

Join Us Back at the Beach ACEC AL & MS Annual Convention

JUNE 2007

Join with your colleagues and industry representatives at the upcoming Joint Annual Summer Convention where Owners and Principal Engineers from Engineering Companies throughout Alabama and Mississippi will meet for the ACEC Alabama & Mississippi Joint Annual Convention, June 28 – July 1, 2007 at Sandestin's Golf & Beach Resort, in Florida. Nestled between the white sandy beaches of the Gulf's "Emerald Coast" and the sheltered inlets of the Choctawhatchee Bay, The Grand Sandestin and Village at Baytowne Wharf offers something for every member of your family! Our convention programming is now complete. Visit the ACEC/AL website at www.aceca.org to view the PDH opportunities available at this year's convention:

- Annual LDS Alumni Meeting – Ownership Transition/Risk Management/Design Firm Issues
- Executive Committee Meeting
- Engineering Liabilities & Opportunities – Contract Negotiations
- Managing Human Capital
- Back to the Beach Party
- Design a Life That Works
- Officer Installation Ceremony & LDS Recognition

Several exhibitor booths and convention sponsorships are still available. We hope you and your industry suppliers will join us at Sandestin to help us make this year's convention a success! Sandestin's reservations deadline is extended to June 4th.

ACEC Leadership Grants Alabama Minuteman Funding

As of the 28th legislative day (of 30), HB242, the bill measure to repeal "testimony" from the definition of the Professional Engineering law, is alive in the Alabama Senate. The good news is that a compromise was reached between all parties. Unless the Senate continues the standoff, we expect our amendment to be offered in the Alabama Senate with concurrence in the House of Representatives. We understand that the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) is under consideration to strike "testimony" from the national model law. And, because this bill measure has appeared in other states, ACEC's Leadership agrees on the implications of this bill measure. ACEC Headquarters in Washington was alerted and has begun a dialogue with NCEES. The ACEC Executive Committee (national) authorized a Minuteman Grant to be issued to ACEC/Alabama to battle the issue on the state level. This was the first dollar for dollar Minuteman Grant issued to an ACEC Member Organization (MO) under the new guidelines for funding. ACEC/Alabama secured a Minuteman Grant on two other occasions to help us protect the interests of our Member Firms in Alabama. ACEC Member Firms in Alabama supports the Minuteman Fund through their state-level membership dues.

Enrollment for LDS Class VII Underway

Senior management in engineering and industry related companies understand that the key to retain talented young professionals in today's competitive market, is to invest in the professional development of their employees. Uniquely designed to address this very issue, ACEC/Alabama's Leadership Development Series (LDS) is currently enrolling Class Seven – with session one of five beginning the fall of 2007. The engineering profession and the Council have prospered over the years as a result of strong leadership. To ensure that we enjoy an equally successful future, we must invest in our young future leaders and encourage them to get involved in industry and association activities. Now in its seventh year, the LDS program has graduated nearly seventy young professionals. LDS Alumni meet annually in conjunction with the ACEC AL Annual Convention for a round table discussion on the issues they face in their firms today. Consider the benefit of enrolling today. Call the ACECA Office or visit our website for preliminary registration materials.

Council Achieves Record Success

Thanks to the leadership of the ACEC/AL Executive Committee, the Council has had another remarkable year! The driving force behind our success this year is due to our current President, Forest Wilson (TTL, Inc.). Through his steadfast leadership ability, we have accomplished much this year – A few highlights from his term as President follow:

- Achieved 96% membership participation in opt-out assessment a funding mechanism for Alabama Engineers PAC and full-time contract lobbyist
- Held Inaugural Golf Classic at Ross Bridge – exceed fundraising expectations - proceeds raised directly benefited our governmental affairs activities
- Moved ACEC/AL office to a new location, directly at "the gateway" of downtown Montgomery – location offers the association an independent identity
- Achieved state and national level PAC fundraising goals
- Participated with industry partners in coalition wide legislative summit
- Achieved admittance into the Board of Licensure's (BOL) Nominating "Committee of Nine", as a stakeholder in the Alabama Engineering Profession
- Successfully tackled harmful bills in the Alabama State Legislature
- Participated in the yearlong BOL Working Group to address composition and issues of the BOL
- Participated in yearlong Alabama Building Code Study Committee tasked by Alabama Legislature to determine the need for a standard statewide building code
- Increased ACEC/AL Scholarships from \$2K to \$3K

Special thanks go to the officers who also directly contributed to the Council's success and whose two-year term will come to an end in June:

Immediate Past President - Bill Carwile, PE – ARCADIS
Birmingham VP - Anthony Kamburis, PE–JB Trimble & Company
Dothan VP – Lawrence McAllister, PE – Polyengineering
Tuscaloosa VP – Tera Wyatt, PE – Burke Kleinpeter

Newly elected officers will begin their term with the commencement of the upcoming 2007 Annual Convention. Members of the 2007-2008 Executive Committee (ExCOM) follow:

President – Randy Sain – Sain Associates
President-Elect – Harry Wilson, PE – Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc (ELECTED)
Immediate Past President – Forest Wilson, PE – TTL, Inc.
Secretary/Treasurer – Kenneth Bailey, PE – TTL, Inc.
National Director – Bob Portera, PE – Gresham Smith & Partners
Birmingham VP – Chad Bowman, PE – Paragon Engineering
Birmingham VP – Kelly Huffstettler, PE – Civil Consultants, Inc. (ELECTED)
Dothan VP – Barry Mott, PE – Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon (ELECTED)
Huntsville VP – Frank Whitman, PE – Gallet & Associates, Inc. (ELECTED)
Mobile VP – Duane Smith, PE – Thompson Engineering
Montgomery VP – Steven Speaks, PE/PLS – LE Speaks & Associates, Inc.
Piedmont VP – John Bowlin, PE/PLS – Jones Blair Waldrup & Tucker, Inc.
Tuscaloosa VP – Tommy Brooks, Jr., PLS – Brooks & Brooks, Inc. (ELECTED)

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For Alabama's Future Vote YES on June 5th

2007 Legislative Session Update

During a Special Legislative Session held at the end of February 2007, three bills passed unanimously in all committees and both houses of the Alabama Legislature. The unanimous support is unprecedented in Alabama's special session history. These bills will be brought before the citizens of Alabama on June 5th, when voters go to the polls to consider two constitutional amendments impacting the future of our great State.

Amendment One

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND – Vote YES to:

- Thousands of new jobs for citizens of Alabama
- Billions of new dollars flowing into Alabama's economy

There are approximately 30 companies currently considering making Alabama their business home – or expanding their current Alabama-based operations. These projects are located throughout Alabama. In order for Alabama to continue offering economic incentives to new and existing businesses, the bonding (borrowing) cap on the Capital Improvement Trust Fund must be increased. This amendment raises the current \$350 million bonding cap to \$750 million in order to grow economic development in the state. Bonds are paid with the oil and gas royalty payments allocated to the Capital Improvement Trust Fund. No General Fund or Education Trust Fund revenues are used for this purpose.

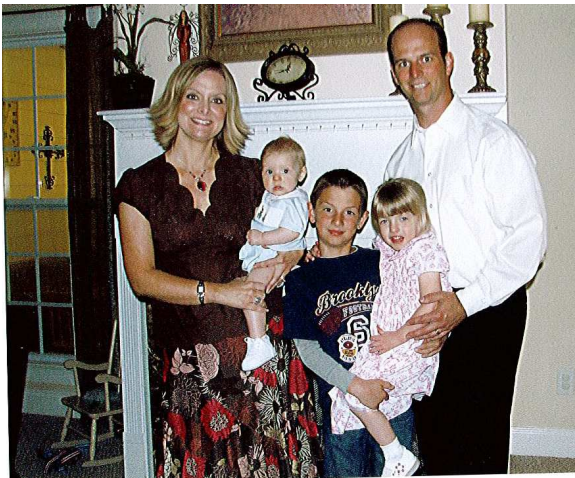
Amendment Two

HEALTHCARE FOR RETIRED EMPLOYEES – Vote YES to:

- Improve Alabama's accountability
- Enable better policy decisions regarding future benefits and services for retired employees
- Ensure that the Alabama Legislature and future administrations will not divert the funds to other projects

New federal reporting guidelines require that states must, for the first time, report the estimated future health care costs of retired state employees and teachers. The Alabama Legislature approved the creation of irrevocable trust funds – the mechanisms to fund this liability. Failure to address this liability can hurt Alabama's position with bond rating agencies, resulting in millions of dollars in higher interest payments on debt issued for school construction or economic development projects. To hear Governor Bob Riley and Lt. Governor Jim Folsom's message on the special referendum, please visit: <http://www.foralabamasfuture.com>

Who's That Girl?



ACEC/Alabama's former Executive Director (1993-2000), Jennifer Dingman. She, and husband David, are the proud (and busy) parents of baby Zachary, Cody, and Hannah.

The standoff at the Alabama State Senate broke loose on the 27th day of the 2007 Legislative Session to reconsider a motion to indefinitely postpone two sunset bills, the Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors, and the Board of Licensure for Landscape Architects. A motion to reconsider was passed unanimously, effectively reinstating the existence of state licensing boards and allowing the Alabama State Senate to receive and refer to committee, the House budgets. With only two legislative days remaining in this session, ACEC continues to be the "Voice for the Engineering Industry in Alabama" – With our membership's support, here's a status on the issues we've addressed this legislative session:

Reached Compromise with Alabama Trial Lawyers

A bill measure sponsored by ATLA (HB242/SB212) to amend Section 34-11-1, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the practice of professional engineers and land surveyors, to remove the requirement that a professional engineer be licensed in Alabama in order to testify in civil actions. ACEC negotiated with bill proponents to preserve the requirements that an expert witness be licensed in order to testify in civil actions. Bill is pending in the State Senate. Because the bill measure has appeared in several other states, ACEC's National Leadership authorized a grant to ACEC/Alabama from the national Minuteman Fund to protect the interests of our Member Firms in Alabama and alerted states across the nation to raise attention to the issue.

Aligned with Industry Partners to Improve Statute of Repose

ACEC worked with Industry Partners to support a bill that would reduce the Statute of Repose period from thirteen years to the national average of six. The two year statute of limitations would remain intact. ACEC's leadership met with the leadership of the Alabama Trial Lawyers Association to present our case. ACEC testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee and lobbied on behalf of the business of Engineering. The bill is pending in the Alabama State Senate.

Averted Senate's Partisan Maneuver to Indefinitely Postpone BOL Sunset Bill

The sunset bill to continue the existence and function of the Alabama State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors was held up due to the political infighting during the 2007 Regular Legislative Session. In a surprise late-session political maneuver, the Senate majority supported a tactic to break loose the stalemate with a motion to indefinitely postpone the BOL sunset bill, and landscape architects sunset bill. The action would have abolished both Boards as of Sept 30, 2007. At our request, ACEC met with key Senate majority and minority leadership to avert the pending action. The BOL regulates over 40,000 licensees and 2,000 engineering businesses. The Alabama Senate reconsidered the motion and passed the bill unanimously.

Aligned with Industry Partners to Introduce Bill

To create the Alabama Building Code Council within the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs to establish, adopt, amend, and update a statewide building code which would be the standard for the building of residential and commercial structures in the state. Bill is pending in the Alabama State Senate.

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What's Happening?

Date	Event	Location	City/State
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
September 2007	Leadership Development Series Class 7	Year Long Curriculum	