

ASCE Region 8 - January 2017 Newsletter



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

Greetings and Happy New Year!!!

Hope that everybody had a Great Start to the New Year! ASCE certainly did with all of their activities in Los Angeles, the week of 9 January, that I mention in the November-December 2016 New Article. If I this article does not get off my desk and to the editor, this will be a January-February article. Since I would not like to do that, here we go.

Region 8 Board of Governors (BOG) met one day and then the next day the BOG and the Assembly met. The meetings were great and it is such a pleasure to work with the Governors as they are doing many things. I was unable to attend the Assembly Meeting (sitting at the ASCE Board of Direction meeting that occurred at the same time, more on this meeting a little later in the article), however that did not stop the good news being reported by your Governors as to a very productive, enthusiastic and involved Assembly meeting. The members attending are representing your sections and branches very well, thank you!

The Board of Governors' meeting had two parts, Nominating Committee and business. The Nominating Committee which was a closed session involved the interviewing of three (3) Region 8 members that presented their names for consideration as candidates to be on the ASCE ballot in May 2017. The ASCE ballot for Region 8 Governors will show two positions and there is another Governor opening available. This opening is an appointed Governor by the BOG after the ASCE elections are closed and announcements made. All the members interviewed are very qualified to be Governors and all three were forwarded to ASCE to be placed on the ASCE Ballot. The best for last in this paragraph, those forwarded to ASCE are: Florence Ching (Hawaii Section), Fred Nelson (Phoenix Section) and Bob Turner (Inland Empire Section).

For a little over view, the Region 8 BOG only meets face to face twice per year and it is a great opportunity to discuss in detail those items that we address during our monthly conference calls. Each of the governors have a Standing Committee that they chair and they are also assigned a Section(s) that they will visit and stay in contact through the year. The Section assignment can be a little bit busy when considering that a Section also involves the Branches, Younger Members, and the Student Chapters within a Section. These discussions are always beneficial due the sharing of information that each of the Governors receive from

their contacts.

There was one particular subject item from the BOG meeting and was presented to the Assembly that may be of interest to the Region 8 members. This concerns the development of a ASCE Historic Civil Engineering Landmark; the Lewiston Clark Trail. Shoots Vies, Governor, Montana Section, is the champion for this project. This project will require a team effort of Sections (States) in Region 8 and in Region 7. Seems like a great project worth doing that will involve many members from the beginning of the Trail to the end and the recognition of achievements of the past. If you are interested or have comments, please contact Shoots.

The ASCE Board of Direction (BOD) met on Thursday (same time as the Region 8 Assembly meeting) and it was a three-part meeting. The first part was the Nominating Committee, during closed session, to select from three nominees a candidate(s) to be on the ASCE ballot for 2018 ASCE President-Elect. The process is very professional and it is an honor to be part of our Society's selection of candidates to appear on the 2017 ASCE ballot. Then it is up to you, the member, to vote and take part in the process. Voting is the part that counts. The 2018 ASCE President-Elect candidates that will appear on ASCE's ballot are: Robin Kemper, Region 1, and Guna Gunalan, Region 8.

Both candidates will be busy meeting with as many members as possible, prior to 1 May when the electronic voting begins and ends on 1 June. So, if you are thinking about inviting a candidate, please do and do it early. It is a good opportunity to meet the future ASCE President. If my knowledge is correct of the invite process, you invite both and thus receive two for one invite.

Following the closed session of the BOD, the business meeting had a short period of time to accomplish the agenda items before part 3 started which was the Strategic Planning session. The business meeting covered many topics of which the following are noted as they may be of interest to you as members of our Region.

The "Reassignment of Regions" (Canada's Northwest Territories, Yukon, British Columbia and Alberta) members are reassigned to Region 8 (there is more to this than Region 8, just trying to keep the focus here). This was a first reading of an amendment to the Society Bylaws. The second reading will be at the BOD meeting in March for approval along with amendments to the Rules of Policy and Procedure.

Another item, "Crossing Boundaries" came before the BOD which proposed to address the process of travel approval, primarily for Directors and Governors, out of their Regions. The effect for Region 8 is that two of the four Student Conferences are in Regions 7 and 9. This gets complicated because the Student Conference boundaries are different than those of ASCE's Regions of Governance. The proposed amendment was sent back to committee to be re-written and coordination.

There was a "Constitutional Amendment" for the BOD to increase the size of the Board from 17 to 18 members to allow for a third voting Technical Region Director. These three items reported here are from the Governing Documents Committee and they had another six agenda items. It is not that the other six are not important to be reported, it just makes this article long. Another Board action concerned "Strategic Initiatives", they are: 1) Sustainable Infrastructure, 2) the ASCE Grand Challenge and 3) Raise the Bar. These initiatives will continue until a broader discussion can take place.

The broader discussion on strategic initiatives started with "Strategic Planning" as the third part of BOD's afternoon meeting. This involved a facilitator which will have a report back at the Board's July meeting and a continuation of the planning process.

The final part of the LA week was the Region 8 & 9 Multi-Regional Leadership Conference (MRLC). This is a two-day conference that is outstanding for future leaders to attend, it is a "must"; get involved, net-work, and make lots of new friends. This conference is very well organized, run, and has continuous involvement during the conference of the ASCE Staff, Committee Members and Regions 8 & 9 Governors. Plus, there are those attending from; Sections and Branches Leaders, Younger Member Leaders, and Student Chapter Leaders. All of this is going on in continuous motion.

There is a well-developed script/time-line and don't miss your time spot which I did. I was out of the room getting a coffee refill, having conversation, and I look up and here comes Tony Lau on a mission to retrieve me to the room. When I enter, the team is all there at the front of the room and there is a blank spot, must have been for me, and they have the look, where have you been? Only answer, raise your cup and say "getting coffee", then crawl into that open spot. Ooooh not good, but what fun and learning, the show then proceeded, phew!

There are a couple of take a ways; 1) the involvement at the attendees and 2) the younger member planning skills. The Younger Member session that I observed, was the Western Region Younger Member Council selecting their next conference location. Those that wanted to host, presented their location with plans that included transportation, housing, ... and related costs to accomplish and how they were going to achieve what they proposed. All of this is done to the attending members (it is a totally full room) and there are votes. This process is well done and these members are our leaders of tomorrow, keep up the good work.

Looking ahead, there are four Student Conferences in April that the Region 8 Student Chapters will be attending. Activities will include the Concrete Canoe and Steel Bridge competition and they are always looking for support. Here is an opportunity for Sections, Branches, and Younger Members to be involved with a Student Chapter in your area.

As always, thank you for being a member of ASCE.

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

Director, Region 8 ASCE

dale@denelsonak.com

Tacoma-Olympia Section Update

Tacoma-Olympia Section President

Greetings from the Tacoma-Olympia section of ASCE! Happy new year to all. I hope it's been as good for you as it has been for us.

Our section has spent the time since its last regional update building on the success of our last year. With the basics in place, we have been able to focus our efforts on tasks that have helped us grow our membership and local activity. We have been using a multitude of approaches to help us along the way.

Our section has worked hard on technology. We see technology as a key way to engaging younger engineers. With the help of the Society, we were able to launch a webpage for our section. We immediately saw the benefits of that because it allowed people who may not be directly engaged with the section to register for our events - a great way to capture new members. We also launched a Facebook page and, more recently, an Instagram account. We combined our social media with our Constant Contact communication for a very potent way of electronically engaging membership.

This year was the first year in a while that the Tacoma-Olympia section has been able to set up a joint meeting with the Seattle section. If your section doesn't do joint programming with other professional society chapters, we highly recommend you look in to it. The cross-pollination that comes from the different perspectives is very productive. It also enhances the networking benefit to our members because they make contacts outside of the local section.

We have focused hard on membership value and one key area we identified as needing improvement is in our programming. Our section is actively searching for ways to revamp its programming so that the traditional meal-and-a-presentation is more accessible to all of our members. We have identified the cost of venues and catering as a hindrance to membership participation. We are also trying to engage more technically oriented speakers because our members have indicated that they see a benefit in that type of programming. If any of you have had success in confronting those challenges, we'd love to hear from you.

Our officers used last year as a way to explore the response and value of different types of events and programming, and we have used that information to develop some baseline events that our members really seem to value. One of the successful things that we did includes replacing one of our monthly dinner programs with a less formal "social" meeting. It affords members a lower-cost opportunity to come out and just talk with our other members - something that the more formal meetings can sometimes preclude. Our section also hosts informal, free study sessions for PE candidates preparing for the exam. Our free study sessions have been our most successful events so far.

Our younger members group has focused on programming with our student chapter. Last year, we held a resume and interview workshop. This year, we did a presentation about the importance of professional networking and social skills. We are also looking in to a cross-discipline engineering event to be held at the campus. I'm sure that we will have many more exciting updates for you next year. Until then!

Region 8 Calendar of Upcoming Events

2017 Student & Professional Conferences

- Rocky Mountain Student Conference, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT April 6 - 8, 2017
- Pacific Southwest Student Conference, UC Irvine, Irvine, CA, April 6 - 8, 2017
- Mid-Pacific Student Conference, Chico State University, Chico, CA, April 20 - 22, 2017
- Pacific Northwest Student Conference, Boise State University, Boise, ID, April 20 - 22, 2017
- Environment and Water Resources Institute (EWRI) Annual Water Congress, Sacramento, CA, May 22 - 25, 2017
- ASCE Region 8 Fall Assembly and Planning Meeting, Springdale (Zion NP), UT Sept. 7 - 9, 2017
- ASCE Arizona Section Annual State Conference, Phoenix, AZ, Sept. 15, 2017

- ASCE National Convention, New Orleans, LA Oct. 8 - 11, 2017

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

STAY CONNECTED:

