

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Mississippi

The Voice of Mississippi's Engineering Industry.

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- **July 21 - 23**—Deep South Convention, Sandestin Gold and Beach Resort, Sandestin, FL
- **August 19**—Roosevelt Day, Roosevelt State Park—Morton, MS

SANDESTIN GOLF AND BEACH RESORT
Destin, Florida

2016 Deep South Convention

The American Council of Engineering Companies
Alabama • Arkansas • Louisiana • Mississippi

Save the Date
July 21-23, 2016

RESERVATIONS:
Call: 1-800-320-8115
Group Code: 23D3NP
<http://www.Sandestin.com>

ACEC/MS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By David Bowman



Summer arrived with a blaze of 90-plus temps during the first week of June, which means our 2016 Deep South Convention is right around the corner. This year's event is set for July 21-23, 2016 in Destin, FL. It really is a great time to take in some good training courses and interact with fellow consultants.

This event will also mark the end of my Presidential duties for the Mississippi Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies. Some of the high points during my term include the addition of several new member firms and affiliate members. Our programs were very well organized, and those who attended were very pleased with their participation.

Our federal and state legislative pursuits have had some ups and downs.

On the federal level, a transportation bill was pushed out of Congress and signed by President Obama. The WRDA bill and other issues continue to be tracked with success. On the state level we did our very best. There were no bills approved that directly affect us negatively, but our effort with the transportation bill was to no avail. Our state legislature is proceeding in ways rarely seen in recent history. We are told the lawmakers will look at the state of transportation next year, so please have a conversation with your legislature about his or her opinion. I look forward to seeing everyone in Destin. It has been a pleasure serving you and our profession over the past year.

We appreciate what you do for ACEC and want to encourage you to get others involved. There are three things you can do to help the Mississippi Chapter of ACEC reach its goals:

1. Participate in our events
2. Financially support our organization
3. Get others to do the same

The Passing of a Longtime Beloved ACEC Member and Friend, Jimmy Nelson



James Cleveland Nelson, 60, of Madison, passed away Tuesday, June 14, 2016, at St. Dominic Hospital in Jackson.

A native of Jackson, Mr. Nelson was born on February 14, 1956 to the late Arthur Leander and Nola Kate Ball Nelson.

He attended Murrah High School and graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering from Mississippi State University. He worked for Allen & Hoshall for 32 years, serving as Senior Vice President, Company Secretary, and on the Board of Directors. He was a Past Chair of the AL-MS American Waterworks Association, where he received the Fuller Award. He also was a Past President of the American Council of Engineering Companies/Mississippi. He was a charter member of the Madison-Ridgeland Rotary Club, and a member of the Bulldog Club. He was a parishioner of the Cathedral of St. Peter the Apostle in Jackson.

He leaves behind his wife, Frances Jones Nelson; and a son and daughter-in-law, Harry and Barrie Nelson, also of Madison.

Jimmy has served on the ACEC/MS scholarship committee for several years. His family has requested in lieu of flowers, that contributions be made to ACEC/MS for the Scholarship Fund. Donations can be sent to our address: **3900 Lakeland Drive, Flowood, MS 39232.**

2016 ACEC/MS Jimmy Nelson Scholarship Winner Tyler Fields



Pictured from left to right: David Bowman, ACEC/MS President, Tyler Fields, and Judy Adams, Executive Director of ACEC/MS.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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ACEC PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

By Dave Raymond

General

- ACEC is about to launch its new emerging leaders program ("Pathways to Executive Leadership") – which will hold several sessions at the Fall Conference in Colorado, followed by a series of online classes, and concluding with advocacy-oriented sessions at the Spring Convention in Washington.
- ACEC's employee strength has grown to 575,000 – the highest level in the Council's 107-year history; ACEC member firms now also make up 82 percent of eligible firms on the ENR 500, including nine out of the top ten.
- ACEC member firms have also grown faster than non-ACEC firms over the past four years, according to a recent analysis of the ENR 500 rankings.

Government Advocacy

- The House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee approved a draft Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) that authorizes \$5 billion for 28 new Corps of Engineers projects around the country. (A more expansive bill passed earlier by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee includes ACEC-backed language to expand QBS, as well as provisions authorizing new Corps projects, funding to address drinking water needs, and the creation of a water trust fund.)
- ACEC's Action Alert promoting a permanent revenue solution for the Highway Trust Fund helped to persuade 130 Members of Congress to sign a letter to Ways & Means Committee leaders recommending that transportation funding options be included in tax reform.
- Secured language in the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) passed by the House that will prevent the Department of Defense from implementing the so-called "blacklisting" rule.
- The Federal Acquisition Regulatory (FAR) Council issued a final rule on design-build that codifies an ACEC-backed policy to limit Design-Build two-phase finalists to five teams.
- ACEC-backed legislation introduced by Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) to limit the use of reverse auctions and one-phase design-build was approved by a House committee.
- Asked Congress to extend the Section 179D energy efficient commercial buildings tax deduction beyond the end of 2016.
- Strongly supported allowing engineering firms to continue using the cash method of accounting in a letter to the Senate Finance Committee.
- ACEC/PAC co-hosted fundraising events for Representatives Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Bob Dold (R-IL), John Duncan (R-TN), Nydia Velazquez (D-NY), Daniel Webster (R-FL), Bruce Westerman (R-AR), and Mo Brooks (R-AL), and U.S. Senator Pat Leahy (D-VT).

Business Resources

- Held ACEC's highly regarded Expert Witness course, Applying Expertise as an Engineering Expert Witness, in which technical professionals honed their skills at providing effective testimony as engineering experts.
- Coalitions' best sellers for May included CASE's A Guideline Addressing the Preparation of Structural Engineering Reports for Buildings and CAMEE's Agreement between MEP Engineer and Consulting Design Professional, both available at www.acec.org/bookstore.
- With 30 registered sites, May's most popular online class, Emerging Trends in Compensation, examined rising compensation trends and job growth activity in the A/E/C industry and the impact on member firms.
- The education management system RCEP added two new Approved Providers –Post Tensioning Institute and Philips Lighting – for a total of 130.



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the Winner's Circle.*

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