

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

# **Dale Nelson in Memoriam**

In Memoriam Dale A. Nelson, P.E., F.ASCE \*12/14/1944 – †1/1/2019



The members of the Alaska Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) remember the truly significant contributions of Dale Albin Nelson to the Anchorage community, to Alaska, and to his engineering profession. Dale unexpectedly passed away on New Year's Day, 2019.

Growing up in Washington, Dale worked in his parents' logging and sawmill business, as well as at his grandparents' cattle ranch. He graduated from Washington State University in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and then accepted a position with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Fort Richardson, fulfilling a dream to live in Alaska. Soon after, Dale married Elaine, and they were blessed with two children: Garth Nelson, a registered civil engineer, and Lesa Zimnawoda, an environmental scientist.

Committed to strong family values, Dale and Elaine have been wonderful role models who taught positive work ethic, compassion and community involvement. Dale regularly attended his children's events, volunteered as a parent on his son's hockey teams, and taught Sunday school with Elaine. Dale was dedicated to working with youth and volunteered at Inlet View Elementary School where he enjoyed presenting the Alaska General Contractor's Tool Box program to young students in the fourth and fifth grades. An avid sportsman, Dale also found time for hunting, fishing, handball, and basketball.

Dale was a stalwart proponent of strong, quality engineering professionals. He distinguished himself as an active and influential member of ASCE. Dale assumed leadership responsibility within ASCE beginning in 1971, serving all positions within the Board of Directors of the Anchorage Branch and the Alaska Section, and as a Regional Governor and Director, earning respect and admiration from his engineering peers along the way. In October 1999, Dale was elevated to the ASCE Fellow status and he became a life member in 2009.

Dale played a pivotal role in advancing civil engineering through his dedicated service as chairman of the Pacific Northwest Council and Region 8. He served on the National Infrastructure Policy Committee, the Committee of Professional Practice, and a host of other engineering and civic organizations.

In October 2018, Dale Nelson completed his three-year term as Director of ASCE Region 8, an elected position through which he served on the ASCE Board of Directors and guided more than 14,000 ASCE members residing in Region 8 in promoting and advocating for civil engineering in Alaska, Hawaii, the western United States, and in western Canada.

Dale served on numerous ASCE society committees over the last 40 years, always willing to contribute to and lead the development of our society and profession in Alaska and nationally.

Dale also served as an officer in the Alaska Professional Design Council (APDC) and as the chair of the Legislative Liaison Committee (APDC LLC), never tiring to serve as a representative of his fellow professionals, providing insights and testimony to the Alaska Legislature and State Registration Board.

Being an active community member, Dale served and volunteered in the South Addition Community Council in the Municipality of Anchorage and on the Alaska Resource Development Council.

In 2013, Dale was appointed by Mayor Dan Sullivan as the Engineer Representative Commissioner for Anchorage Municipality Light & Power and served in that capacity for the remainder of the Mayoral term ending in July 2015.

As a graduate of Washington State University, Dale served his Alma Mater on the Advisory Board for the Civil & Environmental Engineering Department. Dale always had time for the WSU ASCE student chapter and graduating CE students, many of whom he personally met and mentored.

In February 2018, the Thirtieth Alaska State Legislature honored Dale Nelson for his

leadership and energy in service to his engineering community and to the State of Alaska.

Dale is survived by his wife Elaine and their children Garth and Lesa with their families.

The number of Dale's contributions are really far too many to count, but Dale has been a role model and mentor for fellow engineers throughout our nation. Most of all, Dale was a friend. His passing will leave a void that is not easy to fill. Always humble about his own contributions, I believe Dale's dearest wish would be that we continue to serve in our communities always putting the safety, health and welfare of the public first. On behalf of the Alaska Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers,

Tor Anderzen Alaska Section President

#### **Region 8 Director's Column**

Hou`oli Makahiki Hou!! Hope you all had a safe and Happy New Year!!

A common practice at the start of the new year is to make resolutions. Please consider resolving to attend at least one ASCE meeting or getting involved with one ASCE activity in 2019. The health of our organization, especially locally, is largely dependent on our members getting involved or participating.

The ASCE Board of Direction will be meeting in Orlando on January 24. In addition to official business, the Board will continue to strategically plan to make our organization better. Details forthcoming in my February column.

One of ASCE's strategic goals is growing the number of people in civil engineering to become members and engage in ASCE. While there are many methods to membership recruitment, personal contact always works the best. Please share your ASCE story with your colleagues on why you decided to join the Society and the benefits you receive from your membership. If each member can recruit one new member in 2019, it would really help to solidify our organization and increase the impact ASCE can make on the profession.

A reminder that your Region 8 Board of Governors and Assembly will be meeting in Honolulu, HI on March 6 and 7, respectively. If you have any concerns or ideas that you want us to discuss, please feel free to contact me or any one of our Governors. Don't forget that starting in 2019, your ASCE membership includes up to 10 free PDHs from a selection of on-demand webinars. This is up from the previous 5 free PDHs.

On a somber note, we lost a great leader in Mr. Dale Nelson who passed away on January 1. Dale was our immediate past Society Director from Region 8. He had great passion for the civil engineering profession, ASCE and local communities. Dale was a great mentor for my professional development and involvement in ASCE. I will miss our chats about engineering and about life in general. Please join me in offering up prayers of encouragement to Dale's wife Elaine and the rest of the Nelson family.

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

#### Support ASCE with your Amazon Purchases!

Amazon makes a donation to a charity of your choice if you register your amazon

account with Amazon smile. Amazon Smile has donated over \$105M through October 2018.

Use <u>https://smile.amazon.com</u> for your Amazon account and select ASCE as your charity.

#### **Southern Idaho Section Update**

ASCE Southern Idaho Section wishes you a Happy New Year!

To sum it all up, 2018 was a phenomenal year of growth for ASCE in Idaho. The Southern Idaho Section (SIS) Younger Member Forum received a record number of attendees at their brewery event in Boise, Idaho, where well over 20 young engineers and students gathered to network and socialize. The Snake River Branch, now 3 years old, continues to grow with meetings well attended in Blackfoot and Idaho Falls, Idaho. In addition, the SIS doubled the number of attendees at the 2017 Hawaiian Themed Outstanding Civil Engineering Awards Banquet! This past year we were pleased to present the following awards:

- Project of the Year Completed in 2017 (>\$10 Million): Goose Lake Road Reconstruction - Lochner
- Project of the Year Completed in 2017 (<\$10 Million): Cambridge Wastewater System – HECO Engineers
- Engineer of the Year 2017: David Kinzer, P.E. Keller Associates
- Young Engineer of the Year 2017: Ryan Van Leuven, P.E. American Geotechnics

While 2018 was a successful year for Idaho, big things are in store for 2019 including the *First Annual ASCE Idaho Civil Engineering Conference*. The Southern Idaho Section is hard at work planning the largest ASCE event ever held in Idaho. This two-day conference, will be held *March 19-20*, 2019 and will cater to Civil Engineers from all disciplines, public and private sector, and students and faculty from Idaho and the surrounding states are also welcome to attend. The conference will feature technical sessions and presentations for every discipline of Civil Engineering as well as the Annual Outstanding Civil Engineering Awards Banquet. If you are interested in attending, please visit the <u>registration site</u>.

You don't want to miss out on this opportunity to earn up to 10 PDHs! We look forward to seeing you there!

Jesse Christensen Southern Idaho Section President

## Fifth Grand Canyon History Symposium and Kaibab Trail Bridge Dedication



#### ASCE membership event: FIFTH GRAND CANYON HISTORY SYMPOSIUM and KAIBAB TRAIL BRIDGE DEDICATION

WHAT: Dedication ceremony for the Kaibab Trail Suspension Bridge in Grand Canyon National Park as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. The bridge carries foot and mule traffic over the Colorado River at the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

Saturday, February 23, 2019

1:30 p.m. at Shrine of the Ages in Grand Canyon Village on Grand Canyon South Rim.

3 p.m. at Yavapai Geology Museum, Grand Canyon Village on Grand Canyon South Rim. The events will be held in conjunction with the Fifth Grand Canyon History Symposium.

and the Arizona Section, any interested ASCE member, representatives of Grand Canyon National Park, leaders of the Grand Canyon Historical Society and History the 1:30 p.m. event. The general public is welcome to attend the 3:00 p.m. dedication ceremony.

#### ADDITIONAL DETAILS:

**1:30 p.m.** Shrine of the Ages presentation entitled "Kaibab Trail Suspension Bridge: A National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark." Presented by Jonathan Upchurch, P.E. He will describe the history and significance of the bridge.

**3 p.m.** Dedication Ceremony at Yavapai Geology Museum. This event will include unveiling of the landmark plaque and remarks by the Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent and various dignitaries from ASCE. If weather is inclement, the dedication ceremony will be held as part of the 1:30 event in Shrine of the Ages.



The Granic Canyon History Symposium will begin on the evening of Wednesday, February 20, 2019 and conclude on Saturday evening, February 23. Any ASCE member is welcome to member is welcome to attend the 1:30 p.m. ar 3:00 p.m. events on February 23 at no cost and without registering for

The Grand Canyon

the Symposium.

## **Region 8 Calendar of Upcoming Events**

- ASCE Board of Direction Meeting, January 24, 2019, Orlando, FL
- ASCE Historic Civil Engineering Landmark plaque dedication, February 23, 2019, Grand Canyon National Park, Shrine of the Ages in Grand Canyon Village on Grand Canyon South Rim
- Region 8 Board of Governors Winter Meeting, 1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1200, Honolulu, HI 96813, Wednesday, March 6, 2019, Meeting Start Time: 7:30am

- ASCE Region 8 Assembly Winter Meeting, 1132 Bishop Street, Suite 601, Honolulu, HI 96813, Thursday, March 7, 2019, Meeting Start Time: 7:30 am
- Region 8-9 MRLC (Workshop for Section and Brach Leaders (WSBL), Western Region Younger Member Council (WRYMC) and Workshop for Student Chapter Leaders (WSCL)), Friday, March 8 to Saturday, March 9 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Honolulu, HI
- Legislative Fly-in: March 12-13, 2019, Washington, D.C. and Arlington, VA

Visit <u>Region 8 Events</u> for more information.

ASCE Region 8 | http://regions.asce.org/region8/