



# The Florida design-builder

Spring 2008

Newsletter of the DBIA Florida Region

## DBIA-FL 2008 Annual Sponsors

### The Florida Design-Builder

The Florida Design-Builder is a publication of the Design-Build Institute of America's Florida Region, P.O. Box 781172, Orlando, FL 32828.

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## DBIA - FLORIDA REGION LEARN - NETWORK - ACHIEVE

### LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

by Tom Donnelly, ARM, 2008 DBIA-FL President



Tom Donnelly, ARM  
Stahl & Associates  
Insurance

“Trim your fat.” That's what everyone is hearing these days. You have limited resources to accomplish the same goals you had before. How are you going to do it? Are you going to fold up in a little ball and wait for things to change, or are you going to look for answers to your problems?

Hopefully you're looking for answers and ways to get the most out of your budget, time, and people. You have to get the greatest value from every asset, or it's wasted.

When I was looking for something new and exciting, something different, something cutting edge, I came across a little talked about project delivery method called design-build. Little did I know at that time design-build had been around for thousands of years successfully delivering projects of every size and scope. A wise man once told me that if you ever want to discover something new, read a book that was written 100 years ago.

Now that we have to trim the fat and realize more value, why not look to fully integrated project delivery as the way to make a difference? Why is it when a deadline has to be met and the budget has to be kept the project

delivery method of choice is design-build?

Look at these recent projects that have met and are meeting these requirements: the rebuilding of I-35W Mississippi River Bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Nationals Park home of the Major League Baseball Washington Nationals (also LEED certified); and Port of Miami Tunnel project (DBFOM). Regardless of whether your project is an infrastructure undertaking or a small office building, design-build works.

The much anticipated review from our Legislative Committee Chair, Teno West of Holland & Knight will soon be available. His team has conducted a review of the many ordinances and procurement laws of municipalities and public entities throughout Florida to determine which entities allow for the use of design-build in accordance with State law. Their review will be made available to our members. If we missed an entity near you please let us know so that we may contact them and add their information to our growing list.

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# Meet the 2008 DBIA Florida Region Leadership:



Tom Donnelly, ARM  
*Chairman*  
Stahl & Associates  
Insurance  
Tampa, FL



Jimmy Barber, PE, DBIA  
*Vice Chairman*  
Haskell  
Jacksonville, FL



Bonny Block Edwards  
*Treasurer*  
Hensel Phelps  
Construction Co.  
Orlando, FL



Patrick Lien  
*Secretary*  
R.W. Beck, Inc.  
Orlando, FL



Patrick Mullen  
*Past Chairman &  
Southeast Chairman*  
MWH America's, Inc.  
Sunrise, FL



John Giachino  
*Central Chairman*  
Boyle Engineering Corp.  
Orlando, FL



Bret Huffman  
*Northeast Chairman*  
Gibbs & Register, Inc.  
Orange Park, FL



Jay Saxena  
*Owners Council Chair*  
City of Cape Coral  
Cape Coral, FL



Brian Hagerich, DBIA  
*Program Chairman*  
CDM  
West Palm Beach, FL



Jim Hull, DBIA  
*Membership Chairman*  
CDM  
Maitland, FL



Teno West  
*Legislative Chairman*  
Holland & Knight



*Gulf Coast Chairman*

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Mark your calendars now for the Region's 4th Annual Conference, Sept 18th & 19th at the Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk, Jacksonville, FL. If you're interested in participating in planning, presenting, or sponsoring please contact our Regional Vice Chairman and Conference Chair Jimmy Barber at jimmy.barber@haskell.com or our Executive Director Karen Wallace for more information.

Our education plate is full once again this year with many opportunities to learn. We have offered all three of the

core courses for the DBIA Designation, and the exam prep and exam will be available here in July. Take hold of the opportunity to stand out from your peers and become a DBIA Professional. WE TEACH HOW.

Even though we're all trying to do more with less, let's not forget about the importance of safety. Every employee needs to go home at the end of the day. That's not just some cute way of saying that you need to keep payroll costs down so make sure nobody is working overtime.

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# DBIA Membership

By Jim Hull, DBIA-FL Membership Chair

Congratulations to all of our Florida Region members for volunteering to be on the membership committee. Due to the diversity of our membership: owners, representatives of government agencies, design professionals, contractors, specialty contractors, academics, and students, our best recruiters for membership in the DBIA are our members themselves. Each of us in our own area of practice has distinct opportunities to reach out to our constituents. We would like to encourage each member to take advantage of those opportunities.

Individual members can recruit business contacts by discussing your membership in the DBIA in casual conversation. When trading business cards, just jot down on the back of your card the Florida Region's web address: [www.fldbja.org](http://www.fldbja.org) or the National's address: [www.dbia.org](http://www.dbia.org), and invite your business contacts to visit our sites.

Become an advocate for DBIA membership within other organizations with which you are involved. Individual Members of the DBIA-FL can encourage the firms they work for to become an Industry Partner. Members whose firms are Industry Partners can recruit colleagues to become an additional contact to the firm's membership. Link your organization's Web site to both [www.dbia.org](http://www.dbia.org) and [www.fldbja.org](http://www.fldbja.org). Industry Partners may also place the DBIA logo on their Web site.

Another simple way to help inform others of the benefits of membership is to invite contacts and colleagues to participate in one of our chapter programs. Bring a guest - the more the merrier.

Most of our members attend other professional association functions or events and some give presentations on alternative delivery. These are excellent opportunities, not only to promote your own business, but to also promote the DBIA. We have great new marketing materials that we can make available to you for such events.

Membership in the DBIA is increasingly important in today's design-build industry. DBIA's educational programs and resources help our members to be at the forefront of this revolution. Among the numerous organizations that serve the design and construction industry, only DBIA brings together professionals from all geographical, market segment, and topical specialization, embracing the entire breath and variety of activity in design and construction.



## MEMBER NEWS

TAMPA, FL – **Cutler Associates** announced several exciting staff additions and changes in their Tampa office.

**Trevor Otlewski** was promoted to Project Manager. His new responsibilities include GMP development, managing bid packages, scope review, and contract awards, and management of budgets and operational project costs. Mr. Otlewski is a graduate of Purdue University, with a B.S. in Engineering/Management Information Systems. He has seven years of experience, including four years with Cutler Associates as a Project Engineer, and has prepared cost estimates on projects ranging from \$20 million to \$350 million.

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# Design-Build Delivery Used to Speed School Construction

By Jay Saxena, Public Works Services Division Manager, City of Cape Coral

Lee County and the City of Cape Coral were growing at a breakneck speed during the growth period of 2004-2006. Unable to keep up with the growth, the Lee County school district was experiencing a student station shortfall.

The City of Cape Coral took on the daunting task of providing additional seats for k-12 students. The City of Cape Coral Council appointed the City of Cape Coral Charter School Board. This board is the policy body in matters of City of Cape Coral Charter Schools. The board and city management collaboratively proposed to the City Council the development of a pro forma for a municipal charter school system. Finally, the City Council approved the development of a City of Cape Coral Charter school system. The system is made up of two elementary, one middle and one high school.

The initial plans were to start with the elementary school. The process was challenging as the City of Cape Coral needed to complete the process of planning, design, and construction for a fully-functional, fully-stocked school with a functioning media center and cafeteria. All of this had to be completed prior to the start of the 2005-2006 school year. Typical cycle for this process, within the Lee County School District, was running well over three years.

The City of Cape Coral elected to opt for the design-build project delivery option. In making this decision, the City of Cape Coral made a conscious choice to find a single source fully-integrated firm. The City management searched for a firm that had demonstrated a strong experience in design-build based delivery of projects. The City of Cape Coral's qualifying criteria was to find a fully integrated company as opposed to a consortium of separate entities formed for this project.

The City's formal selection process resulted in the selection of such a firm. The selected design-build company had a long track history of delivering projects using design-build. Their project team was an integrated single source entity experienced in planning, design and construction of charter schools.



The City formed a team consisting of the selected company representatives and the City of Cape Coral Project Manager. This group was to manage the building of the first charter school. This marriage between the two entities created an experienced, organized and highly qualified group dedicated and committed to the success of the project.

The team kicked the project into high gear. The first steps were planning and phased design approach. This phased approach ensured initiation of the critical facets of project planning and development. The team was very much into the finalized design stages and associated permitting process before the School Administrator was hired. This was a challenge as the team was moving full throttle and still wanted to develop a good working dialogue with the administrator.

The construction started in the beginning of February 2005. The phased design, permitting, construction and all related project processes were running in parallel tracks. The team kept the School Administrator engaged in all the decisions.

Over a period of the next six months, the process moved at a breakneck speed overcoming many roadblocks and obstacles including an earlier and higher than normal rainy season. The school had to open on July 31, 2005, to keep within its charter requirements with Lee County School District.

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## EXECUTIVE PROFILE: Rex Huffman, DBIA

*Name:* Rex Huffman, DBIA

*Title:* President

*Company:* Gibbs & Register, Inc.

*HQ:* Winter Garden, FL

*Years with the Company:* 3

*Nature of Business:* High-quality civil and sitework

*Education:* BS in Civil Engineering, Iowa State

*Where you grew up:* Fort Madison, Iowa. Right in the heart of the Midwest.

### **Background**

*In one word how would people describe you?*

Driven.

*What trait of yours makes you the most successful?*

Being tenacious.

*How did you get started in your career?*

In 1970 I started by designing highways and bridges in Topeka, Kansas for the Kansas DOT. It was there that I fell in love with the construction side of the industry. In 1975 I joined the general construction firm Fru-Con in St. Louis, MO. I officially began my design-build career in 1984 with Sverdrup. Design-build's first appeal was the oversight and control of the entire project. After Jacobs purchased Sverdrup I joined Haskell in Jacksonville, Florida in 2000. In 2005 a long time friend and colleague John Gibbs presented me with an opportunity to buy into Gibbs & Register and oversee the design-build growth of the business. And that is where I am today.

*What is your favorite activity with your family?*

I love spending time with my wife, kids & grandkids. Any time with them is quality time. But when I have a chance to be by myself, I really enjoy gardening. Especially planting and caring for flowers.

*Do you have any four legged family members?*

I have two great dogs; a mutt that sometimes answers to the name Macee, and Bob the miniature Dachsund.

*If you could have dinner with one person you've never met, who would it be?*

I would love to have dinner with President Bush. To be able to sit and chat with a sitting President would absolutely be an amazing experience to learn what it's like to deal with all the pressures of the world and to touch so many people.

*Who are your heroes in the business world?*

Early in my career at Fru-Con I met a superintendent named Bill Cassidy, circa 1974. He was a seasoned super that mentored me during my developmental years in the construction industry, and those many lessons from him meant the world to me.

*What was your first paid job?*

At age nine I was a paperboy back in Fort Madison, Iowa

*If you weren't in your current career what would be doing?*

I would still be in the Army hopefully as an officer and probably a General by now.

*What is your favorite book?*

Moby Dick. The book personifies the struggle of man to fight and win the battle of life.

### **Tips of the Trade**

*How do you manage the information flow?*

Only communicate to those that need to know, and let them fully know everything so that they can get done what needs to get done.

*What is your best business principal?*

Never sacrifice your ethics no matter what the consequences may be.

*How do you keep yourself current in your field?*

I read magazines and trade journals. Take continuing education courses and take certification exams in other states. I am also involved in professional organizations such as the DBIA. (side note: Rex serves on the DBIA National Board of Directors.)



**Maynard Baker**, Senior Project Manager for **Cutler Associates**, was recently designated a LEED Accredited Professional by the U.S. Green Building Council. As a LEED AP, Mr. Baker will oversee the application of green building practices on Cutler's Florida job sites. Mr. Baker has 12 years of experience in the construction arena, including two years with **Cutler Associates**. He is a graduate of Springfield Technical Community College with an Associate of Science degree in Civil Engineering.

**Mark Staffieri** joins **Cutler Associates** as Senior Project Manager. He brings to Cutler 22 years of experience including extensive construction expertise in the educational and healthcare sectors. In his position, Mr. Staffieri will work with the team on GMP development, manage bid packaging/review, schedule development, value engineering, design/constructability review and M/WBE solicitation. Prior to joining Cutler, Mr. Staffieri was a Senior Project Manager with W.G. Mills in Sarasota, Florida.

FT LAUDERDALE, FL - **Recreational Design and Construction, Inc.** was recently awarded a design-build contract by the Broward County Construction Management & Purchasing Division. Broward County's Transit Service and Broward County Board of County Commissioners were in need of new Administrative offices and site improvements to their main facility located in Pompano Beach. The Transit Support Services contract includes the redesign of the northern portion of the site to improve site circulation for bus storage,

parking configuration and site drainage location of the new transit administrative offices. The project was divided into multiple phases; a sub site and overall site allowing for multiple permits and simultaneous construction and rerouting of bus circulation.

ORLANDO, FL - Employees from **Boyle Engineering Corp.** Orlando office volunteered their time to help Orange County Utilities Water Division (OCUWD) present the fifth "Touring the Water Facts Festival" at the Orlando Science Center. **Boyle** was a sponsor for the water festival aimed at 350 middle-school children in the Orange County area. There were 12 presentations/exhibits and hands-on activities that focused on water conservation, laboratory and water quality, water production, water distribution, bad bugs versus good bugs, and the aquifer and the environment.

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***Send Us Your News:** We are especially interested in DBIA member networking stories, member accomplishments, and company news. If you have information that you would like to share, please send it to Karen Wallace at [kwallace@fldbia.org](mailto:kwallace@fldbia.org).*

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*What do you see as the greatest benefit of design-build?*

Integration of the design & construction teams.

### **Word to the Wise**

*What advice would you give to someone starting out in your field?*

Listen to the men and women that have been there. Listen to your mentors. Construction is not an easy business. Be patient, and be prepared to work hard. Combine what you learn from your experiences and those of the people around you. By working hard you will grow. You won't become a millionaire overnight, but if you love what you're doing and work hard at it everyday you will succeed.

*What is your favorite quote?*

General Leif Sverdrup, "We take great pride in accomplishing what others believed impossible."

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What I'm saying is that it's your responsibility to ensure that if you see someone working in an unsafe situation, stop him, tell him what he is doing wrong and tell him how to do it right, and then tell him that you're helping because you care. It's important to you that he is able to go home at the end of the day and be with his family. If you have any questions about safety we have resources and professionals who can help you.

I leave you with this. Two mice were dropped into a saucer of cream. One mouse panicked and sank to the bottom. The second mouse paddled his little legs off until he made whipped cream and was able to walk out. Which mouse are you going to be?

# “Just Because You Don’t Believe”

By Wayne Jensen, Director of Safety, Stahl & Associates Insurance

Just because you don’t believe you can stop people from getting hurt, doesn’t mean you can’t. Many senior managers and business owners simply accept that some accidents are going to happen no matter what you do. This belief system actually initiates the series of circumstances that ultimately leads to serious injury incidents. All serious injuries require thousands of “circumstances” before the injury can occur. Most of the time, the removal of even one of the thousands of circumstances is sufficient to prevent an injury incident. Every serious injury incident you have ever had at your company was preceded by thousands of opportunities to stop the injury from happening.

Here’s the basic concept. If you accept injury as a “fact of life” in business, you will also accept all of the unsafe work behaviors and practices that ultimately result in a serious injury incident. This means that you don’t believe it is within your power to stop people from working unsafe. Or even worse, you don’t believe that your people can work productively and be safe at the same time. Senior managers and business owners don’t mean to exchange the welfare of their people for profit but

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This venture succeeded due to several factors. A few of the key factors were:

1. City’s efforts in assembling the best-qualified team
2. Team’s commitment to the project’s success
3. Project team’s ability to think outside the box
4. Team abilities to engage all critical decision makers
5. The team lead’s ability to engage the critical decision makers as stakeholders

The success of this project led to several other opportunities where the City of Cape Coral successfully used the design-build delivery method.

*Footnote: The project team consisted of Haskell and the City of Cape Coral Representative Jay Saxena. Jay Saxena is the Public Works Services Division Manager, City of Cape Coral. He can be reached at [jsaxena@capecoral.net](mailto:jsaxena@capecoral.net).*

that, sometimes, is the reality.

Businesses can be profitable with their people working safe! In this day and time, it is quickly becoming “the

only way businesses can be profitable.” Many cost impacts facing companies today are the same for all companies in an industry or marketplace. The cost of fuel is one example of a cost impact that is the same for all companies. Exercising control over the cost of insurance and the un-insurable cost of injuries is becoming one of the greatest opportunities for companies to establish a solid competitive position in their marketplace.

Start with the dedication of working 100% safe. Working 100% safe means following all of the company safety rules and OSHA regulations. We are not talking about the remote possibility of an asteroid crashing into your jobsite which could keep your people from being 100% safe. Begin telling your people that you want all of your crews to work 100% safe. Crews will ask you “How far do you want to go with this working 100% safe”.

Answer with some of these questions:

1. *Who will benefit from working 100% safe?* People will tell you that you will lose money. You must be prepared to tell them that if it costs profit dollars to protect them from injury that it is OK with you.

2. *What will be the benefit to the company if we begin working 100% safe?* Almost everybody will tell you the many ways a company will benefit which include high employee moral, higher production, better ability to compete in marketplace and etc.

3. *What will happen to us as a company if we do not choose to work 100% safe?* Give your people a chance and they will convince you that working 100% safe is the only way to go.





## SAVE THE DATE

### DESIGN-BUILD 2008 Charting the Course

*The 4th Annual Conference of  
the DBIA Florida Region*

Sept. 18-19, 2008  
Wyndham  
Jacksonville Riverwalk

Details will soon be available  
online at [www.fldb.org](http://www.fldb.org)

# Florida Region Recognized Nationally

The Florida Region was recognized by DBIA at the 2007 Conference and Expo in Nashville, Tennessee. The Region received the Region Excellence Award for Membership Growth Activities. Jimmy Barber, PE, DBIA was on hand to accept the award.



*Jimmy Barber, PE, DBIA accepts the  
Region Excellence Award from DBIA  
President/CEO Lee Evey.*

In addition, several Florida Region members were recognized for achieving their DBIA certification. These members included:

Robert J. Ainslie, DBIA, Parsons, Tampa, FL  
Kay W. Collins, DBIA, National Guard, St. Augustine, FL  
Matthew E. Dahlberg, LEED AP, DBIA, Haskell, Jacksonville, FL  
Jack Gabriel, PE, DBIA, Greenhorne & O'Mara, Jacksonville, FL  
Brian Hagerich, DBIA, CDM, West Palm Beach, FL  
Yaribell Hernandez, DBIA, CDM, Maitland, FL  
James Hinda, DBIA, HDR, Inc., Lutz, FL  
Catherine M. Hodge, Parsons, Tampa, FL

Congratulations on this achievement!

### DBIA Florida Region Officers & Directors

Chairman  
Tom Donnelly, ARM, Stahl & Associates  
Insurance

Vice Chairman  
Jimmy Barber, PE, DBIA, Haskell

Treasurer  
Bonny Edwards, Hensel Phelps Construction Co.

Secretary  
Pat Lien, R.W. Beck, Inc.

Past Chairman & Southeast Chapter Chair  
Patrick A. Mullen, MWH America's Inc.

Owners Council Chair  
Jay Saxena, City of Cape Coral

Legislative Chair  
Teno West, Holland & Knight, LLP

Membership Chair  
Jim Hull, DBIA, CDM

Program Chair  
Brian Hagerich, DBIA, CDM

Central Chapter Chair  
John Giachino, Boyle Engineering Corp.

Northeast Chapter Chair  
Bret Huffman, Gibbs & Register, Inc.

Gulf Coast Chapter Chair  
Vacant

Executive Director  
Karen Wallace

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