

"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. Your membership dues and contributions support the civil engineering profession and the development of leaders to help us all matter more.

The ASCE fiscal year is from October 1 to September 30. As we enter the end of ASCE fiscal year 2020, there will be transitions of officers and committee chairs for many of your Sections, Branches and Younger Member Groups.

The Leader Training Committee has a resources page with content that you may find useful. The content includes, but is not limited to, suggested officer installation script, Section/Branch Operations Handbook, Section Financial Manual, Section/Branch Best Practices Guide, and links to webinars that could help you plan out your activities for fiscal

year 2021. Please visit http://regions.asce.org/leader-training-committee/resources?_ga=2.127031693.1837204902.1502983697-531902126.1419979040.

Membership on 2021 Standing Society committees were approved by the Society Board of Direction at its July meeting. If you are interested in serving on a Standing Society committee in 2022, the self-nomination period is January 15 to March 15, 2021 through the ASCE website. It is the duty of the Society President-Elect Dennis Truax to suggest the members of the Standing Society committees to the Board of Direction. Standing Society Committees are required to confirm the membership of their Constituent Committees by September 15. For more information on Standing Society Committees and their Constituent Committees, please visit https://www.asce.org/asce_committees/.

A reminder that Governor Kate Thompson, Governor Lance Mearig, and I will be finishing up our respective officer terms in September 2021. The Region 8 Governor and Society Director positions have three-year terms that begin in October 2021. Candidates can be from any State in our Region except for Arizona because they already have the maximum allotted two positions on the Region 8 Board of Governors (BOG). The BOG desires more diversity on the Board. Desirable diversity characteristics include: female, ethnicity, Younger Member leadership experience, and active Institute participation or experience. We haven't had a candidate from Seattle, Tacoma-Olympia, or Inland Empire Sections recently. Candidates for Region 8 Governor or Director must submit their nomination papers to the Region 8 Nominations Committee Chair by December 1, 2020. If you are interested in serving the Society as a Region 8 Governor or Society Director, please let me know.

The BOG voted to hold our Region Fall BOG meeting on Friday, August 21. The meeting will be virtual utilizing our newly purchased version of Zoom Pro. If Sections, Branches, Younger Member Groups, and Student Chapters are interested in borrowing Region 8's copy of Zoom Pro for local ASCE events, please let us know.

The Region 8 Fall Assembly is scheduled for August 28 and 29. It will be a virtual meeting from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm PDT. We encourage our 12 member Sections and WRYMC to send multiple participants. We are also inviting our Region 8 Canadian membership to participate to learn more about Region 8 activities and the benefits of forming local Sections. We are reserving up to 20 slots for our Canadian members to participate on a first come, first served basis. The Region 8 Assembly registration link is <https://forms.gle/sJ5f5BLQUGLwC3y86>.

If you are interested in having me participate in your local virtual events or strategic planning sessions, please send me an invite. I have experience with virtual installation of officers. I have a wealth of ASCE operational experience that may be valuable for strategic planning sessions.

Mahalo for being a member of ASCE and for all that you do to help our great profession. #Region8isgreat!!! Please be safe, continue to be diligent in washing your hands, and wearing your mask for the benefit of others around you and yourself.

Mahalo and Aloha,
Tony C.G. Lau, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE

Region 8 Membership Competition Update

At the Fall 2019 Region 8 Assembly meeting in Reno, Nevada, the Region 8 Board of Governors announced a membership drive competition for the Region 8 member sections. The competition was started in part to halt declining dues paying membership within the Society and the subsequent negative implications to the overall financial health of the organization.

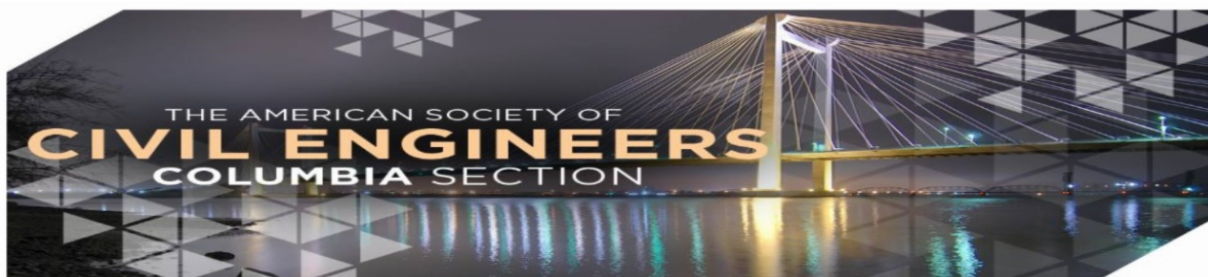
The following summarizes the membership drive competition.

- Competition will be based on the percentage of increase of dues-paying members.
- The competition will begin at the 2019 Fall Region 8 Assembly meeting in Reno, NV, and winners will be announced at the 2020 Fall Region 8 Assembly meeting.
- Total competition cost to Region 8 - \$2,500 to be covered by Region 8 reserves.
Prizes as follows:
 - Large Section with the highest percentage increase in membership - \$1,000
 - Small Section with the highest percentage increase in membership - \$1,000
 - Younger Member Group achieving the highest percentage increase in membership of dues-paying members - \$500
- Section size at the beginning and end of the competition will be based on data provided by the Society Geographic Services Department one week prior to the Assembly meeting.
- Region 8 will provide a certificate to the winners as well as cash to be used on Section and Younger Member Group activities.

Updates have been provided periodically to the Sections through the last year with no clear winner as of yet. The competition is set to close at the end of August in coordination with the 2020 Fall Region 8 Assembly meeting, where the winners will be announced. Stay tuned for an update on where your section landed.

If you have questions about the competition, please reach out to [Darren Hippenstiel](#).

Columbia Section Update



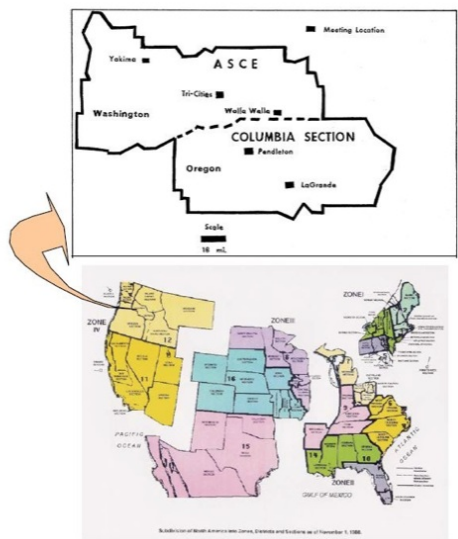
Our Section records show that on January 19, 1948 seventeen members of the American Society of Civil Engineers assembled for the purpose of organizing a local Section of ASCE in Richland, Washington.



- Source: Hanford Works News, Nov. 17, 1950

Columbia Section Geographical Area

Geographic Location: In Oregon: Counties of Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa. In Washington: Counties of Yakima, Klickitat, Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, and Columbia.
 ASCE Location: Zone: IV, District: 12



Following the January meeting, a petition was signed by 37 members of ASCE and submitted to the National Board requesting Section status for the group of engineers located in southeastern Washington, including the counties of Columbia, Walla Walla, Franklin, Benton, Yakima, and Klickitat. The Board of Direction approved the formation of a Branch (Sub-Section) operating under the auspices of the Spokane Section. The group then continued as a highly active organization until 1950 when the Board did act at their October 10, 1950 meeting and full Section status was granted as of that date.

As most of the Sections and Branches, we meet once a month for a tour or a presentation. Immensely popular are annual presentations from WSDOT engineers and local Cities and Irrigation districts engineers with updates on present or future agency projects in the area. To satisfy diverse interests of our members, we also invite lawyers with a knowledge of unique instances of land law, easement acquisitions, and employer/employee disputes; and state representatives with information about state budgeting, state laws and policies updates. Also, very popular in our community are presentations given by engineering professionals from different private companies.

Last November, we had Erik Simmons, P.E., HDR, provide a presentation regarding the Entiat to Canal Waterline with multiple highways, railroad, Columbia Irrigation Canal, and easements crossings.



Many participants from the Columbia Section visit construction or facilities tours. In October, the City of Richland and Apollo, Inc., provided our members with an

opportunity to tour the Duportail Bridge construction site. We saw the sound walls, in-water work berm, bridge piers, roadway subgrade, the partially completed sewer lift station, and preparations for the CID canal replacement, which were underway including excavation and demolition of the existing steel flume. This tour attracted more than 50 members.



Columbia Section has good ties with the Washington State University, Walla Walla University and oversees a Howard Preston Memorial Scholarship that is awarded every year to an engineering student in the area.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, we have not been able to meet in 2020, but with hope for a better future, we plan on having many interesting speakers and tours in the upcoming year.

Region 8 Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Region 8 Fall Assembly Meeting, August 28 and 29, 2020 Virtual
- Presidents and Governors Forum, September 10-12, 2020 Virtual
- Annual Convention, October 28-30, 2020 Virtual

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

