

ASCE Region 8 - July 2016 Newsletter



"advance the Civil Engineering profession by serving the members of Region 8 as an extension of the Board of Direction"

Hope that you are enjoying their summer and had a good 4th of July weekend and was able to reflect on the event 240 years ago in 1776 with the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress. Our United States of America certainly has grown.

The ASCE Board of Direction met the next weekend and had a full agenda with many reports such as; Board Strategic Advisory Council, Committee on Sustainability, Committee for America's Infrastructure, and Global Strategy Council.

The Task Committee on Geographic Boundaries (TCGB) presented their report which was in following with their charge to develop revisions to geographic region boundaries and present a recommendation to the Board of Direction to reduce the total number of geographic regions by one. TCGB proposal was to combine Region 4 with other Regions thus reducing one Regional Director from the ASCE Board of Direction. Prior to approving the request of TCGB, resolutions from Regions 7 and 4 that provided alternatives to the TCGB proposal were discussed and the result was to stop and re-evaluate.

You may wonder why I keep you, the members, a little more informed of the Geographic Regional Boundaries activities whereas Region 8's impacts appears to be limited. The quick and short answer is to preserve, you the member, your representation at the ASCE Board of Director. Presently there are seventeen (17 members on the Society Board of Direction (three Presidential officers, two Technical Directors, two At-Large Directors, and ten Regional Directors of which one is an International Director). The Regional Directors are the members most direct route for representation to the Board of Direction and a representation of ten of seventeen votes.

The Board of Direction approved committee appointments by Norma Jean Mattei, ASCE President 2017, of members to serve on various Committees of the Society. Region 8 members received many appointments.

The Board devoted time to reviewing and discussion Policy Statements presented by the Public Policy Committee for review and approval. Policy Statements are established on many subjects for which the civil engineering profession has expressed

concern. The Board adopted three new Policy Statements, 43 were re-approved, and two were rescinded. All of ASCE's Policy Statements may be found on the ASCE website, www.asce.org.

The July ASCE Board of Direction meeting is also the time when the ASCE's budget is reviewed and approved for the next fiscal year. The Program and Finance Committee presented the Fiscal 2017 Operating and Capital Budgets which were approved with a dues increase of fifteen dollars (\$15).

One other item of interest was the Board's approval Arrowrock Dam, Idaho, as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. The onsite dedication will occur during Region 8's Board of Governors and Assembly meeting 25 - 27 August in Boise Idaho.

There is another National Historic Land Landmark possibility here in Region 8. Read the "Montana Section Update" article in this Newsletter with particular attention to "LOOKING FORWARD TO THE PAST" concerning the Lewis and Clark's survey. The Montana Section has the start of something "big". What about other Sections along the Lewis and Clark route in Region 8 and to include Regions 3 and 7 taking part in this task? Please send me your thoughts and ideas.

If you have questions or comments, I would like to hear from you.

Thank you for being a member of ASCE

Dale A. Nelson, P.E., F.ASCE

Director, Region 8 ASCE

New Governor Intros

Greg Kinney, PE, M.ASCE

We asked the incoming governors, Larry Magura (LM) and Brent Borchers (BB) to answer some critically important questions - see their responses below:

Q - What's the scariest thing you've ever done?

A - (LM) Shortly after returning from active duty at Ft. Belvoir, VA, where I attended the Engineer Officer Basic Training Course, my boss at PG&E in San Francisco asked me if I knew anything about explosive demolition. I (too quickly) said "Oh yes, we learned how to build things and blow them up!" The next thing I knew I was working at a remote site in the Sierras clearing a large boulder off the control section of an extremely important stream gaging station. I calculated (with the help of my combat engineering field manual) that the fix would require placing a 12 pound charge of ammonium phosphate under the upstream side of the boulder to "heave" it off of the control section. This required using all of the ammonium phosphate (mixed with motor oil) from one 10 pound bag and 2 pounds from a second bag. We were nearly ready to pop our charge when the crew foreman who was with me noted that company policy prevented us from returning a partial bag of explosive back to the powder locker. We had two choices: dig a burn pit and burn off the other 8 pounds; or add the extra eight pounds to our charge (we only had a couple of blasting caps to trigger the charge, so setting a separate charge wasn't an option). The ground was very rocky and the fire season had just started, so digging a burn pit didn't seem like a very good option, so we decided to add the additional material to our heaving charge. Well, needless to say, when we triggered the 20 pound charge, there was a mighty roar and the boulder, which weighed about a ton, became airborne and proceeded to knock whole ponderosa pine trees

down as it returned to earth after it'd brief flight. After looking down the long line of toppled timber we had created, the crew foreman looked at me and said seven words that I will always remember: "I won't tell anybody if you don't!". I think that was the scariest thing I ever did in my life. I have not had, nor have I sought out any other opportunities to use my military-acquired blasting expertise since then.

(BB) - The scariest thing I am ever done was ride the Big Shot on top of the Stratosphere Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. I did this years ago and I do not like heights, but a friend of mine wanted to do it, and after a drink or two, he talked me into it. The thought of standing outside waiting in that line to go on the ride makes my hairs tingle to this day.

Q - How has ASCE helped you in your career growth?

A - (BB) ASCE has provided me with leadership opportunities that I have been able to incorporate into my career development. In addition, ASCE has helped me meet so many people from all over the country, and has provided me with a vast network of colleagues.

(LM) - ASCE has enriched my engineering career in many ways. The many friendships I have developed over the years through participating in various Society activities, leadership positions, and committees remain a blessing to me. I also appreciate the opportunities I have had to build my professional skills and qualifications by serving on technical committees such as the Urban Drainage Standards committee and the EWRI History & Heritage Committee.

Q - What keeps you coming back for more volunteer opportunities at ASCE?

A - (LM) After a while, volunteering for more ASCE-related activities becomes a habit that's pretty hard to break. I have always felt that as engineers we had a duty to serve not only our profession, but the community in which we live. To that end, I have served as a Development Review Commissioner for the City of Lake Oswego, OR, and as a leader in my church's building committee. I am also currently serving as the Chair for the Portland ASCE Convention Local Planning Committee, which I am finding to be very rewarding. I keep coming back for more because I enjoy the interaction with other people and serving my community and the Society.

(BB) - I enjoy the new leadership opportunities, and working with young people. The energy that the Student Chapters is incredible and motivating. Volunteering can lead to educational opportunities that may normally not be available, and it offers time to share ideas with others and give or receive help.

Q - What was the most rewarding day of your career and why?

A - (BB) The most rewarding thing through ASCE for me was when I was asked by the University of Arizona Student Chapter to MC the 2015 Pacific Southwest Conference Awards Ceremony in Tucson, Arizona. It was awesome to stand in front of 1,200 conference attendees and give out awards.

(LM) - I have had many rewarding days during my career. Certainly one of them was when we finished construction of a large ConSpan bridge over Ashland Creek in the middle of Ashland, Oregon, a couple of days ahead of an already aggressive schedule delivery date (the bridge had to be open in time for the Thanksgiving shopping season). I remember we completed paving and had the bridge ready to open by Noon on the Monday before Thanksgiving, and the City had the municipal bagpipe band "pipe" us across the new span that afternoon!

Q - How did you spend your 4th of July this year?

A - (LM) We had a great family 4th complete with fireworks over Lake Oswego. The weather was on the cool but dry side - quite a change from the 95° heat of last year.

(BB) - I stayed at home with the wife and family. But every year I do watch the Nathan's Famous Fourth of July International Hot Dot Eating Contest. Joey Chestnut won this year, and has won 9 of the last 10 years. Joey did attend San Jose State University for Construction Engineering.

Montana Section Update

Tyler Westrope, M. ASCE

Greetings from the Montana Section, our Student Chapters and our budding YMF! Now that summer is in full swing we hope you have gotten a chance to get out of the office and enjoy the great outdoors. If you happen to make it to Montana we hope you have an awesome time!

In looking at last month's newsletter, it is going to be tough to follow the amazing update from the Inland Empire, but I'll try.



Montana Section Board Members (Installation of Officers, November 2015)

BORING HOUSEKEEPING STUFF

So far this year the MT Section has mostly been engaged in the activities of finalizing and voting on an update to our Constitution and Bylaws, creating a Duties and Procedures manual and involving ourselves with the Montana Infrastructure Coalition; whose goal is bring infrastructure to the forefront during this year's election cycle. Previous work with our Report Card will greatly aid in that effort and we hope your report card is as much help to your Section as ours has been. Although I joke about these activities being boring, updating our Constitution and Bylaws and creating a Duties and Procedures manual has been essential in keeping our Section current and has fostered good discussion regarding how we want our Section to operate.

WHAT THE COOL KIDS AND SECTIONS ARE DOING

Earlier this year the MT Section was awarded one of two Region 8 Special Grants. The purpose of our grant was to work with and support a local Children's Museum with a focus on STEM activities. Also, the MT Section has gifted money to local engineering clubs to promote outreach to youth interested in Civil Engineering.

Now that the basics of updating policies and manuals is complete the Montana Sections is looking to get much more involved with Higher Logic as a resource to keep track of/contact members and logically store information for future MT Section officers.

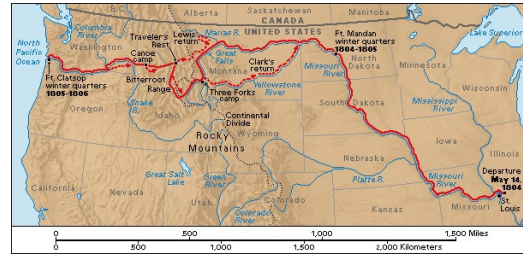
LOOKING FORWARD TO THE PAST

Throughout the rest of the year and into subsequent years the MT Section is looking to pursue two separate ASCE Historic Landmark designations; recognition for Lewis and Clark's survey and construction of the Beartooth Highway.

Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery



(Photo courtesy of worldbookonline.com)



(Photo courtesy of braintan.com)

The first Historic Landmark our Section will pursue is recognition for one of Civil Engineering's oldest branches, surveying, and one of the greatest surveying efforts in America, the Corps of Discovery's mapping of the American West. Lewis and Clark blazed a trail through what is now 10 states and ASCE Regions 3, 7 and 8; so simply getting this project off the ground will be a huge effort.

Beartooth Highway - National Scenic Byways All-American Road



(Both pictures courtesy of dangerouscrossroads.org)

The second Historic Landmark our Section is looking to pursue is recognition for the Beartooth Highway; an All-American Road. The Beartooth Highway starts in Montana, ends in Wyoming and exemplifies the beauty found within all branches of civil engineering.

Obtaining Historic Landmark designations for these two endeavors will not be an easy or quick task...so check back with us around 2020 or so!

CLOSING REMARKS

The Montana Section has some fantastic talent that has really worked hard this past year in updating our documents and bringing infrastructure improvements to the forefront. Although not flashy, the work of these individuals has been outstanding. Thank you for letting us share a little about the Montana Section. We wish you and your Section the best. Have a great rest to your summer!

ASCE Opportunity

The Region 8 Board of Governors is seeking a volunteer to serve as the Treasurer and

Historian. The commitment of time is approximately 10 conference calls / year and two face to face meetings per year. An interest in understanding of accounting is very helpful.

Please submit your expression of interest along with a one page resume of you work and ASCE involvement to: David.prusak@mwhglobal.com by August 1, 2016.

ASCE Awards

Congratulations to the following award winners from Region 8:

Roger M. Miller, Jr. (Tacoma-Olympia) - 2016 ASCE President's Medal

ASCE Region 8 | http://www.asce.org/region_8/

STAY CONNECTED:

