IN FOCUS

It’s fall once again. The sound of rustling leaves can be heard, football and soccer games to watch along with so many other sports in mid-season and others starting soon. Various fundraiser golf outings taking place before it gets too cold and soon enough we will be thinking of shovels and “ice melt.” What do the changes of season really signal to us? I find myself looking at the eb and flow of what happens in the industry, legislature, politics, our personal lives and work schedules but in the end, is it more?

I am not a pumpkin spice fan although I know some of you out there are. I do take hold of the change it signals when I see commercials for it everywhere! We celebrate different holidays, awareness days and observances. We turn the light on for trick or treaters and laugh at the cute kids in the neighborhood for two hours once a year. When the seasons change I feel a sense of rejuvenation; a time to re-center or refocus. I change the batteries in my smoke alarms when we “fall back” or “spring forward” as my mother used to remind me of when I was first time a home owner. The change of seasons can be nothing more than another day of work, chauffeuring kids to events, volunteering at your favorite charity or a time to clean up the house/yard but it cannot go unnoticed.

As we said goodbye to summer and welcomed fall --- the election, hunting season, holidays and more are just around the corner, but we also begin to plan for 2019. We are always moving forward in our personal and professional lives. Don’t let yourself get too busy to attend industry events, network with peers, mentor, become more involved with ACEC/PA or find something that makes you happy. Set goals for yourself and your team, re-energize and refocus, strategize for the next few months or year and find ways to engage. Don’t let the pumpkin spice lattes pass you by or you may end up with a candy cane coffee or shamrock shake before you know it. There is also an opportunity to learn something new no matter how old or experienced you are. You can always teach a staff member who reports to you but just think, YOU may also learn a few things from them. Engage staffers, bring them into the fold, teach them and create an environment for the next change of season (or your company’s succession).

Happy Fall!
Leeann Sherman
ACEC/PA Executive Director

STAY ON TOP OF ISSUES PERTAINING TO TRANSPORTATION & OTHER LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

- **Transportation Recap** - Read it [here](#)
- **Capitol Recap** - Read it [here](#)
- **Legislative Bill Tracker** - Read it [here](#)

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**Senate Bill 172**

SB 172 passed the House on September 25 by a vote of 173-22. SB 172 is the bill that will establish a five-year Automated Speed Enforcement Pilot Program in Work Zones. SB 172 represents years of work by many stakeholders. Before the House's vote, it was amended with some minor clarification language that has forced the bill to return to the Senate for a vote before going to the Governor for final approval. We have met with Senate leaders and believe they will approve the bill today or this week. This is a very significant step forward as getting this bill out of the House was the greatest obstacle in getting this issue passed. A more detailed summary of the specifics will be provided once the bill finally passes. Go [here](#) to read the media story on the House vote.

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**PA Turnpike, funding partners celebrate opening of Interstate 95 link**

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, along with its ground-transportation funding partners, today celebrated the opening of a long-awaited interchange connecting Interstates 95 and 276 (the PA Turnpike) in Bucks County…[Read more](#)

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**Election Security Commission recommends immediate action on vulnerable voting machines**

Saying Pennsylvania elections are at risk, the bipartisan Blue Ribbon Commission on Pennsylvania’s Election Security on Tuesday issued a series of recommendations months in advance of the release of its full report…[Read more](#)

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**Shrinking size of Pa. state House takes a hit from lawmakers who demand a smaller Senate as well**

Lawmakers are opposed to shrinking the size of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives’ may have found a way to kill that effort without actually having to vote against anything…[Read more](#)
US, Canada reach NAFTA deal
The U.S. and Canada have reached a deal on an updated North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) after negotiators in Washington and Ottawa worked furiously into the night to meet a self-imposed midnight Sunday deadline…Read more

Chapter Meetings

October Western Chapter Meeting with Pittsburgh's Mayor William Peduto
Thursday, Oct. 4
Cefalo's Restaurant
Read more

October Government Affairs Breakfast with Matt Reiffer, ACEC Director of Transportation Programs
Wednesday, Oct. 10
Hershey Country Club
Read more
Register now

October September Central Chapter Meeting with Kevin Stewart, PA Motor Truck Association President & CEO
Wednesday, Sept. 10
West Shore Country Club
Read more
Register now

October Eastern Chapter Meeting with Michael Venuto, DRPA Chief Engineer
Tuesday, Oct. 23
The Desmond Hotel
Read more
Register now

ACEC/PA Fall Conference: Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018
Committee Meetings
Several committees are holding both in-person and conference call meetings in October. ACEC/PA Members in good standing may log into the member’s only site to view agendas, minutes or working documents to become familiar with the work of each committee. All committee meeting notices are posted on the ACEC/PA online calendar, so everyone is aware of the meeting dates.

You Are ACEC/PA
We have 22 different committees looking for your leadership and expertise. Check out the committee page to see which one is for you. Those interested in learning more should contact the ACEC/PA office at (800) 651-1946 or ACEC/PA Executive Director Leeann Sherman.
The Engineering Excellence Awards
The engineering excellence awards online submittal portal is open for submissions to the 2019 EEA Program. Learn more here.

Take ACEC’s EBI survey on market conditions and prospects for your firm
The quarterly Engineering Business Index (EBI) measures the health of the engineering industry through firm leader responses on company performance and market trends.

Click here to take the EBI survey. All responses are confidential.

More than 300 of your peers participated in the last survey. Click here to see the report

RESOURCES

ONE Solution to the 23 Most Common Engineering Firm Challenges
Wednesday, Oct. 3 from 1:30 – 3 p.m.
Learn more

How to Find “Success” in Ownership Succession
Wednesday, Oct. 10 from 1:30 – 3 p.m.
Learn more

Transitioning Project Managers to Firm Leaders
Tuesday, Oct. 23 from 1:30 – 3 p.m.
Learn more

Architects, Educators, and Practitioners Symposium
Thursday, Oct. 4 – Friday, Oct. 5 from Noon – 5 p.m.
Learn more

Did You Know?

• Do you have committee news to share or know of a colleague/firm making a difference? We’d want to share that news! Please send ACEC/PA Executive Director Leeann Sherman the information for inclusion in an upcoming edition of forward.

• We want to communicate with you. Please take a moment to update your profile with us so you don’t miss any important news or events.
Only a quarter of the Sahara Desert is sandy.

Connect with Us on Social Media
Follow ACEC/PA on social media to keep up-to-date with the latest company news, industry highlights and benefit from a range of useful resources.
Connect on Facebook ● Twitter ● LinkedIn