



**December 2017**

[\*\*Congress Passes Sweeping Tax Overhaul; ACEC Delivers for Member Firms\*\*](#)  
[\*\*Legislative and Regulatory Summit – January 17, 2018\*\*](#)  
[\*\*Higher Ground St Paul: Case Study of a Total Precast Building\*\*](#)  
[\*\*Minnesota's Vision for a Driverless Future\*\*](#)  
[\*\*Register for the Annual Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet!\*\*](#)  
[\*\*Women In Engineering: Claiming Your Power in Ethical Leadership\*\*](#)  
[\*\*Emerging Leaders Training Starts February 1, 2018 – Register Now!\*\*](#)  
[\*\*AGC Annual Industry Assessment Results\*\*](#)  
[\*\*MN Board of AELSLAGID – Public Hearing January 17, 2018\*\*](#)  
[\*\*ACEC/MN Basketball Tournament – February 17, 2018\*\*](#)  
[\*\*Minnesota's Transportation Conference – Last Chance for a Booth!\*\*](#)  
[\*\*Have You Made a Contribution to a Legislator/Candidate in 2017?\*\*](#)  
[\*\*2018 Capitol Consulting Day – Save the Date!\*\*](#)  
[\*\*Save the Date! ACEC/MN Upcoming Events\*\*](#)  
[\*\*News From the Membership\*\*](#)

---

## **Congress Passes Sweeping Tax Overhaul; ACEC Delivers for Member Firms**

In the first comprehensive tax reform measure passed by Congress in more than 30 years, ACEC was successful in ensuring that engineering firms of all business structures will have access to lower rates or tax deductions.

The bill, passed today, is on its way to the President's desk.

The legislation lowers the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent and creates a 20 percent tax deduction for passthrough firms, including S corporations, partnerships, and LLCs.

In the original House and Senate bills, engineering passthroughs were limited in their access to the tax deduction. After extensive advocacy by ACEC staff and members, including nearly 6,000 member emails, letters and phone calls to Congressional offices, Congressional leaders agreed to include language in the final version to provide engineering firms with full use of the deduction.

Both *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* highlighted engineering firms as winners in the tax bill. Passthroughs in certain other industries, including accountants, doctors, lawyers, and financiers, did not receive full access to the 20 percent tax deduction.

ACEC Chairman Sergio "Satch" Pecori, who heads Hanson Professional Services Inc. in Illinois, told his employees "This is why we are active in ACEC."

In addition to lower tax rates, the legislation preserves ESOPs and other retirement savings mechanisms, as well as private activity bonds and renewable energy incentives.

ACEC President/CEO Dave Raymond pointed out that "this is complex legislation, and ACEC went all out to protect our members' interests." He singled out Government Affairs VP Steve Hall and chief tax lobbyist Katharine Mottley for their "key contributions."

[Click here](#) to read a summary of H.R. 1. [Click here](#) to read ACEC President/CEO Dave Raymond's letter to House and Senate members in support of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (H.R. 1).

---

## Legislative and Regulatory Summit – January 17, 2018

Our profession is greatly affected by government action, both in the legislative branch and by regulatory agencies. We have invited a strong group to address what they see coming in the future. We'll learn about action on the federal level and what to expect from regulatory agencies and crystal ball potential state/federal policies and regulations that may be coming in the future.

### Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at Golden Valley Country Club

7:30 – 8:00 am – Registration and Breakfast Buffet

8:00 – 9:00 am – Steve Hall, Vice President, Government Affairs from ACEC National

9:15 – 10:15 am – John Stine, Commissioner, MPCA

10:30 – 11:30 am – Mark Fuhrmann, Program Director, Rail Projects, Metro Transit

#### Steve Hall

Steve will discuss ACEC's role in Washington, its legislative goals and issues facing the profession on the federal level. He will discuss how the newly passed tax bill will affect member firms as well as the new administration's policies and actions that are being proposed or have gone into effect.

#### John Stine

Commissioner Stine will provide an overview of recent regulatory initiatives at MPCA and a preview of the 2018 legislative session. He will also discuss how changing priorities at the federal level have sifted the regulatory landscape for state environmental agencies.

#### Mark Fuhrmann

Mark will be presenting on legislative and regulatory updates. He will also cover:

- Development along the light rail lines
- Long-term constructions plans (3-5 years)

Members: \$150

Non-members: \$300

Emerging Professionals and MNSEA YMG: \$75

[Register online](#) or contact Melissa at [melissa@acecmn.org](mailto:melissa@acecmn.org) with questions.

---

## Higher Ground St. Paul: Case Study of a Total Precast Building – January 19, 2018

### Brown Bag Seminar

Wells Concrete will discuss how they utilized an insulated wall panel system that spans horizontally to support a precast floor system. After this program, participants will be more familiar with what a total precast concrete structure is, how a total precast structure can benefit a project, and what components are used to construct a total precast structure. Participants will also learn how to manage a successful project.

#### Presenters:

Ryan Garden and Gary Pooley, Wells Concrete

Friday, January 19, 2018

11:30 am - Registration

12:00 - 1:00 pm - Luncheon and Program

[Register online](#)

---

## Minnesota's Vision for a Driverless Future – January 22, 2018

Researchers say self-driving technology could be required in new cars by 2030, leaving its mark on everything from parking ramps and road design to exurban sprawl and mobility for people with disabilities. They are leaving the realm of science fiction and creeping into discussions about the future of transportation in the Twin Cities metro area.

**Jay Hieptas from MnDOT**, will discuss why autonomous vehicles are getting a publicity boost in Minnesota this winter. MnDOT is testing a self-driving shuttle bus in winter weather conditions, and is planning on operating it on Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis during the week of the Super Bowl in February, 2018. MnDOT formed a group earlier this year to examine state laws about driverless vehicles, and are working with planners, private industry, academia, and other government agencies to identify the impact of this technology on Minnesota.

**Presenter:** Jay Hieptas is the State Traffic Engineer for the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). In this role, Jay is championing MnDOT's efforts to advance autonomous and connected vehicle technology and policy advancements in the state.

**January 22, 2018**

11:30 am - Registration and networking with Jay Hieptas, MnDOT

12:00 pm - Luncheon

12:30 - 1:30 pm – Presentation

Cost: \$50

[Register online](#)

---

## Register for the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet!

[Invitations](#) for the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) Banquet have been emailed to the membership. Join your peers and the client community at ACEC/MN's biggest event of the year on Friday, January 26 at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park. The EEA banquet is a great opportunity to celebrate the achievements of consulting engineers and their impact our communities!

Complete the [reservation form](#) and return it to Melissa at [melissa@acecmn.org](mailto:melissa@acecmn.org) by January 8, 2018 to attend. We hope to see you there!

---

## Women In Engineering: Claiming Your Power in Ethical Leadership – Jan 29, 2018

Join us in January for the next meeting of the Women In Engineering Professional Development Series! This one-hour session will look at leadership roles and responsibilities from the perspective of professional women and their ethical code, and provide insights and inspiration for making a difference in the workplace and the greater community.

**Presenter:** Attorney **Kristine A. Kubes** is principal of Kubes Law Office, PLLC, serving design and construction professionals. Services include defending clients against professional liability and general liability claims, contracts, addressing project-management, risk-management, and payment issues, prosecuting mechanic's liens, and entity set-up.

**Monday, January 29, 2018**

11:30 am - Registration & Luncheon

12:00 - 1:00 pm – Presentation

**Location:** **Stantec**

[Register here](#)

**Future Women In Engineering meetings:**

MARCH 19, 2018

Panel of Women Engineers – **Work Life Balance Without Sacrificing Your Career**

**Location:** **AET**

APRIL 23, 2018

\*Discussion on Sara Taylor's book *Filter Shift* will take place at this session. Books may be purchased for only \$10 through ACEC/MN. Thank you to our co-sponsors Barr Engineering Co. and Burns & McDonnell for helping offset the cost of the books!

**Location:** **WSB University**

---

## Emerging Leaders Training Starts February 1, 2018 – Register Now!

**Emerging Leaders Training: A Workshop Series for Future Leaders.** These workshops have replaced the Consulting Engineering Fundamentals Series and include two series for individuals committed to developing their leadership abilities. The series is designed to provide attendees with specific skills and competencies identified by top principals and young leaders within ACEC/MN as critical for leadership success.

The interactive sessions are divided into two series; technical business skills and business management skills. Participants may sign up for one or both series. In addition to the series, the February 26 Executive Round Table Breakfast is included in all registrations. Programs are led by experts in the field who work with the ACEC/MN engineering community and are very familiar with the industry.

## Who Should Attend

Most participants are employees of ACEC/MN member firms (mechanical/structural/electrical/civil engineers, EITs, drafters, technicians, etc.) with up to six years of experience.

## **Series 1 – Technical Development**

February 1: The Big Picture & Working with Clients

February 8: Financial Operations and Practices

February 15: Construction Administration & Legal Issues

February 22: Delivery Methods/Risk Management

## **February 26: Executive Round Table Breakfast - Both Sessions**

## **Series 2- Business Development**

March 1: Interpersonal Communication

March 8: Government Affairs

March 15: Leadership Meets the Technical Professional

March 22: Career Track

Visit the ACEC/MN [website](#) for more information about the series or contact Melissa at [melissa@acecmn.org](mailto:melissa@acecmn.org).

## **AGC Annual Industry Assessment Results**

The Associated General Contractors (AGC) annual Construction Industry Assessment is now available on their website. ACEC/MN members participated in this survey. Engineers/Architects reported the availability of a skilled workforce as the highest ranked negative impact on business through 2018. Key business challenges for Engineer/Architects in 2018 and beyond are; managing client expectations, discovering new markets, developing new leadership, assembling and maintaining a skilled workforce and increasing productivity. [The complete survey results are available here.](#)

## **MN Board of AELSLAGID – Public Hearing January 17, 2018**

Regarding rules relating to licensure or certification (R-04374), the Board of AELSLAGID published on November 6, 2017, a Dual Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules Without a Public Hearing unless 25 or more persons request a hearing. There were enough requests received by the December 6, 2017 deadline, therefore a public hearing will be held at 9:30 am on January 17, 2018. For more information, please visit the [Board of AELSLAGID's website](#).

## **ACEC/MN Basketball Tournament – February 17, 2018**

The annual ACEC/MN basketball tournament is being held on Saturday, February 17 at Bloomington Kennedy High School. We are expecting another great turnout this year! Trophies will be awarded to the top teams and profits from the tournament go to the ACEC/MN scholarship fund. If your firm is interested in participating, please contact Justin Schmidt at [justinsc@bolton-menk.com](mailto:justinsc@bolton-menk.com). The deadline to sign up is February 5, 2018.

## **Minnesota's Transportation Conference – Last Chance for a Booth!**

Don't forget to mark your calendars now for next year's event, featuring Anthony Foxx, former US DOT Secretary. The 2018 Minnesota's Transportation Conference will be held February 27–March 1, 2018, at the Verizon Wireless Center in Mankato. **A limited number of sponsorship booths remain for the 2018 conference in Mankato, with an expected 1,000+ transportation professionals in attendance.** You don't want to miss this event!

Visit the [event website](#) for more information on hotels, registration, and sponsorship, or contact Maddie Grover at 612/624-4938 or [ccapsconf5@umn.edu](mailto:ccapsconf5@umn.edu) with questions.

## **Have You Made a Contribution to a Legislator/Candidate in 2017?**

ACEC/MN is tracking contributions made by members to Minnesota legislator/candidate campaigns in 2017. If you have made a contribution to a Minnesota legislator/campaign this year we would like to hear from you. All you need to do is send an email to [doxley@acecmn.org](mailto:doxley@acecmn.org) and indicate who you contributed to and how much. This gives the ACEC/MN PAC a better understanding of the candidates that members support and who to potentially target as the PAC moves ahead in its efforts in 2018.

# 2018 Capitol Consulting Day – Save the Date!

Join your colleagues in St. Paul for the 2018 Capitol Consulting Day. With issues of major importance to our community in infrastructure funding, bonding, and more, we need to join together to educate our legislators on why these issues matter not just to consulting engineers, but to Minnesota.

Once again, two tracks will be offered at this event in the State Office Building. **Track One** is for those members who are familiar with the legislative process and who plan to meet with legislators. ACEC/MN lobbyist Randy Morris will host a planning session to coach members on how to effectively interact with legislators to make sure our message is understood and delivered effectively.

**Track Two** is for members less familiar with the legislative process, but have an interest in learning more about how the legislature works. Members attending this track will tour the Capitol and sit in on a committee hearing.

ACEC/MN's goal is to increase member attendance at the Capitol this year. We strongly encourage young professionals who may not have much experience meeting with legislators to attend. **Stay tuned for more information and mark your calendars today!**

---

## Save the Date! Upcoming ACEC/MN Events

- January 17, 2018 – [Legislative and Regulatory Summit](#)
- January 22, 2018 – [Minnesota's Vision for a Driverless Future](#)
- January 26, 2018 – [Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet](#)
- January 29, 2018 – [Women Making a Difference: Claiming Your Power in Ethical Leadership](#)
- February 1, 2018 – [Emerging Leaders Training](#) (Register for Series 1 or 2)
- February 17, 2018 – [Annual Scholarship Basketball Tournament](#)

---

## News From the Membership

After 53 years of service in the industry, **American Engineering Testing, Inc.**'s founder and chairman, **Terry Swor, PG** announced his upcoming retirement on January 2, 2018.

**Anthony Basden, PE, LEED AP BD+C**, of **Gausman & Moore Associates, Inc.** was recently named a company shareholder.

**Houston Engineering, Inc.** added **Josh Hines, PE** as a senior traffic engineer.

**Kadmas Lee Jackson, Inc.** named **Eric Michel, PE** vice president of its energy and natural resources division.

**LHB** is pleased to announce that **Jackie Sorvari, Gregg Curtis**, and **Raymond "Bud" Brasch** were elected as shareholders.

**Rani Engineering, Inc.** is pleased to announce the addition of **Heather Spencer, PE**, as a Senior Project Manager.

**Mark Maves, PE** has been named a stockholder with **Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.**

**Jeremy Alinder** joins **Ulteig** as Vice President of Finance and will become CFO after a brief transition period.

**WSP | USA** named **Brian Kim, PE** a supervising engineer in its Minneapolis office.

---

ACEC/MN will be closed on December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>. Happy holidays!

If you have an announcement you'd like to see included in the next Parameters newsletter, please contact: **Kristine Cassidy**, [Kristine@acecmn.org](mailto:Kristine@acecmn.org) P: 952-593-533 F: 952-593-5552