

ACEC

American Council of Engineering Companies
of Mississippi

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“The Voice of Mississippi’s Engineering Companies”



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ALLEN SCOTT
Engineering Service
P.O. Box 180429
Richland, MS 39218

New 2019-2020 Executive Committee

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- August 23 Roosevelt Day, Roosevelt State Park, Morton, MS
- October 31, 2019—EEA Call for Entries 2020 Intent to Enter

ACEC/MS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Allen Scott



Well the year has flown by and it's hard to believe that I'm writing my last President's message.

As we get ready to start a new ACEC year, we welcome Wayne Morrison as our new president. This is Wayne's second round so we all owe Wayne a big thank you for his dedication to ACEC.

We also welcome new board member, Jimmy Dickerson and new National Director, Ron Cassada.

We also welcome N-Y Associates and The Walker Associates as new Member Firms and Southern Pipe and Supply as a new Affiliate Member.

We continue to have discussions with the Mississippi Engineering Society with regards to some joint meetings and greater cooperation in promoting the business of engineering.

Behind the scenes, we now have a formal draft of an employee handbook that we hope will be adopted at our summer meeting.

We need to stay alert on the legislative front. The Bankers may be posturing to make another run at re-defining "surveying". We can be sure that they will not underestimate the engineering community the second time around.

Craig and Jessica are getting comfortable in our new location at 825 N. President Street in Jackson, just north of the Capitol. We are very excited about this location. Please stop by if you are in the area and see the new offices.

Several of your ACEC-MS members attended the ACEC National meeting in Washington, DC May 4-9, 2019. We visited the offices of both Mississippi Senators and all four Congressman and actually met with Senator Wicker, Congressman Kelly, and Congressman Guest.

New Member

N-Y Associates, Inc.

178 Main Street

Biloxi, MS 39530

Telephone: (228) 374-3001

Facsimile: (504) 885-0595

Email: cnicoladis@n-yassociates.com

Principal: Constantine F. Nicoladis, P.E.



Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to the board and especially Craig and Jessica for making my year as president so easy. I am a bit embarrassed at how everything was done for me.

We have a first class team in Craig and Jessica. I would ask all of you, especially those who have not been active in the ACEC-MS administration in the past, to consider volunteering to serve on the Board. I know we are all busy but I found it very easy to work the ACEC duties into my schedule.

The Walker Associates,

Engineers-Planners-Designers, PLLC

2203 Hardy Street, Hattiesburg, MS 39404-6446

Telephone: (601) 583-2127; Fax: (601) 582-1300

Email: dwalker@walkerassociates.com

Principal: Donald E. Walker, P.E.



New Affiliate Member

Southern Pipe & Supply Co., Inc.

354 Hwy 49 South

Richland, MS 39218

Telephone: (601) 326-1700

Facsimile: (601) 326-1701

Email: justin.bradshaw@southernpipe.com

Email: rick.shepherd@southernpipe.com

Contacts: Justin Bradshaw; Rick Shepherd



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2019 Deep South Convention



ACEC President's Update: Linda Bauer Darr

General

- ACEC's new national leadership took office with Mitch Simpler succeeding Manish Kothari as Chair; Charlie Gozdziwski became Chair-elect; and John Carrato and Kenny Smith joined Jay Wolverton, Stephanie Hachem, Art Barrett, Keith Jackson, Keith London, and Michael Smith on the 2019-20 Executive Committee.
- The 52nd Engineering Excellence Awards Gala recognized the finest engineering achievements of the year, including Grand Conceptor Award winner WSP USA for the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program in Seattle.
- In our pursuit of raising the prominence of ACEC and the engineering industry, ACEC garnered several important external media appearances in May: Linda Bauer Darr wrote a letter to the editor that was published on May 28 in the *Wall Street Journal* on the importance of pre-disaster mitigation. Darr was also quoted in the *Associated Press* in an article previewing the White House meeting on infrastructure.

- Darr was interviewed by WCCI-FM in the Quad Cities and WCSR-FM in Hillsdale, MI; Steve Hall was interviewed by KORE-FM in Northwestern Washington State.

Steve Hall was quoted in an *ENR* story on the aftermath of the White House infrastructure meeting.

ACEC/NY's Jay Simson was quoted in an *ENR* article on a developing issue between the MTA and design firm contracts.

- ACEC recently launched its new podcast series, "Engineering Influence," which can be found on iTunes and on the Podbean podcasting network; 12 episodes are available and have already been downloaded 214 times over the past 30 days; suggestions for guests to appear on the show should be directed to Jeff Urbanchuk at jurbanchuk@acec.org.
- Conducted two successful, interactive education sessions during Convention for NAECE which included discussions on overcoming objections of prospective members to joining ACEC and increasing non-dues revenue.

ACEC has created a new value proposition document to share the benefits of membership specifically for firms that have a strong architecture focus; the document is available for Member Organizations to use in their recruitment efforts.

- ACEC will host a training session for MO staff August 5-6 at the national headquarters in Washington DC; details coming soon.
- Jensen Hughes, #73 on the ENR 500, joined ACEC in May; several other ENR500 firms are currently in membership discussions as well.

Advocacy and External Affairs

- Former Chair Manish Kothari, President Linda Bauer Darr and ACEC staff discussed the Council's infrastructure priorities for 2019 with senior White House officials; Kothari and Darr also met with the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Ambassador Mark Green, to discuss industry collaboration with the agency as part of an interview for *Engineering Inc.* magazine.
- Organized a successful advocacy program and "Hill Day" connected to the Annual Convention featuring advocacy for a robust infrastructure agenda, extension of key energy tax incentives for vertical projects and renewable energy, and solutions to address the engineering shortage.
- Hosted a reception at the Convention for Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), who discussed the infrastructure agenda in Congress and other current issues.
- ACEC/PAC hosted an "Irish Pub Night" which was well received, but ACEC/PAC truly raises a glass to the membership for contributing more than \$270,000. Cheers!
- Joined business and labor groups and other stakeholders in a letter calling on the President and congressional leaders to return to the negotiating table and advance robust infrastructure investment legislation.
- Endorsed a bill introduced by Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) to increase federal gas and diesel taxes by five cents per year for five years, indexed to inflation.
- Urged Congress to repeal the \$7.6 billion rescission in Federal-aid highway contract authority scheduled to take place in July 2020 in a joint letter with AASHTO and 29 other transportation associations.
- Submitted comments in support of the Department of Labor's moderate approach to revising the overtime pay salary threshold under the Fair Labor Standards Act.
- By invitation, participated in a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stakeholder meeting on Corps efforts to improve its civil works program, and delivered ACEC priorities on the levee safety program, WIFIA implementation and initiatives to foster collaboration, such as firm internships for Corps personnel, more reviews of the design through the use of numerous over-the-shoulder reviews and consider placing USACE District personnel in A/E offices during critical design phases. Joined with other stakeholder organizations in submitting comments opposing a Department of Defense proposal that would vastly expand the Pentagon's authority and access to sensitive data from firms under the guise of cybersecurity prevention.

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