IN FOCUS

As I turned back the clocks last Sunday morning, I reflected on the changes to our way of life since day light savings time started in March. Over the past eight months we’ve dealt with shutdowns, managing a remote workforce, schedule impacts, cash flow concerns, and more. On top of these challenges, we all have had impacts to our personal lives including mastering the challenges of remote learning, caring for elderly or vulnerable loved ones, and celebrating holidays, birthdays, and special occasions via your video conferencing platform of choice. We all acknowledge that these are stressful and unusual circumstances and risk of fatigue; physical, mental, and emotional, should not be overlooked.

Listing the challenges and obstacles during these unprecedented times is one approach to documenting two-thirds of 2020. However, the more favorable approach is to identify how our industry adapted to meet the demands. We have successfully navigated construction and design field restarts, safety plan preparation and approvals, and PPP loans. The industry has continued to progress projects, engage in workforce development and education, and navigate funding uncertainty all from the confines of our kitchen table or spare bedroom.

We are an industry of problem solvers and this was apparent throughout the spring and summer as we worked with our partners to accomplish common goals. That commitment to the industry has continued as we’ve seen an increase in active Task Force and Committee participation and support of our Chapter and Government Affairs events.

While we can’t help you with mastering your mute button, ACEC/PA continues to be proactive through our continued interaction with elected officials, clients, and stakeholders on behalf of membership to support common goals with regards to advocacy, client partnerships, and workforce development, to name a few. We acknowledge new external factors may offer additional challenges, however, together as an industry, I have no doubt we will conquer these challenges with the same swiftness and determination displayed over the past eight months.

One final note: Conducting association business utilizing virtual platforms is not our preference. Managing the mute button, kids, and pets while on a call has tripped many of us up, however, we have adjusted and adapted well. The industry thrives on face to face interaction, developing partnerships, and comradery as many of our members have noted. ACEC/PA remains committed to a return to in-person meetings as soon as it is deemed appropriate.
So, as this won’t be an option for our Fall Conference being held later in the week, I look forward to seeing many of you once again through my laptop, sharing a smile or a laugh, throughout our two-day Adventure.

Troy Holloway, P.E., PTOE, PTP
ACEC/PA President

LEGISLATIVE

Stay on top of issues pertaining to transportation and other legislative matters.

• Transportation Recap - Read it here
• Capitol Recap - Read it here
• Bill Tracker - Read it here

Election wrap up and look ahead from Invariant
Read more

Scott Perry wins Pa.’s 10th congressional district in tight race against Eugene DePasquale
Almost 48 hours after polls closed in Pennsylvania, the Associated Press named GOP Incumbent Scott Perry the winner of the hotly contested and pricey race against Democrat Eugene DePasquale in Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District… Read more

In Pa. congressional delegation, most incumbents keep their seats in 2020 election
Pennsylvania’s congressional delegation is going to look very familiar… Read more

SBA questionnaire
ACEC became aware of an SBA questionnaire for PPP borrowers with loans over $2 million that are seeking loan forgiveness. PPP loans over $2 million will all be audited, and this detailed questionnaire is expected to be part of the audit process. The questionnaire will be sent to borrowers by their lender, and interestingly SBA has not released it publicly.

Much at stake as Supreme Court weighs future of 'Obamacare' on Tuesday
When the Supreme Court weighs the fate of the law popular known as “Obamacare” on Tuesday, arguments will revolve around arcane points of law like severability — whether the justices can surgically snip out part of the law and leave the rest… Read more
Guest editorial | Would private firm want to operate the turnpike
A recent study by the Reason Foundation suggests that Pennsylvania should consider leasing the operations of the turnpike to a private firm in exchange for a large upfront payment…Read more

2020-2021 Calendar of Events Please mark your calendars for these important dates of our upcoming conferences, networking, educational opportunities, scholarship fundraising, board meetings and more.

ACEC/PA Board of Directors Meeting
November 13 at 3:30 p.m. ● virtual
Register

ACEC/PA Fall Conference
November 12-13 ● virtual

Monthly Member Meeting Discussion PennDOT Initiatives with PennDOT Secretary Yassmin Gramian
November 24 ● virtual
Register

ACEC/PA Diamond Awards
January 28, 2021
Registration & sponsors available soon

ACEC/PA Spring Conference
May 12-14, 2021

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.

PARTNERS
AIA Disaster Assistance program

Building Evaluator Training Course

Description

Intended for licensed architects, engineers, or certified building inspectors; this two half-day course certifies attendees as building evaluators in the nationally recognized Safety Assessment Program (SAP). The SAP program is managed by Cal OES with cooperation from professional organizations, including the AIA. As defined by FEMA National Incident Management System (NIMS), this nationally recognized certification is the minimum required training for volunteer building safety evaluators nationwide. After successfully completing the training, eligible attendees will earn 6.5 AIA HSW CEUs and a Cal OES registration ID card.

Attendees of this virtual workshop will learn to conduct rapid damage assessments of structures affected by earthquakes, wind, and water. Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to consistently and safely assess structures for habitability.

RESOURCES

Economic update slides from ACEC, which cover three recently released data points of interest:

SHARE-INSPIRE-HIGHLIGHT
Stambaugh Ness announces acquisition of T. Wayne Owens & Associates, PC and TWO CPAs & Consultants, Inc. (TWO)

Stambaugh Ness (SN) announced that effective November 9, 2020, it has acquired T. Wayne Owens & Associates, PC, a certified public accounting firm headquartered in Augusta, GA, and TWO CPAs & Consultants, Inc., a consulting firm headquartered in Dublin, OH…Read more

3 Rivers Wet Weather
The Pittsburgh region’s frequent rainfall brings an underground, out-of-sight problem into clear view…Read more

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?
There's a website that tracks the world's population in real time.

Connect with Us on Social Media
News travels fast. Please follow ACEC/PA on social media to keep up-to-date with the latest company news and industry highlights, and benefit from a range of useful resources.

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