



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of North Carolina

A message from Executive Director James Smith
June 2022

Dear ACEC/NC Members,

Wow! What a difference a year makes. As we round out another association year, I am continually proud of all that we have accomplished. We are appreciative of the leadership of our board and thank those who have led us over the past year. We look forward to on-boarding our new team (introduced in this month's newsletter) and starting the new year off with a bang on July 1.

Also, we are proud to launch our NEW Junior Board of Directors. These young leaders are taking the first step in their leadership journey and are part of the future of ACEC/NC. We look forward to seeing how they help grow our organization.

Kicking off this month's report on the advocacy front, thank you to the more than forty members from across the state who made the trip to Raleigh to advocate for our legislative priorities on Jones Street on June 7. Given the shortness of the session, we kept our message concise: sustainable transportation funding. As we all know, the state needs a long-term funding mechanism to support our growing infrastructure needs. While legislators differ on where to draw the funds from, we know that the value this funding can have to support our state outweighs the challenges. Whether action is taken this legislative short session or during next year's long session, we received positive feedback from both sides of the aisle that a transition away from the motor fuels tax to more sustainable long-term funding streams WILL happen.

Entering the new association year, we have a lot on the horizon. From events to awards, new programs, and so much more, 2022-2023 will be our best year yet. To support the expansion of our work, we will be instituting a dues increase. It is never a decision we take lightly but given the need for new programs and the rising venue costs due to inflation, these changes were necessary.

So, what's on the calendar for the next few months?

In June, we will have our Legislative Golf Outing at Prestonwood Country Club in Cary. We will kick off the day with an in-depth political briefing from the incomparable, John Davis. Check out more details and ensure you are registered using the link in this month's newsletter. In August, we will be taking our Annual Conference up the mountain to Asheville and the gorgeous Grove Park Inn. Join us for great sessions and the opportunity to connect with members from across the state.

Rounding out the summer and jumping into the fall, we will hold our Virtual Wine Tasting benefitting the ACEC/NC State PAC (September 15), our Reception at the ACEC townhouse in Washington, DC (September 28-29), our Board meeting in Wilmington (October 6), and finally, our Raleigh Drive Shack event (October 13).

It is shaping up as an exciting and event-packed fall season. That along with the national election in November will make it quite a Ride!

We hope to see you all soon.

Best,
Jim