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Looking Forward

By: Kenneth H. Nelson, P.E.

In the last couple of issues of *The Consultant* we have looked back at the history of the company and our founder. In this issue, we will look forward to the opportunities that the world presents today. Engineering is the process of applying physical principles and mathematics to solve problems, and we certainly have abundant problems that need solving today. Our world population is at an all-time high, and human nature being what it is, this creates an unlimited desire for goods, services, and creature comforts. Satisfying all of these desires requires engineering, and we are ready to do it.

When you wake up in the morning, you can thank engineers that you have not died during the night from freezing in the winter or heat stroke in the summer. When you wander to the kitchen to find something to eat for breakfast, you can thank more engineers for the agricultural machinery that harvested it, the highways it was delivered on, the trucks it was transported in, and the refrigeration that kept the bacteria levels low enough that it did not kill you outright to eat it. When you turn on the lights or launder your clothes in a washing machine instead of taking them to the river to pound them on the rocks and dry them in the sun, you can thank several more engineers. When you head out into the world to make your living, driving a car or taking public transportation, going into an office



building or restaurant or retail store or manufacturing plant, you can thank myriad engineers who designed the hundreds of systems that we all take for granted every day. If we had to face our day without the accumulated efforts of all these engineers, we would likely be huddling in a dark cave with a sharpened stick waiting for the next onslaught of beasts or nature. The fact that we as engineers have a hand in creating the things that make modern life possible is what insures that we will stay busy.

When a natural disaster strikes, the immediate first responders in a municipality are neighbors with private resources and the front line public safety agencies. But as soon as civil order is assured, the next waves of people who perform the large scale restoration of infrastructure that supports civilized living conditions are

those who make sure the water, power, and communication systems are working. These technicians are executing the physical works designed by engineers of many disciplines.

When economic disaster strikes, employment is disrupted and societal order is threatened. In these situations, private capital, central banks, and governments step in as first responders to restore economic stability. The next wave of help comes from entrepreneurs with a vision to restart the economy by identifying niches of opportunity that can match a need with a solution. This requires engineering services on a scale from minute to grand. As we work through the economic turmoil created by the recent spike and subsequent collapse in world oil and gas prices, we are constantly on the lookout for these opportunities to solve economic problems. We are lucky at NELSON to have under one roof capability in all the engineering disciplines, architecture, environmental services, project management, procurement, and whatever creative energies a client may require. We look forward to helping solve the next wave of problems, or opportunities as we like to consider them, which our ever-changing world presents. The key is to anticipate what the next opportunity will be and be prepared to meet it.

So what are the next challenges on the horizon? We have become so inventive and efficient in producing



Charles Nelson and Ambrose Amedee Ginger Dodge and Jim Lane Sal Perez Steve Pumilia Tom Wells



Joe Lawton Son Nguyen Robert Olivier Ken Nelson and Steve Babin



Dalton Cantrelle Jim Lane and Hugh Carmichael Joel Dorsa Leanne Geohegan Robert Griffin



O.L. Haas



Luan Tran



Greg Guillot



David Montgomery and Robert Griffin



Thomas Nguyen



Jason Ortis

SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES - 2016

Thank you to the following employees who have continued to offer their loyalty and talent to our company and clients. Your dedication allows NELSON to deliver the caliber of service to our clients for which we all strive. We congratulate you.

40 Years

- Ambrose G. Amedee
- James B. Lane
- Sal Perez
- Stephen M. Pumilia
- Thomas W. Wells

35 Years

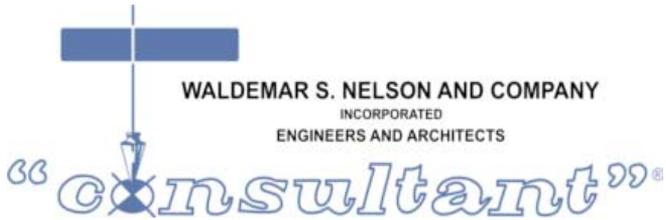
- Joseph R. Lawton, III
- Son V. Nguyen

25 Years

- Robert C. Olivier

20 Years

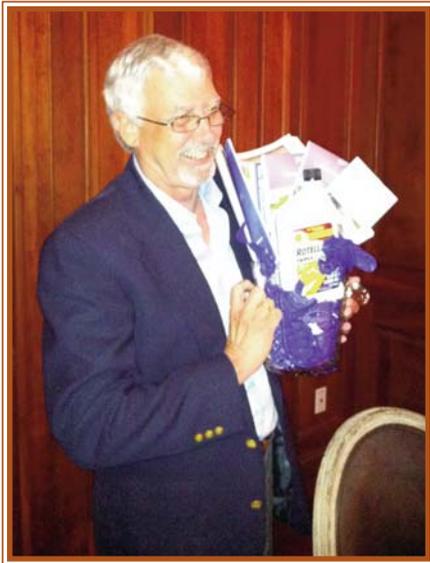
- Steve J. Babin
- Dalton S. Cantrelle, Jr.
- Hugh Carmichael
- Joel S. Dorsa
- Leanne M. Geohegan
- Robert W. Griffin
- Gregory J. Guillot
- Oettrich L. Haas, III
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Wayne J. Hingle, P.E.

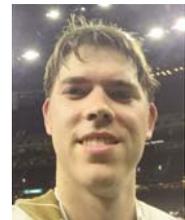
Wayne J. Hingle, P.E., a Senior Vice President and Manager of Engineering in the New Orleans office retired with over 33 years of service.

We thank him for his many contributions over the years and wish him all the best in his retirement!

New Orleans
Saints 2016
NFL Kickoff
Race



Luan Tran, Holly Beaulieu and Martin Patterson



Ian Walsdorf



Marie Vonderheide and Leanne Geohegan



Michelle Jones