March 1, 2016

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

Dear Colleagues –

Happy Super Tuesday! Notwithstanding political developments, our fast-approaching Annual Convention in Washington, D.C. will address important funding and regulatory challenges, including FAA reauthorization, WRRDA, energy legislation and FLSA reform. The Convention's business practice and markets sessions will focus on bottom-line issues. Click here for Convention registration information and remember that the "early bird" discounts deadline is March 21st. Also, the Nominating Committee is soliciting applications for ACEC's chair-elect and three vice-chair positions for terms commencing April 2017 on ACEC's Executive Committee. I would encourage MO leaders who have been active in ACEC and who are interested in national leadership positions to seriously consider becoming candidates and submit their applications through state MOs to the national office by April 1, 2016 (Please feel free to call me if you wish to discuss this further).

Dave

General

- Congratulations to ACEC/Hawaii for meeting their 2016 ACEC/PAC fundraising goal, joining Indiana as the first states to cross the PAC finish line this year; and thank you to Tony Bartolomeo of Pennoni Associates (PA), Phil Houser of Alfred Benesch & Company (IL), and Ralph Christie of Merrick & Company (CO) for already contributing the maximum allowable limit ($5,000) to ACEC/PAC this year.

- A Minuteman Fund grant was approved for ACEC/Kansas to help them defeat state efforts to reduce contracting-out and repeal QBS.

- EEA national judges selected 24 Grand and Honor Award winners which will be recognized along with 127 National Recognition Award winners on April 19, at the
February's most popular webinar was "2015 Year in Review – Legal Issues for Engineers," a timely overview of recent legal decisions and an update on common legal issues affecting our firms, including indemnification, third party beneficiaries and claims, code compliance, and damages.

**Government Advocacy**

- Helped to secure an 11 percent increase in Airport Improvement Program funding and beneficial provisions for drone use in House committee FAA reauthorization bill.

- The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) and the Cuban Embassy briefed ACEC's International Committee on market opportunities and programs.

- ACEC-endorsed legislation was passed out of the Senate's Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee which will limit both one-phase design-build and reverse-auctions in design-build projects in federal civil construction.

- Government cybersecurity experts from the Senate and federal agencies outlined new voluntary and regulatory initiatives underway to bolster cybersecurity for engineering services at the Environment & Energy Committee winter meeting.

- Endorsed and helped build support for a bipartisan congressional letter with 108 signatures asking the Department of Labor to revise its proposed onerous overtime pay rule.

- Representatives Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), John Duncan (R-TN), and Richard Hanna (R-NY) reintroduced ACEC-backed legislation to create a dedicated trust fund for water projects, while Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Cory Booker (D-NJ) introduced legislation to give states greater flexibility to raise funds in the bond market to address water needs.

- Briefed DPC, ACEC/Wisconsin and ACEC/Virginia on key federal legislative and regulatory priorities.

- ACEC/PAC hosted an industry event organized by ACEC/PA for U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA), and co-hosted events for U.S. Reps Mike Bost (R-IL), Ryan Costello (R-PA), Elijah Cummings (D-MD), Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), Martha Roby (R-AL), Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD), John Katko (R-NY) and Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM).
**Business Resources**


- 28 small firm owners attended the Small Firm Council Winter Seminar "Next Stage Financials: Valuation and Exit Strategies for Small Firms."

- Land Development Coalition (LDC) membership recruitment campaign netted 30 new members, an increase of 27 percent.

- The education management system (RCEP) continues to grow, with 64,407 users – a 26% increase from January 2015 – two new providers include Jefferson Electric and GeoEnvironmental.

- ACEC's Senior Executives Institute Class 21 met in New Mexico for their second session to discuss communication styles and protocols, and how personality types and assessments can impact business effectiveness.