

Message from the President

Rick V. Baldocchi, PE 2018-19 ACEC-FL President



Recently, a young couple asked me to visit a house they were considering purchasing to get an “engineer’s view” of the one-story wood frame structure built in 1938. I graciously accepted the invitation and found a quaint street near downtown Orlando with a one-story minimal variation architectural style home (yes, I had to look that up), that had appeared to be refurbished recently.

The real estate agent let us in and we all walked around the home and discussed the layout of the house, the functionality of the kitchen, the new appliances, etc. I was sort of not listening to all that discussion because they obviously liked the layout and the finishes or they would not be at this point in the decision.

As this was all happening, I was walking around looking at totally different things. I was looking at things like the level of the floor, the squareness of the walls, the variation of texture of the ceiling finish, the difference of the materials (1938 vs 2019), etc., etc. I’m sure the couple thought I was being aloof and not really helping them out at all.

I noticed a pull down attic ladder in one of the bedrooms and asked the real estate agent if I could go up to the attic. She hesitated, but agreed noting I should be careful, and I headed into the space. While in the attic, I noted that the AC unit had been replaced, the AC ducts had been replaced, some of the roof decking had been replaced, there was new insulation that had been installed, the roof trusses were in good shape, a roof vent had been added, there was a lot of new electrical wiring, and a temperature control vent fan had been installed.

When I came down from the attic and noted these items, the young man who asked my advice said: “Engineer’s Know Everything”. While this was quite flattering, it obviously is not true and not the message I get on a typical day on the job as an engineer. However, the experience and the comment did enforce one thing that I have been saying for a while. Engineers look at the world differently than most non-engineers.

This nuance has come into play during the on-going PR Campaign we are working in for ACEC-Florida. We are trying to develop media that explains to non-engineers, what we do on a daily basis, and how much it impacts the lives of everyone in society and the economy in general.

Just like the items I observed in the house, what we do is not visible to most people, which makes it that much harder to explain. In fact, the better the job we do, the less visible our efforts are. Nobody ever complained because the hot water came on instantly, or the toilet flushed as it is supposed to. How many people make a comment when their phone or computer works perfectly? Not many, but when it does not, you certainly hear the swear words (guilty as charged).

So, while I may sound like a broken record, I continue to advocate for us to tell our story. We will be unveiling some professionally created media in the next couple of months to help with this goal, but again, we all have our own stories to tell. Develop them and tell them often. Let’s do our best to further the belief that “Engineer’s Know Everything.” While it may be a stretch, it’s not a bad place to reach for.

How Employee Membership in FES Benefits Your Company

In this message, we will explore some of the primary benefits that employers and employees derive from their membership with the Florida Engineering Society (FES). These benefits range from the tangible (increased employee retention) to the intangible (development



of Leadership and personal skills).

First, the employee will gain increased job satisfaction from being an FES member. If the Company pays the membership dues and encourages the employee to attend meetings and functions, it shows that the employer truly cares about the employee's career growth and job satisfaction. This support from management is an important part of the employee/employer relationship. It also creates an opportunity for the employee to "Give Back" to their community through community service and out reach projects. This can take several forms from MATHCOUNTS, a yearly math competition among Florida's Middle School students to the Chapter K-12 programs to social outings. "Giving Back" and community involvement are also important factors for Millennials when selecting a firm and contributes to a large part to their job satisfaction. These

outside, non-work related activities provide opportunities for employee and employer recognition, and may be used as part of the employee's future evaluations and career advancement opportunities. All of these factors play a key role in job satisfaction and employee retention.

The second primary benefit to your Company is the marketing opportunities created by employees working and interacting with engineers from other firms and agencies. Corporate sponsorship of various activities helps increase the Company's profile, helps with name recognition and reinforces the Company's commitment to their employees and careers. Additionally, networking opportunities are generated by attendance at local, state, and national meetings and conferences. The relationships developed by the employees can become the cornerstone for future teaming agreements resulting in tangible revenue. Engineers from all disciplines are involved in FES and your employees will learn more about other firms working in the area and statewide.

FES membership creates Leadership opportunities through meeting attendance, volunteering for community projects, serving on various Chapter committees and becoming a Chapter Officer. These types of activities help develop better leadership habits which can then be applied at the employee's work place, community organizations, or even at home. FES also provides Leadership opportunities to serve on a Committee or as an Officer at the State or local Chapter levels as well as attendance at meetings and functions such as Annual Conference, Legislative Days and the Transportation and Water Resources conferences. The Florida Engineering Leadership Institute (FELI) offers a high caliber year-long Leadership training program that has been used as a model for the development of other programs nation-wide. Again, corporate support, both financial and providing the employee the time off to attend, are critical factors. Developing Leadership skills is a crucial part of an employee's professional development and career growth.

Additionally, membership with FES allows your employees to stay informed and engaged with the Florida legislative process. Through our CLGR committee and PE Legislative Days annual event, FES members are able to interact and promote the engineering profession with our State Legislators. During our Legislative Days, important Bills that promote and protect our engineering profession are championed by all our members as they discuss them with their local legislators. Through this "grass roots movement" our members are able to positively affect changes that not only promote the engineering profession, but protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Finally, FES provide multiple opportunities for your employees to obtain Continuing Education credits, often at a discount. These events are offered throughout the year and include everything from Professional Development Hours to full technical and management seminars along with networking opportunities built into the events. These seminars are offered both in classroom and online environments to help accommodate time constrained schedules.

All of the above benefits help to create a better work environment, which leads to a stronger Company. It also strengthens FES so that the Society can provide additional benefits to its members, and continue protecting the Engineering profession. Don't you owe it to yourself and your firm to get your employees involved? Have them join today!

If you have any questions about becoming an FES Member, please go to www.fleng.org and clicking on the Membership tab on the left side or by calling 850-224-7121.

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Upcoming FES/ACEC-FL Events



2019 ACEC-FL Transportation Conference
Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport
May 29-30, 2019

Online Registration is available for Attendees & Sponsors



Online Registration is available for Attendees & Sponsors

<https://www.fleng.org/event/ac2019>

Legislative News

CHANGES TO THE ENGINEERING GOVERNING STATUTE – CHAPTER 471

By: Angelina G. Fairchild, P.E., LEED AP, CXLT

FES - FBPE Liaison

Every year, usually in early February, over 150 members of the Florida Engineering Society (FES) and

the Florida chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC-FL) gather in Tallahassee to meet with their legislative Representatives and Senators as part of what is referred to as PE Legislative Days. To some of our members, this event has become an annual pilgrimage aimed at keeping the Florida legislature informed about issues that affect the practice of engineering.

[Read the full article here](#)

Florida Legislative Session Reports

The Florida Engineering Society promotes and defends the professional interests of all engineers in the state of Florida. To do so, we maintain a strong and effective voice with the legislature. If you are interested in learning more about how to become involved, please contact [Samantha Hobbs](#), Director of Government Affairs and Executive Policy.

Stay up to date with weekly [Session Reports](#).



Get to know your State Legislators

Chapters are encouraged to hold local meetings with their State Legislators. FES and ACEC-FL members are urged to begin educating and re-establishing relationships in personal meetings. FES has prepared a tool kit to help in this process.

[Legislative Tool Kit](#)

ACEC-FL CCNA Letter Campaign

ACEC-FL directs an educational letter campaign to educate public entities regarding the Consultant's Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA). This campaign is driven by ACEC-FL members who anonymously send Request for Proposal (RFP) to headquarters. This method ensures that the government agency does not know which firm filed the complaint. ACEC-FL staff in return corresponds with government officials in an effort to educate them on the CCNA law and encourages them to amend their RFP process. This has been a successful program and we encourage all members to participate.



If you see an RFP that may be violating the CCNA law, please email [Samantha Hobbs](#). If a member firm or licensed engineer within a member firm knowingly violates CCNA, ACEC-FL believes you may be in violation of Chapter 61G15, rules and regulations. [CCNA Letter Catalog](#)

News from ACEC-FL



Geotechnical & Materials Engineers Committee

Donald T. Robertson, PE announced as the 2019 GMEC Award recipient at the 2019 GMEC Conference

Don Robertson is an Entrepreneur, Gulf War Veteran, Co-Founder and Principal Engineer of Applied Foundation Testing. Don has over 30 years of engineering experience working for both government agencies and private consulting. He has worked on thousands of deep foundation load



test and instrumentation programs throughout the western hemisphere. He has participated in numerous seminars including Geotechnical Instrumentation, Scour of Highway Bridges, Drilled Shaft Design and Construction and Driven Pile Design and Construction. As a Principal Engineer of Applied Foundation Testing he is responsible for offices in five states with ongoing projects throughout North America, South America and the Caribbean.

Don has designed, constructed, operated and trained engineers in the use of the AFT Shaft Inspection Device (SID). He is also experienced in Thermal Integrity Profiling (TIP), Sonic and Mechanical Shaft Profiling, Cross-hole Sonic Logging (CSL), Sonic Integrity Testing (SIT), Post Grouting of Drilled Shafts, vibration monitoring, and Fiber Optic Strain Instrumentation. He also assisted the University of Florida and Smart Structures with the development and initial FDOT work of the SmartPile® System commonly referred to as an embedded data collector.

[Be sure to check out all the photos from the recent 2019 GMEC Conference!](#)



**2019
GMEC
CONFERENCE**
April 4th-5th, 2019
Renaissance Orlando
at SeaWorld®

ACEC-FL Voting Representatives –

We wanted you to be aware of our “New for 2019” ACEC-FL Board Position and Committee.

Mike Bell, PE is the ACEC -FL Board Civil/Land Development Director and invites your firm employees to participate in the Land Development Committee.

This committee will focus on Federal, State and Local issues that affect professional engineering services for land development, land use and professional practices.

The intent will be to have a state-wide committee and voice for issues related to Land Development.

We are requesting volunteers to help steer the direction of the committee from the ground up. If you or one of your employees is involved with the Land Development practice in Florida and would like to participate (anticipate quarterly conference calls), please fill out the form below.

[ACEC-FL Land Development Committee Employee Sign Up](#)



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Florida

2019-20 ACEC-FL Slate of Officers

American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida (ACEC-FL)

President	William E. Wilson, Jr., PE
President-Elect	Shahin Hekmat, PE
Vice-President	Peter K. Partlow, PE
Treasurer	Scott D. Martin, PE, LEED AP
Past President	Rick V. Baldocchi, PE
ACEC National Director	Kimberlee B. DeBosier, PE
PEPP Director	Thomas H. Hayden, PE
GMEC Director	Mark L. Mongeau, PE
Transportation Director	Andre E. Lauzier, PE
Environmental Director	Kumar A. Allady, PE
Energy Director	William Bradford, PE
Vertical Support Director	VACANT
Civil / Land Development	J. Mike Bell, PE
Region 1 Director – Panhandle	Douglas R. Barkley, PE
Region 2 Director – North Central	Robert A. Mizell, PE
Region 3 Director – East Central	Leila Jammal, PE
Region 4 Director – West Central	Whitney A. Stevens, PE
Region 5 Director – Treasure Coast	Raj Krishnasamy, PE
Region 6 Director – Southwest	Ralph Verrastro, PE
Region 7 Director – FL Gold Coast	Gustavo R. Quesada, PE

ACEC-FL: Additional Nominations may be made directly to the Board of Directors but must be received in writing with permission of the nominee by the meeting two months prior to the annual meeting. The additional nominations must be accompanied by the endorsement of at least ten voting members and shall be confirmed by the Nominating Committee. If no additional nominations are received, the list as submitted by the Nominating Committee shall be declared new officers by acclamation. Please send additional nominations to: ACEC-FL Slate of Officers, P.O. Box 750, Tallahassee, FL 32302-0750 or acecfl@fleng.org by **June 1, 2019**.

[Click here to view the PDF.](#)

Hires, Promotions, Awards, & Other News from ACEC-FL Firms

CHW Professional Consultants, a leading planning, design, surveying, engineering, and construction services firm, is proud to announce the addition of Melinda Dickens, PLA as Senior Project Manager to our Planning + Design team. As Senior Project Manager, Melinda will assist in expanding the capabilities of our team and will ensure the implementation of CHW's professional services. Her experience in the landscape architecture and urban design fields will assist in leading the department by providing professional direction and proven ability.

"We are thrilled to welcome a Landscape Architect of Melinda's caliber to the CHW. Her experience and skills will further strengthen the CHW team and what we have to offer our clients." – Vice President E.J. Bolduc III, PLA, ASLA

Melinda comes to CHW with 30 years of experience in urban design, land planning, and landscape architecture. She has served as a consultant to both public and private clients in a wide array of projects, including project master planning and site planning, redevelopment and urban design, design guidelines assignments, and public involvement campaigns.

Melinda is a Florida Registered Landscape Architect and a graduate of the University of Florida's Landscape Architecture program holding both a master's degree and bachelor's degree from the Design, Planning, and Construction School. Melinda brings a wealth of experience to the CHW Team; we are thrilled to have her.

CHW





ECS Florida, LLC is pleased to announce that Joe Champion, PE has been promoted to Subsidiary President. ECS Florida, LLC is a premier provider of geotechnical engineering, construction materials testing, environmental consulting and facilities engineering services. As Subsidiary President, Champion is responsible for the leadership, financial management, business development and training for the Jacksonville, Daytona Beach, Orlando, Tampa, Fort Myers, West Palm Beach, and Brunswick, Georgia offices.

“In his short-time with ECS, Joe has demonstrated exemplary leadership and managerial skills,” said Anthony J. Fiorillo, PE, SI, Chief Operating Officer of ECS Corporate Services, LLC. “We are confident his guidance will have a tremendous impact on the Florida operations. We congratulate him on his splendid achievements and we look forward to seeing how his direction continues to help ECS grow.”

Prior to this appointment, Champion was the Branch Manager of the Jacksonville, Florida and Brunswick, Georgia offices. A member of the Jacksonville team since 2004, Champion was a Partner with Ellis & Associates, Inc. which merged with Engineering Consulting Services (ECS) in October 2015.

A licensed Professional Engineer in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina, he holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida. He has over 16 years of experience as a Geotechnical and Construction Materials Testing and Inspection Engineer. Champion will remain based in the Jacksonville, Florida office.

Kinder becomes full-time civil designer at office in Jacksonville, Florida

Isaiah Kinder recently became a full-time civil designer at Hanson Professional Services Inc.’s Jacksonville office. He will assist in plans preparation for roadway, drainage and site projects.

Kinder joined Hanson as an intern in May. He received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in civil engineering from the University of Florida.



WGI Announces Transportation Leader and Industry Expert Kimberlee B. DeBosier, PE, FNSPE, FACEC Joins Firm



WGI CEO David Wantman, PE proudly announces the hire of Director—Project Excellence Kimberlee DeBosier. “Kim’s four-decade career in leadership of engineering and transportation organizations, with a particular appreciation for the Florida markets, will be a tremendous addition to the team,” Wantman noted. Her focus will be divided between growth in the infrastructure markets and project delivery excellence -- taking an already high-performing firm to another level.

“Kim DeBosier brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our business platforms,” noted WGI President Gregory Sauter. “She will be a key collaborator on strategic pursuits, partnering, and company leadership in the Florida region as well as an important contributor to WGI’s executive team.” Her industry knowledge is highlighted through her broad experience. She was the co-founder and president of Bayside Engineering for over two decades, which was ultimately acquired and successfully integrated into a national firm. Her expert leadership is recognized throughout the transportation profession and is reflected in the key roles she plays in state and national organizations, including the National Director, American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida; former Chair of the Center for Urban Transportation Research at University of South Florida; former four-year Chair of the Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority; Trustee of the Florida Engineering Foundation; Fellow-American Society of Civil Engineers; and Fellow-Florida Engineering Society. She received numerous awards and recognition for her leadership and accomplishments.

WGI's commitment to its professionals and clients is paramount. DeBosier's hire reinforces a culture of project excellence across all divisions. It also supports WGI's mission to provide its associate the optimal tools, with specific focus on project managers and the linkage between project and financial performance.

WGI is committed to the communities in which it works and lives. DeBosier's involvement in the Tampa region is another strong indicator of her character and philosophy of giving back. These include Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of Women, and many others. This aligns very well with WGI's beliefs and reinforces its ties to communities.

Senior Vice President, PE, Transportation, Nancy Clements commented: "I am very excited to have Kim on our team to help guide our business plan and ensure the continued delivery of quality ideas and deliverables to our clients. She will be especially helpful to my Transportation Division as we continue to grow and reinforce our capabilities and be the full-service consultant of choice."

ACEC Report

ACEC/PAC - is the engineering industry's primary tool for political engagement at the national level. Supported by engineering professionals from across the country who work for member firms, the sole purpose of ACEC/PAC is to elect candidates to the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate who support policies and legislation favorable to the engineering industry.



ACEC/PAC is overseen by a committee of PAC Champions made up of engineering firm executives from all the ACEC member organizations and is regulated by the Federal Election Commission (FEC). ACEC/PAC is currently the largest federal PAC in the design industry, having grown more than 500% in 10 years. It supports candidates on a bipartisan basis and may give up to \$5,000 to a federal candidate per election, and up to \$10,000 per candidate for their federal election cycle. In the last election cycle, ACEC/PAC's winning percentage was 97%.

To learn more about ACEC/PAC, please contact [Greg Knopp](#), Executive Director, Political Affairs or [Jennifer Pugh](#), ACEC/PAC Director, or log on to visit the [ACEC/PAC site here](#).

Calendar of Events

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|---------------------|---|
| <u>May</u>
5-8 | ACEC Annual Convention |
| 29-30 | 2019 ACEC-FL Transportation Conference |
| <u>June</u>
6-8 | FES/ACEC-FL Board and Orientation/Planning Meetings |
| <u>July</u>
9 | ACEC-FL Transportation Committee Meeting |
| 24-27 | 2019 FES/ACEC-FL Annual Conference |
| <u>October</u>
8 | ACEC-FL Transportation Committee Meeting |
| 13-16 | ACEC Fall Conference |
| 29 | FES and ACEC-FL Board Meetings |

If you are interested in having an item published in the ACEC-FL Update, please email ACECFL@fleng.org



Florida
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of Florida

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