

# ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
*of Mississippi*

*The Voice of Mississippi's Engineering Industry.*

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## **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

- **July 27—29** Deep South Convention, Sandestin Gold and Beach Resort, Sandestin, FL
- **August 25**—Roosevelt Day, Roosevelt State Park—Morton, MS

## **SANDESTIN GOLF AND BEACH RESORT**

Destin, Florida

## **2017 Deep South Convention**

The American Council of Engineering Companies

Alabama • Arkansas • Louisiana • Mississippi

*Save the Date*

RESERVATIONS:

1-800-320-8115

Group Code: 23L2SL

Cut Off Date: June 26, 2017

**July 27-29, 2017**

<http://www.Sandestin.com>

## ACEC/MS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Scott Burge



Time sure does fly when you are having fun! As the end of my term is rapidly approaching, as your ACEC/MS President, it truly has been fun. I am honored to have represented our distinguished organization of professionals in this capacity. Thanks to Judy, Jessica and the Executive Committee for your support and dedicated service. My gratitude is also extended to each member for your membership, participation and involvement for the support of ACEC and our profession. Judy continues to do an excellent job in training our Board Members for leadership roles, and I am pleased to pass the gavel to the very well trained and capable hands of Carey Hardin, as our next President, at the Annual Convention in July.

Our regular legislative session was again very concerning and frustrating at times. The efforts of Judy and those that contacted your legislators certainly helped to avoid any serious threats to our profession and business interests. The Session finished without a budget for MDOT and State Aid. Hopes were high that additional funding for transportation would come during the Special Session. However, all hopes were dashed as the Governor did not include it in the "call". He was quoted as saying; he was "waiting on an agreement between the Lt. Gov. and the Speaker". Please continue to stay in touch with your legislators throughout the year and inform them on our issues of concern.

Membership retention, increase in member firms and affiliates, and increase in member participation were primary goals for this year. An organizational planning session, with member firms in the southern area of the state, was held on June 13<sup>th</sup> in Gulfport at BMA's office, to promote regular meetings, programs and events in this area. Support for this effort has been very positive. The core group present decided to have meetings quarterly on the second Thursday of the month. Next meeting is scheduled for September 14.

The ACEC 2017 Annual Convention and Legislative Summit, held in D.C. this April, was once again a very impressive event. ACEC represents over 5,000 firms that employ over 500,000 professionals, and yes, ACEC is definitely The Voice of America's Engineering Industry! Thanks to Judy and all of our Mississippi delegates that attended and visited with our Congressmen to discuss the focal topics of a national infrastructure plan and tax reform issues. I encourage all of our members to consider attending some of the national conventions in the future.

Alabama, Arkansas and Louisiana will again be joining us for the 2017 Deep South annual convention and exhibitor's trade show at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort from July 27 thru 30. Bring your family and enjoy the Emerald Coast atmosphere and the convention, which again includes an excellent line up of topics, speakers and opportunities to network with fellow peers. I look forward to seeing you in Sandestin!

# Deep South Convention Speakers



**David W. Mockbee** is the President of Mockbee Hall & Drake Attorneys at Law. He received his B.A. from Davidson College in 1971 and his J.D., with honors, from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1974 where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Mississippi Law Journal and was selected by the school faculty as the outstanding senior law student. Mr. Mockbee served for a number of years as General Counsel for the Mississippi Chapter of the American Subcontractors Association and has been adjunct professor for the Mississippi State University School of Architecture since 1983 where he teaches "Legal Aspects of Architecture, Engineering and the Construction Process", to fifth year architecture students. Mr. Mockbee has authored numerous articles and publications relating to construction and has lectured extensively on the subject of construction law.



**J. Dale Crow** serves as General Counsel and Vice-President of Crow Friedman Group, a division of Risk Strategies Company. Dale specializes in professional liability and property & casualty insurance solutions for architectural and engineering firms, contractors, and developers. Prior to joining Risk Strategies Company, Dale practiced law with Lewis, Thomason, King, Krieg & Waldrop, P.C. He has substantial litigation experience in the areas of architects and engineers professional liability, construction defects, and construction contract law. Dale draws on this experience in assisting his clients in risk management, contract review, and the placement of their professional liability and property & casualty insurance. He also regularly presents risk management seminars for local, state, and national associations, as well as for individual clients.



## ACEC Signs Agreement with Corps of Engineers

ACEC renewed its long-standing partnering agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at a ceremony last week with USACE Commanding General Todd Semonite.

The agreement focuses on ways the two organizations can work together to engage the private sector and enhance project delivery.

ACEC Chairman Sergio "Satch" Pecori of Hanson Professional Services and President/CEO Dave Raymond signed for ACEC, and LTG Semonite and Civil Works Chief Larry McCallister signed for USACE.

For more information, contact ACEC Federal Agencies and International Programs Director [Jessica Salmoiraghi](#).

## DID YOU KNOW?

ACEC has partnered with ARCOM, a leading publisher of master guide specifications, to provide ACEC Member Firms with a 10 percent discount on ARCOM licenses. Go to <http://arcomnet.com/acec> for more details.

### NAVIGATING THE ENGINEERING HIGHWAY RISK AVOIDANCE FOR THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

Attention to risk management and contractual undertakings is essential to survive and prosper in today's litigious society where professional engineers are no longer presumed to be infallible, but instead are viewed as easy prey when something goes wrong on a construction project, particularly in the event of a design/construction dispute, a personal injury occurring during construction, or a design/construction defect discovered post-construction.

This program will focus from a risk management and contracting perspective on all elements of the design and construction process in an effort to minimize your legal exposure and need for a lawyer.

David W. Mockbee

### Congressman Greg Harper Accepts PAC Check



Pictured from left to right: David Bowman, ACEC Past President; Hunter Arnold, PAC Chairman; Congressman Greg Harper; Judy Adams, ACEC/MS Executive Director; and Randy Ahlrich, ACEC Board member.

### ACEC Asks Secretary of Labor to Revise Overtime Rule

ACEC and a coalition of industry allies have asked Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta to revise the overtime pay rule that was finalized last year under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Under the rule, the salary threshold below which employees must be paid overtime would rise from \$23,660 to \$47,476 annually. This represents a 100 percent increase during a time period when cumulative inflation was 26 percent. The rule was scheduled to take effect on December 1, 2016 but a preliminary injunction put it on hold.

ACEC is calling for an approach that more closely reflects inflation.



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# ACEC PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

By Dave Raymond

## General

- ACEC/Wisconsin was awarded a Minuteman Fund grant to help defray the cost of public advocacy efforts to pass long-term state transportation funding legislation.

ACEC is conducting a membership training session for MO staff on July 17 in Washington, D.C., covering the participants' hotel expense for one night and reimbursing travel up to \$250/person; 20 have signed up thus far and space is available for five more participants – contact Mary Ann Emely, [memely@acec.org](mailto:memely@acec.org) for further information.

## Government Advocacy

- ACEC's grassroots Action Alert e-mail campaign helped to persuade over 200 Members of Congress to sign onto the letter from Representatives Sam Graves (R-MO) and Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) to the House Ways & Means Committee in support of addressing the long-term financial stability of the Highway Trust Fund in any tax reform proposal.
  - Supported Infrastructure Week events in Washington, and promoted related activities around the country.
  - Congress passed the FY'17 spending package that fully funds the FAST Act, increases funding for water infrastructure, funded key foreign assistance programs, and rejected most of the proposed cuts put forward by the White House.
  - Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and John Boozman (R-AR) introduced legislation to expand funding to address combined sewer overflows and other problems associated with wet weather events, as well as expand QBS to drinking water projects funded through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) program.
  - Sent a letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in support of Ambassador Mark Green as the next Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).
  - ACEC and the Coalition for Fair Effective Tax Rates submitted a statement to the House Ways and Means Committee in favor of comprehensive tax reform that lowers statutory tax rates for all business structures, and considers the effective tax rates paid by different industries.
- ACEC/PAC hosted fundraising events for U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Representatives Cheri Bustos (D-IL), Kathy Castor (D-FL), John Delaney (D-MD), Dan Lipinski (D-IL) and Richard Neal (D-MA).

## Business Resources

- With more than 40 participants, May's most popular online class, *Fundamental Elements for a Financially Sustainable Ownership Program*, examined the financial fundamentals paramount to successfully transitioning ownership in member firms, including key ratios that measure profitability, liquidity, and leverage.

- Carried out a webinar to educate members on energy supply chain cybersecurity standards being developed by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC).

Coalitions' best sellers for May included CASE's *Guideline Addressing Coordination and Completeness of Structural Construction Documents 2013*; *Guideline Addressing the Bidding & Construction Administration Phases for the Structural Engineer*; and LDC's *Monitoring Project Costs and Progress for Land Development Projects*, available at [www.acec.org/bookstore](http://www.acec.org/bookstore).

The education management system RCEP (<https://www.rcep.net/>) added three new approved providers (The Vinyl Institute, Lyncole Grounding Solutions, and Pretek Group) for a total of 149.

June webinars will include: *Oh What a Feeling – From Bland to Brand*; *Retaining Great Marketing Talent in Ten Easy Steps*; *When the Buck Stops with You – Risk Management Strategies for Designers of Alternative Project Delivery/Design-Build*; *Emerging Technologies for Engineers*; *Conversation and Collaboration Win Sales*; *PowerPoints Simplified! Tools and Tips for Presentations That Bring Results*; *How to Become a Project Manager*; *Increase Shareholder Liquidity without an ESOP: The Better Alternative*; *Taking Stock of the Engineering Industry in 2017 - The Economic and Market Trends Shaping the Industry*; *How to Avoid Organizational Amnesia: Transferring Employee Knowledge and Skills Before They Walk Out the Door*.

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