

# 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

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## 2012 - 2013 Leadership Announced



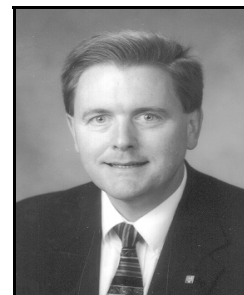
National Director  
**WAYNE MORRISON**  
Williams, Clark & Morrison, Inc.  
P.O. Box 567  
Yazoo City, MS 39194-0567



President  
**RON CASSADA**  
Gardner Engineering, P.A.  
P.O. Drawer A  
Indianola, MS 38751-2848



President Elect  
**JEFF DUNGAN**  
Dungan Engineering, P.A.  
P.O. Box 150  
Columbia, MS 39429



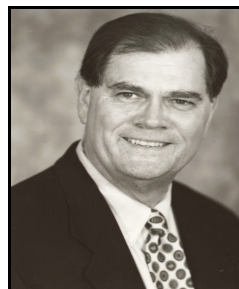
Secretary/Treasurer  
**JAMES NELSON**  
Allen & Hoshall  
713 South Pear Orchard Rd, Ste. 100  
Ridgeland, MS 39157



Board Member  
**SCOTT BURGE**  
A. Garner Russell & Associates  
P.O. Box 1677  
Gulfport, MS 39502-1677



Board Member  
**CAREY HARDIN**  
Clearwater Consultants, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1328  
Starkville, MS 39760-1328



PAC Chairman  
**TOM BRYANT**  
Pickering, Inc.  
7900 Airways Blvd. Bldg B Ste. 201  
Southaven, MS 38671



Past President  
**HAYDEN KAISER, III**  
Jordan, Kaiser & Sessions, LLC  
P.O. Box 1267  
Natchez, MS 39121-1267

### Time to GET INVOLVED!

ACEC/MS Committee Sign Up Forms are Inside. Please take a moment to review the choice of committees and give a careful consideration to serving. Please note that some committees only meet as issues arise. YOU are the VOICE of the Engineering Industry!

Complete and Fax form to 601-420-2315.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 2-5	Deep South Convention- Sandestin, Florida
August 24	Roosevelt Day, Roosevelt State Park

Are you  
registered for the  
Deep South  
Convention???

If not, what are  
you waiting for?

## ACEC/MS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Hayden Kaiser, III

Once again, our Mississippi delegation, along with most other states, went to Washington in mid-April to stress to our Senators and Congressmen issues that are important to our industry. This trip just happened to be my second of hopefully many more. Yes, it takes time out of my work schedule, but the benefits I gain are worth the trip. But, what I really hope is that my presence benefits "our" profession. I stress "our" because not only am I talking about the members of ACEC but also those who are not.

There are many issues pushed to our elected officials both at the state and national levels, and those can be found on the "What Have We Done For You Lately" that Judy and Leah compile every year. These accomplishments show the hard work of our membership.

Imagine the power of our membership if we could say to our elected officials, "ACEC represents 100% of our firms." This is why I challenge you to get out and push those firms that are not members to join. Please don't wait for Judy to do this for us.

We are all busy, but please take the time to make a visit if you personally know of a firm that is not a member. Affiliates are also an important part of the success of our organization. Our affiliate dues are among the cheapest in the industry.



Mostly, I ask for your involvement in your organization. Come to our meetings to get your PDH's. ACEC needs for you to be involved, it is vital to our success.

Lastly, I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your President in the past year. It has truly been an honor. It is great to have an excellent staff in Judy and Leah, but also to have a good executive committee that is committed to the success of ACEC-MS.

### Are YOU Involved With Your Association???

Members representing ACEC/MS on State Boards: **Judy Adams** - Mississippi Transportation Institute and State Revolving Loan Fund; **Lee Jones** - Public Water System Capacity Development Advisory Committee; **Caleb Dana** - Wastewater Advisory Board; **Tom Bryant** - Mississippi Intermodal Council; **Perry Atherton** - Mississippi Building Code Council; **Terrell Temple** - Mississippi Damage Prevention Control Council.

**"Every man owes a part of his time or money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions in his sphere"**

**Theodore Roosevelt**



## *Paving the way to the Winner's Circle.*

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# ACEC-MS Leadership Discusses Key Issues With Congressional Delegation



ACEC-MS Governmental Affairs Chairman Ron Cassada led an ACEC Mississippi delegation to Capitol Hill April 17 and 18, to discuss

staff of Senator Cochran.

Issues discussed included the critical need for a long-term Highway Funding solution, continued funding of the Safe Drinking Water and Clean Water acts; and the need for a national energy policy incorporating all forms of energy production and transmission. ACEC had been successful in getting "Contracting Out" language in the House version of the Highway bill. We encouraged them to leave the language in the bill or to include it in the Senate Bill.

key issues. Other ACEC members attending were Tom Bryant, Pickering, Inc., Jim Hust, Waggoner Engineering; Ed Dedeaux, Allen and Hoshall; Hayden Kaiser, III, Jordan Kaiser and Sessions and Wayne Morrison, Williams Clark and Morrison. Executive Director Judy Adams also participated in the April 17<sup>th</sup> Visits.

The Group had face to face meetings with Congressmen Greg Harper; Alan Nunnellee and Senator Roger Wicker. Congressman Thompson and Palazzo offices had their Chief of Staff meet our delegation. The delegation also met with the



ACEC/MS raised \$12,890 to meet our PAC goal of \$12,882 and was awarded with the PAC Award while at the ACEC National Conference in Washington. Pictured are PAC Champion Tom Byrant, Terry Neimeyer, National ACEC Chair, Judy Adams, Executive Director of ACEC/MS, and Hayden Kaiser, III, ACEC/MS President.

***Deep South Convention***

***Room Block Cut-off Date***

***July 9th***

## New Members

### WAGES CONSULTING, LLC

P.O. Box 2211

Ridgeland, MS 39158

Telephone: (601) 259-3662

Email: [chadwages@wagesconsulting.com](mailto:chadwages@wagesconsulting.com)

Website: [www.wagesconsulting.com](http://www.wagesconsulting.com)

*Principal(s): Chad Wages*

**Areas of Interest:** Wages Consulting specializes in civil engineering, planning, project management, and economic development.

## New Affiliate Members

### ACEC LIFE/HEALTH TRUST

2591 Dallas Parkway, Suite 300

Frisco, TX 75034

Telephone: (405) 703-1821

Fascimile: (877) 883-8985

Email: [iana@acelifehealthtrust.com](mailto:iana@acelifehealthtrust.com)

Website: [www.acelifehealthtrust.com](http://www.acelifehealthtrust.com)

*Principal(s): Pat Feyen*

**Areas of Interest:** The ACEC Life/Health Insurance Trusts purpose is to serve member firms and to support the State Member Organizations and ACEC. As an affiliate member, the Trust will be positioned more favorably to accomplish this objective.

# ACEC PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

By Dave Raymond

As we head into the summer months leading up to the November election, ACEC's agenda remains focused on infrastructure funding, contracting out and tax relief. A House-Senate Conference Committee is in throes of reconciling a two-year Senate transportation bill with a 90-day House extension. Last week we helped defeat a proposed payroll tax increase on S corporations. We are upping our attention to all tax issues as they begin to receive heightened interest with the pending expiration of the Bush tax cuts at the end of the

- President Obama signed into law ACEC-backed legislation to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank including increased lending capacity to support the export of engineering services.
- Defeated a proposed payroll tax increase on S corporation owners.
- Lobbied for extension of 100 percent bonus depreciation in

year. We have sought to stem the tide of increased insourcing by public agencies through Congressional action and representations with federal and states agencies. At the same time, our Management Practices Committee has established an Infrastructure Finance Subcommittee to examine alternative forms of finance for public infrastructure; as part of this effort, we have also initiated development a model EJCDC contract document for P3s.

2012, and for a provision to make it easier for firms that convert to S corporations to access their own capital without paying a tax penalty.

- Maintained strong drumbeat of lobbying pressure (ACEC members sent more than 1,000 emails, letters to Congress) to finalize a long-term transportation bill before current extension expires at end of June.

## Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century

Great news! House and Senate negotiators completed work Wednesday night on a two-year, \$105 billion transportation authorization bill. Votes on final package are expected by the weekend.

The bill – called Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century or “MAP-21” – will provide \$82 billion for highways and \$21.3 billion for transit programs over Fiscal Years 2013-2014. The bill also includes an extension of current funding through September 30, the end of the current fiscal year. So, the final package is a true two-year bill, providing stable and predictable funding through September 30, 2014.

MAP-21 increases funding for the Transportation Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program to \$1.75 billion over

two years, to help states leverage funding through loans, loan guarantees and public-private partnerships.

The final bill consolidates several highway programs to give states more flexibility for allocating funds. It also streamlines project delivery requirements, including the integration of planning and environmental reviews, pre-NEPA property acquisition, delegation of environmental compliance responsibilities to states, and expansion of categorical exclusions, all consistent with our committee's policy recommendations.

Unfortunately, the legislation does not include the ACEC provision to promote the utilization of private sector firms for engineering and design services.



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# ACEC

## Working For Your Bottom Line

Worked with MDOT to develop Small Firms Programs with one project already awarded to a small firm.

Environmental Committee formed two ad hoc committees with MDEQ, one with the UST Division (UST) and the other with the Environmental Permits Division (EP). The ACEC/UST Committee was successful in increasing the UST trust fund reimbursement rates.

The ACEC/EP Committee was successful in creating dialogue within the engineering/regulatory community to address the challenges local municipalities face complying with the new, more stringent discharge permits.

LPA ad hoc committee currently working with MDOT to create a more seamless process.