

SUMMER  
2007

# Bulletin

Volume 1 Issue 4

### 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.*



The Brown Palace's breathtaking Atrium lobby is the place to see and be seen while enjoying afternoon tea or evening cocktails.

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## Destination Denver, the Mile High City!

You won't want to miss the 2007 National Academy of Construction Annual Meeting Oct. 18-19, in dynamic downtown Denver! Beyond the opportunity to network with construction industry leaders and participate in NAC business sessions, you'll want to schedule time to enjoy the vast array of area amenities. For details, see page 7.

The historic Brown Palace Hotel will serve as the meeting headquarters. This Four Star/Four Diamond hotel offers four unique dining experiences, a new multi-million dollar spa, and is within walking distance of some of the city's most popular sites, including the Denver Center for the Performing Arts.

One of the pleasures of visiting The Brown Palace is access to the personal concierge. This experienced staff is available to assist guests (and future guests via telephone and e-mail) with their every request. The concierge can arrange a wide variety of tours, from hour-long sessions to all-day outings. Places to visit include local Denver landmarks, the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, the Buffalo Bill Museum or the jewel of the Rockies, Rocky Mountain National Park.

Of course, you might also want to see how much farther a golf ball flies in Colorado's thin air. The concierge staff can arrange tee times, coordinate transportation and have you hitting the links with ease.

Maybe a day at the spa is in order. The hotel offers all types of massage treatments in your room by a highly qualified staff. Or, visit the spa for other top-notch treatments and pampering.

If it's retail therapy you need, Denver has just what the doctor ordered. A 10-minute cab ride can deliver you to the very upscale Cherry Creek Mall. This trendy address hosts Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, Louis Vuitton and other exclusive retailers. Across the street is Cherry Creek North, home to unique boutiques, artisan shops, sidewalk cafes and countless art galleries.

Whatever your selections might be, you'll want to plan your experience now and ask the concierge to start making arrangements. Call 1-800-321-2599, click on [www.brownpalace.com](http://www.brownpalace.com), or send an e-mail message to [concierge@brownpalace.com](mailto:concierge@brownpalace.com).





Vince Kontny,  
2007 NAC  
President

## From the President

These past five months have been busy ones for your Executive Committee and several Ad Hoc committee members. As outlined in John Mihm's article (page 5), we had an excellent new member process with 10 outstanding inductees to be recognized at the upcoming annual meeting in the mile-high city of Denver.

Doy Cole and Richard Tucker have worked diligently in their efforts to advance our NAC Foundation and will be prepared to present the details to the membership at the annual meeting.

Thanks to Jim Groton and Jack Buffington, we have the results of their labor on dispute resolution published. This book, *Dispute Prevention and Resolution*, will hopefully reduce litigation in our industry, which has long been a very serious and expensive problem.

You'll find a schedule and business agenda for our Denver meeting on page 3. I'm sure the discussion regarding the NAC's strategic direction will prove interesting, particularly as it relates to the cost ramifications of the various options.

We are most anxious to make the NAC annual meeting a pleasant and interesting event, with activities especially for the spouses. The gathering will provide an excellent opportunity for networking and fellowship.

Colorado in the fall is beautiful, with the mountain aspen wearing their traditional coats of shimmering gold. We suggest you consider planning a weekend excursion to Colorado Springs, just 75 miles south of Denver.

I very much look forward to seeing you in Denver!

Vince Kontny  
[vincekontny@starband.net](mailto:vincekontny@starband.net)



*Echo Lake is part of the Denver Mountain Park System and is maintained by the City of Denver. The road to the top of Mount Evans (seen in the background) is the highest in North America, climbing to 14,260 feet above sea level. The summit is 60 miles from Denver.*

Photo by Richard Grant, courtesy of the Denver Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau.



*The dome of the Colorado State Capitol is covered with nearly 200 ounces of gold. The fifteenth step on the west side of the building is exactly one mile above sea level.*

*The Downtown Aquarium immerses visitors on two journeys, one from the Continental Divide in Colorado to Mexico's Sea of Cortez, the other from an Indonesian rain forest to the Pacific Ocean. Visitors experience a variety of fish, mammals and birds that all rely upon water. For more information, visit [www.aquariumrestaurants.com/downtownaquariumdenver/flash\\_content/index.html](http://www.aquariumrestaurants.com/downtownaquariumdenver/flash_content/index.html).*

Photo by Randy Brown, courtesy of the Denver Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau.





## NAC Annual Meeting Details

The 2007 NAC Annual Meeting will be held at the Brown Palace Hotel and Spa in Denver, Colo., Oct. 18 and 19. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Brown Palace Hotel and Spa, and also at the Comfort Inn (directly across the street). Rooms start at \$119/night at the Comfort Inn and range from \$229 - \$309 at the Brown Palace Hotel. When making your reservations, please mention the National Academy of Construction. Click on [www.brownpalace.com](http://www.brownpalace.com) for hotel details.

Denver has much to offer and rooms in the block are going fast, so make your reservations now! The number to call for reservations at either hotel is: 800-321-2599 or 303-297-3111.



Denver International Airport is the sixth busiest airport in the nation and the 10th busiest in the world. It was rated the most efficient of America's top airports in 1997, 1998 and 1999 by the FAA.

Photo by Chris Carter, courtesy of the Denver Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau.

### Wednesday, Oct. 17

- Check-in for early arrivals at the Brown Palace
- 2:00 p.m. - Free Hotel Tour
- No organized events

### Thursday, Oct. 18

- Registration
- All day - hospitality room open for members and guests
- All day open for personal planning
- Lunch - on your own
- 12:00 noon - 3:30 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting (working lunch)
- 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Keynote Presentation (members and guests)
- 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Cocktails and Dinner (Black Tie) for members and guests  
Induction of new members

Note: Afternoon Tea available daily in lobby between noon-4:00 p.m. Reservations required.

### Friday, Oct. 19

- All day - hospitality room open for members and guests
- All day - sight seeing for guests
- 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Buffet Breakfast for members and guests
- 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast available in the hospitality room
- 9:15 a.m. Presentation by Hotel Historian for guests. Day open for personal planning
- 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
**NAC Annual Business Meeting**

1. Call to Order and Introductions, Vince Kontny
  2. General Secretary's Report, Richard Tucker
  3. Membership Committee Report, John Mihm
  4. Bulletin, Vince Kontny
  5. Liaison, Jack Buffington
  6. Safety, Emmitt Nelson
  7. Disputes Resolution, Jim Groton
  8. BICE Update, Lynda Stanley
- Break
9. Foundation Status, Doy Cole
  10. Realistic Funding Needs Discussion, Richard Tucker

- 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. Buffet Luncheon for members and guests
  - 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. **NAC Annual Business Meeting continued**
  - 11. Gulf Coast Work Force Initiative, Jim Porter/ Tim Horst
  - 12. ACE, Charlie Thornton
  - 13. Leadership Research, Bill Badger
  - 14. Faculty Internship, Mike Vorster
- Break
15. NAC Strategic Direction Discussion XC Panel
  16. Election of New Officers, Vince Kontny
  17. 2008 Meeting Date and Location, John Mihm
  18. Other Business

- 3:00 p.m. **Adjournment; additional transition meeting for 2007 and 2008 Membership Committees**

- Evening - on your own



The Denver Art Museum, founded in 1893 and one of the largest art museums between Chicago and the West Coast, nearly doubled its facilities with the addition of the Frederic C. Hamilton Building in 2006. Adding more than 30,000 square feet of new galleries for its permanent collections, three temporary exhibition spaces, art storage and public amenities, it is one of the most unique structures in the United States and the first in the country completed by architect Daniel Libeskind.



Designed by renowned architects Michael Graves and Klipp Colussy Jenks DuBois, the new Denver Public Library is an example of the outstanding modern architecture to be found in Denver.



The home of the "Unsinkable Molly Brown" is a popular tourist attraction in Denver. Molly entered folklore when she survived the sinking of the Titanic. A famous Broadway musical and movie were based on her life.

Photo courtesy of the Denver Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau.

## NAC Foundation Update

### Background

Recent communications have noted Executive Committee approval of the NAC Foundation Fund Framework Plan and the establishment of trustees for management of the Fund. The trustees are now investigating various agencies to administer the Fund's investments (unfortunately, negotiations with UTIMCO were unsuccessful) and hope to report selections of a management firm by the Annual Meeting.

### Current

The NAC Foundation Fund account has been opened at Frost Bank in Austin. In addition to the initial contribution of \$30,000 from Richard and Shirley Tucker, several new donations have been received since the account was opened in July.

Two levels of Lifetime Membership have been established to help prime the Fund:

- **Silver Level: Minimum of \$5,000 – dues waived for lifetime of member**
- **Gold Level: Minimum of \$25,000 – dues waived for a lifetime of member and complimentary annual meeting registration for donor and a guest.**

### Next

If you wish to make a donation (fully tax deductible), just make your check payable to the National Academy of Construction and send it to Alicia (address on back page). If you have any questions, please contact me.

Doy Cole

[doycole@aol.com](mailto:doycole@aol.com) or 830-625-3309



## Liaison with Government Agencies

I am pleased to report that by the time you read this, the book, *Dispute Prevention and Resolution*, will have been printed and ready for distribution by the National Academies Press. We owe Lynda Stanley a super “thank you” for finding the money to make this happen. We also owe Jimmy Slaughter for agreeing to buy a couple hundred copies, which really convinced them to get hot and fund the printing of this fine document. Of course, the really big thanks goes to Jim Groton and his committee for

writing the publication, which we believe, will become a best seller.

Since the last meeting, we asked you to answer several questions about your current and possible future volunteer services. Many of you responded to this inquiry. Several members have been contacted to serve on various committees, review the work of

current NRC committees and other such activities. We thank you very much for getting involved. We haven't tried to burden anyone by going out and searching for projects for you to contribute your time to, and we won't do that. However, as time goes along and our members continue to contribute their efforts to this and that, the requests will become more numerous to the extent we will tolerate.

Richard Tucker, Dave Nash, Jim Groton, Emmitt Nelson, Bill Badger, Mike Johnson, Charlie Thornton, Doy Cole, Jimmy Slaughter, Pat Galloway, Vald Heiberg, Ted Kennedy, Vince Kontny, Jim Lammie, John Mihm, Ben Montoya and several others are constantly approached, and rarely say no.

Lynda Stanley will be attending our meeting in Denver this year and providing some suggestions where there may be opportunities for future services from our members. Thank you all for all you are doing.

Warm regards,

Jack Buffington  
[jebuffi@uark.edu](mailto:jebuffi@uark.edu)



## Membership Committee Report

One of the most important functions of any organization is membership development and keeping a vibrant group of people engaged in the endeavor. The NAC Membership Committee met following last year's NAC annual meeting in Santa Fe to discuss the membership process and begin soliciting nominations for the members who will be inducted this year.

### Process

With guidance from Richard Tucker, the committee successfully followed the process described in the *NAC Member Handbook*. Vince Kontny launched the process with a letter to the membership in early January requesting nominations. The committee began its work Feb. 1 via conference call, reviewing a list of approximately 40 nominees and assigning volunteers to serve as "mentors" for 20 identified nominees.

A request for member input was sent in late April, with comments due May 22. The comments were compiled and sent to the committee for review. Committee members developed a "straw and unbinding" ballot via e-mail for the group's June 8 conference call. This process proved efficient as the committee selected 10 official nominees and several alternates.

The individuals who nominated the 10 official nominees were contacted and asked to call their nominees to ask permission for their names to be placed on the ballot. All 10 agreed.

Ballots were received July 16, wherein all of the official nominees were elected into membership. Subsequently, Vince Kontny sent formal invitation letters to the new electees.

### Participation

The committee and membership participation was outstanding. Of the 83 NAC members, the committee received 20 complete nomination

packages (including five carry overs from 2006) from 19 different nominators with 14 additional references and 34 comment forms. Some of the comments were submitted anonymously, so it was difficult to determine the total number of participants. As such, this may be the weakest part of the process. Overall, we received 61 official ballots from 79 eligible voters (Emeritus members are not eligible to vote), which is a 77 percent participation rate!

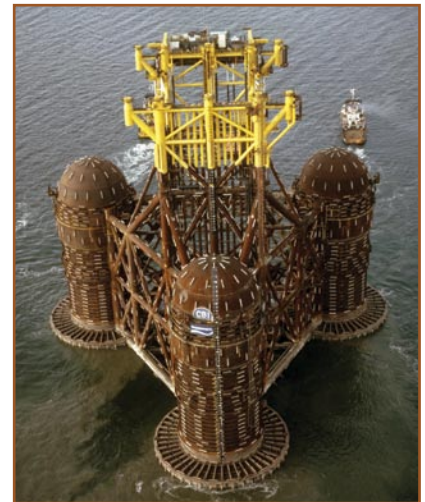
Overall, the process worked quite well. The Class of 2007 carries excellent credentials and the committee is confident these outstanding individuals will make a positive impact on the organization for years to come. The electees will be inducted into membership at the NAC Annual Meeting dinner October 18 in Denver.

### Class of 2007

Please extend a hand of friendship and welcome to these new members at the induction dinner:

- *Alan Boeckmann, Fluor Corporation*
- *Jim Diekmann, University of Colorado*
- *Pete Forster, Clark Construction Group*
- *Clair Gill, Smithsonian Institution*
- *Steve Hanks, Washington Group*
- *Preston Haskell, The Haskell Company*
- *Tom O'Neill, Parsons Brinkerhoff*
- *Hugh Rice, FMI*
- *Keith Roe, Burns and Roe*
- *Robert Smith, Akerman Senterfitt*  
*Wickwire Gavin*

*John Mihm*  
*Vice President and Membership*  
[Jcmihmr66@aol.com](mailto:Jcmihmr66@aol.com)



## From the Secretariat



Richard Tucker

The Academy is in the midst of another good and productive year, its eighth since inception in 1999. Some of our activities are described in other sections of the *Bulletin*, but are mentioned briefly below.

First, and foremost, has been our election of 10 outstanding new members. Their names are listed in John Mihm's article (page 5). The Membership Committee has worked arduously to ensure that the Class of 2007 will enhance the stature of the Academy. Member participation in the process has been very high and we are all enthusiastic about meeting our new members.

The Ad Hoc Committee for exploring a more permanent and stable source of funding for the Academy, under the leadership of Doy Cole, has been similarly active and effective. It first produced a framework for developing a Foundation that was approved by the Executive Committee in February. The Executive Committee has appointed five members as Trustees of the Foundation, who are selecting a firm to manage the Foundation. Vince has sent letters to the membership, updating the Foundation's status, and some members have contributed at the two initial giving levels. More explanation and discussion will occur at the Annual Meeting in Denver.

Plans for the Annual Meeting at the Brown Palace Oct. 18 - 19, are well under way. A recent notice was mailed to the membership, and reservations are arriving. The meeting will begin on Thursday, Oct. 18, with Executive Committee and other groups holding early afternoon meetings.

At 4 p.m., C. Michael Walton will deliver a keynote presentation entitled, "Rebuilding Our Nation's Infrastructure," for members and guests. Considering recent events in our country's evolution, this should be a timely topic. This presentation will be consistent with NAC's practice of making our Annual Meeting one that will be interesting to both members and guests. Prior Keynote presentation have included Rebuilding of the World Trade Center, and the China Three Gorges Project.

The hospitality room will be open on Thursday and Friday. A "Black Tie" Induction Dinner will be held Thursday evening, with an opportunity to renew acquaintances and meet our new members.

The Friday Member's Business Meeting (see agenda on page 3) will include a review of the 2007 NAC Activities, as well as a meaningful Strategic Direction discussion for the Academy. We will have presentations from the Standing and Ad Hoc Committees created in 2006. Lynda Stanley will describe the role of BICE and give examples of some recent studies and activities. Lynda will also have copies of the report of the Disputes Resolution Workshop, sponsored by BICE and NAC, for distribution.

Jim Porter has arranged a presentation on the Gulf Coast Work Force Initiative, which holds exciting potential for addressing our critical craft labor shortage. Charlie Thornton will bring us up to date on the ACE program, which is intended to address a similar issue, and Bill Badger will brief us on his studies of leadership, which have had much NAC member involvement.

All in all, 2007 has been an exciting year. We have had a high and enthusiastic level of interest and participation from our members, particularly in comparison to typical volunteer organizations. The participation and leadership is reflective of the types of members we've invited to join and is evidence of the success of our membership selection efforts.

*Richard Tucker, Secretariat*  
[rtucker@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:rtucker@mail.utexas.edu)





## Things to See and Do While in Denver

Colorado's capital city area offers attractions for everyone. Whether you're looking for a challenging hike, a relaxing day at the spa, world-class shopping, a day visiting art galleries and museums or an evening at the theatre, it is all within easy access. Visit [www.dmcvb.org](http://www.dmcvb.org) for all the details.

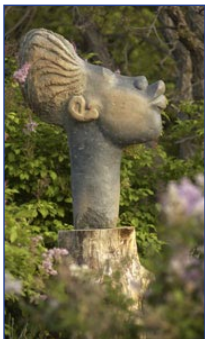


### Denver Center for the Performing Arts

Founded in 1972 and dedicated to excellence in the arts, The Denver Center for the Performing Arts (DCPA) is a showcase for live theatre featuring more than 10,000 seats in nine theaters. DCPA will be offering the following performances Oct. 17-21:

- *"You Can't Take it With You,"* a comedy by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman
- *"Third,"* the final play by Wendy Wasserstein
- *"Dirty Rotten Scoundrels,"* a comedy based on the popular 1988 movie about two con men living on the French Riviera

For details, visit [www.denvercenter.org](http://www.denvercenter.org).



### Denver Botanic Gardens

The DBG is hosting a popular sculpture exhibit featuring work from three generations of Zimbabwe's Shona artists. Behold the product of passion in these monumental stone sculptures from Chapungu Sculpture Park in Harare, Zimbabwe. Fifty-seven stone works tell stories, record history, honor, mourn and celebrate. Details at [www.botanicgardens.org/pageinpage/chapungumain.cfm](http://www.botanicgardens.org/pageinpage/chapungumain.cfm).



### Color Drive

Take a beautiful fall drive into the mountains to try your luck at some of Colorado's gaming hot spots - Blackhawk, Central City (close to Denver) or Cripple Creek (close to Colorado Springs). For more than a century, people from all around have journeyed to these small Victorian mining towns in search of excitement, luck and prosperity, and it's no different today. Embrace your inner explorer, wind down the window and head up the hill! For more information, go to [www.visitbhcc.com](http://www.visitbhcc.com) for Black Hawk/Central City or [www.visitcripplecreek.com](http://www.visitcripplecreek.com) for Cripple Creek.



### Colorado Springs

Home to the Air Force Academy, the Garden of the Gods, and the exquisite Broadmoor Resort, Colorado Springs is a great place to spend the weekend following the NAC meeting. The Broadmoor Resort encompasses 3,000 lush acres that include 15 restaurants, cafés and lounges; three golf courses; a tennis club; and a world-class European-inspired spa. For more information, go to [www.broadmoor.com](http://www.broadmoor.com).





## Denver Museum of Nature and Science

The Denver Museum of Nature & Science is the Rocky Mountain region's leading resource for informal science education. It is the third largest museum of its kind in the United States. Prehistoric Journey is a \$7 million exhibit that covers the history of life on Earth, complete with a dramatic collection of dinosaur skeletons.

Photo by Sheri O'Hara, courtesy of the Denver Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The *NAC Bulletin* is a publication of the National Academy of Construction.

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### We're on the Web!

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

## Ad Hoc Committees

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