



Dear Colleagues –

As we begin the Labor Day weekend, our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone in southeast Texas and nearby areas devastated by Hurricane Harvey (See [Last Word](#), including how to contribute to the relief effort). Last week marked the conclusion of the Council's rigorous annual audit by CliftonLarsonAllen, which gave us a clean bill of health as "one of the best managed associations of the over 8,000 non-profit organizations we serve." I also want to draw your attention to the Council's updated membership video ("The Power of ACEC") [on our website](#) which underscores why ACEC is a "must" for any firm in the engineering business. Next month – September – should be highly eventful as Congress seeks to stave off defaulting on the national debt and shutting down the government, not to mention Harvey relief, tax reform and infrastructure spending. Our [Fall Conference in Orlando](#) is shaping up to be another record-breaker - and I would remind you that the cut-off for early-bird registration is September 14. Enjoy the long weekend.

Dave

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE
September 1, 2017

General

- ACEC's Florida Member Organization has voted to change its name from FICE to ACEC/Florida, effective January 1, 2018 – the last of the Council's 52 MOs to formally adopt the unified ACEC name.
- Council's updated membership video (nine minutes), accessible on the home page of the [ACEC website](#), should serve as an effective membership recruitment tool.
- Just-released report by the Public Affairs Council shows that ACEC/PAC, with annual receipts over \$1 million, is much larger than the PACs of most associations – even those that are 10 times the size of ACEC.
- To further bolster ACEC's private client-oriented activities, we have brought on board Erin McLaughlin as Director of Commercial and Industrial Markets; she was formerly with Dewberry as regional Business Development Director for private sector and commercial clients.

Government Advocacy

- New White House Executive Order streamlines environmental reviews for major infrastructure projects consistent with recommendations put forward by ACEC earlier this year.
- Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing featured testimony from Katherine Probst, author of the ACEC-commissioned report *Superfund 2017: Cleanup Accomplishments and the Challenges Ahead*.
- Senate confirmed two new commissioners for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), restoring a quorum necessary to approve over \$50 billion in energy project permits.
- Congressmen Dave Reichert (R-WA), Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), and Tom Reed (R-NY) introduced ACEC-backed legislation to reinstate and make permanent the Section 179D energy-efficient commercial buildings tax deduction; additionally ACEC and the American Institute of Architects (AIA) sent a joint letter to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin asking him to stop state and local governments from denying designers this tax deduction.
- Former Congressman Mark Green was confirmed by the Senate as the next USAID Administrator; he received strong ACEC backing.
- Public-private partnership (P3) coalition meeting at ACEC headquarters last week featured discussions with key Senate committee staff.
- Environment and Energy Committee summer meeting in Colorado featured Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO) as well as speakers on energy, water supply, hydraulic fracturing, and permitting issues.
- ACEC/PAC hosted fundraising events for U.S. Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS) and U.S. Representatives Jim Banks (R-IN), Susan Brooks (R-IN), Virginia Foxx (R-NC), Dan Lipinski (D-IL), Mark Meadows (R-NC), and Paul Mitchell (R-MI).

Business Resources

- Class II of *Pathways to Executive Leadership* has sold out with 24 attendees and will begin with Session #1 at ACEC's Fall Conference in Orlando, Florida.
- August's most popular webinar was *Protect Your Firm from the Mounting Burden of Meeting Insurance Requirements*, exploring the most common and problematic requests that design professionals receive during contract negotiations.

- Registered Continuing Education Program (RCEP) added a new provider – EDG2, for a total of 155; there are now also more than 91,000 subscribers. <https://www.rcep.net/>.
- CAMEE, CASE, COPS, LDC, and DPC held productive summer meetings, in which attendees discussed risk management, new technologies, and best practices.
- Coalitions' best sellers for August included *CASE's Agreement for the Provision of Limited Professional Services and Guideline Addressing Coordination and Completeness of Structural Construction Documents*, both available at www.acec.org/bookstore.
- September webinars will include: *Developing Effective Team Environments; The 4 Drivers of Sales Performance; Ways to Use Twitter to Connect with Clients, Prospects and the Media; Do's and Don'ts of Landing Your Next Strategic Hire; Selling Stock to an ESOP; Using Your Natural Strengths to Attract Business Opportunities; Simple Incentive Compensation That Works.*