



President's Message

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 Public Works Director, Okaloosa County BOCC



FES Leadership Conference keynote speaker Al Mead, Paralympic and Olympic disabled athlete.

I want to congratulate Terrance N. “Tery” Glunt, PE and William K. “Bill” Francis, PE for a great FES Leadership Conference. Al Mead was a wonderful speaker and set the right tone for our meeting. To all of those that attended, a big THANK YOU for taking time out of your very busy lives to participate and share your insights. Your input during the roundtable discussions will help make the relationship between FES headquarters and the FES chapters more efficient. Please remember that the FES Board of Directors and our terrific headquarters staff are here to address your needs as members of this great organization.

June was a very busy month. Besides the leadership conference, I was able to co-host the SRF Workshop in Amelia Island. If you are in the water, waste water or stormwater business, what a great way to keep up with all of the changes going on in the program, including opportunities for the ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act). Those folks really know how to network. While I was there a young man was pointed out to me with a request that I encourage him to pursue his PE. I was more than happy to oblige. While we were chatting it became apparent that his interests are based in chemical engineering and that he was having difficulty finding a refresher course. I’m glad to say that FES has stepped up to the plate and found several opportunities for him to explore.

I also was invited to install the Myakka Chapter officers. I want to commend them on a great event. The theme was Hot Spanish Nights. It went a long way in dispelling the stereotype of dull engineers. I’ll tell you a secret, Clay Tappan and his wife can really move. My biggest challenge for this visit was trying to figure out how to deliver a speech that was going to outdo the tango demonstration. I want to thank Neirda for letting me go first. I must say that when I can speak with the intensity and passion those tango dancers demonstrated, I might have to change careers.

I will be spending the last two weeks in June visiting China as part of an ambassador program put together by the American Public Works Association (APWA) and People to People Citizen Ambassador Program. We are going to be meeting with three of their engineering societies and several of their public works professionals in Beijing, Kunming and Xi’an to discuss transportation, solid waste, water, waste water and stormwater issues. I’m thrilled at the opportunity to expand my knowledge of the world and particularly the engineering profession. I’m willing to bet that there will be as many similarities as there are differences.

Don’t forget to register for the annual conference being held August 5th through 9th at The Breakers in Palm Beach. The Annual Conference Steering Committee has put together an exciting program. First we’ll do Laws and Rules, and then we’ll test our luck at Casino Night.

Ante up and register! I’ll bet you’ll have a great time. ■