



FACERS News

NOVEMBER 2009

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Danielle Slaterpryce Sworn in as President in Guangzhou, China

FACERS experienced a first in June. Neither the President nor the Vice President were able to make the June meeting in Marco Island. Brian Barnes, then President, and Danielle Slaterpryce, then Vice President, were on a professional exchange trip to the Peoples Republic of China. After Brian made sure Danielle was duly elected President at the June Annual Meeting, he had the Chinese guide, Jill, swear in Danielle at the farewell dinner in Guangzhou, China. Just to make sure Danielle had the full experience, Jill swore in Danielle in Mandarin.

To date, Danielle is not sure exactly what she agreed to, but she trusted Jill would not stray from the FACERS' President Oath.



Jill swears Danielle in as FACERS President

While the rest of the membership met in Marco Island in June, Danielle and Brian met with Public Works personnel in Beijing, Xi'an, and Kunming, China. They toured the world's largest wastewater treatment plant in Beijing, visited a farming village using livestock manure to generate methane gas to cook with, discussed transportation planning in cities with up to 16 million residents, and saw a brand new city government complex built 30 miles outside of the current downtown to encourage growth in new areas outside the overcrowded city center of Kunming.

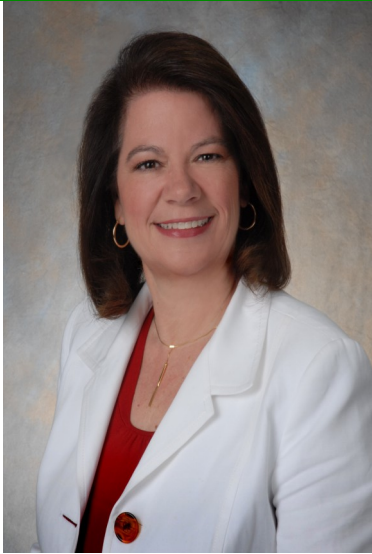
They also did the tourist thing. They walked the length of Tian-amen Square, toured the Forbidden City and climbed the Great Wall (Although I believe it was the steepest portion of the entire 1,600 km length). They marveled at the site of the Terracotta Warriors. It's hard to understand the reasoning behind creating over 8,000 life size and fully outfitted warriors buried 20' underground only to protect the emperor's grave site. It is believed there are more warrior armies that have yet to be discovered. This army was only discovered in 1974 when a farmer was digging a well.

Once we made the +/- 39 hour trip from the east coast of the US to Beijing and made it through the H1N1 virus scanning in Hong Kong and Beijing, the time in China was something neither of us will ever forget. The sights, people, and discussions were truly a once-in-a-lifetime event.

Of course, those of us from Florida did not flinch when we were caught in a tropical storm strength Typhoon between Guangzhou and Hong Kong. The rest of the group from central and western US and Canada worried a bit!

FACERS News

Editor and Chief—
Carolyn Steves, RS&H



FACERS President's Message

Welcome to the FACERS 2010 Administrative Year. I understand that the 2009 Annual Meeting at Marco Island was a great success. I'm sorry I missed it. Brian Barnes and I were members of an APWA delegation to China at that time. It was a wonderful trip and the highlight of it was getting installed as President on the last day of the trip. Brian had our interpreter install me in Chinese. I sure hope he had her follow the standard script, with Brian you just never know. It was a wonderful trip and I hope to be able to share some of the highlights with you during one of our meetings. It is a country of great contrast.

Please make sure to attend the FACERS Legislative Conference being held in conjunction with the FAC Legislative Conference on **December 2-4, 2009**, at the Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront in Pinellas County. Hector Bertran our new Vice-President is working on an outstanding program. There will be discussion on many topics of interest including discussions on the CCNA (Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act), in-house heavy equipment training programs, and current legislative issues and concerns. Our social event will be held on Wednesday evening and should be a wonderful way to relax, get to know each other and have a great time. FACERS will meet on Wednesday, December 2nd and Thursday, December 3rd. There is no registration fee for the FACERS meeting but we encourage our members to register for the FAC Legislative Conference if you wish to participate in any of their activities.

Fred Schneider is our new Treasurer and is doing a wonderful job. He currently preparing all of the invoices for membership renewal so be on the lookout for them. You will receive them via email during the month of November. If you haven't received one by the end of December, please contact us so we can make sure your membership doesn't lapse.

Remember we have a new class of membership for our municipal counterparts. They have the same concerns and challenges we do and we would love to include them in our discussions. So invite someone from the cities in your county to join us. We will all benefit.

I hope things have all settled down for you, budget season is over, all of the necessary adjustments (some very painful) have been made and you are ready to face and conquer the challenges ahead. FACERS is here to help you along the way.

See you in St. Petersburg,

Danielle

2009 –2010 FACERS Officers

At the 2009 Annual Meeting in Marco Island in June a new slate of Officers were elected for the 2009-2011 term of office



President Danielle Slaterpryce,
Okaloosa County

Vice President Hector Bertran,
Orange County

Treasurer Fred Schneider,
Lake County

Secretary John Newton,
Hillsborough County

Past President Brian Barnes
Charlotte County

Also elected were the new Board of Directors and the Florida NACE Representative

Gene Calvert, Collier County

Ramon Gavarrete, Highlands County
(Currently serving as the Southeast Regional Vice President of NACE)

Todd Buckles, Volusia County

Alan Holbach, Charlotte County

Carolyn Steves, RS&H (Sustaining Member Representative)

John Goodknight, Marion County

George Webb, Palm Beach County
was elected as the **NACE (National Association of County Engineers) Representative**



Incoming President Danielle Slaterpryce and Past President Brian Barnes were in China at the time



A New Class of Members

During the last few years we have all experienced a tightening of the belts and “doing more with less” which makes the relationships and information exchange FACERS offers much more important than ever.

After looking around to try to find out how we can work smarter and build a bigger exchange network of experiences from throughout Florida, the membership decided to create a new membership category and offer membership to our co-workers in city public works departments who do not have a municipal organization like FACERS. Since both the city and county public works staffs face the same challenges in competing public works projects, maintaining the public infrastructure and coordinating with FDOT, and the various regulatory agencies, it seemed like a natural to extend an invitation to our municipal counterparts. The proposal was presented to the membership at the November 2008 General Meeting and was passed.

Over the years FACERS has worked to be a voice and conduit for change between the counties and FDOT and other permitting agencies. FACERS has also provided an invaluable source of past experiences of the various members to each member to help solve a problem of an individual member. By e-mailing out questions, any member is able to ask the membership for advice, information, experiences, or examples of how others have overcome obstacles that member is now facing. By adding cities to the membership, the storehouse of experiences can greatly expand the FACERS ability of helping members help members.

Combining FACERS membership with the cities and counties can also build relationships that can only pay dividends for both the county and city staffs. Fred Schneider, FACERS Treasurer, has created a new membership form on the next page that you can use to renew your membership as well as add potential members from the cities in your area.

So why not call all the City Engineers and Public Works Directors in your county and invite them to join FACERS and join us at the Legislative Conference in St. Pete on December 2nd & 3rd?



F.A.C.E.R.S.

The Florida Association of County Engineers and Road Superintendents

Membership Application 2010

Name

Title

Address

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

Telephone

AREA CODE

PHONE NUMBER

Fax

AREA CODE

FAX NUMBER

E-Mail @

Membership Type (Check One) Please provide your county, city, or company as indicated.

☐ Active Member FACERS (\$50.00)

County
Public Works Employee

☐ Active Member FACERS and NACE (\$170.00)
NACE membership is optional, not required to be a member of FACERS

Your County

☐ Municipal Member FACERS (\$50.00)

City
Public Works Employee

Your City

Other County Employee,
Vendor, Consultant,
University Staff, etc.

☐ Sustaining Membership FACERS (\$50.00)

Your Company

Please mail this form with your check
(made payable to FACERS) to:

Fred Schneider, P.E.
FACERS Treasurer
Lake County Public Works
437 Ardice Avenue
Eustis, Florida 32726

Total Amount Enclosed \$

FACERS

Minutes of the Annual General Membership Meeting

Marco Island, Florida

June 25, 2009

With a quorum present, Hector Bertran called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

Secretary's Report

Minutes for the June 25th, Board of Directors Meeting in Orlando were approved with revisions by the Board after a motion by Gene Calvert and a second by Alan Holbach.

Treasurer's Report

Hector Bertran discussed the current status of the treasury. Hector is still working on an investment account transfer. Bank of America is requiring signatures on forms of all Board Officers, including addresses and social security numbers. It was decided to wait until the next Board Meeting when new officers in attendance to make a final decision and have the forms signed. There is currently \$23,852.40 in a checking account. There is an investment account of \$3,429.36 all in Bank of America.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Hector Bertran

Hector discussed current membership. Membership is generally holding steady at 62 paid members. Thirty Seven of our members also belong to NACE. Our membership represents 27 counties. In 2008, we were represented by 32 Counties. We have 1 Honorary member, 13 Life members, and 16 sustaining members.

Carolyn Steves will coordinate through her contacts with APWA to get the word out to persons who may be interested in joining FACERS.

Later in the meeting; membership was discussed further. George Webb discussed setting up a membership committee whose first task would be to contact members who have not been attending meetings, and also contact members who have quit to see what issues or problems may be out there.

There was further discussion amongst the membership on attracting, involving, and keeping members.

On a motion by Todd Buckles, with a second by Gene Calvert, The membership voted to make Jim Davis a Life Member and all the privileges thereto, effective October 1st, 2009, after his 60th birthday and retirement.

Scholarships: Robert Gordon

Robert provided the scholarship report. FACERS working with private companies has raised \$100,000 for 4 universities engineering programs (FIU, UF, USF, UCF) Bob Gordon discussed further opportunities to provide scholarships. No decision was made at this time. This will be discussed at the next Board Meeting. A side discussion occurred with respect to Non-Profit rules and making sure we turn over the funds to meet federal requirements. Our Checking Account should be labeled as an Education Account.

Green Book: Fred Schneider

The Greenbook Committee met March 2009 to go over the new updates and proposed updates. Fred stated that the new rule regarding spot lighting (street light) at intersections was approved. There was discussion on the Traditional Neighborhood Development Chapter but no action was taken. There was also discussion from Joy Puerta of the City of Boca Raton who was working to insert language into the Greenbook regarding requiring sidewalks, paved shoulders, and similar improvements on rehabilitation, resurfacing, and construction of new roads. This chapter update was also tabled by the Greenbook

Committee as the county representatives did not agree with the language. The FACERS representative (Fred) stated that this was best left as a local issue to be decided by local elected officials, not a Greenbook requirement. Fred will send out the minutes from the Greenbook Committee as soon as received from FDOT.

With a motion by Ramon Gavarrete and a second by Fred Schneider, ***a letter will be sent from the FACERS President to the Secretary of Transportation requesting that the Greenbook Committee meetings take place on a day other than Tuesdays and Wednesdays when many county commissions hold board meetings.*** County representatives are having a hard time getting away to attend the Greenbook meeting.

NACE: Ramon Gavarrete:

Ramon mentioned the "Local Roads Matters" email he sent out. He also strongly requested that FACERS Members stay involved. Please answer his emails, even if you have no comment. NACE is working to keep us in the loop, but if we don't respond and interact with legislative issues, we are losing out on a valuable opportunity to get our voice heard.

T2 Center: Janet Degner

Janet passed out information on the following items:

UF/TRC Roundabout Workshop August 18th, Orlando

Upcoming T2/CTT courses

Road Safety Audit Forum and Workshop Sept. 21-23 in Orlando

Janet needs names of supervisors and line employees that would benefit from the Greenbook Course. She is running a pilot course on August 10th, and 11th and needs persons who will be involved and critique the course. She needs 20 persons total. Please send her names of people who will be involved and if you are interested. ***Janet needs this by Next Wednesday, July 2nd.***

Janet also mentioned the 10th annual meeting for the Low Volume Roads Conference to be held in 2011. The Topic will be Hurricane Evacuation/Disaster. She needs a FACERS member as a speaker.

Janet asked if a course on trip generation was needed but nobody was interested. Janet also mentioned that the University of Florida Engineering College is celebrating its 100 year anniversary.

Newsletter: Carolyn Steves

Carolyn will get pictures on the website and newsletter from the conference.

New Business:

Legislative Issues – Ramon Strongly Requested that FACERS Members stay involved. Please answer his emails, even if you have no comment. NACE is working to keep us in the loop, but if we don't respond and interact with legislative issues, we are losing out on a valuable opportunity to get our voice heard.

Senate Bill 360 – The SB 360 was discussed. Most counties are still acting under status quo and have not made significant changes to their development review approval process.

Membership and Participation - This item was discussed at length. George Webb discussed a membership committee may be needed. Other items discussed included, funding assistance for members to attend the meetings. FACERS needs to retool and review its Mission Statement, Goals, and Vision. This includes areas of legislative, Public Safety, financial, and policy. The Officers and Board need to read the FACERS Constitution. Leadership needs to invest in doing things right. Once Leadership gets on the right track, the rest of our members will follow.

Swearing In of New Officers and Directors -

A new tradition is born

At the Legislative Conference in Daytona Beach, our past President Todd Buckles, and some accomplices started a new FACERS tradition. Todd presented 2 inflatable Holiday decorations to a member who had to place them in their front yard during the holidays. That member, then gets to give them to another member at the 2009 Legislative Conference for the 2009 Holiday Season!!

The lucky member who was the first to receive the FACERS Holiday decorations, was the then current President Brian Barnes. The inflatable snowman and penguin were proudly displayed in his front yard in Port Charlotte for about a month. Many of his neighbors stopped by and complimented him on his new additions to the festive neighborhood spirit, although there was a slight undertone of sarcasm.



Why not plan on attending the 2009 Legislative Conference in St Petersburg (December 2nd & 3rd) and see which valued FACERS member will be selected as the fortunate one to have the FACERS decorations proudly displayed in their front yard in 2009. Brian Barnes will make the presentation at the Social Event on Wednesday night, December 2nd.

Remember, you need not be present to win, but you better be there if you hope to be passed over for this honor!!!!

Come one Come All to the 2009 Legislative Conference

FACERS will be hold our next conference in association with the Florida Association of Counties Legislative Conference at the Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront on December 2nd and 4th, 2009. Full registration can be made through the Florida Association of Counties web site www.fl-counties.com



2010 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront
Pinellas County | December 2-4, 2009

Hector Bertran, FACERS Vice President, is planning an interesting and informative 2-day event. The Agenda for the Legislative Conference is on the next page.

Remember there is never a registration fee for the FACERS portion of the conference. However, you are strongly urged to register for the Florida Association of Counties Legislative Conference so you can participate in all the FACERS and FAC events during the conference. Registration can be done on-line at

www.fl-counties.com

Based on how well Hector did during the June Annual Meeting, you can bet if you don't attend, you will miss out on some great training!!



Legislative Meeting

December 2-3, 2009

Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront, Florida

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.:	<u>Continental Breakfast</u> ***
7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.:	<u>Registration Desk Open</u> ***
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.:	Green Technologies and Highway Partnerships and LEED Certification – Chris Ebers, EJ Brenemann
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.:	FHWA Direct Funding to Counties
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.:	Break
10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.:	FDOT Statewide Crash Data and Analysis Tools for Local and State Roadways – Joe Santos, FDOT Safety Office
11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.:	Lunch
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.:	Tour to the Pinellas County Emergency Response Facility -Doug O'Neill, Pinellas County Public Works Operations
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.:	<u>FAC Exhibit Hall/Networking Opportunities</u> ***
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.:	<u>FAC Welcome Reception</u> ***
6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.:	FACERS Social gathering at Midtown Sundries

Thursday, December 3, 2009

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.:	<u>Continental Breakfast</u> ***
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.:	CCNA and the LaGorce Case - Charlie Geer, Kimley Horn & Associates
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.:	Hillsborough County In-house Heavy Equipment Training Program – John Newton, Hillsborough County
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.:	Break
10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.:	Roundtable Discussion
11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.:	Lunch
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.:	General Meeting
2:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.:	<u>Exhibit Hall/Networking Opportunities</u> ***
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.:	<u>FAC Reception</u> ***

NOTE: FACERS does not charge a registration fee for its activities, however attendance at any events/functions marked by *** are activities provided by FAC and require that you are a registered FAC conference participant.

SOCIAL NIGHT IN ST. PETERSBURG



On Wednesday night December 2nd, Carolyn Steves has arranged for us to meet at our usual Social Night. Based on recommendations from our Bay Area members the Social Night venue will be *Midtown Sundries Grill , 200 1st Avenue South, St. Pete.*

A quote from one of the on-line restaurant rating services:

"Downtown St Pete is full of great places to get award winning ethnic food, but this is the place to go watch a game, have a good beer (the selection is awesome), and a great sandwich (also a wide selection). TV's are all around, and if whatever game you want to watch isn't on, the staff will gladly find it for you. We enjoyed ourselves immensely"

Trip Advisor Web Site

If this Social Night is anything like all the rest, it will be a great time to build and strengthen relationships with your colleagues throughout the state. Each time Carolyn Steves seems to out do the last Social Night. I know you will not want to miss the best Social Night yet!!!

So make plans to attend the Legislative Conference (Dec 2nd & 3rd) and the FACERS Social Night (Dec 2nd).