



PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

January 1, 2019

Dear Colleagues –

Happy New Year! We finished December in a sprint – presentations to the ACEC/TX Winter Public Policy Meeting; and ACEC/MW and ACEC/MD holiday lunches. We also had a productive dinner with Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and newly elected Rep. Donna Shalala (D-FL). And I had the opportunity to visit with representatives from the Airport Consultants Council, the American Road Transportation Builders Association, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. During the first full week of the New Year we got together with our colleagues at ASCE. It has been a busy and productive year. As I said in my [end-of-year letter](#) to our members, I am buoyed by your support for me and the entire ACEC team during 2018, and encouraged by our Council's solid track record of achievement. Thank you for all that you do! As we look ahead to 2019, I believe our principle challenge is to maintain a high level of strategic agility to keep pace with an unprecedented rate of change in the business, economic, and socio-political environments. Our strategic planning process, which shifts into high gear later this month, will take a hard look at these developments and put us in position to tackle the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities. I am confident of our success and look forward to working with all of you in the New Year. Cheers!

Linda

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General

- ACEC/PAC ended the year with a record \$1,088,500 raised and 45 states having met their 2018 fundraising goals; MOs making goal at the end of December include Florida, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington state, and West Virginia.
- A record 196 projects were submitted for the 2019 EEA; the awards will be presented at the EEA Gala celebration on Tuesday, May 7 in Washington, D.C. as part of the Annual Convention; comedian Ross Shafer returns as emcee this year.

Government Advocacy

- Hosted fundraising dinner for incoming House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee chairman Peter DeFazio (D-OR).
- Submitted comments to the International Trade Administration recommending A/E priorities in preparation for the upcoming trade pact negotiations with Japan and the European Union.
- Sent a letter to all members of the House and Senate urging Congress to reverse the imposition of a 21 percent unrelated business income tax on transportation benefits for tax-exempt organizations, including ACEC National and our state organizations.
- Engaged with senior Corps of Engineers staff concerning resilience policy and projects funded under emergency supplemental appropriations legislation passed earlier in the year; the Corps will be spending more than \$15 billion in flood protection (coastal and inland) and wants to work with ACEC on implementation measures to achieve “future risk mitigation.”

- Awarded a Minuteman Fund grant to ACEC/North Carolina for lobbying expenses in support of a legislative initiative to fight unfair indemnification and duty to defend provisions in public and private contracts.

Business Resources

- With more than 70 attendees, December's most popular online class, [*Document Retention: What to Keep and for How Long*](#), helped member firms determine how long to keep business records and gave them pointers for developing a written document retention protocol; [register to view](#) on-demand.
- First presented in January 2018, [*How to Prepare Successfully for a Federal Shutdown: Key Actions to Take Now*](#) helps federal prime or major subcontractors take the proper actions before, during, and after a federal government shutdown regarding staffing, subcontracting, communications, cash flow, and accounting; [register to view](#) on-demand.
- Coalition best sellers for December included CASE's [*Guideline for the Structural Engineer of Record*](#) and Tool 3-2: [*Revenue Projection Tool*](#) and the newly released CASE Tool 3-5: [*Staffing Schedule Suite*](#).
- [RCEP](#) added a new approved provider, TRC Solutions, bringing the total number of approved providers up to 166 and total subscribers at 118,866.
- January 2019 online classes will feature January 9 *Contract Review Checklist* on January 9, and *Unleashing the Power of LinkedIn Company Pages* on January 10; register at <http://www.acec.org/education/online-classes/>.