



# ASCE American Society of Civil Engineers

## WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

August 2016

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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#### Living my Purpose

Time does not stand still for any of us, and as my term as President of the Wisconsin Section draws to a close, I reflect on the past year and realize that life is all about experiences, inspired by the people we meet and the stories we create along the way. The ASCE Wisconsin Section Board and Committee Members, my employer, MSA Professional Services, and colleagues have helped me professionally bind my life with purpose and add another chapter to my life story. Dr. Seuss said it best, *“Don’t cry because it’s over. Smile because it happened.”*



From the time we start as young engineers to the time we make our first proposal to a client, we are telling stories of how we did the work previously, how the industry is changing, what we know of our competitors, and why we can be trusted as engineers. When we recruit, we tell candidates what we are looking for, and paint a picture of what their life and career will be like if they join us. When we make recommendations, we pull together all the data, interviews, benchmarks, industry trends, hypotheses, and insights into a cohesive narrative. We are constantly creating and telling stories.

Many times stories are derived from sacrifice. Very possibly, experiences that have the most value to us are the things that we worked hardest to achieve or adverse situations that we overcame. The projects that required us to invest our head, heart, and hands are the ones for which we are most proud. When we come across people that challenge us, we learn from them too. These experiences make us better engineers. Tough times make us stronger. *“If you are going through hell, keep going.” – Winston Churchill*

As I stated in my opening address to the Section in September of 2015, we are in a relationship-based business and I believe the following seven statements help build the relationships that define our purpose as engineers and create the stories of our lives:

1. Live by your beliefs and values. Place significant value on being a person of high integrity and in earning the trust and respect of others. Live with a clear conscience and spend more time listening to their inner voice than being influenced by others.
2. Set priorities. People who live a life of purpose identify those activities that matter most to them and spend the majority of their time and effort in those areas.
3. Follow your passion. Live a life of purpose and wake up each morning eager to face the new day. Put your heart into everything you do, and feel that you're personally making a difference.
4. Achieve balance. Put your heart into your career and into building relationships with colleagues, friends, and family while reserving adequate time to satisfy your personal needs. Achieving balance means living up to one's potential in all facets of life.
5. Feel content. Live a life with inner peace. Be satisfied with what you have and who you are. The grass is greener on your own side of the fence.
6. Make a difference. Make a meaningful difference in someone else's life. Do things for others without expectation of personal gain, serve as exemplary role models, and gain as much satisfaction witnessing the success of others as witnessing your own.
7. Live in the moment. Cherish every moment and live life without regret. Take joy in the experiences that life gives.

It is with great pleasure I welcome Peter Nilles as the incoming president of our organization. He is not only knowledgeable about ASCE, he is a talented leader. I look forward to seeing everyone at the annual conference in Lake Geneva on September 16, 2016. We will continue to provide affordable networking and continuing-education opportunities. If you have stepped up in the past, we thank you. If you have not yet, now is the time because the Wisconsin section is always seeking volunteer help. I hope that in the months ahead each member will find a way to serve this valuable organization that works hard to serve you.

Dan Borchardt, P.E., M.ASCE  
ASCE Wisconsin Section President

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## **PAST EVENTS**

### **2016 ASCE NATIONAL CONCRETE CANOE SUMMARY**

The 2016 ASCE National Concrete Competition was held from June 9 to June 11 in Tyler, Texas and was hosted by the University of Texas at Tyler. Two teams from Wisconsin, UW-Platteville and UW-Madison, competed at the competition. Both teams won their regional competition to make it to the national competition. The 2016 winning team was École de technologie supérieure from Montreal, Quebec, Canada. UW-Madison placed 5th and UW-P placed 15th. Congratulations to both Wisconsin teams for making it to the national competition!

### **ASCE NATIONAL ELECTION RESULTS**

From Thomas W. Smith, III, P.E., CAE, ENV SP, F.ASCE:

The 2016 national election concluded on Wednesday, June 1, and the Tellers Committee convened to validate the election results. Consistent with the Society's Bylaws, I am writing to give you formal notification of the results of this year's election. Publication of the election results will be provided on the Society's web page, ASCE SmartBrief, and in ASCE News.

#### **President-elect Elect (2016-2017):**

Kristina L. Swallow, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE

**Region Directors-Elect (2016-2019):**

Region 2: John G. Casana, P.E., D.WRE, LEED AP, M.ASCE  
Region 6: Nancy S. Cline, P.E., M.ASCE  
Region 7: Marsia Geldert-Murphey, P.E., M.ASCE  
Region 10: Brett C. Phillips, Ph.D., M.ASCE  
Technical Region: Carol Ellinger Haddock, P.E., M.ASCE

**Region Governors-Elect (2016-2019)**

Region 1: John C. Folts, P.E., M.ASCE  
Theodore N. Green, P.E., M.ASCE

Region 2: William F. Brittle, P.E., F.SEI, F.ASCE  
Jack A. Raudenbush, P.E., M.ASCE

Region 3: Darren T. Olson, P.E., D.WRE, M.ASCE  
Erin Woodson, P.E., M.ASCE

Region 4: William D. Dubois, P.E., M.ASCE  
John W. Fleming, P.E., M.ASCE  
Carol A. Stevens, P.E., F.ASCE

Region 5: Jeffrey J. Earhart, P.E., F.ASCE  
Katherine McLeod Gurd, P.E., F.ASCE

Region 7: Scott T. Asher, P.E., M.ASCE  
Erin M. Steever, P.E., M.ASCE

Region 8: Brent M. Borchers, P.E., M.ASCE  
Lawrence M. Magura, P.E., D.WRE, M.ASCE

Region 9: Matthew G. Kennedy, P.E., T.E., ENV SP, M.ASCE  
Thor A. Larsen, P.E., M.ASCE

Regarding the Constitutional amendment, the membership approved a change in the term of the At-Large Director from two (2) years to three (3) years to be consistent with the term currently served by the Geographic and Technical Region Directors.

If you have any questions regarding the election results please contact Patty Jones, Managing Director of Executive and Board Operations, at (703) 295-6101 or [pjones@asce.org](mailto:pjones@asce.org).



**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OPINION ARTICLE - RAISE THE WISCONSIN GAS TAX**

From Gregory Schroeder, P.E., Public Affairs Committee Chair:

I'll say it again; we should raise the Wisconsin gas tax. Now I know that as a lot, we engineers are a fiscally conservative bunch. So this may be controversial, but let's start the conversation. Actually, there should be less controversy among civil engineers on this topic because our profession benefits more than any other from increased spending on transportation. As the civil engineering professionals of Wisconsin, we should be making the positive arguments and influencing the State toward more investment in our transportation infrastructure.

I admit; transportation is not my area of expertise. I need the many of you who are the transportation experts to make the strong arguments for me. In the rest of this article I will say what I do know and share my thoughts with you. I welcome and appreciate your input, both supportive and corrective, regarding this vital topic. See the last paragraph for your opportunity to comment on these ideas.

What are the arguments against an increased gas tax? They are the same arguments as against any tax increase. For example, government doesn't always spend with 100% efficiency. Understatement? Yes, but we still need services and roads. The government is tasked with providing safe and reliable infrastructure. While the government may be inefficient, they are best suited to meet this crucial need. Unfortunately, we are all too familiar with the times when our government has been unable to address the infrastructure needs of the communities they serve. For example, pot holes were a very hot news topic this spring, but the inaction and lack of positive momentum generated after the spring thaw was pitiful. As engineers, we understand that deferred maintenance will increase lifecycle costs.

A gas tax is a tax that funds necessary public infrastructure, and, unlike other taxes, has many other positive impacts. An investment in safe and reliable infrastructure promotes economic growth and creates jobs. Furthermore, an increased gas tax influences drivers to select more efficient vehicles that pollute less, cost less, use fewer resources, etc. Along the same lines, it also influences drivers to drive less, decreasing pollution, decreasing carbon emissions, decreasing congestion, further decreasing pollution, decreasing imports of oil. Is the balance of trade not an issue now that the U.S. is a net exporter of petroleum products? First, it is still an issue, plus consider our State's view. I haven't seen any oil wells in Wisconsin. Our state's economy will benefit from improved efficiency of gasoline usage!

How shall an increased tax be implemented? I have a few ideas here as well. I expect that between our members, especially those in transportation, that many more and better ideas can be brought forward. My first idea is that with gasoline at historic low prices, this is the perfect time to implement an increased gas tax. Increased tax during the price decline will have the least fiscal impact to business and individual budgets. Second, let's design a tax that rises and falls inversely to the base commodity price and continues to minimize the impact on the economy of the State. This would actually level the peaks and valleys in sales of gas guzzlers vs. gas economizing vehicles.

My feeling is that the per-gallon tax is one of the most equitable and beneficial applications of a tax. As noted above, it actually encourages economical, efficient and less polluting choices. It encourages trip economy. Although I consider myself a free-marketer; still it is important for government to encourage good behavior of the citizenry that is beneficial to our state, our environment and our economy. I am strongly opposed to a per mile tax. Is it fair that someone driving a monster of a truck should pay the same tax per mile as someone who chooses to drive a Prius or a Smart Car? I'm shocked that other states are looking in that direction. Even our own Transportation Secretary suggested the per mile option in the last State budget. I believe this is only being done out of a total frustration with the resistance to the correct solution of increasing the per gallon tax. Should electric vehicles pay something? If yes, let's at least keep it a simple process.

An increased gas tax can help with other issues. I would not favor transfers to the general fund! I am; however, open to discussing how an increased gas tax could help some aspects of mass transit. Gas tax spending already is focused on highway safety, and there are more opportunities for increased safety that are not currently being addressed.

It is crucial for Civil Engineers to participate in our democracy. Together we can build momentum and direction on this and other critical topics. How will we do it? I am serving as your Public Affairs committee chairman. I can introduce a topic, but your input is necessary. We have created a discussion board on LinkedIn. To join the discussion, find us under "ASCE Wisconsin Public Affairs", send a request to join and after you are approved, let us know what you think. This article and future articles will be posted in this group. Please take a moment to leave some feedback. Also, feel free to start a new discussion on a topic that might be of interest to other ASCE Members.

You can also send a letter to the Wisconsin Section Board, or to our newsletter editor. Finally, you can write your State legislators. Please take action and together we can accomplish much!

***The opinions expressed here are those of the author only, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Wisconsin Section or ASCE.***

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE INVITATION**

From Gregory Schroeder, P.E., Public Affairs Committee Chair:

Are you interested in the many State of Wisconsin political issues that affect Civil Engineering? Are you a king or queen of social media? Do you have a talent for expressing issues in written form? If the answer is yes to any of these then the Public Affairs committee needs your help.

As your relatively new Public Affairs chairperson, my vision is that we would have an internet forum for the discussion of Public Affairs of Wisconsin. What are the most important issues impacting Civil Engineers or our service to the public? Our Public Affairs cannot be a one person operation. We need a vetting of opinions to be sure that we accurately representing a consensus of our profession.

Ideally, our internet forum would be internal and confidential to allow for a more free flow of ideas. Like I said, I need input on what forum would be right for our members. It has to be convenient; maybe an existing social media account or easy link from your home page. Will it be Linked In, Facebook, Twitter or a hosted bulletin board? I will provide my email at the end of this article for your input.

In the meantime, what are the current issues that you have some passion about? Think about this. Remember our connections and how we are stronger together. Put my email address ([gregory.schroeder@we-energies.com](mailto:gregory.schroeder@we-energies.com)) in your contacts. Send me a note next time the radio news captures your attention with a State or local issue near and dear to Civil Engineering. A text will work as well!

**Send me a test email and let me know if I may include you on Public Affairs group emails.** That would be like being a committee member with minimal commitment, but unlimited potential! With your help we can increase our engagement and positive impact where we are most needed.

## **ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS USA SUMMARY**

From Brad Hughes, P.E., LEEP AP

### **Help build a better world - Engineer Change with EWB-USA!**

Engineers Without Borders USA (EWB) empowers communities throughout the world by engineering projects that meet basic human needs. EWB members are the core of the organization. Students and professionals volunteer their time, energy, knowledge and experience in diverse engineering projects that support communities in need. Join EWB today and connect with a local chapter in Wisconsin to meet like-minded individuals, network, mentor students, or simply be part of a project that will make a difference in the lives of others. Current ASCE members are eligible for a discount on the EWB professional membership. To take advantage of this discount, renew/join through ASCE.



EWB Madison Area Professional Chapter (MAPC) is looking for new volunteers! MAPC's primary mission is supporting the EWB UW Madison student chapter in the execution and implementation of student-led projects. The UW chapter and MAPC have four active projects with wide-ranging opportunities: Guatemala (Infrastructure and water), Ethiopia (Solar), Uganda (Water), and Ecuador (Water).



MAPC is also evaluating starting a new professional-led project! Join today to be part of this new challenge! For more information on how to get involved and make a difference, or to make a donation, please visit our website: <http://www.ewbmapc.com/> or email: [ewbmapc@gmail.com](mailto:ewbmapc@gmail.com).

The EWB Wisconsin Professional Partners (WPP) chapter in the Milwaukee area supports student chapters at UW Milwaukee, Marquette University, UW Platteville, and MSOE, as well as implementing their own projects. <http://www.ewbwpp.org/> WPP projects are in Guatemala and include water supply, pedestrian and vehicular bridges, and schools.



**Links to Wisconsin EWB-USA student chapter websites:**

UW- Madison - <http://ewb.slc.engr.wisc.edu/projects/>

Milwaukee School of Engineering - <https://community.msosoe.edu/groups/engineers-without-borders-ewb>

UW-Milwaukee - <https://sites.google.com/site/ewbuwm/home>

Marquette University - <http://ewbmarquette.wix.com/ewbmarquette>

UW-Platteville - <http://uwplattewb.org/>

**EWB-USA Engineering Service Corps**

The Engineering Service Corps (directed by Kevin Hagen of Madison) offers the expertise of our most seasoned volunteers to organizations in the international development sector. The Engineering Service Corps performs a variety of services, including engineering studies, owner's representation, planning, design, and monitoring and evaluation.

We collaborate with NGOs and governments who use a community-driven approach and who lack access to the resources needed to design sustainable and appropriate solutions to engineering challenges. The Engineering Service Corps volunteers work as an integral part of the client's team in order to balance the technical challenges with sustainable solutions that are appropriate within the context of the client agency, the communities and the broader environment. <http://www.ewb-usa.org/myewb/engineering-service-corps/>

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**UPCOMING EVENTS/DEADLINES**  
**2016 ANNUAL MEETING**

The date has been set for the ASCE Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting! Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on Friday, **September 16, 2016** at the Grand Geneva Resort and Spa in Lake Geneva.

The Keynote speaker will be Aaron Popkey (Director of Public Affairs of the Green Bay Packers), who will give a presentation on The Titletown District Development Adjacent to Lambeau Field. There will also be a presentation on the ASCE Grand Challenge after lunch, which challenges the society to "*Reduce the life cycle cost of infrastructure by 50 percent by 2025 and foster the optimization of infrastructure investments for society.*"

To obtain more information on the Annual Meeting, click here: <http://tinyurl.com/hsk5a8j>

To access the registration page, click here: <http://tinyurl.com/hc58u3w>

All registration forms and payments must be received no later than August 26th, to avoid the \$20 late registration fee. Registration closes on September 9th.

If you have any questions about the event or registration, please contact Kyle Bareither at [kbareither@naturalrt.com](mailto:kbareither@naturalrt.com) or (414) 837-3574.

## UW-PLATTEVILLE ASCE GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 23rd annual UW-Platteville ASCE Benchmark Open golf tournament will be held on Friday, September 16, 2016 at the Platteville Golf and Country Club. All proceeds will go towards the UW-P ASCE Student Chapter to maintain activities such as steel bridge competition, concrete canoe competition, professional development speakers, community and university service projects, FE review sessions, attending regional and student leadership conferences, freshmen mentor program, and attending the National ASCE Convention.

Registration is due by September 1, 2016. See attached for more information and the registration form.

If you have any questions please contact the Civil & Environmental Engineering Office, call (608) 342-1543, or visit our website at: [www.uwplatt.edu/org/asce](http://www.uwplatt.edu/org/asce).

## UW-MADISON CEE GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 20th annual UW-Madison Annual Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) Golf Outing will be held on Friday, September 16, 2016 at Pleasant View Golf Course in Middleton. Proceeds from the outing will be used to help the UW-M ASCE Student Chapter steel bridge and concrete canoe teams travel to competitions, renovate laboratories and instruction facilities, provide initial startup packages for incoming faculty, and support undergraduate students with scholarships. Visit <http://www.golf.cee.wisc.edu/> for more information and registration details.

For any questions, contact Event Coordinator, Beth Johnson. Email: [beth.johnson@wisc.edu](mailto:beth.johnson@wisc.edu) or 608-262-3542.



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## CONGRATULATIONS AND KUDOS EDMUND FRIEDMAN YOUNG ENGINEER AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ken Mika (Southeast Branch) was selected by the Committee on Younger Members to receive the 2016 Edmund Friedman Young Engineer Award for Professional Achievement. This award is "For professional achievement in service to the advancement of the profession, evidence of technical competence, high character and integrity, and contributions to public service outside their career." In selecting Ken for this award, the committee particularly noted his service on Project Lead The Way, helping it to become more of a STEM program, and to attract local and regional high school students. This national award is given away to no more than five recipients every year within ASCE.

Congratulations Ken!

## OUTSTANDING ENGINEER VOLUNTEER

Andy Walters (Northwest Branch) was recognized for outstanding community volunteerism as part of National Engineers Week 2016. This special recognition is for those who have provided noteworthy service to their community, have had a direct and positive impact on people's everyday lives, and who serve as a role model for others to follow. By volunteering his civil engineering knowledge, he has given those whose lives he touched to see the professional of civil engineering in its most positive light.

Congratulations Andy!

## FELLOW MEMBERSHIP GRADE

Congratulations to Dr. Mark Meyers for recently becoming an ASCE Fellow! Here is an article from Dr. Molly Gribb, P.E., F.ASCE, Dean of the College of Engineering, Mathematics and Science at the University of Wisconsin - Platteville:

*As an undergraduate student at UW-Platteville in the December 1979, Mark Meyers published an article in the Geode entitled "Flood of the Century", about the devastating flood of the same year in Grand Forks, North Dakota. He could not have known it at the time, but this flood would weave a path through his career, a career which now includes Fellow status in the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).*

*Dr. Meyers, now in his 16th year of teaching Civil and Environmental Engineering at UW-Platteville, earned his undergraduate degree from UW-Platteville and his master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Cincinnati. Throughout his educational career, Meyers's focus has been on teaching applications of civil and environmental engineering rather than a deep theoretical approach: his master's thesis was a user manual designed to educate civil and environmental engineering students about the hydraulic systems and computer programs used within their profession; his PhD work included developing a series of computer programs for USEPA reviewers that analyzed the geotechnical aspects of embankments used to impound hazardous waste at disposal facilities. He earned his PhD with the goal of teaching at the undergraduate level, specifically at UW-Platteville.*

*He currently serves on the College of EMS Alumni Board and is very active in ASCE at the Branch and Section level, including coordinating geotechnical engineering speakers for the ASCE Annual Meetings and Spring Technical Conferences. He has written and presented multiple papers at professional conferences, including a paper, "Specifying and Bidding Segmental Faced Concrete MSE Walls on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District Projects", co-authored with fellow UW-Platteville alumni Ryan Berg and fellow USACE geotechnical engineer Neil Schwantz, which won the North American Geosynthetic Society Technical Award of Excellence (1997).*

*Meyers began his professional career working multiple summers with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation; he also completed two UW-Platteville co-op experiences, working on flood control with the US Army Corps of Engineers in the St. Paul, MN District. The USACE would hire him after grad school as part of a team of civilian employees assigned to a 7-year flood control project in Rochester, MN—beginning in 1988, the \$200 million project involved lowering the channel bottom and was completed in 1993. Next, Dr. Meyers joined a team focused on flood control in two communities with long histories of annual flooding and challenging geotechnical conditions: Grand Forks / East Grand Forks, ND and Fargo, ND. Minimizing the community impact of these floods called for the development of a new and unique solution: a geotechnical engineering design of flood control levees to prevent the floodwaters from encroaching into the communities, requiring several trips to USACE Headquarters. The Grand Forks project has been successfully completed; the Fargo project is still underway. Of his years spent working to control the devastating impact of floods, Dr. Meyers says that "One person can't do it all.... The large projects are completed by teams, not individuals."*

*The College of EMS is pleased to congratulate Dr. Meyers on his most recent recognition.*

## AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR RECOGNITION

The ASCE Wisconsin Section wishes to recognize and thank Larry Ryan for the many years of heading up the Awards Committee. Larry started as the Awards Committee Chair back in 2008 and will be stepping down from the position at the end of this year. As Chair, Larry was responsible for administering the Wisconsin Section Awards program and coordinated the publicizing of all awards. The awards included plaques of appreciation for past Section Presidents, certificates of appreciation for outgoing Board members, project awards, individual merit awards, life member awards, and outstanding senior civil engineering student awards.

Thank you again to Larry for his years of service!!

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## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES** **FIVE FREE PDHS!?!**

Are you looking for some professional development opportunities to bolster your technical skills? Do you need continuing education credits? Have you taken advantage of your FIVE FREE PDHS for 2016?? Check out the programs being offered by ASCE's Continuing Education Department. For more information, please visit the ASCE website at [http://www.asce.org/continuing\\_education/](http://www.asce.org/continuing_education/). The deadline for the free on-demand webinars is December 31, 2016.

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## **CALENDAR OF SECTION EVENTS**

The calendar is simply a guide and may change throughout the year:

### **SEPTEMBER 2016**

- ❖ September 16 - Annual Meeting, Lake Geneva, WI
- ❖ September 18-19 - Presidents and Governors Forum, Reston, VA
- ❖ September 28 - October 1 - National ASCE Convention, Portland, OR

### **OCTOBER 2016**

- ❖ October 8 - Southeast Branch STEM Expo

### **JANUARY 2017**

- ❖ January 1 - Nomination for the Daniel W. Mead Price due from Branches to the Wisconsin Section Board of Directors

### **FEBRUARY 2017**

- ❖ August 3-4 - Regions 3, 6, & 7 Multi-Region Leadership Conference, Minneapolis, MN

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## **INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY REQUEST**

If you have Involvement Opportunities (example - community service event or organization) for Wisconsin Section members that you would like featured in the Wisconsin Section Newsletter, e-mail Justin Bilskemper at [Justin.Bilskemper@strand.com](mailto:Justin.Bilskemper@strand.com) with a detailed description of the opportunity and help needed.

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## **LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Are you looking to get involved in ASCE? How about joining an existing Wisconsin Section committee? There are plenty to choose from! We are always looking for additional members to join existing committees! As an added incentive, you can earn up to 2 PDH credits per year (maximum of 4 PDH credits per biennium) for actively participating in ASCE as an officer or committee member [[Wis. Stats A-E 13.03 \(2\) \(f\)](#)].

For more information on Wisconsin Section committees, see the Administrative Manual on the Wisconsin Section website, at <http://www.ascewi.org/administrative-manual/>.

Please contact Justin Bilskemper at [Justin.Bilskemper@strand.com](mailto:Justin.Bilskemper@strand.com) if you are interested in increasing your committee involvement.

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## **UPDATE YOUR ASCE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Please update your ASCE online profile with current e-mail and mailing addresses to guarantee you receive ASCE newsletters and important information. As a reminder, those of you that have passed your PE exam, make sure to update your account with ASCE National. To update your ASCE profile, go to [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org) or call (800) 548-2723.

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ASCE Wisconsin Section Website is continually updated. Please visit it at <http://www.ascewi.org> to stay up to date on events. There are also links to all of the four branches within the Wisconsin Section.