

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Mississippi

The Voice of Mississippi's Engineering Industry.

3900 Lakeland Drive, Suite 201 • Flowood, MS 39232

Tel: (601) 420-2002 • Fax: (601) 420-2315

acecms@comcast.net • www.acecms.org

www.facebook.com/acec.mississippi

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*And, the Angel said unto them, "Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" - Luke 2:10-11
Best Wishes for a Wonderful and Blessed Holiday Season!!*



ACEC/MS Awarded Bettye Oliver, Program Director for USDA-RD, a Certificate of Appreciation for her service to the public and the engineering profession.



**Congratulations to this Year's
2016 Teddy Roosevelt
Award Winner
Tom Bryant, P.E.**



**ACEC/MS Fall Fling
PAC Winner 2016 Wayne Morrison**
Wayne Morrison, P.E, Williams, Clark & Morrison, Inc.; Judy Adams, Executive Director, of ACEC/MS and Marilyn Dedeaux.



Fellows Dinner Sponsors: Elmore Moody, Civil Tech, Inc.; Bryson Agnew and Sam Agnew, Environmental Technical Sales, Inc.; Darlene and Rob Turner, Turner Insurance and Financial Services; and Joe Lauderdale, Sunbelt Sealing, Inc.

ACEC-Backed WRDA Bill, along with Continuing Resolution, on the Table as Congress Wraps Up this Week

Congress will make a last-ditch effort to push through the ACEC-supported Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) before the end of the session on Friday.

The WRDA bill would authorize \$9 billion for new Corps of Engineers projects, as well as provide assistance for communities impacted by lead contamination, funds for rural communities, and assistance to mitigate California drought conditions.

Congress is also expected to clear a "continuing resolution" that will maintain current funding for federal programs and agencies through April of 2017.



Dates to Remember

EEA Judging—January 12th-13th

Project Manager's Seminar—February 10th

Capitol Day—February 21st

ACEC/MS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Scott Burge



Thanks to all that organized, planned, sponsored and participated in our very successful recent Fall Fling. All of the meetings, seminars and banquet were very well attended. The seminars on the new overtime regulations, ethics, and the presentation from two of our Board of Licensure members, Terrell Temple and Steve Twedt, were very educational and informative. The highlight of our Fall Fling is the Thursday night Fellows Dinner, Teddy Roosevelt Award presentation, and the PAC Drawdown. Congratulations to Tom Bryant for being selected as this year's recipient of the Teddy Roosevelt Award, and for his distinguished service to ACEC, our engineering profession, as well as, community and volunteer services.

Participation in the PAC Drawdown helped to get us somewhat closer to meeting our 2016 ACEC/MS PAC goal of \$12,164. We have not quite met our goal yet, so we ask that you consider making a contribution before the end of the year.

I had the opportunity to attend the ACEC Fall Conference in October at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs. Judy and I participated in the ACEC Board of Directors meeting, as well as a State Leadership Breakfast with representatives from other states in our region to share knowledge on issues affecting each of the State's business climate, respective legislative concerns and challenges faced by each State's member organization. We were also joined at the conference by Ed and Marilyn Dedeaux, Keith Purvis and Scot Ehr Gott, who received a national award presented to MDOT for their QBS selection program. Congratulations to Scot and MDOT and thanks to Keith for assisting in applying for this award. I highly encourage anyone to take the opportunity to attend an ACEC national conference, which is very educational, informative and quite impressive.

As we move into the next year, Judy will be very active on keeping up with legislation that will affect our profession. Your help will be needed to contact and communicate with our legislators on issues of concern. During the legislative session we will have our ACEC Day at the Capitol, which I encourage a good participation by our members.

Until we meet again, I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!



ACEC Working For You

At ACEC's Urging, U.S. Department of Labor Improves Sick Time Rule

Many times we get questions from members. "What has ACEC National done for me lately." Well, here's a great example which saves every firm a lot of time and money....

In response to concerns raised by ACEC, the U.S. Department of Labor has significantly reduced the reporting requirement in its final "Sick Time" rule.

DOL had proposed that federal contractors report accrued sick time for their employees on a weekly basis. ACEC noted that most firms have two-week or monthly payroll cycles and would incur significant compliance costs in switching over to a weekly system. Citing the Council's input, DOL agreed to ease the reporting requirement to bi-weekly, semi-monthly or monthly in the final rule.



ACEC/MS President, Scott Burge with A. Garner Russell & Associates, presents a PAC Check to U.S. Representative, 4th District, Steven Palazzo



ACEC/MS Presents PAC Check to Congressman Greg Harper. Pictured from left: ACEC/MS Past President, David Bowman, Neel-Schaffer, Inc.; ACEC/MS PAC Chairman, Hunter Arnold, Waggoner Engineering, Inc.; Congressman Greg Harper; and New ACEC/MS Board Member, Randy Ahlrich, Burns Cooley Dennis, Inc.



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ACEC PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

By Dave Raymond

General

- Sent policy recommendations to President-elect Trump's transition team for 2017, emphasizing a strong infrastructure and energy agenda, as well as tax and regulatory reforms.
- Ninety-seven percent of the candidates that ACEC/PAC supported for the House and Senate won their races on Election Day; PAC-funded candidates won seven of eight open congressional seats, and were winners in 13 of the 16 "toss-up" races.
- ACEC/Alabama received a Minuteman Fund grant to help defray the advocacy costs of fighting for QBS regulations in the Administrative Rules of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BOL).
- ACEC/PAC has surpassed \$900,000 in total receipts on its way to \$1 million this year, and has distributed nearly \$2 million to date for the 2015/16 election cycle; ACEC/Nebraska, ACEC/North Dakota, ACEC/Kentucky, and ACEC/Oklahoma met their ACEC/PAC fundraising goals, bringing the total number of states already at goal to 24.
- *Engineering Inc.* won five top honors in the 2016 MarCom Awards – an international competition recognizing communications excellence, with more than 6,500 entries from the U.S., Canada and 17 other countries.

Government Advocacy

- Voters approved more than \$200 billion in ballot initiatives for transportation projects in 22 states on Election Day, including a number of initiatives supported by the Minuteman Fund.
- A federal judge issued a preliminary injunction on the Department of Labor's overtime pay rule, which was scheduled to take effect on December 1, giving ACEC and its coalition partners time to work with Congress and the incoming Administration on a more moderate increase of the salary threshold.
- Submitted comments to the House Ways and Means Committee on its tax reform blueprint, stressing the Council's support for a comprehensive approach to tax reform that provides the same top tax rate for all business structures.
- Joined business allies in asking the Treasury Department to withdraw a proposed estate tax rule that would harm family-owned firms.
- The ACEC-AASHTO Joint Committee meeting featured discussions on DOT performance management rules and streamlined project delivery; the need for a revenue solution for the Highway Trust Fund; and support for state-level infrastructure funding campaigns.
- Congressmen Dave Reichert (R-WA) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) introduced ACEC-backed legislation to make improvements to the Section 179D energy efficient commercial buildings tax deduction.
- Joined with industry stakeholders on a letter urging Congress to support the extension of key tax provisions that promote energy efficient buildings.

Launched a new study in partnership with a number of member firms and outside partners to highlight the value of EPA's hazardous waste Superfund program, with the goal of using the study to build support in Congress for increased funding.



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