



ASCE *American Society of Civil Engineers*

WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

January 2015

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2014 – 2015

President

Mark Meyers, P.E.
(608) 342-1542

President Elect

Dan Borchardt, P.E.
(715) 384-2133

Vice President

Peter W. Nilles, P.E.
(414) 763-1231

Secretary

Ken Mika, P.E.
(414) 416-9619

Treasurer

Julie Hoppe, P.E.
(414) 221-0088 x3123

Past President

Jon Lindert, P.E.
(608) 251-4843

Directors-at-Large

Will Kratt, P.E.
(608) 789-2034

Paul Sponholz, P.E.
(920) 832-2028

Justin Bilskemper, P.E.
(608) 251-4843

Jennifer Schaff, P.E.
(920) 751-4200

Fox River Valley Branch Director

Andrew Shultz, P.E.
(920) 405-3809

Southwest Branch Director

Larry Ryan, P.E.
(608) 221-8455

Northwest Branch Director

Jessica Felix, P.E.
(715) 225-9302

Southeast Branch Director

Bridget Henk, P.E.
(920) 242-2252

Webmaster

Martin J. Hanson, P.E.
(715) 834-3161

Newsletter Editor

Peter Nilles, P.E.
(414) 763-1231



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to the Wisconsin Section Members. I hope you all enjoyed the Holiday Season and spent some time with family and friends and are now enjoying a winter without the snowfall depths we experienced last winter - although the January 26 precipitation event was a bit nasty.

The big events coming up in the near future are Engineer's Week February 22 through 28 and our Spring Technical Conference March 12, hosted for the first time by the Northwest Branch in LaCrosse. From what I have heard, we have a great venue and are lining up some informative and timely presentations.

The Section Board worked with ASCE National to get an advisory issue on the ballot last fall regarding the establishment of a State of Wisconsin Highway Trust Fund LockBox. We also worked with ASCE National to develop a summary of the State of the State address regarding transportation funding in Wisconsin, and is provided in this newsletter.

Laura Gerold has resigned as the Section Treasurer; Julie Hoppe has agreed to fill that office until we can find a permanent replacement. John Frauenhoffer, our Region 3 director, has helped us file our taxes. Thank you to Julie and John for their help.

Please be sure to attend an Engineer's Week celebration in your locality and to let others know that you are a Civil Engineer and proud of it. Thank you for all you do for the Wisconsin Section and Branches.

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



WISCONSIN SECTION RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNOR'S STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

We've heard a lot over the past five years about Gov. Scott Walker's plans and efforts to make Wisconsin "open for business." And we heard about it again in his recent State of the State Address. To achieve this goal, we need a modern transportation network that can safely and easily move goods across the state. Almost half of Wisconsin's major urban highways are congested and poor road conditions cost Wisconsin drivers \$2 billion a year in extra vehicle repair and operating costs. That's \$502 per motorist that could instead go toward a family vacation or paying down debt. It is challenging to grow an economy without also investing in the transportation network to support it.

Living in the home of Harley-Davidson, a company that celebrates the open road, means that we have a lot to live up to. Currently, there is a lot of room for improvement as 22 percent of the state's roads are in poor condition according to the American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) 2013 *Report Card for America's Infrastructure*. By investing in our roads, bridges and transit systems, we are ensuring Wisconsin continues to be a great place to live, raise a family, or own a business.

Driving around metro-Milwaukee, it's evident how much progress is being made in this area. In the past decade a trip up I-94 has transformed, with improvements to the Marquette Interchange, I-94 corridor between Milwaukee County and the Illinois state line and the ongoing Zoo Interchange updates. The Zoo Interchange is one of the oldest in the state, and the undertaking is the largest transportation upgrade in state history. When it's done, we will have a safer, less congested highway.

Now is the right time to keep the momentum of those updates going, address our infrastructure deficit, and invest in our transportation system. Thanks to the voters in November, the Department of Transportation is now a constitutional agency and its fund can only be used for their designated purposes: fixing the roads, not shoring up another agency's budget. With such security in place, Gov. Walker and the newly-seated state legislature should work on finding ways to avoid the \$15.3 billion projected shortfall over the next decade. Whether the revenue is generated from a gas tax user fee or another method, it will ensure the \$502 now spent at the auto mechanic because of our poor roads could instead be invested into modernizing our roads, bridges, and transit system—and likely will still save us all money in the long run. In fact if we do not increase our investment, each family will lose \$1,060 from their budget each year, according to ASCE's Failure to Act economic study.

From the outset of his tenure, Governor Walker named infrastructure investment among his top priorities. He recognized the link between prosperity and infrastructure and took steps to ensure funding was available for upgrades to ports and freight rail, in addition highways. Now it is time to move a step further to ensure these critical dollars are available now and in the future by enacting a stable source of revenue.



SECTION BOARD UPDATES

There has been a change in the Wisconsin Section Board. Laura Gerold has decided to step down as Treasurer, and Julie Hoppe has taken on the position, as of January 8, 2015. We thank Laura for her time on the Section Board. We also thank John Frauenhoffer, our Region 3 Director, for helping with the transition.



BRANCH UPDATES

NORTHWEST BRANCH

Engineering Week Social Events

February 22nd - 28th

Thank you for your membership to ASCE and your continued support to the Northwest Branch. Please join us to celebrate engineering, meet new people, see old friends, and maybe even talk some shop. We look forward to seeing you! Watch your email for the official invitation.

Hudson: Monday, February 23rd, 4:30 PM - ?
Agave Kitchen, 501 2nd Street, Hudson, WI, 54016

Wausau: Tuesday, February 24th, 6:00 PM - ?
Come watch the Wisconsin Badgers take on the Maryland Terrapins!
Coral Lanes, 1025 Grand Avenue, Rothschild, WI 54474

La Crosse: Tuesday, February 24th, 6:00 PM - ?
Join us to also watch the Wisconsin Badgers take on the Maryland Terrapins!
Buffalo Wild Wings, 3132 Market Place, Onalaska, WI 54650

Eau Claire: Tuesday, February 24th, 6:00 PM - ?
Join us to also watch the Wisconsin Badgers take on the Maryland Terrapins!
Buffalo Wild Wings, 4612 Keystone Crossing, Eau Claire, WI 54701

SOUTHEAST BRANCH

SE Branch Leadership

In the past few months there have been some changes in the leadership with the Southeast Branch. Jared Wendt has taken over as the Branch President, Mike Arnold as the President-elect, and Nick Bobinski is the new Director-at-Large for Membership. Please help us welcome the new team. Contact information can be found on the website at: www.ascewise.org.

2015 STEM Expo

The 2015 STEM Expo Planning has begun! The 2015 event will be held in October 2015 at MSOE'S Kern Center. Bridget Henk, GRAEF and Tony Castle, EMCS will be chairing the event. Planning committee meetings will begin in late February or early March. Bridget and Tony are currently seeking planning committee members, so if you would like to be part of the excitement, please contact Bridget (Bridget.Henk@graef-usa.com) or Tony (acastle@emcsinc.com).

For more information on the 2014 STEM Expo please see www.ascewise.org/stem-expo.



Happy volunteers from the 2014 STEM Expo

Hunger Task Food Drive

ASCE YMG had a decent turnout at Leff's Lucky Town on November 20th for the Hunger Task Force food drive. Over 230 pounds of food and \$200 were collected from members and their offices. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped feed local families this Holiday Season.

Boy Scout Engineering Merit Badge

On December 6th, ASCE members Mike Arnold, Kevin Wood, and Sue Rasmussen provided merit badge counseling and assistance for Boy Scouts earning their Engineering Merit Badges. There were 14 scouts that earned badges at the event which was part of the NovaCon STEM Fair at WCTC. Some of the activities included a Traffic Trivia contest, experimenting with different materials and observing their properties, and discussions of different engineering careers. It was great to see the scouts actively engaged and excited about engineering!

Future Events

Thursday, January 29 – Branch Scholarship Dinner
January – YMG Ski/ sledding event
February – YMG Admirals Hockey Game
February - MathCOUNTS
Thursday, February 12- Engineers Week Banquet



COMMITTEE UPDATES

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

The WI Section Sustainability Committee is in the process of developing criteria and an application for a future sustainable award for projects in the state of Wisconsin. It is anticipated that the first Wisconsin ASCE Sustainability Award will be due in the spring of 2016 and awarded at the 2016 Annual Meeting which is scheduled to be hosted by the SE Branch. More information on the award and application should be available in early fall of 2015. If you have any questions or would like to join the committee, please contact Bridget Henk at bridget.henk@graef-usa.com.

HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Do you enjoy history? Is it your passion to find out more about the contributions of civil engineers in the state and to raise public awareness of civil engineering contributions? If so the History and Heritage Committee of the Wisconsin Section is for you. The History and Heritage Committee is currently forming and is looking for new members. If interested please contact Kathy Thunes, Committee Chair at kthunes@ecwrpc.org.



CONGRATULATIONS AND KUDOS

WISCONSIN SECTION TREASURER

As mentioned previously, Julie Hoppe is now the Wisconsin Section Treasurer. An issue that came up in the past for Treasurers was finding computer hardware and software that was compatible with the software used by ASCE National for bookkeeping purposes. We are grateful that Natural Resource Technology, Inc. has donated a laptop for Julie (and future Treasurers) to use for Section business.

NEW FACES OF ENGINEERING

Congratulations to Ken Mika of the Wisconsin Section! Ken was recently named one of 10 New Faces of Engineering by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Award recipients will be recognized during Engineers Week.

The New Faces recognition program promotes the achievement of young civil engineers by highlighting their contributions to and impact on society.

ASCE names New Faces of Civil Engineering each year, some of whom will be submitted to the national New Faces of Engineering program run by DiscoverE, formerly the National Engineers Week Foundation. This program includes representatives from civil, mechanical, chemical, industrial, and manufacturing engineering professions. Selected New Faces profiles will be featured in February 2015 in a USA TODAY advertisement during Engineers Week and profiled on the DiscoverE website.

NEW FACES OF ENGINEERING – COLLEGE EDITION

Congratulations to Alyssa Norsby, who was recently selected as a New Face of Civil Engineering – College Edition. Please see more information on Alyssa's accomplishments, as well as the other New Faces (College Edition) at the link below:

http://blogs.asce.org/future-professionals-on-display-with-ascenew-faces-of-civil-engineering-college-edition/?utm_campaign=Comm-20150123-ASCENews%20Weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua

ENGINEER AND YOUNG ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

Two civil engineers that have been active ASCE members have been selected by STEM Forward as Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year. John Goetter and Bridget Henk will be recognized at the STEM Forward 62nd Annual Engineers Week Banquet on February 12th at the Italian Conference Center. Both John and Bridget were nominated by the ASCE Wisconsin Section Southeast Branch.

After 40 years at GRAEF and 44 years of professional experience, John retired in 2014. John has worked tirelessly dedicating time and energy devoted to strengthening the field of engineering and the implications of engineering in our world. John was the Chairperson in 2003 and in 2007 for the ASCE Report Card on Wisconsin's Infrastructure. His efforts made it one of the best in the country. John isn't only wise on the technical side. John has contributed to the field of engineering with his deep, caring people skills. John's abilities to deal with subordinates, peers and supervisors in a manner showing candor and compassion are unparalleled in a technical profession.

While at GRAEF, John spent many years overseeing the Facilities group in the Milwaukee office. While there, John oversaw the technical direction and management of the firm's structural projects. His structural project experience includes the design of new buildings, parking structures, and bridges. In addition, he has significant experience in the inspection and rehabilitation of existing structures. Clients have included government, commercial, industrial, and institutional entities. Several projects completed under John's direction have received engineering design awards including the Midwest Airlines Center, the General Mitchell International Airport Parking Structure Addition and Concourse D Expansion, the Santa Monica Boulevard Bridge, Milwaukee County Jail, UWM School of Architecture, and the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts.

Bridget is currently serving the American Society of Civil Engineers as the Chair of the Younger Member Group STEM Expo, Past-President of the Southeast Branch, and Chair of the Wisconsin Section Committee on Sustainability. She is also a member of Wisconsin Commercial Real Estate Women, Wisconsin Green Building Alliance, and Women in Science and Engineering. Ms. Henk was the 2012 ASCE honoree for the National Engineers Week Foundation's New Faces of Engineering and was featured in an ad in USA Today during Engineers Week. She has been the recipient of the 2012 Outstanding Younger Member in the Private Sector from the ASCE Central Region Younger Member Council, 2011 Citizen Engineer Award from the ASCE Committee on Volunteer Community Service, 2011 ASCE Wisconsin Section Young Engineer of the Year, and the 2010 Outstanding Younger Member in Community Activities from the ASCE Central Region Younger Member Council.

Bridget is a professional engineer licensed in Wisconsin and Illinois, a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional (LEED AP) in Building Design and Construction, and an

Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP). She currently works at GRAEF where she is a Civil Engineer in the Milwaukee Infrastructure group. Bridget is an instrumental part of the stormwater and commercial development teams, leading the way to more sustainable design and construction.

See the announcement later in the newsletter for details about the banquet.

✦

UPCOMING EVENTS

62ND ANNUAL ENGINEERS WEEK BANQUET

Please help celebrate an evening of STEM at the 62nd Annual Engineers Week Banquet presented by STEM Forward. Help honor some of the best and brightest STEM leaders in the area, including our very own Wisconsin Section members John Goetter and Bridget Henk. The banquet is scheduled for February 12 at the Italian Conference Center, 631 East Chicago Street in Milwaukee. Registration is available at <http://engineersweekbanquet15.eventbrite.com>, and ends February 9. For more information, contact Kiley Kurz at kkurz@stemforward.org, or at (414) 810-7836.

ASCE WISCONSIN SECTION SPRING TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

The American Society of Civil Engineers Northwest Wisconsin Branch cordially invites you to attend the Wisconsin Section 2015 ASCE Spring Technical Conference on Thursday, March 12, 2015, at the La Crosse Center in La Crosse, WI. We look forward to having two high caliber civil engineering professionals as the keynote and general session speakers. We are expecting many ASCE members from Wisconsin and Minnesota to attend this event. There will be a minimum of 5 PDH available, including 1 in ethics.

Please watch for an invite to register arriving via email in the near future. Registration will be on-line. The Northwest Branch appreciates your support to help us make the Spring Technical Conference a success!

Keynote Address

Mark Gottlieb, P.E.

Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation

General Session

Mark Woodson, P.E., L.S., D.WRE, F.ASCE

President Elect – ASCE National

Luncheon Session

Richard Kyte

Director

D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership

Viterbo University



La Crosse Center Ballroom
300 Harborview Plaza
La Crosse, WI 54601

SE BRANCH SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT, PRESENTED BY GROUND IMPROVEMENT ENGINEERING AND THE GEOPIER® TECHNOLOGY TEAM

Date: Friday, June 12, 2015

Place: Ironwood Golf Course, Sussex, WI

Time: 10:30 a.m. Shotgun start

Please put this date on your calendar and look for our entry blank and sponsorship information coming in the spring.

All Proceeds from the golf tournament will go to support the ASCE Wisconsin Section Southeast Branch Scholarship Fund. Last year, due to your generous support, we were able to add a fourth scholarship, giving another student some much needed help. Please plan on golfing in the outing or becoming a sponsor at one of the many levels available.



Sponsored by your Geopier® Technology team.



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/.

CALENDAR OF SECTION EVENTS

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

FEBRUARY:

- Nominations due for Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Student (OSCES) awards

MARCH:

- March 11 – Wisconsin Section Board meeting (La Crosse, WI)
- March 12 – Spring Technical Conference, La Crosse Center, La Crosse, WI

APRIL:

- April 12 – PE, PS, and SE Vertical Exam (offered in Madison, Milwaukee and Platteville)
- April 13 – SE Lateral Exam (offered in Madison, Milwaukee and Platteville)

MAY:

- Wisconsin Section Board meeting

JUNE:

- June 1 – Nominations due for Individual Merit and Engineering Achievement Awards to the Wisconsin Section Secretary

JULY:

- Voting for Wisconsin Section officers and Board members

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 with a detailed description of the opportunity and help needed.

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.

UPDATE YOUR ASCE MEMBERSHIP

UPDATE ASCE ONLINE PROFILE REGULARLY

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 change your account with ASCE National. To update your ASCE profile, go to www.asce.org or call (800) 548-2723.