

# Florida Engineering Society



## A Century of Innovation

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*BY DONALD W. DITZENBERGER, PE*



## A CENTURY OF INNOVATION

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*Leon Brooks "Skeet" Thrasher, PE, (shown right) worked as a city engineer in Lakeland in 1918, and was the last living FES Charter Member. He passed away in December 1991, seven days shy of his 100th birthday.*



# Introduction

“Seventy-five years! Remarkable! A 75th anniversary for whatever reason is a watershed milestone. It is a time to pause, to reflect on the past, to ponder the present, and to consider the future.” I wrote that in the introduction to *FES: The First Seventy-Five Years* in 1991. Now, 15 years later, we are approaching a greater milestone—our one-hundredth birthday. *FES: Approaching Our Centennial* updates and enlarges the 1991 document. New additions include a section on John R. Benton, PhD, PE who was the leading force in the forming of the Florida Engineering Society (FES); a historical background on the FES Leadership Conference, a major training ground for future FES leaders since its origination in 1962; and, although its legacy is yet to be written, a brief review of one of the most important new Society initiatives, the Florida Engineering Leadership Institute.

The Florida Engineering Society enjoys a rich heritage, but what makes up that heritage? Why was the Society founded in the first place? Who were the founding fathers? What major events gave shape and substance to the organization? I’ve asked these questions myself over the years and hope this historical overview provides the reader a perspective of the Society, past and present. As Ken Burns said in the introduction to his television epic *The Civil War*, “You can’t possibly know where you’re going if you don’t know where you’ve been.”

In order to improve readability and provide ready reference, the subject matter is presented in specific chapters rather than as a rambling narrative. Few references are made to contemporary individuals even though many have made and continue to make significant contributions to the engineering profession. It is important that FES as an entity not be blurred by even the most impartial attempt to assess and evaluate their involvement. These appraisals are left to others.

Except for the two referred to above, this overview does not detail particular activities or programs of the Society. To do so would create such a volume of information that it could fill another magazine! However, that is not to say that the Society’s programs are unimportant. The many contributions made to the engineering profession through our legislative activities, the MATHCOUNTS® program, scholarships, Engineers’ Week events, awards programs, and numerous other activities should not be underestimated. Records are available at FES headquarters for those who wish to study these activities and programs in depth.

The research for this task included a detailed review of more than 60 bound volumes of FES publications, other books and documents, and my personal files and records. Although Society members and others in the past had the foresight to record events as they occurred, gaps in the records exist and many have been irretrievably lost. Since definite dates in some instances cannot be found, a broader range of time during which the event took place has been used. Where conflicting dates for the same event were

recorded, the records were analyzed in detail to determine to the maximum extent possible the correct date.

A project like this cannot be completed without the help of others. I remain deeply indebted to James F. Shivler Jr, PE, for his critical review of the original 1991 manuscript and thoughtful suggestions and additions, especially in the area of practice sections. Although Jim passed away in 2000, his more than 40 years of extensive involvement in professional affairs including service in all offices of FES and NSPE, afforded me an unparalleled view of events that unfolded during critical years of growth in the Society. The assistance and cooperation of the FES staff is also greatly appreciated, especially that of Debbie Hall, our Director of Communications and Advertising; Cindy Close of Connelly and Wicker Inc., in Jacksonville who assisted in preparing the membership graph and typing part of the manuscript; 2nd generation FES member Carol Conner, PE for her photos of the early days of the FES Leadership Conference; Bruce Hall in Tallahassee for historical photos; and Carol B. Hipsley at the University of Florida for the background material for Dean John R. Benton, PhD, PE. Special thanks go to Carol, my wife of 49 years, who, as she has done so many times throughout that time, provided insight, comment, encouragement, and support for one more professional endeavor.

Finally, to all of you readers who practice, participate in, and/or support this great and noble engineering profession, I hope each of you has a truly “historic” career.



*About the Author: Since joining FES in 1969, Donald W. Ditzenberger, PE, has been an active participant in Society affairs. A Fellow member, he has served in numerous leadership positions at the state and local levels. He has received numerous honors including FES Engineer of the Year and FES Outstanding Service to the Engineering Profession. He currently serves as FES Historian and as a member of several state and chapter committees. He is also the vice chair of the Engineering Advisory Council at the University of North Florida and a member of the Florida Engineering Foundation Board of Trustees.*

# Initial Organization

The year was 1916. Several months before the Florida Engineering Society (FES) was founded in December, G.R. Ramsey (City Engineer of Orlando and Highway Engineer for Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties) wrote Dean J.R. Benton of the College of Engineering at the University of Florida, advocating the formation of an engineering society in Florida and asking him to lead the organization of such an association.

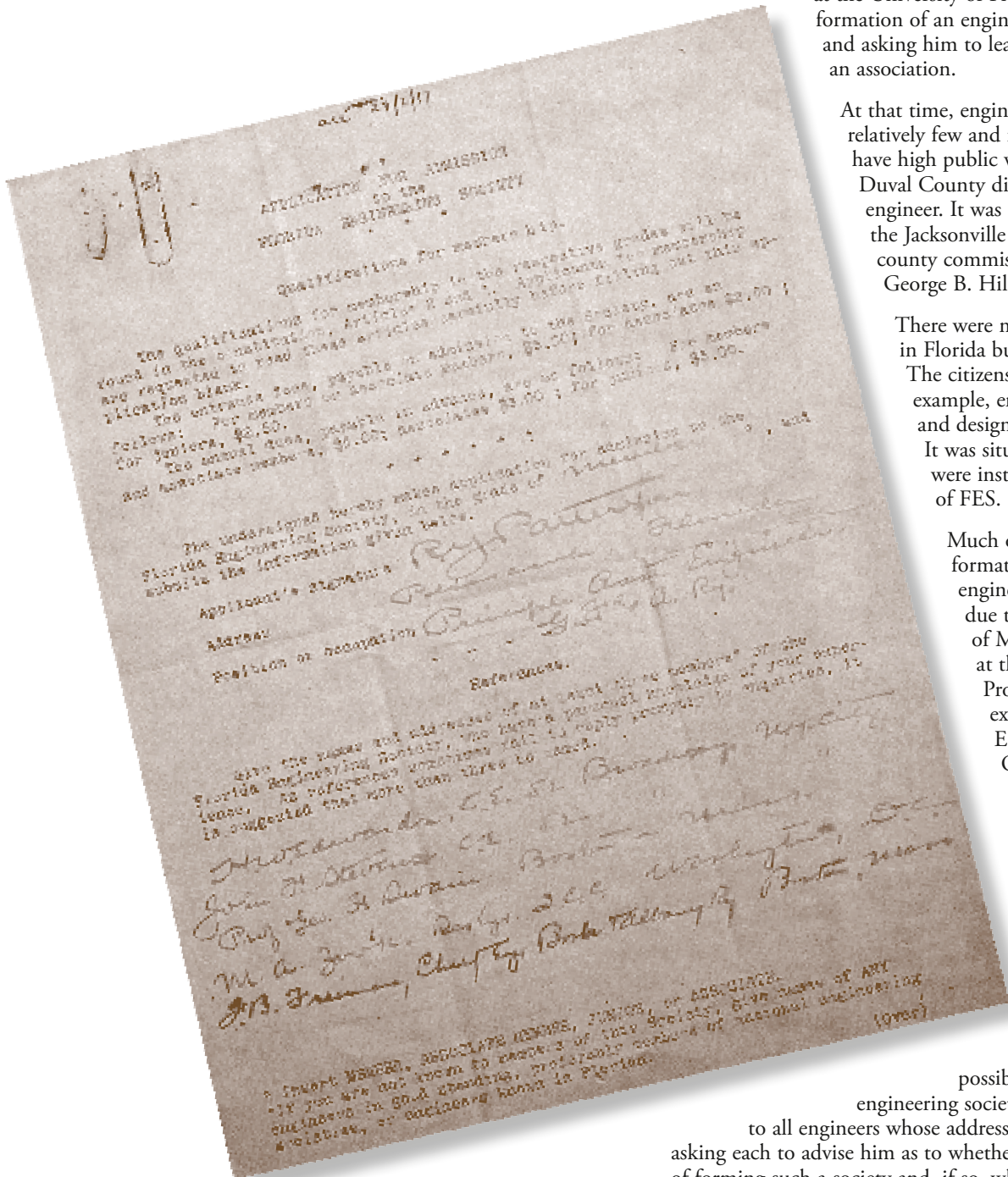
At that time, engineers in the state were relatively few and far between, and did not have high public visibility. For instance, Duval County did not have a full-time engineer. It was only at the instigation of the Jacksonville Engineers' Club that the county commissioners appointed Engineer George B. Hills on a full-time basis.

There were many county surveyors then in Florida but few county engineers. The citizens of Tampa and Miami, for example, employed no one to plan and design engineering facilities. It was situations such as these that were instrumental in the formation of FES.

Much of the credit for the formation of an all-inclusive engineering society in Florida is due to R.E. Chandler, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Florida. Professor Chandler's prior experience with the Engineering Society of Oklahoma during his residence in that state led him to believe that a similar organization should be formed in Florida.

Concurring with Professor Chandler's views, Dr. Benton undertook the task of ascertaining the attitude of engineers in Florida toward the

possible formation of a statewide engineering society by sending a letter to all engineers whose addresses could be obtained—asking each to advise him as to whether they would be in favor of forming such a society and, if so, what place and date would be favorable to hold a preliminary meeting. These letters, sent in November, brought approximately 80 favorable responses. Therefore, activity continued.



Membership Application, 1917.

*The proposal was made and approved that each individual who intended to become a member of the Society should pay the treasurer one dollar to provide some working capital pending the completion of its organization.*

An especially active interest was shown by L.D. Smoot (then Commissioner of Public Works for the City of Jacksonville), with whom Dr. Benton proposed a preliminary conference in order to work on the details for an organizational meeting in Jacksonville—the city most favored by those interested in forming an engineering society. This conference occurred early in December with Dr. Benton, L.D. Smoot, A.D. Stevens (president of Merrill-Stevens Company in Jacksonville), and H.D. Mendenhall (Chief Engineer, Commodore Point Terminal Company in Jacksonville) participating.

Arrangements for organizing the society were completed and invitations sent by Dr. Benton to the engineers on his list to attend an organizational meeting on Friday, December 22, three days before Christmas, in the convention hall of the Seminole Hotel in Jacksonville, with the meeting to be continued the next day.

More than 75 engineers responded to the invitations, gathering from all parts of the state except the extreme western Panhandle. Smoot called the meeting to order and Dr. Benton was elected temporary chair. A general statement of the possibilities for the practical worth of a statewide engineering society was made and discussion invited as to the form the society should take, what its criteria for membership should be, and similar matters.

After the discussion had proceeded sufficiently to determine a consensus of those present, a committee consisting of H.D. Mendenhall, Professor Chandler, A.F. Harley (consulting engineer in Jacksonville), B. Johnson (Johnson and Co of West Palm Beach), and W.F. Cocke (Road Commissioner, State of Florida from Tallahassee) labored late into the night developing a constitution which was adopted at the meeting the following morning.

Prior to the adoption of the constitution, a motion was made, seconded, and carried by unanimous vote to establish an organization named the Florida Engineering Society. Then, upon adoption of the constitution, the first officers of the Society were elected. They were: President L.D. Smoot; Vice Presidents Professor R.E. Chandler and W.P. Darwin (Bridge and Structural Engineer of the Jacksonville Engineer Department); Secretary Dean J.R. Benton; Treasurer H.D. Mendenhall; and Directors B. Johnson, A.D. Stevens, W.F. Cocke, R.D. Martin (City Engineer of Tampa), G.B. Hills (Engineer Manager for Isham Randolph and Co in Jacksonville) and B. Thompson (consulting and construction engineer in Tampa).

Subsequent to the election of officers, the proposal was made and approved that each individual who intended to become a member of the Society should pay the treasurer one dollar to provide some working capital pending the completion of its organization. Sixty-two prospective members responded; a few of which, however, never completed their membership in the Society.

The group decided that the first regular annual meeting of FES would be held in Tampa early in February 1917, at which time bylaws would be submitted for adoption and qualifications for membership passed by the Board of Direction so a definite list of members could be established.



*The first meeting for the Florida Engineering Society was held on Friday, December 22, 1916, in the convention hall of the Seminole Hotel in Jacksonville, with more than 75 engineers attending.*

*Source: Florida Department of State, Florida Memory Project.*

The meeting took place on February 2nd and 3rd. Bylaws were adopted and the Board of Direction acted on membership applications, announcing the roster of charter members which included 124 names.

The initial organization was completed when the Florida Engineering Society was incorporated under the laws of the state of Florida on May 7, 1917, as a not-for-profit corporation.

# Origin of Engineering Licensure and Florida's Law

The years following the Civil War saw a major expansion in the growth and development of this nation. Engineering works including railway bridges and dams proliferated. Many failed. Although a number of prominent engineers of the day acknowledged the need for policing unqualified practitioners, they resisted the enactment of laws to regulate the profession, recognizing that such legislation would involve the political spectrum and result in their subsequent loss of control of the profession.

As the 19th century gave way to the 20th, the situation was rapidly worsening. In 1907, Clarence T. Johnston, State Engineer of Wyoming, voiced his concern that lawyers, notaries, and others were making maps for state water use permits and signing them as surveyors and engineers.

Working with other engineers, a bill was drafted in his office and, later in the year, enacted by the Wyoming Legislature thereby becoming the first state licensing law for engineers in the United States. In 1908, Louisiana became the next state to enact similar legislation; however, both of these acts regulated only certain areas of engineering practice.

It was related by a founding member of FES that engineering leadership in Florida recognized early the natural attractions of the area and envisioned the state's enormous potential for rapid growth, a process which was then underway as a prelude to the "booming twenties." In 1916, Florida's infrastructure was in its infancy and development underway was in many instances carried out by unqualified individuals. Therefore, it was generally conceded that the regulation of engineering practice was highly desirable in both the interest of the public and the profession.

The pragmatic element of the leadership group further recognized that the nature of legislative politics was such that it would be difficult to pass an effective statute regulating engineering practice without the backing of a statewide organization of experienced practitioners. These factors weighed heavily in the formation of FES.

It was, accordingly, no coincidence that during the first FES Annual Meeting, February 2-3, 1917, in Tampa, a legislative committee was appointed to draft a bill to create a State Board of Engineer Examiners. This legislation was introduced in the state legislature and in May, 1917, was enacted into law as *Official Statutes, Chapter 7404*, thus becoming the first all-inclusive engineering licensing law in the nation.

The first Registration Board was appointed by Governor Sidney Catts on July 17th and began functioning September 11th. The law was amended in 1925, requiring that an applicant be subjected to an examination.



*In its present location since 1845, Florida's historic Old Capitol located in Tallahassee.*

*Source: Florida Department of State, Florida Memory Project.*

In 1941, a new Registration Law, Chapter 471, was enacted and the previous law repealed. Amendments to strengthen the law have been enacted throughout the years, and it has successfully undergone Sunset Review in the 1979 and 1989 legislative sessions.

One of the most significant developments in the evolution of the licensing law occurred in 1997 with the passage by the state legislature of the act creating the Florida Engineers Management Corporation (FEMC). This legislation called for the new corporation to furnish administrative, investigative, and prosecutorial services to the Florida Board of Professional Engineers services previously performed by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation. FEMC became active July 1, 1998, however, the legislation included the provision that FEMC would "sunset" if not re-enacted in two years. FEMC was re-enacted by the legislature in 2000 along with legislation establishing requirements for mandatory continuing education for professional engineers, creating a Professional Engineer Retired status, and other amendments relating to the profession.

## John R. Benton, PhD, PE

In 1916, Dr. John R. Benton, Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Florida (UF) was asked to take the lead in forming what later in the year became the Florida Engineering Society (FES). Together with R.E. Chandler, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at UF, who also played a major role in the establishment of FES, he developed the first organizational meeting and the first constitution for the Society. Dean Benton served as the Society's first secretary and became its ninth president in 1925.

Dean Benton pioneered in the development of engineering education in Florida, overcoming seemingly insurmountable problems to build the UF College of Engineering to a nationally recognized program by the time of his death in 1930. He was born in Concord, New Hampshire on June 6, 1876, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1897 and a Bachelor of Arts in 1898 at Trinity College in Connecticut. He traveled to Germany where he studied at the University of Berlin and received a doctoral degree in physics from the University of Göttingen in 1900. Upon returning to the United States and prior to joining the faculty at the University of Florida in 1905, he pursued post-graduate studies at the University of Chicago and taught physics and electrical engineering at Princeton and Cornell Universities.

The College of Engineering at the University of Florida was established in 1910 with Dr. Benton being appointed as dean, a position in which he served until 1930. Forty-five students were enrolled in civil, mechanical, and electrical engineering—the only programs offered. The college had practically no equipment or facilities. Dean Benton successfully petitioned the university's Board for funds to expand the program and raise salaries of the professors to meet those of competing schools. The first engineering classroom building was erected in 1910 and named Benton Hall in his honor after his death in 1930. By that time, engineering students enrollment had increased to approximately 300, six times that of 1910. The Benton Engineering Council was founded in 1910 to service as the executive and legislative coordinating body for the students and organizations in the College of Engineering and continues its existence today.

Throughout his lifetime, Dean Benton published 24 books including *An Introductory Text Book on Electrical Engineering* in 1928. He was associated with at least four fraternities (Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi, and Theta Chi) and a number of scientific and professional societies during his lifetime. These include: the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Association of Engineering, American Physical Society (Fellow member), the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, the National Electrical Light Association, and the Florida Engineering Society.



*Gator Engineering's first dean, Dr. John R. Benton, took the lead in forming the Florida Engineering Society. Source: University of Florida Archive.*



*In 1853, the state-funded East Florida Seminary took over the Kingsbury Academy in Ocala. The seminary moved to Gainesville in the 1860s and later was consolidated with the state's land-grant Florida Agricultural College, then in Lake City. In 1905, by legislative action, the college became a university and was moved to Gainesville. Classes first met with 102 students on the present site on Sept. 26, 1906. UF officially opened its doors to women in 1947. With more than 46,000 students, Florida is now one of the five largest universities in the nation.*



## FES/FSPE Merger



Throughout the history of FES, perhaps the single most important milestone occurred in 1955 when the Society merged with the Florida Society of Professional Engineers (FSPE). Since FES was only a statewide organization, many engineers throughout Florida expressed a desire to form an organization that would meet the needs and address the issues of interest to the professional engineer at both the state and national levels. To achieve these goals, FSPE was formed as a state organization of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) in 1948.

Although preliminary efforts were made to affiliate FES with NSPE at the time FSPE was formed, the union could not be made because the details involved could not be settled. This line of thought persisted, however, and on June 8, 1952, David B. Lee, PE, President of FES, appointed a Unity Committee charged with exploring the possibility of FES and FSPE merging into one common society in Florida. The committee was chaired by John F. Reynolds, PE, then Second Vice President of FES and member of FSPE.

From that time, the question of unity was uppermost in the minds of the leaders of both societies. The first meeting of the Unity Committee was held August 9, 1952, with numerous subsequent meetings to study and resolve the problems involved.

It was a difficult and time-consuming task and not enough credit can be given to the leadership, vision, and commitment of John F. Reynolds, PE to this endeavor. A partner in the firm of Reynolds, Smith and Hills of Jacksonville, he not only served as the Unity Committee's Chair through the major portion of its work, but also held the office of President of both FES and FSPE during the 1954-1955 administrative year.

This service was accomplished at great personal sacrifice. Differences of opinion among NSPE, FES, and FSPE and their local chapters were addressed by the members of the Unity Committee and many compromises were made. When it appeared that an impasse could not be overcome, Reynolds untiringly encouraged and persuaded the committee to keep moving on and find solutions to the problems that inevitably kept occurring.



*John F. Reynolds, PE served as chair of the Unity Committee and later as president of both FES and FSPE during 1954-1955.*

Finally, after the secretaries of the two societies (John B. Miller, PE, FES, and Thomas L. Bransford, PE, FSPE) began working with the committee, a proposed constitution and set of bylaws were completed which the committee voted unanimously to accept. The major work was done initially by Reynolds, with Miller and Bransford preparing the final draft. These documents were then provided to the members of the boards of both societies for their consideration and modification.

The boards held separate meetings: FSPE on December 12, 1953, and FES on January 23, 1954. Many questions were raised and discussed at length during each. After due deliberation, each board voted unanimously in favor of consolidation, with the FSPE Board authorizing the committee chair to make additional minor modifications where necessary for clarification. The secretaries of the two societies were officially appointed as Unity Committee members at the FES Board meeting.

Throughout the discussions and negotiations the substantial difference in membership qualification requirements of the two organizations was a pivotal issue. Traditionally, FES had opened its membership to engineers, surveyors and others allied with the engineering profession. NSPE, on the other hand, basically limited its membership to licensed professional engineers and surveyors. This disparity was

solved when FES agreed to modify the “Corporate Division” within the Society to meet membership requirements of NSPE.

It was further agreed that “Associate” FES members not eligible for membership in the new division could continue their affiliation with FES but this membership grade would not be available to new applicants. It was finally determined that FES would become affiliated with NSPE through its Corporate Division and would become a member state society of NSPE, retaining its long-established identity as the Florida Engineering Society.

The proposed revised constitution and bylaws were printed in full in the January/February 1954 issue of the FSPE Florida Professional Engineer and in the February, 1954 issue of the *FES Journal* for the information and discussion of the membership of each society. Discussion among members of each organization ensued. Among the responses favoring consolidation were the identical objectives of both societies and the resulting economies of dues and expenditures to be realized in having a single organization rather than two separate entities.

Prior to merging both organizations, there was much duplication of effort, especially in the areas of legislation and activities with other professional groups such as the State Board of Engineer Examiners and the Florida Association of Architects. It was brought out that the latter organization did not know whether to deal with FES or FSPE on matters of mutual interest.

Also, many committees were identical in each organization and some committee members even sat on the same committees in each. As discussion continued, it became more apparent that a single organization would be much more effective and would eliminate such confusion. It was also pointed out that the value to the individual holding membership in a single, unified, professional society would be more than twice the value of belonging to two separate, competing organizations and any question with regard to the society with which to be affiliated would be eliminated.

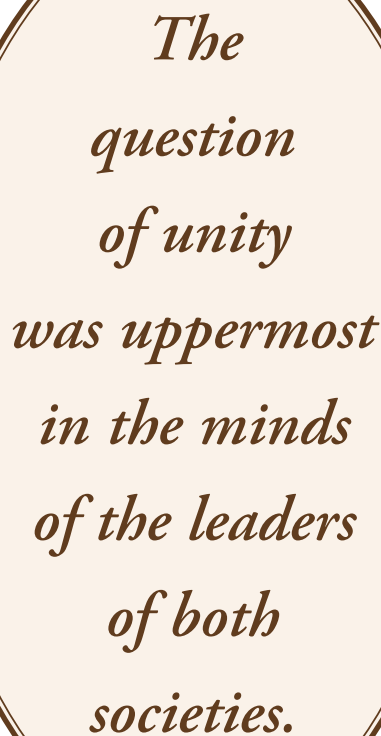
The proposed constitution and bylaws were considered at the FSPE Annual Meeting on March 8, 1954, and after considerable discussion the members voted unanimously for consolidation. The following week Reynolds made a trip to Pittsburgh to discuss the proposal with the chair of the NSPE Constitution and Bylaws Committee and the NSPE Executive Committee, which voted unanimously to recommend general approval to the NSPE Board of Directors. The proposal was next considered and discussed at

the FES Annual Meeting on May 8, 1954, and voted upon by those members present. The vote was 40 for consolidation and four opposed.

Since Reynolds assumed the presidency of FES at this meeting, a new Unity committee chair, John E. Kiker Jr, PE, was appointed. He, together with Reynolds and E.A. Anderson, PE, the FSPE National Director to NSPE, attended the NSPE Annual Meeting in Milwaukee on June 9-10, 1954, where they appeared before the Executive Committee requesting formal approval of Florida’s proposed constitution and bylaws. This committee agreed to recommend approval to the NSPE Board of Directors provided that the Florida representative appear before the Board at its meeting the next day, inform it of the details of the proposed merger and outline minor changes which could be made to overcome ambiguities in the proposed documents. This was accomplished in a letter dated June 10, 1954. The Board unanimously approved the proposal.

Finally, the proposed constitution and bylaws were ratified by the memberships of FES and FSPE by letter ballot with a combined vote of 563 in favor and 119 opposed. On October 23rd, the first joint meeting of the Boards of Directors of both societies was held in Orlando for the purpose of final planning for unification, and the merger became a reality at the 1955 FES Annual Meeting in April.

As one can imagine, accomplishing unity was a monumental undertaking and it is to the everlasting credit of the leadership and members of both FES and FSPE that they were able to set aside petty jealousies and differences of opinion in the interest of the common goal of improving the engineering profession in Florida.



*The  
question  
of unity  
was uppermost  
in the minds  
of the leaders  
of both  
societies.*

## Practice Sections

During the 1950s and 60s, in a development parallel with the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), the Florida Engineering Society (FES) recognized that while the common denominator of its membership is professional engineering, the type of employment of its members created certain rules, practices, and laws affecting the workplace and individual responsibilities. As the complexity of professional practice increased, it soon became evident that the conventional committee structure would be severely strained to cope with these special problems, and the “functional group” or “functional section” concept evolved.

This concept greatly expanded conventional committee functions and was perceived by some as setting up a separate entity within FES. It was the concern of many members that the various interests of engineers in one type of employment might be contrary to the interests of engineers in another type of employment, thus creating confusion in the minds of the public.

In order to prevent this, FES retained the right to monitor positions and serve as “referee” should those situations occur.

Actually, conflicts that have arisen in the ensuing years have been few and relatively minor. In fact, practice sections have served a very useful purpose in resolving conflicting ideas within the “family.”

The initial functional group organized in FES became a reality in 1950 with the establishment of the Surveying and Mapping Division for land surveyor members. At the national level of NSPE, the first section approved was the Functional Section for Engineers in Private Practice, which was officially organized in 1956. Other functional sections soon followed and in 1968 the official title of the groupings was changed to “Practice Sections.”

The June, 1961 issue of the *FES Journal* reports the initial effort to organize three additional functional groups: Engineers in Private Practice, Engineers in Government, and Engineers in Industry. As the effectiveness of this concept became apparent, following years saw the emergence of practice sections which now include the Florida Professional Engineers in Government (FPEG)—originally founded as the Engineers in Government (EIG) in 1964; Florida Professional Engineers in Industry



1985 FICE Board Meeting (shown left to right) Frank Wilson, PE, Past President; Dan Dayhoff, FES Controller; E.N. Nicolaidis, PE, President-elect; June Lowell, Executive Vice President and FES Assistant Executive Director; Dennis Barton, FES Acting Executive Director; Richard Gassett, PE, President; James Marks, PE, Chair, Interprofessional Committee.

(FPEI)—originally founded as the Florida Association of Engineers in Industry (FAEI) in 1964; Florida Engineers in Education (FEE)—founded in 1968; Florida Engineers in Construction (FECON)—founded in 1972; Professional Surveyors of Florida (PSF)—founded in 1986; the Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers (FICE); and Florida Professional Engineers Retired (FPER)—founded in 2005.

The title of the FICE practice section does not follow the style of other sections and it is important to describe the complex evolution of this group which is currently the largest section within FES.

As the process of preparing and adopting operating rules for the private practice group concluded in 1961, the title “Consulting Engineers of Florida” (CEOF) was agreed upon. Concurrent with this development, a new professional organization of consulting firms known as the Consulting Engineers Council of Florida (CEC/F) was organized and admitted as a State Member organization of its national level counterpart, the Consulting Engineering Council of the United States (CEC/US). CEC/US subsequently became the American Consulting Engineers Council (ACEC) as a result of its consolidation with the American Institute of Consulting Engineers in 1973. The term “consulting engineers” as used herein is synonymous with “engineers in private practice.”

As a result of the formation of this new organization, members of the state legislature and the public became uncertain and confused as to the validity of representations of the two groups. The membership requirements of the two groups were significantly different. CEC membership was basically limited to qualified member firms whose individual members were professionals who were sole proprietors, principals, or partners in a member firm. On the other hand, membership in CEOF, as in FES, was on an individual basis.

As time passed, it became evident that a merger of the two consulting practice groups would greatly enhance efficiency, restore unity in the eyes of the public, and otherwise benefit both organizations. After an extended period of negotiations involving membership requirements, degree of autonomy, name, and a myriad of other details including the required approvals of affected organizations, the merger was consummated with the title Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers (FICE) on November 7, 1973. In 2001, ACEC changed its name to the American Council of Engineering Companies.

In recent years the wisdom of the merger approach in the case of FICE, and, indeed, the practice section concept itself have borne fruit. The Florida Engineering Society now ranks among the nation’s top professional organizations of its type in activity level and effectiveness. In 2002, FICE received from ACEC the award for most outstanding membership recruitment effort. FICE was the number one recruiter out of 51 ACEC member organizations.

## PRACTICE SECTION TIMELINE

**1956**

NSPE Functional Section for Engineers in Private Practice formed.

**1959**

Consulting Engineers Council of Florida (CEC/F) formed.

**1960**

Consulting Engineers of Florida (CEOF)

**1964**

Engineers in Government (EIG) formed.  
Florida Association of Engineers in Industry (FAEI) formed.

**1968**

Florida Engineers in Education (FEE) formed.  
Official title of “Practice Sections” adopted.

**1972**

Florida Engineers in Construction (FECON) formed.

**1973**

Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers (FICE) created with the merger of CEOF and CEC/F.

**1980**

FAEI name changed to Florida Professional Engineers in Industry (FPEI).

**1986**

Professional Surveyors of Florida (PSF) formed.  
Dissolved in 1998.

**1986**

EIG name changed to Florida Professional Engineers in Government (FPEG).

**2005**

Florida Professional Engineers Retired (FPER) created.

## CHAPTER 6:

# Membership

It goes without saying that the backbone of any organization is its membership. The accompanying chart on the next page shows the growth of the Society's membership throughout its first 90 years.

When FES was formed in 1916, categories were established for corporate and non-corporate members just as there are at present. The original roster of Charter Members announced at the Board of Direction meeting held Feb. 2-3, 1917, contained 124 names. The last living Charter Member was Leon B. "Skeet" Thrasher, PE, who passed away in December 1991, seven days shy of his 100th birthday.

The five original classes of membership were Member, Associate Member, Honorary Member, Junior, and Associate, with only the first two having voting privileges. "Members" had to be at least 30 years old with a minimum of 10 years of engineering experience, five of which had to be "responsible."

"Associate Members" were required to be at least 25 years of age with six years of engineering experience, one of which had to be "responsible." An "entrance fee" of \$5 was required with \$5 annual dues for each of these classes.

A "Junior" had to be at least 18 years old with two years of engineering experience. "Juniors" paid an entrance fee of \$2.50 and annual dues of \$3. No minimum engineering experience was required for an "Associate," who paid the same entrance fee and dues as a "Junior."

Not all applicants for membership were accepted; references had to be submitted by at least three members of the Society. Of the original members, 45 were from Jacksonville, 14 from Tampa, 12 from Miami, nine from Gainesville, six from St. Petersburg, and the others were scattered throughout the state.

A detailed account of the evolution of membership classifications and categories is not possible here. Changes have been made throughout the years, especially when FES and the Florida Society of Professional Engineers (FSPE) were unified in 1955. By the early 1960's, there were 11 different categories of membership, and in 1964 membership grades were realigned and simplified by a change in the Charter and Bylaws approved by the members. This 1964 change eliminated the category of Honorary membership in the Society.



*Patricia J. Bishop, PhD, PE, FES and NSPE Young Engineer of the Year, 1984.*

During its 48-year history, Honorary membership was conferred on nine engineers. They included:

1922	R. E. Chandler, PE
1926	Ben Johnson, PE
1927	Arthur D. Stevens, PE
1943	Donald Roebbling, PE
1952	Edwin S. Fraser, PE
1954	Ralph E. Wendt, PE
1956	David B. Steinman, PE
1959	David B. Lee, PE
1961	John F. Reynolds, PE

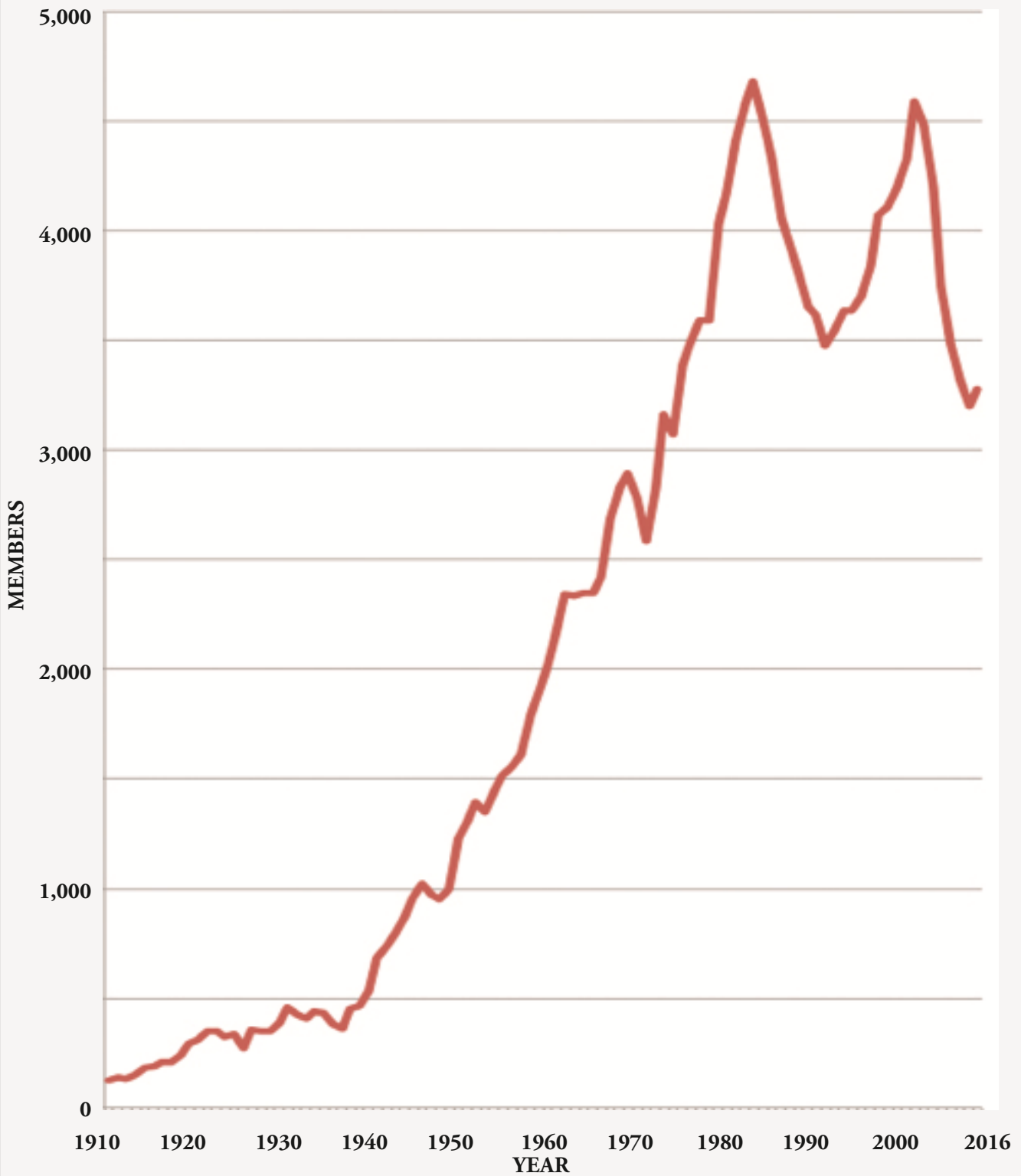
Of these, Chandler, Johnson, Stevens, and Wendt were Charter Members of FES. Dr. Steinman was founder of the National Society of Professional Engineers in 1934 and served as its first president. Each of these Honorary members made major contributions to the advancement of the engineering profession throughout many years of service.

In recent times many women have entered the engineering profession. In 1951, Pat Escott, an electrical engineer from Winter Park, joined the Society as an Associate, and in 1954 became the first woman professional engineer member of FES. By December, 2005, the Society had more than 300 women members.

In 1929, FES began the practice of issuing an engraved certificate of membership to each member requesting one; and in 1939, did the same with a membership card. It has subsequently become the policy to issue each of these automatically when an individual joins the Society. Membership pins in the shape of the FES logo have been available to members since 1919.

In order to afford FES members an opportunity to associate with other members engaged in similar engineering fields of interest and to address and solve mutual concerns within such a subordinate group, the "practice section" idea, or "functional group" as it was then known, began in the Society in 1950. Chapter 5 covers the history of the practice section concept.

### NUMBER OF MEMBERS

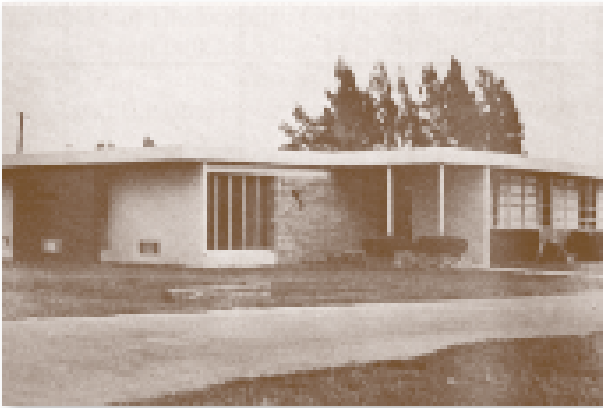


CHAPTER 7:

# Staffing/Headquarters



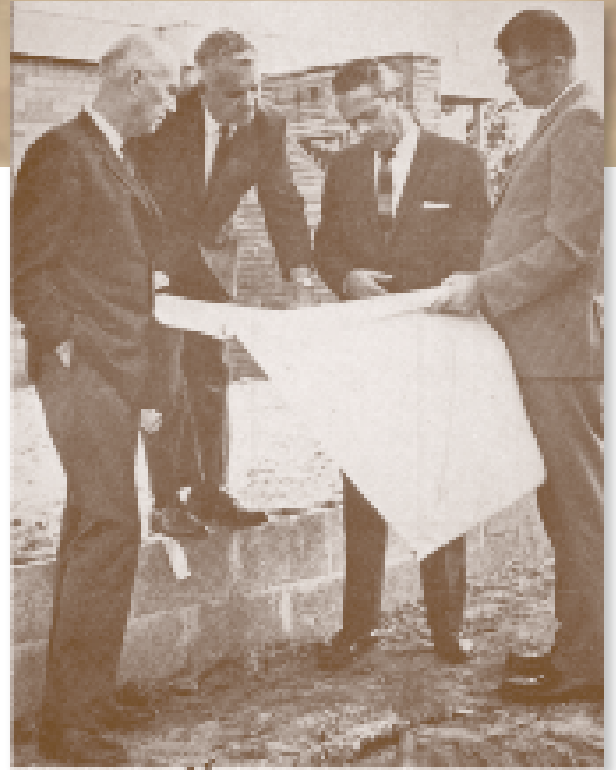
*Proposed Orlando Building, 1969.*



*Completed Orlando Headquarters, 1970.*



*FES office space was located at Executive Center, Tallahassee in 1975.*



*Albert O'Neill, PE, State Headquarters Building and Grounds Committee Chairman; Roland Lee, PE, Headquarters Building Finance Committee Chairman; 1969-1970 FES President Roy H. Barto, PE; and Executive Director Gene Lent check out progress on headquarters construction in 1969.*



*FES Tallahassee Headquarters, 1991.*



*FES Headquarters, a three-story, 19,300 square-foot building with two levels of parking was completed in 1992. In August 2007, the building was dedicated to John A. Grant Jr. PE.*



*Don Phelps, architect; Jack Jennings, general contractor; Bob Alligood, executive director; A.E. O'Neill, PE, chairman of the building committee; James F. Shivler, PE, FES President (wielding shovel); George Kinsman, PE, President-elect; E.R. Hendrickson, PE, Vice President; and Gordon Burlison, PE, Orlando City Engineer and member of the building committee, break ground on the state headquarters building in Orlando in 1961.*

For the first 40 years of its existence, all the work of the Florida Engineering Society (FES) was performed by its members and volunteers. The chief administrative officer was the secretary, whose responsibilities included all correspondence, maintaining membership records and rosters, processing membership applications, recording the minutes, and other activities relating to Board of Direction meetings, preparing and mailing ballots to the membership for voting purposes, preparing Society publications including the *Journal* and the annual directory, receiving all dues and fees, and transferring them to the treasurer.

Although the term of office for FES officers was one year, the secretary usually served more than one term and many remained in the position for several years. This was convenient for the organization since the secretary's office was the official address of the Society and a minimum of movement meant less confusion to the membership and fewer organizational problems.

As the membership grew, the secretary's workload increased to the point that the services of a staff person became mandatory, therefore, in 1946 the Board authorized a full-time Assistant Secretary and the position was filled by Loretta Dougherty.

Subsequent to the merger of FES and FSPE in 1955, it became increasingly apparent that the Society's administration needed to be expanded and improved and toward that end, the Board in January, 1957, appointed a search committee to undertake the process of retaining a full-time paid executive director. The position was filled by Frederick J. Donahue Jr., who commenced work on September 16, in rented office space at 114 SE First Street in Gainesville, the city in which the Society's secretary was at that time located.

At its meeting in January 1958, the Board of Directors authorized the formation of a special building committee to determine the best location for a permanent site for the Society's headquarters considering among many other factors, long-term leasing of space versus construction of the organization's own building.

The need was urgent. Since its inception, the Society's nomadic movement of state headquarters from city to city resulted in rearranged and misplaced records. Office space was always inadequate, usually sufficient only for current records, and the balance of records was stored in all manner of offsite facilities. FES needed a permanent site and adequate office space not only for all its records to be readily available, but also to assure a continuity of staff, provide additional services, and to better promote the programs of the Society and the profession.

The first step in this process was accomplished when the Board of Directors, during its July meeting, approved the committee's recommendation of Orlando as a permanent FES headquarters location. Temporary facilities were available without charge for approximately one year. In February 1959, the office was moved to 1210 E South Street and one year later relocated to rental space in the Coy Town Shopping Center at 2517 East Colonial Drive.

The building committee continued its work on planning and site location for a permanent office. The selected site for the new office was bought from the city of Orlando for \$4,000 in consideration of the Society's status as a not-for-profit organization.

During its meeting in January 1960, the Board approved a plan for financing a new headquarters building. The plan was to sell interest-bearing bonds to FES members at an interest rate of 4% with a goal of raising \$45,000. Contributions also would be accepted in the form of cash, services, or materials from other sources. The "Bonds for Building" campaign was kicked off at the 1960 annual meeting in April, with the first bond sold to FES member Charles H. Johnson, PE of Sarasota, who was then 90 years old.

Bids were advertised for later in the year, being due no later than December 30. The building gross floor plan area totaled 1,750 square feet including a reception area, two offices, a conference/library room, and a utility and work area with flexibility for future expansion being a dominant factor in the design. Ground was broken during a ceremony in January 1961. The dedication was

*Continued on Next Page*



## STAFFING/HEADQUARTERS CONTINUED

held on Friday, April 21 during the FES annual meeting. The staff occupied the new building the following May. This facility served as FES headquarters for the next 14 years.

Due to continuing growth and development of the Society, in 1967 it became apparent that expansion of the headquarters building was necessary, and in December, a fund drive began to raise \$60,000 for this purpose.

The plan was to solicit contributions of \$100 per member for a planned expansion of 2,616 total square feet—1,454 square feet for FES use and 1,162 square feet to be semi-finished and used as rental space. The master schedule envisioned that sufficient funds would be obtained and construction completed in time for the new space to be dedicated during the Society's 53rd annual meeting in Orlando in May, 1969.

Although fund-raising began on a high note, only 50% of required pledges were received by the time of the annual meeting and concerns were raised that the building addition would have to be downsized. During this meeting, the Board of Directors approved the preparation of final construction plans and specifications to be ready by the Board's upcoming meeting on August 2, 1969.

At that time, the Board approved the plans and set August 27 as the date to advertise for bids from a select group of contractors, with bids to be received on September 24. The Board also authorized the Executive Committee to award a contract at its October 1 meeting if sufficient funds were available then. The Executive Committee voted to award a contract for a Phase I addition of 1,441 square feet needed immediately by FES staff with a Phase II expansion of 1,395 feet to be constructed sometime in the future. The contractor, Reginald N. Williams of Orlando, began work on November 6 and the staff occupied the new area in April 1970.

The next several years were to have a major impact on Society headquarters and staffing. As FES continued to grow, issues involving the engineering profession were multiplying and becoming more complex and it was becoming imperative that the engineering profession have greater input into the formation and implementation of policies of governmental agencies at the state level.

In order to accomplish this goal, the Board of Directors in July 1972, approved the establishment of the Society Special Development Fund as a vehicle for raising funds for the expansion of the Society's governmental relations program, and, in October, voted to establish a full-time FES government relations office in Tallahassee. On April 3, 1973, the office was opened in leased space in the downtown Barnett Bank Building and staffed by Charles "Larry" Brown, who served as the first FES Manager of Governmental Relations.

Throughout the next two years, the Society leadership wrestled with the question of whether or not to move FES headquarters to Tallahassee to better serve the membership. Needless to say, it was an extremely controversial issue, but in the end the Board in February, 1975, voted to take the momentous step and directed staff to prepare an in-depth plan for implementing the move.

During its May meeting, the Board approved the plan, instructed the executive director to sign a lease with Koger Properties Inc. for 2,560 square feet of office space effective September 1, 1975, with an additional 1,440 square feet to be occupied no later than December 31, 1975, and authorized the Executive Committee to place the Orlando headquarters/property on the market based upon favorable market conditions to be leased or sold.

The new FES headquarters opened its doors at 1311 Executive Center Drive Suite 100 on September 2nd. Executive Director Lance Miller made the move from Orlando to Tallahassee, and several staff members remained on a temporary basis to insure a smooth transition of Society functions. The Orlando building remained unoccupied for the next two years. In December 1977, the Board voted to accept an offer and the sale was completed shortly thereafter.

An ad hoc Building and Grounds Committee was formed by the Executive Committee in April 1977, to study possible future sites for the Tallahassee headquarters. In June 1979, the Board of Directors approved the purchase and addition of a new wing to a new headquarters building at 125 South Gadsden Street, and on December 26, the staff occupied the 3,800 square foot facility which was formally dedicated on April 21, 1980. It was the Society's permanent location for the next 12 years.

As the Society's programs and services continued to increase, headquarters space once again became a major concern, and in mid-1986 an ad hoc Headquarters Building Committee was established to study alternatives for improving the facility.

In 1990, the Board approved the committee's recommendation to construct a new three-story, 19,300 square-foot building with two levels of parking on the current headquarters site, utilizing the design/build method of construction. Preliminary plans were completed, and in early 1991 requests for proposals sent to four selected contractors, three of which responded in late January. Negotiations with the selected firm, Mad Dog Design and Construction, established the final design, cost, and time frame for construction.

While the building was under construction, headquarters was temporarily relocated to 223 South Gadsden Street. Staff occupied the new building in late December, 1992; and the formal dedication took place on April 14, 1993.

Today, FES' staff of 12 occupies half of the building. The other half is rented by the law firm of Berger Singerman, PA.

Due to continued growth, we were able to retire the mortgage five years early. So as of December 27, 2006, the Society has no mortgage on its property at 125 South Gadsden Street, and the building and parking lot across the street. It was during the Professional Engineers Legislative Days that FES President Yassi M. Myers, PE and FICE President Kimberlee B. DeBosier, PE publicly "burned" our mortgage. Of course, with all the fire codes, they "cut up" our mortgage instead and retired the debt. In August 2007, the building was dedicated to member John A. Grant Jr., PE who was instrumental in the design and construction of our beautiful Headquarters.

## CHAPTER 8:

# Communications and Publications

It has been truly said that 95 percent of life's problems are with communications. Throughout its existence, FES has endeavored to keep its members and others informed on engineering and professional activities and issues.

Since 1917, the Society has continuously published an annual yearbook. From its inception through the 1960 issue, the format remained 5.5" x 8.5" in size with a plain orange cover. The early editions contained only basic data such as a listing of officers and committees, constitution and bylaws, general information, and a roster of members.

As time went on, the content was augmented by papers, mainly technical in nature, read at annual meetings. A Code of Ethics was added subsequent to its adoption at the 1921 annual meeting and such a code, while modified from time to time, has been an integral part of the yearbook ever since.

The 1946 issue was the first to include advertisements. Beginning with the 1961 issue, the yearbook grew to its current 8-3/8" x 10-7/8" size, and the content has continued to expand through the current 2006 issue. It has been published at different times of the year; however, beginning in 1958 it became the August issue of the *Journal* and remained as either the July or August issue until 1978 when it became, as it is currently, the December *Annual Directory and Guide* issue.

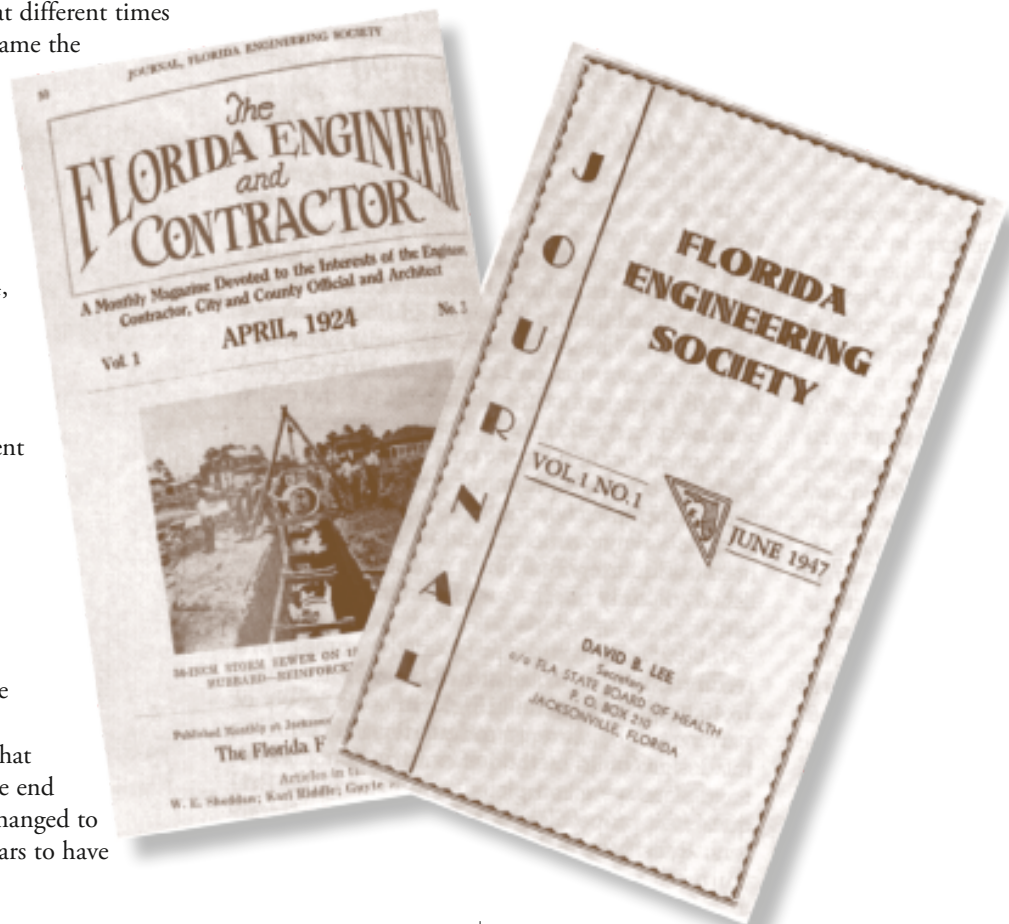
Although the yearbook is the oldest FES publication, the *Journal* also has a long, distinguished career. In February, 1924, publication of a monthly magazine, *The Florida Engineer and Contractor*, that was sent to all FES members free of charge was initiated. The initial purpose of the magazine was to keep all members informed about current activities of the Society and the work of its officers and committees. It was published by Orange Press in Jacksonville, contained five articles, and 12 advertisements.

George W. Simons Jr., PE (sanitary engineer with the Florida State Board of Health in Jacksonville) was the FES Publicity Committee Chair and served as editor for about six years. During this time he obtained the advertising that supplied the funds for its publication. Near the end of the decade the name of the magazine was changed to *Florida Engineering and Construction* and appears to have ceased publication in 1932.

There appears to be no record of a magazine from this time until June, 1946, when a mimeographed publication, the *FES News Bulletin*, was published. The format was basically the same as the yearbooks of that time, 5.5" x 8.5" in size with a plain orange cover. It was printed bi-monthly, progressing from mimeograph to printing press with the August issue, and continued as the *News Bulletin* through the April, 1947 issue.

At the October, 1946, Board of Direction meeting in Tampa, a plan was submitted by David B. Lee, PE, FES Secretary, and approved by the Board wherein the *News Bulletin* would be changed to the *Journal* of the Florida Engineering Society beginning with the first issue of the 1947 administrative year. It was also agreed by the Board that the "*Proceedings of the Annual Convention*," published separately in past years and containing the technical papers presented at each annual meeting, would be combined with the new *Journal* in order to present these papers in a more timely manner to the membership.

*Continued on the Next Page*



## COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS CONTINUED

Volume 1, No.1 of the *Journal* became a reality with the June, 1947, issue maintaining the same basic format as the *News Bulletin* through the April, 1950, issue. Commencing with the June issue of that year, the *Journal* graduated to a new format and a more professional status, expanding to include more photographs and emphasis on overall Society activities throughout the state as well as technical articles.

Another milestone in the growth of the *Journal* occurred when the *Florida Professional Engineer*, the bi-monthly magazine of the Florida Society of Professional Engineers (FSPE), merged with the *Journal* in the February, 1955, issue prior to the unification of FES and FSPE later that year. The *Journal* remained the same size until the June, 1960, issue at which time it grew to its current 8-3/8" x 10-7/8" size, and following the December 1964/January 1965 issue, became a monthly magazine.

Throughout the years, the *Journal* has continued to grow in quality and excellence. It has been recognized as a leading association publication in Florida, as the following awards will attest:

1962 - General Excellence Award - Class A; Florida Magazines Contest; presented by Florida Newspaper News and Radio Digest.

1978 - General Excellence - First Place; Non-Profit Association; Circulation Under 18,000; Florida Magazine Association.

1984 - General Excellence - First Place; Professional Associations; Florida Magazine Association.

1985 - Honorable Mention - General Excellence; Professional Associations; Florida Magazine Association.

1990 - "Charlie" Award (top award), Photographic/Design/Art Excellence; Best Single Graphic; Trade and Association Publications; Florida Magazine Association.

2002 - Silver Award, Writing Excellence; Best In-Depth Reporting; Association Publications, Florida Magazine Association.

2002 - Bronze Award, Writing Excellence; Best In-Depth Reporting; Association Publications, Florida Magazine Association.

2003 - Zenith Award, Excellence in Association Magazine; Tallahassee Society of Association Executives.

2004 - Silver Award, Writing Excellence; Best In-Depth Reporting; Association Publications, Florida Magazine Association.

2006 - Bronze Award, Writing Excellence; Best In-Depth Reporting; Association Publications, Florida Magazine Association.

In order to further improve communications and keep the membership informed, FES over the years has introduced other periodicals. In response to a request from then-President Gene Bechamps, PE, the *Chapter Action Bulletin* was started December 2, 1971, by the Chapter Activities Committee. Raymond W. Miller, PE, Chapter Activities Committee Chair, was the first editor.

In January, 1975, the name was changed to *Chapter Action Printout*, and in October, 1987, changed again to the current *EngiNews*, that is now a bi-monthly electronic newsletter. The initial purpose of this monthly publication was to assist chapter officers in planning their chapter programs; however, it has grown to be a timely newsletter which keeps the FES leadership and committee chairs apprised of events and information not covered in the *Journal*.

Established by the Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers Board of Directors, the *FICE Update* began publication June 25, 1974. Its purpose is to keep private practice members informed monthly concerning FICE, FES, American Council of Engineers Companies [formerly the American Consulting Engineers Council] (ACEC), NSPE Professional Engineers in Private Practice (PEPP), and other professional activities.

Begun in the mid-1970s, FICE also publishes the *Florida Register*, a weekly newsletter (currently in electronic format) that provides FICE members with notices from public agencies requesting professional services.

In addition to these periodicals, FES produces a multitude of special publications from every department. These include numerous seminar brochures each year; information on MATHCOUNTS® and other Society programs; a media kit for potential advertisers; the *FICE Salary Survey*; membership surveys, and brochures on the benefits of membership; annual meeting, leadership conference, and legislative forum brochures and programs; and more too numerous to mention. These communications continue to keep FES members informed on the Society's many programs and activities.

In keeping with modern trends, FES takes full advantage of technology. The first web page for the world wide web was created in 1995—it contained only one page that featured the FES building. In 2002, the ability to process seminar information became available. Currently, FES has embraced social media with member-only FaceBook, LinkedIn and a App. The *Journal FES* and directories became available in both print and as an eBook in January 2013.

## FES Leadership Conference



*Photos shown are from the 1968 FES Leadership Conference in Homosassa. Shown left is Carol Dillard Conner, PE. Her father was L.J. "Jack" Dillard, PE, who served as the State Director for the Daytona Beach Chapter. Center photo is the Dillard family with Tom Groover, PE. Photo right (from left to right, top to bottom) is Jack's son Gary, Wife Betty, and daughters Carol and Wendy. Currently, Carol is a second-generation FES member. She has chaired the Communications Advisory Committee and currently chairs the K-12 Student Involvement Committee.*

In 1959, President Thomas L. Bransford, PE initiated a new idea in the Florida Engineering Society. On May 16th, he called a meeting in Orlando to all FES chapter presidents to explain various society-wide activities including a new introductory membership plan, fundraising for the new FES headquarters building, and chapter activities in general. Ten presidents from the then-12 chapters statewide attended.

President Bransford encouraged the holding of some type of similar meeting annually, and in 1962 the first annual Chapter Officers Conference was held in St. Petersburg to discuss problems, outline goals, and share ideas. Those attending heard reports on Engineers' Week activities at the chapter level, a presentation on how to obtain news coverage, suggested procedures for the coordination of the legislative program, and a summary of available headquarters services. Family members were also invited and the meeting has become a family affair ever since.

Throughout the years the conference activities have become of interest not only to FES officers but to active members in general. The meeting has been referred to by various names including the Chapter Officers Conference or Chapter Officers Workshop until relatively recently, when the misnomer was changed to the current FES Leadership Conference, which title more properly reflects the overall aims of the conference.

From 1980–1982 the conference was held in conjunction with the FES Annual Meeting. This experiment was not a success and in 1983 the conference once again became a separate activity and it remained so until 1998, when once again it was combined with the annual meeting. Again, it was not a success because the objectives and focus of each meeting are so diverse. In 1999, the conference returned to being a separate meeting and has remained so ever since.



Note: See *Appendices* on page 42 for the dates and locations since 1962 of the FES Leadership Conferences.

# The Florida Engineering Leadership Institute

During his term as FES President in 2002-2003, John B. Zumwalt III, PE in partnership with Fermin A. Diaz, PE (then president of the Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers) proposed a bold new initiative for the Florida Engineering Society to undertake.

This initiative led to the establishment of the Florida Engineering Leadership Institute, a yearlong development program whose mission is “to build a strong, diverse statewide network of professional engineering leaders with a shared commitment to connect our emerging professionals in business and government with communities in which we live and work and collectively make the statewide community of Florida a better place in which to practice our profession, live, and prosper.”

The program consists of six sessions held throughout the state with leaders in other professions,



2002-2003 FES President John B. Zumwalt III, PE (shown above) and 2002-2003 FICE President Fermin A. Diaz, PE (shown right) created the Florida Engineering Leadership Institute.

education, business, state agencies, government, and others. The first class of 32 members began in 2003, culminating with a graduation ceremony held during the 2004 FES/FICE Annual Summer Conference and Exposition. Celebrating its 13th year with a class of 34 leaders from engineering firms and public agencies from across the state. With the graduation of this class, the total number of professionals completing this program will be 358.



This joint FES/FICE/ ACEC of Florida program has been an unqualified success and widely praised by leaders from all walks of life throughout the state. With this beginning, there is little doubt that this program will have a major impact in the future in the building of community professionals and will leave a lasting legacy.



Inaugural class of the Florida Engineering Leadership Institute shown above in 2004.

Note: See Appendices on page 44 for members of the 2004 Florida Engineering Leadership Institute.

## The C.S. Hammatt, PE Engineering Library

Few engineers have had the impact on the engineering profession in Florida as Clarence S. Hammatt, PE, of Jacksonville. It is impossible here to completely relate the depth of his wide-ranging involvement in professional and fraternal affairs, but, briefly, he was instrumental in the founding of FES in 1916 and in 1921 served as the organization's fifth president. He even designed the FES logo in 1918.

It was largely due to his efforts that Florida's Engineering Registration Law was enacted in 1917. He was appointed by the Governor to the initial State Board of Engineer Examiners, serving several terms as president. He also served as president of the fledgling National Council of State Boards of Engineering Examiners (NCSBEE).

Hammatt was instrumental in organizing the Florida chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, of which he was a member. He was a 33rd Degree Mason and fulfilled numerous other civic responsibilities. The high regard, esteem and respect in which he was held by his fellow engineers and his distinguished service to the profession were recognized in 1926 when, at the tenth annual meeting of FES, the Society voted to found a state engineering library to be named the "C.S. Hammatt Engineering Library." To further implement the plan the Society directors appropriated \$500 of Society funds and appointed a committee to conduct the affairs of the library.

The committee decided that it would be best to place the library under the charge of an already-organized institution until such time as the Society would be able to have a building and librarian of its own. With this plan in mind, the committee met with the librarian at the University of Florida in September, 1926, where it was agreed that the university library would set aside a definite portion of its stack room for use by the Hammatt Library, and would plan to have a separate room for it when the university expanded its library facilities.

The university also agreed to undertake the care and cataloging of Hammatt Library books and would make them available to university students as well as FES members. FES agreed to underwrite any special expenses in caring for the books. The library grew through its initial years with contributions of funds



Florida  
Engineering  
Society



Clarence S. Hammatt, PE

and books by individual FES members and other contributors, and each book included in the collection was plated with a distinctive Hammatt bookplate.

Responsibility for the library remained under a standing committee until January, 1945, when the Society's directors established a Board of Governors made up of the FES president, two vice presidents, a secretary, and treasurer. The library was maintained as a separate entity by the university library until April, 1958, when, by action of the FES Board of Directors, the collection was incorporated into the regular card catalog of the university's Engineering Sciences Library.

Although Hammatt passed away in 1932, his outstanding record of achievements and devotion to the profession remain worthy of emulation by engineers everywhere.

## From Here?

*The past is prologue.*

—Shakespeare,  
*The Tempest*

*The future belongs to those  
who prepare for it.*

—Anonymous

*St. John's Bridge, Portland, Oregon. Built in 1931, this bridge was designed by NSPE founder David B. Steinman, PE, who considered it the one he loved best of the 400 bridges he was asked to design. Used by permission. Photographer: Christie Holmgren. Engineering Times, November 2005.*

The preceding overview recounts major events that have contributed to making the Florida Engineering Society the strong organization it is today. We have established a proud tradition in Florida and are recognized nationally throughout the profession, but what of the future? Although many engineering-related issues have been resolved, others such as interprofessional relations, ethics, engineering education, public relations, continuing education, and legislative affairs will always require continuing vigilance and improvement. Also, new issues will evolve that will need to be addressed and resolved.

We must guard against valuable programs being initiated only to wither and then once again spring forth anew. This “sine-wave” approach is costly in time, talent, and energy. If a program is worthwhile establishing, momentum and initiative must be maintained throughout successive administrations until its objectives are realized. With individuals working together merging their knowledge and resources, we can assure that tomorrow’s engineers will enjoy a stronger, united profession that will continue to make significant contributions to the overall health, safety, and welfare of the people of Florida and the nation. If, as John Sherman wrote, “The best prophet of the future is the past,” then we in FES are well on our way!

## APPENDICES:

### Annual Meeting

In an organization founded by a visionary group of engineers dedicated to the protection of the public and the growth and development of the engineering profession, the FES Annual Meeting, currently the FES/FICE Annual Summer Conference and Exposition, since 1917, has become a tradition. Throughout the years, it has become one of Florida's most important annual engineering meetings held for professionals of all disciplines.

The program theme for the meeting is selected based on current issues, problems and concerns of the state, public, and the profession. The format includes such traditional functions as the installation of officers, presentation of awards, educational seminars, practice section meetings, Board of Directors meetings, membership meeting, student activities, spouse programs, the FES informal dinner, and FICE banquet. The agenda provides time for fellowship, entertainment, and recreational and sightseeing opportunities.

Annual meetings have been held as follows:

Date	Place
1917, February 2-3	Tampa
1918, January 7	Jacksonville
1919, January 6	Jacksonville
1920, February 16-17	Tampa
1921, February 7-8	Lakeland
1922, May 15-16	Daytona Beach
1923, March 19-20	Jacksonville
1924, May 12-13	Orlando
1925, March 9-10	West Palm Beach
1926, April 19-20	Tallahassee
1927, March 21-22 :	Clermont
1928, April 19-20	Jacksonville
1929, March 14-16	Clearwater
1930, April 17-19	Ocala
1931, March 26-28	West Palm Beach
1932, April 14-16	Jacksonville
1933, April 13-15	Gainesville
1934, April 12-14	Jacksonville
1935, April 4-6	Miami
1936, April 2-4	Daytona Beach
1937, March 18-20	Tampa
1938, April 20-22	Jacksonville
1939, March 23-25	Orlando
1940, April 11-13	Hollywood
1941, March 20-22	Tallahassee
1942, April 23-25	Tampa
1943, March 24-25	Ocala
1944, April 27-29	Miami Beach
1945, March 15-16	Jacksonville
1946, April 25-26	Jacksonville
1947, May 1-3	Miami Beach
1948, April 22-24	Orlando
1949, April 21	Tampa
1950, April 13-15	Tallahassee
1951, April 19-21	Jacksonville
1952, April 21-23	Daytona Beach
1953, April 30-May 2	Tampa
1954, May 6-8	Miami Beach
1955, April 21-23	Daytona Beach
1956, April 26-28	West Palm Beach
1957, April 24-27	Orlando
1958, April 23-26	Tampa
1959, April 22-25	Jacksonville
1960, April 20-23	Miami Beach
1961, April 19-22	Orlando
1962, May 9-12	Grand Bahama
1963, May 15-18	Jacksonville
1964, April 29-May 1	Hollywood
1965, June 16-19	Clearwater
1966, June 15-18	Bal Harbour
1967, May 28-31	Hollywood
1968, May 16-18	Grand Bahama
1969, May 15-17	Orlando
1970, May 21-23	Hollywood
1971, May 20-22	Miami Beach
1972, May 18-20	Freeport, Grand Bahama Island
1973, May 24-26	Marco Island
1974, May 17-20	T/S Flavia
1975, May 29-31	Marco Island
1976, May 27-30	Palm Beach
1977, June 16-18	Orlando
1978, September 24-27	Marco Island
1979, September 23-25	Hollywood
1980, August 7-9	Marco Island
1981, August 6-8	Marco Island
1982, August 5-7	Tarpon Springs
1983, August 4-6	Marco Island
1984, August 2-4	Palm Beach Gardens
1985, August 1-3	Marco Island
1986, July 31-August 2	Tarpon Springs
1987, August 6-9	Naples
1988, July 28-31	Orlando
1989, August 3-5	Marco Island
1990, August 2-4	Jacksonville
1991, August 1-3	Ft. Lauderdale
1992, July 30-August 1	Marco Island
1993, August 5-7	Orlando
1994, August 4-6	Naples
1995, August 3-5	Naples
1996, August 1-3	St. Petersburg Beach
1997, August 14-16	Orlando
1998, August 6-8	Marco Island
1999, July 29-31	Palm Beach
2000, August 3-5	St. Petersburg
2001, August 9-11	Marco Island
2002, August 1-3	Ponte Vedra Beach
2003, August 6-9	Ft. Lauderdale
2004, August 6-9	Palm Beach
2005, August 3-6	Marco Island
2006, July 27-29	Palm Beach
2007, August 2-4	Marco Island
2008, August 6-9	Naples
2009, August 5-8	Palm Beach
2010, August 4-7	Marco Island
2011, August 3-6	Miami Beach
2012, August 8-11	Orlando
2013, July 31-August 3	Palm Beach
2014, August 6-9	Marco Island
2015, July 29-August 1	Ft. Lauderdale
2016, August 3-6	Ponte Vedra Beach



Annual Meeting Program, 1929.



## APPENDICES:

### Membership Statistics

(From FES Yearbook Statistics)

1917	124	1967	2,190
1918	141	1968	2,343
1919	134	1969	2,333
1920	154	1970	2,350
1921	185	1971	2,348
1922	192	1972	2,419
1923	209	1973	2,688
1924	209	1974	2,829
1925	239	1975	2,894
1926	294	1976	2,782
1927	312	1977	2,585
1928	351	1978	2,831
1929	352	1979	3,164
1930	324	1980	3,075
1931	336	1981	3,386
1932	273	1982	3,491
1933	357	1983	3,590
1934	350	1984	3,590
1935	350	1985	4,031
1936	385	1986	4,170
1937	461	1987	4,415
1938	425	1988	4,581
1939	405	1989	4,680
1940	441	1990	4,524
1941	434	1991	4,326
1942	384	1992	4,058
1943	363	1993	3,949
1944	454	1994	3,808
1945	467	1995	3,657
1946	534	1996	3,616
1947	680	1997	3,476
1948	736	1998	3,544
1949	796	1999	3,638
1950	878	2000	3,635
1951	961	2001	3,698
1952	1,022	2002	3,841
1953	971	2003	4,071
1954	951	2004	4,108
1955	(Info not available)	2005	4,203
1956	1,229	2006	4,328
1957	1,309	2007	4,590
1958	1,395	2008	4,484
1959	1,349	2009	4,200
1960	1,446	2010	3,746
1961	1,513	2011	3,490
1962	1,557	2012	3,325
1963	1,612	2013	3,199
1964	1,792	2014	3,281
1965	1,885	2015	
1966	2,018		

### FES Leadership Conferences

(From FES Yearbook Statistics)

1962	August 17-18	St. Petersburg
1963	August 16-17	St. Petersburg
1964	Mid-August	Crystal River
1965	August 6-7	Paradise Point Hotel, Crystal River
1966	August 5-6	Paradise Point Hotel, Crystal River
1967	August 4-5	Paradise Point Hotel, Crystal River
1968	August 1-3	Riverside Villas, Homosassa
1969	August 1-2	Riverside Villas, Homosassa
1970	July 30-August 1	Quality Courts Motel, Cocoa Beach
1971	July 30-31	Port Paradise Hotel, Crystal River
1972	July 28-29	Port Paradise Hotel, Crystal River
1973	July 27-28	Riverside Villas, Homosassa
1974	July 26-27	Riverside Villas, Homosassa
1975	July 10-12	River Ranch Resort, Lake Wales
1976	July 23-24	Innisbrook Resort, Tarpon Springs
1977	August 19-20	Sheraton Palm Coast, Palm Coast
1978	August 4-5	Sheraton Palm Coast, Palm Coast
1979	August 10-11	Don CeSar Hotel, St. Petersburg Beach
1980*	August 7	Marriott's Marco Island Hotel, Marco Island
1981*	August 6	Marriott's Marco Island Hotel, Marco Island
1982*	August 5	Innisbrook Resort, Tarpon Springs
1983	June 24-25	Sandpiper Bay, Port St. Lucie
1984	June 22-23	Plantation Inn, Crystal River
1985	June 21-22	Sandpiper Bay, Port St. Lucie
1986	June 20-21	Mission Inn, Howey-in-the-Hills
1987	June 26-27	Tradewinds Resort, St. Petersburg
1988	June 24-25	Sheraton Palm Coast, Palm Coast
1989	June 23-24	Mission Inn, Howey-in-the-Hills
1990	June 29-30	Indian River Plantation, Stuart
1991	June 14-15	Sheraton Palm Coast
1992	June 19-20	Sonesta Resort, Sanibel
1993	June 25-26	Mission Inn Golf and Tennis Resort, Howey-in-the-Hills
1994	June 24-25	Sheraton Palm Coast Resort, Palm Coast
1995	June 23-24	Radisson Suite Resort on Sand Key, Clearwater Beach
1996	June 7-8	South Seas Plantation, Captiva Island
1997	August 15-16	Orlando Hyatt, Orlando
1998*	August 7-8	Marco Island Marriott Resort, Marco Island
1999	June 11-12	Radisson Resort Parkway, Kissimmee
2000	April 28-29	Westin Innisbrook Resort, Palm Harbor
2001	June 15-16	Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort, Daytona Beach
2002	May 17-18	Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort, Clearwater Beach
2003	May 9-10	Marco Island Marriott Resort, Golf Club and Spa, Marco Island
2004	May 7-8	Boca Raton Resort and Golf Club, Boca Raton
2005	June 17-18	PGA National Resort, Palm Beach Gardens
2006	June 2-3	Hutchinson Island Marriot Beach Resort and Marina
2007	June 8-9	Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront
2008	June 12-13	Renaissance Resort at World Golf Village, St. Augustine
2009	June 13-14	Renaissance Resort at World Golf Village, St. Augustine
2010	June 11-12	The Shores Resort and Spa, Daytona Beach
2011	June 17-18	Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center • Orlando/Kissimmee
2012	June 15	Innisbrook Resort, Palm Harbor
2013	June 14	Hammock Beach Resort, Palm Coast
2014	June 13	Renaissance World at Golf Village Resort, St. Augustine
2015		
2016		

\* FES Leadership Conference in conjunction with FES Annual Meeting.

## APPENDICES:

### FES Presidents

Clay M. Tappan, PE, BCEE	2015-16
Terrance J. Hull, PE	2014-15
Glenn E. Forrest, PE	2013-14
Angelina Gou Fairchild, PE, LEED AP	2012-13
Charlotte A. Maddox, PE, D.WRE, FNSPE	2011-12
Robert W. "Bob" Higgins, PE	2010-11
Terrance N. Glunt, PE	2009-10
Danielle Pitt Slaterpryce, PE	2008-09
D. Edward Davis, PE	2007-08
Yassi M. Myers, PE	2006-07
John R. Hall, PE	2005-06
Mark L. Mongeau, PE	2004-05
Shannon R. LaRocque, PE	2003-04
John B. Zumwalt III, PE	2002-03
Scott W. Davidson, PE	2001-02
Dennis Daughters, PE	2000-01
Juan C. Guerra, PE	1999-00
Christian S. Bauer, PhD, PE	1998-99
Robert L. Matthews, PE	1997-98
Jeffrey Arey, PE	1996-97
Charles H. Carlan, PE, PLS	1995-96
Robert D. Kersten, PhD, PE	1994-95
Victor N. DeCario, PE	1993-94
Kevin J. Cooley, PE	1992-93
Richard B. Gassett, PE	1991-92
Charles Hanskat, PE	1990-91
Donald L. Goddeau, PE	1989-90
Kermit L. Prime, PE	1988-89
George R. Knecht, PE	1988
Charles E. "Skip" Cook, PE	1987-88
Melvin W. Anderson, PhD, PE	1986-87
John W. Harlee, PE	1985-86
Raymond W. Miller, PE	1984-85
Henn Rebane, PE	1983-84
David C. Weaver, PE	1982-83
John D. Buckley, PE	1981-82
Henry E. Woodward, PE	1980-81
Waldron M. McLellon, PE	1979-80
John A. Grant, PE, PLS	1978-79
Eugene C. Figg, PE	1977-78
E. F. Hubacker, PE	1976-77
John W. Hoover, PE	1975-76
A. Ray Miller, PE	1974-75
Phillip E. Searcy, PE	1973-74
William M. Bishop, PE	1972-73
Eugene N. Bechamps, PE	1971-72
David F. Ludovici, PE	1970-71
Roy H. Barto, PE	1969-70



*Harvey F. Pierce, PE*  
1955-56 FES President  
1962-63 NSPE President



*James F. Shivler Jr, PE*  
1960-61 FES President  
1972-73 NSPE President

E. Gex Williams, PE	1968-69	C. F. Imeson, PE	1936-37
Thomas D. Furman, PE	1967-68	R. M. Angas, PE	1935-36
Roland M. Lee, PE	1966-67	J. E. Walker, PE	1934-35
Andrew L. Pickens, PE	1965-66	W. E. Sheddon, PE	1933-34
Albert E. O. Neall, PE	1964-65	C. C. Brown, PE	1932-33
William A. Watson, PE	1963-64	P. L. Reed, PE	1931-32
E. R. Hendrickson, PE	1962-63	P. Kendrick, PE	1930-31
George Kinsman, PE	1961-62	F. C. Elliott, PE	1929-30
James F. Shivler, PE	1960-61	C. A. Browne, PE	1928-29
Thomas L. Bransford, PE	1959-60	G. W. Simons, PE	1927-28
Harold D. Briley, PE	1958-59	H. D. Mendenhall, PE	1926-27
John B. Miller, PE	1957-58	J. R. Benton, PE	1925-26
Herbert C. Gee, PE	1956-57	C. H. Ruggles, PE	1924-25
Harvey F. Pierce, PE	1955-56	W. W. Fineren, PE	1923-24
John F. Reynolds, PE	1954-55	G. R. Ramsey, PE	1922-23
Earle M. Rader, PE	1953-54	C. S. Hammatt, PE	1921-22
David B. Lee, PE	1952-53	R. D. Martin, PE	1920-21
Walter H. Beisler, PE	1951-52	B. Johnson, PE	1919-20
E. A. Nordstorm, PE	1950-51	R. E. Chandler, PE	1918-19
A. P. Michaels, PE	1949-50	L. D. Smoot, PE	1917-18
Wylie W. Gillespie, PE	1948-49		
Milton B. Garris, PE	1947-48		
Edmund Friedman, PE	1946-47		
Ralph E. Wendt, PE	1945-46		
J. H. Dowling, PE	1944-45		
J. Wylly Keck, PE	1943-44		
L. B. Thrasher, PE	1942-43		
Alexander Blair, PE	1941-42		
Joseph Weil, PE	1940-41		
F. D. Banning, PE	1939-40		
H. J. Morrison, PE	1938-39		
A. L. Pfau, PE	1937-38		

#### FSPE PRESIDENTS

John F. Reynolds, PE	1954-55
John E. Kiker, PE	1953-54
Stanley Warth, PE	1952-53
E. A. Anderson, PE	1951-52
Sam P. Turnbull, PE	1950-51
Joe Williamson, PE	1949-50
H. D. Mendenhall, PE	1948-49

## APPENDICES:

### 2004 Florida Engineering Leadership Institute

#### Co-Chairs of 2004 Program

##### Fermin A. Diaz, PE

President, WilsonMiller Inc., Naples

##### John B. Zumwalt III, PE

President/CEO, PBS&J, Tampa

##### Richard (Rick) Acree, PE

Senior Geotechnical Engineer/Vice President, Nodarse and Associates, Winter Park

##### David P. Andre, PE

Branch Manager, Ardaman and Associates Inc., Port St Lucie

##### John C. Atz, PE

Principal/Senior Vice President, Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc., West Palm Beach

##### Mark Bonner, PE

Vice President, Edwards and Kelcey Inc., Jacksonville

##### John R. Brandvik, PE

Senior Vice President/Regional Service Manager, PBS&J, Tampa

##### John M. Carroll Jr, PE, CIE

President, Twenty First Century Engineering Corp., Ft Lauderdale

##### John E. Donahue, PE

Vice President, LBFH Inc., Fort Pierce

##### Jesse J. Forst, PE

Transportation Engineer, RS&H, Orlando

##### Michael (Mike) T. Hermesmeyer, PE

President and CEO, LBFH Inc., Palm City

##### Patrick (Pat) P. Hickox, PE

Regional Director, Figg Bridge Engineers Inc., Tallahassee

##### Steven (Steve) P. Howarth, PE

Assistant Vice President, TBE Group Inc., Clearwater

##### Terrence (Terry) J. Hull, PE

Vice President, Taylor Engineering Inc., Jacksonville

##### David (Dave) A. Kemper, PE

Senior Vice President, WilsonMiller Inc., Tampa

##### David A. Keough, PE

Vice President, Jones, Edmunds and Associates, Gainesville

##### Shannon R. LaRocque, PE

Assistant Director of Utilities, Town of Jupiter/Water Utilities Dept., Jupiter

##### Ken Leuderalbert, PE

Project Manager, Research and Project Development, FDOT Central Office, Tallahassee

##### Jason P. Manning, PE

Branch Manager, Ardaman and Associates Inc., Cocoa

##### Dewey Martin, PE

Southeast Regional Manager, Parsons Brinkerhoff, Tampa

##### Mark Mechling, PE

Principal Engineer/COO, Ellis and Associates Inc., Jacksonville

##### Yassi M. Myers, PE

Senior Project Manager, URS Corporation, Orlando

##### Gary Nadeau, PE

Regional Manager, Ayres Associates, Sarasota

##### Alex S. Perez, PE

Director, Program Controls Division, Water Resources Area, South Florida Water Management District, West Palm Beach

##### Michael T. Poff, PE

Vice President of Engineering, Coastal Engineering Consultants Inc., Naples

##### Donald (Don) J. Polmann, PhD, PE

Director of Science and Engineering, Tampa Bay Water, Clearwater

##### Sidney T. Pritchard

Vice President, Forney Engineering Inc. - Bradenton

##### Peter (Pete) J. Sheridan, III, PE

Director, Civil Engineering, Keith and Schnars, PA - Fort Lauderdale

##### Darlene J. Shuman, PE

Senior Vice President, Bayside Engineering Inc., Tampa

##### R. Bruce Taylor, PhD, PE

President, Taylor Engineering Inc., Jacksonville

##### Gary Tenn, PE

Senior Project Manager, Miller, Legg and Assoc Inc., Pembroke Pines

1957

Frederick J. Donahue Jr.

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1969

Eugene Lent

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2001-2014

Frank Rudd, CAE, CMP

2014-current

Allen Douglas

### Executive Directors

Founding Chairs: Fermin A. Diaz, PE, FACEC and John B. Zumwalt III, PE

2005 Co-chairs: Charles L. Geer, PE, FACEC and Shannon R. LaRocque, PE

2006 Co-chairs: R. Bruce Taylor, PhD, PE, FNSPE and Mark L. Mongeau, PE, FNSPE

2007 Co-chairs: John R. Hall, PE, FNSPE and Ernest A. Cox III, PE

2008 Co-chairs: Yassi M. Myers, PE and Kimberlee B. DeBosier, PE, FNSPE, FACEC

2009 Co-chairs: D. Edward Davis, PE and Michael T. Hermesmeyer, PE

2010 Co-chairs: Danielle Pitt Slaterpryce, PE and James A. Horton, PE

2011 Co-chairs: Terrance N. Glunt, PE and Siamak Kusha, PE, FACEC

2012 Co-chairs: Andrew M. Cummings, PE and Robert W. Higgins, PE

2013 Co-chairs: Charlotte Maddox, PE D.WRE, FNSPE and Robert Behar, PE

2014 Co-chairs: Angelina Gou Fairchild, PE, LEED AP and Mark Mechling, PE, LEED AP

2015 Co-chairs: Glenn E. Forrest, PE and James F. Thompson, PE, LEED AP

2016 Co-chairs: Terrance J. Hull, PE and Richard J.A. Temple, PE