



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

Region 8 Director's Column

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Mele Kalikimaka and Hou`oli Makahiki Hou!! Hope this Holiday Season finds you well despite the current COVID-19 pandemic.



A masked Shaka Santa and Tūtū Mele greets visitors to Honolulu City Lights at Honolulu Hale (City Hall)

For the 2021 Society election, we have two members that have declared their candidacy for Society President-Elect. The Board Nominating Committee will be virtually meeting in January to interview and determine which candidate(s) will advance to the election ballot. The candidates under consideration are listed below.

- Maria C. Lehman, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE from Region 1
- Peter M. Moore, P.E., ENV SP, LEED AP, F.ASCE from Region 5

For the 2021 Society election for Region 8, we have an opening for Director and two openings for Governor. Thank you to the two members that declared their candidacy for Director and the two members that declared their candidacy for Governor. The Region 8 Board of Governors (BOG) will be conducting interviews with each of them during our winter meeting on February 18 in Las Vegas, NV to determine the official nominees for the election ballot. The candidates under consideration are listed below.

Society Director from Region 8

- Lawrence M. Magura, P.E., D.WRE (ret), F. ASCE, Oregon Section
- Chris "Shoots" Veis, P.E., M.ASCE, Montana Section

Region 8 Governor

- Virginia J. Groeschel, A.M.ASCE, Alaska Section
- Robert B. Turner, P.E., F.ASCE, Inland Empire Section

About this time of year, our local leaders would be preparing to attend the Regions 8 and 9 Multi-Region Leadership Conference (MRLC) that would typically be held in the January/February timeframe. However, due to the pandemic, the Society decided to postpone the MRLC until the summer to increase the probability that the in-person meetings can take place so we don't lose the most valued part of the MRLC which is leadership networking. The Regions 8 and 9 MRLC are tentatively planned for July 9 and 10, 2021 in Anaheim, CA. The MRLC consists of the Workshop for Section, Branch and Institute Leaders (WSBIL), the Western Region Younger Member Council (WRYMC) and the Workshop for Student Chapter Leaders (WSCL).

Serving on ASCE Board and Society level committees over the last 25 years have positively impacted my professional and personal development and opened career opportunities. If you are interested in serving ASCE outside beyond your local Section, Branch or Younger Member Group, visit <https://www.asce.org/volunteer-opportunities/>. Board and Society committee members are appointed by the Society President-Elect. The President-Elects appointment list is due to the Board of Direction for approval by June. If you see a committee you want to be considered for, let me know and I can help you with your application.

If you are interested in having me participate in your local virtual events or strategic planning sessions, please send me an invite. I would like to learn more about what each of your groups are doing and what challenges you have. I only have nine more months in my Director term.

Mahalo to those of you that participated in #GivingTuesday2020 on December 1 by

contributing to the ASCE Foundation. If you happened to miss it, there is still time to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Society as a part of this holiday season. Please visit <https://www.ascefoundation.org/how-to-give/online-gift>.

Mahalo for being a member of ASCE and for all that you do to help our great profession. #Region8isgreat!!! Please be safe and 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
Society Director, Region 8
Email: tlau_1987@hawaiiantel.net

Membership Competition

At the Fall 2020 Region 8 Assembly meeting held virtually the Region 8 Board of Governors decided to continue the 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 as of the 2020 Fall Region 8 Assembly meeting and winners will be announced at the 2021 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 (YMG) 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.

To recap the winners of last year's competition; Nevada and Tacoma-Olympia won the Large and Small Section awards, respectively. Due to the Younger Member Group results being a tie between the Montana and Tacoma Olympia Sections, the Region decided to award both groups with \$500.

CURRENT STANDINGS

Data provided by Society shows the frontrunner for each category as of November 30, 2020 are as follows:

- Large Section: Oregon
- Small Section: Southern Idaho
- YMG Increase: Tacoma-Olympia

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

ASCE Mourns the loss of Horst Brandes, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE



It is with a saddened and heavy heart that we announce the passing of one of our past presidents of the Hawaii Section, Dr. Horst Brandes, who passed shortly before Thanksgiving. Many of us knew Horst through his active involvement with ASCE; he was the 2003 ASCE Hawaii Section President, a Region 8 Governor from 2011 to 2014, and was active on many Society committees including Raise the Bar and Civil Engineering Technologist. Horst was also a beloved professor with the University of Hawaii's College of Engineering over the last 23 years and many of us are his former students.

Current ASCE Hawaii Section President, Dayna Nemoto-Shima, remembers Dr. Brandes from her time at UH, "Going into geotechnical engineering, I think I took all of the courses Dr. Brandes' taught. I remember he took us on a field trip to see a landslide that took place in a residential area. It was so impactful to see the damage and then hear him talk about his work with the homeowners. I think that was when I realized that the field I was going into really has an impact on people's lives. I owe a lot to Dr. Brandes for where I am today."

We ask that you keep his family, including his wife Patricia (Tricia) and their two daughters, Anna and Isabella, in your thoughts. We also encourage you to express your condolences to the family and share with them any fond memories of Horst. If you would like the Brandes family's contact information, please email [Dayna](#).

The Hawaii Section is working with the family and UH College of Engineering to setup a scholarship fund in honor of Horst. We will keep you updated and hope you consider donating once it's set up.

Utah Section Update

Greetings to all who are reading this message. I want to give an update on the Utah Section. I am very proud of our section and the way they have handled the pandemic. Despite the challenges the section and branches have, each continued to strive to serve their members. The Northern Utah Branch continues to hold virtual meetings and has recently begun making contacts with the neighboring Southern Idaho Section and inviting them to the virtual meetings. The Wasatch Front Branch and Central Utah Branch also hold virtual meetings and held a virtual donation competition for a local food bank. I think it is safe to say that everyone won when these two branches competed for a good cause. The Southern Utah Branch continues to meet in conjunction with other professional organizations in their area. They hope to hold a pickleball event in the near future, which has this "picklehead" excited for a road trip to visit the warmer weather. Our Younger Member Forum continues their outreach and mentorship with the Universities and helps their members prep for the Professional Engineering Exam using virtual platforms. They

are optimistic about doing in person events with their members soon. The Geo Institute and Structures Institute are both continuing planning conferences for their members which have been postponed and hope to hold them soon, either virtually or in person as the situation requires.

I am humbled again by the dedication and service that our Utah Section members provide to the public, the profession, and their fellow members. On Wednesday, December 16th the Report Card Committee released the summary for the [2020 ASCE Utah Infrastructure Report Card](#). This has been a multi-year effort with our previous report card being released in 2015. I want to thank our Report Card Committee Chair Craig Friant and Co-Vice Chairs Ryan Maw and Katherine Colburn for the many and countless hours that they have spent leading this effort. I also want to thank our guest speaker 2020 ASCE Societal President K.N. Gunalan "Guna,". Finally, I want to thank the authors, graphic artists, and other volunteers that donated their time to make this possible. The full press conference can be viewed at [here](#). I encourage all members to please take a moment to read the full report, when it is released in January.

As this time of year I also like to ponder upon the great friendships I have made through ASCE. In our Section for this year I have had two main goals: (1) Increase membership of the section by 50 members and (2) Help bring social fun element to the section. I believe that friendship plays a strong role in both of these goals. I feel this is best illustrated through my own ASCE story of how I got involved and how I have stayed involved over all of these years. I encourage all members to reflect on their ASCE story at this time of year and the friendships that ASCE has facilitated.

My ASCE story started at Salt Lake Community College where I met one of my professors, 2019 ASCE Utah Section Educator of the Year, and personal friend Dr. Nick Safai PhD introduced me to ASCE and set me on a path that I could have never imagined. He planted a seed of friendship and service, letting me know that being a Civil Engineer was about more than a career. At its heart Civil Engineering is about serving the public and acting as a steward of public safety.

Next, I moved on to the University of Utah where friends from SLCC persuaded me to become involved in the ASCE Utah Section University of Utah Student Chapter leadership. While there, I had the opportunity to see the creativity that ASCE inspired as I traveled to the South Dakota School of Mines with my ASCE friends to see them compete in the Steel Bridge and Concrete Canoe Competitions. Over the next couple of years, I was able to participate in helping to host the regional, then the national Steel Bridge competition. It was a lot of work, but I saw that when friends in ASCE work together large tasks can be fun and accomplished with great results.

After graduation a friend invited me to be involved in the ASCE Utah Section Younger Member Forum. There I had the opportunity to widen my ASCE friend circle again. We served our fellow members with socials and barbeques and helped calm and prepare them for the often dreaded, but much anticipated, Professional Engineering exam. I also had the opportunity while serving on the YMF board to travel to Memphis TN, to attend a National ASCE Convention. Great friendships were further strengthened as we toured Elvis's mansion, ate fantastic local foods, and started to see how big the ASCE organization really was.

I got involved in the ASCE Utah Section Wasatch Front Branch at, (once again), the urging of a friend. There was an opening on the board, and it was his responsibility to help find someone to fill it. He assured me that I qualified as “someone”. In my 4 years on the WFB board I was able to serve under 4 different leadership styles. Each taught me something that I tried to incorporate into both my personal and professional life. I can say that I honestly looked forward to 6:00am board meetings, where we would meet as friends and look for common ways to serve our fellow members. A fun experience that I had while serving on the WFB leadership was the opportunity to travel to Los Angeles for a leadership conference. While there we were taken “Hollywood Style” to a red-carpet preview of then ASCE’s newest documentary “Dream Big”. It was such a fun event where I met new ASCE friends with similar goals from around the country.

Currently I serve on the ASCE Utah Section Board. I ran for a position on the board after a phone call from an ASCE friend encouraging me to do so. (At this point I sound like a broken record). While on the board I have had the opportunity to meet new friends from different branches around the state and make friends with contacts throughout ASCE Region 8. Though we are in a pandemic, I am encouraged and inspired to see the ways that members and leadership groups throughout the Utah Section continue to reach out to make friends and serve their fellow members despite the challenges involved. I see friends making friends, and that I am thankful for.

Sincerely,
J. Darren Burton
ASCE Utah Section President ‘20-‘21

Region 8 Awards

DECEMBER

Congratulations to **Edward Kavazanjian, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., D.GE, Dist. M. ASCE, NAE** , of the Arizona Section, who was selected by ASCE’s Geo-Institute to present the 2022 **Karl Terzaghi Lecture** for “significant contributions to earthquake engineering, the design of waste containment systems, and in leading the emerging field of biogeotechnical engineering.”

Visit the [Region 8 Awards](#) page to find out more about Region 8 Awards.

Region 8 Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Region 8 Board of Governors Winter Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, February 18, 2021 (Tentative)
- Region 8 Assembly Winter Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, February 19-20, 2021 (Tentative)
- Society Legislative Fly-in, Washington, DC , March 2021

- Pacific Southwest Student Conference, University of California, Los Angeles, March 25-27, 2021
- Rocky Mountain Student Conference, Brigham Young University, April 8-10, 2021
- Mid-Pacific Student Conference, California State University, Fresno, April 13-16, 2021
- Pacific Northwest Student Conference, University of Washington, April 15-17, 2021
- Regions 8 and 9 MRLC, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Anaheim, Orange County, CA, July 9-10, 2021

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