Dear Colleagues –

Heading into the 4th of July holiday, we have just learned that Engineering Inc. and Last Word have won major media honors (APEX awards) for effective member communications. We continue to lobby Congress for action on WRDA and energy; and are pleased that the FAA has released regulations that will make it easier for member firms to use drones. We have awarded Minuteman grants to ACEC/Georgia and ACEC/Maryland to defend QBS and the Economic Loss Doctrine, respectively. On the political front, we are halfway to our $1 million target for the year, and are disbursing funds to pro-business legislators whose election this year is vital to our interests. Looking ahead to our Fall Conference at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, we have a great line-up of speakers and business programs (See online or the brochure which mails mid-July); and just when we all thought that the Broadmoor had reached its apex as one of the world's most beautiful and pleasurable resort hotels, several spectacular renovations and additions over the past few years have made it even better – our members are in for a real treat! Happy Independence Day!

Dave

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE
July 1, 2016

General

- Congratulations to ACEC/Montana for meeting its 2016 ACEC/PAC state fundraising goal, joining Indiana, Hawaii, Wisconsin, South Carolina, and Tennessee as states at 100%.

- Awarded Minuteman Fund grants to: ACEC/Georgia to help defray the cost of fighting anti-QBS efforts in the state legislature, and ACEC/Maryland to defend the Economic Loss Doctrine in a case before the state's highest court.

- The November/December 2015 issue of Engineering Inc. received a Grand Award for publication excellence in the 2016 APEX Awards—the annual international competition for corporate and nonprofit publishers, editors, writers and designers; the September 30, 2015 issue of Last Word and the May/June 2015 Engineering Inc. also were honored with 2016 APEX Awards of Excellence.
**Government Advocacy**

- Submitted letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission protesting potential regulatory actions that could impose uninsurable contract terms related to cybersecurity on firms working for energy clients.

- Urged Senate leaders to conference with the House of Representatives on passage of a comprehensive energy bill.

- Launched grassroots Action Alert urging members to contact their congressional delegations to vote on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) before the end of year.

- Successfully inserted language in the House and Senate Defense authorization bills to limit the implementation of so-called "blacklisting" Executive Order (which would require any federal contractor or subcontractor to self-report violations of various federal labor laws, including alleged violations that have not been proven in court).

- Supported the Commerce Department in hosting a program at ACEC headquarters to promote contracting opportunities with energy and transportation projects in Nepal.

- New FAA rules for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) – or drones – reflect key ACEC recommendations, creating a common set of regulations for small UAS operations to provide certainty to A/E firms seeking to utilize new technologies and applications.

- U.S. Representative Vern Buchanan (R-FL) introduced ACEC-backed legislation that would mandate an equal top tax rate for all business structures in the context of tax reform.

- ACEC/PAC co-hosted congressional fundraising events for U.S. Senators Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Mark Kirk (R-IL), and Rob Portman (R-OH), as well as Representatives Barbara Comstock (R-VA), Bob Gibbs (R-OH), Lynn Jenkins (R-KS), Mick Mulvaney (R-SC), Pat Tiberi (R-OH), Lou Barletta (R-PA), Brendan Boyle (D-PA), Ryan Costello (R-PA), Gary Palmer (R-AL).

**Business Resources**


The Registered Continuing Education Program (RCEP) added three new providers in June – Viessmann Manufacturing Co.; Airport Consultants Council; and Tendon Systems – for a total of 133.

ACEC's Senior Executives Institute Class 21 met for their third session, in which team learning, organizational vision, and strategy were discussed; for more information about the SEI program, visit http://sei.acec.org/.

With nearly 60 registered sites, June's most popular online class, Impact of the New Overtime Pay Rule on Engineering Firms, examined the significant changes to the overtime pay rules under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) to help member firms determine which of their employees must be reclassified and paid overtime rates, as well as the timeline for compliance. http://www.acec.org/calendar/calendar-webinars/impact-of-the-new-overtime-pay-rule-on-engineering-firms/