Dear Colleagues –

August featured a unanimous vote by the ACEC Board of Directors to add the Rhode Island Consulting Engineers (RICE) as our 52nd MO, and we look forward to formally welcoming them as ACEC/Rhode Island at the October Board meeting. Our membership employee strength continues to grow – it is now at almost 600,000 – and our PAC is pouring almost $2 million into Congressional races this election cycle to boost pro-business candidates who embrace our agenda. Our outside auditors, CliftonLarsonAllen, gave us a clean bill of health and say ACEC is one of "the best managed associations of the over 8,000 non-profit organizations we serve." And who knew "Document Retention" would be such a hot webinar topic? – but it has turned out to be a summer blockbuster (you can download it in the link below). Sign-ups for our Fall Conference in Colorado Springs are strong, and I encourage you to register if you haven't already, as the room block at the Broadmoor is quickly filling up. Have a great Labor Day holiday!

Dave

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE
September 1, 2016

General

- The ACEC Board of Directors voted unanimously to accept the Rhode Island Consulting Engineers (RICE) as the Council's 52nd Member Organization; the new ACEC/Rhode Island delegation will be formally welcomed at the board meeting at the Fall Conference in Colorado Springs.

- ACEC's outside auditors for our FY 2016 annual audit reported that the Council's "sound financial practices and procedures are exemplary."

- ACEC/PAC passed the $600,000 mark in total receipts for the calendar year, with Connecticut and Idaho joining Indiana, Hawaii, Wisconsin, South Carolina, Tennessee, Montana, and Delaware in meeting their annual PAC goals.

- ACEC/Louisiana has contributed $2,000 to help the more than 350 employees of the Louisiana DOT hit hard by the recent catastrophic flooding in the southern part of the state; ACEC members throughout the country are encouraged to contribute to the DOT
Employee Assistance Fund – [click here](#) for the donation form and please refer to ACEC in the comments section.

**Government Advocacy**

- Urged the Speaker of the House and the leadership of the House Appropriations Committee to support a provision in the 2017 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill that would restore the ability of the Export-Import Bank to make loans, bypassing Sen. Richard Shelby's (R-AL) hold-up of President Obama's new nominees for the Ex-Im Board as a means of thwarting the Bank.

- Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) wrote a strong letter to the Secretaries of Treasury and Housing and Urban Development addressing concerns raised by ACEC that public building owners are demanding a refund from firms claiming a tax deduction under Section 179D to promote energy efficient buildings.

- The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced that it will develop a regulatory framework to allow some commercial use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) over people on the ground, a move supported by ACEC.

- Joined with 22 other stakeholder organizations in objecting to the inclusion of greenhouse gas emissions in proposed FHWA performance management requirements for State DOTs and metropolitan planning organizations.

- Backed the nomination of two member firm executives to represent the industry on a North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) committee that will develop standards to implement the FERC supply chain cybersecurity rule.

- The Environment and Energy Committee summer meeting featured briefings on congressional consideration of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), comprehensive energy legislation, NEPA reform, the water utility of the future, and the FERC/NERC supply chain cyber security rule and standards development.

- ACEC/PAC co-hosted fundraising events for Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) and House Members Don Beyer (D-VA), Cheri Bustos (D-IL), Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO), Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Dan Lipinski (D-IL), Mark Pocan (D-WI), Mike Quigley (D-IL), Kurt Schrader (D-OR), and Juan Vargas (D-CA).

- ACEC/PAC also coordinated in-state PAC check presentations for Reps. Susan Brooks (R-IN), Larry Bucshon (R-IN), and Ryan Zinke (R-MT).

**Business Resources**

- With 80 registered sites, August's most popular webinar, *The Battle of the (Paper) Bulge: Document Retention Issues and Best Practices for Design Professionals*, examined document retention from a practical and legal perspective, and explored ways to help
members manage and store their documents with confidence; the archived webinar is available here.

- The Registered Continuing Education Program (RCEP) added two new providers in August for a new total of 135 – Somfy Systems and Automatic Fire Alarm Association; https://www.rcep.net/.

- CASE held their inaugural Risk Management Seminar, focusing on claims reduction and how to raise the quality of services provided.

- CAMEE, CASE, COPS, LDC, and DPC all held highly productive summer meetings – attendees collaborated on development of new practice documents and tools, discussed how new technologies continue to impact infrastructure design and project work, and shared best practices.


- September webinars will include: Soft Skills for Hard Problems; Smart Buildings/Smart Cities and the Opportunities for Engineers; From Project Manager to Business Leader; Getting More Work from Your Existing Clients; Creating Culture: How an External, Client-Facing Culture of Superior Service Will Revolutionize Your Firm; Building Your Brand: Personally and Professionally; Mentor-Protégé Agreements Expand Under New Rule; Creating a Financially Intelligent Culture through Open Book Management; ESOP Advantages to a Third Party Sale; Avoiding Pitfalls in Contracts; Capital Strategies and M&A Market Update; Avoiding Pitfalls When Claiming the R&D Tax Credit; Brand Now: Refocus Your Brand and Help Your Firm Grow.