“Virtual Meeting,” “Webinar,” “Zoom Happy Hour,” and “Teams”

What do all these terms have in common? I know, you have been doing it for months now and most likely have been invited to a meeting using almost every platform but…..have you thought about the impact of doing things virtual when it comes to advocacy?

As many states have prohibited lobbyists from entering capitol buildings and many legislators are not in their capitol offices, advocating has become a challenge. As your industry lobbyist and ACEC/PA executive director, advocacy is an extremely important part of what this association does for you, your firm and the industry every day.

Recently, ACEC/PA launched a new advocacy platform designed to provide you with real time and important legislative news/updates, grassroots call to action and text alerts. Staying engaged and being ready to help with grassroots efforts on behalf of the industry is crucial to legislative success. If you have not already signed up to Join the Advocacy Team, do so today.

And, don’t forget to watch the House Transportation Committee’s hearing with the panel of testifiers:

1. PennDOT
2. PA Turnpike
3. Associated PA Constructors
4. ACEC/PA
5. Keystone State Transportation Funding Coalition
Please share this link if others want to watch. 8.18.2020 - Transportation Committee 1 p.m.

Leeann Sherman, MPS, CAE
Executive Director

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**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

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**Pennsylvania congressman Brendan Boyle to give keynote address at Democratic National Convention**

Pennsylvania congressman Brendan Boyle has been selected by presidential hopeful Joe Biden to deliver a keynote address at the Democratic National Convention beginning next week…Read more

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**PennDOT needs volunteers to test mileage-based tax**

PennDOT is looking for drivers to help test a mileage-based taxing program to replace motor fuels taxes, a declining source of revenue due to efficient vehicles, hybrids and COVID-19…Read more

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**U.S. Postal Service warns that Pennsylvania's mail-in ballot laws could cause some votes not to be counted**

The United States Postal Service warned Pennsylvania in July that its "delivery standards" won't meet the state's strict deadlines for requesting and returning mail-in ballots, according to a letter included in a Thursday court filing…Read more

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**EPA relaxes greenhouse gas emission limits on oil and gas industry**

President Trump’s administration is undoing Obama-era rules designed to limit greenhouse gas emissions from oil and gas fields and pipelines, formalizing the changes
Thursday in the heart of the nation’s most prolific natural gas reservoir and in the premier presidential battleground state of Pennsylvania…Read more

Pennsylvania asks court to extend mail-in voting deadlines
Citing a warning by the U.S. Postal Service about its delivery times, Gov. Tom Wolf’s administration is asking the state Supreme Court to extend deadlines for mail-in ballots to be received in the November election when Pennsylvania will be a premier presidential battleground…Read more

State Transportation Commission adopts updated 12-year program
The State Transportation Commission on Thursday announced details on an updated 12-year program that is expected to spend $64.8 billion for improvements to roads, bridges, transit systems, airports and railroads…Read more

Pandemic relief package uncertain as party conventions begin
The White House and congressional leaders continue to spar over a new round of COVID-19 relief legislation two weeks after the expiration of emergency unemployment benefits and other aid approved in the spring…Read more

Biden and Harris call for three-month nationwide mask mandate
Former Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Kamala Harris are calling for a three-month nationwide mask mandate to limit the spread of coronavirus…Read more

Pennsylvania asks court to extend mail-in voting deadlines
Citing a warning by the U.S. Postal Service about its delivery times, Gov. Tom Wolf’s administration is asking the state Supreme Court to extend deadlines for mail-in ballots to be received in the November election when Pennsylvania will be a premier presidential battleground…Read more

Gov. Wolf announces agreement to release federal coronavirus funds to Lebanon County
Gov. Tom Wolf announced an agreement Friday to release Lebanon County's share of federal funding provided by the coronavirus relief bill…Read more

Pelosi to call House back into session to vote on USPS bill
Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Sunday she is calling the House back into session over the crisis at the U.S. Postal Service, setting up a political showdown amid growing concerns that the Trump White House is trying to undermine the agency ahead of the election…Read more

Poll: Quarter of voters unfamiliar with congressional challenger DePasquale
A quarter of voters in the state's 10th Congressional District are unfamiliar with
Democratic challenger Eugene DePasquale, according to a poll released by a railroad union Wednesday… Read more

Concrete deck on highway bridge across Susquehanna River is completed
The concrete deck for the nearly mile-long Central Susquehanna Valley Thruway bridge across the West Branch Susquehanna River is finished… 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.

ACEC Water, Energy and Environment Committee in a Summer Meeting Session with Greg Bernosky, Director of Corporate Strategy for Arizona Public Service
August 19 ● 5-6:30 p.m.
Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 843 6133 3889
Passcode: 479565

Mr. Bernosky will cover the challenges of meeting rising shareholder, regulatory and customer expectations in the near-term delivery of sustainable energy. APS has more than 4 GW of generating capacity, including three nuclear reactors and serves more than one million customers mostly in northern and central Arizona. Professional Development Hours to be determined.

Monthly PennDOT Clearance Transmittal Webinar
August 20 ● 1 p.m.
Join Skype Meeting
Toll number: (267) 332-8737
Conference ID: 56863635

Government Affairs Breakfast
September 9 ● Virtual

Central Chapter Meeting
September 9 ● Virtual
Western Chapter Meeting
September 10 ● Virtual

Eastern Chapter Meeting
September 15● Virtual

ACEC/PA Fall Conference
November 17-18 ● Virtual
For more information

ACEC/PA Diamond Awards
January 28, 2021 ● Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square
*View the 2021 ACEC/PA Diamond Awards for Engineering Excellence Call For Entries information today.

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

Investment in New Jersey’s water infrastructure would yield major benefits for Garden State, ARTBA chief economist testifies
Investing in New Jersey’s drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure provides an immediate economic boost while creating long-lasting benefits for businesses and residents, American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) Chief Economist Dr. Alison Black said in testimony before the New Jersey Assembly Special Committee on Infrastructure and Natural Resources...Read more
American Institute of Architects A’20
Conference update here

Transportation Construction Coalition
Learn more

ACEC Councils and Forums
Learn more about them here

RESOURCES
Procurement is a collaborative process – how do we achieve success
August 25 ● 12:30 – 2 p.m.
Register now

U.S. economy, executive actions and back-to-school considerations for employers webinar
Back-to-school uncertainty equals workforce challenges for many organizations. Watch our recent webinar for guidance and FAQs related to this evolving local topic, as well as an update on the U.S. economy and the president’s recent executive actions. All RKL webinar recordings are archived in our Business Recovery Resource Center here.

ChickTech is inspiring girls & women to pursue STEM
Govi Pusaroa had always been interested in tech but was scared to pursue it — the 19-year-old said she hadn't seen many females in the industry, and she wasn't interested in coding…Read more

What advocacy pros need to know about mail-in voting
With social distancing standards making in-person voting difficult, voting by mail is going to play a much larger role in November’s election. But it’s not without complexity…Read more

Engineering Influence from ACEC
Listen to the podcasts here

2020 ACEC young professional of the year
ACEC/PA extends congratulations to Emily Bernzott Emm, P.E. for being chosen as
one of five engineering practitioners who are receiving the 2020 ACEC Young Professional of the Year Award. We are so very excited for Emily and NTM Engineering, Inc. Emily and the four other recipients will be honored at the ACEC Fall Conference… Read more

The Thieves
Mike Lauer, a marketing communications specialist for McCormick Taylor, published his first piece of fiction, “The Thieves.” It was accepted by Toho Journal Online, a Philadelphia publisher focused on work under 500 words. This issue’s theme is Duality… 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?
Bill Clinton’s inauguration in January 1997 was the first to be webcast.

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.