

ASCE Region 8 - August 2016 Newsletter



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

Hello Everybody!

Unfortunately, I am late getting my newsletter article written however there are a few things that would be good to bring to your attention and not delay any longer the good articles that others have contributed and are awaiting to be sent to you.

Congratulations to those ASCE members of the Southern Idaho Section for their efforts to establish the "New" **Snake River Branch**. Job well done and we look forward to hearing from you.

Congratulations to K.N. (Guna) Gunalan, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE, D.GE, Vice President, Transportation Alternative Delivery, Americas, for the "**2016 Professional Practice Ethics and Leadership Award**". This award will be presented to Guna during ASCE's Annual Convention in Portland, Oregon.

The month of August and it is a time when new and returning engineering students will be starting college classes. This is also a good time for us to make contact with the ASCE Student Chapters of a college near you and/or as an alumnus and volunteer. There is always a need for some type of an interaction which may take many forms and is appreciated by the engineering students and professors, plus it is awarding. These students are our next generation(s) of engineers and leaders.

I am looking forward to seeing and visiting with those Region 8 Section officers that will be attending the Assembly meeting this week, 26-27 August, in Boise Idaho. Safe travels to all and see you there.

One last thing; Region 8 now has a website, thanks to Seth Olsen, Region 8 Governor. The site is: <http://regions.asce.org/region8/>

Your comments on the website are welcome.

Thank you for being a member of ASCE

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

Focus on Strategic Initiatives - The Grand Challenge

Shoots Veis, PE, M.ASCE

As any good engineer knows, one of Newton's laws of motion is that objects in motion tend to stay in motion. Engineering careers often follow a similar path. Once an engineer learns how to complete a project one way, they tend to use the same method repeatedly the course of their career. They are comfortable and confident they can deliver a good project - on time and within budget - doing things the way they have always done them. Once they are in motion, they tend to stay in the same motion.

The ASCE Board of Direction recently challenged civil engineers to think about how they can avoid getting stuck using the same "motion" to complete their projects. They highlighted a strategic initiative called the Grand Challenge.

The goal of the Grand Challenge is for civil engineers and the industry to significantly enhance the performance and value of infrastructure projects over their life cycles by 2025 and to foster the optimization of infrastructure investments for society. The Board recognized to reach this goal, civil engineers must influence major policy changes and infrastructure funding levels, while challenging civil engineers to focus on innovation, rethink life cycle costs, and drive transformational change-from planning to design to delivery.

If we are going to address the gaps between where our built environment should be and where we are currently, of course we are going to need to increase funding levels. However, it is also incumbent on us as civil engineers to find the most innovative and cost effective ways to spend those dollars. Every dollar we don't spend on old, outdated methods to complete a project is another dollar we can spend on fixing other aspects of our infrastructure. The more innovation we can bring to a project to drive down life cycle cost, the quicker we can bridge our infrastructure gap.

The next time a new project crosses your desk, ask yourself if you are looking for a new way to complete the project. Or are you relying on past experience to repeat the same, or similar, project all over again. Perhaps you can challenge your law of motion from "the way we always do it" to "what innovative method can I use".

Nevada Section Update

Tanner Hartranft, PE, M. ASCE
Nevada Section President

Like many western states, our state is comprised of a few populous areas separated by many rural communities and lots of land. That's what makes the ASCE Nevada Section so special. Despite being separated by over 400 miles of harsh, but beautiful, landscapes, the two most populous areas of Nevada have thriving, influential civil engineering communities that help keep the state moving in the right direction. The ASCE Nevada Section contains three branches. The Southern Nevada Branch represents the lower region of the state, while the Truckee Meadow and Capitol Branches cover the north. In this article, I will proudly highlight the activities and achievements made by our three branches during my presidency over the 2015-16 year.

Southern Nevada

The Southern Nevada Branch is the largest of our branches, with over 650 members. Over the past year, the SNB board has redone their website (www.ascenb.org) and, in my

humble opinion, it is now a serious contender for a branch website award. They offer Southern Nevada members monthly luncheons at the classy Lawry's Prime Rib house and never seem to have a shortage of great speakers and topics. They also hosted their annual golf tournament in May with proceeds helping to fund their scholarship coffers.



A main focus of the Southern Nevada Branch is fostering the young engineers and student chapter members. The Southern Nevada Younger Member Forum (YMF) has made some amazing strides over 2015-16 and here are a few:

- Awarded the 2016 Younger Member Group Website Award - Small Group for the second year in a row (www.lasvegasyymf.org)
- Younger Member Noe Santos awarded the WRYMC 2016 Young Engineer in Public Sector Award
- Won the bid to host WSCL, WRMYC, WSBL in 2018. 2018 MRLC in Vegas, baby!!
- Held a successful Envision ® training and certification program. We now have 7 new Envision ® certified professionals in Southern Nevada!
(<http://sustainableinfrastructure.org/envision/>)



The UNLV Student Chapter continues to stay strong and have a well-honed program that they had a chance to showcase during the Southern Nevada Branch June luncheon. Some key achievements they have made in 2015-16 are:

- Raised enough money to fully fund over 50 students to attend the Pacific Southwest Regional Conference held this past spring. Their fundraising activities are a result of their hard work in developing and maintaining relationships throughout the community.



- They have carried on and further developed a Mock Speed Interview program to help their members sharpen their interview skills. The program has gained the attention of the University due to its success and there is talk that UNLV may try to expand it to other colleges of the school.

Northern Nevada

The Truckee Meadows Branch is the larger of the two northern branches with over 400 members. You can check out their website here: www.ascetruckeemeadows.org/. Their monthly luncheons are held at the upscale Peppermill and offer members a chance to network and learn about great projects and technical topics.

TMB is also largely involved in the support of their young engineers and student members, as demonstrated by holding their annual ASCE TMB Awards and Student Recognition Banquet this past March. This well-attended event has brought the northern Nevada engineering community together for years and continues to help build new relationships each time.

They also hosted their annual Marv Byers golf tournament this past July, an event that fills up quickly and is a major fundraising source for the UNR ASCE Student Chapter, which helps with their stellar programs, such as the concrete canoe (www.unr.edu/canoe/), who made yet another strong showing in the 2016 national competition.



TMB works very closely with the Truckee Meadows YMF and provides them the support they need to stay very active. Nearly every month the Truckee Meadows YMF is involved in a technical tour, volunteer event or social activity which keeps the engineering community fabric strong.

Over the past year, there have been a couple of individual achievements from our northern constituents that I would like to share:

- In November 2015, Kelly Doyle was selected to represent ASCE at the Emerging Leaders Alliance Conference in Reston, VA. Only 8 ASCE members were chosen from a large pool of applicants to attend this conference and we are happy to say that one of our own was there to represent!
- This spring, Ian G. Buckle, Ph.D., M. ASCE (UNR) was awarded the 2016 Charles Martin Duke Lifeline Earthquake Engineering Award, "For his outstanding dedication and many contributions in advancing the practice of bridge engineering seismic design

and his leadership in lifeline earthquake engineering research and teaching."

Our Capitol Branch, while the smallest of the three branches, continues to thrive in our state's Capitol, Carson City. They are a direct line for the Nevada Section when it comes to our state legislative fly-in and offer support and insider tactics when we need them the most. They are actively involved in STEM related activities such as the Model Bridge Building Contest and are a valuable resource in the community.

Last, but definitely not least, I would like to mention that our upcoming 2017 ASCE President Elect, Ms. Kristina Swallow, is a long time Nevada Section member. While her campaigning efforts were well above the bar, the Nevada Section was there to back her all the way. Congratulations, Kristina!!

To close, I would like to say that though we are separated by vast distance and even cultural aspects, the Nevada Section is really a close-knit group and I am very proud to have been able to be a part.

Reminders

We are looking forward to our Region 8 Assembly Meeting coming up August 25th through the 27th in Boise, Idaho. Please let your section leadership know what's important to you so they can share it with the Region leadership. Thanks!

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

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