'Twas the Month Before Christmas

'Twas a month before Christmas, and all through the House,
All through the Senate too, there’s rumors of doubt.

The ballots were made by the primaries with care,
In hopes that the voters soon would be there.

The ‘doubt’ was the future of Act 89,
Efforts to educate, now on the line.

Wolf in the blue and Wagner in red,
Has just settled in to a long night ahead.

What followed for our wondering eyes should appear
Tom Wolf would be set for another four years.
As the gubernatorial name reappears,
We look to the changes in legislature.
Off Harper, off Taylor, off Rafferty too.
Now Perry, and John Joyce, and others are new.

So up to the Hill the leaders will go,
In 2019 to begin the big show.
Their eyes how they twinkle,
The “asks,” there are many.
So much to accomplish,
With the limited pennies.

Enter Mike Girman and Andrew Pennoni
Advocacy leaders for PA ACEC.
With a wink of their eye and a twist of your arm
They seek the dollars and pennies with charm.
Their legislative outreach team will spring
To educate the members ‘bout advocacy things.
So when the matters that matter come time to address, We’ll be structured and steady and ready for success.  

Until that time, signing off for 2018  
My sincere wishes for all of you are genuine.  

We will continue the good work so that you may see Some special gifts under your business Christmas tree.  
Merry Christmas to all and see you in 2019!!

Perry Schweiss  
President, ACEC/PA

LEGISLATIVE

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](#)  

ACEC's Bauer Darr urges action on immigration delays
ACEC President/CEO Linda Bauer Darr has written to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Director Lee Francis Cissna expressing concern that changes in immigration enforcement are disrupting the operations of U.S. engineering firms. [Click here](#) to read the letter.

ACEC Member Firms seek to hire qualified Americans first—as required by law—but the number of U.S. engineering graduates has not kept up with demand. According to the National Science Foundation, half of engineering master’s degrees awarded by U.S. universities in 2015 were earned by foreign nationals on temporary visas, including 70 percent of master’s degrees in electrical engineering.

USCIS has been requesting significantly more information for H-1B and other employment visa applications, including documentation that can infringe on employee data privacy requirements. Increased application processing times—often stretching several months—make it difficult for employers to manage their workforce needs.
ACEC has asked USCIS to refrain from implementing policy changes that negatively affect individuals legally working in the U.S. and their employers and requested the opportunity to work with the agency to address these concerns.

Energy Department investing in research to develop natural gas-based hydraulic fracturing fluid
The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently said that it would invest approximately $1.36 million to extend a research project with Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) and Schlumberger into using the natural gas produced from a well to create a foam to serve as the base hydraulic fracturing fluid… Read more

Thousands salute George H.W. Bush funeral train as he’s laid to rest in Texas
The locomotive was painted to resemble Air Force One, but George H.W. Bush joked that if it had been around during his presidency, he may have preferred to ride the rails rather than take to the skies… Read more

Trump to nominate Mark Milley as next Joint chiefs of Staff chairman
President Trump announced Saturday that he would nominate Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley to become the new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff… Read more

Trump to nominate Nauert as United Nations ambassador
President Trump officially tapped State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, ending weeks of speculation about Nikki Haley’s replacement… Read more

Trump picks William Barr as next attorney general
President Trump on Friday said he would nominate former Attorney General William Barr to once again helm the Justice Department… Read more

Economy adds 155K jobs in November, unemployment holds at 3.7 percent
The U.S. economy added 155,000 jobs in November, below estimates and cooler than October, but the labor market continues to maintain momentum… Read more

Trump picks state department spokeswoman for top U.N. post
President Donald Trump has tapped State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert to serve as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations… Read more

UPCOMING EVENTS
Chapter Meetings

January Government Affairs Breakfast with Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Secretary, Leslie Richards
Wednesday, Jan. 9
Hershey Country Club
Read more
Register now

January Central Chapter Meeting with Brad Heigel, P.E., Chief Engineer, PA Turnpike Commission
Wednesday, Jan. 9
West Shore Country Club
Read more
Register now

January Western Chapter Meeting with Gary Graham, P.E., Assistant Chief Engineer, PA Turnpike Commission
Friday, Jan. 11
Cefalo's Restaurant
Read more
Register now

January Eastern Chapter Meeting with Christopher Drda, PennDOT District 8-0 and Christopher Kufro, PennDOT District 5-0
Tuesday, Jan. 15
The Desmond Hotel
Register now

SAVE THE DATE

Diamond Awards Gala
Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019
Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square

ACEC/PASpring Conference
April 16 - 17, 2019
Hilton Harrisburg

ACEC Convention
May 5 - 8, 2019
Learn more here

2019 Annual Meeting
May 19 - 21, 2019
Kimpton Aertson Hotel, Nashville, TN
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.

Trade agreements continue forward progress; ACEC's Kothari reviews impact on engineering
During last week's G-20 Summit in Argentina, leaders of the United States, Canada, and Mexico signed the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which will replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) if approved by Congress.

ACEC Chair Manish Kothari of Sheladia Associates reviewed the agreement as a member of a committee organized by the Department of Commerce and the Office of the United States Trade Representative.

About the USMCA's impact on engineering, the committee said:

“Building on the elements of the original NAFTA, which necessarily focused on important licensure standards, comity and reciprocity among other salient matters, the Trade Agreement offers provisions that support the ability of the U.S. engineering services sector to offer creative, innovative and cost-effective solutions to North America's infrastructure challenges and the built-environment's needs.”

Kothari's committee also reviewed prospective U.S. trade agreements with Japan, the United Kingdom, and the European Union, making trade negotiators aware of prospective exclusions and limitations in several EU countries, and urging that business regulations be equitably and consistently applied.

Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. – Safety Training & Services
Learn more here

The impact of federal tax reform in A/E firms in PA
Read more here

Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc – Upcoming Events
Learn more here

RESOURCES
Borton-Lawson Welcomes New Employees to Wilkes-Barre Office

Joshua Piestrak, Survey Assistant
Borton-Lawson welcomes back Joshua Piestrak to the Survey team as a Survey Assistant after working as an intern last summer. Josh is a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University where he earned his bachelor’s degree in Survey Engineering. Prior to joining Borton-Lawson, he worked at Arrow Surveying in Tunkhannock, PA.

Amy Tsai, Process Designer
The Oil & Gas Facilities team is pleased to welcome Process Designer, Amy Tsai. Amy is a recent graduate of Lehigh University where she earned her master’s degree in Chemical Engineering. Prior to attending Lehigh, she worked at CTCI, Taiwan’s largest engineering, procurement, and construction company. Her seven years of project experiences include LNG facilities, oil refineries and polymer plants. Amy is also currently working on obtaining her EIT.

Benjamin Jacobson, Electrical Designer
Borton-Lawson welcomes Benjamin Jacobson to the IT team as a Systems Network Administrator. Ben is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University where he earned his bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and Management. He was born and raised in Mountain Top but left twelve years ago to work at the University of Notre Dame as an Application & Systems Administrator.

Traffic Planning and Design, Inc. (TPD), was named a 2018 Business of the Year
Lehigh Valley Business has named TPD as a 2018 Business of the Year in their 101+ employee category…Read more
Submit your state EEA-winning projects to the national awards program today
Member firms can submit their winning entries in their state engineering excellence awards to the national EEA program.

To qualify for the national EEA program, projects have to be a winner in their state awards program. All project materials for the national program must be submitted through ACEC's online portal.

The entry deadline for the national 2019 EEA competition is Jan. 4, 2019. Judging will be held in February and all award winners will be honored at the annual EEA Gala on May 7, 2019, during the ACEC Annual Convention in Washington, D.C.

Click here for more information.

ACEC/PA Needs Your Help

- 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.

Did You Know?
The name December comes from the Latin decem for “ten,” as it was the tenth month in the Roman Calendar.

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.
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Add us to your address book

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.