“The Voice of Mississippi’s Engineering Companies”

New 2020-2021 Executive Committee

National Director
RONALD W. CASSADA
Gardner Engineering, P.A.
P.O. Drawer A
Indianola, MS 38751-2848

President
KYLE WALLACE
Shows, Dearman & Waits, Inc.
301 Second Avenue
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

President Elect
RANDY AHLRICH
Burns Cooley Dennis, Inc.
551 Sunnybrook Road
Ridgeland, MS 39157-1811

Secretary/Treasurer
DAX ALEXANDER
Brown, Mitchell & Alexander, Inc.
401 Cowan Road, Suite A
Gulfport, MS 39507

Board Member
DARRELL MARTINEK
W.L. Burle Engineers, P.A.
111 South Walnut Street
Greenville, MS 38701

Board Member
JAMES DICKERSON
Buchart Horn, Inc.
103-4 Woodland Road
Batesville, MS 38606

Board Member
KENT GENO
Cook Coggin Engineers, Inc.
703 Crossover Road
Tupelo, MS 38801

PAC Chairman
HUNTER ARNOLD
Waggoner Engineering, Inc.
P.O. Box 12227
Jackson, MS 39236

Past President
WAYNE MORRISON
Williams, Clark & Morrison, Inc.
P.O. Box 567
Yazoo City, MS 39134

2020 ACEC/MS Scholarship Winner
Anna Grace Norris
Mississippi State University

Dates to Remember:
- Roosevelt Day—Virtual—Date Not Set
- Steel Bridge Forum—Virtual—Date Not Set
- Fall Meeting—TBD
ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

Grand Conceptor Award Winner
Cook Coggin Engineers, Inc.
Project: Corinth EDA
Drainage Improvements
Client: City of Corinth

Grand Award Winner
Neel-Schaffer, Inc.
Project: Port of Gulfport Restoration
Client: Mississippi State Port Authority

People’s Choice Award Winner
Waggoner Engineering, Inc.
Project: Hinds County Parkway Segment 2
Client: Hinds County Board of Supervisors

Banquet Sponsors:

Entertainment Sponsor:
Control Systems, Inc.

The Dowell Group at Morgan Stanley

Reception Sponsor:
SUNBELT SEALING, INC.
601-352-0900
ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARD
HONOR WINNERS

NEW MEMBER:
Smithers Engineers and Consultants, LLC
435 Katherine Drive, Suite A
Flowood, Ms 39232
Website: smithersengineers.com
PH: 769-216-3004
Email: chas@smithersengineers.com
Principal: Charles Smithers

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARD
HONOR WINNERS

Michael Baker International
Project: Colony Park Boulevard From Sunnybrook Road to U.S. Hwy 51

Garver, LLC and MES Group, Inc.
Project: Traffic Flow at the ERDC
Project: New Secure Computing Facility at the ERDC

WGK, Inc.
Project: Brookhaven Annexation Water & Sewer

Compton Engineering, Inc.
Project: Linea Dock Bulkhead Improvements

WEI/AJA, LLC
Project: Capitol Complex Improvements
District Master Plan

Laird + Smithers, Inc. and Burns Cooley Dennis, Inc.
Project: Additions & Renovations to Pisgah High School

Michael Baker International
Project: Spring Lake Earthen Dam Improvements

ACEC/MS 2019-2020 Executive Committee

SMITHERS ENGINEERS + CONSULTANTS
ACEC/MS President’s Update: Wayne Morrison

Many of you have probably seen several memes around the internet in the last few months about “how can we just get out of the year 2020 unscathed.” What else can happen between pandemics and disasters? Certainly, we at ACEC/MS have been affected by what is happening in our country. There is much concern for the future of the economy and how to keep our workers in a healthy and safe environment. After speaking with various firms in our state, some have not missed a beat, as far as being in their office turning out work. Others have had to adjust to working from home and manage the challenges of communicating and keeping up with their employees. Some projects have been pushed back because of Covid-19. We would love to know if you have found any method of working remotely that you would share with rest of us to benefit other firms. Craig Carter and Steven Clay of The Clay Firm have been doing an excellent job keeping us informed with the legislature activities this year. Right now, the legislature is on break and some have turned up with the Covid-19 virus. Their work will resume soon.

Our ACEC National Meeting in Washington, DC was cancelled, due to the Covid-19 virus and concerns about how to keep people safe. During our National Meeting, we normally meet with our congressional delegation to inform them about engineering issues and possible solutions at both the state and national levels. Because of the meeting cancellation, we had various conference calls with all our Washington delegation. Many thanks to the many ACEC/MS members who participated! There were two main topics which centered around infrastructure. First was on transportation and how an injection of federal funds would help stabilize state and local economies against budgets that have been impacted by the pandemic and loss of revenue. We must have long term investment in transportation! Water Infrastructure was the other topic and how $1 billion invested creates 23,000 jobs. EPA will need at least $750 billion over the next 20 years to maintain current levels of service, and there is a $100 billion backlog of authorized Corps of Engineers water resource projects that should go forward. Funding of these are critical for our nation, and we need to pray for our leaders that they would have wisdom to deal with these issues. The next ACEC National Meeting will be in San Diego, CA on October 28 – 31, 2020.

An ACEC/MS casualty of the Covid-19 virus was the cancellation of our Deep South Meeting in Sandestin, FL, scheduled for the week of July 23 - July 25. Since it was cancelled, we added another year on our contract for having it there for the next two years. Thanks to ACEC/AL for helping with the negotiations so that penalty fees would not be assessed for canceling. In the beginning of those negotiations, our friends in Louisiana were banned from entering Florida. Please make plans to come to Sandestin next summer, July 22-24, and bring your families for a wonderful time.

Roosevelt Day, which is usually during the month of August, is cancelled because Roosevelt State Park is still closed. We may have an event via Zoom with each of the agencies that are normally scheduled. We will keep you informed.

Congratulations to Kyle Wallace of Shows, Dearman and Waits as incoming ACEC/MS Executive Committee Board President and to Kent Geno of Cook Coggin Engineers, our new Executive Committee Board Member.

Thank you to Craig Carter and Jessica Gosa for leading us through this trying year.

I want to thank ACEC/MS for allowing me to serve as President this year. I have always benefited from my participation in ACEC and encourage everyone to become actively involved. I wish you well in this next year.