

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Mississippi

The Voice of Mississippi's Engineering Industry.

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2013-2014 Leadership Announced



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Ridgeland, MS 39157



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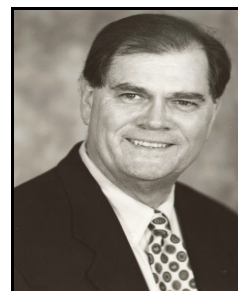
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Hernando, MS 38632



Past President
RON CASSADA
Gardner Engineering, P.A.
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Indianola, MS 38751-2848

GET INVOLVED and TAKE YOUR SEAT at the TABLE!

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.

2013 Deep South Convention
Alabama □ Louisiana □ Mississippi
Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort
July 11-14 Destin, Florida
Leave your suit & tie at home!!

Roosevelt Day
Roosevelt State Park - Morton, MS
August 23, 2013
Program & Idea Exchange with
State Departments.

ACEC/MS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ron Cassada

It is hard to believe that this will be my final newsletter article as President of ACEC-MS; this year has truly flown by. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve my fellow ACEC-MS members this past year. I want to thank our dedicated Executive Director, Judy Adams, and her assistant, Leah Head for all that they do. I also want to thank our Executive committee and committee chairmen for their support and dedicated service to our organization. The successes we have had over the last year are due to their hard work.

Our ACEC National Meeting and Consulting Congress Day was a great success. In April, we had six member firms represent us in Washington for the Capitol Hill visits. If you have never been to our national meeting, I encourage you to go and see how critical our organization is to protecting our business interests on a national level.

As President, my primary goals were to stress the value of being a member of ACEC-MS and increase membership. Our organization's greatest asset is legislative advocacy on behalf of our businesses and employees. ACEC-MS is the only organization in our state that monitors legislation and lobbies on our behalf. Because of this, ACEC-MS is a critical part of our businesses and has a positive impact on everyone's bottom line. I encourage you to read The June 2013 "What Have We Done For You Lately?" summary sheet and share it with potential members. It is a great recap of the value of ACEC-MS to our member firms. Please encourage non-member firms and manufacturers' representatives with whom you do business to join or become an affiliate member.

Another major goal was to increase participation from our members. The success of any organization is dependent on the participation of its members. One easy way to get involved is to participate on one of our many committees. We have over 18 standing and ad hoc committees to serve on. Participation on these committees is extremely vital to the accomplishment of our programs and objectives.

I want to thank Tom Bryant for the great job he continues to do as our PAC chairmen. We raised \$12,650 last year which exceeded our goal. Our goal this year is \$12,850 and we have a total contribution to date of \$4,200. Please contribute generously as these PAC funds are a vital part of our lobbying efforts in Washington. Historically, our Mississippi delegates have received more in PAC contributions than we have contributed to the fund. Last year our delegates received \$13,000 in contributions; value like that is hard to find.

Our summer meeting at San Destin is coming up in July, and is always a family favorite. By participating in these events, you will earn your required PDH's and make valuable contacts and new friends. I hope to see all of you there. I would like close by thanking you for the opportunity to serve as your President this past year. I am pleased to turn the role of President over to the very capable Jeff Dungan. I know he will do an excellent job leading our organization next year (if he listens to Judy).



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ACEC PAC: HOW DOES CONGRESS AFFECT YOUR BUSINESS?

Congress is now debating several measures that will dramatically affect the profitability of engineering firms, including funding for transportation, infrastructure, water and energy projects. Congress is also considering changes to federal business regulations and the tax code that will directly impact firms.

What's ACEC doing about it? Plenty. Last month alone ACEC's Government Affairs staff accomplished the following:

- Signed a partnering agreement with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chief, Lt Gen Tom Bostick that bolsters support for QBS and addresses a wide range of other issues.
- Secured House Committee on Transportation passage of legislation to approve the Keystone XL pipeline.
- Testified before the House Small Business Subcommittee on the use of employment-based visas by small engineering firms and the need to increase the H-1B visa cap.

- ACEC's Transportation Fact Sheet was included as part of the official record by the House Budget Committee in a hearing on long-term revenue options for the Highway.
- Submitted ACEC's tax reform principles to the House Ways and Means Committee, emphasizing the need for reforms that benefit both large and small firms.
- Briefed House Ways and Means Committee staff on ACEC's concerns over proposals to limit the use of cash accounting.

ACEC/PAC is the primary weapon in our industry's political arsenal to help elect candidates to federal office that support pro-business, pro-engineering positions. ACEC/PAC is bipartisan and operates out in the open in full compliance with the Federal Election Campaign Act and applicable state laws.

To learn more about this critical political program, contact Cara Gavagan at cgavagan@acec.org. ACEC/PAC is your best investment in the future of your firm.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

G.E.C., INC.
9414 Three Rivers Rd., #3C
Gulfport, MS 39503
Telephone: (228) 863-8181
Facsimile: (228) 868-4064
Email: ksites@gecinc.com

Principal(s): Karen Sites

Areas of Interest: Economics, planning and geographic information services to engineering and construction management.

WELCOME NEW AFFILIATE MEMBER

C C LYNCH AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
300 Davis Ave
Pass Christian, MS 39571
Telephone: (228) 452-4612
Facsimile: (228) 452-2563
Email: cchatrey@cclynch.com
www.cclynch.com

Principal(s): John W. Campbell, III, Malcolm C. Lynch, C. Russell Park

Areas of Interest: C C Lynch is a resource to engineers on water/wastewater projects throughout the watershed having the latest technology, training and service. We provide CEU classes at association conferences, lunch and learn sessions and serve as an extension of the engineer's team.



- **Mick Morrissey** of Morrissey Goodale LLC will paint a picture of a future where change is the only constant.
- **Sibyl Bodardus** from HUB International will discuss Healthcare Reform and the challenges for businesses.
- **Peter Strub** from ACEC will update us on what ACEC is doing for your business.
- **Ann-Therese Schmid** with Holland & Knight will tackle Construction Management at Rick and other alternate deliveries.
- **Steven Loeb** of Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson and **Mike Jackson** of Crow Friedman Group will identify indemnity and defense obligations imposed by owners and architects upon engineers and if covered by typical professional liability insurance.
- **Steve Hall** from ACEC will give a Congressional Update.

Special thanks to Mike Frieman, MDEQ and Dennis Truax, Mississippi State University, for serving on the panel of 30 judges who selected the ACEC EEA winners for 2013. The judging was held in Washington, DC in February.

ACEC PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

By Dave Raymond

ACEC continues to press Congress on key initiatives for our industry including WRDA which has passed the Senate, Keystone XL pipeline which passed the House, and expansion of the H-1B visas which passed the Senate Judiciary Committee. Looking ahead to our Fall Conference in Arizona in October, we have lined up former Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels (who famously said, "If it's in the Yellow Pages, government shouldn't be doing it.") and FHWA Administrator Victor Mendez who will address the future of the federal highway program.

- Secured Senate passage of WRDA bill that includes several ACEC priorities, including accelerated project delivery, innovative financing alternatives, and reduced risk of legal liability for levee inspections.
- Secured House passage of legislation to approve the Keystone XL pipeline.
- Introduced the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2013, which expands funding for wastewater projects through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) program and requires the use of QBS on SRF-funded projects.
- AASHTO-ACEC Joint Committee met to discuss perspectives on MAP-21 implementation, long-term transportation funding challenges and related public outreach activities, and collaboration on the FHWA Every Day Counts project delivery initiative.
- Secured Senate Judiciary Committee passage of ACEC-backed immigration reform legislation that would significantly increase H-1B visas for engineers.
- Provided a detailed defense of the cash method of accounting to the House Ways and Means Committee in response to proposed legislation that would limit the ability of engineering firms to use cash accounting.

ACEC NATIONAL ADOPTS THREE YEAR BUDGET

For the past three years, economic conditions have forced budgets to be constrained, reduced ACEC's ability to meet growing challenges such as decreased contracting out by public agencies, inadequate infrastructure spending and widening liability. The Executive Committee, Budget Committee and Planning Cabinet recognize that the economy has begun to turn and show signs of improvement and that ACEC needs to undertake vigorous moves to restore growth and address industry trends in the FY 14 - 16 budget.

ACEC believes it is time to go on the offense and aggressively meet industry challenges including:

- The challenge of contracting out, P'3, and other major contracting issues.
- The challenge of meeting energy, industrial and other private client practice priorities.
- The public affairs challenge of addressing the infrastructure crisis.
- Funding the PAC director position from operations rather than reserves.



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