

# The Voice

# ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF TENNESSEE

THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

## ACEC OF TENNESSEE PARTNERS

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

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## Toll Roads: Another Tool in Tennessee's Toolbox

by Rep. Phillip E. Pinion (D-Union City)  
Chairman, House Transportation Committee

This year the Tennessee General Assembly passed the "Tennessee Tollway Act" to allow the Tennessee Department of Transportation to begin work on two pilot toll projects. This act puts the infrastructure in place to give the state another tool in its toolbox to develop and build large scale road projects to meet its growing infrastructure needs.



**Phillip E. Pinion**

Every day more cars and trucks compete for space on Tennessee's highways. The state must find new methods to meet and pay for the demands that will be placed on its highway system. Tennessee's pay-as-you-go system for funding state highways is taking a hit every year. The combination of higher gas prices, more fuel efficient cars on the highway, 12% construction inflation, and up to \$160 million in federal funding cuts mean that Tennessee's highway fund is building fewer and fewer new roads.

The highway fund that builds Tennessee

roads will soon be able only to maintain them and not build new ones. This year, no new road projects were announced because there was only money available to work on current projects. Soon, there will only be enough highway funds to maintain the roads that Tennessee already has. Toll roads are not a fix-all for Tennessee's highway funding issues, but they help large projects be built that would normally face funding hurdles.

### Potential Toll Road Benefits

Future projects could include truck lanes on interstates. As tractor-trailer trucks enter Tennessee at the state line, they can pay a toll and move into their own lanes. These lanes can get the trucks to their destination more quickly, ease congestion and make roads safer.

New highways in urban and congested areas can be toll roads where higher traffic counts can pay for the roads on which the

tolls are collected. More funds would then be available for other increasing transportation needs. In rural areas, where roads mean economic development, more roads can be built

*Toll roads are not a fix-all for Tennessee's highway funding issues, but they help large projects be built that would normally face funding hurdles.*

where fewer vehicles make toll roads infeasible. More funds could also be available to invest in mass transit and other transportation needs.

*(continued on page 2)*

# Three Priorities Set for the Year

by James D. Morinec, PE  
President, ACEC of Tennessee

July 1 marked the start of the new term of office for the 2007-08 Officers, Board of Directors and Committee Chairs. As the new President, I thank all those who served last year, in particular Past President Bill Johnson.



James D. Morinec

ACEC of Tennessee promotes the interests of engineering companies through education, legislative oversight, lobbying and partnering with major government agencies. To provide focus for the coming year, the new board held a planning retreat in April. After much discussion, it was agreed our efforts in the coming year should stress 1) energizing the local chapters; 2) developing programs to help member firms recruit, hire, retain and develop professionals for our industry; and 3) being more effective at proactively influencing legislation.

The local chapters have historically operated independently while sharing the same goal to help promote the business of engineering in Tennessee. By developing a consistent agenda,

we hope to increase program attendance and services provided.

The lifeblood of our industry is an adequate supply of qualified engineers to allow our businesses to grow and expand services offered. I recently heard that of all the engineers and scientists that have ever lived, 80% are alive today. That population is aging and the difficulty firms are having nationwide to find qualified staff is an indication we need to do more to attract students to engineering and to help them get a quality education. People entering the profession today have different values and expectations than those of 20 to 30 years ago. We need to understand and embrace these differences to assure we will be able to serve our clients in the future.

ACEC of Tennessee has been growing its influence to represent the interests of engineering companies in Tennessee for several years. By educating our member firms on issues that can affect the industry and providing tools to help them become more involved in the legislative process, we can be more effective at proactively influencing legislation beneficial to the industry.

The next year will be full of many challenges. By accomplishing positive changes in these three areas, I expect it will also be a successful year.

## Board of Directors

### President

**James D. Morinec, PE**  
CTE | AECOM, Nashville

### President-Elect

**Lillard Teasley, PE**  
Teasley Services Group,  
Nashville

### First Vice President

**Ed Hargraves, PE**  
Askew, Hargraves,  
Harcourt & Associates,  
Memphis

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Lamar Dunn & Associates,  
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### Treasurer

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**Mark Askew, PE**  
Askew, Hargraves,  
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**Mark Harrison, PE, PG**  
S & M E, Chattanooga

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**Mike Stomer, PG**  
S & M E, Knoxville

### Memphis Chapter President

**Stacey Morris, PE**  
ETI Corporation, Memphis

### Nashville Chapter President

**John Wimberly, PE**  
I. C. Thomasson  
Associates, Inc.,  
Nashville

### ACEC Staff

Candy Toler,  
Executive Director

Judy Logue  
Manager of Member  
Services

## Toll Roads

continued from page 1

The two pilot projects, a major highway project and one bridge project, allowed by the "Tennessee Tollway Act" will be proposed by the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Each pilot project must ultimately be approved by the General Assembly. This ensures that each project will have oversight, and that Tennessee will begin using toll roads in a deliberate and measured fashion.

Tolls can only be collected on new highways and highway lanes where traffic can adequately pay for the road. No current highway can be a toll road, and there will always be an alternative route for each toll road. A car or truck can pay a toll to use the new road or use the current route that may be more congested.

Tennessee is years away from having a toll road in its highway system. However, the infrastructure is now in place to give Tennessee another highway funding option so that travelers on Tennessee's highway system will face less congestion and more timely arrivals.

## Welcome, New Members

**Construction Engineers, LLC**  
1598 Market St., Ste. 2  
Dayton, TN 37321  
423-285-5228

Key Contact: Charles C. Mason, Jr., PE  
Email: cmason@cengr.com

Construction Engineers, LLC provides construction management and project engineering services to facility owners and developers in the power, energy and process industries.

**Paul Lynes, LLC**  
P. O. Box 150938  
Nashville, TN 37215-0938  
615-948-7647

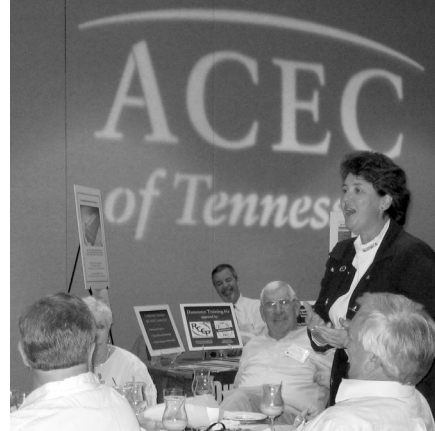
Key Contact: Paul Finger Lynes, PE  
Email: pflynes@paullynes.com

Paul Lynes, LLC primarily provides environmental engineering, hazardous and solid waste management, environmental management systems and LEED consulting and certification services.

# At the Annual Meeting Officers Installed, PAC Auction Raises Funds & 3 Honored



**Leadership Team for 2007-2008 - Back row (left to right) Lillard Teasley, president-elect; James D. Morinec, president; Steve Bostic, second vice president; Mike Pohlman, secretary; Ed Hargraves, first vice president; Front row: Susan Thrasher, treasurer; Bill Johnson, immediate past president, and Mark Askeu, national director. The complete list of Board members appears on page 2 of this newsletter.**



*Kathy Ware (KS Ware & Associates, Nashville) makes a point and a bid during the PAC Auction, which raised more than \$8,000. It's not too late to make a contribution (personal checks may be made out to TPE PAC).*



*Newly installed president James D. Morinec (left) presents an award of recognition for service to outgoing president Bill Johnson.*

*Bill Johnson (left) presents a President's Citation to David Harrell (Vaughn & Melton, Knoxville) in recognition of his leadership of the Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) program. Joe Chester was also recognized for his leadership of the EEA program. Jerry Stump (Wilbur Smith Associates, Nashville) received a citation for his service at the national level as ACEC Vice President and Chair of the Transportation Committee and his leadership in raising money for the national ACEC PAC.*



## Nashville Chapter Hosts Mayoral Candidates Forum

A capacity crowd of more than 120 people from 11 engineering associations in Middle Tennessee attended the Engineers' Nashville Mayoral Forum on Tuesday, June 26, an event sponsored by the Nashville Chapter of ACEC of Tennessee. All of the major candidates in Nashville's upcoming August 2 mayoral election participated in the luncheon event at the Tennessee Engineering Center.

*Six mayoral candidates presented their views on a range of topics including Nashville's infrastructure, riverfront development, transportation needs and LEED certification. Pictured left to right are candidate Bob Clement, candidate David Briley, Forum moderator Betty Nixon, candidate Karl Dean, candidate Buck Dozier, Nashville Chapter president Jerry Stump, candidate Kenneth Eaton and candidate Howard Gentry.*



## CALENDAR

### JULY 25

Disaster Preparedness  
Partnership Training  
Program  
Nashville  
Information: Connie  
Wallace, AIA Tennessee,  
615-255-3860

### AUGUST 1

Luncheon Honoring  
Gerald Nicely  
Keynote Speaker:  
Governor Phil Bredesen  
11:30 a.m., City Hall in  
the Gulch, Nashville  
Information:  
ctoler@tnec.org

### SEPTEMBER 26 - 29

ACEC Fall Conference  
Grand Wailea Resort,  
Maui, HI

## Member News

- Fuller, Mossbarger, Scott and May Engineers (FMSM) has announced staff additions in its recently opened Nashville office. Joining FMSM in Nashville are Steve Field, PE, office manager; Patrick Kiser, PE, senior project engineer; and Don Green, environmental scientist.
- Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon (BWSC) has named C. David West, PE, its central region manager. West was previously vice president and manager of BWSC's Dayton, Ohio office.
- SSR (Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.) has announced the following Tennesseans are new shareholders in the firm: Bob Harden, PE, project manager, Nashville; David Bradford, PE, director-mechanical division, Memphis; Jim Seckel, PE, CBCP, LEED AP, commissioning authority, Nashville; Kyle Maxwell, PE, project manager, Memphis; and Russ Murdock, PE, project manager, Nashville.
- Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon (BWSC) and Gresham, Smith and Partners have received awards for their human resources programs from the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and the Middle Tennessee Society of Human Resource Management.

# ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
of Tennessee

Tennessee Engineering Center  
800 Fort Negley Boulevard  
Nashville, TN 37203

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**JULY/AUGUST 2007**

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### Welcome, New Partner Program Member

Infotek, Inc.  
1600 Downtown West  
Knoxville, TN 37919  
865-450-9696

Contact:  
Glenn Leonard, CEO  
gleonard@infotekinc.com  
www.infotekinc.com

Infotek, Inc. provides document imaging solutions, business process automation, workflow design & software, automated data extraction & collection systems, and service bureau document conversion.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Summary Update on Legislative Session

by Candy Toler  
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

The 2007 legislative session of the Tennessee General Assembly is behind us. It is time for a quick review of legislative activity in 2007 that impacted Tennessee engineers and a look ahead to 2008.

- The 2007-08 state budget includes money to be allocated to the Tennessee Board of Architects and Engineers for grants to public college and university programs for lab equipment;



Candy Toler

- The education requirement for licensure as a Professional Engineer in Tennessee has changed. We were successful in amending the proposed legislation to include certification as an Engineer Intern to the bill. Effective January 1,

2008 through June 30, 2012, a person with a master's degree in engineering (but no undergraduate engineering degree) meets the education requirement, if the combined transcripts are determined to be substantially equivalent to an accredited engineering program. The PE experience and examination requirements are unchanged;

- The Tennessee Tollways Act passed. An article on page 1 of this newsletter provides more informa-

tion. ACEC of Tennessee supported this legislation;

- Design build projects for TDOT were limited. The number of projects in a fiscal year is limited as follows: up to 15 contracts for projects costing less than \$1 million; up to 5 contracts for projects over \$1 million; projects over \$70 million must be approved by the legislature. ACEC of Tennessee supported the legislation;

- The Governor's proposal to authorize the Department of General Services to purchase goods and services using a competitive reverse auction was passed. We were successful in exempting engineering services from the provisions of the proposal.

It will take some time for the dust to settle after the loooong 2007 legislative session. However, on the horizon for the 2008 legislative session are:

- Potential for a practice act for interior designers, which specifically defines the practice of interior design. ACEC of Tennessee opposes this bill;

- Public-private partnerships for transportation projects. The House and Senate Transportation Committees will study the proposal this summer. ACEC of Tennessee supports this proposal.

Thanks to all of you who contacted your solons to encourage their support of ACEC of Tennessee's position on legislation. While I am your registered lobbyist, you are the most effective advocates for the engineering profession and you vote in their districts!