



ASCE *American Society of Civil Engineers*

WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

February 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015 – 2016

President

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

President-Elect/Yearbook Editor

Peter W. Nilles, P.E.
(414) 336-7940

Vice President/Newsletter Editor

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

Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

Past President

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

Directors-at-Large

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

Matt Dahlem, P.G.
(920) 892-2444

Jesse Jefferson, P.E.
(715) 891-2078

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

Fox River Valley Branch Director

Dawn Rossmiller, P.E.
(920) 632-4086

Southwest Branch Director

Richard Stoor, P.E.
(608) 622-8900

Northwest Branch Director

Teresa Davis, P.E.
(715) 836-7277

Southeast Branch Director

Jared Wendt, P.E.
(414) 847-0487

Webmaster

Martin J. Hanson, P.E.

Life gives us all challenges! How have you had to overcome a challenge in your life? Did you consider it your grand challenge at the time you faced it? I can remember when I tried tying my shoes for the first time. I remember thinking I will never get this because the task was just too tough to master. However, once I learned to tie my shoes with ease, I was ready to take on the next challenge.



We naturally are forced to improve our skills in life by working through difficult tasks that stimulate and engage our minds resulting in an improved quality of life.

Civil engineers play a huge role in creating the quality of life that everyone shares today. This quality of life is in danger and threatened by insufficient infrastructure investment. In response to this threat, ASCE has recently issued a grand challenge to civil engineers and the engineering industry.

ASCE Executive Director Tom Smith challenged us “to enhance the performance and value of infrastructure projects over their life cycles, reducing the life-cycle cost of infrastructure by 50 percent by 2025 and fostering the optimization of infrastructure investments for society.”

As with any big challenge, the best approach is to break down the project into phases. ASCE offers four main steps for accomplishing our infrastructure goals:

1) Prioritization:

Transformative vision; understanding infrastructure needs; planning project selections.

2) Process Improvement:

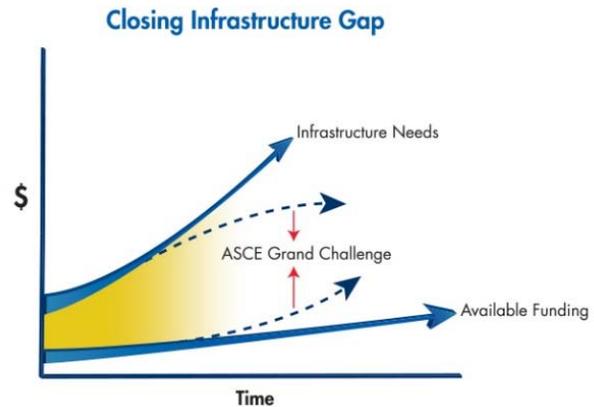
Project initiation; project definition and approval; governance & organization; risk & opportunity; packaging & phasing; execution; O&M; and renewal.

3) Achieving Capital Efficiency:
Getting the biggest bang for the buck.

4) Closing the Gap:
Understanding and defining the gap with life cycle analysis.

The Federal Highway Administration reports show that 2015 traffic volume trends have reached record highs with 2.88 trillion miles traveled. This data demonstrates the importance of infrastructure for preserving our quality of life.

Now is the time to talk to the public and legislators about closing the infrastructure gap with steps outlined in the challenge. "Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful," said Joshua J. Marine. The ASCE Region 3 Assembly will focus on the Grand Challenge in Chicago on August 12-13, 2016.



The ASCE Wisconsin Section is looking forward to an exciting 2016 kicking off with the ASCE Spring Tech Conference at the Tundra Lodge in Green Bay on March 24. This will be a great event packed with several PDH's for the upcoming 2016 professional license renewal. I look forward to participating in the event and listening to your thoughts about our grand challenge. I know ASCE members are ready to explore solutions!

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

PAST EVENTS

2016 Multi-Region Leadership Conference (MRLC) for Regions 3, 6, and 7

On January 15 and 16, delegates from the Wisconsin Section, which included all four branches and several younger member groups, attended the 2016 Multi-Region Leadership Conference at the Fairmont-Chicago Millennium Park Hotel in Chicago, IL. Also in attendance were the Region 3, 6, and 7 governors and directors and numerous ASCE National staff members and elected officials. The purpose of the conference was to strengthen and expand the programs and activities of Sections and Branches through the interchange of ideas, information, and experiences, while exposing incoming officers to the tools needed to be effective leaders. The SE Branch's own Ken Mika facilitated his own Focus Session titled "Adding Value of ASCE to your Employer" and will be covered in greater detail later. There were plenty of opportunities to network with ASCE staff and members from other sections, branches, younger members groups, and student chapters.

Conference participants were also invited to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Illinois Section and attend the Central Region Younger Member Council Outstanding Achievement Awards banquet. Tony Castle, another SE Branch member, received the prestigious Outstanding Younger Member in Community Activities award at the banquet. Tony is the current SE Branch YMG Vice President, was the 2015 STEM Expo Co-Chair, and is heavily involved in community STEM Outreach activities. Congratulations Tony!!!

See if you're able to pick out the delegates from Wisconsin in the picture below!



FOCUS SESSION: ADDING VALUE OF ASCE TO YOUR EMPLOYER

From Ken Mika, SE Branch President-Elect and WI Section Secretary:

On January 15 and 16, I attended the ASCE Regions 3, 6, and 7 Workshop for Section and Branch Leaders (WSBL) in Chicago, IL. For those of you who have not heard of this conference, it is a leadership training event for Section and Branch leaders that covers topics on ASCE leadership and assistance for leading Sections and Branches as well as leadership, soft skills, and ethics training. During this same event ASCE also hosted leadership sessions for younger members (Central Region Younger Member Council [CRYMC]) and student members (Workshop for Student Chapter Leaders [WSCL]). At times over the weekend, two or all three groups come together. I had the fortunate opportunity of facilitating one of the “Best Practices” Focus Session topics twice on January 16, which was on “Adding Value of ASCE to your Employer: Learn ways to increase the value of ASCE to your employer and how involvement can help your professional growth”. Both focus sessions were well attended by WSBL and CRYMC attendees and the discussions went very well in which I thought I would pass along a few of the main topics on how ASCE can add value to your employer.

1. Leadership Training

Any type of involvement within ASCE can help provide professional development in leadership training for free. Whenever someone takes on a leadership volunteer position on a technical committee, planning committee, board of directors, your involvement and successful management of the position helps build leadership skills that will translate into the workplace. ASCE also offers leadership training at events like WSBL/CRYMC/WSCL, Region 3 Assembly, and the Emerging Leaders Alliance (ELA) Conference (<http://emergingleadersalliance.org/>). I highly recommend that if anyone is looking for a unique leadership training to apply for the ELA Conference through ASCE.

2. Project Management Training

When you volunteer on an ASCE committee, you are responsible for the outcome of your delegated tasks, you are gaining project management training. Small task management eventually turns into large task management with further professional development in project management. Volunteering with ASCE can help you organically develop your project management skills which can be easily transferred

to your workplace. Also, when volunteering with members of different companies, you are able to learn from others on how they manage their tasks and may find a process improvement for your project management skills.

3. Marketing

Depending on the ASCE group that you are volunteering with, your company's name may be put on the committees' website or newsletter which is free marketing for your company. If you use your company's e-mail address for ASCE correspondence, you are providing free marketing for your company. If you are asked to give a presentation at an ASCE conference or event, you are providing free marketing for your company. If you win a project or personal award, there is free marketing for your company.



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."

For more information on this and other 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 if you are interested in increasing your committee involvement.



CONGRATULATIONS AND KUDOS 2015 EMERGING LEADERS ALLIANCE CONFERENCE

From Christopher Aguirre, Coordinator of Professional Activities at ASCE National:

One of the Wisconsin Section, Southeast members, Kenneth Mika, P.E., M.ASCE, represented ASCE at the 2015 Emerging Leaders Alliance Conference (http://www.asce.org/Emerging_Leaders_Alliance/) that was held in Reston, VA on November 8-11, 2015. Eight ASCE members were selected from an impressive pool of applicants to attend this conference, which promotes the development of emerging leaders to guide their engineering and scientific communities. ASCE appreciates the leadership of these members, and their representation at the conference. I encourage you to congratulate Kenneth on this accomplishment and ask him to share more about his experience.

Watch in spring 2016 for news of applications being accepted for next year's conference, which will be held on November 9-12, 2016 in Falls Church, VA. Information about who should apply is available on the Emerging Leaders Alliance website. Please encourage the emerging leaders in your Section or Branch to apply next year!

ASCE NEW FACES OF CIVIL ENGINEERING

From Tony Castle, SE Branch YMG Vice President:

Kyle Bareither has been chosen for a national award by being named one of ASCE's 10 New Faces of Engineering. The New Faces recognition program promotes the achievement of young civil engineers by highlighting their contributions to and impact on society. ASCE will feature Kyle's profile on the ASCE New Faces of Civil Engineering page.

Kyle is very deserving of this prestigious honor, so please take the time to congratulate him the next time you see him.

Congratulations Kyle!

SUPERIOR EMPLOYER RECOGNITION AWARD FOR SUPPORT OF YOUNGER MEMBERS

Milwaukee based Natural Resource Technology, Inc. (NRT) has been awarded the ASCE Superior Employer Recognition Award for Support of Younger Members!! The Employer Recognition Program was a result of the ASCE Strategic Plan which called for the establishment of a program to recognize and acknowledge employers who support Younger Member participation in ASCE activities. NRT has been acknowledged in this for being supportive to its engineers in their personal and professional careers. NRT supports its engineers by encouraging and assisting them in pursuit of their professional engineer's license, individualized development plans, active in-house training, and complete support for being involved in professional societies, including being active on those societies boards and planning committees.

Local ASCE members and volunteers may know of NRT as being a sponsor to STEM Expo and the Southeast Branch Scholarship Golf Tournament as well as hosting Section, Branch, and YMG Board of Directors meetings, STEM Expo meetings, and Spring Technical Conference planning committees.

STEM FORWARD ENGINEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

From Ken Mika, SE Branch President-Elect and WI Section Secretary:

Laurie Parsons has been named the STEM Forward Engineer of the Year! The STEM Forward Engineer of the Year award is presented annually since 1953, to an outstanding contributor to the engineering profession from the greater Milwaukee area. Laurie was nominated by the ASCE Southeast Branch for her contribution to the art and science of the profession, civic participation, and participation in professional societies over her career. Here are a few highlights of her career:

- Laurie continuously commits herself to the talent of Natural Resource Technology (NRT) through purposeful mentoring, investing in training, professional development, and continuing education, and leadership development.
- Laurie regularly initiates programs designed to bring leaders together in positive settings, with a culture and understanding of styles that is expected to lead to excellence in team performance.
- Laurie promotes a culture of support for involvement in professional societies.
- Laurie often volunteers and sponsors programs in the local communities of NRT offices, satellite offices, project offices as well as in her own home community.

Laurie will be honored at the 63rd Annual Engineers Week Banquet on February 11, 2016 at the Italian Conference Center in Milwaukee.

Please join me in congratulating Laurie for receiving this deserved and prestigious award!



UPCOMING EVENTS/DEADLINES

2016 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." **Nominations are submitted by the Student Chapter Faculty Advisor and are due by February 14.** The awards will be presented at the 2016 Wisconsin Section Spring Technical Conference, held on Thursday, March 24, at the Tundra Lodge in Green Bay.

2016 NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK



Celebrate the 65th Anniversary of National Engineers Week from February 21 through February 27! Centered around George Washington's birthday on February 22, the purpose of National Engineers Week is to call attention to the contributions to society that engineers make and how they make a difference in our world. It is a time to bring engineering to life and promote the importance of a technical education and a high level of math, science, and technology literacy for kids, educators, and parents. It is also a reminder to motivate our youth to pursue engineering careers in order to provide a diverse and vigorous engineering workforce.

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 2015?? 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/. The deadline for the free on-demand webinars is December 31, 2016.

WINTER/SPRING SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

ASCE National Geographic Services is proud to announce the Continuing Education schedule of seminars and workshops for fall/winter scheduled in your geographic area. These seminars and workshops have been produced by ASCE's Continuing Education Department with your members in mind.

Program	Dates	City/State
Project Management	February 25-26, 2016	Chicago, IL
Civil Engineering: Best Practices for Well Site Environmental Protection – NEW	March 10-11, 2016	Cincinnati, OH
Seismic Design of Highway Bridges	March 21-22, 2016	Chicago, IL



CALENDAR OF SECTION EVENTS

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

FEBRUARY

- ❖ February 14 - Nominations due for Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Student (OSCES) awards
- ❖ February 21-27 - National Engineers Week

MARCH

- ❖ March 15-16 - Legislative Fly-In, Washington, DC
- ❖ March 23 - Wisconsin Section Board Meeting
- ❖ March 24 - Spring Technical Conference, Tundra Lodge, Green Bay, WI

APRIL

- ❖ April 15 - PE and SE Vertical Exams
- ❖ April 16 - SE Lateral Exam

MAY

- ❖ Wisconsin Section Board Meeting

JUNE

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

AUGUST

- ❖ August 12-13 - Region 3 Assembly, Chicago, IL

SEPTEMBER

- ❖ September 18-19 - Presidents and Governors Forum, Reston, VA



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 with a detailed description of the opportunity and help needed.



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 or call (800) 548-2723.



ASCE Wisconsin Section Website has been updated. Please visit it at [http://www.ascewi.org/](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.