

Dear Region 5 Members,

Your Board of Governors met recently and welcomed 3 new members to our team – Steven Goldstein (FL), Lawren Pratt (AL), and Barbara Lehman (AL). This means we also had to say goodbye to Governors who have devoted 3 years to the success of Region 5. We thank and wish the best of luck to Brett Goodman (FL), Eric Czerniejewski (FL), and Tony Palmer (AL). Region 5 is better because of you!

At our meeting in conjunction with the Mississippi Section, we continued our Strategic Conversation to set the direction of the Region. As part of this process, we have developed our 5 core values. Our plan will be to use these values as the basis for all that we do in Region 5.

- Trust
- Effectiveness
- Service
- Communication
- Teamwork

Each year the Society puts on Multi-Regional Leadership Conferences. This MRLC is joint training for leaders in our Sections & Branches, Student Chapters, and Younger Member Groups. Region 5 will be participating in the MRLC in Pittsburgh, PA, on February 12-13. It's a great opportunity to learn more about how ASCE can help you be successful both professionally and personally. Please consider sending a representative to participate in this valuable experience.

The Society Board of Direction met recently prior to the 2015 ASCE Convention in New York City. Among the many issues discussed were our continued work on Strategic Planning and the Task Committee on Governance Activity Review aimed at improving and assisting ASCE's work at the Region level.

- The Board approved the 3 Professional and 2 Association Strategic Initiatives. There is still work to be done on the formulation of these items, but I will be providing more information as it becomes available.
- The Board approved the creation of a new task committee to study the revision of ASCE's Geographic Region boundaries. This will seek to more appropriately balance the number of members in each Region while better aligning communities with common experiences and common needs. Currently, the number of members assigned to each Geographic Region ranges from 9,688 to 23,917.
- The new task committee was also charged with bringing forward a proposal to reduce the total number of Regions by one (and thus the number of region directors by one) to allow for another technical region director to be added to the Board without increasing its overall size. In anticipation of this eventual reduction in geographic regions and related Board seats, the Board authorized proceeding with putting the Constitutional amendment required to add a third technical region director on the 2016 election ballot.
- The Task Committee on Governance Activity outlined core activities for Geographic Regions and Geographic Region Directors and Governors. This list consolidates into one easily referenced document those activities, including those already underway in many Regions, such as hosting Region meetings, awards, developing future leaders, maintaining Region web pages, and nominating members for Society and Institute committees.
- The Committee also recommended that funding be built into the 2017 ASCE budget for an annual agenda of interaction and training options for ASCE Geographic Region Directors, who serve as the Geographic Region Board of Governors chairs.

Your Region 5 Board of Governors is always open to hearing about what's important to you. If you have something you want to share, please feel free to contact me at any time. I will be happy to address any issues or concerns at monthly BOG calls. Your Director and Governors are here to help you and make your group successful. Please let us know how we can help!

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\* Remember, the R5BoG is made up of seven Governors who are willing and able to help:

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