



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello from Highlands County! I hope everyone is having a great summer and finding fun and relaxing ways to beat the heat.

I want to say thank you to the membership of FACERS for entrusting me to be your President of the FACERS Board this year. As such, I would like to start out by thanking all of the members and sponsors who attended our recent conference in Orlando. If you were not there, you missed out on a great time and some great events. We had a broad topic of speakers who spoke on a wide range of topics from grant writing, sink holes, all the way to a presentation from the State FDOT Secretary Jared Perdue. For the first time I am aware of, FAC had to actually turn registrants away due to having already registered more people for the FACERS conference than the room was able to hold. Make sure you register early for the upcoming

Fall Conference which will be held in Tampa at the Grand Hyatt on November 15-17, 2023. As a FACERS member, you will receive an email when registration is open.

I would also like to remind everyone of the value of membership with FACERS. We all face similar problems in the positions in which we serve. FACERS is a place to exchange information and solve these problems among a group of peers and subject matter experts. The networking and teamwork that comes from being a part of a larger group, all with the same goals and concerns, is an unmeasurable benefit for all in our professions. We would like to see more of our neighboring counties involved in FACERS so if you know any of your neighbors that should be a part of the group but are not, please reach out to them and encourage them to sign up and become a part of a great resource of professionals that we have. Whether you work for a county or a city, or you are a consultant or a contractor, there is a place for you.

A feature I want to encourage all to check into is our message board that is available on our website (www.facers.net). This tool can help you get messages out to other members and provide valuable resources on questions/projects you may be working with. It's not necessary to re-invent the wheel if others in similar situations may have already paved the way, so reach out to the group and see

what help you can get.

Again, I want to encourage everyone to save the date for the upcoming fall conferences, including time Thursday evenings for the wildly popular and amazing FACERS social event! I'll see you there!

Sincerely,

Clinton "Gator" Howerton

— SAVE THE DATE - 2023 FALL MEETING —



— LEGISLATIVE REPORT —

The list of significant bills related to transportation and public works that were considered during the 2023 session was provided by FAC. The list can be accessed [HERE](#).

For several years, FACERS has recommended legislation to index the local share of the motor fuel tax following the same procedure used for calculating the state share of the tax. This procedure provides an annual adjustment to the tax based on the Consumer Price Index and helps reduce the loss of buying power of the gas tax caused by inflation. A detailed discussion of this issue is available at [Legislation – Florida Association of County Engineers & Road Superintendents \(facers.net\)](#).

Last year, FACERS also recommended legislation to assess user fees for electric and other alternate fuel vehicles that now make no contribution to the cost of building and maintaining the road system. Although no legislation was proposed to index the gas tax, SB 1070 was passed by the Senate and would have imposed additional license fees for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. The House did not consider the bill, and it failed.

At the FACERS Annual Meeting in June, FACERS again passed a resolution requesting that FAC include indexing the gas tax and assessing fees for electric vehicles as priorities for the 2024 legislative session. FAC develops legislative priorities during the fall, and the recommendation and support of one or more counties is critical to getting this issue added to the FAC legislative priority list.



NACE was once again honored to attend and address the FACERS conference in Orlando last month. We extend our thanks to President Wolverton and past-President Gaidel for the invitation and hospitality. Attending FACERS is one of my highlights of my travel schedule, and I look forward to seeing everyone next year.

For those of you who attended the NACE Annual Conference this past April, it certainly did not disappoint. Our friends, and your neighbors, the Association of County Engineers of Alabama put on a great conference, shattering attendance records with both delegate and exhibitor numbers never seen at a NACE Conference before.

I write this to you just having left a site visit in Palm Springs, CA, where the 2024 NACE Annual Conference will be held. If you missed this year's conference, you certainly don't want to miss next years, which promises to build upon this year's success. For those of you who have never attended a NACE Conference or find themselves on the fence about whether to attend, I would invite you to speak with FACERS members who have attended in the past. If they can't convince you of the second-to-none subject matter and technical sessions that only enrich our members each and every year, then perhaps the golf and camaraderie will. We expect to open registration in the 4th quarter of this year. As you know, our PDH hours credited at the conference are accepted in and by the State of Florida to satisfy continuing education requirements.

As you may be aware, FACERS Past-President Gaidel now chairs the NACE Membership committee. In this role, George will assist in crafting our message to a new generation of public works professionals, further increasing our membership and knowledge base. We thank him for heading up our efforts to provide even more reach to our colleagues across the country. We invite you to become more involved as well, as there are plenty of opportunities to get involved.

We are proud to announce the NACE President-elect Stephen McCall will be joining you this Fall in Tampa. Please take advantage of his attendance to inquire about anything you may need from NACE or your interest in getting more involved.

As always, if NACE can be of any assistance to your efforts at home, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Best,

Kevan Stone
CEO/Executive Director
National Association of County Engineers

— ENDOWMENT UPDATES —

FACERS has partnered with several engineering firms to create endowed scholarships at 4 Florida Universities. The initial endowment for each scholarship was \$25,000:

Florida International University

FACERS/Chastain Skillman Civil Engineering Scholarship; Co-Sponsor – Chastain Skillman

FACERS Representative – Ramon Gavarrete

Amount of Scholarship = \$1,000.00

University of Central Florida

HDR/FACERS Endowed Scholarship; Co-Sponsor – HDR

FACERS Representatives – Ben Bartlett and Steve Ferrell

Amount of Scholarship = \$1,000.00

University of Florida

Kahlert/FACERS Endowed Scholarship; Co-Sponsor – Karl Corporation

FACERS Representative – Fred Schneider

Amount of Scholarship = \$1,000.00

University of South Florida

FACERS Endowed Scholarship; Co-Sponsors – Ayers & Associates / HDR / AECOM

FACERS Representative – Steve Ferrell

Amount of Scholarship = \$1,000.00

Nearly 50 scholarships have been awarded at these universities since 2005 when the first program was established at USF. FACERS is proud to support the next generation of engineers in Florida.

— 2023 ANNUAL MEETING RECAP —



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