

ASCE Region 8 - March 2017 Newsletter



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

HELLO Everybody!

Is it spring time, yet? Don't think so. Much of what you see, looking down from above as you fly from west coast to east coast, is a white ground covering. On Monday, our flight from Seattle to Washington DC was canceled due to predicted snow. Well, the prediction was good, and the snow was there awaiting us when we arrived in WDC with wind, cool temperatures, and partly sunny skies.

All of this makes one think, why leave Anchorage at a time when we are experiencing spectacular weather? Sitting there in the living room early in morning, I am viewing the fullness of the moon, and the brightness of Venus. As the moon, and the morning star begin to dim they give way to the surrounding mountains, to the east of Anchorage, as they appear into a barely visible silhouette with only the skyline top appearing. The distinguishing marks of the mountains continue to be more visible, as the sun slowly rises. This revealing their snow covering and rocky appearances. The sun's rise slowly continues from behind the mountains for over an hour.

Then, the sun seems to peak over the mountain's crest, casting rays of brightness down on us - as if to see if we are watching this grand entrance, and if we are ready for the day. The next thing you are aware of is a round beautiful light bulb in the sky that seemed to have just jumped above the horizon. At about this time, your vision is interrupted by small groups of nuthatches and chickadees flying back and forth just outside your window, beginning their day of activities. Thus, it is time for another cup of coffee and begin one's own activities, like finishing this article (apologies for the drifting off, Squirrel!).

Hope everybody enjoyed the activities of Engineer's week. From my observations of the electronic postings, and emails, etc., the Sections of Region 8 were busy. It was also good to see the recognition of those accomplishments of our fellow civil engineers. Congratulations to everybody for what you do.

At the Anchorage Engineering Week banquet, I had the wonderful opportunity to hear the history of an ASCE Lapel Pin that was being worn that evening, which I would like to share with you. The pin first started with the paternal grandfather some years back. The lineage was not direct, as it next went to the Unde, because the father changed from civil

engineering to forestry. The Uncle's sons did not choose engineering, so it was given to the Uncle's brother's daughter, a Civil Engineer. She is a licensed professional civil engineer, very accomplished in her field. She has been active in the Anchorage Branch, the Alaska Section, and the Society. She recently retired, however she continues to attend engineering activities. Thank you Lynda Barber-Wiltse for sharing the History of the family ASCE Pin, and please continue to wear it with pride along with your own pin.

ASCE's 2017 Fly-In went very well, and there were lots of things to share at the end of the day when we gathered at a social. ASCE's Government Relations staff does a great job of making appointments and getting us all where we needed to be. All, but one, of the fifty states were represented. Region 8 had 29 members attend, and all Region 8 states were represented. Visit [ASCE Region 8](#) for Fly-In support information including:

- [ASCE Fly-In 2017 Region 8 Members Attendance](#)
- [Principles for Infrastructure Investment](#)
- [ASCE FY 2017 & FY 2018 Infrastructure Appropriations Brief](#) and
- [Protecting Tax-Exempt Municipal Bonds Brief](#)

For all of those that attended, "Thank You" and please share with your section and branch members.

Tonight, will be the Outstanding Projects and Leaders Leadership (OPAL) Awards presentation and the announcement of the Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (OCEA) Award banquet. There are five OCEA finalists.

Friday and Saturday, 17 and 18 March, will be the ASCE Board of Direction (BOD) meeting. This meeting has a lot of committee reports of information/discussion and many requesting action be taken. Those for information and discussion are: Committee for America's Infrastructure; Board Strategy Session; ASCE Foundation; Industry Leaders Council; Systems for Priority Setting; Executive Director's Report; and the Treasurer's Report. Those requesting action are: American Academy of Transportation and Development Professionals; Raise the Bar Committee; Committee on Advancing the Profession; Task Committee on Governance Structure; Student Transition and Younger Member Strategy Roadmap; and the Audit Committee. The July BOD will have a focus on the 2018 ASCE Budget review and approval.

The snow is still very much present and the roads are pretty much dry, however the wind is blowing and it is cold. Let's face it, I am a wimp and cannot handle the east coast cold weather.

Thank you for being a member of ASCE.

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

Director, Region 8 ASCE

dale@denelsonak.com

Southwest Washington Branch of Oregon Section's R. Paul Giroux Wins the 2017 Roebling Award

In our continuing effort to enhance communications between ASCE Headquarters and the Regions, Sections, and Branches, Geographic Services is pleased to advise you that **Mr. R. Paul Giroux, Dist.M.ASCE** from the Southwest Washington Branch of the Oregon Section has been selected by the Construction Institute to receive the **2017 Roebling Award** "For his contributions to construction engineering as a builder of significant bridges such as the

Zakim Bunker Hill Bridge and Oakland Bay Bridge and as a construction engineering historian, chronicling the achievements of past construction engineers like the Roeblings."

We encourage you to recognize and congratulate this member of your Section and/or Branch, and to publish this information in your newsletter, on your website, or through another venue.

If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact [Jane Alspach](#), Senior Manager, Honors and Awards at 1-800-548-2723, extension 6382.

*Carolina Albornoz, Aff.MASCE
Administrator, Geographic Services*

Utah Section's Imanuel Aswandi Named Discover E Volunteer Honoree

As part of the 2017 Engineer's Week festivities, Imanuel Aswandi of the Utah Section has been named a **Discover E Volunteer Honoree** by ASCE National. This award recognizes Imanuel's contributions as a member of the Utah Section Younger Member Forum "For his efforts to 'give back' to his community." He has volunteered his time, and energy to promote engineering to elementary, and junior high school students; mentoring youth via the Big Brother/Big Sisters of Utah, and volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House where he serves families with a seriously ill or injured child staying in Salt Lake City area hospitals, and the Asian Association of Utah, where he deals with numbers of refugees who settled in the Salt Lake City area. Way to go, Imanuel!

*Lawrence M. Magura, P.E., D.WRE, M.ASCE
Region 8 Governor*

Pitching Your Boss on Paying for Your ASCE Membership

I am a firm believer in the "elevator pitch". I have used this technique on many occasions throughout my career. When I approach people as to why they are not members of the American Society of Civil Engineers, many times, their answer is, "My Company won't pay for it". This is unfortunate because ASCE has so many benefits. It would be easy to simply provide them with the "[101 Ways to Benefit from ASCE](#)", but this isn't really effective. They may not read it, they may not understand it, and most likely (since reading it isn't billable time) it will sit on their desk unread. But if you take the time to engage them, and explain the advantages of the membership of ASCE, they are more likely to see things your way and pay for your membership.

An elevator pitch is a 60 second speech you have to "sell" or inform someone of your position. In this case, it might be something you catch your boss with when he or she is in the break room or in the hallway. In practice you typically have just 60 seconds to leave an exciting, impactful, and meaningful impression about what you want from a person. You need to make the 60 seconds count! Each pitch should be tailor made to who you are trying to "sell" to, so I am not going to give you an exact dialog to memorize, but I'm going to give you an outline to help you create something for yourself.

Every elevator speech requires you to engage the person, and make them care. As a boss/supervisor, I care about profit. As engineers we use numbers to come to conclusions. As a boss/owner/supervisor, profit is an easy way to gauge success, and failure. Unnecessary expenses take away from profit, and are a hard pill to swallow. However, expenses that lead to someone being more productive, and increasing profit are easy to accept. The first element of your elevator speech should be to show how being a member of ASCE will actually save them money, educate you, make you more efficient, and increase their profitability. Here are a few facts to help with this part of your speech.

FREE PDH's

In Utah, a licensed professional is required to complete 30 hours of continuing education per two year renewal cycle. Each PDH costs approximately \$150. So your company will most likely have to spend \$4500 every two years to keep your license current. With your ASCE membership, you get 5 free PHD's each year; that is a \$750 savings each year. Each branch meeting you attend gives you 1 additional PDH. The cost for the branch meetings is an average of \$20/meeting (there are 9 meetings a year); that is a savings of \$130 per meeting. Webinars that give you 1 PDH cost \$159 for non-members, but for members they are only \$99. Remember, these are webinars, so theoretically the entire office could attend and each attendee would get 1 PDH. In short, your ASCE membership costs approximately \$250 per year. So in a two year cycle, it costs \$250 dollars for your membership/year and the cost of 9 meetings/year and one webinar/year you'll save \$3400. This is money that your company would have to pay to keep your license current anyway. So you can suggest to your boss/supervisor that rather than spend the \$4500, they could simply spend some of that money already budgeted on an ASCE membership that also has many more membership benefits.

PUBLICATION DISCOUNTS

Codes and standards are what we all use every day. When the code cycle is complete, we need to purchase another set of codes. ASCE is one of the largest Standard Development Organizations in the world. Your company is going to have to purchase codes to stay in business, so your company has budgeted to purchase these codes. ASCE gives discounts on all their codes and publications. Here are a few examples of the money you would save by being a member:

- ASCE 7-10 Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures: Non-member price - \$165; Member Price - \$123.75 (a savings of \$41.25)
- ASCE/SEI 41 Seismic Evaluation and Retrofit of Existing Buildings: Non-member price - \$220; Member Price - \$165 (a savings of \$55)

These two publications alone save you almost half of your membership fee. Less expenses, mean more profitability.

CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

Lawyer fees can range from \$255 to \$520 per hour. We all know that the best way to avoid a lawsuit is to have a good contract. Why pay an attorney upwards of \$520 per hour to reinvent the wheel? As a member of ASCE you can download standard contract documents that represent the latest, and best thinking in contractual regulations between all parties involved in engineering design, and construction projects. At [ASCE Contract Documents](#), you can download documents that experienced engineering professionals, professional liability and risk management experts, and legal counsel have prepared to reduce your conflicts, and avoid litigation. The savings here are legitimately in the order of thousands of dollars and priceless in terms of peace of mind.

MARKETING/NETWORKING

People have personalities and perspectives that influence their performance and the way they communicate on teams. In my experience, people don't simply hire technically proficient companies; people hire people. Engineers hire other engineers. Civil engineers, hire structural engineers; structural engineers hire geotechnical engineers; geotechnical engineers hire civil, and on goes the cycle. Since we know people hire people, one of the best ways to market your company is to introduce yourself to the leaders of this profession. Become known as a leader in this profession. The easiest and best way to do this is to become a member of ASCE, and attend the meetings. Once people see you, get to know you, they are more apt to hire you and/or recommend you and your services to their clients.

The overall theme of your elevator speech to your boss/supervisor is that he or she, and your company are going to be spending this money anyway. The money he or she spends on your ASCE membership will not only save you money and potentially increase your profitability, but it will make you a better representative of the company. This in turn will bring in more work, which brings more profit. Basically, your boss/supervisor can't afford to not pay for your membership.

*Submitted by Matt Roblez, S.E., MASCE
Utah Section President*

Team Members Needed

Are you a history buff and interested in researching more about the Lewis and Clark Expedition land survey from St Louis to the Oregon Coast?

The ASCE Lewis and Clark History and Heritage Project needs your help. We are looking for team members interested in researching, documenting and writing about the Lewis and Clark land survey in their state. We are also looking for team members to research, document and write about the land survey methods, instrumentation, innovation, and impact.

If this sounds interesting to you, please contact [Shoots Veis](#) or call him at 406-697-7128 for more information about the project and how to get involved.

Region 8 Calendar of Upcoming Events

2017 Student 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

Visit [Region 8 Events](#) for more information.

ASCE Region 8 | <http://regions.asce.org/region8/>

STAY CONNECTED:

