

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](http://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*.