



"Help you matter more and enable you to make a bigger difference"

Region 8 Director's Column

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Aloha and Mahalo for your membership in ASCE and for your support for our civil engineering profession.

We are all experiencing different levels of impact on our lives as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please continue to practice preventative measures for you and your loved ones by staying home as much as possible. If you do venture out for supplies or food, please support local restaurants to help them get through this tough economic environment.

For those of you with a little more free time at home, take advantage of the benefits of your ASCE membership. Perhaps use some of your free 10 PDHs to view a recorded webinar on-line to catch up on your CEUs. Listen to a podcast – new ones are posted

frequently. Participate in or start an on-line chat on changing business practices due to COVID-19 in a Collaborate discussion (<https://collaborate.asce.org/home>). If you need help navigating through the benefits that ASCE offers, the ASCE staff are still working hard albeit from their homes. 1-800-548-ASCE.

Congratulations to ASCE's Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) for transitioning their annual signature event, the SEI Structures Congress, to a free one-day large scale virtual event. The conference leaders could have easily just cancelled the four-day event altogether. However, using new technology, the determined leaders were able to hold a one-day virtual conference. The positive feedback was tremendous. It inspires all of us to figure out ways to continue to help our profession grow. SEI is a vibrant community of more than 30,000 structural engineers within ASCE.

Your Region 8 leaders are also available to provide advice on your local virtual ASCE event planning. Please contact any one of us during this time.

A reminder that the Society election will continue as planned. The election starts on May 1 and ends on June 1. We have three candidates that have stepped up to run for two elected Governor positions. The candidates are listed below in alphabetical order.

- Tor Anderzen, PE, F.ASCE - Alaska Section
- Fausto Burruel, PE, M.ASCE - Arizona Section
- Dan Karlin, PE, M.ASCE - Montana Section

The Region 8 BOG also needs to appoint one At-Large Governor for a three-year term starting in October 2020. The intent of the At-Large Governor would be to fill a need on the BOG. The criteria selected by the Region 8 BOG for the At-Large Governor are indicated in a separate article in this newsletter. The At-Large Governor would be selected after the Society election. Please contact Region 8 Nomination Committee Co-Chairs Darren Hippenstiel or Kate Thompson if you have any questions.

Mahalo for being a member of ASCE and for all that you do to help our great profession. #Region8isgreat!!! Please be safe and wash your hands.

Mahalo and Aloha,

Tony C.G. Lau, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE
Society Director, Region 8

Inland Empire Update

The Inland Empire Section had a busy Fall and Winter highlighted by our annual dinner and banquet held in February. We had one of our largest turnouts for the annual banquet with over eighty people in attendance and we were honored to recognize the following 2020 award recipients:

Distinguished Career: Wilho Williams
Engineer of Merit: Mark Muszynski
Volunteer of the Year: Jeanne Finger

Wilho was selected for his significant contributions to the Civil Engineer field. Wilho is a World War II veteran and he practiced civil engineering for over 70 years (yes 70!), not retiring until his 90's. Wilho entertained the banquet attendees with stories from throughout his life and lengthy career.



2020 Engineer of Merit – Mark Muszynski and Gonzaga students

Mark is a respected professor at Gonzaga University and was selected as our 2020 Engineer of Merit for his academic work, contributions within the practice of geotechnical engineering and for his past leadership and work on our Inland Empire Section board.

Jeanne was selected for her volunteer work as the coordinator and leader of our Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup program for the past several years.

We were also able to award four scholarships to local civil engineering students:

Tucker Munson – Gonzaga University

Pei Yun Hsieh – Gonzaga University

Amanda Kalab – University of Idaho

Nikki Lorvick – University of Idaho

Our Tech Ed Committee conducted two excellent training opportunities over the past several months. Our Fall seminar regarding the Eastern Washington Storm Water Manual was a huge success, attended by over 70 local professionals. A three-day HEC-RAS workshop was held in January.

Our Young Member Forum has held several socials including a Hockey Night supporting our local Spokane Chiefs hockey team.

Our section had several activities planned for the Spring including a Spring Tech-Ed seminar, our regular monthly luncheons and tours of recently completed public works projects. Our YMF group had been actively planning an 'Office Crawl' networking opportunity for civil engineering students from our nearby universities.



YMF Hockey Night

Unfortunately, these plans have been put on-hold given the current COVID-19 restrictions, but we are looking forward to resuming our ASCE section activities as soon as possible.

Region 8 Board Seeking Candidates for Appointed Governor Position

The Region 8 Board of Governors (R8 BOG) is seeking candidates interested in serving as a Governor of Region 8 for the 3-year term beginning October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2023. The R8 BOG is comprised of seven governor positions, six of which are elected and one which is appointed. Each year there are two positions available for election and every third year the appointed position is open. The appointed position was created to help the R8 BOG maintain diversity of the Board including representation across large and small Sections within Region 8, private industry versus public sector employees, and practice versus academia among others. This year is a year in which the Board must fill the appointed position. At the Boards' winter meeting in late January, the R8 BOG established several criteria in seeking candidates for the 2020-2023 appointed position. They include:

- Younger Member Leadership Experience
- Located within the Seattle, Tacoma-Olympia, Inland Empire, or Montana Sections
- Active Institute Experience and or Participation
- Female
- Ethnic Diversity

Anyone interested, should submit a statement of interest to Darren Hippenstiel by May 15, 2020. Interested candidates will also need to complete a Letter of Intent, Biographical Statement, and short Vision Statement. Template forms will be provided.

If you have questions about the position, duties, time commitment, or any other detail of serving as a Region 8 Governor, please reach out to [Darren Hippenstiel](#).

Region 8 Calendar of Upcoming Events

In response to COVID-19, Events and Meetings are TBD.

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