Dear Colleagues –

The November 8 elections resulted in a 97% win record for ACEC/PAC-backed candidates. We are pressing ahead to help them in retiring their campaign debts, strengthening relationships with newly-elected Members, and laying the groundwork for an aggressive advocacy program in 2017. We've been in contact with President-elect Trump's transition team, including Transportation Secretary-designate Elaine Chao, on our recommendations. Our annual leadership orientation sessions in Washington, D.C. – attended by 64 MO officers from 31 states – again received positive ratings, reflecting the value of the program and the strength of ACEC moving forward.

Hope you have an enjoyable holiday season.

Dave

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE
December 1, 2016

General

- Sent policy recommendations to President-elect Trump's transition team for 2017, emphasizing a strong infrastructure and energy agenda, as well as tax and regulatory reforms.

- Ninety-seven percent of the candidates that ACEC/PAC supported for the House and Senate won their races on Election Day; PAC-funded candidates won seven of eight open congressional seats, and were winners in 13 of the 16 "toss-up" races.

- ACEC/Alabama received a Minuteman Fund grant to help defray the advocacy costs of fighting for QBS regulations in the Administrative Rules of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BOL).

- ACEC/PAC has surpassed $900,000 in total receipts on its way to $1 million this year, and has distributed nearly $2 million to date for the 2015/16 election cycle; ACEC/Nebraska, ACEC/North Dakota, ACEC/Kentucky, and ACEC/Oklahoma met their ACEC/PAC fundraising goals, bringing the total number of states already at goal to 24.
Engineering Inc. won five top honors in the 2016 MarCom Awards – an international competition recognizing communications excellence, with more than 6,500 entries from the U.S., Canada and 17 other countries.

Government Advocacy

- Voters approved more than $200 billion in ballot initiatives for transportation projects in 22 states on Election Day, including a number of initiatives supported by the Minuteman Fund.

- A federal judge issued a preliminary injunction on the Department of Labor's overtime pay rule, which was scheduled to take effect on December 1, giving ACEC and its coalition partners time to work with Congress and the incoming Administration on a more moderate increase of the salary threshold.

- Submitted comments to the House Ways and Means Committee on its tax reform blueprint, stressing the Council's support for a comprehensive approach to tax reform that provides the same top tax rate for all business structures.

- Joined business allies in asking the Treasury Department to withdraw a proposed estate tax rule that would harm family-owned firms.

- The ACEC-AASHTO Joint Committee meeting featured discussions on DOT performance management rules and streamlined project delivery; the need for a revenue solution for the Highway Trust Fund; and support for state-level infrastructure funding campaigns.

- Congressmen Dave Reichert (R-WA) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) introduced ACEC-backed legislation to make improvements to the Section 179D energy efficient commercial buildings tax deduction.

- Joined with industry stakeholders on a letter urging Congress to support the extension of key tax provisions that promote energy efficient buildings.

- Launched a new study in partnership with a number of member firms and outside partners to highlight the value of EPA's hazardous waste Superfund program, with the goal of using the study to build support in Congress for increased funding.

Business Resources

- Organized a briefing for ACEC member firms on engineering market opportunities in Sri Lanka – the latest in a series of market assessments coordinated with the Department of Commerce and which has already included Australia, Nepal and China.

- With 33 registered sites, November's most popular online class, Ethical Decision-Making for PEs: Today's Standards and Benefits, reviewed the ACEC Professional and Ethical Conduct Guidelines and applicable standards of practice.

- Senior Executives Institute Class 21 met for their fourth session and discussed new professional practice models, leading change, adaptive work, HR, and scenario planning.


- RCEP added another provider, John N. Fehlinger Co., bringing the total number of approved providers to 140.

- Don't miss these valuable webinars coming in December: So What if You Stamp or Sign IT, The Meaning of Using Your Professional Seal; Outlook and Market Data Analysis? How to Use the Data to Create Your Strategic Market Forecast; Five Contrarian Steps to Winning the Shortlist Interview; Email Marketing Crash Course; You Are Your Stories - The Who, What, When, How and Why of Storytelling; When Perfectionism Becomes Procrastination; Demystifying Client Selection Process Through Client Analysis Methods.