

ACEC Tennessee

American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee

FEBRUARY 2017

AE BOARD PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO COMMON ETHICAL ISSUES



Richard Bursi, PE
President and CEO
OGCB, Inc.

In the December, 2016 ACEC newsletter, Kathy Ware wrote an excellent article about her first impressions upon being named a Member to the

Architects and Engineers Board of Examiners. As I read her article, I thought about my own experience since joining the Board in 2012 as the West Tennessee Associate Engineer Member. Below is a list that sticks out in my mind of what I have learned.

Health - Safety - Welfare. Health-Safety-Welfare (HSW) is the compass that guides our Board. All issues that come before the board are discussed looking at many viewpoints, but each discussion always returns to the base question: "But how does this issue affect the HSW of the people of Tennessee?" This is the litmus test by which each issue is judged.

Know the Laws and Rules. Since joining the Board, I have spent more time reading our laws and rules. Now I realize how much I didn't know before. Engineers are pressed for time, but it is our obligation to know the laws and rules. We can't operate within the law if we don't know it.

Enforcement is a challenge. Many violations are reported by building code authorities. We owe much gratitude to these officials who operate as our safety net to protect our HSW. However, we can't solely depend on these officials. All registrants must report violations as we become aware of them. Reporting violations gets back to knowing the laws and rules so we recognize when violations are happening.

Issues That Frequent the Board Agenda:

#1 *The professional sealing the documents must be in responsible charge.* All registrants need to refer often to the description in the rules of what constitutes being in responsible charge (see "Rule 0120-02-.08 Seals"). It is more than simply checking work done by others.

#2 *Sealing documents outside of a registrant's area of expertise in an attempt to "help" an owner client.* Many cases that come before

the Board are new church building projects where one registrant has stamped the sheets of all trades. In these cases, the design standard of care for most of the trades is often below par. It appears that the registrant is trying to get the church through the permitting process while saving the church the cost of design fees, and leaving it up to the contractor to build something that works. While the registrant may have good intentions, this process is not in the best interest of the church, not to mention the potential negative impact on the public's HSW. There is much data available to support the argument that proper design saves money overall. Besides avoiding chronic building problems that are difficult to change once in place, it is a liability for an owner, both during construction and for the life of the building, to build a building that doesn't meet current construction codes. Liability insurers can provide many stories that illustrate how skipping the design process costs owners much more than the cost of proper design services.

#3 *Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) requirement for public projects.* Much has been written about this topic in recent newsletters that has helped increase our understanding of QBS and our state laws. Worth mentioning again is why data shows that an owner is better off financially by selecting the most qualified design professional for a project. The total cost of a construction project is the sum of the initial construction cost plus maintenance, utility, and operating costs for the life of the structure. The design fee is typically a small fraction of this total cost. The difference between the design fees of the most qualified designer versus another designer is just a portion of this small percentage. The best design that results in the best operation for a building owner over the years will typically save substantially more money than any fee difference. Selecting the most qualified design professional for each specific project is protecting the HSW of the public who will own or use the structure.

These are highlights of a long list of issues that the Board has considered in the past few years. I also have a deeper understanding of the significant benefit that registered design professionals provide to the people of our state through their hard work.

ACEC TENNESSEE PARTNERS

These companies provide Tennessee engineering firms with products and services and support the activities of ACEC Tennessee through participation in the Partners Program. Additional information about these Partner Program participants is available at www.acectn.org

Crow Friedman Group,
a Risk Strategies Company

L&R

Formerly, Lellyett & Rogers

Jacobs Technology

ACEC Life/Health Insurance Trust

AE Guidance, LLC

C*Connect

Crom Corporation

Forterra Pipe & Precast
Formerly, Sherman Dixie Concrete Industries

Info Tech, Inc.

Lewis, Thomason, King, Kreig & Waldrop

Ryan Search & Consulting

Smith Cashion & Orr, PLC

Tennessee Concrete Association

TRTH Consulting

United Structural Systems, Inc.

FEBRUARY
19 - 25

Engineers' Week

MARCH
7

Engineers' Day on
the Hill

MARCH
7

Engineering Excellence
Awards Gala
Franklin Marriott Cool Springs

MARCH
9

ACEC TN Board Meeting,
Franklin Marriott Cool Springs

APRIL
23 - 26

ACEC National Convention
& Legislative Summit
Washington, DC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Amy Spann, PE
EnSafe, Inc.
Nashville

President-Elect
Charlie Smith, PE
Barge Waggoner Sumner &
Cannon, Inc., Nashville

First Vice President
Logan Meeks, PE
A2H, Inc., Memphis

Second Vice President
Tim Verner, PE
Fisher & Arnold, Inc., Memphis

Secretary
Danl Hall, PE
Vaughn & Melton Consulting
Engineers, Inc., Knoxville

Treasurer
Elizabeth Surface, PE
Ross Bryan Associates, Nashville

Past President
John Kenny, PE
Facility Systems Consultants, LLC,
Knoxville

National Director to ACEC
Steve Field, PE
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.,
Nashville

Director at Large
Mickey Sullivan, PE
Gresham, Smith and Partners, Nashville

East Tennessee Chapter President
Liz Porter, PG
S&ME, Inc., Knoxville

Memphis Chapter President
Diane Vesely, PE
Buchart Horn, Inc., Memphis

Nashville Chapter President
Kenny Diehl, PE
Smith Sechman Reid, Inc., Nashville

Southeast Tennessee Chapter
President
Russell Moorehead, PE
Barge Waggoner Sumner &
Cannon, Inc., Chattanooga

ACEC STAFF

Kasey Anderson, CAE
Executive Director

Judy Logue
Manager of Member Services

2017 EEA PROJECT ENTRIES (BY REGION)

East Tennessee

3rd and 4th Street Improvements Project Masterplan, Chattanooga, TN, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff
The Knox Student Housing, Knoxville, TN, Cannon & Cannon, Inc.

Knox Co. Strategic Transportation Safety Plan, Knoxville, TN, CDM Smith

Lake Road Distribution Topo, Cleveland, TN, Power Consulting Associates, LLC

Suttree Landing Park, Knoxville, TN, Cannon & Cannon, Inc.

TDOT Diverging Diamond Interchange at SR-66: Exit 407, Knoxville, TN, Gresham, Smith & Partners

Tennessee Riverwalk, Chattanooga, TN, Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc.

University of Tennessee Knoxville – Facilities Systems, Knoxville, TN, Ross Bryan Associates, Inc.

West Prong Stream Bank Restoration, Pigeon Forge, TN, S&ME, Inc.

Wilcox Boulevard Tunnel Modifications, Chattanooga, TN, Volkert, Inc.

Middle Tennessee

1100 Charlotte, Nashville, TN, TTL, Inc.

11th Avenue Complete Street, Nashville, TN, RPM Transportation Consultants, LLC

Chemical Feed Upgrades and Miscellaneous Plant Improvements, Nashville, TN, Gresham, Smith and Partners

Lawrenceburg West Bypass (US 64/SR 15), Lawrenceburg, TN, HMB Professional Engineers, Inc.

Nashville International Airport Geothermal System, Nashville, TN, Garver

Renovation of the Historic George Reyer Pump Station and Omohundro Boiler House, Nashville, TN, K. S. Ware & Associates, LLC

Sligo Bridge Erection, Smithville, TN, Alfred Benesch & Company

SR-25 ABC in a Rural Environment, Gallatin, TN, Gresham, Smith and Partners

TVA Gallatin Environmental Integrity Program, Gallatin, TN, AECOM

Water Treatment Plant Disinfection Improvements, Nashville, TN, Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.

West Tennessee

Main St. to Main St. Multimodal Connector Project, Memphis, TN, Allen & Hoshall, Inc.

Memphis Land Bank Uptown, Memphis, TN, EnSafe Inc.

Memphis WWTFs: Innovative Disinfection Evaluation, Memphis, TN, CDM Smith

Memphis Zoo Zambezi River Hippo Camp Exhibit, Memphis, TN, A2H, Inc.

University of Memphis RR Pedestrian Crossing, Memphis, TN, Allen & Hoshall, Inc.

Statewide

TDOT's 25-Year Long-Range Transportation Plan, Across Tennessee, RPM Transportation Consultants, LLC

Out of State

Bronson Field PFC Investigation, Pensacola, FL, EnSafe Inc.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 EEA SPONSORS!

(as of January 2017)

Platinum

AECOM

Crow Friedman Group,
a Risk Strategies Company

Gold

Garney Construction
L&R Company

Silver

Aerial Innovations of TN, Inc.
Alfred Benesch & Company
Cannon & Cannon, Inc.
I. C. Thomasson Associates, Inc.
TN Road Builders Association
Volkert, Inc.

WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff

Bronze

Cortek Drilling
J.C. Hines & Redi Rock
Brown and Caldwell
Cumberland Valley Constructors
Gresham, Smith and Partners
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
LDA Engineering
Sain Associates
SMPS
Tri State Drilling, LLC
Varallo Public Relations

Do you want to sponsor the EEA
Gala or register to attend
on March 7th?

Follow the link at
<http://acectn.org/engineering-excellence-awards/2017-awards/>
to register now.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE MONTHLY UPDATE



By: Amy Spann, PE
President of ACEC Tennessee

If you travel like I do, then you have at one time or another been in a holding pattern. You board the plane, get buckled in, then you hear there is a delay for some reason and you get to wait. But don't get up from your seat, because once you get cleared, the flight is going and everyone better hold on.

Someone asked me this week what the status of the industry was right now. I said it feels like things had been in a holding pattern – waiting for administration changes, waiting for next legislative session, waiting to hear about proposed transportation funding initiatives, etc. I've heard the same from clients and regulatory agencies as well. Now suddenly here we are and in full swing of the things we seemed to be waiting on just a few weeks ago. Just like waiting on the plane, off we go at full speed in January and February and tackling whatever comes down the pike. We are in an exciting and busy time of year, looking toward new changes, new opportunities, and strengthening our position on key issues, always with the safety, health, and welfare of the public at the core of what we do.

However, ACEC and its members have not been on hold during this time. Committees meet throughout the year working tirelessly to stay tuned to emerging issues facing the industry. From that, we are able to be better positioned now as we move into the next legislative session. We have committees meeting weekly to review bills that may impact - directly or indirectly - the way we do business, pay taxes, procure work, and even license our professionals. We are watching bills closely and are poised to respond when and where needed. There is an electricity in the air and I continue to encourage all members to get involved, read Kasey's legislative updates, watch for alerts, ask questions, and help be the voice of our profession.

An easy way to be involved is attending **Engineers' Day on the Hill on March 7**. Please make plans to attend because this is a great opportunity to get plugged in on the issues, even if you don't know them very well today. It's important to represent your hometown and your business as we present our position on key matters of the state when we have the opportunity to meet with our representatives. See you then!

ENGINEERS' DAY ON THE HILL - MARCH 7 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

The 2017 Engineers' Day on the Hill is fast approaching, and we need as many of you there as possible to make a larger impact on legislators. Last year we had more than 90 engineers show up to make their voice heard; we can easily surpass that number in 2017.

This year's Day on the Hill will start with a Legislative Briefing at 7:00 a.m. at the Doubletree Hotel Downtown. Breakfast will be served. From there we will walk to Legislative Plaza to meet with legislators and attend committee meetings. There will be a briefing on the bills we will be discussing and packets of information to leave with legislators. Your participation is important. Please make plans to attend!

If you need hotel accommodations, a small block of rooms is available Monday night at the Doubletree for \$212. Contact Kasey Anderson (kanderson@tnc.org) for room reservations.

For more information or to RSVP, email Kasey at kanderson@tnc.org or call (615) 242-2486. You can also find a link to register online at <http://acectn.org/category/current-events/>.



SURFACE TO LEAD ROSS BRYAN ASSOCIATES AS NEW PRESIDENT



Elizabeth "Ibba" Surface is the new president of Ross Bryan Associates Inc. and the first woman to lead the 67-year-old Nashville-based structural engineering firm.

Surface takes the reins from Don Yarbrough who has served as the firm's president since 2011. Yarbrough will remain with Ross Bryan Associates as board member and senior principal, providing planning, technical expertise and assistance to staff.

An experienced, licensed engineer, Surface has worked in all service lines of the firm since joining Ross Bryan Associates in 1979 as an engineering intern. She has served on the company's board of directors since 2004.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBER!

ECT Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc.

9111 Cross Park Drive, Ste. D200
Knoxville, TN 37823
Tel: 865-470-4115
Email: gpage@ectinc.com

Principal: Gregory B. Page, PE, Senior Engineer III

Disciplines: Construction Management, Environmental, Hydrology, Planning, and Water/Wastewater

FEBRUARY
2017

INSIDE

- **AE Board Provides Insight into Common Member Ethical Issues**
- **2017 EEA Project Entries**
- **Engineers' Day on the Hill**

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FIND YOUR WHY



By: Kasey Anderson, CAE
Executive Director of ACEC Tennessee
kanderson@t nec.org

In the cycle of life, sometimes it's hard to see the forest for the trees. Most of us find it easy to fall into the day-to-day cycle of our work and life routines. For me, this time of year I tend to be head-down in the legislative process, focused on the many

details of titles, bills, amendments, coalitions, funding, offense, defense, etc. I find myself forgetting the trees are even part of the forest. I'd imagine we all have times we get so caught up in the minutia that we don't take the time we need to breathe, step back, and appreciate the bigger picture that those details define.

The first session of this year's Leadership PE class coincided with the first real working days of the General Assembly. My calendar was packed with appointments and committees that were important to the details of our legislative agenda. It was one of those weeks that there's just not enough time in the day...until you realize that there is. There is always time for the forest...the why. And as the why tends to do, it presents itself right when you need it most.

This year's Leadership PE class is comprised of 26 outstanding young engineers. They each come from different backgrounds, experiences and expertise. I would guess that they all came in expecting to learn about the how of leadership, and Leadership PE offers plenty of that. But as I can attest from going through the class last year, the intentional focus on each individual's why starts from day one. I was with this year's class as their first session began and then met the group for dinner that evening to hear about their day. They raved about Tennessee Chief Learning Officer Trish Holliday, who facilitated

the program. Her energy, enthusiasm and charm clearly made a meaningful impact. And then they spoke with reverence about what they heard from Bob Higgins, CEO of Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon, about his leadership journey. They were excited and already starting to find their own why.

Listening to them was an affirmation that Leadership PE is everything we'd like it to be. But in that very moment, it reminded me that the focus on the minutia at Legislative Plaza is really about impacting the lives of the engineers and firms we serve, and the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Tennessee. I am blessed. The work you do each and every day matters, and I am so fortunate to have the opportunity to work with bright, engaged engineers at every level of their career.

Leadership PE reminds me of my "why," but for some those reminders might come from reading a quick chapter of your favorite motivational book, driving by a project of which you are really proud, or grabbing coffee with an old friend who knows you best. As you trudge through the day-to-day tasks of 2017, I urge you to remember that while the trees are an important part of the picture, the forest is a sight to behold.



Bob Higgins, CEO of Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon, addresses the 2017 Leadership PE class on January 30th.