

ACEC

We've Moved

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Mississippi

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2010-2011 Executive Committee



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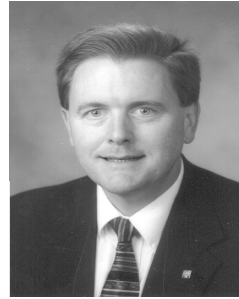
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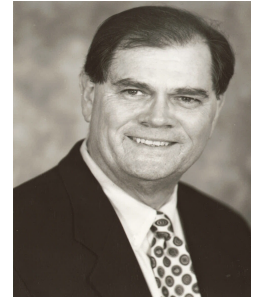
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 15-17

Tri-State Summer Meeting, Sandestin, FL

August 27

Roosevelt Day—Roosevelt State Park, Morton, MS

September 23-24

PSMJ AASHTO Audit Guide Bootcamp, Ridgeland, MS

ACEC/MS Committee Sign Up Forms Are Enclosed.

Please take a moment to review the choice of committees and give a careful consideration to serving. Please note that some committees only meet as issues arise. You are the voice of the Engineering Industry....**GET INVOLVED!!**

Please complete and return form to **FAX 601-420-2315.**

ACEC-MS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Wayne Morrison

Here I am writing my last newsletter for ACEC/MS as President and in thinking about it wanted to express my thanks to Judy Adams and Leah Head who manage our state office. This organization does not work unless they do. Also, I want to thank the executive committee and committee chairmen of each committee for their support to our organization this past year. It is critical that we recommit to ACEC right now. Many that we have spoken to in the last year have really struggled with a lack of work and made many hard decisions regarding their business and employees. Some of us are encouraged by more work. There are issues that affect us on the federal level and on the state side as well. We are pushing for an infrastructure-based Recovery agenda as the chief way to create jobs in our country an implication of this is the reauthorization of the SAFETEA-LU bill that expired September 30, 2009. We are trying to encourage the federal government and state governments to hire outside engineers instead of staffing up with government jobs, repeal the 3 percent withholding mandate, new Health care issues all of which mean that this is exactly the reason you need to be involved heavily with ACEC. A few years ago in

Panama City, Florida we had a speaker named Mr. Scott Hunter come and speak to us at the ACEC Alabama/Mississippi summer meeting. At that meeting he asked a question that we need to think about. He said, "Do you realize that the value you get out of any activity you participate in is directly a function of what you have at stake in participating in that activity?" Think about what that means in regard to our work and organization. We have a lot at stake not only for the good of the people we work for, but also for the persons that work for us. What do we have at stake? Our businesses and jobs. I like my job and the people I work for. Only ACEC is looking out for our interest around here. Make no mistake! It is exactly why we need more of our colleagues to join and to participate. In July, we will have a joint Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi Convention in Sandestin, Florida. Please come and learn something and enjoy your association. I hope to see you there.



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Top Ten Reasons to be an ACEC Member

Reason No. 3

Advances tort reform and professional liability protections to shield engineering firms from frivolous lawsuits; and advances tax and regulatory reforms to benefit the industry.

Check out the next Newsletter for Reason No. 4

ACEC Annual Convention & Legislative Summit

ACEC/MS members attended the ACEC Annual Convention and Legislative Summit in Washington and lobbied members of Congress on infrastructure initiatives, defense of contracting out, and the 3% withholding mandate. These issues will con-

tinue to be a focus on our federal advocacy efforts. Members in attendance were Slade Exley, Wayne Morrison, Jim Hust, Geoffrey Clemens and Judy Adams.

CEO Panel Provides High-Level Perspective on Industry Issues

Leaders of three of the nation's largest engineering firms addressed challenges and opportunities facing the industry.

Robert Uhler, chairman and CEO of MWH Global, said three "megatrends"—commoditization of engineering services, consolidation of mid-sized engineering firms, and growth among firms offering both engineering and construction services—have led him to guide his firm toward being an intellectual property provider.

"We are creating a repeatable platform business, packaging solutions on a global scale," he said.

George Pierson, CEO of Parsons Brinckerhoff, addressed the lack of infrastructure investment in the United States. "We spend one of the lowest percentages of GDP on infrastructure among all the nations on earth," he said. "Failing to invest in infrastructure can create a self-propelling spiral downward."

Len Rodman, chairman, president, and CEO

of Black and Veatch, said, "Focusing short-term makes it difficult to build a good national infrastructure. We need to convince policymakers about the value of long-term infrastructure planning."

Rodman shared his firm's just-completed annual survey of CEOs of 400 major utilities, in which most respondents forecast a slow economic recovery. Three out of four also said that coal-based power generation will continue to play a critical role in the U.S. energy picture.



Participating in the CEO Panel at the ACEC Convention were (left to right) Robert Uhler, chairman and CEO of MWH Global; George Pierson, CEO of Parsons Brinckerhoff; and Len Rodman, chairman, president & CEO of Black and Veatch.



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ACEC

New ExCom; Board Holds Line on Annual Dues

New members on the 2010-2011 Executive Committee are: Sergio "Satch" Pecori, president/CEO of Hanson Professional Services; Paul Grosser, president/CEO of P.W. Grosser; Miller "M.L." Love, vice president of Collins Engineers and Robert Paulsen, chairman of The PBSJ Corporation. ACEC/South Carolina Executive Director Joe Jones III is the new NAECE Representative.

Returning ExCom members are Chairman-elect Terry Neimeyer, chairman and CEO of KCI Technologies; Bart Patton, senior vice president of

Kleinfelder; Ken Wightman, CEO of David Evans & Associates; and Robin Greenleaf, president of Architectural Engineers.

The Board approved a new three-year Council budget that does not include a dues increase in 2011.

The Board also consolidated existing classes on non-regular ACEC membership into one Affiliate Member Firm class.



Stump Takes Office as National Chairman

Gerald (Jerry) Stump, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Wilbur Smith Associates, Franklin, TN, is now chairman of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC). Elected by the ACEC Board of Directors and installed in office in late April during the national convention, Stump will serve as chairman

during the 2010-2011 term.

He is the third Tennessean in the association's 100 year history to serve as chairman. Billy Sumner, Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, was chairman from 1975-1976. Lester Smith, Smith Seckman Reid, was chairman from 1987-1988. Congratulations, Jerry!

ACEC President's Update

By Dave Raymond

- Secured a significant change to the long-standing federal policy on retainage, making the previously mandatory 10% retainage requirement optional.
- Won a landmark federal appeals court ruling that the National Flood Insurance Act (NFIA) shields engineering firms working for FEMA from actions under state law.
- Lobbied Congress against the diversion of transportation fees from the Highway Trust Fund in draft climate change legislation proposed by Senators Kerry and Lieberman.
- Endorsed legislation to repeal unnecessary paperwork requirements in the recently enacted health care law.
- Met with the U.S. Executive Director of the World Bank and Assistant Secretary of Treasury to provide industry perspectives on World Bank host-country procurement procedures and the new reciprocal "disbarment" policy of the multilateral development banks.
- Provided formal comments on new draft World Bank consultant procurement guidelines.
- Spoke at the Federal Agencies Commissioning Workshop on the need for commissioning agents to be licensed professionals.