ad hoc committees for 2007 were approved.

12. New President's Goals

Vince Kontny was introduced as the new President. He praised Jack Buffington's leadership, undertook to "represent the body of members," expand communications to and from members, and he asked for feedback from members. He will continue the publication of the NAC Bulletin for the next year, and is seeking a volunteer to help with the Bulletin this year and then take over publication in 2008. The Bulletin will continue to be distributed essentially by email, and will also be posted on the Academy's Website, naocon.org.

13. 2008 Annual Meeting

The 2008 annual meeting will be held October 18-19, 2008 at the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver, and will follow essentially the same format as the past couple of years. The Thursday afternoon presentation will report on the preparations for the 2012 London Olympics.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Jim Groton, Secretary
jpgroton@sablaw.com





Jack Buffington,
2005-06 NAC
President

The Academy is on its way to bigger and better things. I strongly encourage all members to support Vince and serve on whatever committee or study group that presents itself and you have the expertise. NAC and our 85 or so current members have much to offer.

Comments from the Past President

I appreciate everyone attending and participating in the great meeting we had in Santa Fe, with much thanks going to Richard and Alicia for all their hard work. If it wasn't for Richard Tucker there wouldn't be an NAC. For those of you who missed the meeting, we had a good one. We approved our initial Strategic Plan. I say "initial", because strategic plans are a living document, which have to be updated annually at the latest. I think ours gives us a good start, and I appreciate all of you who worked on it.

Another good start was Doy Cole and his committee on searching for ways we can raise funds to support our Academy without starting a full-fledged campaign. Doy and his committee are working hard on this one and already have some great ideas.

Emmitt Nelson and John Mihm continue to produce Safety Papers, which are getting national attention. Jim Groton with the help of Lynda Stanley and NRC's BICE have produced a great Dispute Resolution Handbook which will become a real industry standard when it is published by the National Academies Press in the near future. Ralph Peterson and the membership committee did a great job in selecting our ten new members.

Bill Badger is working hard on a leadership course he is developing, and I encourage all the members to let Bill and his students interview you as they continue to flesh out what makes folks like our members successful.

I think the best thing we accomplished at this meeting was electing Vince Kontny President. Vince, with the help of his most able assistant Barbara Parker, produced that superb news-gram that most of you read, and he is on his way to producing the second one following our meeting. The Academy is on its way to bigger and better things. As to how far, in what direction and how fast we want to develop are all issues Vince is riding herd on. I strongly encourage all members to support Vince and serve on whatever committee or study group that presents itself and you have the expertise. NAC and our 85 or so current members have much to offer. Let's get on board and support Vince in turning this group into a national treasure.

Thanks,

Jack

Jack Buffington
jebuffi@uark.edu

Membership Committee

The 2007 Membership Committee met at the conclusion of the Annual NAC Meeting held in Santa Fe with the help of last year's chairman, Ralph Peterson, and of course, Richard Tucker. We have already started our efforts to find and nominate the best candidates.

We have compiled and are reviewing all past nominees, evaluating our diversity and demographics and asking all members to assist us by nominating and/or endorsing proposed candidates for membership. We are adding a new "mentor" role for committee members to help us ensure that all nominations and all supporting paperwork are done in a professional manner and are on time. We appreciate those that volunteered in Santa Fe.

This years committee members are Bill Brubaker, Pat Galloway, Mike Goodrich, Dan Halpin, Mike Johnson, John Mihm (Chair), Jim Porter, Doug Pruitt, Bob Rubin, Mike Vorster and Vince Kontny. We will again follow our established time line as in the past and urge your participation. The process will start very soon.



John Mihm
Jcmihmr66@aol.com

Safety

The NAC Safety Position White Papers are on track. White Papers one through five have already been issued. White Papers six and seven are ready for distribution, and will be issued respectively in December of 2006 and February of 2007. We will conclude the CII Zero Injury “Best Practice” series with White Paper nine, which will be distributed mid 2007.

We are planning a meeting at Jimmy and Shirley Slaughter’s Northside Ranch to establish a format for expansion of the White Papers that is “results oriented” after completing the “best practice” series. We welcome participation and comments during this planning period.

It is our belief that the Zero Injury Concept is a proven productivity improver and cost reducer. It is gratifying to see the concept’s acceptance grow.

John Mihm
jcmihmr66@aol.com

We welcome participation and comments during this planning period.

NAC Foundation Plans

The annual meeting approved “the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee for the purpose of developing a plan for the formation of a “NAC Foundation” whose principal funding will come from endowment fund(s)”. The PURPOSE is to establish a funding plan, which will support the NAC strategic initiative of achieving financial security for the organization in the future. The Ad Hoc Committee’s work will include recommendations and/or guidelines on the following issues:

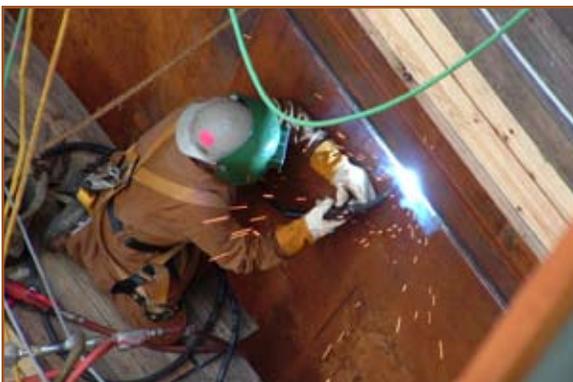
- Life Time Memberships
- Low-key approach (with membership) to funding
- Purpose and guidelines for the Endowment Fund(s)

- Governance of the NAC Foundation and Endowment Fund(s)
- Organization to manage the Endowment Fund(s)

The “committee” hopes to approve a framework plan for approval before the Executive Committee by the end of the year.

The volunteer “committee” is being chaired by Doy Cole and includes: Richard Anderson, Bill Badger Jack Buffington, John Lamberson, Ben Montoya, Ralph Peterson, Jim Smith and Richard Tucker. Officers Kontny and Mihm as exofficio.

Doy Cole
doycole@aol.com



From the Secretariat



Richard Tucker

Although a “volunteer” organization, NAC is fast becoming much more than an honor society.

As we near the end of an NAC year, it's appropriate to review our accomplishments for the past year and anticipated activities for 2007. NAC has now been in existence for eight years and is beginning to reach another milestone in its evolution. Although a “volunteer” organization, it is fast becoming much more than an honor society.

First, and critical to the NAC Mission, we elected 10 new outstanding members. Their names are given on page 3 in this Bulletin. Eight were present for the Induction on October 5 in Santa Fe. They will bring added stature to NAC. The 2007 Membership Committee, under the leadership of John Mihm, has already identified over 40 member prospects, and will be initiating the invitation for new nominations in early 2007.

We had several NAC members involved in studies and activities of the National Research Council. One current activity, relating to a study of Development of Facilities Managers, was chaired by Dave Nash and involved three NAC members. Dave and Lynda Stanley, who also distributed a draft report on the 2004 NAC/NRC workshop on Dispute Prevention and Resolution, reported at the Annual Meeting.

The membership has approved establishment of several Ad Hoc Committees, which are listed on the back page, under the executive committee. Members can volunteer for service on those committees, by contacting the chairs. In addition to the NAC Ad Hoc Committees, NAC is cooperating with two additional initiatives: a Leadership Study led by Bill Badger and the widely spreading ACE Program led by Charlie Thornton.

The Annual Meeting in Santa Fe was quite successful and involved about one-half of our membership. Alicia will be shortly mailing CD's, to all members, containing the Agenda and presentations as well as pictures of activities and attendees. The 2007 meeting will be held at the Brown Palace in Denver on October 18 and 19. Mark your calendars.

And last, we've been working on better member communications. We have a web site, with an independent domain, as given in this Bulletin. The Bulletin itself, as evidenced by this issue, has been undertaken by Vince Kontny and Barbara Parker and is intended to provide additional communications.

All in all, it was a good year. We are financially solvent, although on a modest basis, since we are dependent on member dues. An Interim Strategic Plan was approved at Santa Fe, and recognizes the need for a step-change in our level of funding if we are to realize our goals of improving our profession through the high-level capabilities and knowledge of our members. Another step in that direction is the Ad Hoc Committee looking at an NAC Foundation. In the interim, we can acknowledge the accomplishments we've made this year under the able leadership of Jack Buffington and our other leaders.

Richard L. Tucker
rtucker@mail.utexas.edu



Editor's Column

A Marine Among Us

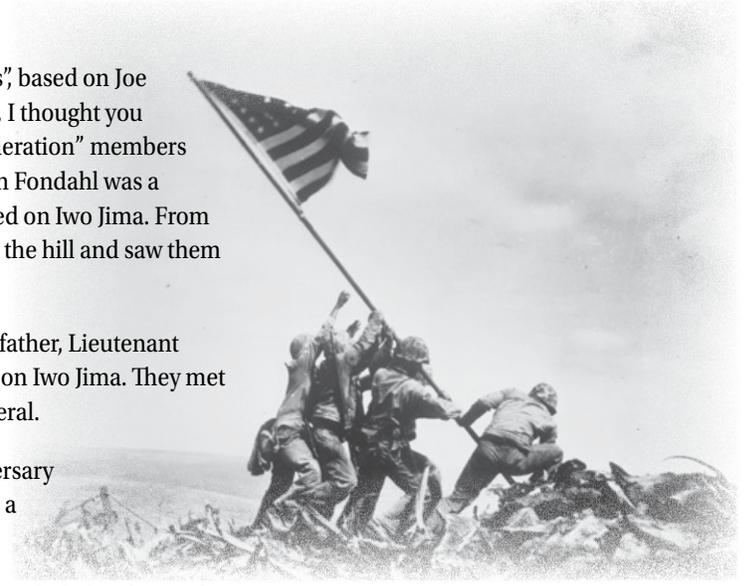
With the recent release of Clint Eastwood's movie, "Flags of Our Fathers," based on Joe Rosenthal's famous photograph of Marines raising the flag on Iwo Jima, I thought you would be interested in the experiences of one of our own "Greatest Generation" members during and after that epic battle. "Once a Marine Always a Marine," John Fondahl was a 20-year-old staff sergeant in the Fifth Amphibious Corps when he landed on Iwo Jima. From the base of Suribachi he watched the men with the flag as they climbed the hill and saw them raise it.

A good example of the patriotism that existed at that time is that John's father, Lieutenant Colonel and Battalion Commander in the 4th Marine Division, was also on Iwo Jima. They met briefly on D+9. John's father survived the war, retiring as Brigadier General.

In March 2005 John, with Doris, returned to Iwo Jima for the 60th anniversary ceremony, which was attended by the Marine Corps Commandant and a grandson of General Kuribayashi, the Japanese Commander.

An interesting bit of trivia. When John and Doris eventually met Joe Rosenthal, they learned they had all graduated from the same high school in Washington DC - Joe in 1929, John and Doris in 1941.

John, you make us all proud.



Seabee Museum

For some years now there has been a quiet, but concerted effort by a few dedicated individuals with the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation to push along an ambitious project to create a Seabee Museum in Port Hueneme, California. The museum will tell the fascinating story of the Navy's Seabees and the Civil Engineer Corps. Many NAC members have played key roles in this project as Trustees for the Foundation. These include:

Jack Buffington	Mike Johnson
Jim Doeblor	Ted Kennedy
Art Fort	Ben Montoya
Bill Heine	Dave Nash
Bob Jortberg	

and even myself during the early days. I have always said that I received my degree from Colorado and my education in the Seabees. Color me proud.

Under "Damn the Torpedos" leadership of Ben Montoya the Foundation is nearing its goal of raising some \$12 million to realize the construction of a first class museum. Although not a Trustee, "Once a Seabee Always a Seabee," NAC member Ken Stinson is a strong supporter of the museum.

The above is an impressive list of members who are committed to an honorable cause. Lastly, I should note, that rumors circulating in Santa Fe that the Seabees were planning a coup proved to be unfounded.

If anyone has any ideas regarding raising funds for the new museum or wishes to contribute, Ben Montoya invites you to contact him by email: admiral1958@hotmail.com.

National Academy of Engineering

The NAC is well represented in the National Academy of Engineering, which is important to our organization as it gives us the benefit of experience with a comparable, but older, Academy. It also gives us the opportunity to be active in the National Research Council.

We have eleven members in the NAE, all of whom are in the Civil Engineering Section. They are:

- Jack Buffington
- Jim Clark
- John Fondahl
- Ben Gerwick
- Vald Heiberg
- Ted Kennedy
- Jim Lammie
- Ben Montoya
- Jack Morris
- Charles Thornton
- Richard Tucker

This "Editor's Column" was created to pass on to our members subjects of general interest. Suggestions for future issues are welcome.

Vince Kontny
VinceKontny@starband.net

2007 Annual Meeting Preview

The Annual Meeting for members, spouses and guests, will be held October 18th and 19th at the Brown Palace Hotel in downtown Denver. Please put these dates on your calendar. There is no other hotel like the Brown Palace, and visiting Denver is unforgettable. We want to make the 2007 meeting especially productive and enjoyable for everyone, and we are hoping to have a big turnout.

The hotel is located in the heart of downtown Denver and is a national treasure. The rich history of the hotel dates back to 1892 and includes a long list of princesses, kings and queens who have visited the hotel—it was the summer headquarters for Eisenhower while he was in office.

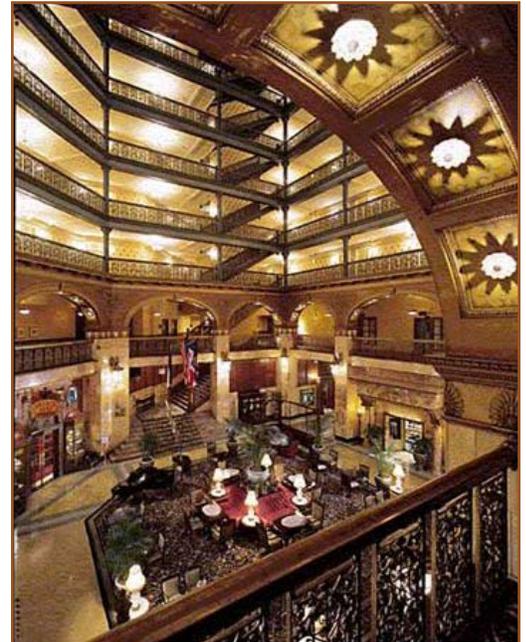
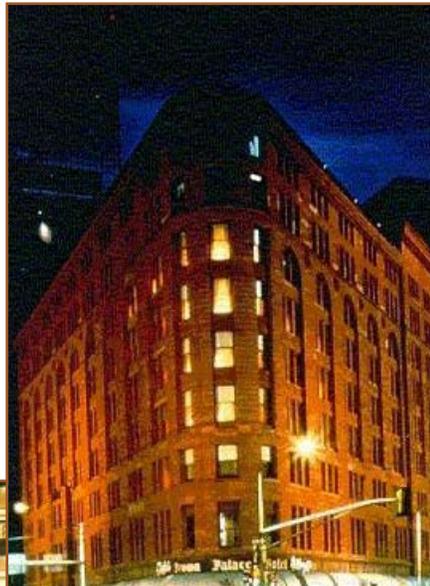
For spouses and guests (and members too when they aren't in meetings) the hotel's historian will be scheduled for a get-together to entertain us with fun anecdotes and bits of history about the people and events of the Brown. There is a complimentary tour of the hotel available on Saturdays at 2 p.m. Afternoon tea (or cocktails) is served in the lobby daily with background music of a harpist and pianist, and there is a fabulous spa in the hotel as well. The Palace Arms restaurant located in the hotel is one of Denver's finest, but also available is the Churchill Bar (a cigar bar and restaurant), Ship Tavern (a casual bar and restaurant), and the Ellyngton for an upscale breakfast, lunch and brunch.

There is something for everyone in Denver. Just two miles from the hotel is the Pepsi Center (one of the nation's finest sports and entertainment facilities), Invesco Field at Mile High (home of the Denver Broncos), and one mile from the hotel is Coors Field (home of the Colorado Rockies).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2007
ANNUAL MEETING
DENVER, COLORADO

OCTOBER 18TH - 19TH



Brown Palace Hotel, Lobby and Atrium

The Denver Art Museum is also within a mile of the hotel. The new Denver Art Museum addition was completed this year, a geometric glass and titanium design by Daniel Libeskind, and is an internationally significant work of architecture. This addition nearly doubled the size of the museum, which already held the largest art collection between Kansas City and the West Coast. In addition, the Center for the Performing Arts is just six blocks from the Brown.

Just one block away is the 16th Street Mall—a great place to walk and shop with lots of restaurants along the way. There is a free tram, running every 10 minutes, to take you from one end of the mall to the other. You can also take a horse-drawn carriage ride, available for hire all along the mall.

To name a few more of the many attractions, there is the Denver Zoo, Elych Gardens (amusement park), Museum of Nature and Science, Cherry Creek Shopping Center (ultra upscale shopping center), LoDo (25-block historic district of lower downtown Denver) and historical tours.

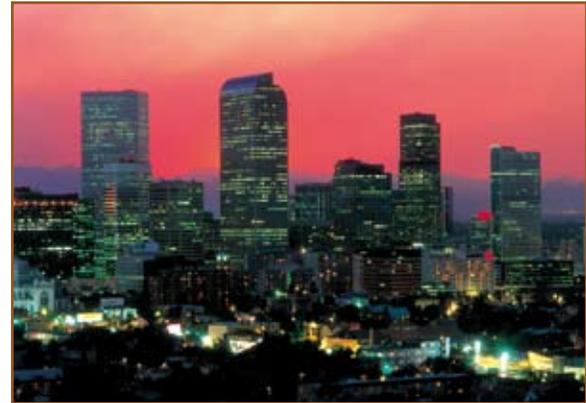
If you are interested in extending your stay in Colorado, take a short ride and see the beautiful Rocky Mountains. Resort towns such as Breckenridge, Silverthorne and Vail are

as little as one hour away. Also, be sure to stop in to the historic mining towns of Central City and Black Hawk (also one hour from Denver) to check out the casinos.

For more information on activities in and around Denver visit: www.denver.org.

For more detailed information about the Brown Palace and lots of pictures, visit their website: www.brownpalace.com.

As an alternative to staying at the Brown, the Comfort Inn, a sister hotel, is located just across the street and we will also have some rooms secured there. We will list a number of choices for room preference. Both hotels are about 20 miles from the airport and van service is available (vans departing from the airport for Denver hotels about every 30 minutes). Alicia Zapata will be sending more information by e-mail in January regarding reservations.



Denver Skyline



Denver International Airport



Denver Center for Performing Arts



Cherry Creek Shopping Center

Photos courtesy of Denver Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Denver Art Museum.



2007 NAC Executive Committee

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1 st Past President	Jack Buffington 479-575-7957	jebuffi@uark.edu
2 nd Past President	Ted Kennedy 205-972-6728	kennedyt@bek.com
3 rd Past President	Jimmy Slaughter 713-845-4549	jgsjr@sbec.com
At Large	Jim Porter 302-774-2407	porterjb@wittnet.com
At Large	Ben Montoya 916-580-9097	admiral1958@hotmail.com

[Click here to send messages to all members of the NAC Executive Committee.](#)

Ad Hoc Committees

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Faculty Internship	Mike Vorster 540-231-5009	mikev@vt.edu
E & C Talent Shortage	Bud Ahearn 720-286-2179	jahearn@ch2m.com
Safety	Emmitt Nelson 713-953-1228	nelsonci@worldnet.att.net
Interfacing w/Other Agencies	Jack Buffington 479-575-7957	jebuffi@uark.edu
NAC Foundation	Doy Cole 830-625-3309	doycole@aol.com
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