

Region 1 Director's Report

Under a New, Clearly Defined 'Purpose,' Board Meets in Orlando



Anthony L. Cioffi, P.E., M.ASCE, your Region 1 Director, is a member of the Metropolitan Section. Tony represented you at the Jan. 24 Board meeting in Orlando, FL, which coincided with the Multi-Region Leadership Conference for Regions 1, 2, 4, and 5.

A trip to Orlando in January – that has the sound of a nice winter getaway. But while the weather was chillier than it should have been, that's not why we as ASCE Board directors were there – we convened our first quarterly meeting of 2019 and kept our focus on a full agenda. The productive meeting built upon the member value focus of our [two-day retreat](#) late last year.

Before I get to the highlights of our meeting, allow me to extend congratulations to **W. Allen Marr, Ph.D., P.E., D.GE, F.ASCE, NAE**. The founder and chief executive officer of the Geocomp Corporation and GeoTesting Express Inc., based in Acton, MA, Marr has received ASCE's 2019 H. Bolton Seed Medal for his distinguished contributions to our understanding of how geotechnical materials behave and interact, and for his advancement of research, practice, teaching, and professional service in geotechnical engineering.

Now, on to the meeting highlights:

- We approved a new “purpose statement” for the Society that we drafted at the retreat, one that demonstrates our emphasis on making ASCE membership truly advantageous to our members’ careers:
Help you matter more and enable you to make a bigger difference.
- We were updated on the suite of [new and expanded member benefits](#) that have launched this year, including ASCE Mentor Match, the free-PDHs expansion to 10, and ASCE Career by Design, the new job-resources website for younger engineers.
- We approved continued development of the Future World Vision project spearheaded by our Industry Leaders Council. FWV is an incredibly forward-thinking initiative that will help civil engineers visualize the challenges they will have to take on in the decades ahead.
- We were briefed on Engineer Tomorrow, a new title for our longtime initiative to encourage additional education and training to make civil engineers better prepared to meet the evolving demands of the future. Over time, shifts in the program’s emphasis and strategy have added other enhanced experience such as mentoring, and eliminated a focus on changes to licensure requirements. So, going forward, what had been known as Raise the Bar will be called [Engineer Tomorrow](#).
- We held detailed discussions on how to better align ASCE’s budgeting with the priorities of our recently adopted strategic plan. The results of these discussions will help shape development of the fiscal year 2020 budget.
- We learned that Jean-Louis Briaud, Ph.D., P.E., D.GE, Dist.M.ASCE, and Dennis D. Truax, Ph.D., P.E., DEE, D.WRE, F.NSPE, F.ASCE have been approved as official 2020 president-elect nominees by our Nominating Committee. [Read more about each](#). If you’re a member in good standing, your vote in May will help decide the winner.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 15 in Arlington, VA, in conjunction with the Legislative Fly-in and 20th annual Outstanding Projects and Leaders (OPAL) awards gala.

To share your views or provide ideas on how ASCE can better serve its members and the profession, please [email Tony](#).