



Dear Colleagues –

Great to see you all at our record-breaking Annual Convention in Washington, D.C. with 1,600 attendees! Our Capitol Hill visits on infrastructure and tax reform were well-received by Representatives and Senators working on legislation that will affect our industry for years to come. Kevin Nealon was a big hit at our 50th Anniversary Engineering Awards Gala (where HDR won the Grand Conceptor Award for the world's longest and largest floating bridge). We recognized outgoing chair Peter Strub and his executive committee members for their impressive service to the Council, and welcomed our new chair Satch Pecori and his ExCom members for 2017-18. We also thanked retiring Connecticut executive director Paul Brady for his many years of service, and welcomed his successor Bob Gonyeau. I, too, will be retiring a year from now after 20 years with ACEC, and Satch Pecori has named a Search Committee to find a successor. In the meantime, we have a big legislative and business agenda ahead of us this year, and we are gunning for major achievements.

Dave

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

May 1, 2017

General

- The ACEC Annual Convention last week focused on business issues of importance to our industry; attendees lobbied on Capitol Hill and heard prominent speakers including former White House Communications Director Nicolle Wallace; Fortune Magazine editor Geoff Colvin; a panel of Representatives Jeff Denham (R-CA), Pat Meehan (R-PA), and John Delaney (D-MD) moderated by Cook Political Report editor Amy Walter; and transportation experts including the PennDOT secretary, Amtrak director and BART manager.
- ACEC's new national leadership took office with Satch Pecori succeeding Peter Strub as Chair; Manish Kothari becoming Chair-elect; Charlie Gozdziwski, Mike McMeekin, Gayle Roberts and Dave Bender succeeding Gregg Spagnolo, Lee Cammack, Phil Houser, and Abbie Goodman; and joining Joel Goodmonson, Mary Erchul, Tom Mosure, John Nelson and Dave Raymond on the 2017-18 Executive Committee.
- The Engineering Excellence Awards Gala – with a record 700 attendees – recognized the finest engineering achievements of the year, 162 projects, including Grand Conceptor Award winner HDR for Seattle's new floating bridge.

- CNN, Politico and Reuters prominently quoted ACEC President and CEO Dave Raymond in stories on the Trump border wall and other infrastructure issues; Raymond noted that proposed legislation in several states that would blacklist wall bidders was having a "chilling effect" on firms that would otherwise have participated in this federal project.

Government Advocacy

- Lobbied for \$1 trillion infrastructure package, tax reform, and government funding to prevent a shutdown.
- ACEC/PAC activities at the Convention raised a record \$278,910; overall ACEC/PAC surpassed \$440,000 in YTD receipts, well ahead of last year's pace; ACEC/Hawaii, ACEC/Tennessee and ACEC/Massachusetts made their 2017 ACEC/PAC fundraising goals, bringing the total number of states at goal early this year to five.
- Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman John Barrasso (R-WY) thanked Convention attendees for their help in promoting infrastructure investment and regulatory reforms to move projects forward more efficiently.
- A Minuteman Fund grant was awarded to ACEC/Louisiana to help defray the cost of promoting a gas tax increase.
- Joined 33 other stakeholder groups, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Manufacturers, and AASHTO, in a letter to the House and Senate Budget Committees urging them to prioritize increased infrastructure investment and a permanent Highway Trust Fund fix in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget.
- Congressmen Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and John Duncan (R-TN) have reintroduced ACEC-backed legislation to create a dedicated trust fund to support water infrastructure projects.
- Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Mazie Hirono (D-HI) reintroduced legislation to curtail the use of one-step design-build and reverse-auctions on federal projects.
- Lobbied House and Senate appropriators to fully fund U.S. foreign aid agencies in the 2018 budget and to increase use of U.S. firms in USAID work.
- Joined with coalition allies in urging the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to revamp its rules on Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) so they align with other federal agency requirements.
- FIDIC and ACEC's International Committee lobbied the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank to increase their use of QBS in their procurements.

- ACEC's Federal Agencies Committee met with GSA political appointees to press for the exclusion of engineering services on the Federal Supply Schedule and increased use of engineering focused procurements.
- Urged Congress to support the S Corporation Modernization Act of 2017, which would update rules that govern the day-to-day management of S corporations.
- Philip Houser (IL) joined the 2017 Capitol Club (members who contribute \$5,000 to ACEC/PAC each year), joining Anthony Bartolomeo (PA), David Bills (HI), John Carrato (IL), Tom Collins (IL), Jeffery McBride (MD), Terry Neimeyer (MD), Judith Nitsch (MA), Satch Pecori (IL), Gary Raba (TX), Milo Rivero (NY), Mitch Simpler (NY), Kenneth Smith (LA), Peter Strub (SC), Jerry Stump (TN), Jason Webber (FL), and Jerry Wolverton (GA).
- Co-hosted in-state events for Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX) Rep. Peter Visclosky (D-IN), and Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC).

Business Resources

- 23 participants graduated from the inaugural class of ACEC's *Pathways to Executive Leadership* program at this year's Annual Convention; [registration for Class 2 is open now.](#)
- With 31 registered sites and more than 200 participants, April's most popular online class, *The Battle of the (Paper) Bulge: Document Retention Issues and Best Practices for Design Professionals*, examined document retention from a practical and legal perspective.
- CASE released new [Tool 1-3: Sample Policy Guide](#), a manual for firms' developing an employee handbook.
- Land Development Coalition released *Monitoring Project Costs and Progress for Land Development Projects*, available at www.acec.org/bookstore.
- Coalitions' best sellers for April included CASE's *Guideline Addressing Coordination and Completeness of Structural Construction Documents 2013*; *Guideline Addressing the Bidding & Construction Administration Phases for the Structural Engineer* and LDC's *Monitoring Project Costs and Progress for Land Development Projects*, all available at www.acec.org/bookstore.
- [RCEP](#) added a new education provider, Surtech Engineering, for a total 149.
- May Online Classes: *How to Create the Next Generation of Seller-Doers Without Just Throwing Them to the Wolves*; *Best Practices for Highly Effective Boards*; *New Federal Cyber-Security Standards and Practices Could Mean More Liability for Your Firm – What You Need to Know*; *The Lifecycle of Going Global*; *Professional Liability - From*

the Date You Report a Claim to the Impact on your Premium; Conference Marketing: Is the Juice Worth the Squeeze?; Engineering Compensation to Recruit, Retain, and Reward the Next Generation; Not Talking & Not Listening — The Two Biggest Wastes in the Consulting Engineering Industry; Right Person, Right Message, Right Time: Bringing Context To Content for Big Impact; Fundamental Elements for a Financially Sustainable Ownership Program; The Millennial Makeover: Why the Angst About Generational Differences Is Overblown; Clearing Up Changes, Claims, and Disputes.