

"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. I appreciate your dedication to and support of our civil engineering profession and the development of leaders to help us all matter more.

Two of the things I enjoy the most about serving as your Society Director is working with your Region 8 Board of Governors (BOG)

and organizing and executing the Region 8 Assembly meetings.

Due to the pandemic, the BOG decided to switch to an all-virtual format last August for our Fall BOG and Assembly meetings. For our winter meetings, the BOG and Assembly typically meet over two days prior to the Regions 8 and 9 Multi-Region Leadership Conference (MRLC). The 2021 Regions 8 and 9 MRLC was scheduled to be held in

Anaheim, CA in February 2021. However last year, the Society Executive Committee (ExCom) decided to postpone the MRLCs to the summer of 2021 in the hopes that the pandemic conditions would subside so we could meet in person. Recently, at the recommendation of the committees that organize the MRLCs, ExCom approved the switch to a virtual MRLC.

When you receive lemons, you make lemonade. The Region 8 BOG saw the delay of the MRLCs as an opportunity to meet separately and switch to a two-day Assembly format similar to our Fall meeting. We were also able to hold the meetings in a Region 8 location of our choosing. The group was small enough where we could implement safety requirements and monitor that they were followed. We polled our Section leaders to determine an interest in meeting in person and over half expressed they were not only comfortable enough to do so, but that they wanted to due to virtual fatigue. Based on this feedback, the BOG discussed locations that could accommodate a socially-distanced meeting with reasonable lodging rates and concluded that Las Vegas, NV would be our destination.

Society leadership strongly encouraged meeting through alternate means instead of in person but they did not prohibit it. We offered a virtual option for those that decided not to travel. About a month out from the meetings, we evaluated pandemic conditions in Las Vegas and made the final decision to move forward with the in-person meetings. We developed a thorough safety plan meeting CDC guidelines and State of Nevada requirements with Society input and approval that we would implement daily to reduce the risk of infection. The Region 8 safety plan has been recommended as a template for other ASCE groups to draft their own in-person meeting safety plan.

Based on our own experiences at the Winter BOG and Assembly meetings and the feedback from attendees, we made the right decision for our leaders. The leaders that participated in person indicated that it provided great member value for their leadership and relationship development.

Region 8 Board of Governors Winter Meeting

The Region 8 Board of Governors (BOG) met on February 18 in Las Vegas, NV. There was a virtual option for those that could not attend in person. The primary activity of the meeting was to interview and select candidates for our next Society Director from Region 8 and two elected Governor positions. All three positions are for three-year terms starting in October 2021. After interviewing highly-qualified candidates, the BOG decided to advance two names for Society Director and two names for two Region 8 Governor positions to the May Society election ballot. The candidates are listed below in alphabetical order.

Society Director

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

Region 8 Governor

- Virginia J. Groeschel, EIT, MSPM, AM.ASCE - Alaska Section
- Bob Turner, P.E., F.ASCE – Inland Empire Section

Please vote in the Society Elections in May. We need to improve on our Region's 8%

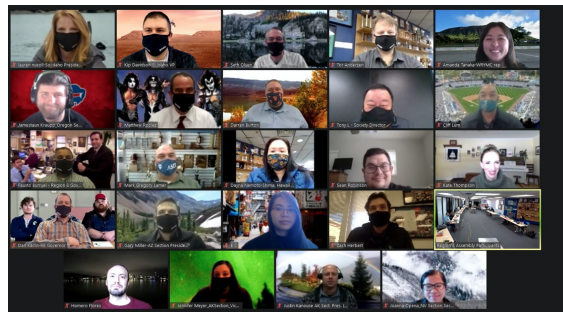
participation rate from 2020 which was the third best out of the 10 geographic Regions. We are traditionally the top voting geographic Region annually so let's regain our title in 2021. I am sure Larry and Shoots would appreciate greater participation as they compete for the position of the next Society Director and Chair of Region 8.



The Region 8 Board of Governors in Las Vegas, NV (pictured from left to right: Society Director/Region 8 Chair Tony Lau, Governor Lance Mearig, Governor Fausto Burruel, Governor Matthew Roblez, Governor Mark Lamer, Governor Dan Karlin, Governor Tor Anderzen, Region 8 Historian/Treasurer Seth Olsen, (Participating virtually from Walla Walla, WA: Governor Kate Thompson)

Region 8 Assembly Winter Meeting

The Region 8 Assembly met for its winter meeting on February 19 and 20 in Las Vegas NV. The Assembly consists of the Region 8 Board of Governors and representatives from each of the 12 Sections and the Western Regional Younger Member Council (WRYMC). There were 40 participants for this Assembly meeting. In addition to formal Region business discussions, the program consisted of both Society informational sessions as well as interactive Society operations and best practice discussions.



Region 8 Winter Assembly Meeting via Zoom – Attendees with face masks are participating in-person in Las Vegas, NV while others are participating virtually from their locations

Governor Kate Thompson kicked off the meeting with an overview of Region 8. She shared the organizational structure of our Region, where we fit within the Society, background and some fun facts about our Region 8 officers, and what the difference is between the Board of Governors and the Assembly.

Society President-Elect candidates Maria Lehman and Peter Moore joined us virtually to share their vision for the Society and to answer questions from our Assembly members. Governor Tor Anderzen and Caroline Sevier, ASCE's Director of Government Relations, had a Q&A conversation about Society Legislative Affairs including the upcoming Society 2021 Infrastructure Report Card Update Release on March 3.

Nancy Berson and Hannah Clark from ASCE Global Geographic Services and Tirza Austin from ASCE Online Community shared about resources that could help Region 8 leaders with Sections and Branches operations.

ASCE Executive Director Tom Smith, and new Chief Operating Officer Marty Fertal talked about ASCE from an Executive Leadership Perspective. They shared new developments at Society Headquarters in Reston, VA including the new staff leadership structure and the newly constructed sustainable parking lot project that demonstrates that ASCE is serious about sustainable infrastructure by “walking the walk”. They also talked about the six Society Strategic Goals and what we are doing to achieve those goals.

The Oregon Section presented a Best Practice on how they communicate to their members through their newsletter and award-winning website. The Hawaii Section presented a Best Practice on their unique Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Awards Program and Banquet.

Jerry Buckwalter, ASCE Chief Innovation Officer, provided an overview on the Society’s big Future World Vision Project that demonstrates ASCE commitment and forward thinking of future infrastructure and city development.

The Chairs of the Region 8 Committees provided updates on their activities to date. The updates included current standings for our Region 8 membership drive contest and a reminder that the Region 8 award nominations deadline is April 1. Award nomination forms are available on the [Region 8 website awards page](#).

The Assembly members participated in two sets of the popular group breakout sessions. Best practices and ideas were shared on membership retention, membership recruitment, leveraging State Infrastructure Report Cards, engaging with Institutes, changing local unit operations during a pandemic, recognizing local volunteers for their service, and nominating local landmarks for National Historic Civil Engineer Landmark recognition.

The Assembly concluded with a technical overview on the design and construction of the Hoover Dam Mike O’Callaghan–Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge Project by Chester Werts of HDR Engineering followed by a self-guided walking tour of the bridge that was facilitated by Governor Mark Lamer.

The participants in Las Vegas also had fun networking and developing relationships during two group dinners at Lawry’s the Prime Rib Las Vegas and Claim Jumper Restaurant.

Thanks to the Governors for coordinating a great meeting and thanks to the Region 8 leaders that participated in person and virtually. Looking forward to seeing everyone again in Flagstaff, Arizona in September for our Fall Assembly meeting.



Region 8 Governor Matthew Roblez shows off his customized ASCE #Region8isGreat face mask during the Region 8 Winter Assembly Meeting in Las Vegas, NV



Region 8 Board of Governors networking over Thursday brunch at Hash House a Go Go in Las Vegas, NV #ASCEEats



Society Director Tony Lau participating in the self-guided tour of the Hoover Dam Mike O'Callaghan–Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge

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

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

Hawaii Section Update

Aloha Region 8 ASCE Members! Here is a quick summary of what's going on over here in the sunny & warm 50th state!

Civil Engineers Receive High Awards

The Hawaii Section is proud to announce that 5 of our members have been recognized at the State, Region, and National levels!

- **Mr. Steven Baldrige** has been awarded the Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers (HSPE) Engineer of the Year award.
- **Ms. Kapiolani Street**, YMF Hawaii Past President, has been named the 2021 Young Engineer of the Year by HSPE.
- **Mr. Ron Iwamoto**, Hawaii Section Past President, was awarded the 2019 Region 8 Engineer of the Year (awarded in 2020).
- **Ms. Amanda Tanaka**, YMF Hawaii Past President, was named the 2020 Edmund Friedman Young Engineer of the Year.

- **Ms. Susan Mukai** was awarded the American Council of Engineering Companies' (ACEC's) 2020 Young Professional of the Year award.

Congratulations to Steve, Kapi, Ron, Amanda, and Susan!

2020 Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Awards and Ceremony

Our 2020 OCEA Awards Ceremony went virtual this year with great presentations and videos by the awardees! The Hawaii Section recognized 5 outstanding projects, which is testament to the wonderful and amazing work our local Civil Engineering industry does and continues to do!

Coasts, Oceans, Ports, and Rivers Institute (COPRI) Hawaii Chapter

Thanks to the efforts of one of our members, **Derek Linsley**, the Hawaii Section was able to establish a local COPRI chapter this past year and held a virtual kick-off meeting last month.

International Outreach

Jillian Sumitomo, Eric Tomishima, and Jordan Urabe represented the Hawaii Section as commentators for a virtual paper roller coaster event with a local high school (Maryknoll) and Matsuyama Minami High School in Japan. The event even received news coverage from a local Japanese news station!



Figure 1 - Matsuyama Minami and Maryknoll HS paper roller coaster news coverage in Japan

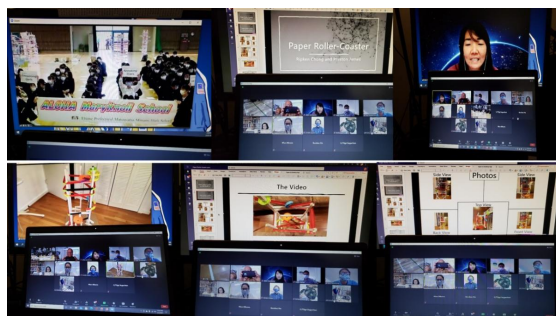


Figure 2 - Matsuyama Minami and Maryknoll HS paper roller coaster entries



Figure 3 - Matsuyama Minami and Maryknoll HS paper roller coaster virtual event

Younger Member Forum (YMF)

We are so proud of our YMF as they've really stepped up to the challenge of this past year by finding innovative ways to keep engaged with members and the community, *safely*. Some of the exciting things they've been doing include:

- **Virtual Food Drive to support the Hawaii Foodbank** – raised over \$1,800 in donations and gave away \$275 in gift cards to support local restaurants.
- **HART/RAIL Virtual Field Trip** – organized a presentation and Q&A session by Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transit (HART) and virtually toured one of the rail stations under construction.
- **Girl Scouts Outreach Events (virtual) and STEM Fest** – provided the Girl Scouts of Honolulu with pre-recorded videos of activities including the Gingerbread House Challenge where they constructed at home Shake Tables to test their gingerbread

houses and also answered questions about engineers.

- **Activity kits for local elementary schools** – Distributed activity kits including a how-to video to a local elementary school in time for E-week. Hopefully the first of many outreach “events” with this new format!
- **Virtual Student Engagement Series** – 3 events with the UH student chapter; Senior Packets, Virtual Mentorship Mixer, and Virtual Panel.
- **Virtual Workshops and Pau Hana (happy hour) Events** – held various virtual events including art classes, games, and socials!

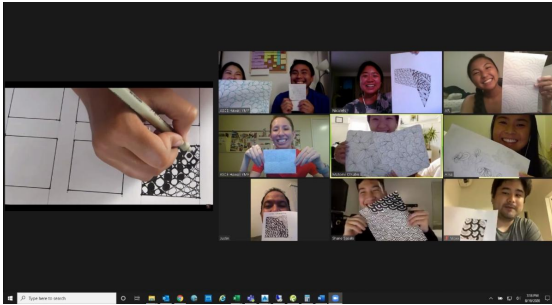


Figure 4 - Easy Peasy Virtual Art Class

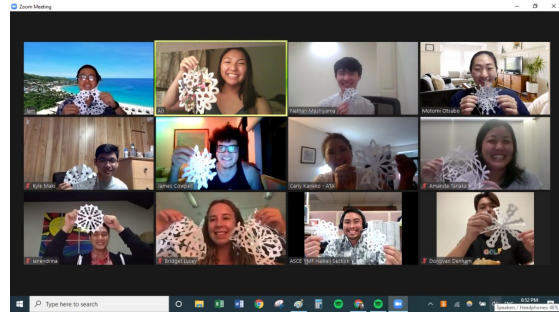


Figure 5 - Snowflake making virtual pau hana

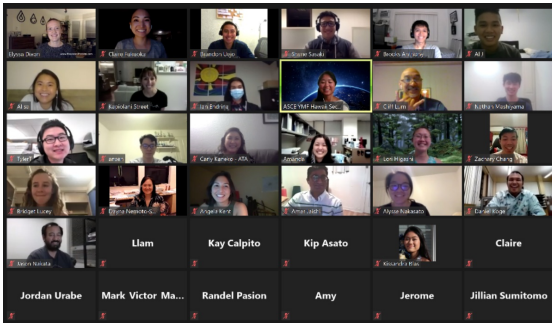


Figure 6 - Engineering Your Mind virtual workshop

UH Student Chapter

The University of Hawaii (UH) at Manoa ASCE Student Chapter has a new faculty advisor, Dr. Oceana Francis. Welcome Dr. Francis! This year’s Pacific Southwest Conference (PSWC) has gone virtual and the Student Chapter has been working hard on their concrete canoe, steel bridge designs, and other entries. Good luck to our students!

This year’s student chapter is led by the following officers:

President – Dylan Terukina;

Vice-President – Nathan Mashiyama;

Treasurer – Brooks Martinez;

Corresponding Secretary – Ansen Nakasato;

and Recording Secretary – Chandelle Takahashi.



Figure 7 - Student Chapter Drive-thru Food Drive

Figure 8 - Donations for the Hawaii Foodbank



Figure 9 - Student Chapter Social, Among Us

Region 8 Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Pacific Southwest Student Conference, Los Angeles, March 25-27, 2021 - Virtual
- Rocky Mountain Student Conference, April 8-10, 2021 - Virtual
- Mid-Pacific Student Conference, Fresno, April 13-16, 2021 - Virtual
- Pacific Northwest Student Conference, April 15-17, 2021 - Virtual
- 2021 Society Board of Direction Spring Meeting, April 30 - May 1, 2021 - Virtual
- 2021 Society Board of Direction Summer Meeting, Reston, VA - Possibly Virtual - July Dates TBD
- Regions 8 and 9 MRLC, Virtual, Dates TBD

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