Dear Colleagues –

July was eventful in many ways, discussed below, but I would like to highlight that the Rhode Island Consulting Engineers (RICE) have applied for membership in ACEC and been approved by the ACEC Executive Committee (as our 50th state!) subject to a favorable vote of the Board of Directors. Balloting is currently underway and I encourage National Directors who have not yet voted to do so in order that we may seat Rhode Island at our next Board Meeting at the Fall Conference in October. Registration for the Fall Conference is significantly outpacing last year, and if you haven't yet seen the program for this extraordinary business conference at the beautiful Broadmoor in Colorado Springs click here.

Dave

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE
August 1, 2016

General

- An e-ballot has been sent to ACEC National Directors this week to approve the Rhode Island Consulting Engineers (RICE) request to become a state member organization of ACEC –the 50th state to become part of the ACEC family.

- ACEC’s Engineering Business Index (EBI) fell in the second quarter, but continues to reflect a strong overall engineering market environment.

- ACEC Chairman Peter Strub and President Dave Raymond participated in a White House meeting with the U.S. DOT Secretary and state DOT leaders on transportation funding: the message is that a lot more will continue to happen at the state level in infrastructure funding until greater political consensus is reached at the national level on how to finance significant increases.

- Minuteman Fund grants were awarded to ACEC/Michigan and ACEC/Washington, respectively – for an amicus brief to the Michigan Court of Appeals to defend the Economic Loss Doctrine, and to pass a November Washington state infrastructure ballot initiative.

Government Advocacy
• Succeeded in securing report language in the 2017 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill that urges USAID to make greater use of U.S. engineering firms in international projects.

• Senators Dean Heller (R-NV) and Bill Nelson (D-FL), and Congressmen Mike Kelly (R-PA) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), have introduced ACEC-backed legislation that would add public buildings to the list of facilities that qualify for private activity bonds.

• Promoted balanced tax treatment for corporations and pass-through businesses in a letter to House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX).

• Helped secure extension of airport infrastructure funding and other FAA programs through September 2017.

• Participated in the AASHTO Audit conference with representatives from 40 state DOTs, FHWA officials, featuring sessions to resolve FAR compliance questions, executive compensation, and collaboration on education and training to promote more consistent interpretation and application of federal standards.

• ACEC's Federal Agencies and Procurement Advocacy Committee raised concerns with federal agency officials and congressional committee staff over efforts by contracting officers to cap overhead rates; also promoted greater use of QBS in the programs of the Department of Homeland Security.

• ACEC's International Committee promoted the use of life-cycle costing with the head of procurement at the World Bank as a way of encouraging greater use of QBS.

• Secured a majority of Senate Republicans on a letter calling on Senate leaders to vote on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

• Collaborated with the U.S. China Business Council in hosting a program outlining China's water programs.

• ACEC/PAC co-hosted fundraising events for Representatives Mike Capuano (D-MA), Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Mike Kelly (R-PA), Rick Larsen (D-WA), Randy Hultgren (R-IL), John Katko (R-NY), and Adam Kinzinger (R-IL); and ACEC/PAC checks were provided to Representatives Todd Rokita (R-IN), Peter Visclosky (D-IN), and Fred Upton (R-MI).

• Briefed ACEC members from Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas on the status of major legislative and regulatory priorities at the Deep South Convention in Destin, Florida.

• ACEC/Delaware met its 2016 ACEC/PAC state fundraising goal joining Indiana, Hawaii, Wisconsin, South Carolina, Tennessee and Montana as states which have met their goals early.
Business Resources

- The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee (EJCDC) released the 2016 Design-Build Document series, which is scalable for use on large and small projects, tailorable to project requirements, and the most-complete family of standard design-build contract documents available anywhere – [http://bit.do/acec-ejc-dseries](http://bit.do/acec-ejc-dseries).


- With more than 40 participants, July's most popular online class, *New Lease Accounting Rules - How Will They Impact Your Firm?*, examined the new lease accounting changes and their effects on financial reporting, bank covenants, and member firms' strategic use of lease financing.

- August webinars will include: *Take Control of Your Time: Strategies and Solutions to Boost Productivity and Efficiency; Latest Trends in Ownership Transition Planning, Valuations and M&A Transactions; We Should Be Feeling Really Good Right Now, But We're Only Feeling OK - Dodge Engineering & Construction Outlook for 2016 and Beyond; Marketing Training Will Increase Your Sales and Profits!; Earning a Seat at the Table: A Guide for Emerging Leaders; "Blacklisting" is Back: What You Need to Know about the Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces Regulation; Sustainability: The Advantage of Envision Verification; Successful Teams: Analyzing Your Organization Structure for Strategic Success; More Than a Suntan and a Souvenir: 8 Ways to Make Conferences a Revenue Builder, Not a Revenue Drain; Strategic Planning Pitfalls: Success Secrets of Strategic Execution; On Time and On Budget – Get Done and Get Gone!; DocumentRetention; Project Partnering: Principles, Techniques, and Benefits.