



PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

January 1, 2019

Dear Colleagues –

This has been anything but a sleepy winter at ACEC National. Personally, I have had the opportunity over the last few weeks to visit with the EEA judges as they worked to narrow down our 196 entrants (an ACEC record!) to a strong group of finalists. I had a good meeting with the CEO of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) last month and we have plans to work together on a number of fronts this year. We also had two great and productive dinners with Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO), ranking member of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and with Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL) ranking member of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee of the House T&I Committee. Both Congressmen are optimistic about getting an infrastructure bill passed this year. Though their focus on the most effective funding source differs somewhat, it's clear they are ready to get down to work and make things happen.

I also had the opportunity in the past few weeks to travel to meetings with our Life/Health Trust Board of Trustees chaired by Gregg Ten Eyck; ACEC's Design Professional Coalition chaired by Greg Kelly; a leadership breakfast of ACEC/Minnesota chaired by Sirish Samba; and finally a visit with the Engineering Change Lab group in Kansas. There is a lot of good work going on in our industry and ACEC's network is broad, strong and active.

This place is humming with activity and we are all looking forward to seeing you at the [Annual Convention](#) in Washington May 5-8. We will have great political insights from Dana Perino and Donna Brazile, a power house futurist, and a fantastic panel on the 2019 push for infrastructure that I will moderate along with ACEC Chair Manish Kothari. The panelists will include CEOs from AGC, APTA, AASHTO, the Edison Electric Institute and the Waterways

Council. We are also working through a number of private client focus sessions that I know will be of interest.

Linda

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

March 1, 2019

General

- Launched a new NAECE Executive Toolkit following a survey of the MO executive directors to determine their specific areas of need; toolkit includes access to monthly webinars on membership recruitment, retention and non-dues revenue produced by [JP Moery](#); full access to the Moery Company's library of materials for membership marketing; a complimentary review of each MO's membership marketing programs; and a one-year subscription to "Association Playbook," a weekly e-newsletter for association executives.
- Conducted first call with a new ENR500 Executive Steering Committee, comprising over 25 senior executives from these firms who are helping to recruit new ENR500 members to ACEC.
- Launched the new Last Word blog in February with 46 blog posts and 565 views so far; the platform allows for reader comments on each post; a Last Word weekly summary continues to be emailed on Fridays.
- Thank you to Gary Raba of Raba Kistner, Inc., who renewed his Capitol Club membership for 2019, contributing the annual legal maximum (\$5,000 in a calendar year) to ACEC/PAC.

Government Advocacy

- ACEC President and CEO Linda Bauer Darr wrote to all U.S. Representatives and Senators, urging Congress to extend the expired tax provisions as soon as possible, including the Section 179D energy-efficient commercial buildings tax deduction and the production tax credit for several renewable energy technologies.
- Secured \$10 billion in funding increases for federal infrastructure programs in the final FY 2019 omnibus spending bill, including highways, transit, airports, clean water and drinking water funds, Corps projects, and port grants.
- Met with AASHTO leaders to discuss FAST Act reauthorization priorities and areas for collaboration.
- Conducted legislative briefings at meetings of the large firm Design Professionals Coalition (DPC) and Member Organization meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin.
- ACEC and a coalition of infrastructure organizations asked the Treasury Department for additional improvements to proposed interest deductibility guidance regarding its impact on P3 projects.
- The ACEC Water, Energy and Environment Committee Winter meeting focused on ACEC advocacy related to federal energy (DOE) and water (EPA & USACE) finance programs; development of water/energy codes and standards to improve disaster resiliency (FEMA DRRA implementation); cybersecurity educational webinars for ACEC members; and communications on Integrated Planning (EPA water programs).
- ACEC's Superfund and Emerging Contaminants Workgroup discussed Superfund program and PFOS issues with House Energy and Commerce staff and House EPA appropriations staff; the workgroup advocated for stable Superfund program funding and performance metrics, and awareness of Superfund program impacts of PFOS policy developments.
- ACEC/PAC hosted a fundraising dinner for Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO), the senior Republican on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, and co-hosted

events for U.S. Representatives Dan Crenshaw (R-FL), Rodney Davis (R-IL), and House Minority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA).

- The ACEC Federal Agencies and Procurement Advocacy Committee meeting featured representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers to discuss funding priorities, as well as the USACE's new P3 initiative; representatives from GSA to discuss public building disposal; and speakers from the Bureau of Overseas Building Operations and Small Business Administration's Office of Size Standards.

Business Resources

- With more than 40 registered sites, February's most popular online class, [The New 20% Passthrough Tax Deduction is Final: What You Need to Know to Claim Your Benefit](#), explored the Treasury Department's recently finalized rules for implementing the new 20% tax deduction for A/E passthrough firm owners and helped member firms take full advantage of the new benefit.
- ACEC's Private Industry Briefs focus on timely issues relevant to the private sector, such as commercial and residential real estate, energy and utilities, health care and science and technology; Briefs are now archived and easily downloaded [here](#).
- ACEC's [Senior Executives Institute \(SEI\)](#) Class 24 convened for its second session, focused on personal mastery and building strong company culture.
- The [Registered Continuing Education Program \(RCEP\)](#) added one new provider in January, Vulcraft Alabama, bringing the total of approved providers to 168.
- Coalition best sellers for February included CAMEE's [Quality Assurance / Quality Control Guidelines](#) and CASE's [National Practice Guidelines for the Structural Engineer of Record](#) (2018).

- CASE, COPS, and LDC all had highly productive winter meetings, where attendees collaborated on development of new practice documents, discussed how new technologies continue to impact infrastructure design and project work, and shared best practices on project management functions.
- 28 small firm owners attended the Small Firm Council Winter Seminar, What You Need to Know When You Grow, held Feb. 7-9, in Tampa, FL.
- The EJCDC Committee held its winter meeting February 7-9 in Tampa, FL and approved the updated Procurement Document family.
- March online programs will feature: [Contracting for Professional Services Part 3: Problematic Words, Phrases, Clauses](#); [Don't Just Tell Them...Teach Them! The Essential Elements of Effective Coaching](#); [How to Value Your Engineering Company](#); [How to Win 75% of Your Proposals](#); [Emerging Technologies for Engineers](#); [How to Become a \(Better\) Seller-Doer](#); and [Blogging for Thought Leadership: A Blueprint for Engineering Firms](#); complete schedule [here](#).