

Current Issue

News Archives

2015 April

- President Gavarrete Thanks You
- Welcome Our New Officers
- NACE 2015 in Pictures
- Tim Zahn Takes Top Award
- Richie Beyer Recognized
- Duane Ratermann Installed President
- Thank Our Sponsors!
- Wheeler Celebrates 25 Years in NACE
- Monte Goucher Wins Award
- Nadeau to Head FHWA
- HTF Short Term Fix
- Really, Engineers Can Be Fun
- Submit Your Safety Award
- Conference on Pavement Assets

Annual Meeting 2015

Thank You NACE Members and Partners!

By Ramon Gavarrete, PE
Highlands County, Florida



Annual Meeting

As now Immediate Past-President of NACE and Past-President of the Florida Association of County Engineers and Road Superintendents (FACERS), I extend my deepest thanks to all of you who attended our conference April 19-23. It was an interesting and exciting opportunity as this year's conference brought the added benefit of being held in partnership with the Florida Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA). Great job FACERS!

NACE committees were engaged, providing topics for technical sessions. Entries for technical sessions were requested in advance for the first time for a NACE conference. Topics were selected to have something for everyone.

Legislative and Regulatory

Our efforts of working with NACo on issues that impact all of our counties will continue. From Waters of the US to the pending Transportation Bill or reauthorization of MAP-21, NACE members are engaged in discussions with commissioners or like-kind, state and congressional legislators and staff. A recent opportunity was the White House call with County Officials and Transportation Secretary Foxx on March 13. Secretary Foxx shared the White House vision for the country's transportation infrastructure. Streamlining of Federal projects, a priority for NACE, was also front and center.

Thanks to the efforts of our committees, the Executive Committee, staff, and partnerships with organizations like APWA, NACE has leaped forward at a National level on issues, including the EDC LPA Stakeholder Partnering and regulatory burdens. This issue is fairly new and our Legislative Committee has provided input to NACo. NACE has proven our technical and professional value!

Our relationship with NACo is stronger today than ever. And we welcomed NACo President Riki Hokama to our Annual Conference. I encourage you to engage and respond when your input is requested.

Value of NACE

Now, I can look back and reflect on NACE. We connect leaders in our industry, link diverse perspectives, and build lasting relationships to take action in our communities at home and around the nation. The Executive Committee has begun updating NACE's Strategic Plan, which will continue for the next few months. Our goal is to ensure that our future is as strong, or stronger, as our past.

Throughout the years, and especially this year, I have come to appreciate our members' integrity, advanced understanding of Public Works issues, and the fellowship that we all experience. I am grateful that the amended bylaws include the Immediate Past-President as an official member of the Executive Committee. Past-President Mark Servi has been an integral part and provided great insight into the SWOT analysis and corporate membership.

Thanks to Many!

I want to thank my better half, Indy, for putting up with me during this year. There were many days where you remained home while I traveled on NACE business. Many days I was home, but working on county and NACE business—after hours and weekends. Many days when I know my mind was wondering somewhere else and not paying you the attention that you deserve.

My children, Elijah and Natashia, also had to sacrifice some "DAD" time. Although they did get to enjoy some travel while attending the Washington State Association of County Engineers and the Wisconsin County Highway Association meetings. Thank you.

Thanks also to the County Engineers Association of California and the CLODS (California Loyal Order of Dedicated Servants), the Illinois Association of County Engineers, and the Texas Association of County Engineers and Road Administrators for their fellowship and hospitality. I also thank the Iowa County Engineers Association for the invitation to

attend; although I was not able to do so since it coincided with the NACo Transportation & Infrastructure Symposium hosted by NACo President Riki Hokama.

I pledge my unconditional support to President Duane Ratermann from Knox County, Illinois. I look forward to working with you as Immediate Past-President and am ready to assist in your efforts.

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Current Issue

News Archives

2015 April

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- Welcome Our New Officers
- NACE 2015 in Pictures
- Tim Zahn Takes Top Award
- Richie Beyer Recognized
- Duane Ratermann Installed President
- Thank Our Sponsors!
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- Monte Goucher Wins Award
- Nadeau to Head FHWA
- HTF Short Term Fix
- Really, Engineers Can Be Fun
- Submit Your Safety Award
- Conference on Pavement Assets

Annual Meeting 2015

Let's Welcome Our New NACE Officers!

The 2015-2016 NACE Officers were installed on April 22 during the Annual Banquet. Duane Ratermann, PE, became President and Brian Stacy, PE, was elected as President Elect. Brian Keierleber, PE, was elected as Secretary-Treasurer.

Duane said he'll continue to have NACE collaborate with the federal government on enacting safety and cost effective road measures. While doing so, they must rely on the expertise and experience of locals.

NACE Officers 2015-2016



L-R: South Central Region VP Derin Campbell, PE (Boone County, Missouri)

President-Elect Brian Stacy, PE (Pierce County, Washington)

President Duane Ratermann, PE (Knox County, Illinois)

Western Region VP Julie Bueren (Contra Costa County, California)

Secretary/Treasurer Brian Keierleber, PE (Buchanan County, Iowa)

North Central Region VP Chris Isbell, PE (Stephenson County, Illinois)

Southeast Region VP Dennis McCall, PE (Butler County, Alabama)

Northeast Region VP David Brand, PE (Madison County, Ohio)

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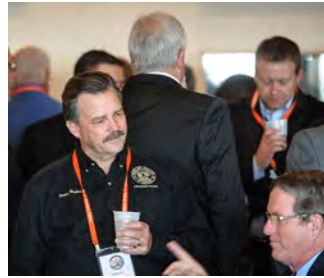
News Archives

2015 April

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- NACE 2015 in Pictures
- Tim Zahn Takes Top Award
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- Duane Ratermann Installed President
- Thank Our Sponsors!
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- Monte Goucher Wins Award
- Nadeau to Head FHWA
- HTF Short Term Fix
- Really, Engineers Can Be Fun
- Submit Your Safety Award
- Conference on Pavement Assets

2015 Annual Meeting

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Current Issue

News Archives

2015 April

- President Gavarrete Thanks You
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- NACE 2015 in Pictures
- Tim Zahn Takes Top Award
- Richie Beyer Recognized
- Duane Ratermann Installed President
- Thank Our Sponsors!
- Wheeler Celebrates 25 Years in NACE
- Monte Goucher Wins Award
- Nadeau to Head FHWA
- HTF Short Term Fix
- Really, Engineers Can Be Fun
- Submit Your Safety Award
- Conference on Pavement Assets

Annual Meeting 2015

Tim Zahn Awarded NACE 2014 Urban County Engineer of the Year



L-R: Richard Spraggins, PE, Awards Committee Chair; Tim Zahn, PE, Urban County Engineer of the Year; and Ramon Gavarrete, PE, President.

NACE awarded Timothy Zahn, PE, the 2014 Urban County Engineer of the Year during its 2015 Annual Expo & Conference held April 19-23 in Daytona Beach, Florida. Tim serves as County Engineer for Sangamon County, Illinois, with a population of nearly 197.5 million.

“Tim is an exemplary urban engineer who is innovative and creative,” said Brian Roberts, PE, NACE Executive Director. “Working with essentially a flat budget for 10 years, he has exceeded the expectations of his county’s taxpayers. Tim reorganized the County Highway Department which saved more than \$500,000 annually. The citizens in Sangamon County are fortunate to have him.”

Tim began his service with Sangamon County in 2005, after having served with the Illinois Department of Transportation since 1983. Under his leadership, the county has implemented \$52 million in road, bridge, safety, and bike/pedestrian improvements at a cost to the county of \$11 million—almost a fivefold return on local investment. He oversaw the reduction of structurally deficient or functionally obsolete bridges from 35 to 19, a 46% decrease.

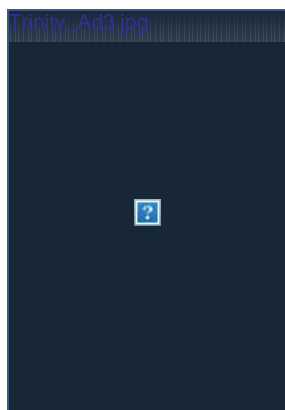
And, 100% of the structurally deficient bridges on the county highway system have been eliminated. Tim is currently coordinating the planning and design of a \$46 million multi-phase roadway and high speed railroad project that will connect the Sangamon County highway system to a new interchange on Interstate Route 72. Tim gained commitments from state and federal agencies for more than \$10 million of the funding required for the first \$12.3 million phase. Construction is planned for 2016.

Tim represents NACE on the American Road & Transportation Builders Association and was active on the Planning Committee for the NACE 2009 Annual Conference held in Peoria, Illinois.

The NACE Urban County Engineer of the Year award recognizes efficient engineering management principles and standards for the economic design, construction, maintenance and operation of public works facilities. Formed in 1956, NACE is a nonprofit, nonpartisan professional association representing nearly 2,000 county engineers, road managers, and related professionals in the U.S. and Canada.

In the U.S., local roads account for about 75% of highways and roads, or 2.93 million miles. Counties manage 1.74 million miles of those roads while cities and townships account for another 1.19 million miles. Counties also own 231,000 bridges and operate one-third of the nation’s transit systems.

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Current Issue

News Archives

2015 April

- President Gavarrete Thanks You
- Welcome Our New Officers
- NACE 2015 in Pictures
- Tim Zahn Takes Top Award
- Richie Beyer Recognized
- Duane Ratermann Installed President
- Thank Our Sponsors!
- Wheeler Celebrates 25 Years in NACE
- Monte Goucher Wins Award
- Nadeau to Head FHWA
- HTF Short Term Fix
- Really, Engineers Can Be Fun
- Submit Your Safety Award
- Conference on Pavement Assets

Annual Meeting 2015

Richie Beyer Awarded NACE 2014 Rural County Engineer of the Year



L-R: *Richard Spraggins, PE, Awards Committee Chair; Richie Beyer, Rural County Engineer of the Year; and Ramon Gavarrete, PE, President.*

NACE awarded Walter "Richie" Beyer, IV, PE, the 2014 Rural County Engineer of the Year during its 2015 Annual Expo & Conference held April

19-23 in Daytona Beach, Florida. Since 2003 Beyer has served as County Engineer for Elmore County, Alabama, with a population of near 81,000.

"It's no surprise that Richie was selected as our Rural County Engineer of the Year," said Brian Roberts, PE, NACE Executive Director. "He has served as an incredible leader in Elmore County, NACE, and the Association of County Engineers of Alabama. Richie has saved his county's taxpayers millions of dollars by reducing duplicated efforts and basing his decision making on metrics and safety."

Early in his career, Beyer was instrumental in the conversion of Elmore County from a district system, managed by individual elected commissioners, to a centralized unit system. He also initiated a paved road inventory, which provided the Commission with its first accurate measure of all the county maintained roads. Beyer instituted a pavement preservation program, which cut rehabilitation time and resources by up to 85%.

Working with the county's 8 municipalities, he administered the county's first infrastructure plan. Beyer is also active in influencing federal and state legislative initiatives.

Beyer manages 57 employees and an annual operating budget of approximately \$5 million. His office maintains approximately 1000 miles of public roads, including 200 miles of rural unpaved roads; 127 bridges; and over 8000 drainage structures.

The NACE Rural County Engineer of the Year award recognizes efficient engineering management principles and standards for the economic design, construction, maintenance and operation of public works facilities. Formed in 1956, NACE is a nonprofit, nonpartisan professional association representing nearly 2,000 county engineers, road officials, and related professionals in the U.S. and Canada. NACE advocates for county road officials at the federal level, provides national educational forums, and connects county engineers to their local peers via its state affiliates.

In the U.S., local roads account for about 75% of highways and roads, or 2.93 million miles. Counties manage 1.74 million miles of those roads while cities and townships account for another 1.19 million miles. Counties also own 231,000 bridges and operate one-third of the nation's transit systems.

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Current Issue
News Archives

2015 April

- President Gavarrete Thanks You
- Welcome Our New Officers
- NACE 2015 in Pictures
- Tim Zahn Takes Top Award
- Richie Beyer Recognized
- Duane Ratermann Installed President
- Thank Our Sponsors!
- Wheeler Celebrates 25 Years in NACE
- Monte Goucher Wins Award
- Nadeau to Head FHWA
- HTF Short Term Fix
- Really, Engineers Can Be Fun
- Submit Your Safety Award
- Conference on Pavement Assets

Annual Meeting 2015

NACE Installs Duane Ratermann as President



President Ramon Gavarrete passes the gavel to incoming President Duane Ratermann, with his wife, Diane, looking on.

NACE installed Duane Ratermann, PE, County Engineer of Knox County, Illinois, as President during its 2015 Annual Expo & Conference, held in Daytona Beach, Florida, on April 19-23.

Duane referred to NACE as a ship heading in the right direction which he will continue to stay the course. He will lead a continued focus on long term transportation reauthorization and project streamlining for federally funded projects. Duane said, "Many safety and cost-effective road initiatives are first adopted at the county level. When the federal government enacts road measures, they must do so relying on the expertise and experience of locals. We'll continue to work in cooperation with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to move our initiatives forward." Ratermann is also enthusiastic about the current strategic planning NACE has undertaken.

Duane will serve a one year term as President, having been elected as President-Elect in 2014. Duane has served with Knox County since 1999 when he was a design engineer. He previously served as the NACE Secretary / Treasurer, as well as the Chairman of the Corporate Member Services Committee. Duane served a term as the North Central Region Vice President in 2011-2012.

He was the Illinois Director on the NACE Board from 2007-2011 and served on the Constitution & Bylaws committee from 2000-2012. He was the Co-Chair of the NACE 2009 Annual Conference in Peoria, Illinois. He has been active in the Illinois Association of County Engineers, serving on various committees. Duane graduated from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, receiving his B.S. degree in Civil Engineering in 1988.

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Current Issue
News Archives

2015 April

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- Welcome Our New Officers
- NACE 2015 in Pictures
- Tim Zahn Takes Top Award
- Richie Beyer Recognized
- Duane Ratermann Installed President
- Thank Our Sponsors!
- Wheeler Celebrates 25 Years in NACE
- Monte Goucher Wins Award
- Nadeau to Head FHWA
- HTF Short Term Fix
- Really, Engineers Can Be Fun
- Submit Your Safety Award
- Conference on Pavement Assets

2015 Annual Meeting

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Current Issue

News Archives

2015 April

- President Gavarrete Thanks You
- Welcome Our New Officers
- NACE 2015 in Pictures
- Tim Zahn Takes Top Award
- Richie Beyer Recognized
- Duane Ratermann Installed President
- Thank Our Sponsors!
- Wheeler Celebrates 25 Years in NACE
- Monte Goucher Wins Award
- Nadeau to Head FHWA
- HTF Short Term Fix
- Really, Engineers Can Be Fun
- Submit Your Safety Award
- Conference on Pavement Assets

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NACE Honors Wheeler for 25 Years as Corporate Partner



Wheeler was honored for its **25 years** as a NACE corporate partner on April 20, during the NACE 2015 Business Meeting in Daytona Beach, Florida.

In business since 1892, Wheeler has been "Committed to Performance" producing solutions for a variety of construction segments. Wheeler is multifaceted, providing quality building materials and related services which serve both public and private infrastructures.

Wheeler designs and supplies products for building timber bridges. And with advances at its steel fabrication facility, Wheeler offers many steel bridge components. Many designs now incorporate both timber and steel components. In addition, Wheeler has designed and supplied salt and sand storage buildings for over 40 years.

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Tim Lincoln with Wheeler's sales team receives the NACE 25 Years plaque from President Ramon Gavarrete.

NACE recognized other corporate partners for their anniversaries:

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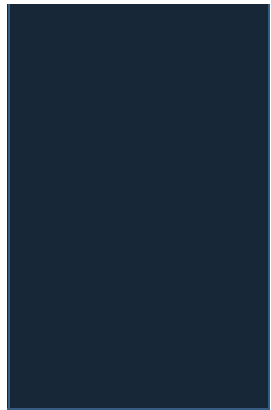


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Current Issue

News Archives

2015 April

- President Gavarrete Thanks You
- Welcome Our New Officers
- NACE 2015 in Pictures
- Tim Zahrn Takes Top Award
- Richie Beyer Recognized
- Duane Ratermann Installed President
- Thank Our Sponsors!
- Wheeler Celebrates 25 Years in NACE
- Monte Goucher Wins Award
- Nadeau to Head FHWA
- HTF Short Term Fix
- Really, Engineers Can Be Fun
- Submit Your Safety Award
- Conference on Pavement Assets

Annual Meeting 2015

Monte Goucher Awarded NACE 2014 Program/Project Manager of the Year



L-R: Monte Goucher, Program/Project Manager of the Year and Ramon Gavarrete, PE, President.

NACE awarded Monte Goucher, PE, the 2014 Program/Project Manager of the Year during its 2015 Annual Expo & Conference held April 19-23 in Daytona Beach, Florida. Monte, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Circuit Engineering District 7, oversaw the Red River Bridge project in Harmon, Oklahoma. While the bridge connects Oklahoma and Texas, it is the sole responsibility of Harmon County.

"From around the country, NACE members are all proud of Monte's achievement," said Brian Roberts, PE, NACE Executive Director. "The residents there might not appreciate the technical complexity of the project. Monte and his team kept the bridge open during construction and overcame petroleum lines that couldn't be relocated and large voids in existing rock formations. Then he re-negotiated multiple contracts when the scope of work was changed. No easy task, I can assure you."

The Red River Bridge, 1328 feet long, is vital for cattle farmers and the local livestock auction. An avoided detour would have been 30 miles to the next closest crossing.

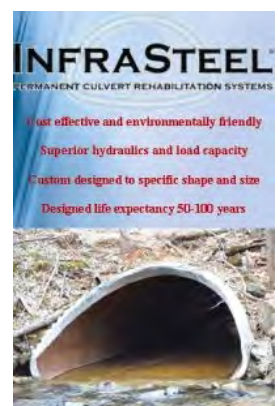
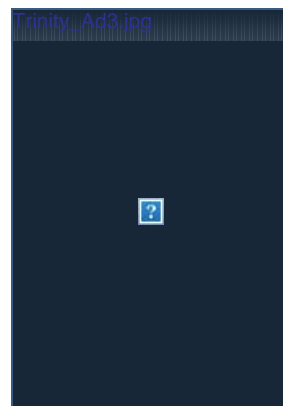
It was one of the most complex bridge replacements in Oklahoma's history, costing \$8.3 million. The initial design phase began in 2006 and the bridge was opened in 2014.

Monte earned his PE license in 1995. He graduated from Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor's degree in Construction Management in 1987 and a Master's degree in Engineering & Technology Management in 2007 from Oklahoma State University.

The NACE Program/Project Manager of the Year award recognizes significant meritorious work by an individual on a project or program for a county who has demonstrated a commitment to the profession and shows potential for future growth. Founded in 1956, NACE is a nonprofit, nonpartisan professional association representing nearly 2,000 county engineers, road managers, and related professionals in the U.S. and Canada.

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Current Issue

News Archives

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- Welcome Our New Officers
- NACE 2015 in Pictures
- Tim Zahn Takes Top Award
- Richie Beyer Recognized
- Duane Ratermann Installed President
- Thank Our Sponsors!
- Wheeler Celebrates 25 Years in NACE
- Monte Goucher Wins Award
- Nadeau to Head FHWA
- HTF Short Term Fix
- Really, Engineers Can Be Fun
- Submit Your Safety Award
- Conference on Pavement Assets

Annual Meeting 2015

Gregory Nadeau to Head FHWA



President Obama will nominate Gregory Nadeau to head the Federal Highway Administration, according to the White House.

Nadeau, 58, currently serves as acting administrator. He was named deputy administrator for the agency in July 2009. He would replace Victor Mendez, who in July was named deputy secretary of the US DOT.

Nadeau held executive positions with the Maine DOT from 2002 to 2009, including Deputy Commissioner for Policy, Planning and Communications. He held a seat in the Maine House of Representatives from 1978 to 1990 and served as a Senior Policy Advisor to Maine Gov. Angus King from 1995 to 2002.

"Greg is an experienced and thoughtful leader who will be a champion for improving and strengthening America's highway system," said King, an independent now serving in the US Senate. "As a trusted advisor during my time in the governor's office, he provided me with invaluable advice and sound counsel, and I am confident that he will do the same for the president. I commend the president on his wise choice, and look forward to working closely with Greg to modernize America's highway system."

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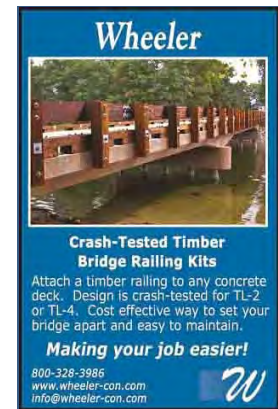
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News Archives

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- Duane Ratermann Installed President
- Thank Our Sponsors!
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- Monte Goucher Wins Award
- Nadeau to Head FHWA
- HTF Short Term Fix
- Really, Engineers Can Be Fun
- Submit Your Safety Award
- Conference on Pavement Assets

Annual Meeting 2015

Capitol Hill Update

Support for \$11B Patch for Highway Funding

By Vicki Needham, The Hill

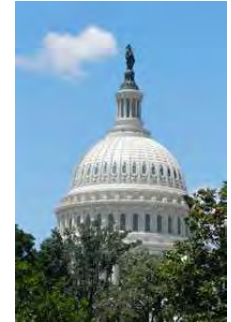
The top Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee endorsed extending federal transportation funding through the end of the year. Lawmakers are on the “right path” by considering an \$11 billion extension of the Highway Trust Fund because it improves the chances of reaching a long-term deal, Rep. Sandy Levin (D-Mich.) said during a breakfast in Washington. Levin said a two-month bill to patch the funding would “diminish the chances to fund a long-term measure.”

House and Senate leaders on Ways and Means and the Finance committees are trying to find a way to shore up the trust fund, which is set to lapse on May 31. So far, Republicans and Democrats have yet to reach a consensus on how to pay for the \$11 billion short-term extension, though Levin suggested that new tax revenue could be a major ingredient.

Ways and Means Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) said that he would prefer to use revenue from taxing corporate profits overseas to pay for the patch and said his overall goal is to fund infrastructure for six years. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said earlier that he intends to consider transportation legislation before Congress leaves for its Memorial Day recess.

The 2012 transportation funding measure, which was extended last summer and expires at the end of May, included approximately \$109 billion for two years’ worth of transportation projects. Both parties have said that taxing overseas corporate profit is a good substitute for raising the federal gas tax, but there is no agreement on whether it should be voluntary or mandatory for companies. Transportation advocates argue that raising the 18.4 cents per gallon gas tax, which hasn’t been increased since 1993, is the easiest solution, but Ryan has ruled that out. “We’re not going to raise gas taxes,” he said.

Reprinted from The Hill, May 7 issue.



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Current Issue

News Archives

2015 April

- President Gavarrete Thanks You
- Welcome Our New Officers
- NACE 2015 in Pictures
- Tim Zahn Takes Top Award
- Richie Beyer Recognized
- Duane Ratermann Installed President
- Thank Our Sponsors!
- Wheeler Celebrates 25 Years in NACE
- Monte Goucher Wins Award
- Nadeau to Head FHWA
- HTF Short Term Fix
- Really, Engineers Can Be Fun
- Submit Your Safety Award
- Conference on Pavement Assets

Annual Meeting 2015

Really! Engineers Can Have Fun!

By Jennifer Willis

Public Works Coordinator, Highlands County, Florida

I have worked for Highlands County for 13 years. In that time, I've had the unique opportunity to work for 3 different Professional Engineers. I've omitted the actual names in order to protect the "innocent." In this article, I will refer to them as Tom, John, and Ramon.

Tom was the county's Solid Waste Director in 2002, when I came to work here. Tom was a Professional Engineer with extensive experience in the solid waste industry. He helped design and manage landfills in the US, as well as overseas. I must say that Tom was a smart man and understood the intricacies of a landfill and the biodegradation that needs to take place in order to recoup air space, thus prolonging the life of a landfill.

While Tom could be serious, there were things he would do that were funny, such as when he would concentrate really hard. He would rock back and forth on his feet and blow his breath in an out through his teeth. He would write out on paper any letter, memo, graph, map and give it to me to type up. There were maps for the leased land that I had to color in with highlighters by hand to give out to people. Tom was forever forgetting things—his phone, glasses, keys—and I would question him as he was leaving to make sure that he had them all.

John became our Solid Waste Director in 2005 as an experienced road engineer. He had worked as a Professional Engineer in New York, as well as another Florida county. Here, John was instrumental in getting the approval and grants needed to build the only county-owned asphalt plant in Florida, allowing us to have asphalt readily available. But he also had a lighter side, joking and laughing with us while we were working.



Ramon is our current County Engineer, taking over in 2010 after John's departure. Ramon is over the Solid Waste Department, including the Recycling Center. He has been an engineer over 25 years, coming here after working for the California DOT (CALTRANS) and Florida FOT (FDOT). He has extensive knowledge of road design as well as structural engineering. In his 19 years with the county, Ramon has been successful in obtaining road grants from FDOT. Ramon takes the word "Professional" in Professional Engineer seriously, constantly striving to do the best job possible and expecting the same out of his employees.

But he has a fun side too. Recently, when Ramon turned 50 we decorated his office in everything we could find to say "50." We made sure he had a walker, denture cream, reading glasses, a blinking hat, and funny glasses in the shape of 5-0!

Reflecting on these Professional Engineers, one thing I have learned is that they all strived in their own way to do the best job possible for the tax payers of Highlands County. And having fun along the way! Let me add—arguing with an engineer is a lot like mud wrestling with a pig. After a few hours, you realize he likes it.

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