



Brought to you by TACERA

Texas Association of County Engineers & Road Administrators
www.TACERA1.COM

WHAT IS TACERA?

The Texas Association of County Engineers and Road Administrators is a professional organization which was chartered in 1987 to provide technical and professional interchange. Membership is open to all county road engineers, administrators and their staff. TACERA is affiliated with the National Association of County Engineers (NACE) and the Texas Public Works Association (TPWA). Our organization is headquartered in Austin, TX. This allows TACERA to bring its members timely, informative programs and services.

TACERA partners with LTAP to provide continuing education credits for professional engineers and county commissioners. Our annual conference and one-day workshops provide an opportunity to earn CEUs for your professional requirements.



TACERA 2019 Conference & Golf Tournament

by Stephen Eubanks, and Aaron Martinez,
 TACERA Board Member

The 2019 TACERA Fall Conference will be held at the Wyndham Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio on October 29th through the 31st. The



Wyndham Riverwalk Hotel is located at 111 East Pecan Street, San

Antonio, Texas 78205. TACERA has negotiated an attractive room rate of \$139.00 single/double occupancy that is available until the block is sold out or September 27th, whichever comes first, so don't miss out and make your reservations early! Tuesday the 29th will kick-off with the dynamic keynote speaker, Stacy Buck, followed by the first day of professional exhibits and concurrent technical sessions located on the second and third hotel floors respectively. Wednesday the 30th continues with professional exhibits, technical sessions, and includes a luncheon business meeting with an award ceremony for County Employee and Engineer/Road Administrator of the Year and special speaker State Comptroller Glenn Hegar. Each day will have several networking breaks together with evening networking socials (finger foods, drinks, and door prizes) as well as door prizes on the final day.

The conference will officially open on Monday, October 28th with this year's

Tournament and Scholarship Fund Raiser being held at TopGolf of San Antonio located at 5539 N. Loop 1604 W, San Antonio, Texas. A new venue with lots of amenities that is sure to be a new golf tournament experience!

Tournament entry/sponsorship fees are



forthcoming with several fantastic prizes to be awarded. The golf tournament

always proves to be one of TACERA's top fund raisers which benefits the many established scholarships TACERA has donated to various universities around the State of Texas (UT, UTEP, UTSA, TT, TAMU, and TAMUK).

2019 TACERA County Employee and County Engineer/Road Administrator of the Year Nominations being accepted

by Robert Berndt, Current Board Member

TACERA recognizes individuals that demonstrate excellence in our profession. Each year, we have awarded the "County Engineer/Road Administrator of the Year" at our annual conference. Eligible candidates for this award are County Engineers, Commissioner's Court Appointed Road Administrators, Public Work Directors, or Staff Engineers.

A nominee for "County Engineer/Road Administrator of the Year" has shown excellence in the field of public works management, promoting public safety

and preserving & enhancing road infrastructure. This individual has demonstrated dedication through administration of his/her county's road management program in pursuing the goals of safe roadways while staying within budget.

Once again, this year TACERA will be awarding the "County Road Employee of the Year" award. Eligible candidates for this award are County Road Supervisors, Equipment Operators, Road Hands, Road Office Administrators or Staff. A nominee for "County Road Employee of the Year" has shown excellence in performing road work duties, interacting with the public and furthering employee safety. This individual has demonstrated dedication to county road work policies, started new or improved current county road procedures and pursued the goals of safe work practices during county roadway maintenance and construction.

The nomination due date for both awards is August 30, 2019. Visit TACERA1.com to download the nomination forms.

2020 TACERA Board Position Nominations being accepted

by Robert Berndt, Current Board Member

Who to nominate: Leaders with a Servant's Heart who are Voting Members may be nominated. Associate Members, Affiliate Members, and Honorary Members may not hold office.

How to nominate: Any TACERA member in good standing may submit a nomination for any board position except President (the Vice President is designated as the President-Elect). Visit TACERA1.com to download the nomination forms. Each nomination must be submitted on a separate form. Incomplete forms will be considered ineligible and will be returned to the nominator.

Send your completed form/ forms to: raberndt@tarrantcounty.com (Robert Berndt, Nominations Chairman)

Board positions open for nomination are:

- 1 - Vice President (1-year term)
- 1 - Secretary-Treasurer (1-year term)
- 2 – Directors (2-year term)

2020 Board of Directors Announced: October 31, 2019 (Last day of TACERA Conference)

2019 TACERA One-Day Summer Workshops

by Stephen Eubanks and Joseph Jackson, Current Board Members



TACERA has two One-Day Workshops scheduled for the summer of 2019. The first workshop is scheduled for

Friday, June 21st in Anahuac, Texas at the Whites Park Community Building located at 219 White Park Road, Anahuac, Texas 77597. Take Exit Hwy. 61 off Interstate 10 and go South to White Park Road. General admission fees are \$40.00 per person and \$50.00 for County Judges and County Commissioners. An amazing lunch will be provided by the Chambers County Cook Team and Door Prizes will be awarded. Attending the event will count towards CEU's for Engineer's and for County Judges & County Commissioners. The amount of CEU's is yet to be determined. Visit TACERA1.com on the homepage or under upcoming events to view the workshop's agenda.

The second workshop is scheduled for Thursday, June 27th in Odessa, Texas at

the Odessa College Campus in the Dick & Amelia Saulsbury Conference Center (Room 130) located at 201 West University Blvd., Odessa, Texas 79764. General admission fees are \$40.00 per person and \$50.00 for County Judges and County Commissioners. Attending the event will count towards CEU's for Engineer's and for County Judges & County Commissioners. The amount of CEU's is yet to be determined. Visit TACERA1.com on the homepage or under Upcoming Events to view the workshop's agenda.



Would you like to host a TACERA workshop?

Contact us! Tacera1@att.net

2019 NACE Annual Conference

by Robert Berndt, Current Board Member



The 2019 NACE Annual Conference was held in Wichita, Kansas on April 14 to April 18, 2019 at the Century II Center and Hyatt Regency Wichita. Texas was represented by Robert Berndt and Joe Trammel from Tarrant County, Charlie Hastings from Kerr County, Bryan Neaves from Bell County, Joseph Jackson from Ellis County, Yancy Scott from Waller County, and Ron



Drachenberg (Retired) from Fort Bend County. The Texas group was 10 members strong including the spouses that attend the event. We also had several Texas companies attend from

the private sector including Big R Bridge, TranSystems, Ergon and Trinity Highway Products.

Some of the Texas highlights from the Conference included Robert Berndt being the Moderator for the Structures and Environment Track – Session 3, being recognized at the Wednesday night Banquet for his service on the Awards Committee and winning a \$250 gift card for completing the click game. Joe Trammel sat on the panel for the Structures and Environment Track – Session 1 (A Panel Discussion with Industry and County Engineers about Bridge Options), attended the State Board meetings and attended the Safety Committee meeting. Yancy and Bryan attended the Unpaved Road Committee



meeting and Joseph attended the Pavement Preservation Committee. Serving on NACE Committees is a great way to stay informed on breaking national issues and get your say on topics for the next NACE Conference. The Texas State Affiliate Dinner was at The Anchor in Wichita on Monday night. It was a great evening of food, beer and fellowship with our Texas friends and family.

The number of topics covered at the Conference are too numerous to mention but the attendees had their



choice of three to four different topics during each program track. The two days in the Exhibit

Hall brought companies from all over

the United States. Your delegation made many contacts and hopes to bring new vendors to the TACERA conference in October. Please check out the TACERA picture page to view some of the snapshots of the Texas folks in Wichita.



NACE 2020 will be held at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, Alabama from April 19 to April 23, 2020. Make sure you include money in your budgets to attend this event next year. The knowledge and contacts you will make at this Conference will enhance your professional career and give you the tools to perform your county job better. If you have any questions about the NACE Conference, please contact anyone of this year's attendees.

2019 TACERA Scholarship Endowment Awards Luncheon/ Dinners

by Stephen Eubanks, Current Board Member



On March 4th, 2019, Former TACERA President and NACE Representative Tony Vasquez attended the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA)

Scholarship Luncheon where TACERA was recognized for establishing an Endowed Scholarship at the University.



Pictured with Tony is Dr. Emanuel Diaz, Ph.D., P.E., ABET PEV Department Chair for the College of Civil & Environmental Engineering at UTSA.

On April 13th, 2019, TACERA President Charlie Hastings attended the Texas A&M University's Endowment Opportunity Scholarship Award Luncheon where freshman civil engineering major, Kennedy White of Temple, Texas was recognized for the Endowed Scholarship established by TACERA.



2019 TACERA Scholarship Funding Plan

by Charlie Hastings, TACERA President, and Stephen Eubanks, Current Board Member

TACERA has established six \$25,000 scholarship endowments around the State of Texas at each of the following universities: University of Texas Austin, University of Texas El Paso, University of Texas San Antonio, Texas Tech University, Texas A&M University, and Texas A&M University Kingsville. Each

\$25,000 endowment generates \$1,000 annually in scholarship money and is uniquely administered by the respective university. Recipients are selected on the basis of the student's academic record, activities, and leadership roles in their high school community, while TACERA member children and grandchildren that meet the eligibility requirements can be given preference. Based on advice from the TACERA Committee of the Future (comprised of the four most recent TACERA Past Presidents and current President), the TACERA Board established a policy this year to first increase each of the six current endowments by \$5,000 each to keep up with inflation, and second to create two new \$30,000 endowed scholarships at Tarleton State University and a Gulf Coast University (to be determined) as funding becomes available. Scholarship endowment funds are generated through sponsorships of One Day Workshops, the TACERA Fall Conference, and the TACERA Golf Tournament.

2019 TACERA Membership Items of Interest

by Joseph Jackson and Stephen Eubanks, Current Board Members

On February 26th, 2019, TACERA Past President Chad Davis presented a Full Depth Reclamation (FDR) with Asphalt Binders



Workshop in Tyler, Texas for Ergon Asphalt. The workshop covered two FDR projects that were previously done in Wise County. Chad stated that 50-60 people attended from various entities such as TxDOT, TTI, and nearby cities and counties. Chad has extensive experience in the public transportation sector that can be attributed to his multiple years working at TxDOT and serving as the current Wise County Engineer.

2019 TACERA Membership Items of Interest cont'd

by Bryan Neaves, Bell County Engineer



The Bell County Road and Bridge Department obtained a new Volvo EC220EL Tracked excavator on December 12, 2018 from ROMCO Equipment Company. Commissioners approved the \$177,856 purchase through the co-op of Sourcewell. The excavator is powered with a Tier 4 -172 hp diesel engine and came with a 54"- 2 cubic yard bucket, hydraulic quick connector and a hydraulic thumb. The boom extends to 18'-6" and has a digging depth of 20'-8". The enclosed cab is climate controlled and has an operating weight of 47,280 pounds. It is the first track excavator to be added to the county's fleet.

Some of the employees like the dual control settings for operation. There is the standard excavator setting and a "backhoe" control setting. This helps the employees that are familiar with the control of a backhoe to quickly adapt to the excavator. There are several cameras in the cab to aid in visibility of blind spots and improving safety.

The speed of the turning movement can be adjusted to allow precise movement when digging and loading. Road Hands have used it on road construction projects to load and remove earth, at the gravel pit to load haul trucks, and trenching for pipe installation.

2019 TACERA Board Members- Notice of Board Member Change

"The Board voted on a Board Position change appointing Joe England as a Director upon receiving notice from Terron Evertson that he would not be available to serve on the Board for the remainder of his term. For those of you who are unaware, the TACERA Board is currently made up of the following members:

Charlie Hastings – President – Kerr County



Chad Davis – Past President – Wise County



Yancy Scott – Vice President – Waller County



Joseph Jackson – Secretary / Treasurer – Ellis County



Aaron Martinez – Director – Bexar County



Stephen Eubanks- Director – Bell County



Robert Berndt – Director – Tarrant County



Joe England – Director – Williamson County

- No Photo

Joe Trammel – NACE Representative – Tarrant County

- No Photo

