December 1, 2015

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

Dear Colleagues –

As we eagerly await the House-Senate Conference Committee's release of a five-year transportation bill – with final passage expected later this week – I want to give you an update on all else the Council has accomplished this past month. In November, we held our annual leadership orientation sessions in Washington, in which 65 MO officers from 34 states participated. The positive ratings by attendees reflected the value of the program and the strength of ACEC moving forward. Congratulations to Nevada, Utah and Arkansas for reaching their ACEC/PAC fundraising goals last month. I know that all of you are driving hard to complete another record year and arm the Council for political and legislative battles crucial to our industry.

Hope you have an enjoyable holiday season.

Dave

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General

- The Minuteman Fund helped secure major transportation funding victories in Texas and Michigan: in Texas, voters approved a highway funding general sales tax of $2.5 billion beginning 2018 that will amount to over $40 billion by 2030; in Michigan, an additional $1.2 billion per year will be generated through a gas and diesel tax increase and other revenues.

- ACEC/PAC has already surpassed last year's record fundraising total and now stands at over $846,000 toward its $1 million goal.

- Nevada, Utah and Arkansas met their annual ACEC/PAC fundraising targets, joining Indiana, Hawaii, South Carolina, Delaware, Wisconsin, Alaska, Tennessee, Kansas, Illinois, Alabama, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Maryland, Georgia, Arizona, New Jersey and Massachusetts.

- ACEC's Job Board postings have surged in the Fall months, hitting a record in October,
which reflects continuing strength in the A/E sector of the economy.

**Government Advocacy**

- Helped to secure House passage of the Surface Transportation Reauthorization & Reform Act, a six-year, $340 billion highway and transit bill that includes several ACEC-backed project delivery reforms, including an amendment encouraging states to contract out engineering services.

- Lobbied House-Senate Conference Committee negotiators on the transportation bill, pushing for increased funding levels, TIFIA investments, environmental review reforms, pilot projects to study mileage-based user fees, a fix for municipal water infrastructure financing, energy grid modernization, and Ex-Im Bank reauthorization.

- Defeated ten amendments to weaken or strip provisions in the transportation bill to extend the Export-Import Bank for four years.

- The House-passed transportation bill includes ACEC-backed energy provisions to bolster the reliability of the nation's electric grid in the face of natural and manmade threats.

- Joined with industry allies to support legislation that will expand the tax benefits of Master Limited Partnerships to encourage investment in energy efficiency and renewable projects.

- Joined with AGC and other industry groups in urging Congress to direct the Corps of Engineers to move forward with WRRDA-authorized P3 projects in 2016 related to navigation and flood control.

- Briefed members of ACEC/Louisiana on federal legislative issues and initiatives at annual *Project Outlook* conference.

- ACEC and a coalition of employers sent a letter to Members of Congress expressing concerns about the Department of Labor's proposed overtime pay rule.

- Joined business allies in asking Congress to extend expired business tax provisions, particularly higher Section 179 expensing levels, bonus depreciation, and the Section 179D energy efficient commercial buildings tax deduction.

- Members of the International and Federal Agencies and Procurement Advocacy Committees met with the State Department's Overseas Building Operations Bureau to press for greater engineering firm participation.
• ACEC/PAC hosted fundraising events for Representatives Lou Barletta (R-PA), Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Cresent Hardy (R-NV), John Mica (R-FL), Lamar Smith (R-TX), and Diane Black (R-TN).

**Business Resources**

• November's popular webinar, *Why Every Firm Needs CRM to Improve Client Service and Win More Work*, taught members how to make the most of limited marketing and business development dollars through Customer Relationship Management (CRM).

• Council of American Structural Engineers (CASE) membership recruitment campaign netted 24 new members, an increase of 13 percent.


• RCEP added The City College of New York as a licensed provider, bringing the total number of approved providers to 125.

• Don't miss these valuable webinars coming in December: *Clean Power Plan Implementation: How Will Electricity Generation, Transmission and Distribution Change; 2016 Industry Economic Overview: Critical Issues, Emerging Trends; Mitigate Risk with Effective Contract Language; Outlook 2013: Time-Saving Shortcuts and Productivity Boosters for Busy People; Sell Without Selling! Bolster Your Firm’s Business Development With Content Marketing; The Seven Secrets of Super Successful Project Managers; From Project Manager to Project Leader; Embrace the Opportunities of Alternative Delivery Systems (ADS), but Avoid the Perils.*