



# ASCE American Society of Civil Engineers

## WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

August 2015

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2014 – 2015

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(715) 834-3161

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(414) 336-7940

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings, everyone. I hope you are enjoying your summer, regardless of the heat and humidity. We cut our grass as needed to a height of 3-1/2 inches or so, which keeps me busy most of the summer - not this summer! As I write this, we have not cut our grass for 2 weeks; we are supposed to get significant rain over the next several days - hopefully, there will be some dry time to cut the grass once the grass starts growing again. While we consider our grass height to be a sustainable practice in many ways, during these hot and dry times of the year, we have a neighbor who cuts his to 4 inches; we also have neighbors who cut much shorter, even when the hot and dry conditions persist. Seems like they have to cut the grass every X number of days!

Yes, my topic for this edition of the Newsletter is Sustainability. I can hear the sighs - not that topic again...Why write about sustainability, again? I used to think the same way because I could not envision any practical applications regarding sustainability; well, I finally have! I attended the ASCE 2015 Region 3 Assembly last week, along with many of our Branch representatives. The Wisconsin Section was well represented and, based on the Roundtable discussions, our Section and Branches are very proactive with respect to what we do to keep our members active and informed.

The primary topic of the Assembly was sustainability, with a heavy focus on the Envision Sustainability Rating System. While the presentations discussed the State of the Art of Sustainability and Envision, the application of Envision to several real projects increased my personal acceptance of Sustainability as a major tool to be used in the future of our profession.

On a related sustainability note, Dr. Molly Gribb, who is the new Dean of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville College of Engineering, Mathematics, and Science, will be leading an interactive breakout session at the Annual Meeting on sustainability and how we can incorporate sustainability into Civil and Environmental classrooms so that we satisfy the current ABET Accreditation Criteria for our Undergraduate programs. She will be

looking for input from practitioners as to how sustainability is incorporated into Civil and Environmental Engineering projects. Please attend this session if you have the experience and expertise to help provide our future Civil and Environmental Engineers with the strong sustainability background they will need to be successful in their chosen careers.

Finally, the Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting, referenced previously and planned by the Southwest Branch, will be held on September 25 at the Crown Plaza in Madison. You may have already received the registration brochure. There are many presentations to choose from, regardless of your area of expertise.

This is my last Newsletter as your Section President. A person's time in a position such as this usually seems to fly by; my term has been no different. It has been my privilege, with the help of the Wisconsin Section and the dedicated Branch and Section Officers we have, to have served you and we hope we have been able to meet your needs as a Civil or Environmental Engineer in the Wisconsin Section.

Mark Meyers, P.E., M.ASCE  
ASCE Wisconsin Section President

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## SECTION BOARD UPDATES

The results are in! We have two new members to the Wisconsin Section Board and two members who have been re-elected. Jesse Jefferson and Matt Dahlem have been elected as Directors at Large, and will be replacing Paul Sponholz and Justin Bilskemper. Paul and Justin are moving on, in different ways. Paul has decided to step down from the Section Board (thanks for your service, Paul), and Justin was nominated for, and elected as, our next Vice President. In our fourth position, Julie Hoppe accepted the nomination, and was elected to, another term as the Section Treasurer.

Congratulations to all!

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## COMMITTEE UPDATES

Are you looking to get involved in ASCE? How about joining an existing Wisconsin Section committee? There are plenty to choose from. In fact, two committees are currently without any members, and need some new energy. If you are interested in revitalizing the Public Affairs Committee or the Public Relations Committee, we could use your help.


From the Wisconsin Section Administrative Manual, the Public Affairs Committee's charge is as follows: "The Committee shall be responsible for analyzing proposed legislation, and matters and projects of concern to the public and promoting action in a spirit of public service." **Thank you to Greg Schroeder for expressing an interest in helping this committee – any other volunteers out there?**

Similarly, the Public Relations Committee's charge is: "The Committee shall promote and advance the general public image of the civil engineering profession and the American Society of Civil Engineers by providing and arranging for dissemination of information about the Section and its members in technical and non-technical publications, newspapers, radio, and television."

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

Please contact Peter Nilles at [pmbnilles@gmail.com](mailto:pmbnilles@gmail.com) if you are interested in increasing your committee involvement.

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## **CONGRATULATIONS AND KUDOS**

Congratulations to Marty Hanson for becoming an ASCE Fellow! Here is the blog post as written for ASCE News:

*Martin J. Hanson, P.E., F.ASCE, of Ayres Associates in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, was elevated to ASCE Fellow status by the ASCE Board of Direction.*

*Hanson began his career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service in Sandpoint, Idaho, Park Falls, Wisconsin, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he developed computer applications for forest roadway design. Hanson then worked in other engineering positions with transportation and water resource consulting firms. Hanson then continued his engineering career with Ayres Associates, where he served as a project manager for 2 major projects on State Highway 29. He now serves as the firm's Director of Transportation Relations.*

*In addition, Hanson served on Wisconsin's Transportation Finance and Policy Commission, as well as the state's professional licensing board for 8 years – including time as Engineers Section chair, and as Joint Board chair. In these roles, he was responsible for updating licensing credential requirements and creating continuing competency requirements for professional engineers in Wisconsin. He is a former chair of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin, its Transportation Liaison Committee, and its Transportation Task Force. In 2012, Hanson received the Chairman's Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin.*

*Hanson is an officer with the Round Lake Property Owners Association, and is president of his townhome association. He works with second-grade students in the Junior Achievement program and is a former community youth hockey coach.*

*Hanson earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota, and a master of business administration degree from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.*

Keep your eyes peeled for more Fellows. The Wisconsin Section Board recently voted on another Section member's application to become a Fellow, and the application now goes to ASCE National for their approval. The Wisconsin Section, which consists of almost 2,000 total members, currently has 68 members with Fellow status - again, congratulations to Marty for joining the exclusive club!

For more information on the requirements and benefits of becoming an ASCE Fellow, check out <http://www.asce.org/membership/fellow/>.



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 25, 2015, CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, MADISON, WI**

The Southeast Branch is hosting the Annual Meeting, and Wisconsin Section members should receive invitations shortly. The keynote speakers are Kirk Contrucci of Ayres Associates and Rep. Adam Neylon, and they will speak on the topic of UAVs. Stephanie Klett, Wisconsin Secretary of Tourism, is scheduled to provide some information on the role of infrastructure on tourism. In addition we will hear some words from Dr. Molly Gribb, the new UW-Platteville Dean of the College of Engineering, Mathematics, and Science. A featured technical speaker will be Vaughan Griffiths of the Colorado School of Mines on the topic of risk.

### **STEM EXPO - OCTOBER 10, 2015, KERN CENTER, MSOE, MILWAUKEE, WI**

The Southeast Branch Younger Member Group is hosting the STEM Expo again this year. Please see <http://www.ascewise.org/stem-expo/> for more information.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE & ECONOMICS PRESENTATIONS - SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, 2015**

Carl Sutter of the Wisconsin Section, and Professor William Holahan from UW-Milwaukee, are teamed up to present “Rebuilding America’s Infrastructure and Economy”:

September 16 - Milwaukee  
September 23 - Oshkosh  
September 30 - Madison  
October 14 - Eau Claire

For more information, visit [www.lwvmilwaukee.org](http://www.lwvmilwaukee.org)

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## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Are you looking for some professional development opportunities to bolster your technical skills? Do you need continuing education credits? Check out the programs being offered by ASCE’s Continuing Education Department. For more information, please see the ASCE website at [http://www.asce.org/continuing\\_education/](http://www.asce.org/continuing_education/).

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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, email Peter Nilles at [pmbnilles@gmail.com](mailto:pmbnilles@gmail.com) with a detailed description of the opportunity and help needed.

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**ASCE Wisconsin Section Website has been 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.**

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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.

