

Membership

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of North Carolina

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote the
business interests of
engineering
companies by
providing legislative
advocacy and
business services

The American Council of Engineering Companies of North Carolina (ACEC/NC) is the sole organization in North Carolina that represents the business interests of the engineering industry in our state. ACEC/NC also provides legislative advocacy for member companies and strives to build relationships between the private and public sectors of the engineering industry. Council members - over 240 firms throughout the State - are engaged in a wide range of engineering projects that propel the economy and enhance and safeguard our and safeguard our State's quality of life. These projects allow our citizens to drink clean water, enjoy a healthy life, take advantage of new technologies, and travel safely and efficiently.



Nationally, ACEC's roots date back to 1909 when a loosely-organized group of engineers in private practice established the American Institute of Consulting Engineers (AICE), the forerunner of ACEC. Now ACEC is a federation of 52 state and regional councils representing the great breadth of America's engineering industry

ACEC/NC was founded in 1969. Today member firms employ more than 10,000 engineers, architects, land surveyors, scientists, and other specialists who are responsible for many millions of dollars in private and public projects annually. Member firms range in size from a single registered professional engineer to corporations employing thousands of professionals.

ACEC/NC works to promote the business interests of engineering companies by providing legislative advocacy and business services for member companies. Some of the benefits of ACEC/NC membership are:

- **Membership Meetings** which provide forums for sharing ideas and experiences between company leaders and often lead to partnering between companies on major projects in the State.
- **Seminars** through which required professional development hours (PDHs) can be earned. ACEC/NC seminars and conferences provide opportunities to earn enough PDHs per year to meet the State licensure requirement for licensed engineers.
- **Marketing Opportunities** through client contact at special awards ceremonies and joint conferences with State agencies, interaction with partner organizations representing client groups, and interaction with elected officials.
- **Active Committees** which focus on practice-area-specific issues that have an impact on how engineering companies do business both at the State and National level. All member firms of ACEC/NC normally participate in one or more committees and, through their participation, run the affairs of the Council.
- **A Voice in Raleigh** on issues impacting member firms. The Executive Director of ACEC/NC is a registered lobbyist for the Council and cover the activities of the General Assembly gavel-to-gavel, advocating on behalf of and protecting the interests of member companies.

2023-2024
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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KCI Associates of NC.

Executive Director

James Smith, P.E.
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■ **A Voice in Washington** through our National organization, ACEC, our Executive Director and Board of Directors monitor and advocate for legislation beneficial to the industry at the Federal level.

■ **Political Involvement** through education on legislative issues affecting member companies, organized interaction with elected officials, and participation in Political Action Committees (PAC) such as "ACEC NC PAC", which supports State-level candidates who support issues important to the business of engineering in North Carolina; and "ACEC/PAC" which supports candidates at the Federal level. We also have an Independent Expenditure Account (ECNC) which advocates for issues and ballot initiatives important to our industry.

■ **Cost-Effective Insurance** offered through the ACEC Life/Health Trust, which includes health, dental, disability, and life insurance as well as business insurance, retirement plans, and professional liability insurance through ACEC Business Insurance Trust and Retirement Trust. The Trusts can save your company money by leveraging the group purchasing power of more than 5,000 firms and 600,000 employees nationwide to give member companies lower insurance and retirement plan rates.

Committee & Forums

ACEC/NC Committees and Forums are one of the most important benefits to our member. Each group has a Board nominated Chair and Vice-Chair who are selected each year from the active participants. Your entire staff can be involved. Following are the Committees' and Forums' Chairs:

- **Transportation**
Allen Pope, Colliers Engineering & Design
Will Letchworth, McAdams Company
Christine Goins, Goins Sweitzer Engineers & Consultants, PLLC
- **Legislative**
Brock Storrusten, WithersRavenel, Inc.
Neil Deans, Kimley-Horn and Associates
Tori Meister, S&ME
- **Business Practices**
Craig Hyman, Ramey Kemp Associates, Inc.
Chris Bushnell, The Wooten Company
- **Building & Infrastructure**
Joe Angell, Wiley|Wilson
Kyler Bender, Bolton & Menk
- **Environmental & Energy**
Leah Young, KCI Associates of NC, PA
Miles Galloway, The Wooten Company
- **Executive Leaders Forum**
Kraig Kern, W.K. Dickson & Co., Inc.
Joe Starr, Terracon Consultants, Inc.
- **Future Leaders**
Robbie Hoffman, Summit Design and Engineering Services
Matt Werder, HDR

Other Member Benefits

- **The Advocate** monthly Member Newsletter
- **Job Listings** on ACEC/NC Website
- **Sponsorship Opportunities** at ACEC/NC Conferences
- **Networking Events**
- **Future Leaders Program** participation opportunity for rising stars in your firm
- **Real-time information updates** through
LinkedIn: acec_nc
Twitter: @jsmithacecnc

Political Action Committees

STANDING EVENTS

ACEC/NC Summer Conference
July 27-29

Pitch FORE the PAC - Raleigh
September 14

ACEC/NC Reception - Washington DC
September 20-21

Engineering Excellence Awards
October 10

Transportation Conference
November 16-17

Member Reception - Charlotte
December 7

Holiday Party & ACEC/PAC Auction
December 14

**Member Event with the Board -
Winston-Salem**
January TBD

Love Your PAC Reception
February TBD

Pitch FORE the PAC
March TBD

**Sporting Clay Fundraiser for the State
PAC**
April TBD

FUELNC
May TBD

Legislative Advocacy

Recognizing the need for a broad-based and strong political action effort for our member firms, the Board of Directors of ACEC/NC took a historic step in May 2017 and voted to increase our impact in legislative advocacy with the creation of a State PAC and an Independent Expenditure Account.



ACEC NC PAC

The purpose of our State Political Action Committee is support candidates for North Carolina State Office that share the goals/ideals of enhancing the business of engineering. ACEC NC PAC is a State-level PAC that can accept individual contributions from any employee of a member firm and operates as part of ACEC/NC. Governed by a 5-person Board of Trustees and through campaign contributions, the PAC works directly to elect candidates for state office who support legislation favorable to the engineering industry.

ECNC

ECNC (Engineering Companies of North Carolina) is an Independent Expenditure Account whose purpose is to strengthen the effectiveness of our advocacy program and enhance the social welfare of the citizens of North Carolina. ECNC is an autonomous organization governed by a 5-person Board of Governors. It operates independently and distinctly separate from ACEC/NC. ECNC can accept both individual and firm contributions from anyone without limit and advocates for ballot issues and referendums that benefit the engineering industry and its firms. An independent expenditure allows quick response to issues and fosters strong cooperation with our industry-related partners.

ACEC/PAC

ACEC's Political Action Committee - ACEC/PAC - is the engineering industry's primary tool for political engagement at the National level. Supported by engineering professionals from across the country who work for member firms, the sole purpose of ACEC/PAC is to elect candidates to the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate who support policies and legislation favorable to the engineering industry.

ACEC/PAC is overseen by a committee of PAC Champions made of engineering firm executives from all the ACEC member organizations and is regulated by the Federal Election Commission (FEC). ACEC/PAC is currently the largest federal PAC in the A/E/C industry, having grown to be one of the largest and most effective PACs in Washington DC! The ACEC/PAC supports candidates on a bipartisan basis and in the last election cycle, ACEC/PAC's winning percentage was 97%.

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