Letter to the membership:

As I enter my final month as President of ACEC/PA, I can’t help but reflect on the last 11 months which seem to have passed in the blink of an eye, not unlike most years it seems for me as kids grow up and graduate from college. Unfortunately, the past year has been overshadowed by the last several months and the COVID-19 Pandemic which somewhat derailed some of the initiatives we had in place or hoped to accomplish this year.

That said, I continue to be amazed at the leadership that this organization possesses and the partnerships we have enhanced during this crisis. As Winston Churchill said, “Never let a good crisis go to waste”. Over these past months, I have seen our board members and committee leaders step up to assist our clients and our industry as we maneuvered through the ever-changing maze of COVID-19 safety plans and re-start protocols.

More recently to enhance communication to our member firms, we have conducted virtual town hall meetings with the leadership from PennDOT and SEPTA as well as informative webinars on Paycheck Protection, Concrete Paving Solutions and Re-Opening the Workplace and Congressman Scott Perry with more to come.

Moving forward, we are constantly evaluating our calendar of events and adjusting where necessary to provide additional virtual options. Since there is still uncertainty on when large gatherings will take place again, we are adjusting events to occur virtually possibly up to the Fall Conference in November. Since the Fall Conference takes place the day before the PennDOT/APC Fall Seminar, we expect decision to be made collectively sometime this summer.

The strength of our organization lies within the membership and our ability to maintain and grow our employee index with a focus on our value proposition to the entire membership. Our Finance Committee is putting the finishing touches on our 2020-2021 budget which, as you can imagine, is somewhat in flux given the uncertainty related to our non-dues revenue from the various events throughout the year. We understand the financial burden that many of our small businesses are dealing with these days and for the months to come. Therefore, we have chosen to not raise dues this year and were successful in convincing ACEC National to do the same. We also realize that membership renewal is upon us and that tough decisions will need to be made. As the economy begins to re-open, our advocacy in Harrisburg and Washington will be critical to make sure adequate funding is secured for both short term and longer terms...
needs. We will need everyone’s voice to support these causes and your membership allows us to speak on everyone’s behalf. There is strength in numbers.

Throughout this entire time, our Executive Committee and Board of Directors remained steadfast in support of our members and the industry, all the while working tirelessly to keep their own business afloat. As we transition to a new leadership team, you are in great hands with the incoming President Troy Holloway, his Executive Committee and incoming slate of Board of Directors, all of which will be ratified during our Virtual Annual Meeting of the Membership on June 16th (register to attend).

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not mention and acknowledge our Executive Director, Leeann Sherman and her staff for keeping this organization afloat and operational this entire time. I assure you that Leeann is working harder on your behalf now more than ever.

Stay safe and healthy! We are in this together and will emerge stronger for it.

Eric Frary
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

Please continue to review and use the ACEC/PA COVID-19 Resource page for important information and announcements.

Senate Transportation Committee to Hold Public Hearing with PennDOT and PA Turnpike Commission
The Senate Transportation Committee has scheduled a public hearing… Read more

Invest Today for Long-Term Growth Tomorrow
Congress has an opportunity to make long-term investments in America’s critical infrastructure to address
years of deferred maintenance, while modernizing our transportation networks to lay the ground work for a post COVID-19 economic recovery... Read more

Sinkhole Opens Near the Pantheon, Revealing 2,000-year-old Roman Paving Stones
A sinkhole unexpectedly opened up in front of the Pantheon in Rome last month, revealing imperial paving stones that were laid over a millennia ago, news sources report... Read more

Gov. Wolf to Pennsylvania: We Must Stay the Course, We Must Follow the Law
Governor Tom Wolf today reminded Pennsylvanians that the state’s actions to stop the spread of COVID-19 are working and that we must stay the course and follow the law or there will be negative consequence... Read more

Bringing PA Back
Helping PA businesses come back stronger than ever... Read more

US unemployment rate soars to 14.7 percent as economy loses 20.5 million jobs
The U.S. lost 20.5 million jobs in April amid the economic devastation of the coronavirus pandemic as the steepest recorded surge in American unemployment nearly wiped out a decade of job gains, according to data released Friday by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)... Read more

Limited services available starting Friday at three PennDOT license centers in ‘yellow phase’ counties
The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) announced Thursday that beginning Friday the first three Driver License Centers in “yellow phase” counties will reopen, adhering to restrictions on work and social interaction set by Gov. Tom Wolf and the Pa. Department of Health... Read more

With April revenue down 30 percent, PennDOT counting on ‘boost’ that federal aid would provide
The cascading effect of the coronavirus is being felt at the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, where officials there are preparing to restart operations in 24 counties following the coronavirus shutdown... Read more

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.
Virtual Meetings
Check out the virtual meetings ACEC/PA has been offering. Recordings are available for past meetings.

Government Affairs Breakfast
September 9 ● Dixon University Center or Virtual

Central Chapter Meeting
September 9 ● Dixon University Center or Virtual

Western Chapter Meeting
September 10 ● Cefalo’s or Virtual

Eastern Chapter Meeting
September 15 ● Desmond Hotel or Virtual

ACEC/PA Diamond Awards
January 28, 2021 ● Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square

ACEC/PA Spring Conference
May 12-14, 2021 ● Hilton Harrisburg

COMMITTEE NEWS

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

2020 EEA Gala Celebration of Engineering Excellence Postponed until Fall
ACEC has postponed the 2020 Engineering Excellence Awards Gala, originally scheduled for April 28 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C., until fall, on a date and at a location still to be determined…Read more
Qualifications Based Selection is At Risk
Pennsylvania state agencies have traditionally utilized a Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) process when selecting design professionals to do the work…Read more

TQI Awards Rescheduled
In coordination with PennDOT and PA Turnpike Commission officials, the TQI Awards Dinner that was previously scheduled for April has been moved to September 24, 2020…Read more

RESOURCES

ACEC Business Impact Survey (Wave 6) Results
The report includes an executive summary that highlights not only important significant results but also calls out differences in these results by firm size. A few summary bullets are below- but you can read the full report here.

- 88% of respondents applied for a PPP loan. 94% of those were approved.
- 86% of PPP loans were for less than 2 million. 96% of firms with more than 200 FTEs received a loan for more than $2 million.
- 64% plan to use all the PPP loan. 22% plan to use some of the loan and return some of it. Only 2% plan to return it all.
- Firms report working on new projects directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic response (up from 8% to 12%).
- Firms feel it will take 12 to 18 months for a return to normal (up from 27% to 36%).
- Fourteen percent of firms have already re-opened at least some of their offices.
- The number of firms that have created a plan for re-opening has more than doubled (20% to 42%).
- A majority of firms plan to implement a large number of safety measures once they re-open. Maintaining social distancing (95%) and allowing staff to work remotely to care for others (85%) top the list.
- Nearly half of firms (49%) say they will restrict or prohibit domestic travel for training/events/conferences after stay-at-home orders are lifted.

Creating Organizational Focus in Unknown Environments Webinar
May 14 ● 11 a.m.
Register now

Dep Quarterly – Spring Webinar
May 20 ● 10 a.m.
Register now
The Environmental Impacts of Building Materials: A Primer for Comparing Concrete, Steel, Wood and Asphalt Webinar
May 20 • 2 p.m.
Register now

Creating a Business Plan Zoom Meeting
May 28 • 10 a.m.
Meeting ID: 993 7465 6826

ACEC Coronavirus Resource Center
View it here

ACEC Trust Programs
ACEC's Trust Programs are designed to enhance your membership investment by helping to control your firm's costs... Read more

ACEC Committees
ACEC's committees are the primary means of carrying out functions that advance the Council's Strategic Plan... Read more

Did You Know?
Bob Dylan, John F Kennedy and Adele are some of the famous people that are born in the month of May.

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.