

# CRITICAL PATH



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
GREATER AUSTIN CONTRACTORS & ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

## At the Six-Month Mark

A Conversation with ACEA President Frank Castro

By Karen F. Aroian

**Y**ou've heard the saying: some people don't fit neatly in the expected box; they stand out. Frank Castro is one of those visible and engaged individuals. He's among the youngest ACEA presidents. He's not a contractor, nor is he an engineer.

Frank is an insurance rep and an associate member of ACEA. He's also a Giddings city councilman and stays active in a long list of civic organizations, including the Young Hispanic Professional Association of Austin. He is a youth soccer coach and helps his family's food truck business after hours.

As a bit of a prankster, Frank also has the distinction of being as Silvia Pendleton, ACEA's executive director, puts it, "the only board president I have ever reached over and slapped on the arm." Well darn it, she was worried about him after five unanswered text messages. Come on. Who leaves Silvia hanging like that? When she finally realized she was being pranked, she let him have it...gently, of course, in true

**Frank has a heart for service. He's someone I can count on.**



At the 2022 Fish Fry, Frank Castro and Darrell Seeds greet fellow ACEA members.

Silvia style. All joking aside, Silvia says, "Frank has a heart for service. He's someone I can count on."

### "WE ALL HAVE A COMMON GOAL"

Like many past presidents, Frank laughs easily and admits, "I got involved [in ACEA] because I was told to by my employer." Having received his CISR designation in 2010, Frank is now a commercial risk advisor in his hometown of Giddings for The Nitsche Group,

which wants their employees to get involved in organizations and offer assistance, as Frank puts it, "to be the first one there and

the last one out."

"We are blessed to be able to help others. Insurance is insurance," he bluntly states, but he adds that a key to The Nitsche Group's commitment to serve organizations like ACEA is "being involved and proving we are here because we all have a common goal, and we are here to put our heads together to come up with a solution." He says his career is "all about helping people understand their needs, wants, and sacrifices and how insurance fits into that plan to develop a professional partnership."

### MENTORS HELP ALONG THE WAY

While difficult to ascend in ACEA from associate member to board president, Frank showed heart and determination.

*continued on page 5*



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- Garrett Shepperd**, President-elect
- Dustin Goss**, Treasurer
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### PUBLISHED BY

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Advertising inquiries call 512.293.9277



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**PICTURED ABOVE** Santa (a.k.a. Frank Del Castillo Word) brings holiday joy to Mainspring Schools on behalf of our generous ACEA members. *Photo by T West Photography.*

## AUSTIN WATER

### Austin Water Appoints New Director



Welcome Shay Ralls Roalson as the Austin Water Director effective January 1, 2023. Roalson was selected from a group of 55 applicants. She has 29 years of experience working with water utilities on the planning, design and construction of complex water and wastewater infrastructure projects.



Roalson's background includes experience with the department. She was named the assistant director of water in April 2020.

Prior to joining Austin Water, Roalson was the CTX Water Business Group Manager at HDR Engineering, Inc.

### Austin Water Records GIS Access



Copies of Austin Water Record Drawings, As-Built, and approved Service Extension Requests can be downloaded from Austin Water's Records Access Application (RAA), via an online GIS viewer. In order to access AW GIS Records information, an account needs to be created. The request to create an account can be submitted using the form at GIS Access Request ([austintexas.gov](http://austintexas.gov)). Once the request is processed, the account information is emailed to the applicant.

### Austin Water Rules Posting



Austin Water held a Stakeholder Meeting on January 4 for 2023, Second Quarter to review the proposed changes to the UCM.

First Quarter Rules Posting were adopted on November 22 and can be found on the MuniCode site.

## CITY OF AUSTIN

### Council Adopted New Stormwater Rules



The new regulations will, among other things, require green stormwater controls, such as biofiltration ponds, rain gardens, rainwater harvesting, etc., for sites with less than 90% impervious cover, except for sites meeting certain conditions. The rules allow for an administrative variance option for constrained sites.

## TRAVIS COUNTY

### Stakeholder Meeting held



Travis County held stakeholder meetings on two separate topics to provide updates and elicit feedback. The Travis County Development Service proposed fee changes was the other topic discussed.

## AUSTIN ENERGY

### Austin Energy Updates BSPA Form



Austin Energy has updated the BSPA form (v6) that is to be used when submitting for Residential Construction projects. Please ensure you are using the new form when submitting. It is always best to download the form from the DSD website

rather than using the link in the Residential Building Application, to ensure you are directed to the most current form version.

## CITY OF LEANDER

### Development Hub Launch



The Development Hub is now available for all subdivision, site development, dry utility, license agreement, zoning, easement, and permit applications with the City of Leander. You can create new accounts or link existing accounts to the Development Hub system. Please go to [leandertx.gov/hubgo](http://leandertx.gov/hubgo) to create your account. \ CP

*The Regulatory Committee meets on the third Wednesday of the month. If you would like to be notified of upcoming meetings, send an email to [info@aceatx.com](mailto:info@aceatx.com)*



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# At the Six-Month Mark

## A Conversation with ACEA President Frank Castro

*continued from cover*

He ran three times before finally getting on the board. Instead of being deterred, he was a steadfast contributor to the advancement of ACEA and created enough relationships to get people to vote him in, first as treasurer and then as vice president and president.

"I started volunteering at events, then I was asked to help more and more," Frank explains. "That transitioned into different committees. I eventually became chair of the membership committee and co-chair for the golf committee. I tried my luck at a board chair various times but was unsuccessful." After multiple attempts and thinking about moving on, Frank tried his luck one last time. "Low and behold, I was elected to the board. From there I was elected treasurer, then VP, and now blessed to be president of such a prestigious organization."

The point being: never underestimate the guy who's first work experience was at a Foot Locker. Good beginnings often start when someone sees you, really sees you; they realize your potential and introduce you to others in their industry. That mentorship and connection is exactly what ACEA encourages, and now Frank is the leader who listens and finds out what's important to the people he serves.

"I do not believe there was one person in particular [who mentored me], more like there were multiple people who open their arms to guide me and to show me the ropes. I've been blessed to have multiple mentors who have helped me along the way."

When asked what activity felt like the right place to start volunteering in an organization, Frank says, "The good thing about ACEA is there is no one 'right place' to start volunteering. We all have our own touch. Some people might enjoy one committee more than another. The good thing is we have multiple avenues in which to get involved and that fit each one of us. Just get involved."



**Let's have some fun this year. Let's make this year more interactive. Heck, let's get our members more engaged.' And that's exactly what we have been doing.**

When he entered the insurance industry, Frank was unaware of how multiple businesses tie in together to reach a goal. "The association has continued to help me build relationships and given me the opportunity to help others," he says. Frank is now six months into his ACEA presidency. Here's a look at how things are going and what he hopes to accomplish for the remainder of this term.

### **MORE FUN AND INTERACTION**

"It is an honor and a pleasure representing 225+ member companies in various audiences. I enjoy socializing and meeting new people, hearing their needs, their challenges. I feel like I can

Enjoying the company of friends at ACEA's Spring Swing Golf Tournament. Nicole Gee, Accurate Pavement Striping; Frank Castro, The Nitsche Group; Kathryn Sias, ACEA Admin Assistant; Silvia Pendleton, ACEA Executive Director; Amber Apeland, Accurate Pavement Striping; Jonathan McCleery, Accurate Pavement Striping; and Johnathan Nitsche, The Nitsche Group.

give them a voice, help them with their operations," Frank says.

As many organizations experienced, the pandemic took its toll on ACEA members. It created uncertainty. The social isolation and financial pressures altered daily routines, some inventive, some depressing. As Frank sees it, "the pandemic also taught us to be creative to prove to our membership that we were still here to help, that the construction and engineering industries were still active, and business still needed to be conducted. We were fortunate to continue to work as most, if not all, of our ACEA members were deemed 'essential'. He reports today that "most members are having the best years financially and growth ever.

"When I was elected to this position, I saw one thing: people were way too serious. Granted it might have something to do with Covid and people

working more from home and online, but one of the things I mentioned to Silvia was, 'Let's have some fun this year. Let's make this year more interactive. Heck, let's get our members more engaged.' And that's exactly what we have been doing."

Memberships have stagnated at the same levels for a while, Frank reports, and he would like to increase the numbers. "This is what makes organizations successful," he says. "We have started by working with an IT company to help us revamp our online presence as well as our website, which is outdated. We feel like with today's tech improvements, we can use this toward our advantage."

## MORE MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES

Frank echoes what other past presidents believe, that ACEA's culture consists of shared beliefs and values established by leaders and then communicated and reinforced through the executive director and committee chairs. "You absolutely get what you put in. Just like anything, you have to be active and raise your hand to help and give your advice and expertise," he says. "Each member has a reason why they retain their membership, but we help our current and our future members build relationships, not only within their industry but also with others who can help them grow their customer base."

"We pride ourselves on the existing and ongoing relationships we have established with municipalities to help anyone in our organization when there is an issue—or, better yet, communicate before it becomes an issue. This is aside from the networking opportunities and the opportunities for members to exhibit their companies and recruit



Frank Castro enjoying an evening out.

potential employees through career fairs and our Construction Expo, in which we team up with local school districts to show our youth their options when choosing a career path."

Frank and his board are creating more opportunities for members to get in front of each other again. They are also adding new events to help members voice their options and challenges. "What we don't know we can't help. We will continue to work on in-person meetings as this is how our members become successful. Although we are not eliminating the virtual option, it would be difficult to participate in a chili cook-off virtually!"

ACEA leaders are unique in that they must be skilled at interacting with people from multiple industries. Frank believes each leader brings an individual touch to the position, which includes a focus on relationship building, exhibiting humility, empowering others, and become a role model for ACEA visionaries to come. The great leadership qualities and characteristics he strives for include active listening, good communication and social skills, empathy,



ACEA networking fun at Pinstack: Frank Castro, James Redmon and Jonathan McCleery.

integrity, confidence, humility, passion, creativity, resilience, self-awareness, motivation, delegation, empowerment, respect, positivity, ethics, trust, being a role model and team player.

## A VALUABLE ASSET

One bright ACEA moment for Frank was when he met an ACEA member who was having internal issues that the member thought would turn out to be an asset. After their meeting, Frank had helped the member realize how much of a liability their company was carrying as opposed to the asset they thought they had. "We are not in the business to sell insurance," Frank reflects. "Anyone can sell it cheaper and faster—we see that in television commercials. We are in business to establish trust and relationships, to help build our partners' goals. We are a trusted advisor, just like your financial advisor or your doctor or legal counsel. With that being said, we realized we can help others with their risk programs, from insurance to bonds, to safety, to health, to helping partners understand we may not be a fit, but we are here to help. So like ACEA, we are an asset to those that are willing to be helped and ask for help."

Frank believes that communication is key—and powerful between ACEA members and its board as well. "If we at ACEA do not know how we can help, we cannot guess what our members need. Besides the multiple ways ACEA can help any one of our member com-

Being in one of the fastest growing regions in the nation... comes many challenges, from environmental factors, resources, congestion, pollution, and crime to housing, water shortages, and transportation factors—and those are just the tip of the iceberg... ACEA helps with such issues by getting involved with local cities and municipalities to help with planning and commercialization.

panies, we are in business to assist and offer a voice.”

For example, dealing with municipalities can be an uphill battle, Frank explains, “but when you have professionals in various industries voicing opinions and options, their professionalism speaks volumes, and this is what excites each and every one of us. It’s not that municipalities are wrong. Heck, I’m a councilman. Sometimes other viable alternative options are present that we are just not educated on. And this is where ACEA as a whole comes into play.”

One of Frank’s many messages to new construction and engineering members is, “It’s not if but when something happens. So planning ahead is the most important aspect of a successful project. Asking for help, using best practices, being clear and exercising clear communication will definitely help—and calling ACEA for advice.”

### DEVELOP SKILLS TO DISTINGUISH YOURSELF

Overall, Frank believes the future of construction and engineering in the greater Austin area looks bright. “We are all excited about the future. The million-dollar question is, for how long? If I knew what the future held, I would use it toward my advantage. We can only speculate, educate, and make smart decisions about what is next. But we are all excited about the economic outlook in Texas.”

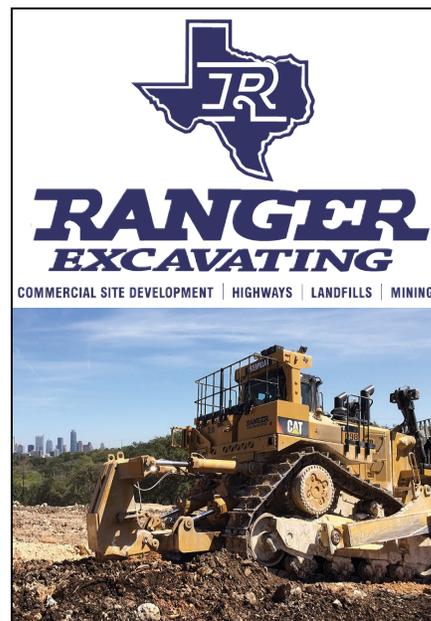
He sees members in a position with more than enough work, more work than employees, and the freedom to be able to extend deadlines due to an abundance of work. “There are no signs in the near future of slowing down. This can all change due to political decisions, but it’s nothing we cannot handle.”

Being in one of the fastest growing regions in the nation, Frank acknowledges that “we were fortunate to have Tesla, Samsung, Google, Meta, Dell, Oracle to name a few, but with such growth comes many challenges, from environmental factors, resources, congestion, pollution, and crime to housing, water shortages, and transportation factors—and those are just the tip of the iceberg. Not only have they affected our industry, but many others as well. ACEA helps with such issues by getting involved with local cities and municipalities to help with planning and commercialization. Growth is a blessing. It definitely beats the alternative.”

When it comes to advising young engineer and construction professionals looking for that next step up in their career path, Franks wraps up by saying, “There is so much we can learn from our peers, mentors, and leaders in our industry that it is difficult to put that advice to paper and pass it out.” A few pieces of advice Frank offers would be to “establish productive daily communication habits, develop skills to distinguish yourself, learn to accept all types of feedback (the good, the bad, the ugly), and stay open to unexpected opportunities.

“It is also very important to maintain a realistic work-life balance. We can all get caught up in the things that don’t matter in the end. Build and maintain relationships, learn from people you admire and enjoy being around. No one will do it for you; you must build your own ladder. Life is too short to be miserable, so make your own decisions.” \ CP

*Karen F. Aroian (aroianeditorial.com) is a book and business content editor.*



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# ACEA Luncheon Recaps

## What You Missed at the Membership Luncheons

If you haven't been to a membership luncheon recently, you are missing out on one of the best networking opportunities around. Not only is the food delicious, the desserts delectable, but the issues discussed are important and relevant to the industry. Here is a brief recap of what you missed the past few months:

### OCTOBER

Patrick Hodgkiss, Compliance Resources, Inc., provided an insightful definition and explanation of just what an MS4 is and is not. Travis Materials sponsored the luncheon and four new members received their member plaques. Frank Castro, ACEA Board President, had the pleasure of welcoming AO Services, Cisco Equipment, Forestar Real Estate Group, Inc., TrafCon Services. The Accurate Pavement Striping team picked up the Crystal Trophy they earned at the Summer Golf Classic. Lucky door prize winners were: Alex Balcom, Doucet; and, Brandon Scarbrough, Accurate Pavement Striping.

### NOVEMBER

Three city administrators described their city's plans and needs for qualified bidders for their upcoming projects. The panel consisted of Trey Fletcher, City Administrator, City of West Lake Hills; Tracie Hlavinka, City Manager, City of Lago Vista; and Ashley Wayman, City Administrator, City of Rollingwood. The event was sponsored by McCar Materials who provided a door prize to Roberta Salas, Doucet. If you'd like to learn more about those projects, ACEA can provide their contact information.

### DECEMBER

ACEA finished up the year with a topic that vexes many a human resources staff. Erik Moskowitz of The Chapman Firm explained the criteria to determine what makes an employee an employee and not an independent contractor. Jim and Nick Wheeler were presented with a new member plaque





10



11



12



13



14



15

**OCTOBER**

1. Patrick Hodgkiss, Compliance Resources, guest speaker in October. 2. Chase Dupuis, TrafCon Services, received his new member plaque from ACEA Board President Frank Castro. 3. Staff from AO Services were on hand to accept their new member plaque from Frank Castro. 4. Joe Helwegger with Frank Castro, and Bobby Babcock accepting the new member plaque for Cisco Equipment. 5. The Crystal Trophy from the Summer Classic Golf Tournament was claimed by the Accurate Pavement Striping team: Raul Campa (Grayhawk Insurance), Brandon Scarbrough (Accurate Pavement Striping), Jonathan McCleery (Accurate Pavement Striping), and Frank Castro, The Nitsche Group. 6. Jeremy Thomas, Forestar Real Estate Group, received the new member plaque from Frank Castro.

**NOVEMBER**

7. Shawn Massock, Costello/7Gen listens attentively. 8. Panelists: Ashley Wayman, City Administrator, City of Rollingwood; Tracie Hlavinka, City Manager, City of Lago Vista; and Trey Fletcher, City Administrator, City of West Lake Hills. 9. Guest speakers received a thank you gift from Frank Castro, ACEA Board President. 10. A large crowd was in attendance for the November luncheon. 11. Sponsor Doug Carter, McCar Materials, presented the door prize to Roberta Salas, Doucet & Associates.

and coincidentally, Jim won the door prize provided by sponsor Tree Mann Solutions. It was a big day for Jim. We also heard from representatives from the Blue Santa program. Members were encouraged to donate with ACEA matching all donations received on site and through the ACEA website. \ CP

**DECEMBER**

12. Jim Wheeler, Stripe-It-Up, won the door prize provided by sponsor Joe Zaniewski, Tree Mann Solutions. 13. Erik Moskowitz, The Chapman Firm, was the guest

speaker in November. 14. Nick Wheeler, Frank Castro, and Jim Wheeler with the new member plaque presented to Stripe-It-Up. 15. Erik Moskowitz, The Chapman Firm, received a thank you gift from Frank Castro.

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# Advancing the Industry with Scholarships

Scholarship Program Provides Over a Quarter Million Dollars to Students

**A**CEA began awarding scholarships to area students in 2004. The program started out with small awards to students in a variety of disciplines. Recently, the focus has been on students pursuing degrees in construction or civil engineering. This aligns perfectly with member's business focus.

### CRITERIA

- Three total scholarships will be awarded each year, one of which can be the Jim Brewer award.
- Students must be pursuing a civil engineering or construction-related career.
- Students may qualify for financial support for four years; General Scholarship awards will be \$2,000 the first year and another \$2,000 for each subsequent qualifying year.
- The Jim Brewer Memorial Scholarship will offer \$3,000 for all four years if all the criteria are met.
- Each student will receive a complimentary ACEA membership.



Ethan Boeker and Irina Raleigh were two of the four 2022 scholarship recipients.

- Children of ACEA members will continue to be given preference.  
The online application is available now and allows for electronic submissions. Check the ACEA website for complete information and to access the online application. \ CP



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# 2023 Central Texas Infrastructure Design + Construction Symposium

Innovate, Educate and Collaborate

As we come together this spring for the 2023 Central Texas Infrastructure Design + Construction Symposium, get ready to focus on next-level innovation, in-depth education, and professional networking.

The Symposium Planning Committee already has 95% of the sessions confirmed. The Symposium will kick off with a plenary session in the morning with the first breakout starting at 9:00 a.m. Professional education will include five tracks with 20 sessions. Plus, we will hear from keynote speaker John Hoffmann, executive VP of water at LCRA.

**The recordings extend the number of sessions to either attend or watch online.**

Approximately 10 of the sessions will be recorded and offered on-demand after the event. The recorded sessions offer an opportunity to extend the number of sessions to either attend or watch online and extend the number of credit hours awarded. Attendees will have the option of registering for in-person (to include the on-demand sessions) or on-demand access.

A conference app will be available to facilitate the networking and follow up with speakers and handouts. The committee is focused on reducing the need for a printed program, but will have plenty of signage available to guide attendees.

Registration is open and information on sessions and speakers will be available in the coming weeks.

## SCHEDULE

- Registration: 7:00 a.m.
- Plenary session: 8:00 a.m.
- First breakout session: 9:00 a.m.
- Lunch with keynote: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
- Margarita Social: 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. \ CP

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**KEYNOTE**  
**John Hoffmann**  
LCRA's Executive Vice President of Water

## REGISTRATION RATES

2023 SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION TYPE	EARLY (ENDS 4/21/23)	REGULAR (AFTER 4/21/23)
ACEA Member	\$250	\$300
Public Agency Employee	\$250	\$300
On-demand Only	\$250 (no late fee)	
Non-Member	\$475	\$475
Student	\$50	\$50
Exhibitor Table*	\$850	\$900

\*Additional charge may apply. Moderators and panelists receive complimentary access to the symposium.

**REGISTER ONLINE. ACEATX.COM**

**2023 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE.**

Contact ACEA at 512.893.7067 for details.

# Call for Nominations for ACEA Board

Submit Nominations by April 13

**H**ave you been looking for a way to grow your career? Are you interested in developing your network and leadership skills? Join the ACEA Board of Directors and shine a light on your expertise, contribute to the association's growth. Submit your nomination (or a nominate a colleague you think is ready) by April 13 and power up your career potential.

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE?

ACEA wants to include individuals with diverse work, life, social and educational backgrounds so that it can make well-rounded decisions that reflect its entire membership.

## WHAT DOES A BOARD MEMBER DO?

Board members are responsible for strategically thinking, planning, and evaluating on behalf of the association. While staff and volunteers execute ACEA programs, the board is responsible for envisioning the program, setting their direction, and evaluating them for progress and success.

## WHY SHOULD YOU SERVE?

Ask any past ACEA Board member. They will tell you about the tremendous value of board service. Not only does board service look good on a resume, you will enjoy significant professional and personal benefits, including: the opportunity to meet, work with and learn from industry leaders; the chance to share knowledge, expertise, and training with others; professional recognition that elevates their stature within their own company and within the industry at large; valuable work experience that opens the door to new career opportunities; and relationships with new friends and lifelong mentors.



**Considering Applying? The deadline for 2023-24 ACEA Board of Directors nominations is April 13, 2023.**

portunity to meet, work with and learn from industry leaders; the chance to share knowledge, expertise, and training with others; professional recognition that elevates their stature within their own company and within the industry at large; valuable work experience that opens the door to new career opportunities; and relationships with new friends and lifelong mentors.

## TIME COMMITMENT

Although board members invest time in preparing for and thoughtfully participating in board meetings, the time commitment is not overly demanding. The ACEA Board meets monthly for two-hour meetings (usually over lunch) and twice a year for a day-long retreat. Finally, board members are encouraged to attend ACEA's luncheons, serve as a board liaison to a committee or working

group and encouraged to attend educational programs and activities.

## NOMINATION PROCESS

ACEA members may nominate themselves for board service by following the same procedures they would use to nominate someone else, either online or by submitting a completed form to [info@aceatx.com](mailto:info@aceatx.com) by April 13.

## OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are always any number of volunteer opportunities within ACEA. Send an email to [info@aceatx.com](mailto:info@aceatx.com) for more information on serving on a committee or task force.

## ABOUT THE BOARD

Members may self-nominate.

The board is comprised of 12 members (five contractors, five engineers, two associate members). Two contractor and two engineer positions are available.

Terms are two years and begin in July.

The Board meets monthly for two-hour meetings (usually over lunch). A full-day retreat takes place in January for a mid-year review and in June to set the direction for the year.

Board members are sometimes asked to serve as a board liaison to a committee or working group and encouraged to attend educational programs and events throughout the year. \ CP

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# A Simple Suggestion Created an Enduring Tradition

## Gifts to Mainspring Schools Began 22 Years Ago

Shelby Eckols suggested to the ACEA Board of Directors in 2001 that members provide gifts to the children enrolled at the Mainspring Schools. It was called Mainspring Nursery School at the time changing its name in 2004. Throughout its 80+ year history, Mainspring has focused on serving low-income families and single working parents—especially single mothers. From the beginning, the school has ensured that caregivers of young children are empowered with the tools and resources they need to flourish. ACEA has been a small part of that legacy.

With Santa's help (a.k.a. Frank Del Castillo with Ashton Woods) the gifts are delivered to the school. Haegelin Wehmeyer Construction has been providing the transport for quite a few years. Their help is greatly appreciated by everyone. Delivery day is highly anticipated by volunteers, the children and the staff at the school. Many of the parents arrange their schedules so they can be there when the gifts are opened by their children.

Every year, there's at least one child who pulls on Santa's beard and is excited that it is a real beard. They often ask about the reindeer, and wonder just how Santa is going to find their house. But Santa is an old pro and has the perfect answer for these inquisitive minds. He puts them at ease and keeps their attention until everyone has a gift in front of them. Then they get to open them all at once!

Of course, the real magic of the season is the care and attention that members give to wrapping the presents, choosing just the right item from their wish list and dropping them off to be delivered. The last couple of years have also included gifts for the teachers and they are very grateful to be included.

Thank you to everyone who took time to buy the gifts, wrap and deliver them to the office. \ CP



**1.** The crew from Cash Construction dropped off their gifts for the children. **2.** Madi Maurice, Miller IDS, stopped by the ACEA office with presents. **3.** Santa (a.k.a. Frank Del Castillo, Ashton Woods), delights the children. *Photos by T West Photography.*

THANK YOU

## PAST SYMPOSIUM CHAIRS

Jonathan Addington

John Banaski

Karen Ward

Joe Ramos

Casey Giles

Ken Heroy

Derek Wiatrek

Stephen Delgado

Scott Swiderski

Aaron Pesek

Jim Brewer

Justin Lange

Frank Del Castillo

Gina Ellison

Cody Schroeder

Tim Weston

CENTRAL TEXAS INFRASTRUCTURE

## DESIGN + CONSTRUCTION SYMPOSIUM

PRESENTED BY **ACEA**

\*Apologies for any omissions. Please contact ACEA if your name was left off due to incomplete records.

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# 2023 Construction Expo

Highlighting Career Opportunities for Students

**A**fter a successful outing in 2022 with more than 70 students in attendance, the Community Involvement Committee has high hopes for the Construction Expo on March 28, 2023.

The goal for the Construction Expo is to introduce high school students to aspects of construction with which they might not be familiar. The dual purpose is to prepare these students for the workforce and offer a way for members to recruit new talent after graduation.

The Committee has partnered with Holt Cat to host the event at their Georgetown location. The event will take place on Tuesday, March 28 with transportation to be provided by the schools. Holding the event during the week allows the school to treat the outing as a field trip and provide the necessary transportation.

## EVENT NEEDS

- **Hands-on Demos:** Get creative, make it interesting and fun for the students with real-world tasks such as pouring concrete, framing, surveying equipment, drilling, and laying pipe.

Get creative with real-world demos and inspire students to be the future of construction and engineering.

- **Equipment:** Allow students to operate or observe heavy-equipment tasks.
- **Job Information:** Information on hiring, expected wages, and work hours. Get students ready for summer jobs or internships. ACEA is providing an application of interest to each participating student. These will be made available to ACEA members after the event.

## BE PART OF THIS EVENT

Sponsors needed to cover expenses.

- Provide materials or supplies (safety glasses, vests, hard hats).
- Set up a booth or demo.
- Send volunteers to help.



## EVENT DETAILS

**2023 Construction Expo**

March 28, 2023

**Texas Heavy Equipment Repair**

800 Private Road 917  
Georgetown, TX 78626

## SPONSORSHIP AND REGISTRATION:

Sponsorship details and registration for booths, demos and volunteers is available at [aceatx.com](http://aceatx.com) or [info@aceatx.com](mailto:info@aceatx.com). \ CP

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# Membership Committee Initiates Two New Programs

## Increased Networking, Increased Fun

### COFFEE CHATS

Following President Castro's directive to have more fun events and more networking, the Membership Committee has initiated two new programs.

The monthly Coffee Chats on the first Friday of the month provide an informal opportunity for members to get together over a cup of coffee. Members can sign up to host either at

a local coffee shop or their office/workplace. We appreciate that Construction EcoServices sponsored the first Coffee Chat on January 6. The only cost for the sponsor is the cost of coffee and maybe a pastry or two—we leave that up to the sponsors. Stop by, grab a cup of joe, and visit with members before you head to work.



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### CHILI COOK-OFF

The other program coming to life in 2023 is a Chili Cook-off. The Committee has been contemplating this event for quite some time. The idea is to provide a way for members to get together for a fun event that can include the whole family. The cook-off will be held on a Saturday afternoon and will feature games for the kids and of course, a chili competition. Entry fees and sponsor packages are affordable to keep the focus on the networking and relationship building versus fundraising.

Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place as well as People's Choice and other criteria based on the whims of the committee. Up to 15 teams of four can compete. Check the website for rules and other information.

### TEAMS (AS OF JANUARY 6)

- Accurate Pavement Striping, LLC
- aci Chili Dawgs
- Baer's "Engineered Heat"
- Cumin Get It
- Fuquay, Inc.
- Jones-Heroy & Associates
- TDI Engineering, LLC
- Nitsche Group
- Rain for Rent
- RDO Equipment Co

### SPONSORS

- Habanero Heat
- Jones-Heroy & Associates
- RDO Equipment

For more information: [aceatx.com](http://aceatx.com), [info@aceatx.com](mailto:info@aceatx.com) or 512.893.7067. If you want to help plan more fun membership events, join the committee! \ CP

# Blue Santa Celebrates 50 Year Anniversary

## ACEA Supports Community Program

**A**CEA has a long history of supporting the Operation Blue Santa program. The exact number of years has been lost, but it is an honor and a pleasure to partner with this organization that does so much good in the community. Blue Santa celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2022. A celebration to commemorate this milestone was held on November 5, 2022. ACEA Board President Frank Castro and Executive Director Silvia Pendleton attended the event.

Blue Santa Board President, Margarine Beaman, and APD representative, Lt. Lawrence “Lee” Davis of APD, accepted a proclamation from the City of Austin making December 17th, 2022, Austin Police Operation Blue Santa Day. Margarine Beaman was also honored for her many years of service to the program. She was presented with a quilt featuring photos from many of her years as a volunteer. \ CP



1. Silvia Pendleton, ACEA Executive Director, tries to explain to Santa. 2. Operation Blue Santa celebrates 50 years. 3. ACEA received a special commendation for their support of the program. 4. Silvia Pendleton, City of Austin City Manager Spencer Cronk, and Frank Castro, ACEA Board President. 5. Frank Castro, Debi and an unknown Blue Santa Volunteer, Margarine Beaman, Blue Santa Board President, and Silvia Pendleton, ACEA Executive Director.



# CP \ ACEA EVENTS

FEB \ 18

## CHILI COOKOFF

TIME: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Live and silent auction, plus raffle items and prizes.

Sponsorships available.

### MLA Geotechnical

Parking lot  
2804 Longhorn Blvd.  
Austin, TX

MAR \ 9

## MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

TIME: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**SPEAKER:** Jorge Morales, City of Austin Watershed Protection Director

**TOPIC:** WPD Updates

**SPONSORED BY:** Ferguson Waterworks

### Norris Conference Center

2525 Anderson Lane  
(Northcross Mall)

MAR \ 30

## ACEA 40TH ANNIVERSARY BASH

TIME: 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.

Food, fun, prizes, games, secret passageways, specialty drinks, and more surprises!

Roaring 20s attire encouraged.

Sponsorships available.

### Norris Conference Center

2525 Anderson Lane  
(Northcross Mall)

APR \ 13

## MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

TIME: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**SPEAKER:** David Greear, Travis County Public Works Director

**TOPIC:** Travis County TIA Process

Sponsorship available.

### Norris Conference Center

2525 Anderson Lane  
(Northcross Mall)

MAY \ 11

## CENTRAL TEXAS INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGN + CONSTRUCTION SYMPOSIUM

TIME: 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

20 sessions, five tracks, keynote speaker and luncheon, exhibits, networking, and a closing reception.

Sponsorships available.

### Austin Convention Center

500 E. Cesar Chavez  
Austin, TX



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**MARCH 30, 2023**

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DANCING

CASINO GAMES

VIP ROOM

SPEAKEASY LOUNGE

LOUNGE SINGER

SIGNATURE DRINK

CIGAR TRAILER

## ACQUISITIONS

### BOWMAN ACQUIRES SPATIAL ACUITY

**Bowman Consulting Group Ltd.**, announced a definitive agreement under which Bowman will acquire substantially all of the assets of Spatial Acuity, LLC, a 3D modeling and reality capture firm headquartered in Austin. Serving both domestic and international clients, Spatial Acuity focuses on reality capture technology including high-definition scanning and 3D building information modeling (BIM) creating a geospatial ecosystem and bringing digital twins to reality. Spatial Acuity's founder and CTO, Garrett Owens, will lead Bowman's specialty geomatics and reality capture services group.

## PROJECTS

### CITY OF CEDAR PARK AWARDS CONTRACTOR

**Cash Construction Company, Inc.**, was approved by the City of Cedar

Park as the contractor for the construction of the Anderson Mill Road Phase 2 project.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!



Congratulations **Travis Isaacson**, The Rios Group who graduated from Leadership Round Rock. The mission of Leadership Round Rock is to develop essential

leadership skills and to promote awareness of the issues and opportunities that impact Round Rock, Texas. As the Central Texas Area Manager for The Rios Group and Round Rock resident, this year-long program was important to him.



Congratulations to **Vera Massaro** of Qualico, on her retirement after 35 years in the business.

Congratulations to **Ali Khataw**, Encotech, and **Rudy Garza**, GarzaEMC, on their leadership roles at the Austin Chamber of Commerce! \ CP

### Do you have member news?

ACEA members are invited to share industry-pertinent news. Please email press releases to [info@aceatx.com](mailto:info@aceatx.com).

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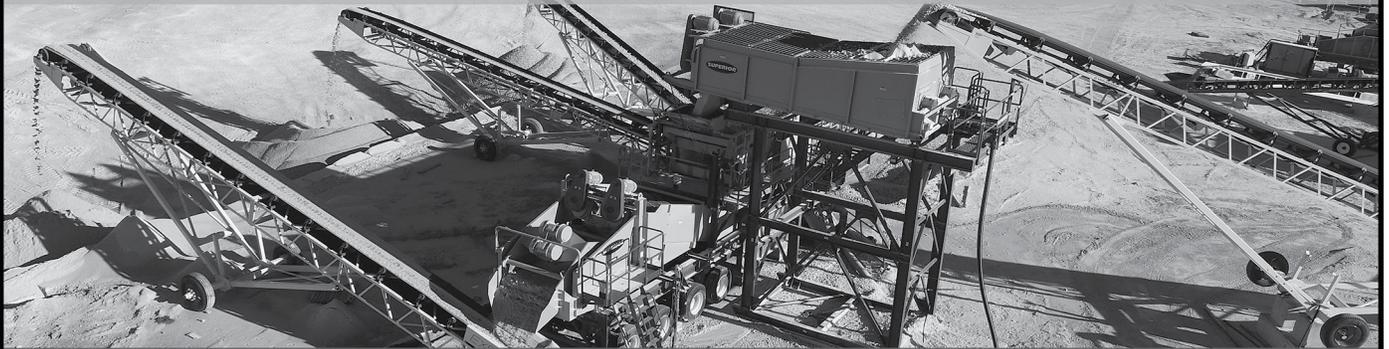
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