



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

Region 8 Director's Column

Aloha and mahalo for your membership in ASCE. Don't forget that your membership now includes 10 free PDHs.

The Society held its annual Outstanding Projects and Leaders (OPAL) Awards Gala in Arlington, Virginia on March 14. It was my first time attending (and putting on a tux) since 2008. Watching the video tributes showcasing the accomplishments of the five individuals being honored was inspiring. As the video detailing the nominated projects for the Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (OCEA) Award played, I felt compassion towards the committee that had to select the overall winner. Each project demonstrated amazing innovative civil engineering features. Congratulations to the 2019 OPAL award winners listed below.

- Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite, P.E., M.ASCE – Construction
- Ronald Klemencic, P.E., S.E., F.EMI, F.ASCE – Design
- Ross B. Corotis, Ph.D., P;E., S.E., F.EMI, Dist.M. ASCE, NAE – Education
- Paul D. Kovacs, P.E., M.ASCE – Government
- Ewa Z. Bauer-Furbush, P.E., M.ASCE, NAC – Management

For more information on the OPAL criteria, or if you want to view the tribute videos for award recipients, visit <https://www.asce.org/opal/>. If you are interested in nominating a fellow member for one of the OPAL categories, the deadline for nominations is June 1.



Region 8 Director Tony Lau with Society Treasurer Jennifer Epps at the OPAL event

Congratulations to 2019 OCEA recipient: The 150 North Riverside Project in Chicago. If you are working on a project that is near completion that you believe would make a great nominee for an OCEA award, please contact your local Branch or Section President. Local and regional project award criteria are often patterned after the Society-level OCEA award to simplify advancing successful nominees up to the big competition. Criteria for the OCEA award are located at <https://www.asce.org/oceakit/>. Nominations are due June 1.

As this newsletter is published, the student regional conferences are taking place. Did you know that Region 8 schools participate in four separate student conferences – Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, Mid-Pacific and Rocky Mountain? More to come on this subject in the next issue.

By the time the May issue of this newsletter is published, the ASCE Society-level election period will have opened. The election period runs from May 1 to June 1. Please participate in selecting our next set of leaders, particularly for our Society President-Elect and our Region 8 Governors because those are both contested elections. The two candidates for Society President-Elect are Jean-Louis Briaud, Ph.D., P.E., D.GE, Dist.M. ASCE and Dennis Truax, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, F.NSPE, F.ASCE. The three candidates for two Region 8 Governor positions are Dan Karlin – Montana Section, Mark Lamer – Arizona Section, and Matt Roblez – Utah Section. Please take some time to read about each candidate at <https://www.asce.org/Elections/>.

Mahalo for being a member of ASCE and for all that you do to help our great profession. #Region8isgreat!!!

Mahalo and Aloha,
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Magura Testifies on Oregon Dam Safety Program Proposed Legislation

On Thursday April 4th, Oregon Section member Larry Magura, P.E., F. ASCE, D.WRE (ret), and ASCE Region 8 Governor, presented testimony to the Oregon House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee, on the behalf of the Oregon Section, on a bill (HB-2085) that would overhaul Oregon's 90-year old regulations on dam safety. The Oregon Section strongly endorses the key provisions in the bill, which would update dam inspection and repair procedures.

Oregon's dam safety regulations were spawned in the wake of California's St. Francis Dam disaster of 1928, which produced a death total (depending on which source you believe) of between 400 and 600 people, and millions of dollars in property damage. California's dam safety program was also an outgrowth of the St. Francis Dam disaster. California's dam safety program has evolved over the years and is now widely viewed as a model for all states to follow. Unlike California's dam safety program, Oregon's program has been sadly neglected for many years. In his testimony, Magura pointed out the sad state of Oregon's program, which has only 2 FTEs charged with monitoring the condition of the 820 Oregon dams that are listed on the 2018 National Inventory of Dams Database, and compared it to the fairly-robust dam safety program in neighboring Idaho, which has a staff of 10 FTEs.



Oregon Section member and Region 8 Governor Larry Magura testifying before the Oregon House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee

Magura received major assistance from the Society's Washington, DC-based Legislative Affairs staff in preparing his testimony, and he urges all ASCE members to become proactive with their state legislatures regarding issues of concern or interest to the civil engineering profession. If you wish to become actively involved in legislative affairs, contact your Section President or the ASCE Washington DC Legislative Affairs office.

Inland Empire Section Update

Winter in the Inland Empire has gone out with a bang setting 100 year records in many areas as the snowiest February. Nonetheless, our ASCE section has been busy. Our annual banquet in January featured guest speakers Mandy Manning, 2018 National

Teacher of the Year, Kara Ball, 2018 Department of Defense Education Teacher of the Year, and Tammie Schrader, Regional Science Coordinator for Eastern Washington. After our section put Dream Big packages into all of the schools in the region, it was exciting to hear how our educators are innovatively integrating technology into the school systems.

One of the benefits of ASCE membership is association with a group of exceptional people. We were honored to recognize three new Life Members: Max Patterson, Gene Yow, and Mark Krigbaum. We also recognized Bill Melvin as our annual Engineer of Merit, and the Distinguished Career of Stephen Shrope.

In the last year, the Inland Empire Section Younger Member Forum (YMF) has lined up some exciting events generating a dynamic atmosphere for the group. One was a pub crawl using the Spokane Transit Authority buses to travel from venues exposing members to the benefits of public transportation. Other events included a baseball game and hockey game. Last fall the YMF coordinated with the surrounding student chapters, Gonzaga University, University of Idaho, and Washington State University to visit a local theme park Scarywood for Halloween.



YMF Spokane Indians Baseball Game

With spring finally here, we're excited to see the construction season take off. Spokane, in the heart of the Inland Empire, boasts one of the hottest housing markets in the state. This, coupled with infrastructure including highway and other large projects, such as an Amazon distribution center, translates into a monumental season ahead for Section members.



Spokane County Regional Water Reclamation Facility Tour

Region 8 Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Pacific Northwest Student Conference, St. Martins University, WA, April 11 – 13, 2019
- Mid-Pacific Student Conference, San Jose State University, CA April 18 – 20, 2019
- Society Board of Direction Summer Meeting, Reston, VA, July 12 – 13, 2019
- Region 8 Board of Governors Fall Meeting, Reno, NV, September 5, 2019
- Region 8 Fall Assembly Meeting, Reno, NV September 6 – 7, 2019
- 2019 Society Leader Orientation , Reston, VA, September 20 -21, 2019
- 2019 Society Presidents and Governors Forum, Reston, VA September 22 – 23, 2019
- 2019 Society Annual Convention, Miami, FL, October 9 – 13, 2019

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