New Directions in Collaboration

ACC has traditionally played an important role in the personal and professional networking of its members, and it is vital that we continue to foster new and effective ways to interface. As such, when the Board met in July, we discussed how ACC could cultivate groups within the Council for purposes of mutual benefit. During our discussions, we referred to these groups as coalitions or forums, and it became evident that many benefits could be realized by extending well beyond what we commonly refer to as ‘networking.’

A few coalitions / forums were discussed, specifically:

- Security Manufacturers Coalition
- Young Professionals
- Individual Members (Sole Proprietors)
- Small / Mid-Size Firms
- D / WBE Firms

The Security Manufacturers Coalition is currently thriving as a group within ACC. The member firms pay an additional fee and benefit from the additional staff time it takes to lead the group’s legislative and policy-centric efforts. This model is clearly at one end of the spectrum.

The Young Professionals-related initiatives have been blossoming in the past year through the efforts and hard work of the ACC Marketing & Membership Committee and Faith Varwig with Faith Group, LLC. ACC’s role with the Young Professionals has, again, included organizational efforts and public relations to encourage young members to be involved, but less staff time has been committed.

This summer, a group of Individual (Sole Proprietor) members joined together via conference call to exchange ideas that are common to their firms. So far ACC’s role has been one of fostering the opportunity and helping to organize the forum.

At this point, no other coalitions or forums have been formed; but we’d like to hear from you! How can ACC continue to add value to your membership? What coalitions or forums would you like to be a part of? What should ACC’s role be in these groups? What are some new ways to get together to achieve mutual goals and learn from each other?

Andy Platz, your incoming Chair for 2013, will be continuing this conversation with the Board and membership; he looks forward to fostering coalitions and forums within ACC. I encourage each member firm to reach out to Andy or me and let us know your thoughts on this topic.

Finally, as my year as chair draws to a close, I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to serve the members and represent ACC during 2012. It has been a true pleasure and honor! I would also like to extend a special “thank you” to the staff of ACC. It is clear that we have a unique, dynamic and responsive team in Alexandria!

May our paths cross again soon!