

ACREL President's Message – News & Notes – September 2018

Our 40th Anniversary meeting in New Orleans is fast approaching. With just over one month to go, we are nearing record registration of more than 450 Fellows and guests. It's not too late to register and be part of the fantastic educational program and join the celebration of ACREL and the 300th Anniversary of the Crescent City. The city has been rocking and rolling all year, but the Tricentennial celebration continues apace in the French Quarter and all over. Don't miss the special opportunity to enjoy the fine food, amazing jazz and many other wonderful happenings of The Big Easy.

We are thrilled to have 33 of our new Fellows join us next month. In addition, this group will include ten spouses and guests. Both our new Fellows and their spouses/guest will have identifying ribbons to enable all the veterans to reach out and welcome our newest colleagues and their guests to the College. In order to facilitate integration of all new Fellows, we will be hosting an orientation call later this month where Jo Anne Stubblefield, Chair of the Orientation & Integration Committee, will join President-Elect Steve Waters, Vice President Marilyn Maloney, Executive Director Jill Pace and me. We plan to explain the workings of the College to the group and provide guidance on how best to enjoy their first meeting, among other topics.

One more reminder about our special 40th Anniversary ACREL Cares project in New Orleans where we will be working with Rebuild America. More details about the project are contained in Adam Weissburg's note later in this edition of *News & Notes*. Working with James Slaton, one of our newest Fellows in New Orleans, Adam and the ACREL Cares team have done an amazing job organizing this project. If you will be in New Orleans and have not already signed-up, there's still room to join us. And, if you have not yet made a donation to ACREL Cares – whether you will be in New Orleans or not – please consider doing so. It's important that we replenish the ACREL Cares coffers so that we are able to continue meaningful service projects at future meetings.

As Member Selection Committee Chair Bill Sklar announced in his [recent message](#), the new member nomination season is officially open. The deadline for nominations is November 2, 2018. The full package of nomination materials is available at <https://acrel.site-ym.com/page/MemberSelect>. The Membership Development Committee is working closely with Fellows in almost every state to ensure a robust group of nominees this year. In addition, we know from past years that nominations come in from independent sources as well. Don't sit back and wait to be contacted by an MDC member or one of John Nolan's 'bush beaters.' Nominations are welcome from everyone. Don't wait until the last minute and note that the nomination process is no longer a secret from the nominee. In truth, it's a collaborative process where existing Fellows should be working with prospective nominees to help identify seconders and have the nominee prepare a CV on the required ACREL form.

Growing membership of the College is among our most important tasks, with a focus on diversity and youth. But, we are also focused on improving the College experience for existing Fellows. As noted in earlier issues of *News & Notes*, the Member Engagement Task Force, under the able leadership of Ray Truitt and Michael Goodwin, is working hard to identify the best ways to broaden the involvement of the membership. The Task Force continues its efforts

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to reach out to Fellows around the country to solicit input, ideas and suggestions for the next 40 years of ACREL. We all know how rapidly the world is changing around us. It is affecting not just our daily living, but our professional practices as well. Give thought to what ACREL does well and what we can do differently and better to keep the College not just relevant, but vibrant for the next generation of members. Provide your thoughts to the Task Force – we will benefit from input from everyone.

Many committees and other groups have had a busy summer on ACREL activities. In addition to planning the Spring and Fall meetings, the Programs Committee is responsible for the ACRELive! and other eCLE offerings. Janet Johnson heads the eCLE subcommittee with George Meyer and Nancy Haas. The most recent ACRELive! topics included a lively discussion on the challenges being addressed following the elimination of Libor-based financings and a glimpse into the world of WELL Building. Earlier this summer, ACREL co-hosted a successful series of eCLE leasing seminars with the ABA's Real Property and Trust & Estates section. Thanks to Cheryl Kelly, Trev Peterson, Sujata Yalamanchili, Loretta Kelly and Brian Crist who led the programs.

Earlier this year, I asked Ken Jacobson and Tom Kaufman, Co-Chairs of the Bylaws Committee, to undertake a review of several Bylaws and propose revisions, as appropriate. Working with Ann Cargile, Kathy Murphy and Richard Newman as members of the Bylaws Committee, they reviewed the issues, provided thoughtful input and prepared a series of revisions to the Bylaws. The revisions were approved by the Board of Governors earlier this month. A copy of the proposed Bylaws amendments, together with Ken's explanatory memo of the highlights, is included in this issue of *News & Notes*. The Bylaws amendments will be presented for approval at the Business Meeting in New Orleans. Once approved, the revised and updated Bylaws will be included in the 2019 Directory (as well as posted on-line).

Last, a final reminder to join the ACREL LinkedIn group and submit pictures for our Summer Games competition. Surely, most everyone has returned from a summer break and has some fun, beautiful or inspiring moments to share. [Here is the link](#) to the LinkedIn page, where you can participate. Please join us there so that you can view the great pictures that already have been posted and add some from your summer adventures.