

# ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
of Mississippi

*The Voice of Mississippi's Engineering Industry.*

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## 2012 Engineering Excellence Awards



**Grand Conceptor Award Winner:** WGK, Inc., for Upgrades to the Natchez Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 4. Pictured left to right: Hayden Kaiser, III, ACEC/MS President, David Gardner, Natchez Water Works, Sam Dyer, WGK, Inc. and Greg Gearhart, WGK, Inc.



**Grand Award Winner:** I. C. Thomasson Associates for the Forrest County Geothermal Project. Pictured left to right: Hayden Kaiser, III, ACEC/MS President, Chris Bowen, Forrest County, Curtis Elliot, Forrest County, and Chuck Farnham, I. C. Thomasson Associates.

### CAPITOL DAY—MARCH 29

**The ACEC-MS Legislative Breakfast and Day at the Capitol is March 29 from 7:30 - 9:30.**

Make plans to attend and visit with your Senator or Representative. Our issues list will be slim by that time (hopefully).

**Issue No. 1:** Make sure SB 2474 goes through House with no Amendments. It went through Senate with none and no debate.

**Issue No. 2:** LSBP funding for this year. Currently this does not look good. You need to be contacting your Representative or Senator about this.

**Issue No. 3:** SB 2525 Bonds for Local Governments and Rural Sys-

tems Improvements Revolving Loan fund.

**Issue No. 4:** HB 1170 – taking funds from our State Board of Registration – could cause your Licensure fees to go up.

Several of you have Local and Private issues you have already discussed with me. That would be your issue.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|            |                                    |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| March 29   | Capitol Day                        |
| August 2-5 | TRI –STATE Convention<br>Sandestin |
| August 24  | Roosevelt Day                      |

### ARE YOU MISSING OUT?

If you are not participating in your Association in some form, you **ARE MISSING OUT.**

We are actively working to resolve Regulatory issues, protect you legislatively and protect your bottom line.

There are many opportunities for you to participate through Committee involvement, seminar participation, etc. Our next opportunity on a large scale is our Deep South Convention in San Destin the first of August.

Whatever you do, **DON'T MISS OUT!**

## ACEC/MS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Hayden Kaiser, III

Spring is here. Hopefully, this means good news for our industry. With both State and National legislatures actively working on budgets, it is very important for members of ACEC to be active at both levels. Remember, our Strategic Goal # 1: **BE RECOGNIZED AS THE LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE FOR ENGINEERING COMPANIES IN THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THEIR BUSINESS INTERESTS.** We have been asked numerous times recently by Judy to make contacts to your legislators. Please don't let this opportunity to stay involved slip away hoping someone else will take care of it. The time is now! We must fight to protect our profession.

Also, our Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. is April 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. It is not too late to sign up. I promise this is one of the most rewarding and educational events that you can attend, which benefits our profession. If you have never made this trip, I urge you to attend this year. Our own Past Governor, Haley Barbour is a featured speaker.

I would like to take the time to thank Tom Bryant and his PAC committee for a job well done. This committee is very active and takes a lot of time and effort away from their businesses in an effort for us to reach our national goal, which they did with a small match from national headquarters. In an effort to help this committee, please make a valiant effort to contribute to our PAC committee.

One thing that should be mentioned in every President's Message is

**MEMBERSHIP.** We need to increase general and affiliate membership at every opportunity. So, please do your part, if you know of any potential members, take the time to call them and explain the benefits of ACEC.

If you missed our Spring Conference in Jackson a couple of weeks ago, you missed another great conference. The conferences that we host give you a chance to gain CEU's and to socialize with your colleagues. Even better, it helps out with our general budget. Judy and Leah do a fantastic job, along with the Program Committee, to put together good, educational programs that benefit our practices. Success of these is determined by participation. So, to those of you who do not attend regularly, make an effort and join us.

Lastly, congratulations to all of our EEA award winners at our annual Engineering Excellence Awards banquet.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our Tri-State Convention at Sandestin in August.



## ACEC/MS ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Bill Burle

The ACEC-MS Environmental Committee met on March 8, 2012. Bill Burle updated the group on the sales tax issue relating to professional engineering services. Donald Scharr provided a summary report on the MDEQ task force committee which is working with the

agency to formulate options to address the more stringent NPDES permits currently being issued by the agency. The task force committee's upcoming meeting with MDEQ on March 28<sup>th</sup> was also discussed.



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

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# 2012 Engineering Excellence Awards



**Honor Award Winner:** Neel-Schaffer, Inc. for the Reconstruction Project of Bay St. Louis as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Pictured left to right: Hayden Kaiser, III, ACEC/MS President, Don Lancaster, Neel-Schaffer, Inc., and Mayor Les Fillingame, Bay St. Louis, MS.



**Honor Award Winner:** Brown, Mitchell, & Alexander, Inc., for the Bert Jones Yacht Basin Dredging, Bulkhead & Pier Replacement as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Pictured left to right: Hayden Kaiser, III, ACEC/MS President, David D'Aquila, City of Gulfport, Dax Alexander, Brown, Mitchell & Alexander, and George Manemann, Gulfport Harbormaster.

## Timeline for Processing Legislation 2012

- Feb. 20** Deadline for Introduction of General Bills and Constitutional amendments
- March 6** Deadline for Committees to Report General Bills and constitutional amendments
- March 15** Deadline For Original Floor Action on General Bills and Constitutional amendments
- March 28** Deadline for Original Floor Action on Appropriation and Revenue bills originating in own House
- April 3** Deadline for Committees to Report General Bills originating in Other House
- April 11** Deadline for Original Floor Action on General Bills originating in Other House
- April 17** Deadline for Original Floor Action on Appropriations and revenue bills originating in Other House
- April 20** Deadline to concur or not concur in amendments from Other House to Appropriations and Revenue Bills and
- April 27** Deadline for introduction of local and private bills that are not revenue bills
- April 28** Deadline for Conference Reports on Appropriations and Revenue Bills to be filed
- April 30** Deadline for Final Adoption of Conference Reports on Appropriations and Revenue bills and for Conference Reports on General Bills and Constitutional Amendments
- May 2** Deadline for filing conference reports on general bills and constitutional amendments that had been recommitted for further conference.
- May 4** Deadline for adoption of conference reports on General Bills and Constitutional amendments after recommitted.

## HOUSE BILL 1170

**Comments by Rosemary Brister, Executive Director, State Board of Registration**

House Bill 1170 passed the Mississippi House of Representatives on March 14; the bill now goes to the Senate. The Board's annual revenues are received - the license renewal fees for the following year.

This bill requires many of the special fund state agencies, including the Board of PE/PS Licensure, to transfer portions of their special funds to the Budget Contingency Fund, a fund used to address shortfalls in the state's general fund budgets. The Board will have to consider raising 2013 renewal fees to support the Board's operations for another full year.

The bill requires the Board of PE/PS Licensure to transfer \$917,099 of their special fund's balance to the Budget Contingency Fund, leaving \$580,306 remaining, based on February's balance. This remainder is sufficient to fund Board operations until this fall when most of the Board's annual revenues are received - the license renewal fees for the following year.

During the last budget crisis, almost a decade ago, the state legislature transferred portions of the Board's fund to the Budget Contingency Fund three separate times.

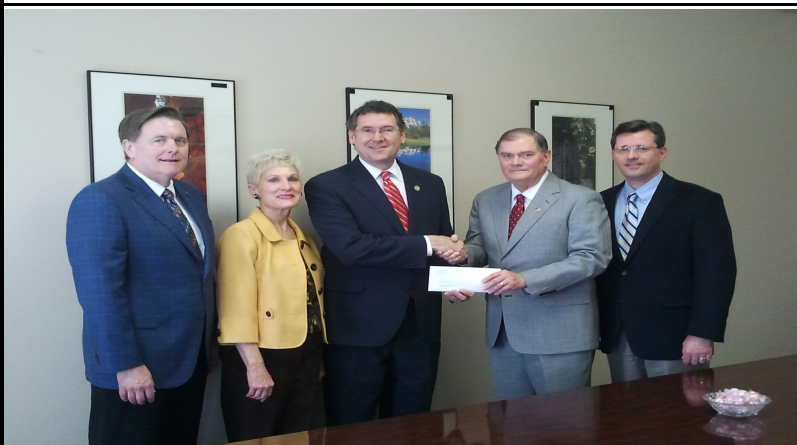
# ACEC PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

By Dave Raymond

Highlighting this month's summary of ACEC activities: enactment of the long-term aviation bill that now endorses QBS for PFC projects; and a unique outsourcing requirement in the House Transportation bill, as reported out of Committee, to ensure that engineering work

is contracted out "to the maximum extent practicable." Both provisions were ACEC priorities – as QBS and contracting out remain at the core of the Council's agenda and the lobbying effort of our upcoming Annual Convention in Washington, D.C. in April.

- Secured enactment of four-year, \$64 billion aviation reauthorization bill (P.L. 112-95) that sustains funding for the Airport Improvement Program and endorses the use of QBS on airport projects funded solely with Passenger Facility Charges.
- ACEC witness testified before House hearing on a broad array of financial mechanisms needed to assist states and localities to pay for water projects.
- Successfully defended provision in the five-year, \$260 billion House transportation bill (H.R. 7) requiring states to contract out for engineering services to the maximum extent practicable and report on compliance.
- ACEC International Committee members lobbied House and Senate committees on the importance of infrastructure funding in foreign aid programs and the need for US engineering involvement and oversight.
- SBA revised its new size standard for small firms in response to ACEC's comments, pulling back from the original proposal of \$19 million in gross receipts per year to \$14 million.
- Hosted Congressman John "Jimmy" Duncan (R-TN), the Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, at an event at ACEC headquarters
- House cleared ACEC-backed legislation to expand offshore energy production and secure approval of the Keystone XL pipeline.
- Senate Finance Committee included ACEC-backed Private Activity Bond legislation in its financing title of the Senate transportation bill.



ACEC/MS presented **Congressman Greg Harper** with a PAC check. Pictured: James Nelson, Allen & Hoshall, Judy Adams, Executive Director ACEC/MS, Congressman Harper, Tom Bryant, Pickering, Inc., and Jim Hust, Waggoner Engineering, Inc.

## ACEC/MS PAC Update

by Tom Bryant

### CONGRATULATIONS and THANKS!!

During 2011 the Principals in our member firms contributed over \$12,000 to the ACEC/MS PAC. This support enabled us, as a state, to be one of the thirty states that met their national goal for last year. A big "thank you" to the thirty-two firms representatives that made this possible. We deeply appreciate your support.

ACEC/PAC is the Engineering industry's strongest political action committee. The sole purpose of our PAC is to support candidates to the U. S. Congress that uphold legislation favorable to the Engineering industry. It's critical that we, as engineers, be involved in the business of politics. Governmental decisions and laws can have a major impact on our firms. We need your support to help elect policy-makers who understand our concerns.

An excellent way to begin your support this year would be to purchase a Spring Sweepstakes ticket. With a contribution of \$200 per ticket, your name will be entered in a drawing with a grand prize of \$10,000, and several smaller prizes. A copy of the entry form can be found in this newsletter, or you can call the state office at 601.420.2002 to receive a form.

If you have any questions about our ACEC/MS PAC, please don't hesitate to call one of our committee members: Dax Alexander, Walter Lyons, Tom Bryant, Charles Williford and David Dennis.



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