

ASCE Region 8 - December 2017 Newsletter



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

Hello Everybody!

Hope that all is well and in the spirit for the Holidays and the New Year that is coming. Can you believe it, it is almost 2018 and I have not even hustled calendars for the New Year? I must start visiting banks and credit unions, they seem to have a few up for grabs.

All is good here in the north country where we are having some crazy weather. The temp is reaching a high of 49 degrees (Anchorage), raining and very windy. All you need to get to work or shopping is a bed sheet (sail) and a pair of skates. The ice is good along the edge of the traveled road way. If this keeps up, Santa may have to put wheels on his sleigh and ice grippers on the reindeer. Now that would be a naughty to the roof's surface. To top all this off, we in Alaska can still rock and shake with the best. It seems that our seismologists have been busy recording earthquake activities in Alaska. There was an article in the Anchorage Daily News that Alaska experiences some 80 to 100 events per day. Do the math, yikes! Not all of these events are felt and if you want to read the article and see the map, do a Google search, "Alaska Earthquake In 2017".

It is presently beautiful here, warmer than usual with some nights of clear skies to see shooting stars and the Northern Lights. We have a fair amount time after the sun sets to observe these events. On 21 December (winter solstice), the sun will set at 3:40pm and rise at 10:09am. The silhouette of the mountains surrounding Anchorage are breathtaking with the hues of the sun behind.

I'd best do some reporting on ASCE activities. Your Society is busy, however much has been scaled back for the Holidays. That will change in January 2018 starting with Region 8's meeting of the Board of Governors (BOG) and the Assembly on 10 and 11 January, respectfully at the Hilton Lake Las Vegas Resort & Spa. The BOGs will meet on the 10th with the purpose of interviewing the three Region 8 members (Jessica Smith, Alaska Section, Kate Thompson, Columbia Section, and Randy Wall, Montana Section) who have submitted letters of interest in being a Governor. There are two vacancies to fill.

The other part of the BOG's closed meeting process on the 10th will be to interview the two Region 8 members (Tony Lau, Hawaii Section and Dennis Richards, Arizona Section) who have submitted letters of interest in being Region 8's Director, starting October 1, 2018. The Region 8 nominating committee and the other members of the BOGs will determine

the name(s) that will be forwarded to ASCE Executive Director Tom Smith to place on the ASCE Ballot. Voting will occur the month of May 2018. The members of Region 8 will then determine who will be their Governors and Director.

On Thursday 11 January, the ASCE Board of Direction will be meeting to do determine the name(s) of the four applicants that have submitted their applications to be on the ASCE May 2018 ballot for 2019 ASCE President Elect.

Following these two days, the [Regions 8 & 9 Multi-Region Leadership Conference \(MRLC\)](#) will occur on 12 & 13 January at the Hilton Lake Las Vegas Resort & Spa Hotel. It would be good to have all Region 8 Section and Branch leaders signed up to attend. If you have not signed up, please take the time to register and if you have questions, call Nancy Berson at ASCE (703-295-6010). I look forward to seeing you at the MRLC.

Please accept my apology for the last four paragraphs. These paragraphs are very similar to what I wrote last month. It is just that ASCE has a good process of nominating and electing Society officers which is concluded by the members voting. I just feel that it is good that you understand the process. Your vote counts and Region 8 members do vote. For the last two years, we have had the highest percentage voting - that is being involved in your Society!

It is always a pleasure to hear from you, please continue to share your thoughts. Thank you for being a member of ASCE.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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

Director, Region 8 ASCE

dale@denelsonak.com

Southern Idaho Section Update

Like many ASCE Sections in the west, the Southern Idaho Section experiences geographical challenges presented by large, sparsely populated areas. The SIS has approximately 600 members spread out over 75,000 square miles of some of the country's most rugged and unspoiled natural areas. That's an area larger than Rhode Island, Delaware, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Hawaii, and Maryland combined. If a member wished to drive from the easternmost boundary of the SIS near Island Park, Idaho to the westernmost boundary of the SIS near Baker City, Oregon they would be in the car for over seven hours if they didn't have to stop for gas, food, or bathroom breaks (please do not attempt).

If you're sitting there thinking to yourself, "how in the world do they host regular Section meetings?" then you've probably never met the hardworking and dedicated engineers of southern Idaho and eastern Oregon, who never shy away from a challenge. If anything, our members will probably tell you that a long drive through a landscape consisting of snowcapped mountain ranges, rushing river rapids, vast lakes, and steep canyons only adds to the engineering experience in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon.

Southern Idaho Section members have been busy with Region and Section awards and hosting a Section record 16 meetings in 2017 throughout the southern Idaho area on topics ranging from Boise River flooding to challenging transportation projects in Sun Valley. The recently recognized Snake River Branch has done an excellent job of increasing interest in ASCE in eastern Idaho by hosting regular Branch events.

Southern Idaho Section Awards

The Southern Idaho Section hosted its annual Awards Banquet this past April in Boise, Idaho. This past year we were pleased to present the following awards:

- Project of the Year Completed in 2016 (>\$10 Million): West Boise Water Renewal Facility Total Phosphorus Removal Project, CH2M Hill
- Project of the Year Completed in 2016 (<\$10 Million): Garden City to Americana Boise Greenbelt Project, Keller Associates
- Engineer of the Year 2016: Joshua Saak, PE, PTOE, ACHD

Winter Flooding Along the Boise River

For anyone that was out of the country last winter, you'll be interested to hear that major snow storms dominated headlines in the Pacific Northwest in early 2017. Southern Idaho Section members were keenly aware of the impacts of the spring runoff that occurred as a result of the major snow storms and resulting snowpack. Brandon Hobbs, PE, CFM of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presented on flooding and the record flows of the Boise River this past spring. Tim Morgan, PE with Ada County Highway District and Angela Gilman, PE, CFRM with Ada County also presented on some of the lessons learned from each agency's response to the flooding. The room was packed with SIS members eager to hear about the effects of flooding and what 2018 has in store.



Snake River Branch

As part of a larger mission to better serve Southern Idaho Section members, in late 2013 several ASCE members residing in Eastern Idaho initiated discussions with the Southern

Idaho Section Board about hosting local ASCE meetings, with the hope that the local engineering community would support such an effort and that a Branch could eventually be formed.

Update provided by:

Aaron Swenson, PE, M.ASCE

Snake River Branch President

The Snake River Branch is now in its second full year of operation. During this time, we have maintained steady attendance at our monthly meetings and have had quality, collaborative efforts with our two student sections located on the campuses of Idaho State University (ISU) and Brigham Young University-Idaho (BYU-I). Our monthly meetings have been held in Idaho Falls, however, each year we have held one meeting at each of our two Universities within our Branch. We had a great turnout at our meeting in March on the campus of BYU-I, where approximately eight design teams presented their senior projects. We had nearly 40 members attend that meeting. It provided a great networking opportunity between graduating students and senior professionals.

We are excited to announce an upcoming outreach event featuring a showing of Dream Big. The Snake River Branch is working with the City of Idaho Falls, who is sponsoring the event, to put together a three-day event during Engineer Week in February. The target audience for this showing are STEM students from 5th grade through college. As part of the three-day showing of Dream Big, members of the local ASCE branch as well as student members from two Idaho universities will be presenting kid-friendly demonstrations of engineering principles. These will be hands-on demonstrations meant to engage young minds and promote excitement in the field. Examples of these demonstrations include building Lego towers and placing them on a shaker table to see who creates the best design. ISU and BYU-I students will also have senior design projects on display and will give 3-5 minute presentations to students. We will even have a swimming pool on hand with a concrete canoe. We are still looking for additional people to help with this event. If you are interested, please contact [Aaron Swenson](#).

Grae Harper, PE, M.ASCE
Southern Idaho Section President

Region 8 Award Winners

2017 ASCE Southern Idaho Section Awards

At the Awards Banquet of the Southern Idaho Section in April 2017, the Section honored:

- **Project of the Year Completed in 2016 (>\$10 Million)** was awarded to **West Boise Water Renewal Facility Total Phosphorus Removal Project, CH2M Hill**
- **Project of the Year Completed in 2016 (<\$10 Million)** was awarded to **Garden City to Americana Boise Greenbelt Project, Keller Associates**

- Engineer of the Year 2016 was awarded to Joshua Saak, PE, PTOE, ACHD

Region 8 Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Region 8 Board of Governors Meeting (BOG) Conference Call, December 1, 2018
- Region 8 Board of Governors Meeting (BOG), Las Vegas, NV, January 10, 2018
- The Western Regional Younger Member Council (WRYMC) 2018, Las Vegas, NV, January 11-14, 2018
- Region 8 BOG and Assembly Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, January 11, 2018
- Region 8 & 9 Multi-Region Leadership Conference (MRLC), January 12-13, 2018

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

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

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