

In early October, we were deeply saddened by the devastating news from our western counties. Like many others, ACEC/NC staff and leaders were shocked and unable to provide the critical services needed in a recovery situation. We waited for emergency responders and aid organizations to assess and coordinate the delivery of essential labor and supplies. Despite this, our desire to help remained strong. We are proud and humbled by the many members in the Piedmont and western areas who are actively involved in ground activities, fulfilling contracts for assessments and inspections. One member I spoke with last week said his small team alone inspected 300 bridges. Thank you to everyone on the ground working around the clock for our neighbors.

The Governor signed a relief bill late last week, which is likely the first of many. It included funding for the Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Instruction, Department of Transportation, and the Board of Elections. Many aspects of the community are affected, and recovery efforts will undoubtedly continue for years.

Our financial relief efforts are being directed through both the United Way of NC and Samaritan's Purse. Additionally, as the weather chills out west clothing and especially outerwear is needed. The Great Trails State Coalition has partnered with Great Outdoor Provisions company to collect coats and warm weather gear for victims. Drop off clean winter clothing at any Great Outdoor Provisions location.

Looking toward a brighter future, your organization conducted its three-year Strategic Planning exercise earlier this month. We are excited and energized to realign and focus our energy, staff, and resources to maximize real tangible value for all our members. As a testament to this commitment, we have hired the organization's first Member Relations Director, Sarah Dolezilek to help us get to know and serve our members better.

The dynamic business environment we operate in requires innovation, collaboration, adaptation, and resilience. You, our members, are adept at embracing change and improvising to deliver high-quality results to your clients, and we at ACEC/NC are stepping up our efforts to provide more visible and higher-quality services to you. In the coming months, we will be launching a comprehensive Image and Impact Campaign to showcase the remarkable everyday contributions of engineers.

As we work through the finer details of providing business, leadership, and industry-specific skills we ask that you please share with our staff, your company liaison, or our leadership what impactful additions we should be considering. We've already received many solid and actionable suggestions so thank you but keep them coming.

We hope you will join us for a great line-up of social and educational events this fall and winter. If you have not joined us yet for a new Quarterly Member Voices program mark your calendar for December 10 and tune in or come down to our office to learn and share your thoughts. Two ACEC staffers from Washington will be sharing detailed state and national industry economic data with us and you won't want to miss it.

With thanks for all you do in your community and across the state,

Tara 