My fellow Engineers,

I am humbled to be given the opportunity to serve the members of ACEC of Florida as your president. The list of our past-presidents is long and diverse and having to live up to the high standard set in the past is daunting. Having taken the oath to serve, I promise to work hard to meet that challenge. I would like to start by thanking past-president William Wilson, P.E. for his calm demeanor in the face of the pandemic these last few months. I know it is going to be difficult to make decisions on how to move forward without a clear idea of how long we as an organization must deal with the uncertainties of COVID-19. However, I have the utmost confidence in our Board, our Executive Director, and his dedicated staff to help us move forward and make the best decisions possible.

It has been a while since we gathered as a group, the last time being Legislative Days in Tallahassee. As an introvert (!), I am struggling with not being able to spend quality time with friends and colleagues. It is my hope we will have our November Board meeting in Tampa, be able to bump fists, and have a drink together again. Six feet apart, of course!

On the national front, it was announced on August 6th that the 2020 ACEC Fall Conference, scheduled for October 28-30, will be taking place virtually. The good news is that more people will have the opportunity to attend and learn about the work ACEC does across the U.S. Unfortunately, we are going to miss out on visiting a great location, San Diego. ACEC National has continued to be a resource for Member Firms during this crisis, if you have not visited their webpage at www.acec.org, I highly recommend it.

On August 5th the ACEC-FL Board met virtually, and the new officers and committee chairs were sworn in. Following are highlights from the meeting:

- Funding was approved to make the Don Ditzenberger Historical Museum a reality. If any members have items to donate, please reach out to our staff in Tallahassee or contact me directly.
- FELI is accepting applications for 2020-2021 session expected to start in November. Please visit our webpage (www.fleng.org) if you are interested in registering for the program. I graduated from the third class in 2006 and will fondly remember the experience for the rest of my life.
- All our committees presented their goals for the upcoming year and have begun ramping up their activities. If you are not on a committee, please consider participating; I would be more than happy to help get you started. Additionally, I recommend encouraging your young engineers to get involved, our future depends on their successes.
- The Finance Committee’s recommended investment policy for our reserve funds was approved.
- The Strategic Plan Task Force continues its work reviewing our plan, which is 12 years old. Recommendations will be made to the Board early next year.
- The Board of Directors nominated Charlie Geer, P.E. and Peter Moore, P.E. to the ACEC National College of Fellows.
Finally, I would like to direct you to our webpage www.fleng.org. If you are not yet registered, please sign in, set up a profile, and begin using the available resources. If you already have a profile, please review and update it so you can keep in touch with your fellow engineers. I would also like to draw your attention to our ongoing campaign to raise awareness of the Professional Engineer’s role in society. It is up to each of us to preach our motto: “Engineers: Behind the Everyday and the Extraordinary”. A statement that is as true today as it has ever been.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to meeting all of you face-to-face again soon. Take care and be safe in these challenging times.

Shahin Hekmat, P.E.
ACEC-FL Board of Director, President
shah@thompson-inc.com
Mobile (954) 683-9718

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Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates and Info

Please email us at covid19@fleng.org if you have information needs regarding COVID-19, or if there is anything else we can do to help you.

---Your FES/ACEC-FL Staff

- FES COVID-19 Updates
- ACEC Coronavirus Resource Center
  - Includes information related to the CARES Act and other Federal Government actions
- Click here for access to ACEC National's Webinars

Please visit www.fleng.org for more news and information.

Upcoming ACEC-FL Events

ACEC-FL Region 2: Virtual Introduction & Meet and Greet

ACEC-FL Region 2 Members: Join Us for a Virtual Meeting Thursday, August 20th at 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST.

Embracing the trend of virtual meetings, Region 2 will host a virtual meet and greet via Microsoft Teams. Regional leadership will discuss benefits of regional involvement, committees, and PAC structure.

A link for the meeting will be sent to registrants on Wednesday, August 19th.

Click HERE to Register Online Now!

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ACEC-FL Region 7: Virtual Introduction & Meet and Greet

ACEC-FL Region 7 Members: Join Us for a Virtual Meeting Thursday, August 25th at 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM EST.

Embracing the trend of virtual meetings, Region 7 will host a virtual meet and greet via Microsoft Teams. Regional leadership will discuss benefits of regional involvement, committees, and PAC structure. Register online now by clicking the link below!

A link for the meeting will be sent to registrants on Wednesday, August 24th.

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2020 Annual Conference Webinar Series  
8 Part Webinar Series

Click Here to View the Sessions & Register!

Webinar 4: Developing a Smart City Masterplan and Roadmap for the City of Orlando  
- Thursday, August 20th at 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Webinar 5: Winning with Impact: How to Standout in the Workplace, Marketplace, and Recruiting Space  
- Wednesday, August 26th at 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Webinar 6: 3D Bridge Modeling - Case Study  
- Wednesday, September 2nd at 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Legislative News

Notice of Development of Rulemaking - Rule No.: 61G15-19.004

Department: Department of Business and Professional Regulation  
Division: Board of Professional Engineers  
Purpose: The purpose of the amendment is to update the rule text.

Read the Full Amendment to Rule No.: 61G15-19.004 Here.

ACTION ALERT:  
Urgent Senate action needed on infrastructure

ACEC member action is requested to engage Senators to act on major infrastructure legislation in July to support the nation’s economic recovery.

Click Here to Contact Your Senators

Now that the House has approved a comprehensive infrastructure funding package, ACEC and other industry stakeholders are launching a joint effort to push the Senate to act on companion legislation. The centerpiece of the agenda in the Senate is bipartisan legislation to reauthorize and expand the nation’s surface transportation programs, with the FAST Act set to expire in September. Other infrastructure initiatives on water, broadband, and additional sectors may be included as well.
ACEC is also seeking fiscal relief for state and local governments hard hit by pandemic response actions. This includes immediate funding to state departments of transportation and transit agencies whose revenues have declined precipitously. This funding backstop will preserve critical services and keep projects from being cancelled or delayed.

This two-part agenda will kickstart a long-term economic recovery, but time is of the essence. Please urge your senators to work with Senate leaders to move these bills now.

**ACEC’s R3 Agenda – Rescue, Recover & Rebuild**

**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**

**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.

**Other News from ACEC-FL**

**Blight! Camera! Action!**

Let's move to get moving!

This summer, bring attention to our roads & bridges, dams, ports, wastewater and energy needs with the “ACEC/PAC Walk for Infrastructure”.

**Sign Up for the Walk for Infrastructure Here!**

Need a fix in your neighborhood? Send us your best shot of infrastructure that's inferior. While Congress debates the transportation bill that expires in September, we're
debuting a photo contest and walk-a-thon in support of ACEC/PAC. No travel, no big groups, just walk in your area and show us the best reasons to get a fully funded bill, while supporting candidates who get our agenda.

Want to sponsor a group at your firm? You can do that! Email pac@acec.org to set up your team!

ACEC/PAC is YOUR voice in Washington--let's get louder! #ACECPACWALK

Partnership and sole proprietorship checks are permitted; however, federal law prohibits corporate checks and corporate credit cards. Contributions or gifts to ACEC/PAC are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Contributions will be screened and those from outside the restricted class (non-members) and those from individuals who have not given prior approval may be returned. Contributions are voluntary and amounts included herein are merely suggestions. An individual is free to contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest, but may not contribute more than $5,000 per calendar year. Federal law requires that our committee report the full name, address, occupation and company name of each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of $200 in a calendar year.

Click Here for Official Rules and Instructions

Engineering, Inc. Spring 2020 Issue

Download "Engineering Inc." Here

Engineering Inc. can be e-mailed to all ACEC Member Firm employees free. Just click here to enter your contact information. If you think a colleague would be interested in receiving the digital version, please forward this e-mail to them so they can fill out the online form.

Don't Miss Out on Another RFP or RFQ Again!

Sign up for the Florida Register Today to Get Weekly RFPs and RFQs in Your Inbox!

The Florida Register is a weekly email that includes public announcements from every region of Florida.

Our search covers ALL engineering disciplines as well as design-build projects
The Florida Engineering Society offers Newsletter Banner Advertising!

Place a banner ad in the FES EngiNews today and reach over 3,300 decision-makers, including professional engineers, project managers, government engineers, and policy-makers. Or advertise in the ACEC-FL Update, and maximize your company’s exposure by reaching over 350 engineering firms representing over 19,000 full-time employees!

Choose from a top, middle, or bottom-page banner ad, and the number of months to best fit your needs and budget. Click the button to explore the different banner advertising options.

Secure Your Banner Ad Spot Today!

Call for Volunteers who Focus on Whole-Building Engineering Design

Our Structural Engineering Committee is currently being re-aligned to focus on whole-building engineering design as the Vertical Support Committee. We are currently soliciting committee members from all firms that practice structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire protection and other engineering specifically related to buildings.

In addition to the issues that affect all Florida engineering companies that ACEC-FL monitors, we expect that the Vertical Support committee with specific focus on issues surrounding the Florida Building Code, local Florida permitting agencies, and interface with other building specific trade organizations such as the AIA and AGC. Typically, this committee meets by phone once a quarter, and meetings usually don’t last more than an hour.

If you or a member of your firm is interested in joining this committee, please contact shobbs@fleng.org.

Call for Action - Support of M-CORES (Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance)

Connecting Florida is a coalition focused on infrastructure needs for Florida’s future, which includes connecting rural communities to the world commerce and our world-class destinations to tourists, providing efficient interstate and intrastate commerce and safe evacuation routes, while protecting and enhancing our precious natural resources.
Connecting Florida supports the creation of multi-use corridors of regional economic significance and the mission to prioritize critical infrastructure enhancements and other connectivity services for the benefit of the State of Florida and all Floridians.

Click here to read the July Quarterly Connection 2020 edition of FBPE’s newsletter.

**Hires, Promotions, Awards, & Other Firm Member News**

**FINLEY Hires Alejandra Duarte, EIT as a Bridge Designer**

Bridge Design and Construction Engineering firm, Finley Engineering Group (FINLEY) is proud to welcome Alejandra Duarte, EIT, as a Bridge Designer to its' expanding bridge design and construction engineering firm.

Alejandra obtained her BA in Civil Engineering and her ME in Structural Engineering from the University of Florida, and joined the FINLEY team as an Engineering Intern in March of 2020. Alejandra brings to FINLEY a background in bridge design and engineering from both her coursework at University of Florida, as well an internship with where she received training in Bridge Development Reports, calculation books, plans, and cost estimation and design.

As a Research Assistant at University of Florida, Alejandra assisted in the development and validations of several modeling software, including the bridge FEA software, FB-MultiPier. She also gained experience in development and revision of technical documentation for a geotechnical program and served as a Teaching Assistant for one year in Mechanics of Engineering Structures.

"I had a wonderful experience during my time as an intern with FINLEY, and I am excited to stay on as a full-time Engineer In Training. I really look forward to building my knowledge of innovative practices in bridge design and construction engineering," said Alejandra.

Alejandra will be working as a Bridge Design Engineer for the SR25/Okeechobee Road Interchange Improvement Project in Miami, Florida, the I-95/I-595 Expansion in Ft. Lauderdale, and the Lynnwood Link Extension in Seattle, Washington.

"Alejandra did a great job on our Lynnwood Project (cast-in-place, segmentally constructed box girder bridge) in Washington during her internship this summer," said Craig Finley, P.E., President, FINLEY. "We're very happy she is now part of Team FINLEY and one of our best and brightest Bridge Designers."

**FINLEY Hires Claus Frederiksen, P.E., as Senior Bridge Engineer**

Bridge Design and Construction Engineering firm, FINLEY Engineering Group (FINLEY) is proud to welcome Claus Frederiksen. P.E., as a Senior Bridge Engineer to its' growing bridge design and construction engineering firm.

Claus brings 26 years of innovative engineering experience, particularly in bridge design and construction engineering. He has an extensive background in working with bridges as a designer, project manager, and construction engineer. Claus holds a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, as well as an Masters in Civil Engineering from the University of Canterbury where he concentrated his training in Earthquake Engineering.
Claus has as skill set which enables him to perform a full spectrum of engineering activities including project management, conceptual design, cost estimating, detailed design, fabrication supervision, field supervision, and structural inspection. He possesses a solid technical background and his extensive field experience has resulted in the delivery of innovative, cost-effective, safe and practical solutions under challenging timelines. Claus’ areas of specialty include Bridge Structural and Seismic Analysis and Design, Bridge Erection Engineering, Accelerated Bridge Construction, Concept and Proposal Development, Cost Estimating and Scheduling, Structural Steel Design and Fabrication, Construction Shoring Systems, and Project Management.

“I am thrilled to join the FINLEY team, where I can bring my expertise and skills in bridge design and construction engineering. FINLEY is a great fit for my background and for continuing to build on my experience in innovative practices," said Claus.

Claus will be working as a Lead Bridge Designer and Project Manager, helping to oversee significant projects both nationally and internationally. He will lend his design expertise to many of FINLEY’s ongoing and upcoming project, and will serve as a leader for FINLEY’s team of bridge designers and construction engineers.

“Claus’ background and experience fits very nicely with FINLEY's expertise," said Craig Finley, P.E., President, FINLEY. “We're looking for big things from Claus and know he'll make Team FINLEY stronger!”

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Menger joins Hanson’s Orlando Regional Office

Eric Menger, business development and sales manager, recently joined Hanson Professional Services Inc.’s Orlando regional office. He will be a client liaison for Hanson and develop aviation business in Florida, the Southeast and international markets.

Prior to joining Hanson, Menger was the executive airport director for 24 years at Vero Beach Regional Airport, an award-winning, commercial aviation facility in Vero Beach. He was chairman of the Florida Airports Council’s board of directors and received the Florida Department of Transportation’s Aviation Professional of the Year award in 2003.

Menger received a bachelor’s degree in physical science and general engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy. He served as a naval aviator in the U.S. Navy and Naval Air Reserve, achieving the rank of captain. He has over 2,500 flight hours in several military and civilian aircraft and holds a commercial pilot license.

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Big things continue to happen at Pevida Highway Designers (PHD)!

Adding more staff, summer interns and being recognized as Florida Trend’s 2020 Best Companies to Work For in Florida!

PHD keeps growing! We are excited to have added two more talented engineers to our growing structures group. Mr. Antoine Gergess, PE has joined PHD as a Senior Structural Engineer. Antoine has over 30 years of experience in design and construction of major bridge projects around the world. Antoine specializes in a wide range of highway and mass transit bridge systems, including short span, medium span and long span steel and concrete bridges, and segmental and state-of-the-art cable stayed bridges. We have also added Mr. Aneuris Hernandez, EI as a Structural Engineer Intern. Aneuris has over 14 years of structural experience including bridge replacements and widenings in both conventional and Design-Build projects. He also specializes in All-Electronic Toll Facilities and working with the Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise. Joining our Orlando Roadway team is Mr. Richard Guerra, who join us as a Highway Engineering Technician. Richard hails from the University of Central Florida (UCF), where he majored in Civil Engineering, with a focus on Transportation and Geotechnical Engineering. We are excited to see what the future holds.

As mentoring is a key goal for PHD, it was a natural step to hire college and high school summer interns in all our offices. Ms. Miranda Simoneaux from the University of Central Florida (UCF) joins our Orlando Roadway team. Ms. Celia Kornegay, from the Georgia Institute of Technology joins our West Palm Beach Roadway team. In Doral, Mr. Dorian Padron from Florida State University joins our Accounting team, Ms. Giselle Boucle, who will be attending Belmont University, joins our Marketing team and Mr. Aidan Pevida from Belen Jesuit Preparatory School joins our Structures team.

Being recognized as Florida Trend’s 2020 Best Companies to Work For in Florida - Best Small
Companies is an absolute honor! This award is very important to us being that it reflects our company culture and what we stand for. We understand that our PHDers are our most important asset and we’re committed to keeping them a priority. We would like to thank all our PHDers.

ACEC National Report

Announcing: ACEC/PAC Summer and Fall Sweepstakes!

Click on each image to download the submission forms for your chance to win big!

2020 Summer Sweepstakes

- **Grand Prize**: $1000
- **1st Prize**: $500
- **2nd Prize**: $250
- **3rd Prize (4)**: $100

**$25/Ticket**

Drawing to be held Tuesday, September 8, 2020 in Washington, D.C. Limit 40 tickets/person. You do not need to be present to win. Last day to enter: September 4, 2020.

2020 Fall Sweepstakes

Enter to win one of 15 prizes at the ACEC Fall Conference in San Diego, Calif. October 28-31

Drawing at the PAC Breakfast October 30 at 8 AM

You don’t need to be present to win!

**Grand Prize**: $10,000

**Two 1st Prizes**: $5,000

**Two 2nd Prizes**: $2,500

**Ten 3rd Prizes**: $1,000

**$200/Ticket**

Only 1500 tickets available limit 5/person

FES / ACEC-FL / ACEC Political Advocacy

As engineers, it is important that we engage in the political process. The rules are made by those who show up and get involved. Without involvement, the rule making process is left to those who may not completely understand or care about the issues of our profession. As such, there would be a risk that not only our profession would be harmed but ultimately the public for whom we serve. In addition to your
personal individual activity, there are several ways that we can collectively support this process. Outlined below are four such opportunities. We ask that you take the time to invest in your future and your profession and get involved!

**Florida Engineering Political Action Committee (FEPAC)** is a political action committee that solicits voluntary contributions from ACEC-FL member firms or individual FES members interested in effective engineering legislation. Funds raised are used to research, select and support the election of state candidates who are supportive of engineering concerns and to initiate or defend against legislation that affects the engineering profession. One FEPAC contribution check is presented to the candidate by an ACEC-FL or FES Representative.

**Consulting Engineers Legislative Council (CELC)** was created to provide targeted pro-engineering legislative candidates with special funding to assist in their efforts to run a successful campaign. CELC members pledge contributions totaling $1,000 annually to pro-engineering state candidates located throughout Florida. Contribution checks are made payable directly to the candidate and mailed to CELC. These checks are then presented to the candidate by a ACEC-FL Representative on the contributor’s behalf.

**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 [Dave Bender](mailto:Dave.Bender@acec.org), Vice President, Political Affairs or [Jennifer Pugh](mailto:Jennifer.Pugh@acec.org), Political Director, or log on to visit the [ACEC/PAC site here](https://www.acec.org).*
August

20
ACEC-FL Region 2: Virtual Introduction & Meet and Greet
   • 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

20
Webinar 4: Developing a Smart City Masterplan and Roadmap for the City of Orlando
   • 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

25
ACEC-FL Region 7: Virtual Introduction & Meet and Greet
   • 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

26
Webinar 5: Winning with Impact: How to Stand Out in the Workplace, Marketplace, and Recruiting Space
   • 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

September

2
Webinar 6: 3D Bridge Modeling - Case Study
   • 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

For full details on upcoming FES / ACEC-FL events, please see our calendar of events:

Calendar of Events

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

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

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Stay informed about all FES and ACEC-FL related news by following us on: