As the days and temperatures turning cooler, it is time to kickoff ACEC/PA’s chapter and GA meetings. September’s meetings were very informative and if our first four meetings are any indication of the value of the upcoming topics and speakers, we have a great year ahead of us.

Typically, as part of the September chapter meetings, the president delivers an association update and outlines specific initiatives for the upcoming year. As with most of 2020, plans do not always represent reality. However, the slide presentation can be found on the association’s website with an overview below.

ACEC/PA is devoted exclusively to the promotion and enhancement of the business interests of the consulting engineering industry. With the recent disruption and uncertainty, ACEC/PA has supported our members with COVID-19 related issues such as payment delays due to the Treasury backlog, assisting with Safety Plan preparation, and PPP documentation. I encourage engagement with our Executive Director, or any Board member, from anyone who has suggestions, ideas, or are confronted with issues.

Three top initiatives for the upcoming year include advocacy, committee engagement, and providing continued value for our membership.

The association continues to pursue engagement with elected officials, clients, and regulatory agencies as a single voice. We are tracking important legislation and recently provided positions on some key bills directly impacting the industry. We have also responded to additional legislation with suggestions that would make the bills more advantageous to our membership.

While the industry understands the importance of sustainable and dedicated infrastructure funding, informing, and educating our elected officials to the impacts lack of funding has to state and local programs continues.

As part of our advocacy efforts, ACEC PAC & CEPA PAC represents the association’s national and state political arm that contributes to candidates who support our issues. I encourage everyone to visit the ACEC/PA website and review the CEPA PAC page, join the Advocacy Team, explore the Quarterly Newsletter, and contribute.

Committees offer another key opportunity for the membership to engage with clients and regulatory agencies. We need your active participation and expertise.
Our committees have been very active this summer working with our partners on guidelines for construction and design field restarts, participating in Digital Delivery workshops, and TQI & Alternative Delivery initiatives.

Our Diversity and Inclusion committee is developing an interactive informational program with educational opportunities for membership. The Workforce Development and HR committee continues to engage with high school and undergraduate students and is preparing a program for the continued support and development of our current workforce. These are just a few of the committee initiatives, again visit the website, review the committee page, and engage.

ACEC/PA currently represents approximately 12,000 professionals throughout the Commonwealth. We believe there continues to be opportunity to grow and diversify membership. With that in mind, and in an effort to continue to increase the value of ACEC/PA to our members, we have recently finalized for distribution, a membership survey to be issued by week’s end. We have also programmed recurring membership update meetings that will include outside speakers to address items of importance such as federal and state funding, pending legislation, and client initiatives such as Digital Delivery and Augmented Reality.

I look forward to your active participation and informed input as we undertake each initiative is to support ACEC/PA’s vision and increase awareness, through a unified voice, of the importance of our industry.

Stay healthy and be well,

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

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**Welcome New ACEC/PA Members**

**Member Firm**

JHA Companies
466 S. Main Street
Montrose, PA 18801
(570) 396-3276
[www.jhscompanies.com](http://www.jhscompanies.com)
Joe Hunt, President

JHA Companies is a team of Code Officials, Sewage Enforcement Officers, Civil, Environmental, Municipal, and Structural Engineers. JHA has PADEP certified water system and wastewater system operators (Class A, E), PADEP certified Floodplain Managers, licensed Professional Engineers, licensed Professional Surveyors, Certified Environmental Professionals, biologists, engineering technicians, construction observation personnel, Geographic Information System analysts, and support staff.
Pa. senators consider harsher penalties for drivers who don’t move over for emergency vehicles
The Pennsylvania Senate Transportation committee approved a measure Wednesday to double the fines and add license points against drivers who disobey the state’s Steer Clear law…Read more

Pa. lawmakers take record before voters under new election rules
Pennsylvania voters will soon issue their verdict on the legislature’s response to the covid-19 pandemic by either extending the gains Democrats made two years ago or further tightening Republicans’ longstanding grip on both chambers…Read more

Biden backs DePasquale as PA-10 becomes one of the nation's tightest races
Former Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden endorsed the Congressional bid of Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale Sunday afternoon, further raising the profile of the race between DePasquale and incumbent Congressman Scott Perry…Read more

California, Texas dropped from Pa. coronavirus travel quarantine list
Pennsylvania has dropped two states, which had been hotspots for coronavirus outbreaks, from its travel quarantine list…Read more

NEW! EDUCATION CATALYST
Bringing our members knowledge forward
Systematic Saving to Establish or Increase Cash Reserve
As its name implies, systematic saving is the process of saving a portion of income on a regular basis. It is important because establishing or increasing a cash reserve should be the first savings objective of a financial plan…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.

Monthly PennDOT Clearance Transmittal Webinar
September 17 ● 1 p.m.
Join Skype Meeting
Toll number: (267) 332-8737
Conference ID: 56863635

Member Update Meeting
September 23 at 2 p.m. ● virtual
Register now

Western Chapter Meeting with Tom Zurat, PennDOT District 2-0, District Executive
October 1 ● virtual

Government Affairs Meeting
October 14 ● virtual

Central Chapter Meeting
October 14 ● virtual

Eastern Chapter Meeting with Api Appulingam, P.E., Deputy Director of Aviation, Capital Development, Philadelphia Airport/Northeast Philadelphia Airport
October 20 ● virtual
Register Now

ACEC/PA Fall Conference
November 12-13 ● virtual
For more information

ACEC/PA Diamond Awards
January 28, 2021 ● Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square
*Note: For 2021 Diamond Award submissions, display panels must be sent to an alternate address, not ACEC/PA. Contact ACEC/PA at 800-651-1946 x 112 for details or acrouse@acecpa.org.
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.

Register for United for Infrastructure 2020
Join us from September 14-18 for United for Infrastructure 2020. The centerpiece of our annual week of education and advocacy, these core events will take a thoughtful look at the salient issues at the intersection of infrastructure and American society in 2020…Read more

ARTBA Urges Congress to Increase & Extend Transportation Funding
ARTBA and 87 other trade associations, business groups, and labor unions are urging Congress to support a year-long extension of federal highway and public transportation programs with increased funding…Read more

Today’s Coronavirus Tracker
Current updates on association response to the global COVID-19 crisis, along with a roundup of conference, travel, and business news and information…Read more

RESOURCES

Timely Claim Reporting and Why It Matters
September 16 ● 4 p.m.
Register here

Funding and Financing for Community Serving Infrastructure
September 16 ● 3:30 p.m.
Register here

The Ins and Outs of Choosing Insurance with the ACEC Life Health Trust
Listen now
What Helps Retain Staff in a New-Normal Workplace
A new study shows an empathy disconnect between workers and executives. A stronger focus on skills development might close the gap…Read more

Meet this month’s ACEC/PA Highlighted Member

Matt Marquardt, Senior Vice President, Urban Engineers, Inc.

How long have you been involved with ACEC/PA?
I have been engaged with ACEC/PA for approximately 15 years. My boss and mentor, Joe McAtee, encouraged me to not only join but to become actively involved.

Why is ACEC/PA membership significant to you?
ACEC/PA brings together diversified consultants from across the state. We are much stronger as a group. I have met so many wonderful people that have helped me and Urban Engineers become better. It is important that we strive as a team to provide our clients with a quality cost effective product. Joining ACEC/PA promotes this.

What made you want to step into a leadership position with ACEC/PA?
I wanted to give back to the industry and this was the best way to do so. I am fortunate that Urban Engineers allowed me this time. Our approach when taking on leadership positions must be focused on how our time volunteering can make our industry stronger. We also need to constantly find ways to develop the next generation of engineers.

How do you think your experiences will/have affect(ed) the work you with ACEC/PA?
Having been fortunate enough to have worked in many different roles at Urban Engineers, I am able to bring a diverse prospective to ACEC/PA and to our clients. Likewise, having volunteered for many ACEC/PA committees, I have experienced things that would have never been possible otherwise. Committees at ACEC/PA are the life blood of our organization. If you join a committee and help make it a success, I guarantee you will learn from the experience. It is also about giving back to a greater good.

Please share some information about your company, the services you provide and exciting or inspiring things your company has been involved with.
Urban Engineers is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. Having been with Urban for half of those years, I have been blessed to work with so many wonderful and dedicated people. Working for a 500 person ESOP firm is special. The concept of working hard and sharing in the company profit is unique. What also makes us unique is that you can talk to the president of Urban any time you need. Urban provides planning, design, environmental, Program Management, and construction services in 14 offices across the US.

**What goals do you have for ACEC/PA as it continues to grow in membership?**

We as an industry must continue to educate our politicians about the importance of infrastructure. The work we do impacts the lives of everyone. Society would not function effectively without us. We must also realize the budget limitations that our clients are faced with and help them find ways to build their projects more quickly and efficiently.

**Most of 2020 has been unpredictable as we continue to navigate the pandemic. What advice have you received and/or shared with your peers about operating during these times?**

These are strange times and as an organization we need to find ways to operate effectively for our clients. We also need to help each other. As our stress level grows, we have to remember to be patient and kind because there are so many people that are suffering in Pennsylvania, the US, and the World having lost friends and loved ones.

**Final Thoughts?**

When you join an organization like ACEC or ACEC/PA, you need to check your company name at the door. It must be about the industry and not about one individual or company.

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**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 are more than 24 time zones around the world.

**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.