

BLACKLINES

*A Monthly Newsletter for
Members of the Treasure Coast Chapter of the Florida Engineering Society*

Volume 18, Issue 7

July, 2004

President's Message

David P. Andre, P.E.

My first newsletter. And it's late. Where does all the time go? We've all heard the age-old adage "there just aren't enough hours in the day". Although we as engineers are fortunate to be practicing our profession in one of the most dynamic and rapidly growing regions in the country, balancing our careers with social and family obligations often seems impossible. Subsequently, we are hard pressed to incorporate yet another obligation into our hectic schedules, such as FES.

Where does the time go? We have to make the time. The Florida Engineering Society is the only organization whose primary function is to safeguard our profession. Whether you are an engineer practicing in the public sector, the consulting field or in industry, you should realize that we live in a state where the engineering community has the loudest voice and strongest membership body of perhaps any State in our nation. Our dedicated network of chapter and region officers coupled with an exceptionally capable FES staff in Tallahassee continually endeavor to make our communities (especially our lawmakers) aware of our presence and desire to preserve the integrity of our profession.

In addition to serving as the "watchdog" for the engineering community, FES provides an equally important opportunity for its members: the opportunity to become involved in the betterment of our local communities. Programs such as MathCounts, Project Lead-the-Way and through the offering of scholarships, we are afforded an opportunity to directly affect the regions in which we live and work. Whether your involvement is by participation in community events, seminars, or chapter and state meetings and committees, your contribution is vital. Of course, participation in these activities brings us back to the original dilemma: "where does all the time go". As engineers, we have an obligation to make the time to assist in making our communities better. That is who we are and what we do. Why is it that the engineering profession continues to rank near the top, year after year, in public polls taken in which the question is asked: "Which profession is the most trustworthy?". Maintaining the public's trust is not without continued effort.

Where does the time go? It's always been right in front of you.

Calendar of Events for Upcoming Months



July 22	Chapter Meeting Officer Induction
July 26-28	2004 FICE TranStat Workshop
August 4	Ethics, Professionalism and the Law
August 5-7	88 th Annual Summer Conference and Exposition
August 7	Florida Engineering Foundation Golf Tournament
August 18-20	Workzone Traffic Control-Tampa
August 19	Chapter Meeting TBA
September 2-3	Parks and Recreation Facilities
September 13-15	Workzone Traffic Control-Orlando
September 21	FICE/FDOT Financial Manager's Workshop
September 27-28	Stormwater Management: Designer's Course
September 16	Chapter Meeting Martin/St. Lucie County Administrators FY05 CIP Update

July Meeting at a Glance...

What: Officer Installation

Where: Christopher's Restaurant

When: Thursday, July 22nd
6:00 pm (cash bar)
7:00 pm (dinner)

Cost: \$25.00

RSVP: dandre@ardaman.com

July Chapter Meeting

FES State Update and 2004-2005 Officer Installation

This month's chapter meeting will be the installation of the Treasure Coast Chapter's 2004-2005 officers. The ceremony will be conducted by Mark Mongeau, P.E., who is this year's incoming FES State President. Mark will also discuss the state of Florida Engineering Society as well as member benefits. Please contact David Andre 772-878-0072 or dandre@ardaman.com to RSVP.



2004 Golf Tournament Summary

Many thanks to all of our generous sponsors and participants in this year's 18th Annual Charity Golf Tournament on June 19th at Eagle Marsh Golf Club. We had a total of 96 golfers participate this year, helping our chapter raise almost **\$5,600**. These proceeds will be used for next year's MathCounts Tournament, Project Lead the Way, and Scholarships. Below is a list of our generous sponsors:

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ST. JAMES GOLF CLUB

SPECIAL THANKS ALSO TO OUR "BEER CART GIRLS": **KATHLEEN DONAHUE AND KIM LYFORD**

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.

Legislative Update

Thursday, July 15, both the **Additional Homestead Tax Exemption** and the **Fairness Initiative Requiring Legislative Determination That Sales Tax Exemptions and Exclusions Serve a Public Purpose** failed to pass Supreme Court review. The Florida Supreme Court ruled that the proposed ballot initiative to double the state's \$25,000 homestead exemption and the sales tax exemption amendment are flawed and cannot be placed on the November ballot. Florida Supreme Court Justices ruled that the language of the proposed homestead exemption amendment is misleading. The Supreme Court review of citizen initiatives involves only two issues: determining whether the amendment is clearly explained and that it deals with just one subject.

Advisory opinions of the high court for each proposed amendment are available online at www.flcourts.org.

AMENDMENT 2: "NO SURPRISES"

The "No Surprises" provision gives voters more time to learn about and understand issues that may have significant implications for Florida citizens. The provision passed through the 2004 legislative session and will be on the ballot for vote in November as amendment two. Currently, signatures gathered through the citizen initiative process are due only 91 days prior to the election, leaving little time for education and discussion surrounding proposed amendments. The "No Surprises" provision changes the signature deadline from 91 days to February 1 of the election year and requires the Supreme Court to review it by April 1.

If "No Surprises" passes:	Current System
There will be nine months of debate and education surrounding a proposed amendment	There are only 91 days of debate and education surrounding a proposed amendment
Supreme Court must issue an advisory opinion by April 1	There is no set deadline for the Supreme Court to issue an advisory opinion
Gives the legislature an intervening session to act on the amendment issue	Legislature does not know the amendment issue in time to act

The "No Surprises" provision will have the following title and summary on the ballot:

No. 2 Constitutional Amendment

Ballot Title: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE

Ballot Summary: Proposing amendments to the State Constitution to require the sponsor of a constitutional amendment proposed by citizen initiative to file the initiative petition with the Secretary of State by February 1 of the year of a general election in order to have the measure submitted to the electors for approval or rejection at the following November's general election, and to require the Florida Supreme Court to render an advisory opinion addressing the validity of an initiative petition by April 1 of the year in which the amendment is to be submitted to the electors.

Continuing Education Opportunities

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.

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.

Parks and Recreation Facilities Planning, Design, and Construction

Thursday, Sept. 02, 2004 - Friday, Sept. 03, 2004
The Westin Ennis Brook Resort, Palm Harbor

until August 25th:

\$299 FES/FICE Members / \$349 FES/FICE Non-Members
4 PDH's of Technical Credit

For more information or to register for this course, click on this link:

http://www.fleng.org/seminars.cfm?event_id=144

This course is for professional engineers, architects, landscape architects, certified land planners, parks and recreation directors, and government employees involved in the development of recreational facilities. Whether you are an experienced park facilities designer or a novice in this specialty area, this course will provide you with a comprehensive approach to the planning and design of recreational facilities as well as update you on new and exciting trends in the industry.

Stormwater Management: A Designer's Course

Orlando Marriott-Lake Mary
September 27-28, 2004

until September 17th:

\$345 FES/FICE Members / \$445 FES/FICE Non-Members
12 PDH's of Technical Credit

For more information or to register for this course, click on this link:

http://www.fleng.org/seminars.cfm?event_id=142

A Two-day Technical Course for Designers of Stormwater Management Systems. Whether you are just beginning in this multidisciplinary field or you are an experienced designer, this course will refresh your knowledge of the critical basics and prepare you select and use strategies to design comprehensive stormwater management systems.

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER 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.

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.

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.

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.

Leadership Advisory Committee

Study and make recommendations to the FES Board of Directors with respect to the organization, management, activities and procedures of chapters, including new chapters and reorganization of existing chapters. Provide guidance, assistance and encouragement to chapter officers and committees in establishing and conducting activities, programs and projects to serve the needs of the chapter members and the public which they serve. Study and make recommendations concerning the most effective means of establishing and maintaining effective communications between the chapter and its members. Review and evaluate the chapter activities reports of the Award for Chapter Excellence (ACE) awards competition.

Conservation & Environmental Quality (CEQ)

Study and make recommendations to the Board with respect to the improvement and preservation of Florida's environment. Establish contact and provide liaison with civic groups and governmental agencies which have a vital interest in or responsibility for conservation and environmental quality. Prepare studies and make recommendations to the Board on policies or positions that would be appropriate for the Society to adopt and promote in the public interest on projects that would appreciably affect the quality of Florida's environment.

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.

Energy Committee

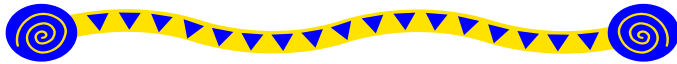
Study and make recommendations to the Commission on Legislative and Government Relations of the Florida Engineering Society with respect to energy matters affecting the public and the profession. Prepare studies and make recommendations to the Commission on energy policies or positions that would be 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.

Professional Concerns Committee

The duties of this committee shall include the following: Study and make recommendations to the commission on legislative or administrative proposals that may affect the practice of the engineering profession. Such issues may include, but are not limited to, proposals involving the registration law for engineering and related professions, the acquisition of professional services, professional liability, remuneration for services, and other similar or related issues.

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.



Quotes of the Month

"Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former."

- Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

"Each problem that I solved became a rule which served afterwards to solve other problems."

- Rene Descartes (1596-1650),
"Discours de la Methode"



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.)

Jensen Beach High School

Project Lead-the-Way

The new Jensen Beach High School is scheduled to open this August. The school will be a science and technology magnet school and will have a pre-engineering program similar to that of Lincoln Park Academy in Fort Pierce. This is an exciting opportunity for our members to get involved in the community. The new High School will be implementing a "Project Lead-the-Way" curriculum and will need volunteers from our local engineering companies to mentor these bright students. For more information or to volunteer for involvement, please contact David Andre at 772-878-0072 or dandre@ardaman.com.



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

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TREASURE COAST CHAPTER
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Affiliated with
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