

ACEC National President' Monthly Update: July 1, 2018

Dear Colleagues –

Our top agenda item this month is, as you know, the Special Meeting of the ACEC Board of Directors in Washington, D.C. on July 10, where you will have a chance to meet and vote on my successor, Linda Bauer Darr. I think very highly of Linda and can't wait for you to meet her – the Search Committee and Executive Committee have done an excellent job. ACEC Chair Manish Kothari is ably steering the process to a successful conclusion. We have been planning a smooth transition with the support of our amazing staff. It is gratifying that the Council is in excellent shape and that the challenges our industry faces – in advocacy, education, and changing demographics – can be successfully addressed by ACEC's wonderful volunteer leadership and staff, now including the highly talented candidate to be my successor. See you in Washington on the 10th!

Dave

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

July 1, 2018

General

- *Engineering Inc.'s* "Sway Deference" story (November/December 2017) won a Gold Award for best feature story in the 2018 EXCEL Awards, which recognizes excellence in association media, publishing, marketing and communications.
- Our Fall Conference, October 28-31, at the Bellagio in Las Vegas, Nevada, has a great lineup of speakers including Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jon Meacham; technology trailblazer Mick Ebeling; and New York Times best-selling business author Peter Sheahan; brochure will go out in mid-July; [website](#) currently active.

Government Advocacy

- Secured provisions in the House and Senate State Department and foreign assistance spending bills urging federal agencies to increase the participation of U.S. engineering firms in overseas infrastructure projects.
- House passed the \$3.7 billion Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) that authorizes nine new Corps of Engineers water projects and modifications to existing projects; a broader bill has been approved by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, with floor action expected in July.
- Helped to secure funding increases for transportation and water infrastructure programs in annual appropriations bills approved by House and Senate committees.
- ACEC and the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) submitted a joint statement at a Congressional subcommittee hearing supporting strong licensing standards for design professionals.
- ACEC's Life/Health Trust was protected under the Department of Labor's (DOL) final rule on the regulation of association health plans (AHPs); the final rule responded to concerns raised earlier by ACEC and the ACEC Life/Health Trust that the initial proposed rule would make it difficult for the Trust to serve firms with more than 50 employees.

- ACEC/Connecticut and ACEC/Rhode Island hit their ACEC/PAC goals, joining Indiana, Hawaii, Wisconsin, Georgia, Montana, Tennessee, and Massachusetts as states at goal for 2018.
- ACEC/PAC hosted events for U.S. House Representatives Cheri Bustos (D-IL), Salud Carbajal (D-CA), Katherine Clarke (D-MA), Kurt Schrader (D-OR), Will Hurd (R-TX), Derek Kilmer (D-WA), and Senator Dean Heller (R-NV); ACEC/PAC also supported two open seat candidates: Joe Morelle (D-NY), who won his primary, and Kevin Hern (R-OK), who advanced to the run-off election.

Business Resources

- ACEC's new *Private Industry Briefs* launched with the June/July 2018 issue focused on the commercial and residential real estate market including details on top development firms, significant market trends, and relevant current legislation and policy.
- *Essential Training: Learn the Fundamentals of Effective A/E Operations Management* explored design firm operations management techniques.
- ACEC's [Senior Executives Institute](#) Class 23 met for their third session in Colorado, and discussed team learning, organizational vision, and strategy.
- Coalitions' best sellers for June included CASE's *Agreement Between Client and Structural Engineer of Record for Professional Services* and COPS' *Job Descriptions for a Land Surveying Firm*, both available at www.acec.org/bookstore.
- Thirty-two firm leaders from around the country attended CASE's workshop on *The Business of Structural Engineering*.
- With 35 registered sites, June's most popular online class, *Spearin and the Standard of Care: How Good Does a Design Have to Be?* examined the "Spearin Doctrine" as it relates to risk management in owner-designer professional agreements.
- July online programs will feature: *The Prominent Role of the AIA's BIM/Digital Practices in the AIA 2017 Contract Document*; *Taking Stock of the Engineering Industry in 2018 – The Economic and Market Trends Shaping the Industry*; *Generational Differences in the Workplace*; *How to Position Your Firm to Win Work Before the RFP is Issued*; *Up, Up and Away - M&A Trends and Outlook for Engineering Firms*; *Big Data, Neural Meshes & Probabilistic Forecasting: Are We Really Improving Our Decision-Making?*; *Sexual Harassment Prevention in the A/E Workplace: Understanding the Law and Establishing and Improving Policies, Procedures and Effective Training*; *Engineering Infrastructure for a Changing Climate – Business and Technical Impacts: Take Control of your Time and Get the Right Things Done*.