



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thomas W. Smith III
ENV SP, CAE, F.ASCE

Dear Tony,

The board's fall meeting was one of the most significant in recent memory, ending with a host of major decisions. The board approved a new Code of Ethics – the first major revision in 46 years – reshaping it entirely from a canon-based document to one focused on engineers' stakeholders. It's a nimble document that is much more relevant to the needs and actions of engineers today. [Read about the new code.](#)

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Board approves major actions including new Code of Ethics

New ASCE communications hub and daily enewsletter launch

ASCE's sustainable parking lot project completed

SECTION INFORMANT

Best Practice: Taking your newsletter to the next level

Nominate your section for the History & Heritage Citation

Ask Counselor Tara: Can our board take an action by email vote?

TALKING POINTS

Why ASCE needs to be involved globally

Another significant decision was in essence a decision the board chose not to make. **There will be no changes made to Life Member status, including any changes to fees or imposition of dues.** The board appreciated the feedback it received on the issue from Life Members and others, and it has been wonderful to receive so many positive responses from Life Members who appreciated the Board's decision and have renewed their commitment to supporting ASCE student and younger member programs, as well as the ASCE Foundation. Other board highlights included:

- Approved the charge, goals, and membership of the new Government Engineers Council

Engineers Council.

- Authorized the alignment of student conferences with region boundaries in Regions 1-9, with a petition process to be developed for exceptions.
- Renaming [Policy Statement 417](#) to “Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion” from “Promoting Diversity and Inclusion” along with extensive revisions that better reflect the status of ASCE as a global organization with a global impact.
- Voting to approve a constitutional amendment establishing voting rights for student members. Ratification will require a two-thirds approval from current voting members on the ASCE election ballot this spring.
- The meeting marked a farewell to seven departing board members – 2020 Past President Robin Kemper, Region 9 Director Kwame Agyare, Technical Region Director Marsha Anderson Bomar, Region 1 Director Tony Cioffi, Treasurer Jennifer Epp, At-Large Director Roger Millar Jr., and Region 5 Director Peter Moore. I’m grateful to each of them for their service on the board these past few years.

Read more about [these and other board actions](#) in a Civil Engineering Source article.

Speaking of which, this week we have launched the new [Civil Engineering Source](#) news and information hub and daily newsletter. These two new resources represent a significant makeover of how we keep you informed about everything happening in the Society and in the industry. Civil Engineering Source is a one-stop destination bringing you industry news, career and management articles, Society news, job postings, and practitioner-focused technical updates. It includes a completely redesigned *Civil Engineering* magazine digital edition and will soon bring in content from *Geo-Strata* magazine.

The new daily Civil Engineering Source newsletter is replacing the weekly ASCE News newsletter and the daily ASCE SmartBrief, which will be phased out in February. The new newsletter is a “smarter news brief” that uses artificial intelligence to deliver each subscriber a custom experience with content tailored to their interests. Be sure to open it and click on the stories that interest you and watch how it begins to learn what you like.

The Annual Business Meeting welcomed a new wave of leadership to our board and Society officers. Congratulations to Jean-Louis Briaud for assuming the office of 2021 president, accepting the ceremonial gavel handoff virtually from Kancheepuram Gunalan, who will serve for the next year as past president. Get to know Jean-Louis better in this [biographical video](#) shown during the meeting.

We staged a successful [ASCE 2020 Convention](#) this year. Held entirely online, the Society’s flagship event delivered top quality content across professional and technical specialties. Among the highlights was the debut of Future World Vision’s [Mega City 2070](#) scenario, anticipating the changes

of Future World Vision's [Viega City 2070](#) scenario, anticipating the changes in technology and society in urban settings, and the implications for civil engineering over the next 50 years. .



The east parking lot, before and after. It now features a bioretention zone for water drainage, as well as permeable pavers and precast porous concrete slabs.

The ASCE headquarters parking lot makeover is finished. The project was a three-year initiative of the ASCE Foundation, which recruited a host of firms that contributed their time, effort, and materials. Led by a team of experts chaired by Matt Jones of Magnusson, Klemencic, the project included low-impact development practices to reduce stormwater runoff and enhance the quality of stormwater discharge, ultimately improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay. The project also included rubberized asphalt repaving, utilizing over 600 ground-up used tires. Signage around the lot will explain the types of low-impact development used in the project, and you can read more in a recent [news release](#). A special thanks to the many volunteers and staff who contributed their time, talent, and treasure to this exciting project, including the many donors who will see their names engraved in pavers in the new plaza.

Highlights of other activities

- The Industry Leaders Council held an all-member meeting and also shared a thought-provoking white paper on how civil engineers need to take the lead in cybersecurity, including several recommendations on what ASCE can do. We recently published a [member commentary](#) on the topic as well as an [ASCE Plot Points podcast](#). The ILC expanded its membership to recognize the importance of the academic and government sector voices in strategic discussion. New members include Lucio Soibelman, civil engineering department chair at the University of Southern California, David Dzombak, civil and environmental engineering department head at Carnegie Mellon University, Roger Millar, Secretary of the Washington State DOT and Kevin Ward, general manager of the Trinity River Water Authority in Texas. The ILC continues to participate and advise on the Future World Vision initiative, and many ILC members have already purchased the new [FWV education modules](#) as gifts to their alma maters.

- The Alliance for a Climate Resilient Earth has joined forces with ASCE to support our work on a new sustainability standard. ACRE showed its support in an [op-ed by its leaders in The Hill](#).
- The incoming Biden administration represents an opportunity to make infrastructure a priority, and ASCE has a growing list of members and other connections associated with the new transition team. Past President Gunalan's name has even been suggested to head a "[Department of Transportation and Infrastructure](#)." We will be renewing our efforts to advance safe, sustainable and resilient infrastructure in 2021, supported by our new Failure to Act studies and 2021 Infrastructure Report Card.

In memoriam

"Bo" Temple, an active member of ASCE's Industry Leaders Council, has died after a long battle with cancer at 67. Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Merdith Wyndham Bolling Temple spent his career in the U.S. Army as a civil engineer, culminating as acting chief of engineers of the Corps of Engineers from 2011 through 2012. Bo received the 2013 Outstanding Projects And Leaders award in government for his service.

Eugene Jack Fasullo died last month at the age of 89. Gene was the first recipient of the ASCE Outstanding Projects and Leaders award in government and had a long and distinguished career that included his appointment as Chief Engineer and Director of Engineering for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

We mourn the passings of Bo and Gene and extend our sympathies to their family and friends.

Congratulations to ...

Jan Tuchman, a member of our Industry Leaders Council and editor in chief of Engineering News-Record, recognized by the National Academy of Construction as the 2020 recipient of its Ted. C. Kennedy Award, NAC's highest honor. The lifetime achievement award is given to individuals who share Kennedy's attributes: obsession with safety, integrity, and ethics; champion of innovation; industry leadership; generosity; and commitment to people.

Until next month, my best to you and your families for good health and safety, and a very happy Thanksgiving.



SECTION INFORMANT

BEST PRACTICE OF THE MONTH

Taking your newsletter to the next level

Digital newsletters are one of the best methods to get information to our members. However, they should be more than just a way to communicate upcoming events and document previous ones. Newsletters can be used to increase our members' knowledge base, provide information on job vacancies, highlight activities and programs across the nation, and be a way to draw in local engineering firms to support the organization.

To increase participation in ASCE, the Orange County Branch in Los Angeles asked local civil engineering firms to write a newsletter article about their company, some of their founding members, and some of their greatest achievements, including photos. As the Branch moved toward a fully digital format, companies were encouraged to look at more exciting communication methods, such as videos. By promoting local companies, these organizations became more interested in having their engineers be more active in the ASCE branch.

The more that engineering firms and ASCE collaborate, the more the civil engineering profession is advanced around the world.

Read more about this best practice in the communication category of the Section and Branches [Best Practices Guide](#). (Section 1.10).

Find out how your pay compares to your peers

Survey says ...? Civil engineering salaries continue to trend in the right direction, the 2020 ASCE Salary Survey has found. As a dues-paying member, you can use the ASCE Salary Calculator to learn how your income compares. The calculator lets you customize reports based on your location, discipline and job specifications. Direct your members to the [Salary Calculator](#) so they can find out how much they're worth.

Nominate your section for the History & Heritage Citation

Does your section participate in history and heritage events at the local level? Have you celebrated any local civil engineering landmarks? If so, your group may qualify to receive the History & Heritage Section Citation. The award recognizes sections for outstanding local activities. The deadline for nominations is Nov. 30. For more information, contact Jennifer Lawrence at jlawrence@asce.org.

New, free ASCE ad materials available for your digital media

ASCE ad resources are now available online for local Society groups to use on websites and in newsletters. Topics cover the new Civil Engineering Source news hub and daily newsletter, the 10 free PDHs offer, and more. [Click here and bookmark the link.](#)

ASCE's 2021 President invites members to ask him anything

Jean-Louis Briaud's new "Ask the President" town hall is already taking off. This monthly virtual meeting is an opportunity for members to connect with him to ask questions. The next town hall will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 1 p.m. EST / 10 a.m. PST. [Sign up to attend](#) the next town hall. And be sure to book your calendars for the Jan. 4 session, when Jean-Louis invites questions from Section, Branch, Region and Institute leaders.

Get inspired by other local ASCE groups

School is back in session and far from what was "normal." That's not stopping ASCE student chapters from getting active. They're kicking the semester off with various activities from socially distanced community service, to virtual career fairs and meetings. Follow [ASCE on Instagram](#) and check out [local news highlights](#) to see what sections, branches, younger member groups, and student chapters have been doing.

ASK COUNSELOR TARA

Can our board take an action without holding a meeting, such as by email vote?

ASCE General Counsel Tara Hoke responds to legal questions posed by Sections and Branches here each month. [Send Tara an email](#) with your question.

Question: As with many other subjects related to corporate powers, the issue of board voting is governed by the applicable state law. *Can our board take an action without holding a meeting, such as by email vote?* [Read Tara's reply.](#)

DATES TO KNOW

January 2021

15 Board of Direction Nominating Committee meeting
16-17 Board of Direction meeting

TALKING POINTS

Exclusive to the Board: Strategic topics, initiatives at ASCE

ASCE's essential role around the world

ASCE, on behalf of its members, is and always has been a leading voice in the global civil engineering profession.

Since 1852, the American Society of Civil Engineers has been incorporated in the state of New York. As the civil engineering profession developed around the world, so did our global reach, and this remains a critical component of what we do. Because ASCE is recognized globally as a leader in advancing civil engineering, ASCE has attracted 25,000 members from outside the United States, representing more than 15 percent of our membership.

Reflecting this, our official ASCE vision is “Civil engineers as **global** leaders building a better quality of life.”

Today, civil engineering is a global practice.

Seven of the 10 largest engineering design firms in the world are headquartered outside the United States. These firms employ many American civil engineers, including a large percentage of ASCE members, and compete for and perform work in the United States.

American civil engineers who work for large U.S.-based firms, including Jacobs, AECOM, and Bechtel, must compete in a multinational practice. We now have major contractors from outside the United States delivering programs and projects in the U.S. who employ both local and international experts to bring innovative solutions to our infrastructure.

Civil engineers from around the world contribute to significant technical advances in the practice. Eighty-four percent of journal submissions and 70 percent of accepted journal articles come from outside the U.S. and 50 percent of revenues from the sale of journals is from overseas. The scale and pace of global development also has led to major technical advances in large infrastructure projects outside the U.S. and, according to the World Bank, major developments in the next 30-50 years are going to be outside of the United States. ASCE members in the United States benefit from and rely on access to knowledge on the research and application of new technical approaches.

Especially among younger generations, there is a strong likelihood civil engineers will one day work outside the United States or serve on a multinational project team. Just as universities have incorporated study abroad to prepare students for this future, we must prepare civil engineers for practice in a global market. A majority of engineering graduate degrees at American universities are awarded to non-U.S. residents.

ASCE remains focused on serving American civil engineers.

Nine of ASCE's 10 geographic regions are in the United States, reflecting the focus on serving our core membership. Many ASCE programs, including advocacy, public policy, and professional licensure, specifically advance the interests of American civil engineers. Our global activities are essential to keeping American engineers in the forefront of the civil engineering profession.

Serving our American members and our mission requires that we engage in the global arena.

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