



Dear Colleagues –

ACEC/PAC raised an incredible \$1,010,433 in 2016 – I want to thank all of you who helped to achieve this record-shattering amount. Because of your tireless efforts, the Council begins its 2017 advocacy campaign at full steam. As always, we’ve got a lot on our plate – this year’s agenda is focused on working with the new Administration and Congress on the passage of major infrastructure legislation; a comprehensive energy bill; FAA reauthorization; balanced tax reform; and key regulatory measures. These will be themes for our “citizen lobbyists” at the upcoming national convention in April.

Dave

PRESIDENT’S MONTHLY UPDATE

February 1, 2017

General

- Final 2016 year-end receipts for ACEC/PAC of \$1,010,433 set a new all-time fundraising record, as well as a record for total number of donors (2,802), and record number of state organizations meeting their goals (41); congratulations to ACEC/Indiana for already meeting its 2017 ACEC/PAC fundraising target!
- Awarded a Minuteman Fund grant to ACEC/Ohio to help defray the cost of fighting an effort to establish a state sales tax on professional services, including engineering services.
- Membership stands at 5,355 companies and branches, over 580,000 employees (highest ever), and 85% of eligible ENR 500 firms (highest ever).
- The upcoming 2017 ACEC Annual Convention is scheduled for April 23-26 at the Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, D.C. with speakers including Nicolle Wallace, former White House Communications Director; Geoff Colvin, Senior Editor, Fortune magazine; expert panels on industry perspectives; a Congressional panel on the legislative landscape, and the 50th anniversary Engineering Excellence Awards Gala with Saturday Night Live alum Kevin Nealon – [click here for full information and registration](#).

Government Advocacy

- ACEC National and 49 MOs signed a letter to President Trump and every Member of Congress in support of a robust infrastructure investment package that includes funding for core programs and new revenue to restore long-term solvency to the Highway Trust Fund.
- Joined a broad array of business and labor organizations in supporting the confirmation of Elaine Chao as the next Secretary of Transportation.
- ACEC-backed legislation (HR 679) to limit the use of single-step design build and reverse auctions was introduced.
- Members of ACEC's Federal Agencies and Procurement Advocacy Committee met with officials from the U.S. Department of State Overseas Building Operations Bureau, the USDA Rural Development service, the SBA, NAVFAC and USACE to discuss new market opportunities and potential regulatory changes possible through the new Congress and the Trump Administration.
- ACEC and stakeholder allies urged Congress to maintain the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds in the face of recent proposals to cap or eliminate the interest tax exemption.
- Joined with construction industry allies on a letter urging President-elect Donald Trump to eliminate current mandates on the use of Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) for large federal projects.
- Partnered with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other business organizations in urging Senate leaders to take up the *Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017*, legislation requiring more transparency and citizen input into federal agency regulatory actions.
- Joined with a coalition of business organizations in support of legislation introduced by Senator John Thune (R-SD) and Congresswoman Kristi Noem (R-SD) to eliminate the estate tax.
- The first ACEC/PAC Capitol Club members of 2017 have committed to contribute the annual legal maximum of \$5,000 - Anthony Bartolomeo of Pennoni Associates in Pennsylvania; Milo Riverso of STV in New York; Mitch Simpler of Jaros, Baum & Bolles in New York; Peter Strub of TranSystems in South Carolina; and Gerald Stump of Volkert in Tennessee.

Business Resources

- ACEC's new publication, [*Public-Private Partnerships and Design-Build: Opportunities and Risks for Consulting Engineers, 2nd Edition*](#), is being used as a core resource for a new engineering class on private-public partnerships at Manhattan College, Riverdale, NY.

- New RCEP Providers approved include Mixonsite; Greenman-Pederson; International Institute of Ammonia Refrigeration; and 5D's, bringing the total to 144.
- Coalitions' best sellers for January included CASE's [*Guideline Addressing Coordination and Completeness of Structural Construction Documents 2013*](#) and COPS' [*Agreement Between Client and Consultant for Limited Professional Services*](#).
- With 36 registered sites, January's most popular online class, *Strategies to Fight Broad Form Indemnification and "Duty to Defend,"* took a case study approach to the legislative strategies ACEC/Georgia used to successfully pass a bill that prohibits the use of broad form indemnification and/or duty to defend clauses in contracts for engineering, surveying, and architecture contracts.
- February online programs will feature: *Working Effectively on Multidisciplinary Projects as a Civil Engineer; Campfire Stories: Claims, Nightmares, Lessons Learned; Building Your Brand: Personally and Professionally; Command and Control? It Doesn't Work!; Sharpen Your Communication Skills!; Earning a Seat at the Table: A Guide for Emerging Leaders*. Register at <http://www.acec.org/education/online-classes/>.