

FEBRUARY 2007

Montgomery River Region Engineers Host E-Week Luncheon RSA CEO Featured Speaker

The Montgomery River Region Engineering Community will host its annual Engineers Week & Awards Luncheon on February 28, 2007 at the RSA Activities Center in Downtown Montgomery. The event is hosted by the Montgomery area chapters of **ACEC, ASCE, ASPE, & NSBE**. Scholarship awards will be presented to the recipients of each chapter's scholarship awards. Other awards will be presented to the area MathCount Champions and ACEC's Engineering Excellence Award Winners. The featured keynote speaker is **Dr. David G. Bronner, CEO** of the Retirement Systems of Alabama (RSA), who will report on the RSA projects around that state that have contributed to Alabama's economic boom. This year's Master of Ceremony is the Honorable Veston Bush, PLS, Chairman of the Alabama State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors. A meeting will immediately follow the awards luncheon to update engineers and land surveyor licensees on issues that impact all licensees. Please visit our website at www.aceca.org for registration information.

2007 EEA Awards Announced

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Alabama (ACEC/Alabama) is proud to announce the winners of the 2007 Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA). The ACEC/Alabama EEA competition celebrates engineering achievements that demonstrate ingenuity and include significant technical, economic or social advancements. For over 40 years, ACEC/Alabama Member Firms submit their entries for assessment and judging by a distinguished panel of judges. Entries cover categories ranging from research and studies to structural systems, transportation, and special projects to recognize and honor local engineering achievements that demonstrate the highest degree of merit and engineering ingenuity. Honoring exceptional work in engineering design, the Grand Award winner of the 2007 EEA statewide competition is **Malcolm Pirnie, Inc**, for their Chickasaw Hurricane Emergency Action Analysis. The State Award winning firm is **Garver Engineers** for their design of the North Huntsville Industrial Park. Both firms will be recognized at the Montgomery Area Engineers Week & Awards Luncheon on February 28th.

Member Firm Certification Process in Progress Completed Forms due February 23rd

Key Contacts within our membership were mailed a Member Firm Certification Form in recent days. The information provided will be published in the upcoming edition of our Membership Directory and will also be used to develop our preliminary budget for the new fiscal year. Please make sure that your firm identifies the Key Contact who will serve as our primary contact for your firm. Also included in the package was a Firm Principal Update Form. This form should be completed for each firm principal that should receive communication from our office. Please note that this certification is not associated with the ACEC annual certification procedure conducted through the ACEC headquarters online process each spring. We are simply trying to update our records and prepare for our preliminary budgeting process.

Council Launches New Website

Be sure to visit our re-designed website at www.aceca.org. We're interested in your comments and suggestions to improve this service to our members. Please also take time to record our new email addresses which can be found on the "contact us" section of the site.

Council Expands Staff

We are pleased to introduce our newest employees that joined the Council in 2006. **Sharron Gjesvold**, joined the Council in July as a part-time Staff Assistant. Sharron's primary role is Bookkeeper for ACEC/AL. A lifetime resident of Montgomery, she is employed full-time at Booker T. Washington Magnet School as a Secretary/Bookkeeper. Sharron earned her Master of Science Degree in Community/Agency Counseling from Troy State University in Montgomery. Sharron is actively engaged in the community and her church. She is married to Brian Gjesvold and both are the proud parents of a Mechanical Engineer, Jason; and an Architect, Alicia. Brian and Sharron reside in Wetumpka, Alabama. The Gjesvolds are also the proud grandparents of Jack and Carter who reside with their parents Jason and Heather in Harvest, Alabama. Also recently joining the staff is our Membership Services Coordinator, **Charles Allen Hall**. Charles is a Cum Laude graduate from Faulkner University who earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration in 2002. Charles serves as the primary contact for all programming and membership activities. In addition to his business administration background, Charles brings IT and logistical skills to the Council. He was previously employed with Fastening Solutions where he worked his way up from various entry-level positions to the position of Purchasing Agent & Buyer for the company. A lifetime resident of Montgomery and Life Scout of the Boys Scouts of America, Charles enjoys hiking and outdoor activities, and together with his partner, builds custom audio systems for automobiles.

Area Vice Presidents to Host Area Meetings

Mark your calendars for the ACEC/Alabama meeting coming to your area. Back by popular demand, the purpose of the meeting is to communicate the state and national issues we are addressing. The meeting is open to all Member and Prospective Member Firms. Through your financial and time commitment, the work that ACEC does benefits ALL consulting engineering firms in our state! It's time that we bring our meetings to you so that you know what's going on. The meetings, hosted by our Area Vice Presidents will also present a one-hour Professional Development Hour (PDH) opportunity to provide information on the Statute of Repose bill which will be pursued in the upcoming session of the state legislature. ACEC will join with its industry partners to seek the passage of a reduced statute of repose from thirteen (13) years to the national average of 6-8 years. We have invited our Associate Member, **Cappell Howard** to provide information on this tort reform issue. We hope to accomplish the regional meetings by our next Executive Committee meeting, scheduled for April 13th. Look for registration coming soon!

AREA MEETINGS

Huntsville Area Meeting – March 12

Location TBA - 10:00 am - Noon (lunch)

Montgomery Area Meeting – March 14

LE Speaks & Assoc Conference Rm- 10:00 - Noon (no lunch)

Mobile Area Meeting – March 19

Thompson Engineering - 11:30 - 1:30 (lunch)

Piedmont Area Meeting – March 26

Location TBA - Time TBA

Dothan Area Meeting – March 28

Polyengineering - 11:30 - 1:30 (lunch)

Tuscaloosa Area Meeting – March 29

TTL Conference Rm – 11:30 – 1:00 (lunch)

Birmingham Area Meeting – April 9

Gresham Smith & Partners - 11:30 - 1:30 (lunch)

Post It On Your Calendar

Date	Event	Location	City/State
February 21-22, 2007	Transportation Conference	Dixon Conference Center	Auburn Univ, AL
February 24, 2007	AL Engineering Hall of Fame Banquet	Ross Bridge Resort	Hoover, AL
February 28, 2007	Engineers Day in Capital City	Alabama Activities Center	Montgomery, AL
March 8-9, 2007	LDS Class VI - Session IV	Marriott Grand National	Opelika, AL
April 18, 2007	Transportation Means Business	Embassy Suites Hotel	Montgomery, AL
April 24, 2007	Design Professionals & Contracting Industry Lobby Day	RSA Plaza Terrace	Montgomery, AL
May 6-9, 2007	ACEC Annual Meeting	Washington Grand Hyatt	Washington, DC
June 28-July 1, 2007	ACEC AL & MS Joint Annual Convention & LDS Alum Meeting	Sandestin Beach Resort	Destin, FL
August 5-8, 2007	SASHTO 2007	Embassy Suites Hotel	Huntsville, AL
September 6, 2007	ACEC 2nd Annual Golf Classic	Ross Bridge Resort	Hoover, AL
September 24-30, 2007	ACEC Fall Conference	Grand Wailea Resort	Maui, HI

What will the ACEC Business & Professional Liability Insurance Program Do for your Firm?

WHY YOU SHOULD PARTICIPATE.

In the broadest sense, the ACEC Business Insurance Trust (BIT) is uniquely qualified and dedicated to safeguarding ACEC member firms.

Together with industry leaders, Marsh USA Inc. and The Hartford, the BIT designs insurance plans specifically for the needs of engineering firms. Marsh, the world's leading risk and insurance services firm, offers competitively priced business and professional liability insurance products. The commitment however runs much deeper. Brokers at Marsh work solely on the insurance needs of plan participants, arranging appropriate coverage, endorsements, and contract language, and obtaining competitive quotes to provide the protection your firm needs. We understand your business and its unique insurance needs because it's our business too. Will you get what you pay for? Yes, and so much more. *"If you're considering coverage through the ACEC Business Insurance Trust, you should already know that the Members of the Trust have already done a lot of thinking about what engineers need before you even get a quote."* - Cathy Ritter, PE

AS AN ACEC MEMBER, YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO EXPECT EXCELLENT SERVICE.

It all starts with a Business Insurance or Professional Liability Insurance policy that's appropriate for your engineering company. But it certainly doesn't stop there. Your relationship with Marsh USA, Inc. and the Business Insurance Trust team includes an entire menu of Member Resources that will help you navigate through any changes you need to make to your coverage. Information on claims, billing, requests for certificates of insurance, even a library of resource publications pertinent to member practices is available. All are presented in a logical, easy to understand format so that you can return to what you do best...managing your company...while we manage your insurance needs. As always, should you need to discuss a particular Member Resource with your Marsh USA, Inc. broker, they're just a phone call away. 800-338-1391 x2621

Calling Nominees For ACEC/AL Officer Positions

Without question, a focus on governance and leadership is the keystone for any organization. The need for a thoughtful, well-guided nominating process for effective leadership is essential for the future of the Council. With this in mind, we encourage our members to consider nominees for the following officer vacancies to be filled this summer:

- President Elect (1 year term)
- Tuscaloosa Area Vice President (2 year term)
- Dothan Area Vice President (2 year term)
- Birmingham Area Vice President (2 year term)

In accordance with Article VII (C) of our bylaws, nominations shall be received in written form to Mr. Bill Carwile, Immediate Past President and Chairman of the ACEC/Alabama Nominating Committee. **You may submit your nomination in writing to the ACEC office via fax, email or mail, no later than Friday, March 30, 2007.**

The Immediate Past President will contact the slate of nominees to seek their willingness to serve the Council. The Nominating Committee of Past Presidents will convene by mid-April to nominate the slate of officer candidates. A ballot listing the nominees and a space for a "write-in" candidate will be sent to the general membership for a final vote (one vote per firm). Election results will be announced in the May issue of the *Eye On Engineering Newsletter*. Newly elected officers will serve a two-year term beginning with the officer installation ceremony to be held at the ACEC/AL & ACEC/MS Joint Annual Convention, June 28-July 1, 2007, at Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort in Destin, Florida.

Please consider committing your time and expertise to serve the Council. For more information, the role of the ACEC/Alabama Executive Committee is defined in our bylaws and available on our new website at www.aceca.org/About.htm Please direct your questions to our Executive Director, Renée Casillas at (334) 264-1500.



**May 6-9,, 2007
The Grand Hyatt Hotel
Washington, DC**