



# ASCE *American Society of Civil Engineers*

## WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

December 2016

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Welcome to the December 2016 issue of the ASCE Wisconsin Section newsletter. While spring is traditionally the time of change and renewal, for the Wisconsin Section, it happens in the fall. Specifically, our Section Board and committees take on a new look at the Annual Meeting in September. Please review the new names and positions as listed along the left margin of the newsletter and extend your congratulations and best wishes to the hard-working group that are volunteering their time for the Section.

This November is a time for another type of change and renewal. As I write this message, we are fast approaching the election. By the time this message is published, hopefully the dust will have settled and we can start focusing on addressing the needs of the state and the country. It is our civic duty as citizens to make choices regarding candidates and referendums. I urge you to consider a few other choices as members of ASCE:

- Please choose to renew your membership.
- Please choose to attend activities conducted or sponsored by the Wisconsin Section or your branch
- Please choose to become actively involved, either at the Section or branch level

Active involvement can take many forms. Our Section is specifically looking for more hard-working volunteers for committees. If you review the list of committee chairs (available on the ASCE Wisconsin Section website, [www.ascewi.org](http://www.ascewi.org)), you will see many names that have been in their roles for a while. You will also see some vacancies, such as the chair for the Public Relations Committee. Also, many of the committees only have one member. Bottom line is, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President of the Wisconsin Section. I look forward to working for and with you!

Peter Nilles

ASCE Wisconsin Section President

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## PAST EVENTS

### 2016 WISCONSIN SECTION ANNUAL MEETING

The 2016 Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting was held on Friday, September 16 at the Grand Geneva Resort and Spa in Lake Geneva. The event was well attended with approximately 150 people in attendance. The morning session started with a presentation by Aaron Popkey, Director of Public Affairs of the Green Bay Packers, giving a presentation on the Titledown District Development Adjacent to Lambeau Field. Then attendees had a variety of technical topics to choose from for the technical sessions. Lunch was followed by Michael Mucha from Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District providing an update on the ASCE Grand Challenge which includes the goals to significantly enhance the performance and value of infrastructure projects over their life cycles by 2025 and to foster the optimization of infrastructure investments for society. The ASCE Wisconsin Section also presented annual awards for project and individual achievement. A full listing of the award recipients can be found below.

#### 2016 Project Achievement Award Recipients

**Category B** - Projects with Construction Cost over \$2 Million and under \$10 Million - *"Former Two Rivers MGP Site Time Critical Removal Plan"* - Natural Resource Technology, Inc.

**Category C** - Projects with Construction Cost over \$10 Million and under \$20 Million - *"Sojourner Family Peace Center"* - Harwood Engineering Consultants

**Category D** - Projects with Construction Cost over \$20 Million - *"I-794 Lake Freeway, Hoan Bridge"* - GRAEF

#### 2016 Individual Achievement Award Recipients

**2016 Distinguished Service Award** - This award recognizes the importance of service to the community and people in general, while attaining a high professional standard of civil engineering conduct, accomplishment, and service.

This year's award recipient is Julie Hoppe, P.E., M.ASCE.

**2016 Matthew Thomas Rynish Honorarium** - This award is a joint award sponsored by the NW Branch and the Wisconsin Section and is given in memory of Matt Rynish to a member of the NW Branch dedicated to Branch leadership and the Engineering Profession.

This year's award recipient is Marissa Wildeck, E.I.T, A.M.ASCE.

**2016 Wisconsin Young Civil Engineer Award** - This award is given to a member of the Section to recognize the individual's professional contributions and accomplishments as a Younger Member.

This year's award recipient is Justin Bilskemper, P.E., M.ASCE.

**2016 Engineer in Consulting Practice** - This award is given to a member of the Section to recognize the individual's professional contributions and accomplishments in Consulting.

This year's award recipient is Richard Weber, P.E., M.ASCE.

**2016 Engineer in Private Industry** - This award is given to a member of the Section to recognize the individual's professional contributions and accomplishments in Private Industry.

This year's award recipient is Lawrence Buechel, P.E., M.ASCE.

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## OPINION

### CIVIL ENGINEERING & VEHICULAR TERROR

BY: GREG SCHROEDER, P.E.

What does Civil Engineering have to do with safety? A great deal, as we know; safe bridges, safe highways, safe airports, safe water, a safe environment. We learned this in our college or university educations. There is a new aspect of safety for us to consider and it wasn't covered in school. Even more concerning, there is no centralized authority responsible for our protection from the latest threat. I am speaking of the tragic attack in Nice, France.

This is my second ASCE issue based article. Once again, I must apologize as I venture beyond my expertise. I have many more questions than answers. Again, I ask for your input both supportive and corrective. See the last paragraph of this article for ways to comment.

The statistics are grim. One individual in Nice did tremendous harm in an extremely short amount of time. We don't know if more were involved in the planning, but the point is that only one assassin did all of the harm. That individual died, but the threat did not. Until there are no more with like-minded evil intent, we would do wise to consider our own safety from a similar attack.

Local police departments have responsibility for safety at local public events. Yet, local police departments have no capacity to reconstruct public spaces for ease of defense from a terrorist aboard a heavy truck. Perhaps police can assess an event and locate the greatest risk points and intensify security there. Will there be enough police available for the areas of risk? How and when will we know? How will the public be able to feel safe? If there is no planning the vulnerabilities will be too many and diverse for a reasonably sized law force to manage.

Who has responsibility to plan for adequate public safety from a truck driving terrorist? State and local emergency government agencies are focused on disaster relief, not terrorist threats. Homeland Security and the FBI are tracking threats and gathering intelligence. Transportation departments from municipalities to the State are working for safe transportation under the *intended uses* of our transportation infrastructure.

How many public events with large crowds are scheduled for next week, next month, or next year? Will we be ready? How can we be? Who is even asking these questions, and if asked who is equipped to answer. I would contend that a task force is necessary to begin to ask the "what if" questions, and to start to prepare answers and plans. It's not hard to start the list of events and you will realize quickly that this is a large task; Summerfest, Brewers, Packers and other stadium events, sports events at all levels, Schools, churches, and so on.

Who could be involved in a task force? I can start the list. Certainly local and state law enforcement, the Feds; Homeland Security or FBI, then elected government, both executive

and legislative. Especially needed will be civil engineers to propose infrastructure changes and improvements.

What level of government should take the lead? I'm going to suggest the State, but maybe it needs to be both State and local. At the State level, there could be risk assessment, needs assessment, and most of all control and distribution of funding. There will be cost and the money must come from somewhere. If you would allow me to refer to my previous article on a gas tax increase, I think infrastructure improvements for safety and security of the public would be an appropriate use of increased gas tax revenues.

How might a task force work? The task force would identify a location and an event and identify vulnerabilities. Then, the team would determine effective and efficient solutions to reduce the vulnerabilities. Soft solutions could be a change in the event, resulting in a change in the flow, routes or timing of crowd movement. Infrastructure or hard solutions would be another category. These might involve design and construction of barriers, grade changes, and temporary barriers, new walkways above, below or away from street level access. Finally, the remaining vulnerabilities would be a focus for law enforcement.

Let's take Summerfest as an example. The first and least cost step would be to identify practicable 'soft solutions'. Then the remaining vulnerabilities would need to be addressed. Trucks normally are used to make deliveries to vendors of all types on the grounds. A safety analysis would identify and then limit the potential entrances and a substantial and equipped police contingent would guard those during active times. Limiting potential entrances would require construction of substantial barriers across long boundaries that today may only have a chain link fence if anything. Furthermore, the large crowds entering and leaving the grounds are highly vulnerable. Their safety would need to be addressed with further controlled access to sidewalks, and walkways, and up to points where crowds would become sufficiently dispersed or to parking structures. You get the idea.

Those are my first thoughts. Now it is your turn. This article is posted on our Wisconsin Section ASCE Collaborate discussion board. Please comment there. First send a request to connect with ASCE member Kevin Jump. Identifying yourself as an ASCE member with your ASCE member ID. Once you are connected to Kevin, he will be able to invite you to join the discussion group. When many of your ideas are posted and we can sense that there is a consensus then I hope to have input from the Wisconsin Section Board. Next steps will then be announced in the Newsletter.

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

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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, we have one committee currently without any members, and need some new energy. If you are interested in revitalizing the Public Relations Committee, we could use your help!

As written in the Wisconsin Section Administrative Manual, 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 Jared Wendt at [jared.wendt@ch2m.com](mailto:jared.wendt@ch2m.com) if you are interested in increasing your committee involvement.



## UPCOMING EVENTS/DEADLINES

### 2017 Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Student Awards

Individual civil engineering student achievement within the State of Wisconsin is recognized annually by awarding the “Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Student Awards.” This cash award is offered to senior students currently enrolled at the following Universities or Schools:

1. Marquette University
2. University of Wisconsin - Madison
3. University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
4. University of Wisconsin - Platteville
5. Milwaukee School of Engineering

Basis for the awards shall be “for individual achievement/service that demonstrates excellence in engineering academic achievement and service to the profession.” The awards will be presented at the 2017 Wisconsin Section Spring Technical Conference, held on Thursday, March 30, at the Crowne Plaza in Madison. Watch your email for more information.

### Daniel W. Mead Prize for Younger Members

Younger members - please consider submitting an entry for the Daniel W. Mead Prize. This is a good chance to express your opinion on select topics commonly encountered in the civil engineering profession. This year’s topic addresses engineering design standards while working in a foreign location in regards to ethical obligation to provide a safe solution. The prize is awarded by ASCE at the national level, and submittals are due to ASCE by February 1. However, the process begins with submitting an entry locally, which needs to be endorsed by the Branch or Section President. The Section needs submittals by January 1, to meet the ASCE submittal deadline of February 1. Detailed submittal information is available on the ASCE website:

<http://www.asce.org/templates/award-detail.aspx?id=1487>



## PROGRAM MANAGEMENT COURSE

The Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers (WSPE) is holding a 1-day project management overview course based on A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK Guide), fifth edition at the Marriott in Waukesha. The class will have 2 dates to choose from, on Wednesday, April 19, 2017 from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm

or Thursday, April 20, 2017 from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. The event will consist of presentations and group activities and will include multiple breaks throughout the day for networking, a continental breakfast and sit down lunch. Attendees will receive 8.0 PDHs, including 1 ethics session. A hard copy of all PowerPoint slides will be made available. Cost is \$400.00 per person. There is a reduced cost for members of WSPE. Each day is restricted to 60 participants for betterment of the participants and speaker. Please contact Ed Rodden II at [execdir@wspe.org](mailto:execdir@wspe.org) to reserve your spot.

## 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 see 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.



## CALENDAR OF SECTION EVENTS

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

### JANUARY

- ❖ January 1 - Nominations for the Daniel W. Mead Prize due from the Branches to the Wisconsin Section Board of Directors
- ❖ January 19 - Wisconsin Section Board Meeting

### FEBRUARY

- ❖ February 2 - 3 - Regions 3, 6, & 7 Multi-Region Leadership Conference, Minneapolis, MN
- ❖ February TBD - Nominations due for Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Student (OSCES) awards

### MARCH

- ❖ March 14-15 - Legislative Fly-In, Washington, DC
- ❖ March 29 - Wisconsin Section Board Meeting
- ❖ March 30 - Spring Technical Conference, Crowne Plaza, Madison, WI



## 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 Jared Wendt at [jared.wendt@ch2m.com](mailto:jared.wendt@ch2m.com) with a detailed description of the opportunity and help needed.

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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 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.