



ASCE *American Society of Civil Engineers*

WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

November 2014

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2014 – 2015

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(414) 763-1231



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone and Welcome to a new year with the ASCE Wisconsin Section (although our new year started at the Annual Meeting). For those who attended the Annual Meeting, I hope the Annual Meeting lived up to your expectations. Congratulations to all of the Individual Achievement and Project Award Winners.

While many of you know me or who I am, I would like to detail my history and experiences with ASCE. I attended my first "Annual Meeting" in the fall of 1980 (I do not remember what the meeting was called at that time). I attended the Annual Meeting that fall because Earl McCullough, who was teaching Foundations at UW-Platteville that semester, was assigning the design of the foundations for an earth sheltered home as one of the projects for the semester; the keynote speaker for the meeting was Ray Sterling from the University of Minnesota and Professor Sterling was going to be discussing Underground Space Construction (the U of M was constructing a new Engineering Building in which most of the classrooms and many labs would be underground – that was one of the new engineering themes at that time).

Since I was a college student, I did not have a suit, so I wore dress pants and a dressy shirt – I remember some odd looks from some of the professionals, probably wondering who I was and why I was not wearing a coat and tie as they were. I did spend my final semesters getting very involved in the UWP Student Chapter, including attending a regional student meeting in Fargo, ND.

I did not have much involvement in ASCE during my first two years out of school because I lived and worked in Marshfield and the closest meetings were in Eau Claire. In Grad school I was more involved in the Cincinnati Geotech Group than the Cincinnati ASCE Section.

I returned to my ASCE roots (well, Minnesota...) and was very involved in the Minnesota Geotechnical Society (Treasurer and a rotation through the leadership chairs) and served as their rep to the Minnesota Section of ASCE.

When I moved to Platteville in 2000, I was asked to chair the Planning Committee for the 2001 Annual Meeting; while the planning was a lot of work, we had a great Planning Committee. I was hooked and continue to help plan the STC and Annual Meetings

when it is our turn. I volunteered to be the Geotechnical Engineering Technical Rep to the Section Board (now the Wisconsin Section Geo-Institute Chair) when that position opened up; what better way to get to know people than working with them to present a topic at the Annual Meeting or Spring Technical Conference!

I was exposed to professional meetings when I was growing up. When I was about 12, my dad was the President of the Wisconsin Institute of Civil Engineering Technicians. We spent a lot of time travelling to Milwaukee for Dad's meetings.

In this brief history story, several words stand out: Leadership, Service, and Involvement. As a Branch President, and now your Section President, I was/am a Leader. As the Geo-Institute Chapter Chair, I am involved in and serve the Wisconsin Section of ASCE. As a member of conference planning committees, I was serving the Section. There was a low point. I offered to Chair the last Report Card Committee. We needed volunteers to step forward; for some very good reasons, we could not get enough members to step forward; perhaps that is because we did not ASK enough people or the right people to help us. I would like to suggest that in the future, when we need Leaders, when we need people to be involved, when we need people to serve, we need to ASK those who we think might be good leaders to be involved in the Section and Branches and to move into the leadership roles with time. I think a person who is asked to serve our Section and Branches is more likely to serve if they are ASKED to do so, not because they are feeling pressured into doing so, but because of the pride they will feel when asked to serve – someone or several people thought that individual would be able to contribute in a positive way – that has to give anyone a great feeling inside their soul.

Related to the topic of this newsletter, I am including a portion of the Presidents Message in the SW Branch newsletter from February 2009:

I was reading the January ASCE News recently and the following portion of the Message From the President caught my eye (slightly edited): *“Civil Engineers are interesting people. We work diligently to make an essential contribution to society. Although we work hard, we also get involved in all kinds of community activities because we care about our families and friends. When people ask what we do, we quickly mumble something about engineering because we are not comfortable extolling the value of our work. We then turn around and tell our Civil Engineer colleagues that we wish we had a better image and we lament that people do not seem to understand what Civil Engineers do. We even tell ASCE that improving our image of the Civil Engineer should be one of the primary activities of the Society”.*

I would have to say this describes many of us as Civil and Environmental Engineers. Please continue to lead, serve, and be involved in Wisconsin Section and Branch leadership, service, and involvement opportunities and feel free to contact me as your Wisconsin Section President should you have any questions, concerns, or ideas for the Section or for the Branches.

I am humbled to be your president and look forward to leading the ASCE Wisconsin Section.

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



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.



PAST EVENTS

2014 WISCONSIN SECTION ANNUAL MEETING

The 2014 Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting was held Thursday, September 4 at the Bridgewood Resort Hotel in Neenah. There were about 125 attendees at the meeting, so thank you to all who attended. We heard from Brian Meluch, Region 3 Governor, about the work of the National Committee on Student Members, and Steve Tyink from Miron Construction gave his insights on Experience Based Design. As always we had many diverse technical sessions for our members to attend. Hope to see everyone in La Crosse in March 2015 for the Spring Technical Conference.



Featured Speaker Steve Tyink

2014 Project Achievement Award Recipients

Category A - Construction Cost under \$2 Million

West Allis Cross-Town Connector Bike and Pedestrian Trail

Category B - Construction Cost over \$2 Million and under \$10 Million

UW Milwaukee Innovation Campus Infrastructure

Category D - Construction Cost over \$20 Million

State of Wisconsin Historical State Office Building Renovation

2014 Individual Achievement Award Recipients

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 Michael T. Binsfeld

Young Engineer of the Year 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 Kenneth R. Mika

PRESIDENTS AND GOVERNORS FORUM

Dan Borchardt attended the ASCE Presidents and Governors Forum (PGF) in Reston, Virginia. ASCE members from as far away as Australia and Hawaii attended this forum. Dan participated in two roundtable discussions with other Sections/Branches of similar size. The first roundtable session discussed challenges that may be faced in the upcoming Presidential Year. The second roundtable session discussed ways that ASCE leaders can measure success in Sections/Branch over the next year. Dan experienced presentations on fundraising, government relations, how to be an effective leader, and member retention & attracting members. Dan got to meet in person the upcoming leaders for the current and upcoming year. Dan felt like he left the PGF with a plan for presidency. Aside from the forum and learning environment, there was a bunch of networking with other members, tour of ASCE headquarter building and even enough time to make it downtown Washington DC to see the National Mall.



Courtesy Jackie Simon

BRANCH UPDATES

FOX RIVER VALLEY BRANCH

The Fox River Valley Branch just had their first meeting of the year on October 30th. We toured the new brewing facility for Titledown Brewery. This new brewery and taproom is located in the old Larsen Green Cannery adjacent to the existing restaurant. The new facility will be up and running soon and be able to bottle and distribute by the end of the year. In November the branch is planning a joint meeting with

the local WSPE branch. We will be hearing from John Luczaj from UW-Green Bay about the rebound of the deep water aquifer since the Lake Michigan Pipeline has been installed.

NORTHWEST BRANCH

The Northwest Branch hosted a construction tour of the St. Croix River Crossing on Wednesday, November 12th.

The Spring Tech Committee has been meeting frequently to set the agenda, budget and speakers for the 2015 Spring Tech Meeting in La Crosse. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Will Kratt at william.kratt@gmail.com or Mike Binsfeld at mike.binsfeld@gmail.com.

The Northwest Branch is also looking to fulfill two director positions for the 2014-2015 term. Please contact ascewinw@gmail.com if you are interested.

SOUTHEAST BRANCH

On October 25, 2014, the 2nd STEM Expo was held at the MSOE Kern Center. The purpose of this free event was to expose students and their parents to the world of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics through hands-on exploration stations and demonstrations. A fantastic team of volunteers coupled with an elite group of sponsors led to the nearly 640 people that were involved in the event. Pictures and time lapse video of the event have been posted to the Southeast Branch website at www.ascewise.org/stem-expo.

The co-chairs would like to sincerely thank our planning committee for a job well done. We started meeting in March to get the 2014 event underway. The committee consisted of an on-site group as well as several working behind the scenes. The on-site crew did a lot of work developing the activities, portioning them out and organizing the many boxes of supplies. At one meeting "Team Awesome" from the LEGO Movie was played and we can't think of a more fitting song for this group. They were truly awesome.

Our committee consisted of:

Bridget Henk - GRAEF (Co-chair)
Kyle Bareither - Natural Resource Technology (Co-chair)

Joe Barritt - ATC
Nick Bobinski - Kapur and Associates
Tony Castle - EMCS
Ben DeBaker - Ayres Associates
Dave Jaromin - HNTB
Ken Mika - Natural Resource Technology
Josh Mitchell - Patrick Engineering
Rebecca Parker - CH2M Hill
Andrea Salas - Natural Resource Technology
Sarah Sanfilippo - CH2M Hill
Aaron Schramm - exp US Services
Brad Seubert - Harwood Engineering Consultants
Christine Sowinski - HNTB
Nick Spitzer - HNTB
Jared Wendt - CH2M Hill

Even after some late meetings towards the end of the project the attitudes were very positive and it showed in a great event. We couldn't have had such great success without this team. Next time you see them, if you could join me in expressing sincere thanks it would be greatly appreciated.

To us the biggest sign of success is being asked to do the event again. We are penciled in to have our 2015 STEM Expo next October. Planning for the event will likely begin in February!

The Southeast Branch held the annual mentoring meeting on Tuesday, October 28 at the Best Place (Pabst Brewery). Every year for the mentoring meeting, the Branch invites students from MSOE, Marquette, and UW-Milwaukee and sets them up with members from the branch during dinner to give the students an opportunity to talk to practicing professionals about the work that we do. After dinner, Dr. Mark Federle from Marquette University gave a presentation on a series of ethic's case studies that generated some good discussion among the group. The event was well attended with approximately 30 members and students.



COMMITTEE UPDATES

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

From Bridget (Schuh) Henk, chair of the Sustainability Committee (note her request for help):

I recently attended the International Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure in Long Beach, California sponsored by the ASCE Committee on Sustainability (national), the Wisconsin Section and GRAEF. Just like in 2011, I returned energized and ready to make a difference in Wisconsin. In the near future, the sustainability committee will be bringing our membership some new and exciting programs. Together, our ASCE members can make a difference to make our society more sustainable. We may have already be making an important difference by helping expose area students to STEM fields, but our mission needs to be broader than that. We have the unique opportunity to help define the future of engineering: sustainability. We may be the newest and the largest WI Section committee, but can always use more help. The more hands, the lighter the load and greater impact we can make! If you are interested in joining the committee, I would love to have you.

More information from Bridget on the International Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure:

On November 6-8, 2014 the International Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure was held in Long Beach, California. The conference included world renowned speakers discussing sustainability challenges world-wide. Topics included electric cars in the UK, building a transportation network in Dhaka, mass urbanization and ecological cities in China, and even the water challenges of Orange County, California. Emphasis was placed on the "triple bottom line", Envision, and resolving conflicts.

We often hear that being green is more costly and affects the bottom line, but whose bottom line are we talking about? The social bottom line? The environmental bottom line? The economic bottom line? ACEC, APWA, and ASCE combined their intelligence to come up with a tool to evaluate the "triple bottom line," combining the social, economic, and environmental costs of a project and evaluating the many options of the project specifics. The collaborative effort resulted in the formation of Envision. Envision is a green rating tool like LEED, but has a much broader scale. LEED certification is only for buildings. Envision, on the other hand, is for infrastructure. It is a tool that can look at a water main and a bridge under the same general framework. When used in conjunction with life cycle analyses, this tool can lead to incredible projects that are not only good for the pocketbook, but good for the people, and the environment. Want to know how it works? Stay tuned! Envision will be an important topic of future technical sessions.

In addition to new tools such as Envision, the conference also had a focus on conflict resolution. Why discuss conflict resolution at a conference on sustainability? When the terms "green" or "sustainable" or "stormwater management" are mentioned in relationship to a project, defenses tend to go up, and for good reason. For a very long time, those words meant increased cost and decreased usable space. These have become hard grained responses, and will take some work (and time) to change. Starting the conversation differently and highlighting mutual benefits of sustainable projects is what will help create a more sustainable world. If we are to be honest about the nature of engineers in general, conversations are not our strongest asset. Any help we can get to more effectively communicate is beneficial.

I hope to go into more detail about what I have learned at this conference in a presentation at the next Spring Technical Conference.

I'd like to sincerely thank the ASCE Committee on Sustainability, the Wisconsin Section and GRAEF for the opportunity to attend the conference.

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

EXCITING NEWS! The Southeast Brant Young Members Group (SE YMG) in partnership with Milwaukee Area STEM Programs have been chosen winner in the Partnership category for the 11th Annual sySTEMnow Conference's Excellence in STEM Award (The Stemmys). Our Younger Member Group was presented the award with the other Stemmy recipients at the banquet lunch on October 28, 2014.

For years the SE YMG has been partnering with the Milwaukee STEM Community both with the promotion of civil engineering and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers. Every year, SE YMG visits local K – 12 class rooms (mostly in the Milwaukee Public School system) to encourage students to pursue careers in civil engineering and STEM careers with hands on activities. Some the schools SE YMG has visited are; Cooper Elementary School, Hartford Elementary School, US Grant School, Prairie Elementary School, Rufus King School, St Matthews School, and Roosevelt School.

In addition to this, members volunteer with other STEM related programs as mentors, event volunteers, and competition judges. Some of the yearly STEM events are Future Cities, Rube Goldberg Machine Contest, MathCounts, and First Lego League.

Outside of the annual events, SE YMG has contributed to other STEM outreach events that are not typically held every year. In 2010, SE YMG worked with local Boy Scout Troops on the promotion of STEM. In 2011, SE YMG participated in iHeels at Marquette University. iHEELS was an outreach program that encouraged local middle and high school girls in the fields of science, engineering, technology and math. Marquette University partnered with the YMCA of Greater Milwaukee to help the program reach over 120 middle and high school underserved ladies. The program was possible through a grant from the Motorola Company. SE YMG members volunteered their time to come and speak to groups of approximately 25 girls about civil engineering and what it takes to be an engineer. The volunteers also helped the girls through hands on activities.

In 2012, SE YMG decided to host their own regional event in Milwaukee, STEM Expo. STEM Expo, was a one day event organized and put on to encourage local youth (grades K through 12) to become interested in STEM careers. The event was held in September at Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) over a period of a few hours. The event had over 150 attendees and over 120 volunteers. At the event Exploration Stations, interactive activity stations, were set up with different STEM related activities to try and get attendees excited about STEM careers. Attendees were able to get a feel of careers from civil engineering, environmental engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, math, weather, anatomy, and much more. There was also a trivia game set up to allow attendees to compete against each other over questions on infrastructure. A second STEM Expo was hosted by the Southeast Branch YMG on October 25th at MSOE this year (<http://www.ascewise.org/stem-expo/>).

Because of the SE YMG continued pursuit to volunteer in the Milwaukee community, SE YMG has been able to reach many youth who were unaware of the civil engineering and STEM career fields. Teachers

have requested SE YMG members to continue returning to their class rooms year after year because of the excitement their students show after having SE YMG members discuss civil engineering and STEM careers.



Members of the YMG group accepting their STEMMY.
Front Row: Kenneth Mika and Bridget (Schuh) Henk
Back Row: Aaron Schramm, Richard Bowden, Kyle Bareither, and Ben DeBaker

UPCOMING EVENTS

OUTSTANDING SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEERING STUDENT AWARDS (MONEY MONEY MONEY!!!)

(Did I get your attention?) The Wisconsin Section provides monetary awards on an annual basis to senior civil engineering students at Marquette University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee or Milwaukee School of Engineering. See the Administrative Manual on the Wisconsin Section website for more information.



ASCE Wisconsin Section Spring Technical Conference

March 12, 2015 at La Crosse Center, La Crosse, WI

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 construction safety and the “human cost” of construction. 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](http://www.asce.org/templates/award-detail.aspx?id=1487)

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 following list of programs being offered by ASCE's Continuing Education Department. For more information, check out the ASCE website at <http://www.asce.org/knowledge-learning/continuing-education/>.

Program	Full Dates	City/State
Design of Concrete Pavements — NEW	November 6—7, 2014	Cincinnati, OH
Structural-Vibration Analysis: Design and Troubleshooting	November 19—21, 2014	Chicago, IL
Designing Nonbuilding Structures Using ASCE/SEI 7-10 ~NEWLY UPDATED	December 4—5, 2014	Cincinnati, OH
Managing the Design Process: Keeping on Schedule, within Budget, and Selecting the Right Resources	December 11—12, 2014	Chicago, IL
Instrumentation and Monitoring Bootcamp: Planning, Execution, and Measurement Uncertainty for Structural and Geotechnical Construction Projects	February 26—27, 2015	Chicago, IL
Wind Loads for Buildings and Other Structures	February 5—6, 2015	Chicago, IL
Leadership Development for the Engineer	March 5—6, 2015	Cincinnati, OH

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 Board of Directors
- January 30-31, 2015 – Central Region Younger Member Council (CRYMC) Annual General Meeting, Houston, TX
- Wisconsin Section Board meeting

FEBRUARY:

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

MARCH:

- March 12 – Wisconsin Section Board meeting (preceding Spring Technical Conference)
- 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

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) 548-272.



Happy Thanksgiving