

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Mississippi

The Voice of Mississippi's Engineering Industry.

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DON'T MISS OUT

July 9—11

Deep South Convention

Sandestin Golf and Beach
Resort
Sandestin, FL

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 9-11 Deep South Convention, Sandestin Golf and Beach
Resort, Sandestin, FL

August 28 Roosevelt Day, Roosevelt State Park - Morton, MS

October 14-17 ACEC Fall Conference, Westin Copley Place,
Boston, MA

ACEC/MS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By James C. Nelson, P.E.



My year serving as your president has flown by very quickly and I will pass the torch to the capable hands of David Bowman during our summer meeting in July. I am proud of the things that ACEC Mississippi was able to accomplish this year, especially in the legislative arena. Special thanks should be afforded to our executive director, Judy Adams, for her tireless efforts in the

legislature. We, along with everyone's help, were able to defeat legislation that would have been very detrimental to our business and profession.

Several of our members were able to attend the ACEC spring meeting in Washington, D.C. in April where they were able to visit our congressional delegation and talk about issues that are im-

portant to all Mississippian's and the engineering profession. Thanks to everyone who was able to participate in the congressional visits, as they are very important.

Our summer meeting, which will be held on July 9-11 in at San Destin, will include great educational sessions in an outstanding venue. This year, four state member organizations are participating in the meeting to be held at San Destin Golf and Beach Resort. In addition to the outstanding educational opportunities available at the meeting, San Destin had been voted the "best" resort in Florida, and the #1 resort on Florida's beautiful Emerald Coast. If you have not made plans to attend the ACEC Deep South Summer Meeting, you should do so today.

I have been honored to serve as your president and want to thank everyone for helping accomplish the many things we were able to do this year. Without everyone's help, this would not have been possible.

New Executive Director Mark Humphreys

Mark Humphreys is the new Executive Director for the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors. Originally from Mississippi, Mark has been the Executive Director of the South Dakota PE/PS Board since 2007, regulating engineering, surveying, architecture, landscape architecture, petroleum remediators and petroleum assessors. Earlier in his career, he served in the U.S. Air Force, and held various positions in the construction and gaming industries. **Welcome, Mark!**

Mark succeeds Rosemary Brister, who is retiring. She has served with 36 Board members during the past 30 years, and represented the MS Board before the state legislature, the state professional associations, and at regional and national meetings of state licensing boards. ***The Board members and staff wish Rosemary a long and happy retirement!***

Mississippi PE/PS Board signs MOU with Japan PE/FE Examiners Council

Jackson, Miss. - The Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors announced that they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Japan PE/FE Examiners Council (JPEC) to allow for the Professional Engineer licensure of JPEC Engineers in the state of Mississippi.

In order to be considered for PE licensure in Mississippi, JPEC applicants must comply with Mississippi law, Board rules and this MOU regarding their education, examinations and experience.

This MOU is similar to MOUs between JPEC and the states of North Carolina, Texas, Kentucky, and Missouri – other states with similar automotive industries.

For more information, please contact at (601)359-6168 or by email to: *information@pepls.state.ms.us*.

2016 SCHOLARSHIP INFO NOW AVAILABLE

The 2016 Scholarship Application is now on the website

www.acecms.org

The Mississippi scholarship is \$1000. However our winner competes for three national scholarships. If you know someone majoring in engineering, encourage them to submit an application.



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ACEC ANNUAL CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON

The "Day on the Hill"



Long Term Transportation Investment; An Energy Plan for America's Future; Tax Reform and Job Creation and Design Build and other Procurement Reforms.



Mississippi was represented by: Scott Burge, Garner Russell and Associates; David Compton, Compton Engineering, Judy Adams, Executive Director; David Bowman, Neel Schaffer and Ed Dedeaux, Allen and Hoshall.

Issues lobbied for were:

“One of the biggest issues in the world of income taxation lately is the volume of tax regulations commonly referred to as the “Tangible Property Regulations”. The IRS recently released these regulations in an effort to make more simplified, consistent rules for the ways that taxpayers account for fixed assets, among other items. These new rules give guidance on the treatment of repairs and maintenance expenses, spare parts, supplies, real estate and many of the multiple shades of gray that exist between a current year expense and a capital asset. Some readers may be surprised that certain aspects of these regulations can have a very positive impact on businesses. For instance, if you own a building and have incurred significant costs in previous years to repair roofs, air conditioning systems or parking lots, you may be able to go back several years and write off those costs if they were previously capitalized. Urge your CPA to conduct a “Tangible Property Regs” review of your business to see if there are deductions hiding in your fixed asset schedule.”

Contributed by John McCallum, Grantham Poole CPA

Changes to Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Contract Document Review Letter

By Darrell Martinek

As I have previously written, members of the ACEC Environmental Committee met with MDEQ's Executive Director, Gary Rikard, and Chief of Staff, Chris Wells, in early February 2015 to discuss environmental issues around the State of Mississippi. One of the items discussed was the language in MDEQ's contract document review approval letter. As the letter stated at the time, the design engineer is required to certify that the project was constructed according to approved plans and specifications. ACEC member's concern was that the design engineer may not always be over the construction of a project. During the meeting, Chris Wells suggested the wording of the approval letter can be modified to reflect the intent and stated he would work on modifying the language in the letter. This month Chris met with MDEQ staff and as a result changed some of the language in MDEQ's initial approval letter for construction. The following sentence has been added to the beginning of the fourth paragraph of MDEQ's approval letter:

“No later than 60 days after the completion of the project, the owner must, through a letter signed by a professional engineer, certify to the department that the project has been constructed in accordance with submitted plans and specifications.”

The following sentence has been added to the end of the fourth paragraph of MDEQ's approval letter:

“Final approval will not be granted until our office has received the engineer's certification of completeness and our office has finalized review of any significant changes to the initial plans.”

These modifications were made thanks to the efforts of ACEC Mississippi. By expressing the concerns' of our members to MDEQ, ACEC was able to help clarify the intent of MDEQ's approval letter and to address an issue that could affect the legal liability for consulting engineers. I will provide further information on changes to MDEQ's approval letter at the ACEC Deep South Convention in July.

ACEC PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

By Dave Raymond

Launched grassroots Action Alert for ACEC members to contact their Members of Congress on the need to end short-term transportation program extensions and find a sustainable, long-term solution.

Georgia Governor Nathan Deal signed legislation this month that will increase the state's investment in transportation infrastructure by approximately \$1 billion annually through increases in the state's gas tax and other revenues; the Georgia Transportation Alliance, which was chaired by ACEC/Georgia Executive Director Michael Sullivan, was backed financially by ACEC's Minuteman Fund.

According to ACEC's recent membership certification, the Council's employee strength is now at an all-time high of nearly 558,000.

Engineering Inc. won an international design excellence award (ASTRID Award) for its January/February 2014 cover feature on "Storm Proofing."

Secured several improvements and clarifications in final FHWA regulations on contracting for engineering and design-related services, including tighter QBS provisions and additional flexibility for firms serving in program management roles; we defeated efforts by public employee unions to mandate in-sourcing of certain activities.

At the request of Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI), ACEC submitted comments on proposed reforms to the tax code that empha-

sized the importance of treating corporations and pass-through businesses equally.

Submitted letter to the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) in support of its proposal to delay the effective date of its *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* accounting standard for one year, giving firms more time to prepare for compliance.

Joined with AIA and the U.S. Department of Commerce to launch the first joint A/E Trade Mission to Abu Dhabi, UAE and Jeddah and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on October 18-22, 2015.

The House and Senate adopted a budget blueprint for 2016 that provides for growth in transportation spending; ACEC and its coalition allies lobbied for the provision.

Secured ACEC-backed provisions in the House passed FY'16 defense bill which will enhance data gathering on small business contracting and impose additional limitations on reverse auctions in construction projects.

The House passed the American Research and Competitiveness Act of 2015, which permanently extends the R&D tax credit that incentivizes engineering firms, manufacturers, and other businesses to keep research and development jobs in the U.S.

ACEC/PAC co-hosted fundraising events for Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA), Highways and Transit Subcommittee Chairman Sam Graves (R-MO), Rep. Kristi Noem (R-SD), and Rep. Marc Veasey (D-TX).

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 Business in Mississippi.

Complete and Fax form to 601-420-2315.



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