

## **ACREL – June 2019 President’s Message**

Good day to each and all. I’m very hopeful that you, your families, and others you care about have avoided or managed your way through the weather events that seem to just keep coming. In some shape or form, nowhere has been safe from *everything* (if not water, fire; if not fire, hail). In any case, stay safe and be well.

On a brighter note, the summer/vacation season is upon us – here’s to your finding some quality time to enjoy family or a simple respite from your usual activities. (And . . . don’t forget to post your great photos at the **ACREL LinkedIn page**.)

**Montreal.** By now you have my formal invitation to come to Montreal for our fall meeting. From the Program to the Hotel to the Activities, it should be outstanding. You will want to register as early as possible (a bunch of you *have* registered – good!).

**New Fellows/Mentors.** We can’t yet know how many of our new class of Fellows (or other first-time attendees) will be in Montreal. But we do know that they need mentors, at and outside the meetings – **Barry Hines** of the *Orientation and Integration Committee* is working hard to give *you* the opportunity *you* want to be an engaged mentor to a new ACREL Fellow, which brings tremendous benefits to both sides. The mentorship program and other efforts by Barry’s group are essential to ensuring that this bilateral relationship germinates and blossoms. Barry and **Peter Aitelli** (the officer taking charge of implementing actions recommended by the Member Engagement Task Force) are working to move forward on two METF recommendations (my take on them from last month’s message – “more intentional orientation for new Fellows, both at the two meetings (for the first-time attendees) and at local/regional meetings held soon after the Spring admission”). Just as it is with sponsors, the care and feeding of our new Fellows is a team sport – Marilyn is developing a fondness for sports analogies, and would want me to encourage you to “*step up and take a swing!*”).

**Transition.** Things are happening. Our new part-time bookkeeper is solidly in place and has facilitated our migration to ADP for payroll (at an approximate 50% savings from the cost of our previous vendor). Likewise, we have engaged a new IT vendor (again, big cost savings, and a more tailored services package). **Julie** (Director of Membership) and **Caitlin** (Director of Programs) continue to perform at a high level, as we expected they would. We’re working on something of a cheat sheet to help guide you on which of them to call in what situation. Of course, their duties overlap somewhat and they both are very eager to ensure that your ACREL needs are promptly taken care of.

**MDC and Future Fellows.** Remember that we always are in MDC season. **David Miller** and **Bruce Smiley** are perpetually at the ready to receive information from you on candidates to be worked by the Member Development Committee. So, if someone with promise comes to your attention, please act on that before it fades away.

**Goodbye Savannah, Hello Charleston.** As you now know, our hotel in Savannah ran into some unexpected construction delays that disables it from hosting our meeting next spring. But as you also know, the Meetings Committee has secured **the Belmond Charleston Place** hotel in

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Charleston, S.C., a city in which we've long wanted to hold a spring meeting. We expect a big crowd for this meeting – look for signup information early in 2020 (hold off on bugging the office 😊). (And, we're close – narrowed to 2 -- to selecting a hotel in Chicago for the fall 2022 meeting. Yep, the work starts early lining up the meeting sites/hotels, etc. Stay tuned.)

All the very best to each of you and your families! I look forward to seeing you in Montreal, if not also before.