



**“The Voice of Mississippi’s Engineering Companies”**

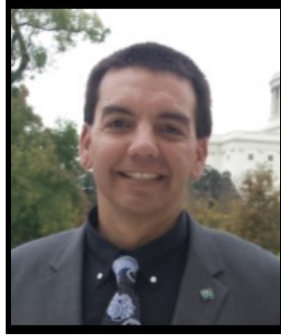
***Engineering Excellence Awards Issue 2023***

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# *ACEC Mississippi Executive Board 2023-2024*



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## Upcoming Dates

October 31, 2023—EEA Intent to Enter Deadline

November 2-3, 2023—Fall Meeting & Fellows Banquet

December 21, 2023—EEA Projects are Due



**ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICAL SALES, INC.**



**T. BAKER SMITH**  
**A CENTURY OF SOLUTIONS**





## ACEC Mississippi President's Update: Darrell Martinek



It is my honor and privilege to have the opportunity to serve as your ACEC-MS President for 2023-2024. I will endeavor to serve our organization and member firms well over the next year. To all of those who have served ACEC-MS in leadership roles in the past, I would like to say thank you. Your knowledge and leadership have been invaluable to the engineering profession in Mississippi. I would also like to express my gratitude to everyone who is currently on the Executive Committee for your time, effort, wisdom and support to our organization. Your ACEC-MS Executive Committee members for 2023-2024 are Board Members: Mrs. Maddie Costelli Pettry with Simpkins & Costelli, Mr. Hayden Kaiser with Jordan, Kaiser & Sessions, and Mr. Wayne Black with Garver, Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Kent Geno with Cook Coggin Engineers, Inc., President Elect Mr. James Dickerson with Buchart Horn, Inc., National Director Mr. David Bowman with Neel-Schaffer, Inc., and Past President Mr. Dax Alexander with Brown, Mitchell & Alexander, Inc. Our Executive

Committee came into office during the 2023 Deep South Convention and will serve until July of 2024. Please feel free to contact any of the Executive Committee or Mr. Craig Carter, ACEC-MS Executive Director, or Mrs. Jessica Gosa, ACEC-MS Office Manager with any issue you may encounter where ACEC-MS can be of service.

As a testament to his dedication and service to others, Mr. Alexander has agreed to continue to assist ACEC-MS in our goal of passing an indemnification bill in Mississippi. The passage of an indemnification bill would greatly benefit all our member firms. I would encourage everyone to assist ACEC-MS in our efforts to pass this legislation which would limit a design professional's risks to professional acts or omissions by the design professional. The passage of an indemnification bill would prevent owners from allocating risk to design professionals by including broad indemnity provisions in design contracts. ACEC-MS will be developing some talking points for our members to use when discussing this legislation with your State Senators and Legislators. By speaking as one voice, you can help ACEC-MS pass this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Craig Carter is working to involve younger engineers with ACEC-MS by starting an Emerging Leaders Committee. I would like to thank Mr. Carter and Mrs. Sarah McEwen with Neel-Schaffer, Inc. for taking the lead on this Committee of young professionals. These Emerging Leaders are the future of our profession. Please assist them in growing into the best version of themselves. One way you can help these young men and women is to encourage them to attend ACEC events. Our next event is the ACEC Fall

Meeting which will be held November 2-3, 2023. The event seminars will take place at the ACEC-MS office while the banquet will be held at Hal & Mal's, downtown Jackson.

Darrell T. Martinek, P.E., P.S.  
ACEC-MS President 23-24



**W.L.BURLE**  
ENGINEERS, P.A.



# ACEC Deep South Convention

We concluded another successful and impactful Deep South Conference in sunny Sandestin. The conference took place in July.

From great speaker sessions to interstate networking opportunities, the convention not only provided participants with pragmatic information they could use to enhance their firms but also the unique opportunity to cultivate business relationships with colleagues in neighboring states.

But as the adage goes, "A picture is worth a thousand words," so I will allow pictures from the convention to speak for themselves.



What you won't see in the pictures is that we changed some things up this year by moving the officer and board members' installations from the Saturday luncheon to an opening welcome reception and dinner Thursday night. We also added some entertainment that night by bringing in a magician who I must say did not disappoint.

We also hosted the first annual DSC Cornhole Tournament which served as a fundraiser for the ACEC National PAC. Sixteen teams MS, AL, LA and AR competed. After receiving so much positive feedback on the tournament, we will host another tournament again next year.

Speaking of next year, the convention is moving to the beachside. DSC 2024 will be at the Hilton Sandestin July 18-24.







## **Title: ACEC Retirement Trust Shares the Wealth (of knowledge) regarding SECURE 2.0**

On December 29, 2022, the passage of the *SECURE 2.0 Act of 2022* resulted in some important changes to qualified retirement plans. If your plan is part of the ACEC Retirement Trust, you have received quite a few pieces of information regarding SECURE 2.0 and how it affects your plan. If you are not part of the ACEC Retirement Trust, today is your lucky day so keep reading!

As part of the unprecedented fiduciary support that sponsoring plans receive through the ACEC Retirement Trust, constant insight and educational resources are provided to the plan sponsors and their participants. The Trustees serve as discretionary Trustees and have the prudent responsibility of providing oversight of the program's service providers, oversee, negotiate, and monitor fees, select and monitor investments, and provide plan sponsor and participant education.

Qualified retirement plans are complex, but you don't have to be an expert because that is the role of the ACEC Retirement Trust. Explore the resources below so you can be in the know regarding SECURE 2.0:

**SECURE Act 2.0 and your 401(k) plan: What you need to know.** This 1-hour webinar, presented by the Trust's ERISA legal business partner – McDermott Will Emery LLP – provides administrative guidelines and insight into how this new bill impacts your 401(k) Plan.

**SECURE 2.0 Checklist.** Here are 10 key changes that require attention to ensure your 401(k) Plan remains in compliance.

**ACEC RT Podcast How 401(k) Changes Impact Plan Sponsors.** Experts discuss the changes taking place in the 401(k) industry and how they will impact your firm and participants. Panelists: Jennifer Doss, Defined Contribution Practice Leader at CAPTRUST, the Largest Registered investment advisor in the country and CAPTRUST is also the Advisor to ACEC Retirement Trust; and Chris Anderson, President of DJ & A and Trustee to the ACEC Retirement Trust.

If you would like to learn more about the ACEC Retirement Trust, please visit our [website](#) and/or reach out to us by completing the [short form](#). Sharing our wealth of knowledge by providing a top-notch 401(k) program is our overarching goal and we believe all engineering companies should have access to such a plan.

ACEC **RT**  
ENGINEERING RETIREMENT  
PLAN EXCELLENCE FOR 50 YEARS  
**50<sup>th</sup>**

