

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Mississippi

The Voice of Mississippi's Engineering Industry.

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Volume 18, Issue 3

September 2012

ACEC COLLEGE OF FELLOWS INDUCTS EXLEY



Slade Exley, Chief Administrative Officer for Neel-Schaffer, Inc. has been inducted into the ACEC College of Fellows. The honor recognizes an ACEC member who through their career has elevated the standards of the engineering profession.

Slade joined Neel-Schaffer in 1983. He has served as project engineer, Transportation Department manager and COO. He has been Senior Vice President of the firm since 1990.

Slade has held several leadership positions in ACEC/Mississippi including President and National Director and for seven years was a member of the association's Executive

Board. He has led training on the Manual on *Uniform Traffic Control Devices*, which defines traffic control standards, and also has helped advance science and engineering at the elementary and middle school levels.

A member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, he is also active with Habitat for Humanity/Metro Jackson advisory board, Boy Scouts of America and Salt and Light Ministry Foundation. He was a commissioned officer in the Mississippi National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserves, Corps of Engineers branch, before retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel.

He and his wife, Susan, live in Brandon, and have two grown children and two grandchildren.

Slade will be honored as a New Fellow at the ACEC/MS Fall Fling November 29.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 19	EEA Intent to Enter Due
November 29 & 30	Fall Fling & Fellows Dinner
December 12	EEA Projects Due
January 3 & 4	EEA Judging

BOWMAN APPOINTED TO BOARD

David Bowman, Senior Vice President of Neel-Schaffer, Inc., has been appointed to fill the unexpired term of Chad Wages. David is a native of Greenwood, Mississippi and a graduate of Mississippi State University in Civil Engineering.



David serves as Business Development Officer for the Neel-Schaffer offices in Mississippi, providing assistance to their clients in funding opportunities and innovative ideas to help achieve their visions.

David is married to the former Kate Holiman of Greenwood. They are parents of three daughters and are members of Christ United Methodist church.

WAGES RESIGNS FROM ACEC/MS BOARD

Chad Wages resigned his position on the ACEC/MS Board of Directors to kick start his new endeavor, Wages Consulting, LLC. We wish him the best of luck!

SAVE the DATE

*Fall Fling
&
Fellows Dinner
November 29 & 30
Capital Club - Jackson, MS*

ACEC/MS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ron Cassada

As incoming President, I am truly honored to serve my fellow ACEC-MS members this upcoming year. I want to thank our outgoing president, Hayden Kaiser, for the excellent job he has done. I look forward to working closely with our Executive committee, committee chairmen, and general membership in preparing for and reaching our goals for 2012 and 2013. I am sure that with the help of our extremely competent and dedicated Executive Director, Judy Adams, and her assistant, Leah Head, we will have another successful year.

As President, **my first goal will be to stress the value of being a member of ACEC-MS.** Our organization's greatest asset is legislative advocacy on behalf of our businesses and employees. This is clearly outlined in Strategic Goal # 1 from our 2009 5-year Strategic Plan: **Be recognized as the legislative advocate for engineering companies in the promotion of their business interest.** I have heard it said "If you are not at the table, you are on the menu". Never in our history has that statement been more truthful, as issues in Washington and at the local level continually prove.

ACEC-MS is the only organization in our state that monitors legislation and lobbies on our behalf. Because of this, ACEC-MS is truly a critical part of our businesses and has a positive impact on everyone's bottom line. I am going to strive to educate members and non-members alike on how valuable this organization is to their future, increase membership, and demonstrate how much more effective we can be if we can achieve full participation in membership as well as in the legislative process. Judy and Al Sage need our help in contacting and educating the legislators during critical times during the legislative process.

Our Executive Committee has a Legislative planning meeting scheduled for September 28 to discuss possible legislative is-

sues and to set a legislative agenda. If you have any issues that you want to address, do not hesitate to contact me, or Judy, and we will add your concerns to the agenda.

My second goal is to increase participation from our members. We

all know how hard Judy and Leah

work on our behalf to make ACEC-MS the best and most relevant engineering organization in the state. But they cannot do it without our help. 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. It is also important that our members participate in our yearly meetings including Capital Day (an opportunity to meet with our state legislators), Roosevelt Day (an opportunity to meet with regulatory and funding agencies) and our fall, spring, and summer educational meetings. The summer meeting at San Destin is always a family favorite. By participating in these events you will earn your required PDH's and make valuable contacts and new friends. Our next meeting will be Fall Fling, scheduled for November 29 – 30. Judy is in the process of lining up the programs with excellent speakers and I hope to see all of you there.

I would like close by thanking you for this opportunity to serve as your President and I look forward to working with each of you as we continue to strive to meet our Strategic Mission Statement **"To be recognized by our profession and the public as the primary voice for the engineering companies of Mississippi".**



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2012 Deep South Convention



ACEC PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

By Dave Raymond

- Hosted senior U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and EPA officials for discussions on flood mitigation, permitting and regulatory flexibility, the future of the Keystone XL pipeline, the FERC permitting process for oil pipelines, prospects for oil and gas fracking, and potential for small nuclear reactors.
- Successfully lobbied Corps of Engineers to set small firm subcontracting goals on a percentage of contract value, which will improve contracting opportunities for small firms, create new opportunities for mid-sized firms, and give large firms greater flexibility in serving federal clients.
- In response to ACEC's concerns over the agency's use of single-step design build, the Corps of Engineers has pledged to limit its use and reaffirmed its preference for the two-step design-build process.
- Former ACEC Chairman Mac MacMurray participated in a White House panel on transportation financing.
- ACEC's key volunteer group for the production of model contract documents –Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee (EJCDC), a collaboration with ASCE and NSPE – is finalizing its five-year business plan and continuing work on a new Public-Private Partnership Agreement and revisions to the construction series contracts.

2012 ACEC MISSISSIPPI ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

ACEC Mississippi Engineering Excellence Awards 2012 Entry information is now posted on the ACEC/MS website at www.acecms.org. All member firms are encouraged to enter the competition as well as the national competition.

Recognition on the State and National level is a great way for member firms to showcase their top projects.

The Intent to Enter is due October 19.

The top 5 entries in the ACEC Mississippi competition are eligible to enter ACEC's national competition. Deadline for submission to the national competition is January 11, 2013.

ACEC FALL CONFERENCE SET FOR BOCA RATON, FL

The **ACEC Fall Conference**, in Boca Raton, Fla., October 14-17—along with leading speakers and public policy programs—features 36 Professional Development sessions. Attendees can earn up to 21.5 PDHs in subjects ranging from Risk Management (Seven sessions) to Transportation (Six). Visit www.acec.org for more information on the Conference.



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