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Florida
Engineering
Society

BLACKLINES

A Monthly Newsletter for

Members of the Treasure Coast Chapter of the Florida Engineering Society

Volume 19, Issue 12



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



December, 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

David P. Andre, P.E.

*****WARNING: THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE MUST BE READ IN ITS ENTIRETY*****

When my number was called and I was inducted as President of the Treasure Coast Chapter of the Florida Engineering Society for 2004-2005, the reality of my situation finally struck: I am now responsible for preparing a "President's Message" for each month's newsletter. I have never believed myself to be terribly creative, so this seemingly simple task was somewhat daunting. After regaining composure, I formed a plan of attack for preparing 12 informative, enlightening, and entertaining "Presidents Messages". During my strategy planning, I established three simple rules regarding my messages: 1) keep them relatively short and to the point, 2) do not use this column to promote some personal agenda that may not be shared by the rest of the engineering community, and 3) occasionally, attempt to bring to light an issue that could potentially better the profession of engineering. Many could argue that I continually violate rule no. 1. Those same people probably claim that I have failed to achieve rule no. 3. So, in the spirit of consistency, I've decided to unabashedly break rule no. 2. Here it goes.

I personally believe that the advent of email has caused seemingly irreparable damage to the few communication skills that engineers possess. We are, by nature, a very introverted bunch, even when conversing with one another. For many, face-to-face interaction frequently results in an increased pulse rate, reddening of the face and sweaty palms. Even phone calls often put engineers in the immediate (and sometimes uncomfortable) position of providing information, often times contrary to what the listener wants to hear. Email has allowed us, as a nation, to become anonymous. However, many have become what I term "Email Warriors"; these are the people who do not hesitate to send a fiery, accusing or confrontational email, often times turning a sound working relationship into an adversarial situation, or, at best, an uncomfortable relationship with the other party. Email Warriors' messages often include language that he or she would never actually verbalize directly to another individual, either face-to-face or over the telephone. It's almost as if the computer has given them a sense of bravado and boundless security.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not a sentimentalist who longs for the good ole' days without the internet. Every time I listen to play-by-play Gator basketball coverage on the internet, I can't imagine how I ever got along without it. What I'm saying is, like everything else, with the good comes the bad. As engineers, I'd like to think we're smart enough to figure out the pitfalls associated with something as simple as email.

So, the next time you're working on a project with a fellow engineer, don't hesitate to pick up the phone. Or, even better, make arrangements to discuss it over coffee and a bagel. In my case, *call* me for wings and beer.

Calendar of Events for Upcoming Months



January 13	Building Code Structural, Tampa
January 20	Project Management, Orlando
January 21	Ethics and the Law, Orlando
January 21	Chapter Meeting Legislative Forum, joint meeting with Palm Beach Chapter
January 22	Chapter Fund Raiser Skeet Shoot, Okeechobee
January 24-25	Stormwater Management Designer's Course, 2 nd Edition Orlando Marriot, Lake Mary
February 1-3	Work Zone Traffic Control, Palm Beach
February 3	Florida Building Code, Palm Beach
February 12	Martin County Regional Science Fair
February 17	Project Management, Miami
February 17	Site Permitting in the Orlando Area, Orlando
February 25	Treasure Coast Chapter E-Week Banquet
February 28	PE LICENSES EXPIRE **DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR LICENSE**

January Meeting at a Glance...

What: 2005 Joint Legislative Forum with PBC Planning Congress, FAPA, and ASCE

Where: Embassy Suites, PGA Boulevard

When: January 21, 2005, 7:00 am

Cost: Free to FES Members

RSVP: dandre@ardaman.com

2005 JOINT LEGISLATIVE FORUM WITH PBC PLANNING CONGRESS, FAPA AND ASCE

Our annual Legislative Forum Breakfast is scheduled for Friday, January 21, 2005. It will be held at the Embassy Suites on PGA Blvd. Once again, we will be joining forces with the Palm Beach County Planning Congress and the Treasure Coast Section of FAPA, as well as the Palm Beach Chapter of FES, and the Palm Beach Section of ASCE, among others.

Registration will begin at 7:00 a.m., with a buffet breakfast at 7:30 a.m., followed by a panel discussion with the Legislators and Q&A from the audience. Please mark your calendars now! The event is free to FES members... but RSVP's are required. Call David Andre at 772-878-0072 or dandre@ardaman.com to reserve your seat.

For additional information or to become an event sponsor, please contact Angelina Fairchild @ (561) 840-0249.

2005 MARTIN COUNTY REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

JUDGES NEEDED

The organizers of this year's Martin County Regional Science Fair are looking for judges in the sciences and engineering fields. The fair serves students from Martin County in grades 3-12, so a wide range of judges are needed. The fair takes place on Saturday, Feb 12, 2005 at the Treasure Coast Square Mall (located on US1 in Jensen Beach). Judges would need to arrive by 8:00AM, and they are finished by early afternoon. The best middle and high school projects will continue on to the Florida State Science Fair, with possible advancement to the Discovery Young Scientist Challenge (Middle School) and the International Science & Engineering Fair (High School).

Anyone interested in judging can register online at www.ladystuart.com/sciencefair/main.htm. For more information, please contact Richard Soviero at rsoviero@adelphia.net.

SPONSORS NEEDED!

The Martin County Regional Science Fair also would also greatly appreciate any corporate sponsorships. Thanks for any help that you can provide!

To become a sponsor, please contact the Martin County Regional Science Fair Director, Ms. Linda Stitely at stitell@martin.k12.fl.us.

CHAPTER MATHCOUNTS FUND RAISER

What: 2nd Annual FES Skeet Shoot

When: Saturday, January 22, 2005

Cost: \$20/person, includes clays and lunch

Where: Okeechobee, directions to follow

Marcos Montes de Oca has once again offered the use of his wife Melissa's family ranch for a fun day of skeet shooting. A great time was had by all last year, and the event was very successful in raising much needed funds for our annual MathCounts competition. Please join the Treasure Coast Chapter in this fun and important fund raising event. Contact David Andre at dandre@ardaman.com or Marcos Montes de Oca at marcos-m@lbfh.com to RSVP.

Are you getting back for giving back to FES?

This year reward yourself with FREE incentive prizes from FES. Each time you give back to FES through a new member sponsorship, you will receive a prize. Prizes vary from FES Bucks (to use like cash at FES events), to free membership dues at the state and national level, to a top prize of a two night stay at the Marco Island Marriott. A complete list of membership incentive prizes is available at www.fleng.org along with FES membership application. For additional information about sponsoring new members, contact Kate Robinson, Director of Membership Recruitment at 850-224-7121 or krobinson@fleng.org.

FELLOW NOMINATIONS

If you or an engineer in the Treasure Coast Chapter that you know meet the following criteria, that person is eligible for the status of FES Fellow. Please contact David Andre at dandre@ardaman.com or 772-878-0072 to nominate someone for consideration.

BASIC CRITERIA

1. FES Charter Article IV. Section 2.a ..."A Fellow Member shall be a professional engineer of recognized high character who has distinguished engineering, and/or scientific attainments and who shall be elected Fellow only by unanimous vote of the Board."
2. Candidate shall:
 - A. Have been practicing the profession of engineering for 20 years.
 - B. Have been a member of FES for 10 years, or a member of NSPE for 15 years with at least five years of service in FES.
 - C. Be a Professional Engineer member of FES.
 - D. Have a conspicuous record of achievement in professional affairs, including substantial interest and active work in FES at the state, chapter, or national level.
3. Candidate's professional integrity shall be beyond question.
4. Candidate's professional reputation shall be more than local in character.
5. Candidate shall have consistently worked for the professional and technical interest of the engineering profession.
6. Candidate shall have been active in carrying out his civic, community, and public responsibilities.
7. The Board shall endeavor to limit the Fellow members to no more than 5% of the corporate membership.

Please help the Elliot Museum

The Elliot Museum has suffered structural damages as a result of the two hurricanes.

In case you are not familiar with the Elliott Museum, it was founded in 1960 by Harmon Elliott in memory of his father Sterling Elliott, a turn-of-the-century inventor who embodied the spirit of Yankee ingenuity. Created to showcase the inventive genius of the senior Elliott, and to preserve a slice of American history for future generations, the Elliott Museum is a tribute to the early American spirit. Its collections offer an intimate portrait of life at the turn of the century and represent a unique glimpse of the tools, toys and everyday life of our forefathers.

The museum is owned and operated by the Historical Society of Martin County, a not-for-profit organization. The Historical Society was organized in 1955 by the Soroptimist Club to foster the preservation of the cultural heritage of Martin County.

Of special need are structural engineers. Anyone who is interested in helping out with repairs to this wonderful facility should contact Robin Hicks-Connors, Executive Director of the Historical Society, at 825 NE Ocean Blvd., Stuart, FL 34996 Phone: (772) 225-1961 X109, Fax: (772) 225-2333

DON'T LET YOUR PE LICENSE EXPIRE

PE License Renewal Requirements

In order to renew their PE licenses, Professional Engineers in Florida must earn a total of 8 PDHs during each renewal cycle. The current renewal cycle ends February 28, 2005.

Course Categories

4 PDHs of continuing education credit are required in each of two categories.

1. The Laws and Rules that govern the practice of engineering in Florida. (61G15 – Florida Administrative Code Chapter 471 of the Florida Statutes)
2. Area(s) of Technical Practice

What is a PDH?

1 PDH = 50 minutes in the classroom

The Florida Engineering Society's

On-Line Laws and Rules Course

FES Members \$99 / Non-members \$149

4 PDH's in the area of Laws and Rules

This course can be accessed at:

http://www.fleng.org/tests.cfm?c_id=1

Course Overview

This course covers Chapter 471, Florida State Statutes (Engineers Registration Law), and Chapter 61G15, Florida Administrative Code (Rules of the Florida Board of Professional Engineers). By completing this course, you will meet your licensure renewal requirement of four Professional Development Hours in the Laws and Rules.

It is estimated that an individual will spend approximately three hours reading and reviewing the Laws and Rules in preparation for the test and one hour completing the test. Total course time: four hours.

Continuing Education Made Easy

Did you know you can meet your 8 hours of continuing education credit from the convenience of your home or office? FES offers on-line and correspondence courses to help ease the renewal process. Courses available on-line and through correspondence include the laws and rules and project management. Laws and rules course meets the 4 hours of laws and rules credit. The project management course meets the 4 hours of technical credit need to renew your licensure. Courses are offered at the low rate of \$99 each for members. Take advantage of this offer today. The FBPE renewal deadline is February 28, 2005. Register for seminars at www.fleng.org.

The Florida Engineering Society's

Project Management Course

FES Members \$125 / Non-members \$225

4 PDH's of Technical Credit

This course can be accessed at:

http://www.fleng.org/tests.cfm?c_id=2

Course Overview

Project Management involves a broad and diverse range of functional duties and responsibilities that require a comprehensive array of knowledge, skills and competencies. The purpose of this course is to present selected "Best practices" that can be practically applied to foundational PM activities common to virtually all projects. By applying these "best PM practices" you can improve your personal performance and enhance the probability of achieving successful project outcomes.

It is estimated that an individual will spend approximately three hours reading and reviewing the Project Management manual in preparation for the test and one hour completing the test. Total course time: four hours.

E-WEEK 2005 -- February 20-26, 2005

Mark Your Calendars!

Get ready for this year's E-Week Celebration!

This year's E-Week will include our annual E-Week Dinner and Awards Banquet with guest speaker Lucille Murrough. Ms. Murrough is a local historian with special interest in Native American Indians who used to occupy the Treasure Coast Area. The banquet will be held **February 25th**. Place and time to be determined.

In addition, we will have our annual E-Week project. More details to come!

FES COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES

WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS for many State Committees. Below is a list of the committees that are available, with a brief explanation of the duties. For further details on a specific committee, please see the Florida Engineering Society website. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these committees, please contact David Andre at 772-878-0072 or dandre@ardaman.com.

Energy Committee

Study and make recommendations to the Commission on Legislative and Government Relations of the Florida Engineering Society with respect to energy matters affecting the public and the profession. Prepare studies and make recommendations to the Commission on energy policies or positions that would be appropriate for the Society to adopt and promote. Monitor the activities of the Public Service Commission and other state agencies or legislative groups with an energy interest to insure that sound engineering knowledge and practice are employed in protecting the public's interest and in making regulations that will impact on the public. Coordinate with the National Society of Professional Engineers in its energy-related activities and represent the Florida viewpoint in their deliberations when appropriate.

Communications Advisory Committee

The objectives of this committee shall be to focus on opportunities for FES to improve its internal and external public relations efforts through effective use of communications. Review past and current issues of the JOURNAL of the Florida Engineering Society. Provide comments and suggestions on past and current issues. Recommend topics of interest. Write occasional articles in their areas of interest.

Charter and Bylaws Committee

Maintain a continuing study of the Society's Charter and Bylaws and make recommendations to the Board for revisions. Review proposed amendments to the Charter and Bylaws and make recommendations to the Board on the manner in which they shall be incorporated in the wordage of the Charter and Bylaws. Serve in an advisory capacity in interpreting the provisions of the Charter and Bylaws. Review and make recommendations to the Board on all new Chapter Charters and Bylaws and all proposed amendments thereto. Review and make recommendations to the Board with respect to the maintenance of a model Chapter Charter and Bylaws.

Constructed Environment Committee

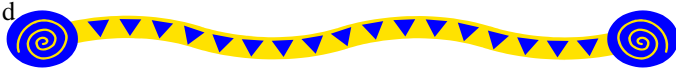
Study and make recommendations to the Board with respect to matters relating to the constructed environment. In that regard, the committee shall prepare studies and make recommendations to the commission on legislation, administrative rules, or governmental policies on matters relating to the constructed environment that would be appropriate for the Society to adopt and promote. The committee shall establish liaison with the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects, the Florida Home Builders Association, and other such professional societies, trade associations, or technical societies on issues of common interest. The committee may sponsor educational workshops or seminars for members of the Society, the profession, and the industry to discuss and develop laws, regulations, and procedures which will protect the public interest and allow maximum professional creativity.

Annual Meeting Steering Committee

Review hotel proposals for the annual meeting and recommend a site to the Board of Directors. Approve a theme which is topical and of interest to the entire profession, and which shall convey the major emphasis of the meeting to the membership and the public. Approve a meeting budget. Approve the program format and advise staff on potential speakers.

Commission on Legislative & Government

The purpose of the commission is to provide the Florida Engineering Society with maximum participation in and proper coordination of its legislative and government relations program. Responsibilities of the commission include periodic review of the efforts of the committees within the Division of Public Affairs and the development of recommendations to the FES Board as to proposed positions on legislative and government relations issues and priorities for accomplishment.



Quote of the Month

A computer lets you make more mistakes faster than any invention in human history, with the possible exceptions of handguns and tequila.

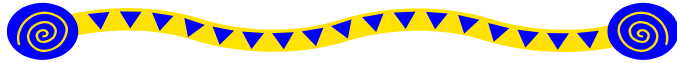


Treasure Coast Chapter Website

<http://old.fleng.org/treasurecoast/index.htm>

Our Chapter's new "Web Master" is Jeremy McBryan, P.E. with PBS&J in West Palm Beach. His help is greatly appreciated. Thank you, Jeremy! Please email any website suggestions to Teri Andre at teri.andre@mscwinc.com.

For Members Only - If you would like a link to your company's web page added to our web site, please e-mail Teri Andre at teri.andre@mscwinc.com or call (772)219-4003.



Classifieds

Did you know that the Treasure Coast Chapter will publish POSITIONS WANTED and HELP WANTED notices for its members at no cost?! Please email your advertisements to Teri Andre at teri.andre@mscwinc.com.

(Sorry, but this offer does not apply to employment agencies working for a fee.)



Questions or Comments?

Newsletter – If you have any questions/comments, or if you would like something included in the monthly publication - please feel free to contact Teri Andre, P.E. at teri.andre@mscwinc.com, or by telephone at (772) 219-4003.

2004 - 2005 Treasure Coast Chapter Board Members

- David Andre, P.E., President (772) 878-0072 dandre@ardaman.com
- Teri Andre, P.E., Vice President (772) 219-4003 teri.andre@mscwinc.com
- Chad Rucks, E.I., Treasurer (863) 763-8999 chad-r@lbfh.com
- Marcos Montes de Oca, E.I., Secretary (863) 763-8999 marcos-m@lbfh.com
- John Donahue, P.E., State Director (772) 461-2450 john-d@lbfh.com
- Lisa Wichser, P.E., Regional Vice President (772) 286-3883 lwichser@martin.fl.us
- Melissa Corbett, P.E., Past-President (772) 781-6408 melissac@ewr1.com



TREASURE COAST CHAPTER
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Affiliated with



NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 8764, PORT ST. LUCIE, FL 34985